

home a state championship to his school and community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Luke Sievers for a job well done.

HONORING GEORGE LITTLE FOR HIS SERVICE TO SANDHILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND THE PEOPLE OF MOORE COUNTY

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 2023

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor George Little for his great service to Sandhills Community College (SCC) and to thank him for serving as Chairman of SCC's Board of Trustees.

Earlier this month, George announced that he was stepping down as Chairman of the SCC Board of Trustees, a role he has served in for almost four decades. George became board chair in 1985 and under his leadership both the college and our community at large have grown tremendously. When George became Chairman, SCC was still a small, growing institution. However, George saw its potential as an academic institution and development driver. During his tenure, SCC has risen to become an academic powerhouse and established an endowment of over \$50 million, a sum unheard of at the community college level.

George is a nationally recognized academic leader, great American and dear friend. While he will continue to serve on the college's board, I certainly know he will be missed at the helm. That being said, I know he will continue to serve with vigor and have full faith that his chosen successor, Larry Caddell, will be able to carry on George's great work.

George's dedication to service and constant willingness to step up when needed is commendable and inspiring. It has been an honor serving the people of Moore County alongside him.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing George Little for his service to our community and the great state of North Carolina.

HONORING CRYSTAL LANGHORNE

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 2023

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. I rise today to honor the achievements and outstanding athletic career of Crystal Langhorne, a resident of Willingboro, New Jersey and a trailblazer on the basketball court.

A former member of the Willingboro High School's girls basketball team. Crystal became the all-time highest scorer with over 2,000 points in her high school career. Not only did she possess athletic prowess on the court, she continuously showed sportsmanship and camaraderie to her teammates, coaches, and opponents.

Crystal continued her basketball career at the University of Maryland, where she led the team to an historic national championship in 2006 as a key starter for the Terrapins. A

fierce athlete, she became Maryland's all-time highest scorer and record holder with 2,247 career points. Upon graduating Crystal started her tenure as a professional basketball player in the WNBA, playing for the Washington Mystics and, later, the Seattle Storm. She continued to demonstrate her love for the game and unparalleled talent racking up more remarkable accolades, including Most Improved Player and All-WNBA honors.

Crystal's talents don't end within the 94 feet of hardwood. Since her retirement from the WNBA she has been a force for social justice across our country. As the Director at Forece4Change, a social justice platform for the Seattle Storm, Crystal helps amplify the voices of black women, fights for voting rights for all Americans, and supports BIPOC and LGBTQ+ communities through a wide variety of initiatives. Recently, she had the opportunity to speak about racial and social justice platforms at the White House.

The scope of her work has touched the lives of thousands across the country, including many in New Jersey's Third District. This month, Crystal's alma mater, Willingboro Township School District, dedicated the high school gymnasium in her honor. Crystal was able to celebrate the special night and notable achievement with the Willingboro community, former coaches and teammates in what is now the Crystal Langhorne Gymnasium.

Crystal Langhorne embodies the tenacity and spirit of Willingboro Township that makes me proud to represent this community. We are lucky to have her as one of our own as an inspiration to young basketball players and community leaders throughout our district.

CONGRATULATING THE SCHOOL OF THE OSAGE ON THEIR CLASS 2 GIRLS' GOLF STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 2023

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the School of the Osage on their victory in Missouri's Class 2 Girls' Team Golf Championship.

The Indians claimed the Class 2 title for the second consecutive year by beating Incarnate Word by 32 strokes. The team should be commended for all their hard work throughout the past year and for bringing home this state championship to their school and community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Osage Girls' Golf Team for a job well done.

COMMEMORATING GEROLD PRATHER

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 2023

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commemorate the heroic actions of Gerold Prather. On May 15, 2022, Mr. Prather of Kalamazoo, Michigan, rescued a

teenage boy who was struggling to swim in Lake Michigan.

That day, the teenage boy and his friends were at least 100 feet out in the lake when they started to call for help. The friends were struggling and had submerged under the water.

In another group at the beach, Mr. Prather heard calls for help, entered the lake, and swam to the boys. Reaching them, the boys submerged and resurfaced. With difficulty, Mr. Prather first pushed a boy toward the beach and then positioned him on his back and towed him to a point about 50 feet from shore where, tiring, Mr. Prather shouted for help. Another man waded into the lake and helped Mr. Prather and the boy get to the beach.

In honor of these lifesaving actions, Mr. Prather has been awarded the Carnegie Medal, a prestigious honor bestowed upon those who "enter extreme danger while saving or attempting to save the lives of others." Mr. Prather is one of 16 total Carnegie Medal recipients slated to receive the honor in 2023.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Mr. Prather for his heroism and commemorating him for his lifesaving actions.

RECOGNIZING GLOBAL HUMANE'S LAUNCH OF HUMANE TOURISM CERTIFICATION PROGRAM HELPING TO PUT ANIMAL WELFARE AT THE FOREFRONT OF TOURISM

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 2023

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize important efforts on behalf of animals worldwide and the humane treatment of animals through a new Humane Tourism certification program created by Global Humane, the international brand of American Humane, the first and most experienced national humane organization which was created in 1877 to ensure the safety, welfare, and well-being of animals.

Global Humane has extended its conservation impact with this new Humane Tourism program. At the same time as millions of people worldwide seek opportunities to connect with Earth's majestic wildlife, Global Humane has identified an opportunity to apply its expertise in animal welfare and create a unique certification program to help ensure animals are treated humanely in the travel and hospitality industry. The first audits were conducted in August 2023, which established that the properties met the certification requirements. The sites that are certified include Nyosi Wildlife Reserve and Mantis Founders Lodge in South Africa, Ichingo Chobe River Lodge in Namibia, and Zambezi Queen on the border of Namibia and Botswana.

Humane Tourism is a unique animal welfare certification program that assesses and certifies wildlife reserves, lodging facilities, and tour operators for their humane responsibility toward the animal life that these operations may encounter and have the potential to impact.

Mr. Speaker, I ask today that we recognize the importance and impact the Global Humane Tourism certification can have on keeping animals safe in the tourism industry worldwide.

HONORING CHIEF CARL COLASACCO FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF NORTH CAROLINA

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 2023

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chief Carl Colasacco on his retirement from the Aberdeen Police Department and to thank him for his more than 31 years of law enforcement service.

Colasacco's esteemed law enforcement career began over three decades ago in 1992, when he started as a reserve officer with the Pinebluff Police Department. Over the course of his career, he would serve in various law enforcement capacities across our community. In 1995, Colasacco joined the Aberdeen Police Department, where he steadily rose the ranks. He served as a patrol officer, detective, Captain, Deputy Chief and, eventually, Chief of Police. The wealth of knowledge and experience Colasacco has provided is astounding and I think I speak for the whole of our community when I say he will be dearly missed as he enters retirement.

Colasacco's dedication to service and constant willingness to step up when needed is commendable and inspiring. It has been an honor serving the people of Moore County alongside him and I wish him all the best as he begins this next chapter of his life.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing Chief Carl Colasacco for his great service to our community and the great state of North Carolina.

CONGRATULATING ROCK BRIDGE CROSS-COUNTRY ON THEIR CLASS 5 BOYS' STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 2023

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Rock Bridge High School on their victory in Missouri's Class 5 Boys' Team Cross-Country Championship.

The Bruins claimed the Class 5 title, having not one but two top-three finishers. They won by just 8 points, meaning that every student-athlete's determination was essential in clinching this victory. The team should be commended for all their hard work throughout the past year and for bringing home another state championship to their school and community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Rock Bridge Cross-Country Team for a job well done.

HONORING R.J. CORMAN RAILROAD GROUP

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 2023

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a unique and important business, R.J. Corman Railroad Group, which is headquartered in Nicholasville, Kentucky. The company is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2023.

R.J. Corman Railroad Group was founded in 1973 in Central Kentucky by visionary entrepreneur and philanthropist Richard J. Corman with a single backhoe and a dump truck. The company now operates in 24 states and more than 70 locations throughout our nation. R.J. Corman Railroad Group employs more than 1,400 people, over 500 of which are based in the state of Kentucky.

R.J. Corman Railroad Group's numerous services encompass railroad construction, short line railroad operations, industrial switching services, transloading operations, emergency response services, track material logistics, distribution centers, signal design and construction, and My Old Kentucky Dinner Train. The company serves six Class I freight railroads, many regional and short line railroads, as well as various rail-served industries. R.J. Corman Railroad Company operates three short line railroads serving multiple regions of the state contributing to the economic development of the corresponding communities. Through its dedicated employees, R.J. Corman Railroad Group strives to be the best-in-class service provider in the industry through its total commitment to customer satisfaction, increasing efficient operations while providing an ever-improving safe, and rewarding work environment.

R.J. Corman Railroad Group is a highly respected Kentucky business. As the company celebrates its 50th anniversary, I congratulate all their employees and wish them a bright future. I am honored to recognize this company before the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZING DEPUTY CHIEF DENNIS J. SORENSEN

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 2023

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Deputy Chief Dennis J. Sorensen on the auspicious occasion of his retirement on January 10, 2024, from the City of Harrisburg Bureau of Police after more than 31 years of distinguished and tireless service.

Dennis began his career on May 22, 1992. He was a member of the 53rd class of Harrisburg Area Community College Police Academy and graduated in September 1992.

Serving the majority of his time in the 1st Platoon as a Patrol Officer on the midnight shift, then Patrol Officer Sorensen was promoted to Corporal in 2000. He earned his way to the Criminal Investigations Division, becoming the Adult Offender Supervisor from 2000 to 2011. After earning promotion to Sergeant, he commanded the Special Operations Unit,

and served with the Harrisburg Bureau of Police to assist in the Hurricane Katrina disaster. In 2011, Sergeant Sorensen was reassigned to the Uniformed Division, and served as the Officer in Charge of the 2nd Platoon. Through his outstanding work, shortly after his previous promotion, Sergeant Sorensen earned the rank of Lieutenant, and served as commander of the 1st Platoon until 2018. In 2020, he earned the rank of Captain, and commanded the Uniformed Patrol Division, and was honored with the position of Deputy Chief position in 2021.

Along with his impressive law enforcement record, Deputy Chief Dennis Sorensen is a decorated Veteran of the United States Army, wherein he served honorably for 30 years, achieving the rank of Colonel. He earned his Bachelor's degree and military commission from the California University of Pennsylvania, and served in myriad and vast leadership positions, deployments, and training schools; of particular note, earning the coveted status of Master Army Aviator. His military awards and decorations include: Army Meritorious Service Medal; Army Commendation Medal; Army Achievement Medal; Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Kosovo Campaign Medal; Iraq Campaign Medal; Armed Forces Reserve Medal; Army Service Ribbon; Overseas Service Ribbon; NATO Medal; the Master Army Aviator Badge; the Pennsylvania Meritorious Service Ribbon; Pennsylvania Service Ribbon; Pennsylvania Twenty Year Service Medal; Pennsylvania General Thomas J. Stewart Medal; and the Pennsylvania Major General R. White Jr. Medal.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored and privileged to recognize Deputy Chief Dennis J. Sorensen on his well-earned retirement from the City of Harrisburg Police Bureau. His tireless, faithful, and selfless service of more than 39 years to community, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the United States of America sets the standard by which we all should be judged.

RECOGNIZING DR. ROBERT H. BERNARD

HON. RASHIDA TLAI

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 2023

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Robert H. Bernard for his outstanding service and leadership as Board Chair for Operation Refuge, a grassroots organization based in Western Wayne County.

Operation Refuge provides essential services like emergency food assistance and youth programming to some of the most underserved populations in Wayne County and whose mission is to serve the community with compassion, empathy, and integrity. As Board Chair, Dr. Bernard leads with this mission as his top priority. He has worked tirelessly to foster community development and promote career-driven and educational opportunities for the youth. Dr. Bernard has gone above and beyond to ensure that youth programs, such as Camp Inspire, are inviting and fulfilling and that youth scholarship funding is plentiful and available. Overall, Dr. Bernard's leadership