

TRIBUTE CELEBRATING THE BASKETBALL LEGACY OF LONDON, KY

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2024

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the glowing basketball legacy in London, Kentucky, now headlined by North Laurel High School graduate Reed Sheppard, who was the No. 3 overall pick in the 2024 NBA Draft, inspiring young athletes across the Bluegrass State.

Reed Sheppard, the 2023 Mr. Kentucky Basketball and McDonald's All-American, thrilled the Big Blue Nation, and especially Kentucky's Fifth Congressional District, when he chose to follow in his parents' footsteps to play basketball at the University of Kentucky. His stellar performance for the Wildcats earned national attention and countless accolades, including the premiere Freshman of the Year for the National Association of Basketball Coaches, the U.S. Basketball Writers Association, the Field of 68, Dick Vitale's "Diaper Dandy", and the highly competitive Southeastern Conference. Reed's shooting percentage was unmatched at the college level with 53.6 percent from the floor, 52.1 percent from the 3-point range and 83.1 percent from the free-throw line. As exciting as it was to watch him don the blue and white jersey, Kentuckians watched in awe as Reed topped his personal best performance during the NBA Summer League games against the nation's top NBA recruits. He averaged 20 points, 5.3 assists and 4.8 rebounds per game, showcasing his skills as an offensive threat and a dominating defender.

Some say it's all in his DNA, and while the Sheppard family certainly has talent, it's their hard work and determination on the court that has acquired the respect of other basketball legends. His father Jeff, who inspired Reed's decision to wear No. 15, won the hearts of Wildcat fans as part of the National Championship Teams in 1996 and 1998. The Georgia-native star was the 1998 NCAA Tournament's Most Outstanding Player and went on to play in the NBA for the Atlanta Hawks and the Toronto Raptors, before taking his professional career overseas.

Reed and his sister Madison, who had an impressive collegiate basketball career at Campbellsville University in Kentucky, were blessed with a double-dose of talent. Their mother, Stacey Reed Sheppard, a Laurel County native, set new records for the University of Kentucky Women's Basketball team, becoming the all-time leader in steals, ranking among the top 10 in scoring and assists, and earning respect as one of the best players in the SEC. She was also a member of the USA Women's Basketball Team, representing our Nation and our Commonwealth in international competition.

While the Sheppards strive for championship banners, their pursuit of excellence has not been contained to the basketball court. They have been generous stewards of our region, donating countless hours and resources to give back to their beloved hometown. Stacey founded and operated the Laurel County Backpack Club for 16 years and served on the Board of Directors for Operation

UNITE, while Jeff founded and led UNITE's Shoot Hoops Not Drugs basketball camps for 11 years, inspiring thousands of students to make good choices on and off the court. After the catastrophic flood in Eastern Kentucky in 2022, the entire family made the trek to Eastern Kentucky to help cleanout and rebuild homes for months with their church, Faith Assembly of God, showing compassion that matches their seismic talent.

The Sheppards are now icons of a Laurel County Basketball Legacy that spans nearly a century, starting in 1926 with a team who won the first state title and went on to win the Final Four National Championship. Since then, Laurel County high school basketball teams have earned eight more state basketball titles and 48 trips to the Sweet 16. The Laurel County Lady Cardinals legendary coach Roy Bowling was named Coach of the Year three times, raising the bar for competitive basketball to southeastern Kentucky.

It is only fitting that the Laurel County Wellness Park now features the Sheppard Family Basketball Courts, along with the names of student athletes and coaches who pursued excellence for generations. We have enormous talent in the mountains, and it is a joy to see our region in the national spotlight as a result of such wonderful athletes and leaders.

CONGRATULATING AMY BOYETTE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to recognize Amy Boyette, Director of the Office of External Affairs at the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, on her retirement after 32 years of federal service with the Site.

Her remarkable career at SRS has witnessed many groundbreaking accomplishments in the history of the department, state, and nation that contribute to both our national security and environmental stewardship. From her service as liaison to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board to managing the U.S. Origin Nuclear Material Removal Program, her journey has been marked by dedication, excellence, and an unwavering commitment to public service.

Beyond her professional commitments, Amy's kindness, mentorship, and support for her colleagues and the community have created a legacy that will undoubtedly be an inspiration for many to follow.

I know her son, Nick Poston, parents, Milton and Shirley, her colleagues, and the citizens of both South Carolina and Georgia share my appreciation for her contributions to our states and service for Americans.

Congratulations to Amy on a truly remarkable career and best wishes on her future success.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RANSOMVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

HON. CLAUDIA TENNEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2024

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations and recognize the Ransomville Volunteer Fire Company, which is celebrating 100 years of excellence. This outstanding achievement is marked by the Ransomville Volunteer Fire Company's commitment to providing safe, efficient, and effective emergency services to the Ransomville Community and surrounding communities in Niagara County, New York.

The Ransomville Volunteer Fire Company is located in the hamlet of Ransomville in the Town of Porter, in Niagara County, New York. The fire company's stellar record of service began when it took on its first chartered members in March of 1924. At that time their first line of defense against fires was one hand drawn hose cart, which was popular among many departments in the early 1900s.

Today, the fire company's 53 members are tasked with protecting local schools, government buildings, and several farms and annually respond to over 600 calls. The members are not only limited to fighting fires, but they are also called upon to respond to motor vehicle accidents, hazardous material incidents, and medical emergencies.

Although times have changed for the members of the Ransomville Volunteer Fire Company, the call to tirelessly safeguard the lives and property of citizens remains the same. These courageous volunteers leave their jobs, their hobbies, and their families at a moment's notice to respond to danger and I cannot thank them enough for that. The residents who are served by the Ransomville Volunteer Fire Company can rest comfortably knowing they will receive the best possible assistance.

I am pleased to congratulate the Ransomville Volunteer Fire Company for 100 years of protecting their community and recognize their continuing commitment to service.

HONORING THOMAS DIERCKMAN

HON. MIKE GARCIA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2024

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thomas Dierckman, a beloved member of CA-27's community and an integral district staffer who has been with me since I was first elected to Congress.

Tom's life of public service began as a teenager where he spent time away from cowboying to become an Eagle Scout. Later, at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, he earned his degree in Mechanical Engineering. Consistent with Tom's dedication to his community, he used his training as an engineer to give back to his country. He was commissioned as an Ensign in the Navy after college and joined the Civil Engineer Corps.

During Tom's service as a Naval Officer, he did his part in every community where the

Navy brought him. For example, he coached basketball at his first duty station in Yokosuka, Japan, and was a public works officer at the Naval Regional Medical Center in Oakland, CA, where he taught Civil Engineer Corps students.

While Tom's tenacity took no days off, he always made time for his family and those most important to him. Following Tom's marriage to his wife, Sandy, in 1976 and the birth of his two sons, he left active duty in 1982 and stayed in the reserves for another 17 years. Tom resigned from the Armed Forces with the rank of Captain in 1999.

After he resigned his commission as an active-duty Naval Officer, he moved to Southern California and joined the Newhall Land and Farming Company where he was responsible for all aspects of residential, commercial, and industrial development. In 1990, he was named Senior Vice President and retired in 2004.

Since the 80s, Tom has been an integral part of our community. He served on the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp., Valencia Water Co., Castaic Lake Water Agency, and Valencia Bank and Trust. Tom was also a board member of the College of the Canyons Foundation, a director emeritus of the COC Foundation, and president of the Boys & Girls Club of the Santa Clarita Valley. In short, Tom's been busy.

For his work in our community, Tom has earned the Silver Spur Award for Community Service, the Boys & Girls Club's Samuel Dixon Award for extraordinary service, as well as being named Santa Clarita Valley Man of the Year in 2012.

My path crossed Tom's because of his desire to make an impact on the next generation in our community. Tom worked tirelessly to help nominate the emerging military leaders of our district. Over his tenure, he walked with 41 students as they navigated the application and nomination process to our Nation's great military academies. I thank Tom for his dedication in making sure that our academies receive the best of the best and for his critical role in a stronger, more secure future for this great Nation.

I am forever grateful for Tom's steadfast dedication to our community and the work he has done as part of my team. Tom's approach to life is a powerful example to us all of what it means to pay it forward.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF THE
CITY OF WILLARD'S SESQUICENTENNIAL

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2024

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the City of Willard's Sesquicentennial. The perseverance of pioneers and settlers to overcome the challenges faced during the early years of the city's history has persisted throughout the past 150 years. The hard work and spirit shown by generations of city residents have made Willard an outstanding example of American ingenuity.

In 1874, the City of Willard was established as a community and a junction for the Balti-

more and Ohio Railroad's line to Sandusky and the branch west to Chicago. The original name of Willard was Chicago; however, passengers would mistake the community for Chicago, Illinois. The city's name was changed to Chicago Junction, but the word "junction" did not fit on name boards at the time. In 1917, the town changed its name to Willard, after the then-president of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, Daniel Willard. In 1960, Willard officially became a city. The city is an asset to the great State of Ohio through its many contributions in the fields of manufacturing and agriculture. It remains to this day a key junction for the rail company CSX Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, by remembering the 150th Anniversary of the City of Willard, community members recognize the outstanding achievements, maintain the pioneer attitude, and strive to better their city through the principles on which it was founded. I thank and congratulate Willard on this significant milestone.

RECOGNIZING CAMERON HULL

HON. LIZZIE FLETCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2024

Mrs. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise with deep gratitude to Cameron Hull for her many years of service and exceptional work for Texas' Seventh Congressional District. After working for our district for more than 5½ years, Cameron will leave my office to attend graduate school at Harvard University, where she expects to earn a Master's degree in Urban Planning.

Cameron has served Texas' Seventh Congressional District for as long as I have, joining our district staff as a Staff Assistant in Washington, D.C. as we opened our office in January 2019. An integral part of my team from the start, she has worked tirelessly and effectively, handling issues of all kinds and engaging with our constituents in meaningful ways. As our office grew, so did Cameron's role in it, as she moved from Staff Assistant to Legislative Correspondent to Legislative Assistant to Senior Legislative Assistant. She has worked on issues of great importance to our district with a portfolio that includes transportation, infrastructure, and flooding policy. It is fitting then that her work here has inspired her to pursue a career in urban planning.

Throughout her more than 5 years serving our district, Cameron has demonstrated a real passion for improving Texas' Seventh Congressional District and the broader Houston region. She has built meaningful relationships across our community and has led the way on efforts to ensure our district's and our region's priorities are included in our work and that our work in Washington delivers meaningful progress back home.

Outstanding in her policy work, Cameron was also an outstanding team member who always remained positive and supportive of her colleagues. Her work and her positive contributions have had—and will continue to have—a lasting impact on our team and on our district, and we will miss her.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Texas' Seventh Congressional District, I express my deep and sincere gratitude and best wishes to Cameron Hull as she continues her service to commu-

nity and country in a new way and begins a new chapter this fall.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRO-
MOTING HEALTHIER LIFELONG
IMPROVEMENTS IN FOOD AND
EXERCISE ACT OF 2024

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduced the Promoting Healthier Lifelong Improvements in Food and Exercise Act of 2024, or the LIFE Act, which would establish a national program to combat overweight and obesity, a major health problem in the United States that cannot be remedied through the health care system alone. Increasing rates of overweight and obesity are found among Americans of every age, race, and major demographic group, and threaten the health of Americans like no other condition or disease. In fact, the key to reducing or eliminating many of the most serious health conditions is not only to reduce overweight and obesity but also to encourage exercise of all kinds.

This bill would provide \$75 million to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for a coordinated national effort to reverse increasingly sedentary lifestyles and unhealthy diets. Specifically, the CDC, either directly or through grants and contracts, would train health professionals to recognize the signs of overweight and obesity early in order to educate patients about proper nutrition and regular exercise; conduct public education campaigns about how to recognize and address overweight and obesity; and develop intervention strategies for use in everyday life, such as in the workplace and community settings.

The National Survey of Children's Health found that 17 percent of children ages 10 to 17 had obesity in 2020–2021. The CDC National Center for Health Statistics reports that Type 2 diabetes, once considered an adult disease, is now widespread among children. The rising cost of the health care system, including insurance premiums, reflects this epidemic. Today, chronic diseases, many of which are caused or exacerbated by overweight and obesity, account for 70 percent of all deaths in the U.S. and 75 percent of U.S. medical care costs, according to the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. The national program established by this bill would provide a model for states and local governments to establish similar programs.

To cite an example of the need for action, the District of Columbia is one of the fittest cities in the U.S., according to a 2023 study by the American College of Sports Medicine, yet, even here, obesity continues to be a severe problem. Approximately one-fifth of D.C. residents are considered obese. Most of the obesity epidemic is exercise- and food-related.

I urge support for this bill to mobilize the country before entirely preventable health conditions, which often begin in childhood, overwhelm the Nation's health care system.