

The State Partnership Program delivers a significant return on investment by broadening the pool of security partners who are willing and able to support defense and security cooperation objectives around the world. In fact, most of the earliest State Partnership Program partner countries in Europe have gone on to become United States allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and many of them credit the State Partnership Program and their National Guard State partners with helping to make that possible.

Last year, with the leadership of Adjutant General Van McCarty continuing the tradition of Adjutant General Bob Livingston, the South Carolina National Guard celebrated the 10-year anniversary of our State Partnership with the Republic of Colombia. Since the launch of our mutually beneficial partnership, we have assisted in humanitarian aid, disaster relief, jointed combined training, and the internal transformation of civilian and military systems. The California National Guard has been instrumental in assisting the military of Ukraine and now is effectively facing War Criminal Putin, the monstrous dictator.

Being a father to four sons who have served overseas in the military and a 31-year veteran of the U.S. Army Reserves and the South Carolina Army National Guard, I am appreciative of the rich military tradition held within the Second District of South Carolina. Our district is home of Fort Jackson in Columbia, while Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter and Fort Gordon in Augusta, Georgia, are located just outside the District.

I am grateful to see the National Guard working with the commanders of the combatant commands and the Department of State to increase State Partnership Program partnerships by 2 nations per year for the next 15 years. The outsized influence of the program in developing and supporting enduring relationships around the world serves both the interests of the partner nation and the United States.

Last, and most importantly, I want to express my deep gratitude for the continuing service by members of the National Guard in support of the Department of Defense State Partnership Program.

HONORING SERGIO SUAREZ AND TAQUERÍA LOS COMALES

HON. JESÚS G. "CHUY" GARCÍA

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today I want to honor Sergio and Mary Suarez, residents from my district and small business owners as they celebrate the 25th anniversary of their restaurant, Taquería Los Comales.

Twenty-five years ago Sergio and Mary decided to open a taquería in Melrose Park, Illinois. They were determined to make it the best of the best.

With dedication and creativity, they put together a menu that combines authentic Mexican recipes with American community traditions, all surrounded with hospitality and family love.

Since he was a child, Sergio has had to work to help support his family. At the age of 6, he was shining shoes to make some

money. He never thought he would become the restaurant owner and business leader he is now. He immigrated to the United States from the Mexican state of Jalisco as a teenager and has built his American Dream one small business at a time.

Sergio's business instincts and work ethic have been key to his success. He chose Melrose Park as the location for his first restaurant at a time when it was growing in diversity and the residents needed a friendly neighborhood restaurant with the Mexican food that reminded them of their mom's and abuela's recipes. That's what Los Comales is for many of us.

Sergio has used his experience with business success to support and mentor other aspiring business owners, especially those that came from Mexico and are now living in the United States. In turn, he, is helping the community increase their markets, assisting immigrants, and creating more businesses and jobs. Immigrant-family owned restaurants like Los Comales are pillars of our community and engines of our local economy.

I wish Sergio and Mary Suarez, their whole family and Taquería Los Comales, many more years of success.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ALEX VELASQUEZ

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Alex Velasquez, a member of the Greatest Generation, a man who captured the essence of the American Dream and touched the lives of so many people in his community.

Alex was born during the Great Depression. He grew up in a single parent household and supported his mother and sisters at a very early age. He went from being a bellman, to an usher at a movie theater, to then enlisting in the Navy at the age of 18.

After being honorably discharged in 1946, Alex continued his spirit of the American Dream in pursuing barbering. His barber shop that he opened in 1954 continues to hold its legacy today, holding much more meaning than just a simple hair cut to his clientele. His barber shop was the center of chisme in Santa Ana.

Alex was a man of honor, service, and of inspiration to all young Americans with big dreams. He passed away on February 6, 2023. Alex was 97 years old.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the life of Alex Velasquez. May he forever rest in peace.

HONORING THE LIFE OF U.S. ARMY CORPORAL DEWEY E. REWIS, JR.

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dewey Rewis, Jr., a

POW/MIA who, seventy years after he was reported missing, was finally identified.

In 1950, the Waycross Georgia native joined the Battery D, 15th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion, 31st Regimental Combat Team, 7th Infantry Division stationed in Korea.

He was reported missing in action on December 2, 1950, after his unit came under attack while advancing along the eastern banks of Chosin Reservoir.

In 1953, four POWs returned home from Korea and reported that Cpl. Lewis had been a prisoner of war and had passed away in March 1951.

During Operation Glory, North Korea returned the remains of some U.S. soldiers that had died in the area north of Chosin Reservoir known as "Death Valley".

Unfortunately, Dewey was not among those returned. He was determined to be unrecoverable on January 16, 1956.

In October of 2022, researchers were able to identify Cpl. Rewis' remains using mitochondrial DNA and Y chromosome analysis.

Dewey's name is recorded on the American Battle Monuments Commission's Courts of Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, along with others who are still missing from the Korean War. He will have a rosette placed next to his name to indicate that he has been accounted for.

Cpl. Rewis paid the ultimate sacrifice for his country, and today we honor him.

HONORING THE CITY OF DOVER, IDAHO ON 100 YEARS

HON. RUSS FULCHER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, I want to make a special mention of the 100th Anniversary of the City of Dover, Idaho. Dover is situated near the beautiful Lake Pend Oreille and is in the northern part of the district I represent. On July 22nd and 23rd, the City of Dover celebrated 100 years of history with a boat parade, historical walk, and community barbecue—wrapping up with an exceptional Sunday service at the historic Dover Church, which has served as the heart of the community for the last 100 years.

I am honored to serve communities like Dover in Idaho, and I wish the city of Dover a bright future in the next 100 years.

IMPACT OF GUN VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

SPEECH OF

HON. SHONTEL M. BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

Ms. BROWN. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman JACKSON and Congresswoman CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK for leading a Special-Order Hour on July 25 to discuss the impact of gun violence on Black communities.

As members of the Congressional Black Caucus, we have an obligation to speak out

on behalf of our constituents, and an obligation to work towards a more just society for everyone.

And this Special Order is so important because gun violence is devastating our communities. The conservative Supreme Court and radical state legislatures have weakened our gun safety laws and Black families in Black neighborhoods are paying the price.

My district is not immune. In Cleveland earlier this month, 9 people were shot in a mass shooting. Gun violence is leaving trauma, fear, and pain across Northeast Ohio. The party that likes to talk about freedom, has left my constituents in fear, unable to enjoy everyday activities without the fear of gun violence.

And I am a licensed gun owner. But I fully support gun safety legislation, including an assault weapons ban, creating universal background checks, closing dangerous loopholes and more. Because I have the audacity to believe that my constituents deserve to feel safe.

Finally, I want to stress that we can't give up hope.

Large majorities of the American people want us to act. And last year, Congress passed the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. That's right, it was bipartisan. And we were able to strengthen background checks and impose new penalties on illegal purchases.

That's why we have to continue to speak out and continue to work the legislative process. We owe our constituents nothing less.

CELEBRATING 125 YEARS IN ROSSFORD, OHIO

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an important milestone in Rossford, Ohio's history and the history of our region. The City of Rossford begins a weekend celebration today honoring its founding and the 125 years since. The celebration begins Friday evening with a community-wide grand opening celebration and continues Saturday with a parade and outdoor festivities along with exceptional entertainment.

Rossford has a rather unique history. The very definition of a "company town," Rossford was built as a model town by Edward Ford, a founder of the Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Company. In 1898, Mr. Ford purchased 173 acres along the Maumee River to build the Edward Ford Plate Glass Company. He named the city "Rossford" by combining the last name of his second wife, Caroline Ross, with his name.

Because Rossford was a "company town," Edward Ford—who was a generous philanthropist—helped to build churches, schools, and homes. In the heyday of the plants' production, grandfather, father, and son all worked for Edward Ford Plate Glass Company or Libbey-Owens-Ford.

Edward Ford recruited hundreds of European immigrants, especially Eastern Europeans, to work in his new glass company. Thus, Rossford bears a rich and diverse cultural history including descendants of Poland, Ukraine, Hungary, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Germany, Belgium, Italy and other European countries. Mr. Ford also encouraged Ameri-

cans to migrate from other states to work in his factories. The amalgamation of so many different ethnicities and races brought a beautiful heritage to the Rossford community. Even today, organizations and churches in the city trace their own history to that of the early immigrants.

The primary North-South and East-West arteries of the eastern United States intersect at Rossford. Thus, in addition to putting our region on the map as "The Glass Capital of the World" Rossford is also "The Crossroads of America." It is a city representing small town USA while at the same time committed to a bright future.

Even as Edward Ford found Rossford a desirable location 125 years ago and residents through the generations have found it to be true, the area that is now Rossford shares an ancient past as well. In 1963 boys playing in Rossford's Crane's Woods discovered a location where archaeologists later uncovered habitation structures and artifacts including shell-tempered pottery shards, brass decorative objects, and glass beads dating back to the pre-history of Europeans in the 1600s. Burial sites of over 100 individuals were also found. From prehistory, people were successfully living in the region.

Today, Rossford remains a thriving community, living up to the success of its founder and the generations who built the city forward. We honor those forefathers and mothers in the events of this weekend, celebrating the past while investing in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I regret that due to contracting the COVID-19 virus, I was unable to be in Washington, D.C. from July 25, 2023 to July 27, 2023 to cast the following votes. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 365; YEA on Roll Call No. 366; NAY on Roll Call No. 367; NAY on Roll Call No. 368; YEA on Roll Call No. 369; NAY on Roll Call No. 370; NAY on Roll Call No. 371; NAY on Roll Call No. 372; NAY on Roll Call No. 373; NAY on Roll Call No. 374; NAY on Roll Call No. 375; NAY on Roll Call No. 376; NAY on Roll Call No. 377; NAY on Roll Call No. 378; and YEA on Roll Call No. 379.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CLAY HIGGINS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend votes due to an obligation in my home state of Louisiana. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 365, and YEA on Roll Call No. 366.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call Vote No. 370 on H.R. 4368, I mistakenly recorded my vote as Yea when I should have voted Nay.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SYD BLACKMARR

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Tifton, Georgia's "Queen of Arts," Syd Blackmarr, who recently passed at the age of 89.

Her commitment to promoting the arts in Georgia has left a great mark on the cultural landscape of Georgia's Eighth District.

Her legacy will be remembered in the cultural heritage she helped build, from the main stage at Fulwood Park that is named in her honor, to the former Tifton Museum of Arts & Heritage that was renamed the Syd Blackmarr Arts Center to recognize her contributions to our community.

She also founded the Art Experiment Station at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in 1976, which fostered the creation of 8 local arts councils. It was Georgia's first rural arts consortium, and her work paved the way for collaborations across South Georgia, leading to the growth of arts organizations and public art installations throughout our state.

She envisioned arts affirming cultural diversity and helped initiate the Arts in Black Festival and the Fiesta del Pueblo.

Syd's accolades and recognitions, such as the Governor's Award for the Arts and Humanities and the Selina Roberts Ottum Award for Arts Leadership, are a testament to her unwavering dedication and the immense impact she had on the arts community.

Syd's impact in Georgia's Eighth District will be felt for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING THE LANCASTER HIGH SCHOOL TRACK TEAM'S STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Lancaster High School varsity boys track and field team's Class 1 State Championship.

On Saturday, June 3rd, the Red Devil varsity boys track and field team came home with the class 1 State championship after a 2-day meet at James Madison University. The Lancaster team scored an impressive 80.5 points and placed in every single event. I would like to congratulate Reece Rhodes, Daveon Smith, Jeremia Laws, Creston Saunders, Creaton Saunders, Tyson Henderson, Mathew Kane,