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## MAYOR JOSH MOENNING RETIRING

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sincere gratitude to my hometown mayor, Josh Moenning, of Norfolk, Nebraska. After almost 12 years as mayor, he has decided to retire at the end of his term.

During his tenure, Mayor Moenning saw Norfolk through dozens of projects that made our city a more desirable place for families and young people. Mayor Moenning said his time as mayor centered around three things: enhanced quality of life, improved infrastructure and city services, and economic growth.

He accomplished those three objectives and more by renovating Johnson Park, revitalizing a wide variety of businesses and housing developments, and expanding infrastructure. Mayor Moenning took the city's ideas and needs, and he put them into action.

Because of his service to our community, Norfolk is an even better place to live, work, and raise a family than it was 12 years ago.

On behalf of the city of Norfolk in the First Congressional District, I extend our appreciation to Mayor Moenning for his leadership over the past 12 years.

## IN HONOR OF ANGIE MUHLEISEN

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Angie Muhleisen.

For the better part of three decades, Angie has led Union Bank & Trust of Lincoln. She has recently announced she is stepping down as CEO.

When Angie started at Union Bank, it was a \$50 million financial institution. Through the years, she has helped grow it into an \$8 billion organization with over 1,000 teammates.

From Lincoln's Inspire Woman of the Year to the Chamber's Burnham Yates Citizenship Award, Angie's leadership has earned significant recognition from community organizations.

Even as she steps away from her role as CEO, her heart for service isn't slowing down. She recently became the board chair for the University of Nebraska Foundation. She also serves on the board of Assurity and is involved in numerous other organizations.

Angie's greatest legacy is her family. Her son Jason is stepping into the role as CEO and will do an outstanding job building on her work.

Best wishes to Angie on this next chapter.

## SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight National School Choice Week.

School choice allows parents and children to choose the school that best fits their needs. Whether it is a public school, a private school, a home school, or a hybrid of these options, parents have a right to direct the upbringing and education of their kids.

Last year, Nebraska passed its first school choice law, helping more families and kids to pick a school that best

fits their needs, but there is still more we can do.

Here at the Federal level, I am a proud cosponsor of Congressman ADRIAN SMITH's Educational Choice for Children Act, which would bolster school choice across the Nation. This legislation would help more kids from low-income households access the education of their choice. I urge my colleagues to pass this.

Back home in Nebraska, our legislature has been working to fund students, not systems. I am excited to see how they build on their school choice success. Keep up the great work.

## HOUSING WEEK

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight housing week, as declared by me, in Nebraska.

A recent survey by Lending Tree found that 94 percent of Americans identified owning a house as part of the American Dream, but just over half of those "... who don't own a home say they're worried they never will."

Next week, I will address a Workforce Housing Summit hosted by the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce. If we want to keep the American Dream alive, we must address the high cost of housing, help more Americans save for a downpayment, and break through other barriers. We must also take care of the housing stock in our communities.

Later next week, I will be hosting a housing improvement meeting in Clarkson. This meeting will help brief community members about programs that can help weatherize and improve existing homes. Next week will be full of small, but important, steps toward addressing this shortage. While there is no silver bullet, through the work of local, State, and Federal partners, we can help more Americans find the home of their dreams.

## 100-PLUS DAYS OF ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, it has been more than 100 days since Hamas launched a vicious war against Israel, committing inhumane acts of violence.

Since October 7, Israel has worked to eliminate Hamas in response to their horrific killing and torture of over 1,000 innocent people. Right now, there are still more than 100 hostages being held by Hamas, including as many as six Americans.

Over the last few months, we have witnessed numerous protests across the country sympathizing with Hamas, which is nothing short of shocking. The messages of these protesters is often at odds with supporting the only democracy in the Middle East, and they do not reflect our Nation's values.

Let me be clear. America does not negotiate with terrorists, and we support the right of Israel to exist. America will continue to stand with Israel as they work to end Hamas and free every single hostage. We will not back down.

May God bless the continued friendship between Israel and America.

## MATER DEI HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate Mater Dei High School's football team for earning their fourth California State championship. The Monarchs secured their final win of the season over an undefeated team with an impressive 35-0 victory.

Their success is a shining example of the dedication, hard work, and perseverance of the young players, the coaches, and the community.

Also with this win, the Monarchs claimed a top three position in national rankings and the number one spot in the media composite on the national level.

I congratulate the students, parents, coaches, and teachers that form the Monarch football team. You have made us proud. I am looking forward to next year.

## NORTH ORANGE CONTINUING EDUCATION'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the North Orange County Continuing Education Program.

For half a century, North Orange County Continuing Education has offered programs that transform lives in Orange County.

Established in 1973, NOCE has grown to serve more than 29,000 students each and every year and offers over a thousand courses each semester to those of all ages.

The curriculum includes vocational, business, financial, and other skills that individuals need throughout their life. Also, beyond the classroom, NOCE has shown the real impact that they have on our community. In fact, they support over 3,000 jobs directly and indirectly and offer services to help everyday individuals succeed.

As we celebrate NOCE's 50th anniversary, we reflect back on their work and look forward to their future and their success in our community.

## ANAHEIM PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Anaheim Public Library's award-winning Foster Youth Initiative that has gained recognition for making resources available to kids in need.

The library's Foster Youth Initiative offers library cards to youth who are in the foster care system, who are homeless, or those that have been emancipated. This card is special. It removes address requirements and penalties and makes sure that those young people have access to our community's public library system.

Also, the initiative has been recognized by the Orange County Business Council's Public-Private Partnership and has received such an award. It is a testament to the hundreds of library cards that have been made available to

those students, those young individuals that wouldn't otherwise receive a library card.

I congratulate the Anaheim Public Library for their commitment to support our youth in need.

#### CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF HOBART MANLY, JR.

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Hobart Manly, Jr., a veteran of the National Guard and an avid golfer.

Hobart was raised in Savannah and excelled in multiple sports in high school before going on to attend the University of Georgia. He is perhaps best known for his career as an amateur golfer. He competed in three British amateurs, two French amateurs, and the Canadian Open. Hobart has also won the North-South Championship located in Pinehurst, North Carolina.

In 1969, Hobart was inducted into the Savannah Athletic Hall of Fame, and 22 years later, he was inducted into the Georgia Golf Hall of Fame.

Hobart lived on Isle of Hope outside of Savannah with his wife, Marilyn, of 67 years. Hobart's competitive spirit and love for sport is something I find incredibly admirable and strive to implement in my own life every day.

My thoughts and prayers go out to the entire Manly family during this difficult time.

#### RECOGNITION OF EMT ROSEMARY MITTS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Savannah EMT Rosemary Mitts.

Rosemary was raised in a military family, leading her to learn the importance of having a strong work ethic from a young age. She modeled her choice to work in healthcare after her grandfather, as he was a medic in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam war.

Rosemary began her work as an EMT at Chatham Emergency Services. She also earned her medic license through her time at paramedic school and soon after went on to teach others to become EMTs like herself.

Rosemary consistently strives to better herself and others in her work environment. She is always looking for ways to provide the best care possible for the people in her community.

Rosemary was recently chosen to be a member of the American Ambulance Association's 2023 Stars of Life Class, a program that celebrates the distributions of ambulance professionals who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to others.

We congratulate Rosemary. We can't think of anyone more deserving.

#### CONGRATULATING MAMIE BACON

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Mamie Bacon, who recently celebrated a historic anniversary.

Last October, she was recognized for 50 years of work for King and Prince Seafood in Brunswick, Georgia. Mamie started working for King and Prince Seafood in 1973 and has not looked back since.

She originally planned to retire 7 years ago but chose to continue working her job in quality assurance. She is quoted in the Brunswick News saying: "I love my job and I love the people."

For her service to Georgia, the company plans on building a new pavilion and dedicating it in her honor. Mamie is simply one of the many examples of the First District of Georgia's rich and selfless sense of community. We wish Mamie the best of luck.

#### SAVANNAH AIRPORT

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport for being nominated as one of the Best Airports in the U.S. by Conde Nast Traveler.

The Savannah Airport has been voted the number one airport in the Nation for the fourth consecutive year by the Conde Nast Traveler 2023 Readers' Choice Awards. This achievement is the result of several key factors, such as the airport's beautiful town square-inspired layout and great amenities. The charming visitor center has a historic southern street style that makes visitors feel right at home.

The airport also features great food and great shops to keep travelers fed and entertained. This Georgia airport was also once named "the happiest airport in the country."

We congratulate, again, Savannah's airport for continuing to hold its first-place designation and congratulate the staff that made that happen.

#### HONORING EDDIE HARMS

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nebraska Third District pilot, farmer, soil conservationist, and now centenarian, Eddie Harms.

An extraordinary pillar of consistency in his southeast Nebraska community, Eddie turned 100 years of age on December 22, 2023.

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Eddie and his wife, Millie, raised two children. He worked as a farmer and soil conservationist for more than 80 years, only recently selling his long-used Caterpillar bulldozer. He is known by neighbors for his dogged Nebraska work ethic, willingness to lend a hand, and deep sense of personal responsibility.

Growing up with his 12 siblings on the family farm near Adams, Nebraska, Eddie said from an early age: "We learned what we needed to do."

Demonstrating love for family, community, and the land throughout his life, Eddie exemplifies Nebraska values

of stewardship, neighborliness, and conservation.

Today, he lives in Syracuse, Nebraska, and continues to visit family and friends around the community. His daughter, Tanya, attests that he loves taking care of the land and being busy doing things.

Eddie's character and contributions to his community are outstanding and highlight all that is great about small towns all across America.

#### RECOGNIZING NEBRASKA AGRICULTURE ACADEMY AND FFA

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of Third District agriculture educators and the record-breaking number of FFA members in Nebraska and across the Nation.

As the sixth State chartered by the National FFA Organization upon its founding in 1928, Nebraska FFA provides outstanding career growth opportunities, which build character and develop competence in our next generation of ag industry leaders who will feed and fuel the world.

In public, private, and homeschooling settings, student interest and participation in FFA is at an all-time high. According to the Nebraska FFA Foundation, there were 10,454 student FFA members in Nebraska during the 2021-2022 school year.

Despite a shortage of agriculture educators, the Nebraska Agriculture Academy is providing opportunities to students who are homeschooled and in remote communities where an FFA chapter may not be operating. Through supervised agricultural experience projects, these students are gaining hands-on experience to help our communities thrive, such as raising their own cattle herds.

Through career connections and preparation to excel, FFA continues to be an outstanding opportunity for students. With 945,988 student members nationally, which is an increase of 11 percent from last year, the number of FFA student members and chapters across the United States continues to grow.

The future of American agriculture is bright because our future farmers, ranchers, food scientists, veterinarians, product merchandisers, ag teachers, and others are eager to learn and grow.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 32 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

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#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CRAWFORD) at noon.