

threat to our national security, yet there is no funding to help communities adapt to drought, rising coastlines, or extreme heat, and no funding to stop deforestation or recurring coastal flooding. Additionally, there is no support for adapting to renewable energy.

Even in areas where we can usually find bipartisan agreement, this bill falls short. For example, the Feed the Future program, which has historically enjoyed bipartisan support across multiple administrations, received a \$50 million cut. This program has helped feed 32 million children worldwide in the last year alone and has helped their families learn to farm sustainably and stand on their own. This cut will have devastating impacts on children and families that struggle with malnutrition and food instability.

This is a deeply political bill that will diminish America's leadership on the world stage, make it more difficult for us to support our allies and deter our adversaries, and will ultimately jeopardize our national security. For these reasons, I ask that my colleagues vote against it.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF LORETTA RINALDI

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 5, 2024

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the birthday of Loretta Rinaldi who is deeply cherished by her community, her church, and family.

Born to English-immigrant parents on July 17, 1924, in Los Angeles, California, Mrs. Rinaldi dedicated her life to education, her community, and family. In 1942, she graduated as valedictorian of Catholic Girls' High School after which she took her vows to become a nun.

At Immaculate Heart, Mrs. Rinaldi taught science and found her passion for being an educator. She continued to educate and be a proactive figure in her community even after leaving the covenant.

Mrs. Rinaldi has truly lived a life of service and is a persistent advocate. In the 1960s, she was an activist in the Immaculate Heart Sisters movement which encouraged the church to embrace cultural shifts. She was one of 315 sisters who voted to give up their vows and leave their lives as nuns after the opposition they faced from the Catholic Church.

It wasn't long after she left the order that Mrs. Rinaldi fell in love and married a widower, Neal Rinaldi, who had five children from his previous marriage. Together, the couple moved to Banning, California where Mrs. Rinaldi was Mr. Rinaldi's caretaker until he passed away.

Mr. Speaker, in celebrating Loretta Rinaldi, we celebrate the empowerment found in knowledge, the precedent set by courageous advocates, and the strength of familial bonds.

On behalf of California's 25th District, I extend my warmest wishes to Mrs. Rinaldi and her family as we join in celebrating this major life milestone.

TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF DON
CHILDERS

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 5, 2024

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of a legendary leader and a pillar of innovation in Eastern Kentucky, my longtime friend Don Childers, best known for founding Childers Oil Company in Whitesburg, Kentucky. After spending a lifetime creating jobs and investing hope in our rural Appalachian region, Don received his heavenly reward at the age of 92.

Over the years, you learn the dynamics of a meeting can change by the presence of one strong leader. Don Childers significantly shifted the dynamics of our entire region, spanning the coalfields of southern and eastern Kentucky, by putting actions to his words and remaining a loyal friend to the region he loved.

Sons and daughters of the coalfields deeply understand the value of hard work, perseverance, and southern hospitality. Every venture that Don and his wife Peggy established over the last five decades are marked by those same characteristics. While Don delivered oil to coal mines in Central Appalachia, Peggy focused on the retail side, designing and operating convenience stores where customers would be greeted with the smell of fresh, homemade food. Established in 1966, Childers Oil Company has now grown from three petroleum trucks and three drivers to a successful family-owned business group with more than 40 convenience stores and a thriving restaurant featuring Peggy's home recipes, as well as more than 1,000 employees in a region desperate for jobs.

Twenty years ago, Don rallied together a group of community leaders to form the Letcher County Planning Commission, focusing on the development of educational, recreational, and economic opportunities. During that time, they have boldly led the charge to build a federal correctional facility in Letcher County to create more than 300 federal jobs, a new airport to improve industrial development, new recreational trails, improved infrastructure, and much more.

Don was not only a good leader, but a respected mentor and teacher, passing down his unwavering work ethic, determination, and compassion to his children and those around him. Most recently, in response to the catastrophic flood that swept through our region in July 2022, the Childers family helped organize flood relief efforts and provided temporary housing for some families who lost everything overnight. Their generosity and quick response ensured flood survivors had emergency supplies and shelter when they needed it the most.

Despite the challenges that have crossed Don's path over the years, he has always responded with the utmost grace, fortitude and resolve to honor his word. He has never allowed fear of criticism to deter his mission to make Eastern Kentucky a better place to live.

Aside from his success in business, Don was equally dedicated to the Whitesburg First Baptist Church, a generous supporter of local schools and non-profits, and a proud U.S. Army Vietnam Veteran. He left a lasting legacy that will carry far beyond his time with us.

I am eternally grateful for Don's friendship and support, as well as the investments that he, Peggy and their children have made in the lives of Eastern Kentuckians every single day. My wife Cynthia and I share our heartfelt sympathy with the entire Childers family and especially Peggy, who lost the love of her life after 71 years of marriage.

HONORING UPTOWN COFFEEHOUSE
AND ITS OWNER, LORNA BRENNAN

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 5, 2024

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Uptown Coffeehouse and its remarkable owner, Lorna Brennan. After more than 20 years of serving the best cup of coffee in town, Uptown Coffeehouse closed its doors on June 30, 2024. Since it first opened in Howell, Michigan, in 2002, Lorna and her team of baristas created a cherished meeting spot, warmly welcoming all who entered.

Located at the bustling corner of Grand River and Michigan Avenues in a beautiful late 19th-century historic building, Uptown Coffeehouse was truly at the heart of downtown Howell. Through grit and determination, Lorna restored the building to its former splendor, including a historic renovation of the facade in 2019. Lorna's vision transformed this building into a vibrant coffee house, meeting place, and art gallery.

For more than two decades, Uptown Coffeehouse was a second home for Lorna and a treasured fixture in the community. Lorna's son, who was a preschooler when the business opened, grew up within its walls, celebrating milestones and accomplishments along the way.

In addition to coffee and baked goods, Uptown Coffeehouse offered a sense of belonging and outstanding service to customers. Its expansive front windows provided a picturesque view of the city and changing seasons. With local art displayed for patrons to enjoy, the venue became a vibrant cultural hub as it hosted open mic nights, spoken word events, and other entertainment through the years.

The community's love for Uptown Coffeehouse was evident through numerous local awards, including the People's Choice Award for the Best Howell Coffee Shop in 2019. It was a special place, providing customers with memories to last a lifetime. It was often the first place new residents visited downtown and were welcomed to Howell. Uptown is where friendships were formed and regulars found a haven for their morning routines and work sessions. It was a place where first dates happened and marriage proposals were made.

Despite challenges, including during the COVID-19 pandemic, Lorna and the staff at Uptown Coffeehouse always remained optimistic and focused on helping others. Their kindness and generosity knew no bounds as they supported school groups, local charities, and donated coffee gift cards to hospital staff during the pandemic.

As we bid farewell to Uptown Coffeehouse, not only for her, but for the entire Howell community. It is with profound gratitude that I honor the legacy of Uptown Coffeehouse and let us recognize Lorna Brennan and her beloved establishment that was a second home Lorna Brennan.