

auditor with his father's accounting firm. He joined the Young Harris College administration in 1996 and has had various titles, including business manager, vice president for finance, chief financial officer, and board treasurer.

The business office at Young Harris has been renamed The Benson Business Center in honor of Wade's career and service to the institution.

Wade oversaw a number of areas in the institution and acted as his project manager for the many construction projects on campus. He balanced operating budgets, reconciled financial statements, and always worked with integrity and accuracy.

Wade Benson was the go-to person, but most importantly, Wade exhibited a true love for the college, its staff, faculty and students, and always performed his duties in the best long-term interest of these constituents.

I congratulate Wade on a great career. Enjoy your retirement.

RECOGNIZING GLYNN COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the recent success of the Glynn County School System.

Glynn County's graduation rate has increased from 95.2 percent in 2022 to 96.5 percent this year. This is much higher than our State-wide average of 84.4 percent.

This improvement is not a fluke either. Glynn County is focused on tailored school improvement plans for individual schools and broad-based foundational structure changes to address the needs for all students.

None of these changes could have been implemented without the help of individual teachers, students, and administrators throughout Glynn County.

I am very proud of Glynn County's achievements, and I look forward to seeing continued improvement.

PREVENTING OVERDOSE DEATHS WITH EDUCATION AND TOOLS

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

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, too many American families know the immense heartbreak of losing a loved one to an overdose, but overdose deaths are preventable, and we have a responsibility to do everything we can in this body to save lives.

That is why I introduced my bill, the bipartisan RECONNECTIONS Act, to get overdose education and prevention tools like naloxone into the hands of all of those who need it and to ensure that the opioid crisis is treated like the public health crisis it truly is.

I am proud that my colleagues have recognized the urgent need to expand access to these lifesaving overdose prevention resources, but we must continue our bipartisan work to keep our community safe.

Mr. Speaker, I thank so much my mental health and substance use advi-

sory council, a group of law enforcement officers, educators, parents and community members who I work with regularly to find ways to address the opioid crisis in our home communities and across this great country.

Your stories, and especially the memories of your loved ones, that you have shared with me over the years have truly touched my heart. It is these stories and memories that have informed the policies that we champion here and are at the top of my mind as this bill stands on the House floor today.

Thank you for your tireless drive and dedication. You are helping to make our community safer.

We have so much more work ahead of us as a community in Minnesota 2 and as a Nation. If it helps to save just one life, it is worth doing the work.

Thank you to the Members who are coming together on both sides of the aisle today to support this important bill.

RECOGNIZING JAGO ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 9 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH UNIVERSITY OF IOWA'S POLICE DEPARTMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the career and retirement of a special member of the University of Iowa's Police Department.

Jago, the university's longest serving canine, recently retired after 9 years of service.

During his decade on the force, Jago provided security for 2 U.S. sitting Presidents, 4 Governors, 17 Secret Servicemembers, and countless guests at Kinnick Stadium.

Jago also provided security for Major League Baseball games at the Field of Dreams in Dyersville, Iowa, and has assisted in collecting and locating key evidence in numerous investigations.

After nearly a decade on the force, Jago deserves all the treats that retirement has to offer him.

I thank Jago for his service, and happy retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA'S WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, last month, the University of Iowa's Women's Soccer team earned an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament after securing a win in the Big Ten Championship.

For the first time in Big Ten Championship history, an eight-seed team won it all. In a nail-biter of a game, the Hawkeyes defeated the Wisconsin Badgers 1-0.

The sole point scored during the game came from a penalty kick from midfielder Josie Durr in the first half.

Needless to say, the University of Iowa's Women's Soccer team made us all very proud this season, and I cannot

wait to see what they accomplish next year.

Keep it up, Hawkeyes.

CONGRATULATIONS TO RILEY KRAMER OF TROOP 89

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Riley Kramer of Troop 89 from Bettendorf, Iowa, for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout is the highest and most prestigious achievement a Scout can obtain.

To earn this rank, Scouts must fulfill leadership roles, exemplify the Scout oath and law, display exemplary outdoor skills, speak better than their Congresswoman, earn at least 21 badges, and complete a comprehensive service project for their community.

For Riley's Eagle Scout project, he worked with the mayor of Riverdale on a half-mile trail for the city. This trail supports our community and gives people space to exercise and get out and enjoy nature in Scott County.

I congratulate Riley on this honor, and I congratulate Riley's family and everyone who supported him on his journey to become an Eagle Scout.

HOLIDAY SHOUT-OUT TO SIMPSON STORMIN' RED ALE AND WEST HILL BREWING

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise for a cheers-worthy holiday shout-out.

This month, Simpson Stormin' Red Ale has its official launch party at West Hill Brewing in Indianola, Iowa.

The idea for this beer was brewed up between West Hill owners and Simpson College.

Aspiring graphic designers and artists were given the opportunity to design this year's logo.

This year, Madison McDonald, a graphic design major from Winterset, Iowa, created the winning design.

Moving forward, there will be an annual redesign contest, and West Hill also plans to donate a portion of all profits from Simpson Stormin' Red Ale to support student scholarships at Simpson College.

Nothing quite brings people together like the holidays.

I congratulate West Hill Brewing and Simpson College on another successful collaboration.

Mr. Speaker, I wish everyone a very merry Christmas.

RECOGNIZING MONICA LEE SILBAS

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Monica Lee Silbas and her successful career serving others. She is a Santa Ana girl, I am proud to say, who made it big in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, we back home are very proud of Monica. Her passion for advocacy has made her work a defining voice within the labor movement. As part of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, her labor leadership led to the development of their Spanish leadership program.

She currently serves on the boards of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement and the Industrial Global Union where her voice impacts the lives of millions of workers across the globe.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Monica for her dedication to the community and to the global labor movement.

I congratulate Monica on her retirement, and I wish her the best of luck. I know she is not done, and she will continue to work like all good Santa Ana girls do.

HONORING THE CAREER OF GUADALUPE GOMEZ

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Guadalupe Gomez, my good friend and president of La Federacion de Zacatecanos del Sur de California.

Lupe has spent 31 years working for the federation, as an organizer in a group that aims to help people on both sides of the border, the United States and Mexico, through economic development.

In the past 2 years as president of La Federacion, Lupe has renewed a call for cooperation and mutual assistance across the border.

From establishing new outreach programs for young people to strengthening programs like food banks to building up communities and relationships here in the U.S., Lupe has been very impactful on both sides of the border.

Lupe is my very good friend, and we thank her for her service and dedication to the wonderful community of Zacatecanos, both in the United States and in Mexico.

Let's keep that good work up.

NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY

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 a very special tradition taking place this Saturday, December 16.

Every year on the third Saturday of December, thousands of volunteers set out across the country and the world in a coordinated wreath-laying ceremony.

This ceremony is known as National Wreaths Across America Day.

In 1992, Morrill Worcester from Harrington, Maine, noticed he had an abundance of holiday wreaths and decided to take the opportunity to honor our country's fallen soldiers.

After contacting his Senator, arrangements were made for the wreaths to be placed at Arlington in an older section of the cemetery. This tradition would quietly continue until 2005 when a photo of the tombstones decorated with wreaths and covered with snow went viral.

From there, this quiet annual tribute to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice transformed into a mission to remember, honor, and teach.

Since the viral photo, Wreaths Across America continues to grow. This Saturday volunteers will lay wreaths at more than 2,500 locations in the United States, abroad, and at sea. This simple gesture is a way for all of us to express our appreciation during the holiday season.

Earlier this week, what has become known as the country's longest veteran's parade, Wreaths Across America's annual Escort to Arlington kicked off.

The official route will travel down the East Coast, stopping at schools, memorials, and other locations along the way to remember the fallen, honor those that serve, and teach the next generation the value of freedom.

Stops with public events will be held in Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Washington, D.C., before arriving at Arlington National Cemetery on the morning of Saturday, December 16, National Wreaths Across America Day.

This pilgrimage to Arlington National Cemetery represents the very best of our Nation. Tractor trailers will haul more than 250,000 wreaths to their destination.

Mr. Speaker, as many Americans will volunteer this weekend, it is a reminder that our freedom is not free. These men and women paid the ultimate sacrifice, and this small gesture is one of the many ways we are able to thank them for their service.

If you are interested in volunteering, please visit wreathsasscrossAmerica.org.

□ 1030

PLIGHT OF THE TAMIL PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I stand with the Eelam Tamils in Sri Lanka.

Following the British departure in 1948, the unification of these kingdoms under a Sinhalese-dominated Sri Lanka led to the marginalization of the Tamil people.

This process disregarded the Tamils' right to self-determination. State-sponsored discrimination and violence against Tamils sparked a tragic 30-year ethnic conflict, resulting in the 2009 Tamil genocide.

Despite the United Nations Human Rights Council's efforts for accountability, Sri Lanka, with China's support, withdrew in 2020, further blocking justice for the Tamil community.

The recent arrest of Tamils for participating in peaceful events under the Prevention of Terrorism Act are deeply troubling.

Therefore, I call upon my colleagues in Congress to recognize and address the ongoing oppression of the Tamil people. We must support a permanent solution that ensures stability and

peace in this vital part of the Indo-Pacific. We must honor our commitment to human rights, and we must honor democracy.

CELEBRATING AN IMPORTANT DAY IN GUAM'S HISTORY

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate and recognize a very important day in Guam's history, December 10, 1898. On this day, the United States and Spain signed the Treaty of Paris, officially handing over Guam to the United States and ending the Spanish-American War. This year, we celebrate the 125th year Guam has been part of our great Nation.

Following the United States' acquisition of Guam, it established America as a global superpower and ensured our position in the Indo-Pacific region. Now, 125 years later, the U.S. remains a global superpower and the strongest force in the Pacific and the world, and Guam is a developed and thriving community.

Since 1898, Guam has proven to be an essential piece of America that is filled with patriotism and faith. From being a vital military center in the region during World War II to being the tip of the spear against China today, Guam is a hub of American success.

Guam is a beacon of hope and American values in the middle of the Pacific. Our American flag is a symbol of liberty and freedom in the region. It is also a warning to all people who seek to provoke violence. The United States and Guam are forces that are not to be reckoned with.

Let us take this day to reaffirm the United States' commitment to protecting freedom, peace, and democracy across the Indo-Pacific while maintaining the strong ties that connect Guam and our amazing country.

RECOGNIZING MARSHALL WALTER "MAJOR" TAYLOR

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

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of legislation that would posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal to honor Marshall Walter "Major" Taylor and would finally recognize him as America's first international sports champion.

Marshall Taylor was affectionately known as Major Taylor, and he remains in death as he was in life; namely, America's first sports superhero, a feat that took place in the late 1800s and makes what he accomplished all the more extraordinary and astounding.

Consider, if you will, the fact that here is an African-American man born in 1878 amid the sound and fury of post-Civil War America.