

the best high schools in the country and it is located right in Arizona-06, my district.

This school, which has only been around since 2010, has made a huge impact on our community. I am so proud of the teachers who make this a great experience for the kids and the kids that push themselves to be better every single day.

I am proud to represent this outstanding school in Congress and to recognize the BASIS Oro Valley school here today.

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT CHRIS BAILEY ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to thank president Chris Bailey, who is retiring after dedicating 12 years to Lower Columbia College. Throughout his tenure, he diligently served students, staff, and the community, transforming Lower Community College into a vital educational hub in the region.

As a testament to Chris' leadership, Lower Columbia College developed the Lower Columbia Regional Center, enabling folks to work and access higher education pathways. Chris was pivotal in introducing the college's first two bachelor of applied science degrees, as well as a vocational skills center, reflecting his commitment to expanding career opportunities for those at the college.

We have been lucky to have a leader like Chris at Lower Columbia College. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chris for his dedication and wish him all the best in a well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING MALLONEE FARMS

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mallonee Farms, a family-owned dairy farm in my district. A few weeks ago, I was able to visit the farm in Curtis, Washington, where I met the farm's owner, Maynard Mallonee. Maynard is a third-generation dairy farmer and a member of the Organic Valley coop.

During my visit, I toured their farm, saw their new robotic milkers, and heard how Congress can support small, organic farms. Maynard is passionate about working for something bigger than himself. He works to be a good steward of his land, and he is already taking steps with his son, Jack, to ensure that the family farm continues for generations to come.

Everyone at Mallonee Farms is fighting hard for their farm, and I am grateful to be in this fight with them. My focus is to ensure that Federal policy supports small, family farms like theirs.

COWLITZ COMPLEX FIRES IN GIFFORD PINCHOT NATIONAL FOREST

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the Cowlitz Complex fires in

the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Thirty fires might sound like a bad movie plot, but with 695 acres in flames and 342 hardworking folks trying to keep it all under control, it is the reality of our community.

To the diligent task forces—the California Incident Management Team 13 and Rocky Mountain Incident Management Team 2—patrolling and monitoring the fires, especially around Pothole, Jackpot, and the Adams Fork regions—your steadfastness does not go unnoticed.

We are thankful that potential threats, like the heat near Pothole, turned out to be benign. The task forces' preemptive actions are the backbone of our community's safety.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the folks working these fires. Their tireless efforts protect our homes, our forests, and our future. Their commitment to contain these forests showcases the resilience of our community.

HONORING A DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANT, SERGEANT RICHARD KELLY

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant and cherished member of our community, Sergeant Richard Kelly.

On August 10, we lost Sergeant Kelly unexpectedly due to a medical emergency while in the line of duty. He was only 54.

Sergeant Kelly's commitment to safeguarding our community was unwavering. He served the Battle Ground Police Department since 2005, where he ultimately rose to the rank of sergeant in 2019.

Not only was he an officer of the law, he was a husband, father, brother, and a pillar of our community. He was respected and loved by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

I personally recall his attentive presence at my Battle Ground townhall, a testament to his deep sense of duty and connection to the people that he served. His loss leaves a void in our community and in the hearts of all who knew him.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and service of Sergeant Richard Kelly. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, his colleagues, and the entire Battle Ground community during this time. May his dedication serve as a lasting inspiration to us all.

REMEMBERING AND HONORING CORPORAL ZACHARY "ZAC" CLAYTON MERRILL

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor Corporal Zachary "Zac" Clayton Merrill, who passed away on August 20.

After graduating from college, Zac joined the Army, distinguishing himself as captain of the 82nd Airborne and leading an explosive ordnance team in Afghanistan.

His commitment and valor earned him the Bronze Star, among other commendations. After the Army, Zac's call to service led him to the Vancouver Police Department, where he became an integral member of the cri-

sis negotiation team and was eventually named unit leader. However, beyond the badges and commendations, Zac was a loving husband, son, brother, and uncle.

He also had a profound bond with his grandfather, Stanley Merrill, also a Korean war veteran, which speaks volumes about his deep roots in service and sacrifice.

Corporal Merrill's legacy of service, both on the battlefield and on our streets, will forever inspire and remind us of the sacrifices made by those who choose to serve.

Mr. Speaker, I send my deepest condolences to his family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

RECOGNIZING DR. THOMAS J. WALTERS

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 recognize the director of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers, Dr. Thomas J. Walters, for his 44 years of service to the United States.

Director Walters oversaw the training and management program for new law enforcement officers across the country, including those at the Glynco, Georgia, campus in my district.

Mr. Walters dedicated his entire four-decade career to defending our national security, serving as a Border Patrol agent, and in various leadership positions. He embodies both patriotism and leadership, and the next generation of officers is undoubtedly grateful for his expertise and the example he set. Director Walters emphasized that serving as the FLETC director was an honor and a career highlight.

I know I speak for the whole First District when I say we appreciate his dedication to law enforcement and his service to others. I welcome the new FLETC director, Benjamin "Carry" Huffman, and I wish him the best of luck.

REMEMBERING LIEUTENANT COLONEL DAVID LEONARD SHARPE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Lieutenant Colonel David Leonard Sharpe. At the age of 81, he leaves behind a legacy of bravery, leadership, and selflessness. In 1966, he graduated from the U.S. Army Ranger School and became the first Army Ranger in the Georgia National Guard. He served in the U.S. Army Reserves in the Georgia National Guard for 41 years, from 1960 to 2001.

We remember him not only for his military accomplishments, but also for his dedication to his community. He excelled as a mechanical drawing teacher at Glynn Academy high school in Brunswick. In the summers, he worked on commercial and residential planning.

I know Mr. Sharpe's legacy will live on in the positive impact he had on his

community, and I extend my deepest condolences to his family.

CONGRATULATING DALE GREENE ON HIS
RETIREMENT

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the University of Georgia's Forestry and Natural Resources dean, Dale Greene, for his decades of accomplishments before he retires at the end of the year.

Greene has consistently displayed his passion for his students and teaching throughout his time working at UGA, and he has been a key factor in the success of many young leaders. Greene joined the University of Georgia in 1986, and since then has won several awards, including but not limited to, the Herrick Award for Superior Teaching, the Wise Owl Award, the Silver Beaver Award from the Georgia Boy Scouts of America, and the Billy Hudson Distinguished Citizen Award.

Greene was also inducted into the Georgia Foresters Hall of Fame in 2007 for his efforts in expanding research and funding to his university. I am proud to commemorate such a hard-working individual that has aided in so many Georgians' postgraduate successes in agriculture.

CONGRATULATING THE CRAB SHACK

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate The Crab Shack for being named one of the best seafood restaurants in the United States by the Food Network.

On the charming Tybee Island of Georgia sits The Crab Shack, known for its outstanding fresh seafood, river views on the marsh of Chimney Creek, and extensive choice of in-house events.

This unique restaurant is a perfect spot for vacationing families with a wide range of food options, activities, and incredible southern hospitality service. Savannah locals, Jack and Belinda Flanigan, developed The Crab Shack from nothing more than a few tables and some friends, and since then it has developed into an iconic river spot for all to enjoy.

An alligator enclosure on the property's outer boundaries attracts numerous people who come to feed the young gators.

I am proud to celebrate the accomplishments of this local restaurant, which brings many visitors to the beautiful islands of Georgia.

COMMEMORATING 50 YEARS SINCE
THE COUP IN CHILE

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, this month we observe the 50th anniversary of the coup in Chile. It is important to note the role that the House played in declassifying documents relating to the United States' role in the coup of Allende and the Presidency of Pinochet.

I rise to pay tribute to our former colleague, Maurice Hinchey, who in

1999 introduced legislation to declassify documents related to the coup in Chile. Following his leadership, I took his legislation to the House Intelligence Committee conference.

In our markup of the conference report of the Intelligence Authorization Act for fiscal year 2000, I was successful in getting an amendment passed in committee that mirrored the Hinchey legislation. This language was sustained on the floor and when the FY 2000 Intelligence bill was signed by President Clinton, it became law.

The legislation stated that no longer than 270 days following enactment—we wanted a shorter period of time, they wanted a longer period of time. This was the compromise—270 days following the enactment, the CIA had to submit a report on all of its activities in various events in Chile in three categories: the assassination of President Salvador Allende; the ascension of Pinochet to the Presidency; and the violation of human rights committed by the henchman of President Pinochet.

In 2001, therefore, the CIA prepared 16,000 documents for declassification. Since then, thousands more documents—maybe up around 23,000 documents—have been declassified.

During the debate on the FY 2000 legislation, it was argued that the search for documents related to human rights violations in Chile—now, we are talking about murder, disappearances, imprisonment, torture; that is what we are talking about—directed by the National Security Council was sufficient. They said we did that. It is sufficient. They said nothing further was needed and raised the question of how much money will this cost and how much time will it take for the Director of Central Intelligence to produce an adequate report.

However, Maurice Hinchey argued, in these words: "It is time that the Central Intelligence Agency accounted for its role in the military coup that toppled the democratically elected government of Salvador Allende and led to his death. The American people need to know how our government supported the rise of Augusto Pinochet, a ruthless dictator who systematically murdered and tortured his enemies."

In May 2016, I had the privilege of leading a strongly bipartisan congressional delegation to Chile. When we visited the Museum of Memory and Human Rights—and I would recommend that if you get to Chile you certainly see that—it was emotional and gratifying for some of us to see the documents that we had declassified under Maurice Hinchey's leadership helping bring the truth to light.

To this day in Chile there is still great sadness about the loss of life and other crimes against humanity perpetrated by Pinochet's henchman. Last week was the 50th anniversary, and at the observance—an event marking 50 years since the coup—President Gabriel Boric spoke eloquently about the

importance of reconciliation and democracy. Democracy—he said it again and again. Thankfully, the President had also called for a plan to find the nearly 1,500 people who are still missing or unaccounted for, for their families.

It is my hope that this spirit will lead to more revelations and accountability.

As we mark 50 years since the coup, I salute the leadership of Maurice Hinchey. He was a champion of justice; not only in Chile but in Argentina and in other countries suffering under similar despotic regimes, including those affected by Operation Condor.

Operation Condor was how all these vicious dictators coordinated their activities. Maurice Hinchey saw the connection and coordination among the dictatorships in the death and violence in their countries, and in relentlessly speaking out against it, he made a difference.

His family is still active in the civic life of New York State. He passed away on November 22, 2017, but his leadership in the fight for truth and justice continues to be an inspiration to us all.

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RURAL HEALTHCARE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, before I was elected to serve in the House of Representatives, I spent nearly 30 years in the nonprofit healthcare field assisting those facing life-changing diseases and disabilities with therapists, rehabilitation service managers, and a licensed nursing home administrator.

I am acutely aware of the challenges many face when it comes to obtaining reasonably priced healthcare. It is especially critical for rural America, like much of the 15th Congressional District of Pennsylvania that I am honored to serve.

As the Member of Congress representing nearly one-third of the land mass of Pennsylvania, one of the most rural districts east of the Mississippi, I am keenly aware of the problems that my constituents face when accessing medical services.

We are facing a healthcare crisis in our Nation's rural areas. These often disadvantaged populations are still struggling to access affordable, quality care. Many remain uninsured. Most are underinsured. However, access to quality care remains the largest challenge.

Even when people gain access to health insurance, it doesn't mean equal access to care. Rural hospitals across the country are closing, leaving patients without access to emergency rooms and long-term care facilities.

In addition to hospital closures, a workforce shortage plagues rural America. The patient-to-primary care