

Security and freedom of the American people are nonnegotiable. We must defend America not only from the tyranny of armies but also the tyranny of digital espionage and manipulation.

CONGRATULATING STRASBURG WRESTLING
STATE CHAMPIONS

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Strasburg High School wrestling team for their Class 2 State championship victory with 205 points. It was the Rams' third State title in a row.

The two individual State champions who led Strasburg's victory include senior David Burks, who won the Class 2 State title at 150 points, and sophomore teammate Hutson Conrad, who won the State title at 215 points.

In addition to Strasburg Rams performers were Aiden Swink, Peyton Dean, Lucas Martinez, Zach Bracken, Donovan Burks, and Colby Shaw.

This performance was truly exceptional, showcasing the talent and teamwork that define this group. I wish the seniors the best of luck in their future endeavors.

□ 1045

RECOGNIZING HARRISONBURG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AT THE 2024 UAE ELECTRIC VEHICLE GRAND PRIX

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional group of students from Harrisonburg High School, whose remarkable talents were showcased on the international stage during the 2024 UAE Electric Vehicle Grand Prix.

Competing in Abu Dhabi, these young innovators represented not only our great Commonwealth, but exemplified the American spirit of ingenuity and excellence.

In only their third season, the Harrisonburg High School Electric Vehicle team, the Blue Streaks, faced off with 28 formidable teams from across four nations.

Through sheer determination and exceptional skill, Team Blue Streaks charged ahead, not only clinching the fastest qualifying time, but also securing the esteemed pole position.

I will take a moment to honor the bright young minds of this team: Seniors Johanna Mayfield and Jack Rooker; Juniors Davis Bert, Monica Espinoza-Martinez, Peter Johnston, Joshua Nafziger, and Colin Snider. Their collective effort earned Harrisonburg the bronze, landing them a commendable third place overall.

Special acknowledgement goes to Johanna and Monica, who were bestowed the Women in Science and Engineering award, inspiring young women everywhere that the sky is the limit in STEM fields.

Let us celebrate these young leaders who embody the best of Harrisonburg and Virginia. They are not just students or competitors; they are pioneers, paving the way toward a brighter, more sustainable future.

CONGRATULATING CHIEF OF STAFF MATT
MILLER ON HIS RETIREMENT

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to both thank and celebrate the

retirement of my long time chief of staff, Matt Miller.

After 30 years of Federal service with a great majority of it spent working with former and current Members of this body, Matt wraps up a distinguished career, encompassing pivotal roles in both the executive and legislative branches.

Matt also serves in the U.S. Navy being deployed to Iraq and Guantanamo Bay, as well as civilian Department of Defense tours in Afghanistan. He has demonstrated unwavering dedication to assistance and advocacy for others, which I have personally witnessed since I came to office in January 2019.

I extend my profound gratitude and thank him for being by my side for the last 5 years. This body will miss his devotion to making a difference, and I wish him fair winds and following seas in his next chapter.

HONORING THE QUEEN OF TEJANO
MUSIC, SELENA QUINTANILLA-
PEREZ

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

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Women's History Month by honoring an American icon who has left an unforgettable mark on our culture and our country, the one and only Selena.

Now, few artists have shaped American and Latin music like Selena Quintanilla-Perez. The queen of Tejano music, who I grew up listening to, has won the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award and dozens of top awards and honors. She released 11 albums, 5 of those with her band Selena y Los Dinos, and 6 solo albums.

She was arguably the most influential Mexican-American artist of her generation.

While she left us too soon, Selena's life and music touched the lives of so many, transcending borders and barriers and breaking into a male-dominated Tejano music scene.

Selena's impact, though, reaches far beyond her music, her business, and her fashion. Selena was one of the most influential Latin artists of all time. She has been credited for elevating Tejano and Latin music into the mainstream market.

Whether at a family party, a celebration, or at the club, when a Selena song comes on, everyone hits the dance floor. She is a symbol of unity, resilience, and Latino and Mexican-American pride.

"The cultural impact of Selena lives with us," "El impacto cultural de Selena vive con nosotros."

We will never stop "Dreaming of You."

CELEBRATING KING AND PRINCE
SEAFOOD'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate King and Prince Seafood's 100th anniversary.

One hundred years ago, Gerald Beach founded the King Shrimp Company in Brunswick, Georgia. The business got its start by selling wild Georgia shrimp to fish markets located from New York City to Chicago and beyond.

After World War II, the company bought and converted two warehouses that had been used to construct Liberty ships for the U.S. Navy.

With additional space and the adoption of freezing technologies, sales skyrocketed.

In 1986, the company changed its name from the King Shrimp Company to the name we know today, the King and Prince Seafood Company.

Although this company has had great commercial success, it has had an even larger impact on Glynn County and the surrounding areas. King and Prince Seafood can often be seen sponsoring events such as the Sunshine 5K or volunteering with hospice at the Golden Isles.

Simply put, it is a privilege to have such a successful and community-focused business in our district. I look forward to seeing what they have in store for the next 100 years.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GEORGIA
REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD SMITH

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Georgia Representative Richard Smith who passed away at the age of 78.

Representative Smith was born in Wrightsville, Georgia, and graduated from Morgan County High School where he played quarterback for the football team.

Representative Smith went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Louisiana State University and a master's degree from the University of Georgia.

Before entering politics, Representative Smith served as director of the UGA Cooperative Extension Service.

Representative Smith will be remembered for a lifetime of dedicated public service. He served 20 years in the Georgia General Assembly and was a distinguished chairman of the House Rules Committee.

Beyond his extensive service, Representative Smith was respected and cherished by all who knew him and called him a friend, including myself who served with Representative Smith in the Georgia State House.

Since his passing, friends and colleagues have described him as larger than life, a true statesman, and an honest, compassionate, and loyal friend. I could not agree more.

Representative Smith will be missed by all who knew him.

CONGRATULATING EMILY GRAHAM AS 2025 SAVANNAH-CHATHAM COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Emily Graham for being named the 2025 Savannah-Chatham County Public School Teacher of the Year.

Emily has demonstrated her passion and devotion for teaching by serving as a band director at Islands High School in Savannah.

The band program's start and growth are attributable to her work, as Emily has spent the past 14 years instructing the 9th through 12th grade music classes.

Throughout her career, she has been responsible for expanding the band program, the instrument and music library, establishing both marching and jazz bands, among other accomplishments.

Emily developed a love for music and performance throughout her childhood. Following high school graduation, she attended Columbus State University where she received a bachelor of music in music education and subsequently earned her master's degree in the subject.

She chose to return to her hometown of Savannah to pursue a career of service and self-fulfillment.

I would like to extend my gratitude to teachers like Emily who significantly impact those young minds and prepare children for a future success.

HONORING THE LIFE OF KATHRYN HOOPER MCCURRY

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Kathryn Hooper McCurry who passed away on November 22, 2023.

In 1970, Kathryn graduated from Georgia Southern College where she was the inaugural president of the Delta Lambda Chapter of the Kappa Delta sorority.

Later that year, she married her lifelong confidant and love, James McCurry.

For more than five decades, Kathy remained a dedicated member of St. Thomas Episcopal Church, contributing her time to various positions in the church, such as serving in the choir and altar guild.

Her community involvement extended beyond the church walls, reaching into the junior league of Savannah and an array of clubs, organizations, and boards.

As a passionate tennis enthusiast, Kathy held the title of president of the Savannah Tennis Association. Kathy found joy in traveling alongside friends, waterskiing, crabbing off the dock with her grandchildren, and being surrounded by her loved ones.

Madam Speaker, she will be greatly missed by all.

WE NEED TO END ILLEGAL DEFORESTATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, in 2022, the world lost more than 16 million acres of forest, an area bigger than West Virginia. Deforestation accounted for about 10 percent of the world's annual greenhouse gas emissions and 40 percent of all tropical deforestation as a result of illegal clearing.

Put another way, deforestation would rank as the third largest country in terms of overall carbon emissions, underscoring the need to address this problem as part of a global solution to the climate crisis.

Nearly half of the tropical deforestation is estimated to be the result of just four commodities—beef, soy, palm oil, and wood products that drive this deforestation. The people who are engaged in illegal logging are some of the worst people on the face of the planet. They engage in bribery, theft, crimes against indigenous people whose rights are trampled on, or worse, actual violence directed against them.

There is, of course, a solution: Deny people who grow crops on illegally forested land access to the American economy.

There is precedent here, too. I had amendments to the Lacey Act focusing on disallowing illegally harvested timber to be imported to the United States. That earlier legislation was based on the success of the original Lacey Act that protected endangered species and wildlife. It is commonly accepted and simple to administer, although not always easy.

It required companies to control their supply chain and to be able to document that control and respect for requirements of legally sourced product. It formed a framework not just for American law, but it modeled the European Union, Australia, and Japan who modeled their actions on my bill.

Now, we have an opportunity to expand this approach to soy, cocoa, palm oil, beef, and rubber commodities. There is rough agreement that this approach has promise and the large companies are concerned about the legal, practical, and reputational consequences for being involved with products that are grown on these illegally harvested lands.

We have introduced bipartisan legislation, the FOREST Act with Senator SCHATZ, to codify the conversation and to advance this policy to choke off this practice.

The goal of the legislation is to encourage responsible companies to observe requirements to avoid products from illegally harvested timberland.

It will require adjustment in terms of mindset and procedures to have control of the supply chain, but helping provide a framework is necessary to change these engrained habits.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support our legislation to use the tools of trade and supply chain control to end the environmentally destructive pat-

tern of commodities from illegally harvested land. It is going to be hard, but it will be worth the effort.

□ 1100

HONORING POLICE OFFICER MATTHEW RUGE

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

Mr. FINSTAD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Police Officer Matthew Ruge, a southern Minnesota hero who was one of three first responders shot and killed in the line of duty on February 18.

Officer Ruge's life was tragically taken at the young age of 27 while responding to a domestic violence call in Burnsville, Minnesota.

Matthew grew up in Read's Landing, a small, tight-knit community just outside Wabasha. From an early age, Matthew knew he wanted to help and protect people. He attended Wabasha-Kellogg High School and was awarded a scholarship for students entering a law enforcement career.

Afterward, he completed a police training program at Mankato State University with high honors and, 2 years later, joined the Burnsville Police Department, where he earned the Life Saving Medal and served on the crisis negotiation team.

While he didn't like being the center of attention, he had an unwavering commitment to serving others. Officer Matthew Ruge was the very best of law enforcement, always there to help a person on their worst day.

My prayers are with his parents, Sean and Christi; his sister, Hannah; and the many friends and family that Matthew touched throughout his life.

Officer Ruge was among the best and bravest of southern Minnesota. We will never forget his service and sacrifice. May he rest in peace.

HONORING FIREFIGHTER-PARAMEDIC ADAM FINSETH

Mr. FINSTAD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a southern Minnesota hero, firefighter, and paramedic, Adam Finseth, who was tragically killed in the line of duty, along with Officers Paul Elmstrand and Matthew Ruge, while responding to the scene of a domestic violence call on February 18.

Adam was born in Faribault, Minnesota, before moving to Rochester, where he graduated from John Marshall High School in 2001.

Early on, it was obvious that Adam had been called to a life of service. After graduation, he took a summer job as a Rochester lifeguard before enlisting in the U.S. Army shortly after 9/11.

Adam served two tours of duty in Operation Iraqi Freedom and would go on to spend nearly a decade serving as a first responder for fire departments in La Crosse, Hastings, Savage, and Burnsville.