

Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 10 outstanding students across Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District who have been awarded the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship.

The Gilman program is named after former Congressman Benjamin A. Gilman, who served in Congress from 1973 to 2003. He was chair of the House International Relations Committee and represented Upstate New York.

Established in 2001, the Gilman program is part of the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. This scholarship sponsors students to study or intern abroad during the academic year.

This program is an important part of the Federal Government's effort to expand and diversify U.S. study abroad and allows Americans to gain the global competencies that are crucial to our national security and our economic prosperity.

Since 2001, this program has allowed more than 41,000 Americans from 1,350 U.S. colleges and universities to study or intern in more than 160 countries. The Gilman program advances people-to-people diplomacy and strengthens America's role in the global marketplace.

The Gilman program continues to expand the American student population that studies abroad with nearly 70 percent of Gilman scholars identifying as students of color, 60 percent from small towns or rural parts of the United States, and nearly 50 percent are first-generation college students.

Congratulations to Rik Bhattacharyya, a student from Penn State University studying in India; Ashlyn Bird of Lycoming County, a student at Drexel University studying in the United Kingdom; Deven Dancy of Union County, a student at Susquehanna University studying in Ghana; Hannah Dees of Centre County, a student at Juniata College studying in the United Kingdom; Shawnee Geletka of Venango County, a student at College for Creative Studies studying in Italy; Saoirse Hopp of Centre County, a student at University of Pittsburgh studying in Spain; Kimberly Johnson of Potter County, a student at Drexel University studying in Italy; Luke Kantz of Snyder County, a student at University of Pittsburgh studying in India; Rute Pires of Union County, a student at Bucknell studying in Ireland; and Casey Sennett of Centre County, a student at Penn State University studying in Italy.

These students are currently studying or interning across the world.

Good luck in your studies, and enjoy your time abroad.

JAYDEN DANIELS, HEISMAN TROPHY RECIPIENT

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

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an extraordinary talent and force in the world of college football, LSU's Jayden Daniels, the recipient of this year's Heisman Trophy.

Jayden's journey has been remarkable, defined by grit, determination, and a love for the game. Winning the Heisman is not just a personal victory, it is a testament to the countless hours of hard work, sacrifice, and unwavering support of your teammates and coaches.

It truly takes a village.

Jayden's skill on the field has captivated fans, and his leadership has inspired generations of future athletes.

As Jayden holds this coveted trophy, may he know that he has etched his name in football history and Louisiana history. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Jayden on this well-deserved honor. I know it will be a stepping stone to even greater heights.

THE CITY OF LOVE

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the pastoral anniversary of Bishop Lester Love and Pastor Fran Love. Twenty-five years of faithful leadership have shaped The City of Love into a beacon of hope and inspiration.

Bishop Lester Love has shepherded The City of Love with a clear vision. His exemplary leadership has not only guided his congregation but has become a blueprint for leadership excellence in churches and corporations alike.

Alongside him, Prophet Fran Love, a woman of unwavering faith, has demonstrated her commitment to social justice through initiatives like the Daughters of Life and Love, DOLL. I admire her active devotion to uplifting others and serving mankind and womankind.

Together, they have led The City of Love with passion and a commitment to community service. Their outreach organization, LOVE365, has touched thousands of lives.

Beyond the pulpit, Bishop Lester Love and Prophet Fran Love have become pillars of support for the greater New Orleans community. Their influence extends far beyond the walls of The City of Love, reaching into the hearts and lives of those they touch.

As I congratulate this remarkable couple, I also express my gratitude for their friendship and guidance.

May the next chapter of your journey be filled with continued blessings and fulfillment for the mission of love and the people that you serve.

AWARDING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO MONTFORD POINT MARINES

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the valor and resilience of the Montford Point Marines whose invincible spirit has left a permanent mark on our Nation's history.

Eighty years in the making, eight courageous New Orleanians received the Congressional Medal of Honor this

November, a long overdue recognition of their pivotal role as the first African Americans to join the Marines.

Their names are:

Private First Class Granville "Jack" Alexander, Sr.

First Sergeant Nolan A. Marshall, Sr.

Staff Sergeant Charles E. Allen, Sr.

Corporal George A. Dupre, Sr.

Private First Class, Andrew J. LeBlanc.

Staff Sergeant Melvin O. Parent, Sr.

Sergeant Gilbert Smith, Sr.; and

Private First Class Lloyd B. Wills, Sr.

These heroes who fought to fight for America and made a way from no way, faced adversity head-on and did it with pride and honor.

Barred from the national marines boot camp, they persevered at Montford Point, enduring grueling training and overcoming the stigma that African Americans couldn't serve as marines. They not only served honorably, but they blazed a trail for 20,000 African Americans who followed in their footsteps.

In 1949, Montford Point was decommissioned but their legacy endures. Their sacrifice paved the way for diversity and inclusion in the Marine Corps, and we proudly embrace their history and their service today.

Thank you for your incredible service.

God bless you, and God bless America.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAPTAIN ZACH EVANS AND CAPTAIN JOSHUA SADDLER FOR THEIR LIFESAVING ACTIONS

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

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the valiant actions of two Air Force officers from our community who placed their own physical safety on the back burner to save citizens from a burning vehicle crash.

Captain Zach Evans, a pilot with the 3rd Airlift Squadron, and Captain Joshua Saddler, a MQ-9 Reaper pilot with the 65th Special Operations Squadron, are not just heroes but are sons from Nebraska. I am proud to say that Captain Evans is a former member of our district staff.

When Zach joined the Air Force, I knew he would go far. Needless to say, Zach and Josh are both living up to, if not surpassing, all expectations and are bringing great honor to our community.

On May 5, Captain Zach Evans and Captain Joshua Saddler, good friends and graduates of the University of Nebraska, witnessed a truck driving erratically on a poorly lit road in Dover, Delaware. The truck swerved between lanes, crossing medians, and ignoring traffic signals.

Captain Evans and Captain Saddler called 911 to report the driver and kept a safe distance. However, the driver

soon ran a red light directly into an SUV, resulting in a burning two-car collision.

They pulled over, and along with two civilians, assisted the victims in both vehicles.

While Captain Saddler attended to the trapped people in the SUV, Captain Evans, at great personal risk to himself, sprinted to the burning truck to remove the suspected drunk driver, who had two broken legs, from the vehicle.

Thankfully, Captain Evans saved the man just before the truck became fully engulfed in flames. Captain Evans and Captain Saddler stayed with the victims until first responders arrived on scene and remained to direct traffic.

Captain Evans and Captain Saddler were each recognized on October 23 with the City of Dover Gold Medal for their lifesaving actions and were presented with the Dover Police Department's Distinguished Citizen Award.

I salute both Captain Zach Evans and Captain Joshua Saddler and the two civilians for their actions that day.

RECOGNIZING BARBARA FELDEN ON HER
RETIREMENT

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Barbara Felden, who, after 43 years of honorable service to our country as an enlisted airman in the Air Force and as a senior civilian liaison in Germany, is retiring.

I worked with Barbara starting in 2008 when I was commander of the 435th Air Base Wing at Ramstein Air Base in Germany.

Since 2011, she has been the Host Nation Advisor to the Commander of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe and U.S. Air Forces Africa.

At 21, Barbara, a German citizen, married to a U.S. airman, qualified to join the U.S. military service. She was assigned to Robins Air Force Base after basic training, and returned to Germany where she served in various liaison assignments, first as an interpreter, then taking on command-wide responsibilities dealing with Federal officials.

In 1948, she transferred to the 86th Tactical Fighter Wing liaison office where she developed first-time liaison initiatives with local communities, such as the organization of German civic leaders and familiarization to the United States.

One of Barbara's most challenging assignments was closing down the historic Rhein-Main Air Base in Frankfurt and transferring their operations to Ramstein Air Base.

Barbara also served as director of the liaison for the U.S. Kaiserslautern Military Community, the largest military overseas community in the world.

During my time as commander at Ramstein, Barbara organized events and meetings with the community. I recall that one time she helped arrange for me to deliver the opening remarks at the world's largest wine festival where I had the opportunity to lead a parade and conduct the orchestra.

Barbara has provided critical support and assistance for a variety of major projects during her tenure at headquarters for the U.S. Air Forces in Europe and U.S. Air Forces Africa.

During the COVID pandemic, she liaised with Federal and State officials to ensure military missions could continue, while ensuring alignment with the host nation protective measures.

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In the late summer of 2021, the emergency evacuation of Afghan nationals to Ramstein Air Base presented many challenges for Ms. Felden and her team. While initial expectations were for 5,000 evacuees, about 35,000 people were actually processed at Ramstein.

Barbara has always displayed the utmost professionalism in the various positions she held during her 43 years. I am proud of her accomplishments, and I am honored to call her and her husband, Claude, my friends. I salute you both. I thank Barbara for all she has done in her stellar career.

MOMENT OF CRISIS IN UKRAINE

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, in a moment of crisis, the people of Ukraine and around the world are looking to the United States for support and leadership.

After an 80-day hiatus, Russia launched a wave of cruise missile attacks on Ukraine on the Remembrance Day of the Holodomor, which is a reflection of when the Soviet Union imposed a famine and killed millions of Ukrainians in 1932 and 1933.

These attacks come just days after the Senate Republicans blocked funding for Ukraine and Israel. Putin is watching. He is enjoying these political fights, which is only giving him an advantage, he believes. His propaganda machine is celebrating the legislative blockade that is occurring as the first step to withdrawing total support for Ukraine. Believe it.

The United States must send a strong message to Putin that we stand strong and united with the people of Ukraine.

I have met with brave Ukrainian soldiers and their families who shared that our support has given them hope that Ukraine will win this fight. They will. Those who say Ukraine is losing the war are wrong. Putin's goal to conquer Ukraine has failed. Ukraine has regained 50 percent of the land Russia originally took and has reopened the Black Sea to allow them to export grain.

Meanwhile, the Ukrainian military has depleted the Russian army. From a total of over 480,000 soldiers, Russia has lost over 320,000 who have either been wounded or killed—think about that, over half their army—forcing Putin to take coercive actions for new and inexperienced personnel, even people from prison, and has desperately turned to

North Korea for supplies—all this at a cost for the United States of less than 1 percent of our GDP and all without U.S. troops on the ground. That is a very good deal.

Less than 10 percent of our annual defense budget has gone to assist Ukraine's military, and it has destroyed almost 50 percent of Russia's army. Compared to our allies in Europe, we rank 20th in giving to Ukraine, when you factor in GDP. We need to pass a supplemental aid package to provide immediate assistance, and we need to do it in an overwhelming bipartisan way as we have before.

We are living during a seminal moment in the history of America and the world we live in. Historians will look back years from now and determine whether or not we made more good decisions than poor decisions. This is an opportunity to make a good decision. We need to pass the supplemental package to provide immediate assistance that our ally Ukraine needs now.

We must provide humanitarian assistance for the Palestinians that have been afflicted by the war and for Armenian refugees who have been removed from their historical home in Nagorno-Karabakh.

We need to pass a package to let our European allies know that the United States is reliable and consistent in support of democracies around the world. The passage of this supplemental package also provides support for Taiwan and restores American military inventory that is so critical.

There is nothing more that Putin wants than to see this Congress and our country divided. The Congress in November and December seemed to have time for baseless impeachment inquiries but not the time to do the most important things like provide funding for national defense, the Federal Aviation Administration, and, most importantly, resolving our differences and passing a budget.

I ask my Republican colleagues: What have we done? What are we doing? When we gather around the holiday tables in the next 2 weeks and we ask for good tidings in the new year, as Members of Congress, I think we must ask ourselves: What have we done? What have we done to work together in a bipartisan fashion to pass these critical bills? The answer is nothing.

We must do more important things to provide for the American people and the world that we live in. This is a seminal moment, as I said before, in world history, and the world is watching. We cannot lose sight of what is at stake. If we do not stop these threats against freedom and democracy, we will fail. This, make no mistake about it, is the test of our time.

I also wish for one and for all a happy holiday season. May the new year bring us good tidings. Let us not forget about our responsibilities as the world's lone superpower. We have responsibilities. We are still, as President Reagan said, the beacon of light on that shining hill.