

and brought in additional 911 telecommunicators and detention officers to increase safety.

He also offered a variety of community programs to further the sheriff's office mission to enhance public safety and education and promote community-based relationships between law enforcement and the public, including his support for establishing drug courts where those battling addiction could be better treated and find the pathway to healing, productivity, and success.

To facilitate those missions, he created the Sheriff's Citizens' Academy along with the Sheriff's Volunteer Program. He also launched the Anchor Initiative Program in 2018 to help those suffering from addiction start their recovery, providing a hopeful future to break the typical cycle of continued drug use and crime.

Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Ingram has been recognized for his leadership on all these fronts. He was elected to the board of directors for the National Sheriffs' Association and served as president of the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association.

Most recently, he was awarded the prestigious Order of the Long Leaf Pine, a recognition considered North Carolina's highest civilian honor.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize a no-nonsense individual and one with such a sense of duty, integrity, and distinguished service to the people of Brunswick County, North Carolina.

On behalf of the citizens of North Carolina's Seventh District, I thank him, and I am proud to recognize him for his extraordinary service and commitment to his fellow man.

May God continue to bless him, his family, and the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office. I am proud to call him my friend.

HONORING MICHAEL OWENS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an American and Angeleno who is the definition of a public servant, Michael Owens.

I have had the honor to serve as an elected official for 27 years, and I have learned that the backbone of every office is having a team of dedicated people who work directly with our community members.

Just as it is in Congress, a Los Angeles city councilmember's district team has the biggest impact on the constituents they serve, and Michael made an impact on thousands of constituents.

Michael changed the lives of those with disabilities, LGBTQ+ youth, and all the families of the San Fernando Valley.

Michael Owens served Councilmember Bob Blumenfeld for 15 years, first as his director of constituent affairs and later as district director. In these roles, he oversaw more

than 10 staffers and the delivery of millions of dollars of city resources to their constituents.

Before getting involved in politics, he was a paralegal and director of legal affairs at the Motion Picture Association.

Michael lived in my district in the community of North Hills. He was a leader in his homeowner association, bringing the knowledge he had from the city to make his community a better place for all its residents.

He was known by Councilmember Blumenfeld as the "constituent whisperer" for his ability to hear constituents' most difficult problems and find solutions for them. No problem was too big or too small for Michael.

As district director, he ensured the district office he served was a space where students with disabilities could develop vital career skills.

We lost Michael in April. He joins his parents and late husband, Camron. My heart goes out to Michael's family, his sister Susan, Uncle Bob, and cousin Sara, and to Bob Blumenfeld and his entire staff during this difficult time.

Michael represents the Angeleno and American spirit of going above and beyond to serve the community that gave him so much.

HONORING IRMA CANTU ACOSTA

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Irma Cantu Acosta, a beloved leader, wife, mother, grandmother, and friend.

As a former small business owner and realtor, I saw firsthand the efforts of Irma to help families and young real estate agents attain the American Dream.

Irma was born in a small rural town in southwest Texas, and in the fifties, her family moved to Boyle Heights, Los Angeles.

Irma began her career in real estate, a field where she helped thousands of families navigate the real estate market. Her passion was helping working families find a house they could call home.

In 2000, she led the creation of the National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals, the largest voice and champion for Latino homeownership and empowerment, which is now tens of thousands of members strong. From the local to the national level, she mentored thousands of clients and colleagues with her warm, reassuring smile and valuable insight.

Irma is survived by her high school sweetheart and husband, Ernie, and her three children, four grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter.

Today, I stand to celebrate and honor the incredible life of my friend, Irma Cantu Acosta, someone who believed that we can all aspire for our own piece of the American Dream.

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS AND RETIREMENT OF MAUREEN "MO" BROWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the achievements and retirement of Maureen "Mo" Brown.

Coach Brown was recognized as the Southeast Georgia Middle School Athletic Association Athletic Director of the Year. It is a little bittersweet, as at the end of this year, she will be retiring from Pierce County Schools after 38 years of distinguished service. However, I am happy to hear that Coach Brown will be the director of the Pierce County Recreation Department.

Coach Mo was a standout athlete in her own right at Blackshear High School in the late 1970s. She has served head coaching stints as the girls' basketball, softball, and golf coach at Pierce County High School. She led the girls' golf team to two State championships while at the helm. She has been in her current role as Pierce County Middle School athletic director for 29 years.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Coach Mo for her years of success and the impact she has made on the students of Pierce County, and I look forward to what the future holds for her.

CELEBRATING DAVE REILLY

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Mr. Dave Reilly receiving the Navy's Distinguished Public Service Award.

On May 5, Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro presented Dave with this year's award for distinguished public service.

Dave served for 38 years in the United States Navy on assignments from submarines to his final post as commander of the Strategic Weapons Facility, Atlantic on Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base. He retired out of Kings Bay and decided to live his post-retirement years in St. Marys, Georgia, where he is also currently a city councilman.

In 1998, Dave became a lifetime member of the Camden-Kings Bay Navy League. He served in various local and national leadership positions before becoming national president of the Navy League of the United States in June 2021. As president, Dave has transformed the current governance structure and maintained his promise to keep the Navy League as the premier sea service support organization in the country.

His time as president may be up in June, but I have no doubt that Dave will continue to serve the Navy and his community long, long after his term is up.

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO MATT CAMPBELL, BUCK HOLLY, AND PATRICK KISGEN

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to thank Matt Campbell, Buck Holly, and Patrick Kisgen for their work on the Coastal Georgia Honor Flight. On May 13, they had the honor of being the guardians on the annual Coastal Georgia Honor Flight.

Coastal Georgia Honor Flight takes groups of veterans annually up from Glynn, Camden, McIntosh, and other

surrounding counties. They leave in the early morning hours for a whirlwind tour of the monuments for our servicemembers all day before returning that very same night.

The trip includes stops at Arlington National Cemetery, the United States Marine Corps War Memorial, and the Korean War Veterans Memorial, just to name a few.

Matt, who travels a lot for work, saw other regions' honor flight shirts in the airport and decided to look further into volunteering. After learning of his community's honor flight, he asked his two friends, Patrick and Buck, to join him. It did not take much convincing.

Reflecting on his trip, Patrick said: "Having the opportunity to experience our Nation's Capital with the multiple generations of men and women who put themselves in harm's way to protect it was something that I will cherish forever."

I thank all our veterans who have served our country, and I thank the great volunteers who make these special experiences happen.

MARKING UVALDE AND BUFFALO ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK) for 5 minutes.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago today, the American people were reeling from a white supremacist terror attack in Buffalo, New York.

Families were grieving 10 Black Americans who had been targeted by an ethno-nationalist and murdered for the color of their skin.

Loved ones were still organizing funerals for the victims of America's latest mass shooting, and then we saw the breaking news from Uvalde, Texas—another active mass murder; another crowd of desperate, panicked parents surrounding a school under siege; another statistic, 21 shot and killed.

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One year later, I rise in mourning. I mourn the souls taken from their families in Buffalo. I mourn the children and teachers murdered in Uvalde. I mourn the thousands of Americans who have been shot to death in the year since.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to share the stories of just a few of those Americans stolen away in the last year—stories from all walks of life, from every corner of this country, stories that were all cut short by weapons of war.

Uziyah Garcia's friends said he was the fastest kid in fourth grade. He was obsessed with Fortnite. When he grew up, he wanted to be a police officer so he could help people.

At 10 years old, he was shot to death in his classroom with an AR-15.

Pearl Young was a substitute teacher for the Buffalo Public Schools. She ran

her church's food pantry. She was the grandmother of 10 and the great-grandmother of seven.

She was murdered while shopping for groceries with an AR-15.

Aiden McCarthy's parents had planned a fun Fourth of July, taking him to the annual parade at Highland Park, Illinois.

At 2 years old, both of Aiden's parents were murdered in front of him with an AR-15.

Juliana Farmer had just moved to Louisville to start a new job. On Easter Sunday, she found out that she was about to become a grandmother of a baby girl.

The next day, she went to work where she was shot to death with an AR-15.

Daniela Mendoza was on the cusp of finishing fourth grade. She loved math, and her goal was to go to Texas A&M.

Meanwhile, her sister Sofia was busy memorizing lines because she had the lead role in her class play. She wanted to go to college, too, and then her dream was to go on and win an Oscar.

Daniela and Sophia were both murdered in front of their mother while shopping in a mall with an AR-15.

This bloodshed is a choice. To my colleagues, have mercy on this country. If you care about public safety, let's vote to get these tools of carnage out of dangerous hands.

Let's turn our thoughts and prayers into actions and solutions. If you really care, let's put an end to this daily calamity.

RECOGNIZING THE PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER OF THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an organization near and dear to my heart, Special Olympics.

In April, I attended the Paterno Family Beaver Stadium Run in State College, Centre County. The 5K run/walk raises money for the Pennsylvania chapter of the Special Olympics organization.

I fueled up at a pre-race breakfast and kicked off the opening ceremonies before cheering on the participants and meeting with the Centre County Special Olympics chapter.

Mr. Speaker, Special Olympics is a global organization that unleashes the human spirit and human potential through the transformative power and joy of sport every day around the world.

Through programming in sports, health, education, and community building, they change the lives of people with intellectual disabilities.

Special Olympics began in 1962 as a day camp in the back yard of Eunice and Sargent Shriver with the first international games taking place in

1968. Today, the movement thrives in more than 172 countries throughout the world.

Pennsylvania formed their own State chapter in May of 1970 when 135 brave athletes participated in a small track and field competition at West Chester University.

Today, our State chapter has nearly 13,000 athletes competing across nine local regions in more than 300 annual competitions in 22 different Olympic-type sports.

Special Olympics provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, providing continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills, and friendships with their families, other Special Olympics athletes, and the community.

Mr. Speaker, the Special Olympics program is more than an athletic competition. The program, when offered in schools known as Unified Champion Schools, reduces bullying, teasing, and the use of offensive language to those with intellectual disabilities.

Graduation rates of high schools that implemented USC increased 1.1 percent for students without disabilities and increased 1.4 percent for students living with disabilities.

The work Special Olympics is doing results in an average of four and a half more inclusive experiences for each student who participates.

In Pennsylvania alone, there are more than 720 USC partnered schools in more than 50 counties. In fact, at St. Mary's Area High School in Elk County, Pennsylvania, PA-15, the Flying Dutchmen unified sports teams completed an undefeated inaugural season and became the 2023 Interscholastic Unified Bocce PIAA State champs at the Giant Center in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

The unified program truly changes lives. One of the families participating summed up the program best in saying, "Unified sports really does unify a school, a community, and most of all, gives families like myself a lot of joy and for a moment to forget about a diagnosis."

Special Olympics also focuses on the long-term health of their athletes. People with intellectual disabilities lack equitable access to health services and die, on average, 20 years earlier than the general population in the United States.

Special Olympics creates a healthier world for individuals with intellectual disabilities through initiatives that reduce health disparities and instead, works toward equitable access to quality health service for people living with intellectual disabilities.

To date, Special Olympics Health has provided more than 1 million health screenings to Special Olympic athletes to identify unmet health needs, refer them to appropriate care, and allow