

Report Parity Act, which I introduced with a bipartisan coalition, that requires the Coast Guard to prescribe a safe-to-report policy to protect personnel who report incidents of sexual assault or sexual harassment from being punished for minor offenses, which may hinder them reporting acts which they were victims of.

In February of this year, the Commandant, Admiral Fagan, directed the Coast Guard to establish this policy through administrative action. Our bill, which we passed last night, will actually codify the policy and make it part of the Federal U.S. Code and bring parity for the Coast Guard with the Department of Defense and its service academies, which have had this law in effect for the last 5 years.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, many victims of sexual assault hesitated to report because they feared repercussions for minor collateral misconduct. In fact, a recent Coast Guard workplace gender relations survey found that 25 percent of the female victims who chose not to report their sexual assaults were concerned that they might get in trouble for something else that they did.

This bill will firmly and finally eliminate a barrier to reporting sexual assault and harassment, taking fear of repercussions off the table.

Again, I thank Admiral Lisa Fagan for her outstanding leadership and for working diligently with me, my office, and other Members of Congress to craft this crucial policy. I also thank Chairs GRAVES and WEBSTER and Ranking Members LARSEN and CARBAJAL for their work in passing the Coast Guard authorization out of committee and bringing it to the floor last night for a successful vote.

Again, I urge my colleagues in the Senate to quickly craft their version of the bill and make sure that we codify these protections for outstanding young cadets who are going to be the future leaders of the Coast Guard for decades and decades to come.

BACK THE BLUE

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

Mr. FEENSTRA. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Police Week. It is a time to recognize and thank our police and law enforcement officers for risking their lives to protect our families.

These heroes work long hours and make incredible sacrifices to keep our communities safe, never seeking recognition or praise for what they do. We cannot thank them enough for their service to our country.

Today, we also honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty, including Algona Police Officer Kevin Cram and those who sadly passed away due to medical complications, such as Iowa State Trooper Rose Hoyt Ives, who was based in Council Bluffs for years. Our prayers remain with their families and loved ones.

In Congress, I will continue to stand with our law enforcement community and back those in blue. They deserve our deepest appreciation in all that they do.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL HOSPITAL WEEK

Mr. FEENSTRA. Mr. Speaker, during National Hospital Week, I recognize our incredible hospitals in Iowa and thank our doctors, nurses, healthcare workers, and administrators who keep our hospitals running each and every day. Their work is critical in keeping our families and communities safe and healthy.

On my 36-county tour, I met with healthcare workers and families about the importance of keeping our hospitals open and operational in our rural communities. That is why I introduced the Rural Hospital Stabilization Act, which just passed out of Ways and Means Committee, to help our hospitals meet payroll, retain quality staff, make needed improvements, and deliver exceptional care.

As a past city administrator, I can fully say that when a rural hospital closes, it is truly devastating to the community and to Iowa as a whole.

Fortunately, this bill will deliver the financial support that our hospitals need to provide high-quality healthcare to our families.

As a member of the Ways and Means Committee, I will continue to advocate for policies that keep our rural hospitals strong and vibrant and protect access to affordable, reliable healthcare in Iowa.

Again, I thank all of our healthcare workers for creating true quality care in Iowa.

RECOGNIZING DORDT UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

Mr. FEENSTRA. Mr. Speaker, on March 26, Dordt University women's basketball won the 2024 NAIA Women's Basketball National Championship.

Led by Head Coach Bill Harmsen, the Defenders defeated the University of Providence by a score of 57-53 to secure their first-ever national championship. With this championship victory, the Defenders finished the season with a nine-game winning streak and ended with a program-best 35-2 record. This is an incredible milestone in the history of this program.

I thank the head coach and the girls' basketball team for their hard work, dedication, and sportsmanship that has elevated Dordt's women's basketball team on the national stage.

I congratulate women's basketball Coach Bill Harmsen on a successful season and look forward to cheering him on in the Defenders' 2025 and 2026 seasons.

HONORING DISTINGUISHED SHERIFFS OF GEORGIA'S 10TH DISTRICT

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

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during this National Police Week to honor four Georgia sheriffs. Sheriffs Janis Mangum, Melvin Andrews, Robert Markley, and Joe Chapman are each distinguished officers from Georgia's 10th District, who, after a career of serving others, are retiring later this year.

Our law enforcement officers and first responders risk their lives every time they don their uniforms.

Mr. Speaker, in a time of the defund the police movement out there from the left, it is more important than ever that we back our men and women in blue.

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Mr. Speaker, I join millions of Americans out there in expressing my gratitude to every law enforcement officer during this National Police Week for their service, dedication, and courage. I also thank Sheriffs Mangum, Andrews, Markley, and Chapman on behalf of Georgia's 10th District.

SERGEANT DENNIS MILLS VETERAN OF THE MONTH

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

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor an extraordinary individual, Sergeant Dennis Mills, as our Veteran of the Month.

Drafted into the U.S. Marine Corps at the age of 20, Sergeant Mills exemplified bravery and dedication in some of the most difficult conditions imaginable during the Vietnam war. Assigned to the First Reconnaissance Battalion of the 1st Marine Division, he led approximately 40 reconnaissance patrols.

On a day that started as a beautiful morning on April 1, 1970, at Camp Reasoner, tragedy struck when a member of his patrol triggered a landmine.

Despite sustaining severe injuries, Sergeant Mills' courage never wavered. He was medically evacuated after suffering injuries to both legs, his left arm, and receiving shrapnel wounds to his back.

For his valor, Sergeant Mills was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" and the Purple Heart.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Sergeant Dennis Mills for his service and his sacrifice for our great Nation. He is a true hero.

SMALL BUSINESS OF THE MONTH, ENERGY TRANSPORT SOLUTIONS

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the Fourth District of Missouri's May Small Business of the Month, Energy Transport Solutions.

ETS is a customer service-focused business. It is run by an industry-experienced family that is proud to have an excellent safety record while getting the job done in Missouri. Energy Transport Solutions has been owned and operated by a father and son duo,

Glen and Eric Kolkmeier, in Bates City, Missouri, since 1955.

ETS specializes in transportation of refined fuels, propane, jet and aviation fuel, and anhydrous ammonia. ETS has been in the propane industry for over 68 years and has continued to be a reliable company to haul our community's products. By the way, they also haul the fuel for the B-2 Stealth bomber at Whiteman Air Force Base.

We are so grateful for Energy Transport Solutions' support as we continue to support them. It is an honor to watch them go out of their way to hire and support veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Energy Transport Solutions on the well-deserved recognition of Small Business of the Month in the Fourth Congressional District of the great State of Missouri. Keep up the great work.

PRESIDENT BIDEN'S ULTIMATUM TO ISRAEL

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern over the President's ultimatum to the State of Israel.

Having recently visited Israel on the border with Gaza, I fully grasp the gravity of the situation right now. I witnessed the resolve of the Jewish people. Never have I seen such determination from a country and its people as I have there in the State of Israel. Their resolve is strong. They are resilient and ready to finish the job, bring the hostages home, and eradicate Hamas.

The White House's decision to halt weapons shipments to Israel is wrong, Mr. Speaker. It is just plain wrong. When the going gets tough, you do not abandon friends and allies. They are our greatest ally in the Middle East.

It is unacceptable that Hamas still holds Americans and others hostage. This could be over today, Mr. Speaker, if Hamas would release the hostages and surrender. We must help Israel eradicate Hamas. We must remove them from that region by any force necessary.

I call on the President of the United States and Secretary of Defense Austin to immediately lift the blockade and resume shipments to Israel. The future of the region depends upon it.

There is no excuse for pausing the weapons. It is an attempt to strong-arm Israel. The Biden administration has crossed the line.

Mr. Speaker, I can say with certainty that while the Biden administration does not stand with Israel, the American people do.

ALLEGHANY HIGHLANDS PUBLIC SCHOOL 2024 EMPLOYEE HALL OF FAME CLASS

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor an extraordinary group of educators and staff whose dedication has profoundly impacted the Alleghany Highlands com-

munity. This group was selected as the seven inaugural inductees into the Alleghany Highlands Public Schools Division Employee Hall of Fame.

This distinguished class, announced on May 9, symbolizes the unwavering commitment to excellence that defines our educators in Virginia's Sixth District. These individuals: Helen Harris, Brenda Holloway, Harold Lambert, the late Katharine Nicely, Donna Vaughn, Archie Wells, and Linda Williams, have each dedicated over 20 years of their lives fostering a nurturing environment for learning within the Alleghany County, Covington City, and Clifton Forge school divisions.

Their roles range from teachers of English, French, science, and art to counselors, coaches, and even a beloved custodian.

Each, in their unique way, has contributed significantly to the educational fabric of our community, guiding countless students toward achieving their full potential. Their legacy, now forever enshrined in the Alleghany Highlands Public Schools Division Employee Hall of Fame, reminds us all of the transformative power of education.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate all of them on this well-deserved honor and I thank them for their significant contributions to education in the Commonwealth and Alleghany Highlands.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY TRAVEL ASSOCIATION

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate an incredible milestone, the 100th anniversary of the Shenandoah Valley Travel Association, one of the oldest tourism organizations in the region.

Founded in 1924, the SVTA has played a pivotal role in showcasing the Shenandoah Valley's unparalleled beauty, cultural richness, and historic legacy.

Through collaboration with local businesses and national parks, the SVTA has consistently highlighted what makes the Shenandoah Valley special.

In honoring the SVTA's 100th anniversary, we recognize the profound impact that dedicated organizations and individuals can have in promoting the unique beauty and history of the Shenandoah Valley. Their efforts enrich our Commonwealth and indeed our country.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my congratulations to the Shenandoah Valley Travel Association on this significant anniversary and wish them another 100 years of success.

RECOGNIZING HELEN ZEBARTH OF BLUE RIDGE HOSPICE

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor a remarkable individual from Virginia's Sixth District, Helen Zebarth of Winchester, and her monumental legacy. She changed the face of end-of-life care in our community through the founding of Blue Ridge Hospice.

In recognition of her incredible impact, the Helen Zebarth Legacy Soci-

ety was established, symbolizing our community's ongoing commitment to support the mission of this noble organization.

Helen was inspired to establish the hospice here in Winchester after her experiences in England, demonstrating her foresight and dedication to serving others. It is awe-inspiring to witness how her vision of providing compassionate care at life's end has grown from serving 30 patients in 1974 to over 10,000 by 2014, with the numbers continuing to increase.

By acknowledging the substantial impact of Helen Zebarth and Blue Ridge Hospice on our community, we are all encouraged to support such essential organizations. Their work not only enriches our community, but also offers comfort to families during their most difficult times, exemplifying the utmost in human kindness and unity.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Helen Zebarth for her many years of success and for founding an organization that continues to shine as a beacon of hope and care in our cherished community.

CELEBRATING JACKSON RIVER TECHNICAL CENTER'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hub of education and workforce development in the Alleghany Highlands, the Jackson River Technical Center, as it celebrates 50 years of outstanding service to our community.

Established in 1974 as the Jackson River Vocational Center, JRTC has since flourished into a beacon of opportunity and growth, playing a pivotal role in the education landscape of the Alleghany Highlands Public Schools.

Over the years, JRTC has evolved to meet the changing demands of the workforce, offering a broad spectrum of programs that include automotive, building management, carpentry, culinary arts, drafting and design, early childhood education, electricity, marketing, nurse aide/health assistant, and welding.

Through these programs, JRTC ensures that our students are not just prepared for the jobs of today but are also poised to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all those educators, staff, and students, past and present, for their dedication and hard work. Their efforts have made JRTC a symbol of success in our community for 50 years. May they continue to inspire, educate, and empower for many more years to come.

HONORING AMERICA'S POLICE OFFICERS

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, this week marks National Police Week, a time dedicated to honoring America's courageous police officers who stand on the front lines to ensure our safety.

While certain voices on the left have demonized our police officers these past several years, it is important that we recognize and remember the profound sacrifices these men and women make protecting our communities every day.