

In 1985, he officially opened the Coachella Valley Boxing Club in an old fire station next to Coachella City Hall. What started as a club with six kids quickly grew to 50.

Over the years, he has trained outstanding athletes like Sandra "Sandy" Yard, who won two International Female Boxing Association world titles; Randy Caballero, an International Boxing Federation World Champion; the Diaz brothers, Joel, Jesus, Antonio, and Julio, each of whom won national titles and competed before international audiences; and Jocelyn Camarillo, from Indio, who won the 2021 USA Boxing National Championships.

For Pancho, Sandy, Randy, the Diaz brothers, Jocelyn, and countless others he has trained, Lee's mentorship did more than help them triumph in the ring. His relentless devotion to their growth laid the foundation for their long-term success.

Through his own success and his own stories, he has given the athletes that he has trained someone to look up to and something to fight for. His contributions to our communities have shaped our valley's history and left a lasting mark on the sport of boxing.

In fact, he has been inducted into the California Boxing Hall of Fame and the West Coast Boxing Hall of Fame for all that he has achieved.

Growing up in Coachella, I was personally inspired by Lee and his grit, determination, and work ethic. I looked up to Lee because I knew he was making a difference in our humble farm-worker community.

It is my hope that by telling his story here today and recording it in our Nation's history, athletes across the country and future generations will also be inspired and will feel that same sense of hope that he has given to many of us in our valley and across the Nation.

RECOGNIZING DR. MICHAEL WELSH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Michael Welsh of the University of Iowa College of Medicine.

Dr. Welsh recently won the 2022 Shaw Prize in Life Science and Medicine for his discoveries of defects causing cystic fibrosis and his development of medicines that reverse those defects.

Dr. Welsh has spent the past 40 years of his career researching cystic fibrosis and looking for solutions at the University of Iowa. The Shaw Prize is awarded to those whose discoveries in biomedical sciences have created solutions to illness and suffering.

This is a remarkable achievement, and Dr. Welsh's research and discoveries should be highlighted. I am excited to see where his research takes

him and those he inspires and mentors, and how the University of Iowa will contribute to the cure of cystic fibrosis.

RECOGNIZING REGINA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL TEAM

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Regina Catholic High School's softball team.

Last weekend, the Regals concluded the State softball tournament hosted in Fort Dodge and won the 2A State championship title. This victory marks Regina Catholic High School's fourth 2A State championship in 11 years.

Despite a difficult first inning, the Regals were able to come together, work as a team, and finish with a 6-4 victory over Wilton Jr.-Sr. High School.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate both teams, as both teams are in my district. How outstanding that two of my district's teams would be in the State championship softball tournament. They put on a spectacular championship game, showing the talent that our district has at the State level.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to cheering on both teams next year as they compete for another State title.

CELEBRATIONS

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I wish a happy birthday to Steve Schleffer.

I wish a happy 43rd anniversary to Mary and Kirk Ferentz on August 11. Happy anniversary, Mary and Kirk.

On August 13, Kurt and Cathy Haller will celebrate their 39th wedding anniversary. Happy anniversary, Kurt and Cathy.

I wish a happy birthday to Blake Dickerson.

And I wish a happy birthday to William Ahlquist.

PROTECTING SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise to address the body on Social Security.

Madam Speaker, as we speak, we are at war. We are at war with a global pandemic, a global pandemic that has swept across many nations, including our own, where we have now lost more than a million people. Madam Speaker, 756,000-plus are over the age of 65.

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Madam Speaker, these are also the individuals who are most dependent during these times because they are on a fixed income and are most impacted by inflation.

Madam Speaker, this war will continue because there is another wave of omicron coming our way called BA.2.75 that will land here sometime in the fall and all the more reason that we have a plan to address this. Our plan is to make sure that we assist our seniors

who are most in need. So we reach out to our colleagues on the other side and ask them to join us in expanding Social Security benefits. Congress, that has the sole responsibility to do this, hasn't done it in 51 years.

Madam Speaker, when you go back home to your district in which on average 145,000 people in your district are on Social Security, they need our help now. It is what Martin Luther King called the fierce urgency of now: now because we are in the midst of COVID, now because there is another more deadly wave on its way and the groups impacted the most are our senior citizens and our veterans. As everyone knows, Social Security not only is a pension plan, it is spousal and dependent coverage, and more veterans rely on Social Security than they do on the VA, and they are in need of our help.

Congress as an institution hasn't acted in 51 years to enhance a program. Madam Speaker, as you know, a gallon of milk cost 72 cents in 1971, and Richard Nixon was President of the United States. That is how long it has been since Congress has acted. We can no longer kick the can down the road. We are at war. We are at war with a virus that is attacking our people. They need our help, and they need our response. During war, we come together as a body and we roll up our sleeves.

We have a plan that will extend those benefits. Republicans have put forward three concepts and ideas. One is the Republican Study plan that cuts Social Security across the board by 21 percent with the idea that people are living longer so we should boost the age. For every year you raise the age, that is a 7 percent cut. The plan here says you have a new plan that says you work until you die, for God's sake. This cannot stand.

Senator SCOTT has proposed a plan for Social Security that ends it in 5 years, and Mr. BIGGS, before our committee, testified that Social Security ought to be privatized.

We say: None of the above.

Join us in expanding benefits to people who need them the most and to people who are impacted the most. These are your brothers, your sisters, your mothers and fathers, your aunts and uncles, the people you worship with, and your coworkers. That is who Social Security impacts, more than 65 million Americans currently, and with 10,000 baby boomers a day becoming eligible for Social Security the time to act is now. We cannot kick this can down the road.

We have a markup pending in the Ways and Means Committee to get this bill to the floor, and the sooner we vote on it the better. This is something where Democrats and Republicans should join together. Social Security is the most efficient and effective government program. It is run with under 1 percent administrative cost. I come from the insurance capital of the world. Any insurance company would love to have a 99 percent loss ratio.

Madam Speaker, come together and join us to protect Social Security.

CELEBRATING INDIANA'S FAIR SEASON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, it is summer, and Hoosiers all over the great State of Indiana are renewing our proud and longstanding tradition of attending our great county fairs.

County fairs are a time for communities to gather, to celebrate, and to encourage young Hoosiers in agriculture. My team and I have spent our summer attending county fairs across Indiana's Sixth District. I encourage all Hoosiers to attend their local county fair and the Indiana State Fair, which runs from July 29 through August 21.

DECATUR COUNTY BICENTENNIAL

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Decatur County and its county seat, Greensburg, Indiana, in its bicentennial celebration.

Decatur County and the wonderful city of Greensburg were founded in the year of 1822 by veterans and war heroes of the War of 1812, and it still stands today as a model county and city. Decatur County and the city of Greensburg will long stand as a beacon of hope from the communities filled with hospitality to the famous Tree City courthouse.

So, Madam Speaker, I ask that all Hoosiers and Americans join us in celebrating Decatur County's grand bicentennial.

HENRY COUNTY BICENTENNIAL

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the bicentennial of Henry County, Indiana. Henry County was officially founded on June 1, 1822. Henry County is home to the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame and served as the home court to the movie "Hoosiers" in Knightstown. A museum and the birthplace of Wilbur Wright also finds its home there. Henry County includes the Old National Road, the oldest of the great crossroads of America.

So, Madam Speaker, I ask that all Hoosiers and Americans join us in celebrating Henry County's grand bicentennial.

HONORING STATE REPRESENTATIVE TOM SAUNDERS

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor State Representative Tom Saunders. Representative Saunders is retiring after nearly three decades of public service, and I am proud to join Hoosiers in celebrating a friend who has had an immeasurable impact on our beloved Indiana.

Representative Tom Saunders has long served as a distinguished voice on behalf of the people of Henry County and our entire State; therefore, Madam Speaker, I wish him an enjoyable retirement, and I thank him for his many years of service.

FIGHTING FOR HOOSIER FARMERS

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today because Hoosier farmers are struggling under Democratic leadership here in Washington, D.C. While many of us understand the cost of inflation on our pocketbooks, we often forget that inflation is clobbering farmers who produce our food and fuel. Under President Biden's policies, farmers are struggling to just break even as input costs outpace commodity prices.

So, Madam Speaker, after many letters I have written to multiple agency heads, I regret to report that Democrats are not, in fact, the party of all Americans. I will never stop fighting for Hoosier farmers and the agricultural industry here in the Nation's Capitol.

THANKING GREENWOOD FIRST RESPONDERS

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to say a hearty thank you to the brave and courageous first responders who serve the community of Greenwood, Indiana. When tragedy hit their community last week they were the first on the scene to respond. We commend local and Federal authorities for their swift and coordinated action. I thank the Greenwood Police Chief James Ison and Johnson County Sheriff Duane Burgess for their leadership, and I thank all of those who serve with them.

INFLATION, INFLATION, INFLATION

Mr. PENCE. Inflation, inflation, inflation.

Madam Speaker, inflation is costing the average family \$6,000 per year—\$6,000 per year.

For Hoosiers, this is gas and groceries, college tuition, and car repairs. Despite Democrats' denial, we all know where this is headed: a recession. We are in it. Hardworking Hoosiers cannot afford Democrats' policies any longer.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to stop crushing the American Dream with their out-of-touch policies.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF U.S. ARMY RET. SPECIAL FORCES MAJOR JOHN J. DUFFY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. PANETTA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the heroic service of U.S. Army Retired Special Forces Major John J. Duffy.

Recently, Major Duffy was recognized as a recipient of the Medal of Honor—not just for his service, but for his gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty.

A resident of my district in Santa Cruz, California, Major Duffy served four combat tours in Vietnam, often-times operating well behind the enemy lines. Throughout his time in the military, he was the recipient of 64 awards and decorations, 29 of which are for valor.

Recently at a ceremony at the White House, Major Duffy received the Medal

of Honor from President Joe Biden. The medal was in recognition of his actions on April 14 and 15, 1972, when Major Duffy was the adviser for the 2nd Brigade of the 11th Airborne Division for the Republic of Vietnam.

Over those 2 days, Major Duffy valiantly defended Fire Support Base Charlie against an attack from a battalion-sized group of the enemy. During the battle Major Duffy took charge after his CO was killed in action. Despite constant attacks by the enemy and being shot multiple times, he refused to leave, and he returned enemy fire as he tended to his wounded soldiers. During the eventual evacuation of the base, he led the operation and continued to tend to his soldiers who were wounded in action. He finally left the base, but he was the last man to do so.

Major Duffy exemplifies the heroism that is required to earn this award and represents the type of service and sacrifice that is at times necessary in combat for our brothers in arms and for our country. That is why we in our community, on the central coast of California, are so proud to call Major John Duffy our neighbor, a veteran, and our countryman of the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF DIANE PORTER COOLEY

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of Diane Porter Cooley, a pillar of the Pajaro Valley and Santa Cruz County community.

Born to a family that settled in Santa Cruz County in the 1850s, Diane was raised on Las Lomas Ranch in Watsonville. Diane had a deep connection to the land and to the people of the central coast of California. Her father, Tom, was one of the four founders of Driscoll's Berries, and Diane continued her involvement with agriculture until her passing earlier this year.

A deeply passionate civic leader, Diane worked tirelessly to protect and preserve the environment and was an outspoken advocate for the people of the Pajaro Valley. She was a dynamic agent of change who championed the creation of the Elkhorn Slough Foundation, the Pajaro Valley Arts Council, the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County, and the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County.

Madam Speaker, Diane Cooley's outreach and philanthropy extended far and wide throughout our community. As Santa Cruz County bids farewell to its beloved daughter of 95 years, may her legacy of giving continue to inspire all of us for generations to come.

CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BAIRD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, today I rise to address an issue plaguing my constituents, my fellow Hoosiers, and Americans across the country: catalytic converter thefts.