

Band Championships held in Huntsville, Alabama, on April 6.

Under the leadership of their conductor, Professor Kevin Stees, the JMU Brass Band clinched the championship section title, marking a monumental milestone in the band's 24-year history.

Their victory is a testament to the talent and hard work of the students and their conductor.

Competing against seven other top-tier bands, the JMU Brass Band emerged victorious, marking the first time a collegiate band has claimed the highest division of the competition. This accomplishment adds to the band's remarkable record at the North American Brass Band Championships, including 14 podium finishes, underscoring their consistent excellence and resilience.

Moreover, Professor Stees' outstanding leadership has not only brought glory to JMU but also secured him a distinguished place in North American Brass Band Association history as only the second conductor to win in two different sections in the same year.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my congratulations to the JMU Brass Band, Professor Kevin Stees, and the entire JMU Dukes community on this remarkable achievement.

HONORING BROADWAY LIONS CLUB

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Broadway Lions Club, which is celebrating their 70th anniversary this year.

The Broadway Lions Club was chartered in 1954 by 20 men in Broadway, all thanks to the sponsorship of the Mt. Jackson and Elkton Lions Club. Although there has been much change over the last 70 years, their mission of serving the community has remained the same.

With 40 active members from the Broadway community, the Lions Club's primary focus is on sight and hearing needs for those in the community and assisting food programs in schools for students in need.

Mr. Speaker, as a fellow Lion, I thank all members of service organizations like the Broadway Lions Club for their outstanding work to make a difference in our community. I congratulate the Broadway Lions Club for their 70 years of service to our community. We look forward to their continued contributions and success for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROCKINGHAM COUNTY BASEBALL LEAGUE

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Rockingham County Baseball League's 100th anniversary.

One of the oldest continuous baseball leagues in the country, the Rockingham County Baseball League was founded in June 1924 after J.R. "Polly" Lineweaver, who was a sportswriter for the Daily News Record, spearheaded the efforts.

At the beginning, seven communities joined the league, including Bridgewater, Briery Branch, Broadway, Day-

ton, Keezletown, Linville-Edom, and Spring Creek. They played their first games on June 28, 1924.

By 1938, the league began playing its own championship series each season. While teams have come and gone throughout the years, this league is made up of eight teams today: The Bridgewater Reds, Broadway Bruins, Clover Hill Bucks, Elkton Blue Sox, Grottoes Cardinals, Montezuma Braves, RCBL Shockers, and Stuarts Draft Diamondbacks.

As the league's 100th season begins on May 31, I am proud to honor the Rockingham County Baseball League. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the league for reaching this milestone and wishing the league continued success for years to come.

MARKING NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, as we mark National Small Business Week, it is crucial to confront the stark reality facing America's entrepreneurs under the Biden administration. The administration has imposed regulatory burdens that have escalated to an unprecedented scale, with the cost of Federal regulations soaring to \$1.3 trillion.

The small business community is now saddled with over 267 million man-hours of compliance paperwork, a stark comparison to the regulatory landscape under the Trump administration, where regulatory costs were over 45 times lower.

The economic climate continues to pose significant challenges, with persistent inflation undermining any optimism for relief.

Despite expectations, interest rate cuts remain a distant hope, forcing small businesses to halt expansion and investment plans. Inflation rates have not only been higher than anticipated but have seen recent upward revisions. Additionally, the first quarter GDP report revealed a disheartening 1.6 percent growth rate, falling short of the expected 2.4 percent.

This slowdown in consumer spending is further compounded by a 3.4 percent increase in the personal consumption expenditures price index, signaling the largest inflation surge within a year.

These figures underscore the dire circumstances confronting small businesses. The current administration's relentless regulatory assault, coupled with severe economic headwinds, is not only risking the survival of small businesses but is indicative of a broader disregard for the backbone of our economy.

We must pivot toward policies that alleviate rather than exacerbate these pressures. Our commitment must lie in fostering an environment conducive to the prosperity and growth of small businesses, which are integral to the Nation's economic vitality.

The evidence is clear, and the time for action is now. We owe it to America's entrepreneurs to implement measures that help rather than hinder their potential.

RESCHEDULING OF CANNABIS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the Biden administration announced the long-awaited rescheduling of cannabis from schedule I to schedule III.

This reschedule eliminates the vestige of the failed war on drugs started by the Nixon administration. Contrary to science, it was used for political purposes against Black Americans, young Americans.

A schedule I controlled substance, which cannabis has been for over 50 years, is one that has no medicinal value and is highly addictive. At the time the Nixon administration made that determination, they knew that that was false. It is not highly addictive, and it has, in fact, medicinal purposes. That has been demonstrated by vote after vote by Americans across the country that recognize that medical cannabis has tremendous therapeutic features.

I could not be more excited or optimistic that we are finally on the home-stretch to end the failed and misguided war on drugs. This action by the Biden administration ties together many of our initiatives, from justice to research to tax fairness, and charts the path for more progress sooner.

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One of the overhauls here is the prohibition of the State legal cannabis businesses from banking services. Every day in the United States, there are people with shopping bags full of \$20 bills that they use to pay their State taxes.

Think of it. It is outrageous. It has made these State legal cannabis businesses sitting ducks for robbery, and it severely handicaps their ability to work in a constructive fashion.

Furthermore, what is going to happen with this rescheduling is it is finally going to allow State legal cannabis businesses to fully deduct their business expenses.

Right now, due to a provision known as 280 of the tax code, these businesses are prohibited from deducting legitimate business expenses.

As a result, State legal cannabis businesses pay two, three, maybe four times more than a comparable noncannabis business. It is outrageous. It poses serious problems in terms of their profitability and being able to thrive.

These decisions are going to raise the profile of an issue very important to some of us but which has never gained the attention it deserves or the momentum that it demands.

We have made some progress here in the House. We have passed safe banking seven times with overwhelming bipartisan support, but it never could quite get across the finish line.

This rescheduling by the Biden administration is going to help us change

that, and it is going to help the almost half a million people who work in the industry, the \$40 billion a year of economic activity, eliminate the injustice, and perhaps, most of all, it will usher in a new era of protections because right now, somebody who buys their marijuana from a corner drug dealer in a park, that person has no license to lose. It doesn't check for ID.

Treating marijuana in a thoughtful fashion is going to help us solve the racial injustice that has been evidenced against Black, against young people.

It is going to be able to open up a whole array of cannabis products that will make a big difference in communities across the country.

Today's decision changes all of that, and there is no going back. In this troubled Congress, it will also pave the path for building on our bipartisan Cannabis Caucus, an example where people can come together to work on something that can unite us rather than divide us.

The rescheduling of cannabis is an important step in that direction and will have profound impacts from coast to coast.

HONORING PAUL MARSH

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

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor U.S. Army veteran and former Pima County Supervisor and my friend, Mr. Paul Marsh, for his service to our country, his advocacy for his fellow veterans, and his contributions to southern Arizona. His service in different capacities throughout the years has left a mark on our communities forever.

Paul's journey began when he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1952, bravely serving in the medical corps during the Korean war until his honorable discharge in 1954.

His commitment to his country did not end there. It continued throughout his life as he has tirelessly advocated for veterans' rights and support services, specifically those which address chronic homelessness among our veterans.

His compassion and dedication to improving the lives of his fellow veterans knows no boundaries. As a founding member of the Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery Foundation in Marana, Paul spent 10 years advocating for a final resting place for our Nation's heroes in Tucson.

Paul understood the importance of having a central location for family members to visit their loved ones and started the Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery.

Despite facing numerous challenges along the way, the Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery broke ground in 2014, thanks in large part to Paul.

A few short years later, I reconnected with Paul when I was with the State of Arizona, and the cemetery needed signage on the I-10.

Paul was determined to see it happen, and I am proud to have played a very small part in that, in his ensuring that there was visibility for the Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery in Marana.

I am grateful to Paul for his own service, his continued advocacy, and his unwavering dedication to his fellow veterans.

Paul, your work will forever inspire us to strive for a better world for all who have served our country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JACOB DINDINGER

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Jacob Dindinger, one of Arizona's brave first responders who tragically passed away on July 29, 2021. At just 20 years old, Jacob lost his life while serving our community so bravely in Tucson.

He was a graduate of CDO High School in 2019 and earned his EMT certificate in May of 2020 from Pima Community College.

Jacob's dedication to community service shined bright during his time as an EMT for American Medical Response.

Jacob had hoped to follow in the footsteps of his firefighter brother, Bryan, committed to helping others in a time of need.

He is remembered in the community as a loyal, kind, and selfless friend. He remains a true hero in the hearts of our Tucson community.

I recently met Jacob's parents, Jim and Corrine, at an event dedicated to our first responders. It is clear that they are carrying on his legacy of service and sacrifice.

We will never forget Jacob's sacrifice or the ultimate sacrifice of other first responders. His death is a reminder that our first responders risk their lives every time they put on the uniform.

We extend our gratitude for his dedicated service and are eternally thankful for his contributions.

HONORING LOUIS ANTHONY CONTER

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Lieutenant Commander Lou Conter, the last survivor of the USS *Arizona* during the attacks on Pearl Harbor.

At 102 years old, Lou passed away in his home in Grass Valley, California, surrounded by his family on April 1, 2024.

He enlisted at the age of 18 and just two short years later was at the center of the Pearl Harbor attacks on December 7, 1941.

Then quartermaster, Lou was on the deck when the ship was hit. Ultimately, 1,177 of his shipmates from the USS *Arizona* perished that day.

He went on to serve 27 years in the Navy, rising to the rank of lieutenant commander. He spent his life keeping the memories of Pearl Harbor alive, educating others and even doing interviews up until he was 100 years old.

Lieutenant Commander Conter was committed to helping others in times of need and truly loved making a difference in his community.

He leaves behind a daughter, Louann Daley; three sons, Tony, Jim, and Jeff; stepson, Ron; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

We will never forget his sacrifice or the sacrifice of his fellow sailors on the USS *Arizona*. We extend our gratitude for his dedicated service and are eternally thankful for his contributions.

ONGOING SOCIAL SECURITY ISSUES

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is great to be here this morning, and I rise to discuss the ongoing issue of Social Security.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, more than 70 million Americans rely on Social Security, and Social Security is the Nation's number one antipoverty program for the elderly and the number one antipoverty program for children.

It also, Mr. Speaker, is the number one program with regard to disability, and more veterans rely on Social Security disability than they do on the VA.

Mr. Speaker, I know that Speaker HOUCHEM was in the chair before, and part of our rising to speak about Social Security is to make people aware in their districts of how many retirees they actually have.

For example, in New York's 19th, you have 173,667 recipients. More than \$300 million comes into the 17th District in New York monthly for those recipients; 130,000 of which are retirees, 20,000 disabled workers, 8,900 widows, 4,247 spouses, and almost 10,000 children.

What is astounding, Mr. Speaker, is that Congress has done nothing. In fact, what will shock the public is that Congress has not extended the benefits of Social Security in more than 50 years.

Richard Nixon was President of the United States when Congress last acted. Imagine 10,000 baby boomers a day becoming eligible for Social Security. Yet, Congress has done nothing.

More than 70 million Americans rely on Social Security, again, the Nation's number one antipoverty program for the elderly and the number one antipoverty program for children.

Congress continues not to do what our constituents send us here to do; vote. President Biden has put out a plan. We have put out a plan called Social Security 2100 that is detailed and paid for.

This might also surprise you, too, Mr. Speaker, as I know it does many citizens, that the President's called to lift the cap on people making over \$400,000 who pay nothing into Social Security.

Imagine the workers, the more than 170,000 in your district who pay in to Social Security and have done so all throughout their lives, and yet, others pay nothing for the Nation's number