

and sacrifice on the lakeshore and across the country.

Mike lived a life of service, both in the Coast Guard and outside of it. In fact, in 2016, he received the Department of Defense's annual Spirit of Hope Award, an honor that is presented to individuals who embody Bob Hope's core values of serving and supporting our military members. He was so proud of that he actually put it on his own challenge coin.

Mike exemplified the bold character of the Coast Guard and its motto, "Semper Paratus," always prepared, and his influential impact will be forever felt.

Mike is survived by his wife, Cathy, and their six children: Maxwell, Mollie, Moira, Maggie, Matteson, and McHale.

I, and so many others, remember Mike for his service, but we cherish his friendship and his contribution to the Grand Haven community, to the U.S. Coast Guard, and to our Nation.

Rest well, my friend. Rest well.

□ 1700

RECOGNIZING BEN FERENCZ

(Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jewish American Heritage Month by sharing a story of my personal Jewish American hero, Ben Ferencz.

Ben was recently awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. He was the last living Nuremberg prosecutor, who recently passed away at age 103.

Ben enlisted in the U.S. Army straight out of law school. He was assigned to collect evidence of Nazi war crimes, which he later used to prosecute the biggest murder case in the history of the world. At age 27, he convicted 22 Nazi leaders for their roles in the deaths of over 1 million people.

Ben later dedicated his life to creating a world of acceptance and compassion, becoming a tireless advocate for the rule of law and international justice.

Ben Ferencz is a real Jewish-American hero. His legacy is one of peace, justice, and humility. May his memory be a blessing.

REMEMBERING SHAWN SOARES

(Mrs. McCLELLAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Shawn Soares, a young public servant and former congressional staffer from my district, who was tragically killed in a traffic accident last week.

I first met Shawn during my time as a State legislator. He was a genuinely kind person who always had a smile on his face.

Shawn was a bright light everywhere, and he was well known in the Rich-

mond community for his commitment to climate advocacy and his desire to better the Commonwealth.

He accomplished so much in his short life. He served under my predecessor, the late Donald McEachin, and in State government under former Governor Ralph Northam and Delegate Suhas Subramanyam.

He was a leadership member in the Virginia Young Democrats and most recently worked for the Virginia Conservation Network while pursuing his graduate degree at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Shawn's commitment to having a positive impact on his community was evident in his life and work, and he will be sorely missed by many.

My sincere condolences to the Soares family, his loved ones, and every community he touched.

HONORING ALAINA SLIFE

(Mr. FROST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and advocacy of someone so many in the Orlando community considered a friend and loved one, Alaina Slife, who lost her life 2 weeks ago, which has left a hole in Central Florida.

Alaina was a daughter, a sister, a partner, and a friend to so many.

I actually had the honor of meeting her through the clouds of tear gas during the Black Lives Matter protests of 2020, where she was an accomplice and an ally and a fighter in the fight for justice for every single person.

She seemed to wake up every day with a mission in her heart to help people, and she devoted her life to empowering others and fighting for a better State and a better world for all central Floridians and everybody.

Today, I honor and remember her life's work and offer my deep condolences to her family and loved ones. She was a warrior in our community and will be greatly missed, but she lives forever through the joy, and the shared fight and struggle of our people. I thank her so much for her work.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

(Mr. THANEDAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THANEDAR. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate a constituent, a resident of the 13th District of Michigan, Candice Jackson, for winning the Teacher of the Year award.

As we observe Teacher Appreciation Week, I also want to draw attention to over 36,000 teaching posts left vacant this year. The newest figures show that the top income a teacher might earn in 17 percent of the school districts, even with 30 years of service and a Ph.D., is only \$60,000. This is intolerable.

As a cosponsor of the American Teacher Act, I am proud to advocate for our teachers. We must ensure that our educators earn at least \$60,000, not at most. Our teachers deserve our gratitude, respect, and just compensation. Together, we will make this a reality for them.

IN MEMORY OF LIVES LOST IN ALLEN, TEXAS

(Ms. CROCKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in memory of the eight Texans who lost their lives last weekend during a shooting in Allen, Texas. These eight Texans should be the future of Texas: Young, diverse, full of life and promise. Instead, they represent the tragedy of Texas today: A Texas where a family must prepare for a trip to the mall as if it is an active war zone. A Texas where lives of kindergartners have less value than the right of Neo-Nazis to own AR-15s.

Mr. Speaker, I rise and ask the question: Aren't you tired of grieving? Is this what your constituents sent you here to do, to send thoughts and prayers?

Texans are tired of grieving.

El Paso, Uvalde, Cleveland, Allen, and the list goes on. We simply can't accept this. For the eight lives lost in Allen, we will not accept this. For the five lives lost in Cleveland, we will not accept this. For the 19 children and two teachers murdered in Uvalde, we will not accept this. For the 23 lives lost in El Paso, we will not accept this.

We must honor our fellow Texans with action. It is the very least that we can do.

RECOGNIZING ELLA BENNETT

(Ms. SCHOLTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SCHOLTON. Mr. Speaker, this May, students from across west Michigan and the Nation will graduate from high school and college. I am honored to recognize one of these outstanding and incredibly bright graduates who hails from Michigan's Third Congressional District today.

Elle Bennett from Ada, Michigan, will graduate first in her class from the United States Military Academy at West Point later this month. After graduating, she will be commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army.

While at West Point, Elle majored in environmental science and researched wastewater resilience, even having the opportunity to publish and present on her findings. Drawing on her passions, she served as an energy and environment officer at West Point, where she led initiatives to increase recycling and pressed the institution to choose greener options.

On behalf of our West Michigan community, including Elle's proud parents, Bill and Amy, as well as her siblings, Kes and RaVell, I congratulate her on her impressive accomplishments as she graduates from West Point.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

(Ms. MANNING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize May as Mental Health Awareness Month. Now, more than ever, we must acknowledge the mental health crisis facing our Nation, particularly among school-aged children.

Repercussions from the pandemic and increased social pressure from social media have led to reports of rapidly rising mental health struggles.

In my home State of North Carolina, our K through 12 students are struggling. Last month, I hosted a round-table with school counselors, administrators, and teachers to hear firsthand about the challenges impacting young people. Suicide attempts and youth depression are rising at alarming rates. Congress must act to address students' mental health needs.

I am preparing to reintroduce my bipartisan bill, Improving Mental Health and Wellness in Schools Act, legislation to integrate mental health education and services into existing wellness policies in schools.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation and taking swift action to address the mental health needs of our students.

THE RISE IN ANTI-SEMITISM

(Mr. GOLDMAN of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Jewish American Heritage Month with a message of grave concern about the troubling rise in anti-Semitism around the country and the even more troubling normalization of that anti-Semitism.

Recent data shows that anti-Semitic incidents rose again last year by 36 percent, and New York continues to lead the country in such hateful incidents.

I am not immune from it myself, as you can see from just a small sampling of anti-Semitic attacks I personally have received on social media.

At a recent Judiciary Committee field hearing in my district, a man welcomed us with this sign about George Soros, which is unquestionably and flagrantly anti-Semitic.

As the Biden administration prepares to roll out its national strategy to counter anti-Semitism, I urge my friends on the other side of the aisle to stop invoking George Soros' name and join together to combat the startling rise of anti-Semitism.

IN HONOR OF TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

(Mrs. SYKES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week, I rise today to recognize the tireless efforts of all the educators in Ohio's 13th Congressional District.

Our dedicated educators play a critical role in shaping the lives of our children, forming the backbone of our educational system.

Their unwavering commitment to providing quality education to our children not only deserves our recognition but our support.

They need action in Congress, and I am proud to co-lead the Educators for America Act, a comprehensive legislative package which will invest in our children and support the recruitment and retention of diverse, well-qualified educators across the country.

I am also a cosponsor of the American Teacher Act, which will ensure that teacher salaries reflect the tremendous value educators bring to our communities.

Our communities are strongest when we invest in our teachers and provide them with the resources and tools they need to succeed.

On behalf of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, I sincerely thank our teachers for their countless contributions to our children and our society. Their dedication and passion for teaching inspires us all, and we are grateful for the role they play in building better lives and brighter futures for our children, inside and outside the classroom.

PRIORITIES FOR THE 2023 FARM BILL

(Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, recently, I held farm bill listening sessions across North Carolina's First Congressional District, making stops in Hertford, Nash, Pitt, and Wilson Counties to hear directly from our local agriculture community about their priorities in the 2023 farm bill.

Mike Belch, a local farmer, stressed the importance of protecting crop insurance.

Beth Farrell spoke about the need to ensure conservation programs meet the needs of our growers.

Joe Martin raised concerns about pricing, that pricing must keep up with inflation.

Maxine White and many others talked about wanting to see more technology used in the field to ensure the next generation of growers can effectively and efficiently create new ways to do what they do best: feed and clothe America.

I am proud to deliver surveys from eastern North Carolinians to be sub-

mitted for the official record for the 2023 farm bill.

I also heard about the need to address the labor crisis, including addressing the H-2A system. I will keep fighting for our agriculture community.

□ 1715

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL TEACHERS APPRECIATION WEEK

(Ms. HOYLE of Oregon asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Teachers Appreciation Week. The best way that we can show appreciation in Congress for our teachers is to fight for good wages, hours, and working conditions in the classroom.

In Oregon, the average starting teacher salary is a little over \$39,000. That is lower than the national average. Educators also make 81 cents on the dollar compared to other professionals with similar experience, credentials, and degrees.

Mr. Speaker, 94 percent of U.S. teachers spend their own money on their students to ensure classrooms have the resources they need, like books, supplies, music, and art. Put this all together and it is no wonder teachers can't pay off their student loans or buy homes in the communities where they teach.

We need workers to be able to afford to buy homes in their communities, and we also need to raise teacher pay. Their current salaries aren't keeping up with the rising cost of living. The pay gap is only growing and creating a teacher shortage crisis.

That is why, on National Teachers Appreciation Week, I am proud to co-sponsor the American Teachers Act, which would help States raise the minimum teacher salaries to \$60,000 for public K-12 schools.

Mr. Speaker, I thank our teachers. It is far past time we back them up.

ELIMINATE PARKING MINIMUM MANDATES

(Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, our Nation faces an affordable housing and climate crisis. That is why I have introduced the People Over Parking Act to eliminate parking minimum requirements near high-quality public transit.

Parking minimum mandates create a certain number of spaces, regardless of the needs of people who live there. This could add tens of thousands of dollars per space to construction costs.

Additionally, many spaces go unused, even as financial costs are passed on to renters regardless of whether or not