

Washington State, which he accomplished in just 85 days. This list of summits is known as the Bulger List or the Bulger 100.

Okerlund turned 21 this past March, making him the youngest person ever to complete the Bulger List. He started his climbing journey just 2 years prior, when he became inspired by the stories of other young people who had competed in the 100 summits.

Andrew's meticulous planning and grit was evident throughout his trek. From precise meal planning to his high standards for climbing partners, each decision made in the 85 days was deliberate.

Andrew Okerlund's accomplishment is a testament to his dedication and strength. I applaud him for such an impressive feat.

ANGELINA RODRIGUEZ-CALDWELL NAMED STEM  
RISING STAR

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Angelina Rodriguez-Caldwell, a freshman at Kelso High School. Angelina was just named the Southwest Washington STEM's Rising Star in recognition of her work as an active member in her school's medical club, known as ClubMED. Her time in ClubMED has allowed her to participate as well as lead a variety of events and conferences.

This upcoming school year, Angelina will serve as the ClubMED president, allowing her educational opportunities to continue to grow in the medical field. Her teachers have shared that she excels in communication, work ethic, and spirit, rising to challenges above her grade level.

Angelina Rodriguez-Caldwell has made her teachers and community extremely proud. I have no doubt that this is just the beginning. Her success with ClubMED shows how much students can accomplish when they are given the tools to work on issues they are interested in. I congratulate Angelina. I can't wait to see what she accomplishes next.

PSP SHUTS DOWN SHELLFISH FISHING IN  
WILLAPA BAY

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a recent harmful spike in paralytic shellfish poisoning, known as PSP, that has partially shut down shellfish fishing in Willapa Bay.

The PSP biotoxin is caused by a harmful microorganism that can spread in coastal waters. This spike was the first to cause commercial closures in Willapa Bay since 1997.

The shellfish industry plays a critical role in southwest Washington's economy and ecosystem. However, due to this outbreak, most commercial shellfish farming was halted for over 10 days, costing growers, their families, and employees financial hardship and challenges.

Testing requirements have put constraints on growers, and shutting down harvesting operations has threatened the jobs of hundreds of southwest Washingtonians. Imagine what 10 days of lost pay would do to your ability to

pay rent or make a payment on your car.

I stand by the shellfish farmers during this difficult time. Local farmers are a staple in southwest Washington, and it is essential that they get the support they need to be able to continue their operations. My staff and I are closely monitoring the situation as more information is discovered.

REMEMBERING MAYOR ROB GORDON

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mayor Rob Gordon of Bucoda, who recently passed away after battling stomach cancer.

Mayor Gordon was born in Centralia and remained a lifelong resident of southwest Washington. Before and during his tenure as mayor, Gordon was the assistant chief of the Bucoda Fire Department and has been serving as a firefighter since the age of 16.

In addition to serving the public, Mayor Gordon also worked for his family's company that he co-owned with his brother, where he drove dump and log trucks. Outside of work, he enjoyed raising cattle on his family farm, collecting old International tractors, and teaching these skills and values to his children, Jakob and Anna.

Mayor Gordon was the epitome of a servant leader, and the impact he had on our community cannot be overstated. He was old school, tough, fair-minded, and at times reserved, but he always gave people the chance to be the best version of themselves.

This loss will be felt by many, and his life of service and dedication to Bucoda will echo forever. My thoughts are with his family, Miriam, Jakob, and Anna and loved ones grieving this devastating loss.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF REVEREND JAMES LAWSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOLINARO). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Reverend James Lawson, a pioneering civil rights activist whose enduring commitment to unity and nonviolence shaped our Nation. He was a beloved constituent of the 37th Congressional District.

As a young missionary, Reverend Lawson traveled to India, where he studied under Mahatma Gandhi. It was during this trip that he developed his guiding philosophy of civil disobedience, one that would inspire a generation of activists.

In the 1960s and 1970s, Reverend Lawson led nonviolent workshops with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference as the organization worked to desegregate the South. In 1974, he moved to Los Angeles and was named senior pastor of Holman United Methodist Church, also in my district, a largely Black congregation of 2,700. He preached for 25 years, leaving an enormous impact on the south L.A. community.

Reverend Lawson's visionary leadership changed the course of American history. At a time when tensions are escalating at home and abroad, his guidance will be deeply missed. He was a mentor to so many and a blessing to so many more.

Please join me in honoring his legacy and the values that he championed during his lifetime.

HONORING BASKETBALL LEGENDS JERRY WEST  
AND BILL WALTON

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacies of two L.A. basketball legends, Jerry West and Bill Walton, who both changed the game in their own rights.

Jerry West was a man of many names: The Logo, Mr. Clutch, Mr. Outside, and Zeke from Cabin Creek. He was also a man of many titles: player, coach, scout, and general manager, all for my Los Angeles Lakers.

After a stellar college career in his home State, at West Virginia University, West was drafted second overall to the Lakers, beginning a career that would span over 40 years. As a player, West dominated the backcourt, garnering all-star honors in each of his 14 playing seasons and bringing home a championship in 1972.

Upon his retirement, he came back to the Lakers as a head coach, then scout, and finally as an executive, where he truly thrived. West constructed the Lakers' 1980's Showtime dynasty, which helped bring the NBA into the mainstream, and won five championships.

Toward the end of his tenure as general manager, he orchestrated the trade for Kobe and signed Shaq, leading to a championship in his final season with the Lakers and setting them up to complete a three-peat with two more in the following two seasons.

While West later pursued other opportunities in the NBA, he will forever be a Los Angeles legend for his fierce loyalty and contributions to the team and our city.

A California native, Bill Walton was recruited to UCLA by the illustrious John Wooden, where he went on to lead the Bruins to two consecutive 30-0 seasons and two NCAA championships, earning the honor of Naismith College Player of the Year three times. While I am a Trojan for life, I have to respect that.

Walton then went on to have an equally impressive career in the NBA, leading the Portland Trail Blazers to their first title in 1977 and following up that season by taking home the NBA MVP. I won't go into further detail, but he did later win another title with a certain team from Massachusetts in 1986.

Walton's entire career is a story of perseverance. Throughout his basketball career, he battled injuries to support his teams the best he could, and following his playing career, Walton overcame a stutter to become a celebrated broadcaster.

After living all across the U.S., he never let the California free spirit in

him wane. He was a committed antiwar advocate, devoted Deadhead, and he fought to preserve the PAC-12 until the end.

Please join me in honoring the legacies of these two L.A. legends.

#### CELEBRATING THE NEGRO LEAGUES

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

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Major League Baseball's Tribute to the Negro Leagues, which will take place at the historic Rickwood Field in Birmingham, Alabama, beginning Tuesday, June 18, 2024, and culminating with an MLB game, the Giants versus the Cardinals on Thursday, June 20.

Built in 1910, Birmingham's historic Rickwood Field is the oldest professional baseball field in the United States. For 36 years, it served as the official home to the Birmingham Black Barons of the Negro Leagues, and to this day, it continues to stand as a living monument of baseball history.

For decades, the Black Barons were a beacon of excellence in Birmingham's community. Between 1943 and 1948, they racked up a win percentage of more than 60 percent and captured three Negro League pennants.

At the height of Jim Crow segregation, the success of the Black Barons at Rickwood Field galvanized and united Birmingham's Black community. The stands were always overflowing with fans eager to cheer on their favorite team.

Over the years, Rickwood Field has hosted a number of baseball giants, including Willie Mays from Fairfield, Alabama, Satchel Paige, Jackie Robinson, Hank Aaron, Josh Gibson, and of course Birmingham's own Black Baron, Reverend William Greason, who at the age of 99 continues to give back to his Birmingham community as pastor of Bethel Baptist Church Berney Points.

With the help of Major League Baseball, Rickwood Field has undergone major renovations. Beginning on Tuesday, June 18, it will host a series of events to pay tribute to the Negro Leagues and to recognize the contributions of African Americans to baseball history. On June 18, Rickwood Field will host a Minor League contest between the Birmingham Barons and the Montgomery Biscuits.

On Wednesday, June 19, to commemorate Juneteenth, I will honor the Negro Leagues by hosting a tribute to William Greason, our 99-year-old constituent, who played for the Birmingham Black Barons from 1948 to 1951, at 1 p.m. at the Bethel Baptist Church Berney Points. Later that day, the Birmingham community will join together with MLB for a celebrity softball game in celebration of Juneteenth.

The events will culminate with a special regular season game between the St. Louis Cardinals and the San Fran-

cisco Giants on Thursday, June 20. It will be the first MLB game played at a Negro Leagues stadium in America's history.

As we gather to celebrate Juneteenth, I can think of no more befitting time to honor the Negro Leagues. I look forward to welcoming Major League Baseball and my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus to Birmingham, Alabama, for a time of reflection and celebration.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Major League Baseball for their tribute to the Negro Leagues at Rickwood Field. Let's play ball.

#### THE CASE AGAINST EARMARKS

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, Citizens Against Government Waste has released its "2024 Congressional Pig Book," documenting the fiscal rot that is taking place with congressional earmarks.

CAGW documents 8,222 congressional earmarks in last year's appropriations bills. That is up more than 11 percent in a single year, costing taxpayers \$22.7 billion, the fifth highest amount of earmark spending since CAGW began tracking it in 1991.

I thank Tom Schatz and his staff for continuing to shine the light on one of Congress' most tawdry and wasteful practices, in which individual Congressmen bypass merit-driven competition and instead personally direct spending to pet projects in their own districts or to favored supporters.

CAGW notes that "Earmarks continue to provide the most benefit to the most powerful legislators. In fiscal year 2024, the 90 members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, making up only 17 percent of the Congress, were responsible for 42.2 percent of the earmarks and 35.2 percent of the money." One House Appropriations member grabbed 13 earmarks, costing taxpayers a quarter of a billion dollars.

Although all spending bills start in the House, and the voters elected a Republican House for that reason, Democrats received three-quarters of the earmarks, 8,571 to the Republicans 2,931. They are all bad, though.

Since the Magna Carta, it has been a settled principle of good governance that the power to spend money should be separate from the power to appropriate it. That is at the heart of our constitutional separation of powers: The President spends money but cannot appropriate it, and Congress appropriates money but cannot spend it.

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Earmarks combine these two powers, and the inevitable result is waste, logrolling, porkbarrel spending, and, ultimately, corruption. It is no coincidence that so many of the congressional

scandals involving political corruption or laughably absurd projects are the result of earmarks.

Worthy projects in open competitive bidding don't need earmarks. They rise or fall on their own merits. If there is such a thing as a good earmark, the price to be paid is all of the bad ones, and that is a high price, indeed.

Members can and should advocate for their districts and make the case for projects they deem worthy of the money that Congress has appropriated. The problem with earmarks is blurring these two roles and having individual Members both advocate and decide.

Many say they don't trust this President and his deputies to administer these funds appropriately and evenhandedly, and I share that sentiment. If you don't trust the President to administer the funds that we appropriate, then don't give him the money.

We hear that earmarks simply ensure that local governments get a fair break. No. What they actually do is turn the Federal budget into a grab bag for local pork spending by the most powerful Members of Congress and undermine the central tenet of federalism that local projects should be financed by local communities and Federal spending reserved for the Nation's general welfare.

When a local government proposes an earmark, what is it saying? It is saying the project is so low on its priority list that they don't dare spend their own taxpayers' money. Yet, they are perfectly happy to have taxpayers in other communities foot the bill.

The result is a long list of dubious projects that rob St. Petersburg to pay St. Paul for projects that St. Petersburg doesn't benefit from and that St. Paul doesn't deem worthy enough to spend its own money on.

Finally, it is said that earmarks can grease legislation by buying off the votes of individual Members. Add a few local projects for that Member, and suddenly, a bill he would never vote for on its merits becomes a local imperative, overriding his sound judgment. Explain to me exactly how that is a good thing.

Paying interest on the national debt now exceeds our entire defense spending for the first time in our history, and history warns us that countries that bankrupt themselves aren't around very long. If we are going to avoid the terrible fate of so many nations before ours, we have to end congressional profligacy, and earmarks are the most glaring example of that waste.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Citizens Against Government Waste for continuing to expose the excesses and inequities of earmarks and to hold accountable those politicians from both parties who are responsible.

#### CELEBRATING PRIDE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. RAMIREZ) for 5 minutes.