

living in New Jersey who are actually from North Carolina, and we had many memorable conversations about mutual friends between votes while sitting in the first and second seat waiting for 1 minutes.

New Jersey, please know that North Carolina stands with you.

Donald Payne was an encourager, and his last words to me were: You are a good man, and I want to help you. He said: Take care, and I will see you soon.

Little did I know that that would be our last conversation. His life and legacy deeply inspired all of us, and I will always cherish the moments we spent together.

Donald and his father served in the people's House for about 35 years, and we are deeply grateful for their service.

When his father passed and Donald assumed office, he once said: I am following a legacy, and I am not backing away from that.

He didn't back away from it. He continued his father's legacy. He continued to set a legacy for his three children and children across the country, and he continued the legacy by making America better.

My heart goes out to his wife, Beatrice, and the Payne family. I extend my deepest condolences to them and to New Jersey's 10th Congressional District. The flowers that now rest in the seat Donald often occupied reflect his inner beauty and radiance.

Madam Speaker, Donald's last floor speech, interestingly, was on housing out of all issues. What a way to end. What a way to remind us all that there is a house of many mansions.

Madam Speaker, I thank Donald for showing us humility, showing us meekness, showing us kindness, brightening this institution, and using his voice to advocate for the American people.

Farewell, my friend, and, yes, I look forward to seeing him soon. He will always be remembered, and we miss him dearly.

I end today with the last words Donald Payne spoke and shared on the floor. On March 22, he ended his final 1-minute speech this way: And with that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back.

#### HONORING GENERAL JACKIE DANIEL "DAN" WOOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOLINARO). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. KUSTOFF) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KUSTOFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a west Tennessee native and a true American patriot, the 73rd Adjutant General of Tennessee, Jackie Daniel "Dan" Wood.

Major General Dan Wood passed away peacefully at his home in Tennessee on April 12. Dan, as he was known, was born on Maple Street in Lexington, Tennessee. He attended Lexington City School and Lexington High School where he enjoyed playing basketball.

In 1961, Dan Wood answered the call to serve our Nation and enlisted in the United States Army.

Shortly thereafter, he deployed to Vietnam and bravely answered his call to duty.

Upon his return home, Dan enlisted in the Tennessee Army National Guard. He completed Officer Candidate School, the Tennessee Military Academy, and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1966.

General Wood went on to serve as commander of the 4th Battalion, the 117th Infantry, and the 30th Separate Armored Brigade. In 1995, Dan Wood was named as adjutant general by my friend and former Member of the House of Representatives, the late Governor Don Sundquist.

General Wood held this position until his retirement in July 2002.

As adjutant general, Dan oversaw numerous deployments of soldiers and airmen overseas, he ushered the National Guard into the 21st century, and he coordinated the Tennessee National Guard's response to the September 11 terrorist attacks.

General Dan Wood served in the military for more than 40 years. As a proud fourth-generation citizen of Henderson County and a fifth-generation Tennessean, we mourn a son of Tennessee, but we also celebrate a true American hero.

Our thoughts and prayers remain with his wife of 62 years, Janis; his son, Stuart; his daughter, Amy; and three grandchildren.

Dan Wood taught us all what it means to serve your country and to dedicate your life to preserving freedom for generations of Americans.

We truly miss him.

#### RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT GENERAL A.C. ROPER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career and achievements of Lieutenant General A.C. Roper, the first African-American, three-star general in the U.S. Army Reserve, as he celebrates his retirement from 41 years of service in the United States Army.

Lieutenant General Roper's extraordinary career began after he was commissioned in 1983 as a student at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He has an extensive military education and received master's degrees from both the University of Alabama and the U.S. Army War College.

Throughout his exemplary career, Lieutenant General Roper moved quickly up the ranks and broke down barriers for African Americans serving in the Armed Forces.

On May 14, 2021, he made history as the first African American to become a three-star general in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Most recently, he served as deputy commander of the U.S. Northern Com-

mand and vice commander of the U.S. Element, North American Aerospace Defense Command at Peterson Space Force Base in Colorado. He has received numerous awards and decorations.

Mr. Speaker, I got to know Lieutenant General Roper during his time as the chief of police for Birmingham Police Department. I was immediately impressed by his firm yet compassionate leadership style that commanded the respect of his fellow officers and endeared him to the Birmingham community.

Lieutenant General Roper's reputation has always been one of great purpose and great passion. He is an honorable man, guided by an abiding faith in God and a love of country.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the retirement of Lieutenant General A.C. Roper after 33 years in law enforcement and 41 years of military service.

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#### RECOGNIZING SMALL BUSINESS WINNERS IN ALABAMA'S SEVENTH DISTRICT

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the award-winning small business owners in Alabama's Seventh Congressional District as we celebrate National Small Business Week.

Ms. Jackie Smith is the proud owner and operator of The Coffee Shoppe and Reflections in our hometown of Selma, Alabama. After leaving her job in 2011, Jackie bravely took on the risk of opening up her own small business, turning the site that once was a segregated diner into a beautiful coffee shop in the heart of downtown Selma. For 13 years, The Coffee Shoppe has provided a place for the community to come together, learn about Selma's history, and eat some great food.

Like any businessowner, Jackie has had her fair share of hardships. After the tornado of January 12, 2023, we saw her resilience, and thanks to an investment by the SBA, she was able to open her doors and continue The Coffee Shoppe's great legacy; and, in fact, she opened up another business, Reflections.

This week, Jackie's extraordinary entrepreneurship earned her national recognition as the Small Business Administration's 2024 Phoenix Award winner for outstanding disaster recovery efforts. We congratulate her on her outstanding achievements.

Today, I also recognize SBA's 2024 Small Business Persons of the Year in Alabama: Shanna Ullmann, Timothy Ullmann, and Robert Prescott of Transformation Partners, LLC in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Beginning in the year 2000, as a statewide training provider, their firm has grown tremendously over the past two decades. Today, they serve numerous clients in the field of higher education, government, military, and corporate America, offering consulting services and employee development programming.

Transformation Partners was hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, but once again, thanks to the assistance of the SBA, the firm remained operational and weathered the storm. Now their efforts have earned them national recognition as SBA's 2024 National Small Business Persons of the Year for Alabama.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the outstanding entrepreneurship in Alabama's Seventh Congressional District. Congratulations to all of our winners. I wish them much success in the years ahead.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF REBECCA DAWN FOSTER

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the incredible life of Rebecca Dawn Foster.

Rebecca was many things to many people: a beloved daughter, sister, wife, mother, and, most recently, grandmother. Above all else, Rebecca was an amazing human being and devoted Christian who did everything to serve others and leave this world better than she found it.

Rebecca was my friend. Rebecca was born on September 30, 1968, to Wesley and Faye Neil. A native of Fentress County, Tennessee, she graduated from Clarkrange High School, where she competed on the 1983, 1984, and 1985 girls' basketball State championship teams. If she were here, she would tell you that they came that close to winning again in 1986. Memories of those wins sparked joy throughout her entire life.

Rebecca earned a bachelor of science in nursing and later a master of science in nursing informatics from Tennessee Technological University. She had a distinguished 29-year career in healthcare, most recently in the role of chief nursing officer for Cumberland Medical Center in Crossville. In 2019, she graciously agreed to take on a new occupation focused on constituent care rather than patient care as my district director for Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

Her dedication to service lives on through her family. Rebecca took enormous pride in her husband, Allen, who serves as mayor of Cumberland County, Tennessee; her daughter, Brooke, who followed in her footsteps in nursing; and her son, Shade, who is a sworn police officer for the city of Crossville. She is also survived by her beloved granddaughter, Asa Wright, and boy let me tell you, Rebecca took such joy from being with Asa. She is also survived by parents, Wesley and Faye Neil; sister, Sharon Reagan; mother-in-law, Edna Foster; daughter-in-law, Haley Foster; and son-in-law, Trevor Wright.

Rebecca had a lifelong passion for singing. She served as music director at Oak Hill Baptist Church for nearly

15 years. In fact, the Sunday before her passing, Rebecca was on stage with her daughter, singing her heart out and worshipping the Lord with the help of the pulpit to keep her balance.

There are simply few among us as special as Rebecca Dawn Foster. She was first diagnosed with cancer in 2023. During the difficult period that followed, many around her were fearful, but she chose to be faithful. Despite the intense treatments she underwent and sometimes-painful side effects that she endured, she continued to work as she was able and did so with a smile on her face. In fact, if you had talked to Rebecca anytime since last July, you were much more likely to find her smiling and showing pictures of her precious little granddaughter, Asa, than talking about her health battle. Her optimism lulled many of us into believing that there were many years ahead that we would get to enjoy our relationships with Rebecca.

The day before her passing, Rebecca shared a page from her prayer devotional on social media. It was titled "Unafraid," and based on the book of Hebrews, chapter 13, verses 5 and 6, which reads in part: "I will never leave you; I will always be by your side." Rebecca never questioned the presence of the Lord. She lived a life as a result. She knew God's plan for her was not to live in fear but to live in faith and to love others while she was here.

Rebecca knew each day and the good things in it are blessings from the Lord above. She kept cheerful faith throughout her painful health struggle. Last week, she went home to Heaven and received her eternal reward. Glory be to God for Rebecca Foster, who came into our lives, and with her talents and vivacious spirit left us forever changed for the better.

#### CHINESE ELECTRIC VEHICLES ARE A NATIONAL SECURITY THREAT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to do what I hope is part of the responsibility of a Member of Congress, which is to flag and alert for future threats that are just around the corner. For me, that threat is the potential for thousands of Chinese electric vehicles and connected vehicles coming into the U.S. marketplace.

I am a former CIA officer and a Pentagon official, and I want to flag that the prospect of thousands of Chinese-made connected vehicles coming into the country would give them a huge amount of data, high-fidelity data on things like U.S. military bases, key infrastructure facilities, like bridges and electric grid nodes, secretive locations, individual leaders even, all while China refuses to give reciprocity on that same exact data for American companies operating in China. They know exactly how sensitive the data is that can be collected off of electric and connected vehicles.

Here is the story if you think this is fantasy: In 2021, for the first time, a Chinese-connected vehicle was sold in the European Union; not that long ago, post-COVID. Already, they have nearly 25 percent of the market share in the European Union. These vehicles are much nicer than they used to be. They are underselling every single vehicle on the market there because they are subsidized by the Chinese Government.

I had the opportunity to raise this issue as a national security threat with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Army in the past couple of weeks. I wanted to ask them specifically if they think, in their national security capacity, that mapping, radar, cameras, light detection, and Bluetooth-connected software would be a threat on our facilities here and having those kinds of volumes of data.

The Secretary of Defense could not have made it more clear that this would give a potential adversary extremely detailed information for targeting, for counteracting some of our infrastructure, for going after even individual leaders.

Now, we are an open-market society. What is happening right now is these Chinese companies are getting very interested in opening facilities in Mexico and using the USMCA, or what people commonly refer to as NAFTA, to just easily come over our border. We don't have a process in place right now to vet with a national security lens these imports that are coming in, and I have a real problem with that.

I think we need to get better at understanding that the future of threats is not necessarily just tanks and fixed-wing airplanes and all those traditional things. It is data and who controls it. For me, this is an issue that I want to alert not just because I am a Michigander, and, of course, we make American vehicles in Michigan, but as a national security professional.

#### CONGRATULATING SCOTTSBURG WARRIORS BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM, CLASS 2A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mrs. HOUCHIN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to the Scottsburg Warriors boys' basketball team for their remarkable achievement in winning their first-ever Class 2A State championship this year in Indiana.

I am so proud of my hometown team. Having watched the Warriorettes achieve the State championship trophy growing up in Scottsburg in 1989, this victory was extra special.

Their hard work has paid off. Through every practice and game, these young athletes demonstrated the true spirit of teamwork and excellence. Their victory not only brings pride to the Scottsburg community, but the academic achievement and leadership