

Born in Kenosha, Sam taught at Craig High School in my hometown for over three decades. Over his career, he taught thousands of students. I was lucky enough to be in his government class my junior year.

As a teacher, he taught about the institutions that make our country so great. He provided all of us an appreciation for the United States of America. He also provided an understanding that we are always working to form a more perfect Union.

Sam left a mark on everyone he met.

In addition to being a teacher, he was a talented photographer and sports enthusiast. Most importantly, he was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and a friend to many in my hometown of Janesville.

After he retired from teaching, he dove into photography. He was a constant presence in the community, always working hard to capture the moment.

While Sam may no longer be with us, his legacy lives on in Janesville and in the countless lives that he has touched.

I am proud that I have memories of Sam that I have captured. On behalf of the class of 1999 and Craig High School, and on behalf of the thousands that he touched, Sam will be missed.

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO GRANDMA STEIL

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, grandparents are a window to the past and teach us where we came from. They are also a window to the future of who we will become.

My Grandma Steil has been that for all of us: an inspiration and a guide.

In Wisconsin, there are those whose grandparents retire to warmer climates, but my Grandma Steil has called Wisconsin home for 100 years. She never minds the cold. Below zero and wind? It is a fine day for a walk.

Maybe her strength came from growing up on a farm outside of Darlington, Wisconsin, during the Great Depression. After graduation and after World War II, she would marry her junior high school prom date, George Steil.

As a mother of 4, a grandmother of 10, and a great grandmother of another 10, she is a constant and loving presence and an example to all of us of how to live a meaningful life.

What makes my grandmother so special and so wonderful?

She is an ever-present inspiration of how to live a life of faith and service to others.

Whether it was serving as president of the Janesville Catholic Women's Club in 1954 or, as I still marvel, waking up at 4:30 in the morning in 2014 to prepare breakfast at the homeless shelter in Janesville, she provides us a guide on how to give to others in our community.

Grandma, thank you. You are a constant reminder of what it means to live a loving and meaningful life. We are profoundly grateful to be a part of your life.

On this, your 100th birthday, I say to you, Grandma, happy birthday.

HONORING THE HONORABLE MARCIA FUDGE DURING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during this month, Women's History Month, and it gives me great pleasure to rise today to honor a woman who has made history and is making history: the Honorable Marcia Fudge, the 18th Secretary of HUD, former United States female Black-American Member of Congress, a lawyer, a prosecutor, and the very first female and Black person to be mayor of Warrensville Heights, Ohio.

She hailed as the 21st national president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. She is a sojourner, she is a colleague, an adviser, and, more importantly, Mr. Speaker, a trusted friend.

Fudge never sat down and waited for an opportunity. She made opportunities. Mr. Speaker, I know that firsthand. I had known Marcia Fudge for decades prior to coming to the United States Congress. As a matter of fact, when I was a senior vice president at the Ohio State University, then-Congresswoman Marcia Fudge invited me to sit in the gallery as, again, she made history.

It was Congresswoman Marcia Fudge who honored the State of Ohio and my leadership for making Ohio the first State to honor Rosa Parks and what she did on December 1, 1955. Marcia Fudge entered it into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD from this very spot. That was another history for the great State of Ohio.

A few years later, there I was, a candidate for the United States Congress, and, again, it was then-Congresswoman Marcia Fudge who stood by my side and elevated me to have the confidence and the assurance that I, too, one day would stand on this House floor.

Then as a freshman, she entrusted me to be the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference. Never in the history of the CBC had a freshman been appointed some 40 days after being elected to chair such a massive event, but that is what Congresswoman Marcia Fudge did. She elevated people. She worked with people. She went out and mentored young students so they would know that they, too, could have opportunities.

It was no surprise to us that she became the seventh Black woman to chair the Congressional Black Caucus and the 21st national president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. It was no surprise when the President tapped her to be the 18th United States HUD Secretary.

When she walked into that White House, she brought with her a whole village because she understood the depth and the importance of what it would mean to be United States HUD Secretary.

Marcia Fudge's tireless efforts have not only helped families keep their homes, but she has also made the American Dream of homeownership a reality. It is a reality for countless individuals, including returning citizens. Through her advocacy, she has opened doors of housing and business opportunities for Black and Brown communities, championing equity every step of the way.

Her stand against racial bias in the appraisal market is a testament to her commitment to justice and fairness. Marcia Fudge's impact on housing and racial equity will resonate for generations to come.

Ohioans know her as a leader, a fighter, and an advocate for justice. We know her here as Congresswoman and Secretary Marcia Fudge.

I wish her good luck on her journey.

HONORING THE PLANO EAST PANTHERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SELF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Plano East Panthers basketball team for their perfect season, going 40-0 and capturing the program's first-ever division 6A State championship. This was the Panthers' first State title in any team sport.

The Panthers, led by Head Coach Matt Wester, became the first men's basketball team to go unbeaten in 6A, the highest level, amassing 40 wins by an average 22.7 point differential across the season. Each of East's seven playoff wins came by double figures, amassing an average margin of victory by 23.4 points.

In the State championship game, the Panthers only gave up 41 points, which ranks as the eighth fewest points the team surrendered all season. As the top-ranked Texas team and number three team in most national polls, the Panthers claimed the first State championship in school history, led by D.J. Hall's 18 points and six rebounds. Hall was named the Conference Final Most Valuable Player.

In addition, Rachard Angton added 13 points and Jordan Mizell pitched in 8 points and eight rebounds.

Through their display of teamwork and dedication, the Panthers made both the city of Plano and the State of Texas proud. It will be exciting to watch them next year and see if they can run it back.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate the Panthers on a remarkable season. They were perfect.

HONORING SERGEANT NICHOLAS B. LOVREN

Mr. SELF. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor I rise today to recognize Sergeant Nicholas B. Lovren of the Fairview Police Department as he retires after 20 years of dedicated service in law enforcement.

Sergeant Lovren's steadfast dedication to serving and assisting those in

need has been a constant motivation throughout his career. His deep understanding of the noble responsibility entrusted to him as a guardian of the community was always evident.

Sergeant Lovren exemplified his commitment to protecting the community during the May 6, 2023, mass shooting at the Allen Premium Outlets, displaying exceptional bravery and professionalism in the face of intense adversity.

His passion for his profession was recognized not only by his colleagues but also by the community he served, as evidenced by commendations and accolades throughout his tenure.

Beyond the call of duty, Sergeant Lovren is active in various outreach programs in his community and is a devoted family man to his wife, Lendsie, and their three children, Alice, Hunter, and Libby.

As he embarks on this new chapter of his life, I commend Sergeant Lovren for his outstanding contributions to law enforcement and the community, and I want to extend my congratulations and best wishes for a well-deserved retirement.

CELEBRATE THE BICYCLE

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I am here this morning on the occasion of the 24th annual National Bike Summit to celebrate the bicycle. It was an honor to kick off the annual bicycle ride through the Capitol this morning with several hundred enthusiasts.

We had a lot to celebrate. The infrastructure bill, the Inflation Reduction Act, has unleashed unprecedented investments. We have \$1 billion a year for the Safer Streets for All Act, and we have already \$1.7 billion committed. There are over 1,000 communities that are dealing with plans for their bicycle network.

Madam Speaker, there is a lot of dissonance here on Capitol Hill. You may have noticed that it is hard sometimes for people to agree, but we are celebrating bike partisanship.

The bicycle brings people together to be able to burn calories instead of fossil fuel. It is the most efficient form of transportation ever designed.

There are exciting programs internationally. The World Bicycle Relief program has distributed three-quarters of a million bicycles to developing countries. A health professional in sub-Saharan Africa with a bicycle can see three times as many patients and do so more safely.

We have opportunities in terms of being able to extend the range of activities for our children. Legislation I have been working on for years in terms of the Safe Routes to School Program has been extended to include high schools now.

I started the week watching grade school bike bus with young people sur-

rounded by a rope moving as a bus on their way to school.

□ 1030

The bicycle helps eliminate the congestion around our schools in the morning, and it gives young people a sense of freedom while it encourages their health.

During the pandemic, people turned to the bicycle for recreation in a way that was safe, and it extended their recreational experience.

Bicycle tourism is having a profound effect in rural and small-town America as people discover the joy of looking at the countryside at 10 miles an hour instead of 70. It is also good for the economy because people on bicycles tend to actually spend more than people who are racing through neighborhoods.

This notion of burning calories instead of fossil fuel, I think, is profound. We are working to extend activities for e-bikes. Part of our legislation has more e-bike charging stations, and the e-bike makes any bicycle commuter into a regular, effective commuter, extending their range.

It has contributed here on Capitol Hill. When I first came, there were a few of us who were biking. You would see an occasional bike messenger, but now we are looking at massive investments even in our Nation's Capital.

One of the things I am most proud of is bicycle lanes in the center of perhaps America's most iconic street, Pennsylvania Avenue. There is a whole range of investments that have been made in our Nation's Capital to make it more livable.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to greet these bicycle warriors, welcome them to Capitol Hill, learn about the opportunities in this new legislation, and then work with them to implement it in their relationships. After all, the bicycle is the indicator species of livable communities.

HOUSE OF MEDICINE IS IN CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MURPHY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MURPHY. Madam Speaker, the house of medicine is crumbling down.

I have been a physician now for 35 years, and I spent 10 years prior to that training to become a surgeon. However, the house of medicine is in crisis.

Since the pandemic, medicine, a truly objective science, has become political. It has become a field of activism, not advocacy: believe the science, and then don't trust the science.

The record of preauthorizations now facing physicians and surgeons leads to poor patient care, burnout, early retirement, and massive administrative costs. Insurance companies are raking in record profits for their CEOs and shareholders by denying patients critical medicine or procedures and then not paying the doctors or hospitals, the ones who actually deliver the care.

The cost of medications is skyrocketing. One primary reason is something called PBMs, pharmacy benefit managers, that most people don't know anything about. These things are extortion artists driven by insurance companies to steal money from pharmaceutical companies and, most importantly, patients.

Madam Speaker, a pet peeve of mine is every other commercial seen on television is direct-to-consumer advertising. We are only one of two countries in the world, New Zealand being the other one, that allows this.

I have never once in my 35 years in medicine prescribed a medicine that was because somebody advertised it on television. Now, we have hospital closures in every district because we are restricting access to care because Medicare and Medicaid do not pay the bills. Yet, we have Democrats screaming: Medicare for All. That absolutely would lower the standard of medicine.

The express purpose of the ACA, ObamaCare, is to drive private practice out of business and for us all to be under one government-payer system.

What is happening? We are now employing more and more doctors and delivering a lower standard of care. These doctors, good people, really now have more ownership to a clock than their patient. We no longer have the work ethic that is seen in doctors as was seen before. It is 5 o'clock. It is time to leave. There is an absolute loss of patient ownership.

Madam Speaker, when I was seeing patients full time, if a physician called me to see a patient, my answer was: Do you want me to see them today or tomorrow?

It was not: Send them to the emergency room.

Now, it takes a year. I tried to get an appointment with a dermatologist for a patient. It took a year because of the severe doctor shortage. It is estimated that 40,000 to 120,000 more doctors are needed in a decade.

Sadly enough, our medical schools, while they are increasing in numbers, are failing in the doctors that they produce. We now have more identity politics in medical schools than excellence in care. Activism in so many schools now is the oath. DEI is the oath to get into medical school. This needs to stop.

It has now been shown that 63 percent of medical students now in medical school do not plan on practicing clinical medicine. There are medical students who come, take up a slot, and rarely practice. Why are medical schools allowing these individuals to get in?

There are increasing numbers of fellowships after residency programs because we have work-hour limitations, and the students are just not well-trained to come out and practice.

Burnout is at a record high, sadly, amongst physicians. I can understand that in a physician who has practiced until they are 65 or 70, but now we have