

5 Region A Championship back home to their fellow students, faculty, families, and friends through their hard work and dedication to their team. The First Colonial Women's Tennis Team fought their way to victory after five hours of play. Coach Diane Deaton continued to encourage her team, even when the odds were not in their favor, and led the team to a five to four victory.

As a former athlete myself, I want each of these young women to know Virginia's 2nd District is extremely proud of their accomplishment and applauds them on their well-earned victory. Again, congratulations to the First Colonial Women's Tennis Team on their Class 5 Region A Championship win.

OPPOSING H.R. 8281—SAVE ACT

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2024

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD a letter from the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights that indicates the strong opposition to the SAVE Act of 146 local, state, and national organizations.

MAY 16, 2024.

Hon. BRYAN STEIL,
Chair, Committee on House Administration,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JOE MORELLE,
Ranking Member, Committee on House Administration,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIR STEIL AND RANKING MEMBER MORELLE: On behalf of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition of national organizations committed to promoting and protecting the civil and human rights of all persons in the United States, the Declaration for American Democracy, a coalition of local, state, and national organizations working to strengthen U.S. democracy; and the undersigned 123 organizations, we write in strong opposition to the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act.

Congress has a pivotal constitutional responsibility to safeguard free and fair elections and to ensure all Americans have the freedom to vote. The SAVE Act represents a dangerous departure from fulfilling this vital duty. The bill's requirement of documentary proof of American citizenship to register to vote in federal elections is wholly based on falsehoods and, even worse, seeks to promote fear-mongering and divisive rhetoric. Instead of proceeding with this legislation, Congress should take actions that will help voters and promote democracy such as passing legislation that will strengthen protections against discrimination in voting and expand access to the ballot for all communities.

The SAVE Act is both unnecessary and dangerous. Our electoral system already deploys processes to ensure that our elections are secure and that only eligible voters are participating in our democracy. Voters in every state are already required to affirm or verify their citizenship status when registering to vote. State election officials already have in place existing systems to verify an individual's voter eligibility and ensure voter rolls are accurate.

Moreover, federal law already prohibits noncitizens from voting in federal elections. Every single state bans noncitizens from voting in state elections. These protections have proven very effective, given that there is simply no evidence of widespread noncit-

izen voting in elections. Indeed, it defies logic that non-U.S. citizens would risk their immigration status, the potential of criminal prosecution, future opportunity for naturalization, and freedom for themselves and their families by unlawfully committing an affirmative act to vote in an election in which they are prohibited from participating. The penalties for registering or voting as a non-U.S. citizen include imprisonment or deportation. The risks for any non-U.S. citizen to vote in a federal election are serious and steep, and our laws already effectively prevent significant unlawful voter registration and voting.

Introduction and advancement of this bill is the most recent example of what has been a string of recent efforts to make voter registration and voting more difficult, particularly for voters of color. False claims of non-citizen voting have been disingenuously used to enact more onerous voter identification requirements, limitations on voter assistance in languages other than English, and attempts to spread misinformation about voting. This legislation seeks to intimidate members of immigrant communities and communities of color from exercising their lawful right to vote. It also would make it harder for voters of color and naturalized citizens to register to vote and would prevent their full participation in democracy. These are already communities who are unfairly targeted by anti-immigrant policies at the federal, state, and local level. Congress should be doing everything possible to encourage and promote the political participation of these citizens, rather than seeking to diminish it through threats and fear tactics.

Legislation like the SAVE Act is intended to elicit irrational fear of the growing number of citizens of color. Congress should instead act to ensure that every eligible U.S. citizen has the freedom to vote unimpeded by discriminatory rules rooted in fear and division. We urge you to instead focus on passing real pro-voter reforms to ensure that everyone can fully participate in our democracy. If you have any questions, please contact Leslie Proll, senior director of the voting rights program at The Leadership Conference, at proll@civilrights.org.

Sincerely,

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; Declaration for American Democracy; 18by Vote; Accountable US; Advancement Project; AFT; All About The Ballots; All On The Line; All Voting Is Local Action; America's Voice; American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD); American Association of University Women (AAUW); American Civil Liberties Union; American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees; Arab American Institute (AAI); Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF); Asian Americans Advancing Justice—AAJC; Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote (APIA Vote); Autistic Self Advocacy Network.

Baltimore County Progressive Democrats Club; Black Voters Matter Fund; Brennan Center for Justice; Campaign Legal Center; Carolina Jews for Justice; Center for Common Ground; Center for Living & Working, Inc.; Center for Popular Democracy; Chicago Survivors; Chispa LCV; CivicGeorgia; Clean Elections Texas; Coalition on Human Needs; Common Cause; Common Defense; Communications Workers of America; Courage for America; Defend Democracy; DemCast USA; Democracy 21.

Democracy Maine; Democracy Matters; Democracy SENTRY; Demos; Detroit Disability Power; End Citizens United // Let America Vote Action Fund; Fair Elections Center; Faith Commons; Faith in Public Life Action; Fix Democracy First; FLIC Votes; Free Speech For People; Georgia Coalition

for the Peoples Agenda; Get Money Out—Maryland; Government Information Watch; Greenpeace USA; HeadCount; Helping Hands Outreach Services of Mississippi; Hip Hop Caucus; Indivisible Santa Fe.

Interfaith Alliance; Japanese American Citizens League; JustLeadership USA; LDF; League of Conservation Voters; League of Women Voters of the United States; MALDEF; Memphis APRI; Missouri Voter Protection Coalition; MomsRising; MoveOn; Muslims for Community, Action and Support (MCAS); N.C. For the People Action; NALEO Educational Fund; National Action Network; National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA); National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities; National Association of Social Workers; National Community Action Partnership; National Council of Jewish Women.

National Disability Rights Network (NDRN); National Education Association; National Employment Law Project; National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC); National Urban League; Native American Rights Fund; NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice; New Georgia Project Action Fund; Out of Many 1 Advocacy; People For the American Way; People Power United; Pride at Work; Project On Government Oversight; Protect Democracy; Public Citizen; RepresentUs; RespectAbility; Safer Country; Scrutineers; Secure Elections Network; Southern Poverty Law Center Action Fund.

Stand UP Alaska; Stand Up America; State Voices; Storied Analytics LLC; The National Vote; The Workers Circle; Transformative Justice Coalition; Transparency International U.S.; Un-PAC; UnidosUS; Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice; United Church of Christ; Vote.org; Voter Participation Center; Voters Rights and Protection Taskforce; Voto Latino; WALKING TO FIX OUR DEMOCRACY; We Are All America; Westchester for Change; Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center; Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice; Women's March; WV Citizen Action; WV FREE (West Virginia Focus: Reproductive Education and Equity); ZERO TO THREE.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF HUGH ARMSTRONG

HON. LANCE GOODEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2024

Mr. GOODEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Hugh Armstrong, a dedicated civic leader and former district manager of the Athens office of Texas Power and Light, who passed away on Monday at the age of 84. Hugh Armstrong managed TP&L's Athens office from 1982 to 2002. In 1987, his outstanding contributions to the community were recognized when he was named Athens Citizen of the Year.

Mr. Armstrong served as president of the Athens Chamber of Commerce, the Athens Economic Development Corporation, and the Athens Rotary Club. Hugh was honored as a Paul Harris Fellow in recognition of his substantial contributions to Rotary's humanitarian and educational programs. In 2014, Keep Athens Beautiful awarded Hugh the Margaret Myers Award for his dedicated service. When the city reorganized its Park Board in 2015, Hugh was chosen as Vice Chairman.

Born in Paris, Texas, Hugh graduated from high school in 1958 and earned a bachelor's

degree from North Texas State University, where he met his wife, Carol. After graduation, he served in the Marine Corps from 1962 to 1968 as a long-range artillery specialist. For 42 years, Hugh was a devoted and respected member of Athens Methodist Church.

I extend my heartfelt condolences to Hugh's family and friends. His memory will not be soon forgotten.

RECOGNIZING THE 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF HERNDON-RESTON FISH AND THE 2024 STARFISH HONOREES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 55th Anniversary of Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc. and the 2024 "StarFISH" Honorees.

Since 1969, Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc. has provided Friendly, Instant, Sympathetic Help for neighbors in need in Reston and Herndon. FISH meets immediate critical needs for rental assistance, furniture, utilities, medical care, and other emergencies. FISH also manages a thrift shop, operates an information and referral service, and offers financial workshops to provide clients with the tools necessary to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency.

During fiscal year 2023, FISH helped with rent, utilities, prescription costs, and more for 1,906 families, or almost 7,000 people, which totaled \$446,448 monthly. During the winter holiday season, FISH provided gift cards totaling almost \$11,000 to 218 families, made up of 894 individuals, of which 57 percent were children 18 and younger. In addition to the gift cards, they provided 510 holiday gifts to children in Herndon and Reston. FISH was also able to purchase \$42,500 in grocery gift cards with funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to help with their food assistance programs.

At its annual gala, FISH recognizes individuals and companies who have made extraordinary contributions over the past year. I am pleased to include in the RECORD the names of the 2024 "StarFISH" honorees.

Elliot Wicks is President of the Herndon-Reston FISH Board and their webmaster. He enjoys the comradery with the Board, staff, volunteers, and others. Elliot is impressed and inspired by their dedication and skill and is passionate about FISH's mission of helping people in need.

Renee Boyle, a FISH Emergency Assistance Volunteer and FISH Fling Auction Co-Chair, became interested in FISH five years ago. Renee hopes to honor her mother's work as a social worker through volunteer efforts with FISH. Renee continues to be an advocate for FISH because the need for their services continues to grow in our communities.

Sheila Grooms is a FISH Emergency Assistance Volunteer. When her daughter was two years old, Sheila became a single parent and received help from a church to get herself on her feet. Sheila has been paying this assistance forward in her community and has been with HRFISH since 2022. She is motivated by random acts of kindness to her community and is passionate about teaching her grandsons to help their neighbors.

Paulette Makar was introduced to The Bargain Loft when she was looking for places

that sold recycled things. It wasn't long before she became a volunteer and has been with The Bargain Loft since 2011. Paulette has continued to add to her responsibilities over the years and is an integral part of the team working at the shop. She likes to live by the saying, "Don't count the days or years but make them count."

Rosemary Leonard became a volunteer at The Bargain Loft 11 years ago when she moved to Reston. Rosemary has a wealth of knowledge when it comes to antique and vintage items, so she is a great researcher and pricer at the shop. Rosemary enjoys that FISH brings together a great bunch of people who serve for one purpose: to help people in need—the epitome of volunteerism.

Kurt Rose and Aspen Jewelry Designs is the Corporate StarFISH of the year. Kurt has generously given his time and expertise in helping The Bargain Loft. Over the years, Kurt has graciously evaluated many of the jewelry donations pro bono and has given The Bargain Loft checks for broken jewelry that would not otherwise generate revenue.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Herndon-Reston FISH for 55 years of service. I also extend my personal congratulations to this year's honorees and express my sincere appreciation to these individuals for contributing their time and energy to helping the most vulnerable in our community.

RECOGNIZING THE OCEAN LAKES BASEBALL TEAM

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2024

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Ocean Lakes Baseball Team on winning the Class 5 Region A Championship.

As their Congresswoman, I am proud of these young athletes and their recent achievement.

Located in Virginia Beach, Virginia, the Ocean Lakes Dolphins were able to bring the Class 5 Region A Championship back home to their fellow students, faculty, families, and friends through their hard work and dedication to their team. Ocean Lakes baseball coach, Pete Zell, led his students to an eight to six victory to take home the regional championship, concluding an amazing season.

As a former athlete myself, I want each of these young men to know Virginia's 2nd District is extremely proud of their accomplishment and applauds them on their well-earned victory. Again, congratulations to the Ocean Lakes Baseball Team on their Class 5 Region A Championship win.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HAROLD SLEMP

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2024

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Harold Slemp, who passed away on April 20th, at the age of 89.

Mr. Slemp was born in Sugar Grove, Virginia on October 10, 1934. He mostly grew up in Marion, Virginia.

In 1957, Mr. Slemp graduated with a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics from Virginia Tech.

The insurance industry welcomed Mr. Slemp's hard work and dedication. He began a business career with Allstate Insurance in Roanoke, Virginia before returning to Marion, where he started as an insurance agent and later became president of Giles and Miles Insurance company. His run as president and a leading insurance voice would last forty years.

As a successful insurance agent, his customers and colleagues appreciated his work and recognized him. The Independent Insurance Agents of Virginia offered Mr. Slemp to serve one term as chairman of their association. He was awarded the "Golden Eagle" for his outstanding contributions to the insurance industry, and named agent of the year.

The well-being of others was of particular interest to Mr. Slemp. He served a term on Smyth County's Board of Supervisors, served as president of the Marion Lions Club, chairman of the Smyth County Chamber of Commerce. Also, Governor George Allen appointed Mr. Slemp to the Charitable Gaming Commission, which included a two-year stint as chairman. His charity and service to his community were well-documented.

Mr. Slemp cared much for serving his country. While at Virginia Tech, he served in the university's Corps of Cadets program. In 2007, he was inducted into the "Old Guard" of the Corps of Cadets.

He is survived by his sons, Christopher Slemp (Heidi) of Marion, VA, David Robinson-Slemp of Washington D.C.; daughter, Amy Slemp (Toby) of Gothenburg, Sweden; his "little sister," Mavis Williams (Roger) of Marion, VA; brother, Scottie Slemp (Robin) of Cartersville, GA; sister, Patty Slemp Mauney of Decatur, GA; sisters-in-law, Thelma Mathena (Don) and Nancy Robinson; grandchildren, Thomas, Jacob, Noah, Emma, Austin, Autumn, Alex and Ashlynn; several accomplished nieces, nephews and cousins; godchildren, Andrea Boone and Jenny Boone; and numerous friends.

Smyth County has produced some of the finest human beings I have ever met, Mr. Slemp being one of them. He had profound impacts on his loved ones as a husband, father and family member, and his community as an insurance agent, public official and friend.

I had the honor of knowing Mr. Slemp for many years. When I was younger, Mr. Slemp and his wife would take my mother, sister and me out to lunch at Bailey's cafeteria. This treat was a gesture I remember fondly. He was very good to my family when there was nothing to gain, except the knowledge that he was doing something nice.

As a student at Emory & Henry College, he offered to assist me in any way. He was a leading Republican figure for years and served as Chairman of the Smyth County Republican Committee. He was a big supporter of mine in politics and a good friend. He will be missed by many.