

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,

Joshua Woolard, Zaden Veney, Brandon Wade, Trajan Waddy, and Trenielle Kelley for a great team victory.

I would like to recognize the leadership of head coach Draper Washington, as well as assistant coaches James Timm and Markus Ferguson. The coaches combined effort and leadership has led the track team to victory in 2 of the last 4 class 1 state titles. Next, I would like to recognize Reece Rhodes and Daveon Smith for their individual championships. Reece Rhodes broke the shot-put state record with a throw of 60'11", and Daveon Smith won the long jump with a jump of 21'4".

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments and hard work of the student-athletes, coaches, and volunteers of Lancaster High School's varsity boys track and field program. I look forward to seeing their continued excellence.

REMEMBERING JONATHAN CUNEO

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to recognize the passing of Jonathan Cuneo, a champion of consumer rights and a longtime friend of the House Committee on the Judiciary.

After earning his BA at Columbia University and his law degree at Cornell, Jon clerked for Judge Edward Tamm of the U.S. District Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. In 1981, after a stint working for the Federal Trade Commission, Jon joined the Judiciary Committee as counsel to the Subcommittee on Monopolies and Commercial Law.

Under Chairman Peter Rodino of New Jersey, Jon proved himself a trusted advisor on questions of antitrust law and consumer safety. He helped to guide the Committee through its consideration of a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, and he conducted a wide-ranging investigation of the insurance industry. He was still a young man when he served here, but already Jon was making valuable contributions to the important work of protecting American consumers and small business from large corporate interests.

Jon founded his private practice in 1988, and from there he led several ground-breaking civil actions in service of that mission. In the "Joe Camel" case, argued in California state courts and successfully settled in 1997, Jon and his team revealed that the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company's advertising campaign was specifically targeting underage children with its promotional cartoon character. For his role in the case, Congressman Henry Waxman (D-CA) called Jon a "real American hero."

On behalf of thousands of defrauded investors in Enron Corp., Jon recovered more than \$7 billion in federal court in 2009. It remains the largest settlement of its kind. Apart from his successful private practice, Jon co-founded the Committee to Support Antitrust Laws, the American Antitrust Institute, and the National Association of Shareholder and Consumer Attorneys. His commitment to justice and safety for all Americans was equal to none.

And as I recall Jon's wide-ranging and successful legal career, Mr. Speaker, I am particularly struck by the lifelong friendship he forged with my predecessor, the late Chairman John Conyers, Jr. of Michigan. Chairman Conyers trusted Jon like few others. On issues like consumer safety, corporate accountability, and access to the courts, the 2 were partners, both dedicated to helping the most vulnerable Americans find justice wherever it could be found.

We on the Judiciary Committee will remember Jon fondly. May his memory be a blessing to the friends and loved ones he leaves behind.

CELEBRATING LOIS DODD

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Lois Dodd's contribution to Maine's artistic record and her legacy as an acclaimed American oil painter. The painter's understated, observational scenes of farmhouses, forests, quarries and winding roads recall days spent along the coast and invoke feelings of nostalgia in anyone who has spent time in Maine. Admired for her plein-air paintings and appreciation for moments of understated importance, Dodd is credited with an alluring capacity to capture the character of her subjects.

When Dodd visited Maine for the first time in 1951, she was taken with the pace of life—so different from that of her home in New York City. The dynamic landscape and, what Dodd describe as, "American ruins"—weathered farmhouses and barns, cracked windowpanes, shingled outhouses—provided the painter with an abundance of inspiration for her work. Even her bedroom window proved to be the perfect subject. For those native to the state, her work speaks to Maine's rich architectural, agricultural, and ecological history. For those yet to know Maine, Dodd's work invites them in and inspires them to visit the state to see the painter's subjects for themselves.

Among a group of avant-garde artists from New York, Dodd found creative respite along the coast in the summer months. Dodd co-owned a home in Lincolnville for many years with other New York artists. In the 1960s, she purchased her own property in Cushing. It is in this home that Dodd painted her well-known bedroom mural which provided later inspiration for pieces on view at the Farnsworth Museum in Rockland.

The painter even found that some of her subjects became more vibrant when she was in the state. "In Maine, the figures would be involved with something interesting—climbing a tree, using an axe, working. She is not just lolling there. It is more alive that way," Dodd said.

Dodd is an elected member of the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters and the National Academy of Design. Her work is included in the collections of Bowdoin College, Colby College, the Farnsworth Art Museum, the Portland Art Museum, The Museum of Modern Art and more. The painter also spent

over 50 years in the classroom, lending her knowledge and talent to countless students. Dodd's work offers an impressive testimony to the rich landscape and history of Maine—cementing the state's legacy as an influential and significant contributor to the fine arts.

IN MEMORY OF COACH ALVIS JOHNSON, JR.

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a special man, Coach Alvis Johnson, Jr. of Harrodsburg, Kentucky.

Coach Johnson, born in 1947, grew up in rural Christian County, Kentucky as the son of a sharecropper. He attended Western Kentucky University, where he played football and earned a master's degree in secondary education. He and his wife Rosetta moved to Harrodsburg in 1973 where he taught history, served as athletics director, and coached football as well as boys' and girls' track and field. He served there until 1997, where he was well-respected in the classroom and on the athletics fields. He led the boys track and field team to 4 state championships; the girls track and field to one state championship, and the football team to 3 state runner-up titles. Coach Johnson was a mentor and role model to his students, his fellow teachers, and his athletes. The football and track and field stadium is named in his honor. Johnson had over 50 athletes that went on to compete at the Division 1 level, including his sons, Dennis and Derrick who are now football coaches at Woodford County High School. Coach Johnson went on to serve for 8 years as an assistant athletics director at the University of Kentucky.

Coach Johnson served on the KHSAA Board of Control and led as president in 1991. He was elected to the National Federation of High School Athletics' board of directors in 1992 and became that board's president in 1994, the first African American to do so. He served on the Kentucky Board of Education from 2019–2022. Johnson was inducted into the Kentucky Track and Cross-Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame and the Kentucky High School Athletic Association's Dawahare's/KHSAA Hall of Fame. He was named the state high school track coach of the year 8 times and, in 1977, was named the Kellogg Corporation National Track Coach of the Year. He was twice named the state football coach of the year. Johnson also received the Disney's American Teacher Award in 1996.

Coach Johnson was a member and longtime deacon at Centennial Baptist Church. He was active in the United Way and many other community groups. Coach Johnson had a positive impact on thousands of lives over his career as a teacher and coach. He showed genuine care and concern for people and his legacy lives on. This legendary man who was a mentor to many passed away on July 15, 2023.

I am humbled to honor the memory of Coach Alvis Johnson, Jr. before the United States Congress.