

Texas when he joined GCISD faculty 25 years ago. Since then, he's taught and coached students across several schools in GCISD, including Vista, Grapevine High School, and Colleyville Middle School, working as a special education teacher, history teacher, principal, interim principal, and head wrestling coach before becoming the Director of Facility Use.

Recently, Ryan had the distinction of being inducted in the University of Central Oklahoma's Athletics Hall of Fame, one of just 172 individuals in school history to earn the honor. Ryan wrestled for UCO from 1989 to 1994, becoming a national champion and two-time All-American. He won 91 matches in his 4-year career, including 30 bonus-point victories, qualified for nationals three times, and was a two-time regional champion.

I'd like to congratulate Ryan on his induction into the University of Central Oklahoma's Athletics Hall of Fame.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, on September 28, 2023, I missed Roll Call vote No. 406. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 466, H.R. 4665 (Amendment No. 17).

RECOGNIZING GOLDIE SIMPSON

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions of Ms. Goldie Simpson, a lifelong Detroit resident and "Rosie the Riveter," as she celebrates 100 years of life.

Born in 1923, Ms. Simpson was a bright student who studied business after she graduated from Detroit's Northeastern High School. After the outbreak of World War II, she directed her energies toward the cause of bolstering our nation's economy and morale by taking on work that had previously been performed by men who had been called up to military service. She was one of the hundreds of "Rosies" who contributed so much during a dark time for our Nation and the world, providing critical labor during a time of need.

Ms. Simpson found true joy in her family. She married the love of her life, Elmore Simpson in 1949, and together they raised 9 children. Ms. Simpson embodies the spirit of generosity. She has continued to be an engaged member of the community, whether as a neighborhood mother who looked out for all of the children in her neighborhood or as an active member of her community in faith. Ms. Goldie Simpson embodies the grace, strength, and resilience of Detroit.

Please join me in wishing Ms. Goldie Simpson, a happy 100th birthday as we recognize her contributions to our country and to our community in Detroit.

RECOGNIZING THE OPENING OF THE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS OF THE PANCRETAN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Pancretan Association of America (PAA) on the ribbon cutting ceremony of their first ever National Headquarters in the greater Washington, D.C. region in Bethesda, Maryland. As a proud Greek American and Co-Chair of the Congressional Hellenic Caucus, it is an honor to acknowledge the PAA's work in recognizing and celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the island of Crete around the world.

Founded by descendants from Crete, for over 90 years the Pancretan Association of America has been a cornerstone of the Greek-American community, striving to promote the historical significance of Crete, while honoring the cultural and historically Greek values of philoxenia and philotimo. Through its wide array of programs, the PAA promotes the longstanding Hellenic values of education, philanthropy, civil responsibility, and individual excellence. The PAA reaches out to Cretans of all ages and offers programs that strengthen their understanding and recognition of their culture, allows them to enjoy and preserve their heritage, and share it with others. These programs include many social, cultural, and educational activities that encompass Cretan culture, and scholarships that empower Cretan students to continue their education and become effective and responsible citizens.

The Pancretan Association of America's mission to celebrate Crete's historical place in the Hellenic world is critical now more than ever with the ever-expanding relationship between the United States and Greece. I know that I would not be who I am or where I am today without my upbringing in a Greek family, which was so focused on serving others. Through hard work, determination, and the support of the Greek-American community supporting him, my great-grandfather founded what would become our family restaurant, the Puritan Backroom. 106 years later it remains in our family, and the values that my great-grandfather lived by still guide us today. These shared values bind our two nations and our communities together, and I applaud PAA's role in highlighting and furthering those values for generations to come.

I congratulate the Pancretan Association of America on the opening of their first ever National Headquarters. This event marks a significant milestone in their history and is an important step towards the cultural preservation of Crete's heritage, strengthening the ties between our communities, and further solidifying the relationship between the United States and Greece.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4368, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024. This bill falls woefully short of adequately investing in important programs and policies that support the American people.

The bill's provisions targeting low-income women, infants, and children are especially concerning. The insufficient funding included in H.R. 4368 jeopardizes access to food and critical services for low and moderate income pregnant and postpartum women, infants and children by drastically underfunding the program and undermining science-based WIC food benefits. This is especially concerning as the country continues to face an infant and maternal health crisis.

For over 25 years, there has been a bipartisan commitment to provide sufficient WIC funding to serve all eligible applicants and maintain the longstanding no-waitlist commitment—until now. The House agriculture appropriations bill purports to fund WIC at \$6 billion for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, but the bill also demands a \$500 million rescission in a later section. Realistically, the bill only funds WIC at \$5.5 billion. This is \$800 million below the President's budget request for FY 2024 (\$6.3 billion) and \$185 million lower than the level of funding made available in FY 2023 (\$5.685 billion).

Last month, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) outlined the need for an additional \$1.4 billion in Fiscal Year 2024 funding for WIC due to a significant increase in participation this fiscal year with a total of 6.7 million women, children, and infants being served by the program as of June. OMB has warned that without additional funding, participants could see disruptions in benefits. To prevent any disruption to a program crucial to supporting new parents and young children, it is vital that WIC funding be increased to align with projected participation and food costs as the process moves forward. Under the funding levels included in the House agriculture appropriations bill, up to 600,000 eligible new parents and children—including 11,600 Virginians could be turned away from the program.

While WIC participation is increasing, this bill also drastically cuts WIC's increased science-backed fruit and vegetable benefits for roughly 1.5 million pregnant and postpartum participants and 3.5 million children aged one to four. The bill reduces the monthly fruit and vegetable benefit from \$25 to \$11 for child participants, from \$44 to \$13 for pregnant and postpartum participants, and from \$49 to \$15 for breastfeeding participants. Current benefit levels ensure that participating women and children have access to recommended levels of fruits and vegetables, thus improving health outcomes and program retention. Pre-pandemic benefits of \$8 for children and \$11 for

pregnant, postpartum, or breastfeeding participants allowed for less than a one-cup equivalent of fruits and vegetables per day, woefully short of the recommended amounts.

In addition to insufficient funding for WIC, the bill includes other harmful provisions targeting nutrition programs. For example, the bill includes a rider that rejects a pending rule to revise WIC Food Packages. Additional riders reject nutrition standards in both school meals programs as well as the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). These harmful riders weaken the science-based process that determines nutrition standards and criteria in child nutrition and related programs. A dozen health organization and other stakeholders, including the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Heart Association, the American Public Health Association, the National WIC Association, and UnidosUS implored Congress not to include harmful nutrition-related riders and to maintain and respect the current science-based processes.

In addition to the threats to the health and well-being of women and children, this bill would harm farmers as they recover financially from the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, this legislation strips funding from Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) programs enacted last Congress. Rescinding the IRA funding will harm farmers as they recover losses suffered during the COVID-19 pandemic. The decision to divest from food security and those who produce the food and fiber we depend on is short sighted. I am also alarmed by amendments to curtail the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) work to advance equity and inclusion. For far too long, farmers of color, female farmers, and farmers who identify as LGBTQI+ have faced discrimination in farm lending. Restricting the USDA's ability to address these failures is detrimental to achieving the USDA's mission and ensuring food security.

For these reasons and many others, I urge my colleagues to oppose the bill.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL JOHN THOMAS WELLS, USA, RETIRED, WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with great pride to recognize retired Colonel John Thomas Wells, United States Army, of Woodway, Texas, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

Colonel Wells began his distinguished journey as a Military Graduate from Eastern Kentucky University in 1964. His early years saw him patrolling the East German and Czechoslovakian borders and later serving valiantly in the 173rd Airborne Brigade during the Vietnam War. Upon returning stateside, his leadership capabilities led him from commanding roles at Fort Knox to significant contributions at the Army Combat Arms Training Board at Fort Benning. Notably, he was instrumental in developing the Army Training and Evaluation Program, a legacy that benefits both active and reserve units today.

His commitment took him to the heart of military planning, serving on the Army General Staff at the Pentagon before command roles in Korea. His final active-duty assignment was Chief, Manpower Division, Resource Management Directorate, U.S. Forces Command at Fort McPherson, Georgia, after which he retired in 1989.

Colonel Wells's awards are a testament to his valor, including the Silver Star, Bronze Star with "V," Purple Heart, and numerous international honors.

His service didn't end in the military. He pursued the Holy Orders, was ordained in 1998, and contributed deeply to parishes in Texas. Throughout retirement, he lent his leadership to various churches, simultaneously earning accolades for his community service in Woodway, Texas. Notably, his two-decade dedication as a volunteer chaplain with the Waco Police Department speaks volumes of his commitment to service beyond uniform.

Educationally, besides his military training, Wells pursued theological studies at the esteemed University of Oxford and holds advanced degrees from Shippensburg University and the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest.

Together with his devoted wife, Su, they have enriched the Woodway community, with Colonel Wells chairing the city's Planning and Zoning Commission. Their legacy continues through their four children and three grandchildren.

In recognition of a lifetime dedicated to service, both in uniform and as a steadfast community pillar, I am honored to present the 2023 Congressional Veterans Commendation to retired Colonel John Thomas Wells, United States Army. His story is a testament to duty, courage, and an unwavering commitment to country and community.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF TED SILVER

HON. WILEY NICKEL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the remarkable life and contributions of Mr. Ted B. Silver, who marked his centennial milestone on September 23, 2023. It's a profound honor to recognize a man whose legacy embodies the very essence of service, dedication, and community spirit.

Ted Silver's journey began in Mitchell County, and from there, he embarked on a lifetime of service to his country, community, and fellow citizens. Mr. Silver honorably served in the U.S. Merchant Marine, demonstrating his commitment to safeguarding our nation's interests during a pivotal period in history.

Following his military service, he spent over four decades working for Standard Oil, where he ascended to the role of district manager for the LP gas division before retiring in 1988.

However, it's Mr. Silver's unwavering dedication to the Garner community that truly sets him apart. He served as the first president of the Garner Civitan Club, an organization of volunteer service clubs dedicated to helping people in their communities.

Throughout his years as a Civitan, Ted Silver has been a tireless advocate for the youth

of Garner. He championed initiatives supporting organizations such as the Boys and Girls Homes, the Tammy Lynn Center, and the Caswell Center.

Ted Silver's involvement extended to the Civitan Club's Pop Warner Football program, where he volunteered his time and expertise. Additionally, he administered the Civitan scholarship program for students at Garner Senior High, embodying the spirit of giving back to the next generation. He worked hand in hand with the Junior Civitan Club at the high school, imparting wisdom and instilling the values of community service.

Mr. Silver's dedication and selflessness have not gone unnoticed within the Civitan community. He received numerous accolades, including the Garner Civitan of the Year Award in 1977, the Latt Wall Memorial Award in 1986, the Club Honor Key Award in 1991, and the esteemed Life Membership, Civitan's highest honor, in 1998.

Beyond the Civitan Club, Ted Silver has made a meaningful impact on Garner and its residents. He's participated in programs aimed at assisting people with mental and physical disabilities. He also dedicated himself to working with children with developmental disabilities in Garner schools.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in extending our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Ted B. Silver as he celebrates his remarkable 100th birthday. His lifetime of service, dedication, and tireless advocacy for the betterment of Garner and its youth exemplify the very essence of what it means to be a true community leader. May his legacy continue to inspire us all for generations to come.

Happy 100th birthday to Mr. Silver.

RECOGNIZING THE 2023 LORDS AND LADIES OF FAIRFAX

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a dedicated group of men and women in Northern Virginia, the Lords and Ladies of Fairfax.

Every year, each member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors selects two people from his or her district who have demonstrated outstanding volunteer service, heroism, or other exceptional commitments and contributions to our community. Since the program's inception in 1984, approximately 759 individuals have earned the honor of being named a Lord or Lady Fairfax by his or her representative on the Board of Supervisors.

This year, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will recognize those individuals who have made tremendous impacts through their support of our public schools, parks, youth sports leagues, arts community, public safety, and human service programs. It is nearly impossible to fully describe the diversity of accomplishments of the honorees. Their efforts contribute greatly to the quality of life for the residents of Fairfax County and are worthy of our praise and sincere appreciation.

It is my honor to include in the RECORD the names of the 2023 Lords and Ladies of Fairfax: