

Military & Veterans Tribute Walk at Pfluger Fountain. The names of Texas Tech alumni who fought in World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, the Iraqi and Afghanistan Wars, and others, can now be found at the memorial.

This powerful tribute encapsulates the unwavering commitment and sacrifices of our military service members and veterans. It stands as a testament to Texas Tech's commitment to honor and remember the generations of Texas Tech military service members and veterans who have served to protect and defend our freedom.

As Texas Tech reaches its centennial milestone, I commend Texas Tech leadership, the Texas Tech Alumni Association, and the Texas Tech Military & Veterans Alumni Network for this heartfelt recognition of the veterans who have played an integral role in the 100-year history of the university.

May this memorial serve as a perpetual reminder of the courage and selflessness embodied by our Texas Tech military and veterans.

RECOGNIZING THE LOWER FOX DEMONSTRATION FARMS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tenth anniversary of the Lower Fox Demonstration Farms (Fox Demo Farms) Network and to celebrate its success in expanding the adoption and implementation of conservation farming practices throughout the Lower Fox River Basin.

Fox Demo Farms was the first of its kind in the Great Lakes region. It was created through a collaborative agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Brown County, and four producers in the Lower Fox River Watershed of Northeast Wisconsin and funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Fox Demo Farms set out to demonstrate the effectiveness and adaptability of conservation practices to reduce erosion and sedimentation, control phosphorus runoff, and address other nonpoint source pollution issues.

To appreciate the significance of the Fox Demo Farms' success, it is helpful to understand the challenges of the region. Surrounded by a rural landscape of forests and farms, the Lower Fox River basin, like many in the Great Lakes region, encompasses varied weather, geology, topography, and soil types that pose challenges in preventing eroded sediment and nutrients from entering the Lower Fox River, the Bay of Green Bay and Lake Michigan.

The Lower Green Bay and Fox River region was designated an Area of Concern (AOC) under the 1987 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. High phosphorus levels fuel hypoxia in the bay, resulting in dead zones and fish kills. Reducing the amount of phosphorus and sediment leaving agricultural lands plays an important role in efforts to delist the Lower Fox as an AOC. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative was the catalyst for NRCS and Brown County leaders to partner with farmers

to adopt, maintain, and expand leading-edge conservation strategies that improve soil health and reduce erosion.

Since its founding in 2013, Fox Demo Farms has stayed true to its mission, ensuring growers have the opportunity and resources for peer-to-peer education about experimental and innovative conservation farming practices.

Even more notable is Fox Demo Farms's success in fulfilling its vision to create a culture that encourages collaborative efforts to restore soil health, reduce runoff pollution, improve water quality, and support a strong regional economy.

During the past ten years, through its field days, roundtables, promotions, and social media platforms, Fox Demo Farms generated enthusiasm for new conservation farming practices. The Fox Demo Farms partnership with NRCS grew from four producers and Brown County Land and Water Conservation Department to eight producers, their crop consultants, land and water conservation departments at both Brown and Outagamie counties, Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District (NEW Water), and the University of Wisconsin-Extension.

Moreover, the collaborative work and success of Fox Demo Farms inspired the expansion of demo farms networks across Wisconsin to seven networks with more than 30 farms spanning 17 counties. Demonstration farms networks are also active in New York and Ohio, with one gearing up to launch in Indiana next year.

The Fox Demo Farms has created opportunities for farmers to meet and build relationships with other farmers, which helped transfer knowledge throughout the watershed. The work by Fox Demo Farms has been pivotal in transitioning farmers from being on the cutting edge of innovative practices and working in silos, to community conservation where farmers and organizations work together toward solutions.

Mr. Speaker, join me in thanking the farmers and partners of Fox Demo Farms for their leadership and perseverance in elevating the value of conservation farming practices and congratulating them on their remarkable achievements. I am enthusiastic about their continued leadership and success in engaging more farmers across the Great Lakes Region to adopt conservation farming practices.

RECOGNIZING THE HOBBS HIGH SCHOOL CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTER

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Hobbs High School Career and Technical Education Center (CTECF) located at Hobbs High School.

The Hobbs High School CTECH program is one of the premier technical education high school programs in the entire nation. In 2023 alone, CTECH received numerous awards, including being named one of the top 10 high schools in the entire Nation for NC3 certification.

The program prepares the next generation of highly-skilled workers in an array of indus-

tries and fields, including transportation, manufacturing, construction and architecture, energy, information technology, culinary, and hospitality.

Educators and community members alike should be proud of their school and the CTECH program, not only for these accomplishments but also for the lasting impact that the program will have on their community and New Mexico as a whole.

Serving students since 2022, this program will create opportunities for countless New Mexicans to secure good-paying and high-demand jobs far into the future. These students will build our economy, they will build vibrant communities, they will build families that I hope stay in our beloved New Mexico. Thank you to the wonderful staff, administrators, and teachers who have made this program such a gem in our beloved state.

Yet another example of how small places can do big things and a nod to the innovation and drive of our beloved New Mexico communities.

REMEMBERING CLAY MATHILE

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I want to honor and pay tribute to the life and accomplishments of Clay Mathile, a philanthropist, community leader, and businessman from my Congressional district, who passed away on August 26, 2023.

Clay Mathile was a pillar of the Dayton community. He moved to Dayton in 1970 to begin work with lams Food Company, a producer of premier pet food products. Clay played an influential role in growing the lams brand and company, became part-owner in 1975, and fully took over ownership when Paul lams retired in 1982.

Throughout the next 17 years, Clay led lams to be a world leader in dog and cat nutrition. Equally important as enriching the lives of pets was his intention to enrich the lives of the individuals who worked at lams. Clay deeply believed that when people were fulfilled at work, it sparked a ripple effect that uplifted not just those individuals, but their families and communities. He was a man who empowered people to do their best work, created opportunities for their learning and growth, and ultimately helped people experience personal fulfillment.

Clay shepherded lams to become a leader in the pet food industry, and eventually sold the company to Proctor & Gamble. When the sale was finalized, Clay distributed \$100 million to the company's employees, giving back to those who made lams' success possible. He also committed \$100 million to fund community projects in the Dayton area, investing in Dayton's future generations.

Clay Mathile's philanthropic efforts were widespread across the Miami Valley and his generous legacy echoes still today, carried on by his family. The Mathile Family Foundation has invested more than \$500 million in grants to local organizations that focus on children, families, and education. Clay also founded Aileron, a nonprofit organization dedicated to developing small business leaders across the county, which hosts more than 15,000 business leaders every year on their campus just north of Dayton in Tipp City, Ohio.

The life and service of Clay Mathile have not gone unnoticed by his fellow Daytonians. Clay was a prominent businessman and philanthropist, recognized as the Citizen Legion of Honor award winner by the Presidents Club of Dayton in 2014, and the Maureen Patterson Regional Leader Award in 2019 by the Dayton Development Coalition. However, these titles meant little in comparison to Clay's role within his family as a husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

I join the entire Miami Valley in mourning the loss of a remarkable man who uplifted countless others through his career and philanthropy. Dayton, the state of Ohio, and our country has lost an icon, and I have lost a friend. My heartfelt condolences are with Clay's wife Mary Ann, his children Cate and Don Laden, Tim and Lynn Mathile, Mike and Michelle Mathile, Tina Mathile, Jennifer and Pat Prikkel, his 15 grandchildren and their families; and his one great-grandchild.

HONORING MS. LORRAINE EGAN

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a Crystal Lake, Illinois native, Lorraine Egan, for her service in the United States Navy.

Following the unprovoked attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, Lorraine proclaimed that she would be "joining the Navy," following in the footsteps of her father who had served in WWI. On December 8, just the day after the attack, her father took her to the Navy's recruitment center. Lorraine entered the Navy as part of the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) program, and in her words "learned to be tough in a gentle way," which she said was necessary to push back against some of the men who were less supportive of women being in the military. She was among the first 200 women to join the Navy.

The Navy sent Lorraine to Hunter College in New York where she attended nursing school before being sent to complete basic training at Naval Station Great Lakes in Lake County, Illinois. Lorraine was then deployed to Camp Lejeune in North Carolina and was involved in surgeries and delivering babies, parts of the job she loved the most. Her daughter notes that Lorraine enjoyed almost every aspect of the job, recalling that "she just loved all the work."

Former service members call her an inspiration. as not only did she have to pave the path for women to join the military, but "she had to figure out the path . . . and bring the stones." At 101 years old, Lorraine encourages young women she meets to join the military as it pays for their education, instills a strong work ethic, and teaches people to be thoughtful and care about others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Lorraine Egan for her service to this country, and her bravery to trailblaze a path for women to serve our Nation. I offer her good health and the hope that she continues to spread the lessons she has learned over her life.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FOSTERING FAMILY COHESION NATIONWIDE ACT

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Fostering Family Cohesion Nationwide Act. The legislation makes Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), child support enforcement, and foster care programs available everywhere else in our Nation also available in the Northern Mariana Islands.

My district is the only jurisdiction ineligible for such programs under Title IV of the Social Security Act. In every other part of the United States, these programs help low-income families with children achieve economic self-sufficiency, promote joint parental responsibility, and provide safe foster care placements for children who cannot remain in their homes.

The continued exclusion of our islands is not only inequitable, but also violates the agreement negotiated in the covenant that established the current political relationship between the Marianas and the United States. Section 703 of P.L. 94–241 provides that the United States will make available to the Marianas the full range of federal programs and services available to the other territories. And by failing to remedy the Marianas' exclusion from programs under Title IV, Congress is renegeing on its promise and perpetuating the unequal treatment of Americans residing in U.S. territories.

My bill, the Fostering Family Cohesion Nationwide Act, makes this long overdue correction, and upholds our nation's statutory obligation to the people of the Marianas. Each child's right to a safe, nurturing, and permanent family must be safeguarded no matter where they grow up in the United States.

I thank my colleagues who joined me in introducing this bipartisan legislation—Mr. MOYLAN, Ms. RADEWAGEN, Ms. PLASKETT, and Mr. CASE.

CONGRATULATING WEST POINT IMPLEMENT ON CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

HON. MIKE FLOOD

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate West Point implement on a half-century of doing business.

Fifty years ago, Buddy Ternus, Francis Sand, and Erv Eisenmenger started this business that has grown significantly and evolved to meet the needs of the community through the years.

Today, Erv and his sons Scott and Chad run West Point Implement as a family business.

Over the past five decades, the business has expanded to include West Point Design and EIS, Mfg.

One of the keys to their success has been their commitment "to stay alert to change, and to lead the way for our employees and our

customers toward being the best in the business of production agriculture."

Cuming County, which is home to West Point Implement, has over 360,000 acres of farmland and is one of the top counties for cattle in Nebraska.

Consequently, West Point Implement has played a pivotal part in helping the ag economy grow in Cuming County in its years of business.

Congratulations to West Point Implement and the Eisenmenger family on reaching this milestone—here's to the next fifty years.

COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF BETTER FAMILY LIFE

HON. CORI BUSH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, St. Louis and I rise with great honor to recognize Better Family Life on the occasion of their 40th anniversary. Endurance, faith, and unwavering commitment to service have been the cornerstones of their remarkable journey, shaping the lives of countless individuals and families across the St. Louis region.

Better Family Life's workforce development programs have provided community members with vital job skills while fostering economic empowerment and stability. Their unwavering commitment to youth, family, and clinical services has created a nurturing environment for the growth and well-being of young people.

While Better Family Life's journey began in the basement of their founders' home, it has since grown into a formidable organization, marked by significant milestones and achievements. The Better Family Life Cultural Education Center enriches our understanding of the African Diaspora through Afrikan Dance, artistic traditions classes, and the largest area Kwanzaa expo. The Business Center and Melanated Marketplace stands as a testament to the organization's dedication and impact, serving as a hub for Black education, small business empowerment, and community engagement.

As Congresswoman for Missouri's First District, I am proud of the various ways my office has been able to support Better Family Life's mission, including by securing \$3 million in congressionally directed federal funding for the Lifehouse Phase 1 initiative to help revitalize North City and support residents in securing homes. This funding is vital to sustaining the economic vibrancy of North City, and it was an honor to partner with Better Family Life to deliver meaningful federal resources for initiatives that will benefit residents across the district for years to come.

As Better Family Life celebrates this momentous milestone, I extend my deepest appreciation for their unwavering dedication and congratulate them on the tremendous impact they have had on our St. Louis community over the past four decades.