

a flight aboard the historic Stinson OY-1.

George's enthusiasm for aviation serves as a powerful reminder of the gratitude we owe to our veterans. Their commitment and sacrifices have paved the way for the freedoms and opportunities we enjoy.

As we look forward to celebrating George's 100th birthday next year, with hopes of another flight, I thank George. To all those who joined in this memorable showcase, your dedication ensures that the legacy of our Nation's heroes continues to be celebrated and remembered for generations to come.

APPLE BLOSSOM FESTIVAL CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival's 100th birthday. This year marked the 100th anniversary of the festival's establishment in 1924, despite having hosted only 97 festivals to date because of the profound impacts of World War II and, more recently, the COVID-19 pandemic.

The festival includes 10 days of events, including a carnival, dances, parades, band concerts, and parties. It attracts crowds of more than 250,000 people.

Last week, 500 people joined a celebration at James R. Wilkins, Jr. Athletics & Events Center at Shenandoah University to honor a century of tradition, resilience, and community spirit at the Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival.

Mr. Speaker, this achievement is an incredible milestone. I extend my utmost gratitude to all those who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make the Apple Blossom Festival one of the best celebrations in Virginia's Sixth District and nationwide. Year after year, their dedication has created a celebration for our community to recognize and enjoy the rich agricultural heritage of the Shenandoah Valley.

CELEBRATING OPAL LEE

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an amazing Fort Worth, Texas, and now U.S. hero, Ms. Opal Lee, better known as the grandmother of Juneteenth. She is an incredible gift to not just Fort Worth but, again, the entire Nation.

This past Friday, she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her efforts in establishing Juneteenth as a national holiday. When I say effort, I mean effort. Ms. Opal Lee, literally, at 90-plus years of age, walked across the country and took many steps, literally, to make this happen.

At 97, not only did she receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom, but she will also be receiving an honorary doctorate from Southern Methodist University at their upcoming commencement. I am so glad to see all this work that Ms. Opal Lee is doing be rewarded and recognized.

I also want to touch on a few of the other things that she is doing. She has an amazing community garden that feeds people all over Tarrant County and Fort Worth. She also has an incredible food bank that is doing similar work.

I know that everyone is watching what Ms. Lee is doing and proud of her accomplishments and just all of the fame that she has brought to Fort Worth. The United Riverside community is also proud of her, as they get to call her a neighbor.

Keep up the good work. We are proud of Ms. Lee and cannot wait until we get that museum done.

CELEBRATING CHAMPION TRACK ATHLETES ACROSS FORT WORTH

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of some of our young people in Fort Worth.

In 2024, at the Texas Relays, we had three State champions. You may have heard these names before, and it is because they were also State champions in previous meets.

First, I want to highlight Kalani Lawson from Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, who defended her State championship in the girls 4A 100-meter hurdles. She is only a junior. Not only that, she broke last year's record that had been on the books since the 1990s, and she broke her own record again this year in taking home the gold running the 100-meter hurdles in 13.89 seconds.

I also want to take the time to highlight another back-to-back champion, Fort Worth's O.D. Wyatt's Malik Franklin, who won the State championship in the class 5A boys' 400-meter, with a winning time of 47.23. Again, Malik won back-to-back championships. He is also a great student and star of the football team. You should check out some of his videos on MaxPreps. Malik is going to take his talents and continue his track career at Arizona State University. Again, we are very proud of his accomplishments.

I also want to give a shout-out to A.P. Ranch and Greg Sholars, and the coaches out there that are just bringing home those championships for north Texas and working with so many of our kids, really making north Texas one of the great areas for sprinters and distance runners.

Last but not least, I want to recognize Angel Sanchez of Diamond Hill-Jarvis High School. He had an injury last year, but he won the State championship his sophomore year. He claimed the boys 4A 3200-meter and also the mile championship.

During the 3200 meters, he posted a time of 9:14.44, which was nearly five seconds faster than the second-place finisher. In the 1600, he posted a 4:13.08, which is a new class 4A record. Angel has literally raced all around the country. He has been highlighted running in Oregon and running in many other high school meets. Upon his graduation here in a couple weeks, he is going to

be headed to Oklahoma State to continue to run. Go Pokes.

We will continue to watch Angel run while he is at Oklahoma State. I really want to congratulate him for everything that he has done for Diamond Hill-Jarvis. That entire community on the north side of Diamond Hill is just extremely proud of Mr. Sanchez and what he is doing and can't wait to continue to see him run.

□ 1030

FARM BILL PRIORITIES

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to continue calling attention to the need for Congress to pass a comprehensive 5-year farm bill that provides certainty to our agriculture producers while responding to market changes and strengthening the ag safety net.

My priorities for the next farm bill have not changed. It is in the best interests of our American farmers, ranchers, and agriculture producers to authorize a farm bill that protects and strengthens crop insurance, incentivizes agriculture trade programs that help Americans remain competitive on the global stage, and conducts rigorous oversight and rolls back overly restrictive regulation and supports agriculture research and development.

Investing in agriculture research, and, particularly, animal health research, supports our Nation's food security and ultimately our national security.

This is especially true today as the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza virus spreads across wildlife, poultry, and dairy cattle around the country.

My staff and I remain in close contact with USDA regarding the spread, and we are grateful for USDA's efforts to control the outbreak. However, it emphasizes the reality that animal health often does not get the attention that it deserves.

Luckily, HPAI has no proven impact on our country's food supply, but we are starting to see the economic impact of this virus.

Last week, Colombia became the first country to restrict US beef imports coming from States where HPAI is present.

As of yesterday, at least 22 States had issued some restrictions on the importation of dairy cattle from affected States.

By actively investing in research of animal disease, we have the opportunity to allocate resources to the prevention rather than outbreak control.

These investments serve as a more cost-effective approach to protecting our Nation's food supply by limiting animal disease and outbreaks before they spread.

For years, Kansas has led the United States in supporting global food security initiatives. Just last year, the U.S.

Department of Agriculture opened a state-of-the-art National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility in Manhattan, Kansas.

The facility will conduct research into serious animal disease threats and the potential impact of those diseases.

It is the only maximum biocontainment space in the country where USDA conducts comprehensive research, develops animal vaccines and antivirals, and explores diagnostic and training capabilities.

This facility is just down the street from my alma mater, Kansas State University, and their School of Veterinary Medicine and the Biosecurity Research Institute.

These institutions are the crown jewels of the animal health corridor, creating a scientific hub where world-renowned research happens, leading the world in agriculture research and health.

American farmers, ranchers, and agriculture producers understand that to turn a profit, we must embrace the data of innovating, adapting, and increasing efficiency.

According to USDA, agriculture research returns \$20 in benefits to the economy for every public dollar that is spent.

We save American tax dollars and the risk of disrupting our food supply chain when we adequately invest in agriculture and animal health research.

Despite this, Federal funding has declined in real dollars over the past two decades while other forms of research have increased.

If we continue down this path, we will not only hurt our agriculture producers but also American consumers, American food security, and, in turn, our national security.

We must ensure the farm bill addresses the risk to animal health and better positions us to invest in prevention rather than outbreak control.

Investing in animal health research bolsters the long-term availability of U.S. animal agriculture to be competitive in the global marketplace, provides consumers with safe, wholesome, and affordable food, and ensures agriculture thrives in America.

BUILDING GREEN

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

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, we all know that our planet is the most important thing we have, which is why we need to make the necessary investments to protect it.

I am proud to announce that I have joined forces with Senator ELIZABETH WARREN to introduce the BUILD GREEN Infrastructure and Jobs Act.

This bill is part of the Green New Deal, and it is a major step toward addressing climate change. It will invest \$500 billion over 10 years to electrify

and modernize public vehicles and trains across the country, all while building new electric transportation infrastructure in every major city in America.

It will make our transportation networks safer and cleaner from buses to trains to rail. The bill links transit investments with increasing density and affordable housing. It will also help create millions of new green jobs with strong protections for labor.

The BUILD GREEN Act is sustainable, equitable, and most importantly, necessary for protecting our future. We will continue working to combat our climate crisis and supporting a Green New Deal for every single American. Let's pass this bill now and electrify the Nation.

CELEBRATING THE CONSERVATIVE PARTNERSHIP INSTITUTE'S SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Conservative Partnership Institute, otherwise known as CPI, on their 7-year anniversary. I also welcome Ed Corrigan and Mark Meadows into the gallery to recognize this great organization.

In 2017, former Congressman and Senator Jim DeMint began this organization to be an incredible support system for conservatives in Washington, D.C.

CPI was designed to train and unite true conservative leaders in Washington and all across the country to stand up against the swamp.

I consider the CPI a safe haven, a place that feels like home for conservative lawmakers and staff to go to connect, to learn, and to brainstorm.

CPI has shown a great commitment to conservative offices, to conservative Members, to conservative staffers, and to conservative lawmakers alike.

CPI provides everything from regular training seminars on House and Senate procedures, advertisement on floor strategy, communications, budget, and much, much more.

Their vested interest in all aspects of governance plays a large role in the success we have seen from conservative offices and individuals.

The training provided by CPI is top of the line, and its positive impacts are clearly on display not only here in Washington, D.C. but in districts all across the country. Their efforts continue to ensure that we are well prepared in our fight for this great Nation.

I also want to take the time to specifically honor Jim DeMint and his lifelong and tireless fight for freedom, prosperity, and traditional American values.

Jim represented South Carolina in the House of Representatives and then in the Senate from 1999 to 2013. He led meaningful efforts such as a ban on

congressional earmarks and reclaiming control of billions of dollars of wasteful spending.

Today, he and others, including Ed Corrigan and Mark Meadows, spearhead the fight for a new generation of true conservatives.

All over America, the CPI has been a bulwark against the swamp and the support systems for conservatives looking for the right thing to do. The goal is reflected daily in the operations of CPI and the tremendous impact that it continues to spread.

I cannot thank the many patriots who have fought hard to preserve this great American system as we know it, otherwise known as freedom for we, the people.

Please join me in congratulating CPI for their excellence during the first 7 years. It means everything to me and my colleagues and our staffs to have a home at the CPI building.

I am forever grateful to Jim DeMint and others and the entire team at CPI for providing the platform for us to grow even stronger in our American ideals.

I look forward to watching them pave a path forward for true conservatives to thrive and to make America the best that it can be.

CELEBRATING TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

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

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, our teachers do not get nearly enough love. Well, maybe during COVID they did when students were all at home, and parents and families suddenly realized just how important those teachers were, but not before or since and not nearly enough.

I am very happy that it is Teacher Appreciation Week, although, honestly, I think we should be appreciating our teachers every single day.

I am so proud to honor outstanding teachers across my community in Pennsylvania's 7th starting with Ms. Jennifer Danzeisen from Palmerton Area High School in Carbon County.

Ms. Danzeisen has worked at the Palmerton School District for more than 20 years, and her students have repeatedly commended her calming presence, her heavy involvement in extracurricular activities, and her commitment to all of them.

On top of her work as the department chair for business and technology classes, she advises the Mock Trial Club and Future Business Leaders of America and coaches the tennis team.

Even while juggling numerous responsibilities, she prioritizes treating all of her students with dignity and respect.

I thank Ms. Danzeisen and all of our wonderful teachers for their commitment to shaping our next generation.

In this teacher appreciation week, I am also proud to recognize Ms. Susan Klotz from Kenneth N. Butz Jr. Elementary School in the Nazareth Area