

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Pride Month, I rise today to honor Lisa Isadora Cruz, a passionate and committed advocate for the trans community in my district and beyond.

Born in Puerto Rico, Lisa, like many of our trans neighbors, faced systemic and social challenges that motivated her to create and strengthen networks of community care, solidarity, and support.

She eventually moved to Chicago, where she has committed herself to supporting marginalized communities, especially the LGBTQ+ community of color, through her work in health services, mental health care, and housing.

In addition to the gratitude of her community, Lisa's advocacy has earned numerous awards, including the Transgender Leadership Award, the Rosa Parks Equality Award, and inclusion in Chicago's LGBT Hall of Fame.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, I am proud to commend Lisa Isadora Cruz for courageously inspiring us to live our truth and for encouraging, supporting, and celebrating our communities.

HONORING ERIKA L. SANCHEZ

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Erika L. Sanchez, a writer rooted in Illinois-03 whose work has profoundly impacted literature and culture in our district and beyond.

The daughter of Mexican immigrants, Erika's works of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction have moved so many eager readers. Her young adult novel, "I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter," shares Julia's story, a story shared by many children of immigrants as she navigates family expectations, mental health struggles, and cultural stereotypes. Her beautiful story will now find a new life as a film directed by America Ferrera and screen-written by Linda Yvette Chavez.

This Immigrant Heritage Month, I am grateful for storytellers like Erika who invite us into a deeper understanding of our immigrant experiences and encourage young people through art and literature.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, I commend Erika Sanchez for her skill, for her creativity, and for her commitment to telling our stories.

COMMENDING ALEES EDWARDS

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the one and only Alees Edwards, a leader bringing diverse communities together in our shared struggle for justice and freedom.

From West Humboldt Park, Alees is the founder and executive director of Drawn Out Ministries, a nonprofit providing hope and transitional housing for women returning to the community from prison. She is also a member of Westside Rising, Chicagoland United in Prayer, and Westside Community Leadership Fellows, and she is a councilmember for the 11th Police District, where she works to redefine community safety and hold the Chicago Police Department accountable to the people.

As we observe Juneteenth, I appreciate Alees' leadership in the 1865 Fest Coalition, bringing critical awareness to the day's significance and the struggle for Black liberation.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, I commend Alees Edwards for her dedication to community and her relentless fight for our collective leadership.

CONGRATULATING BINGHAMTON BLACK BEARS

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

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Binghamton Black Bears on winning this year's Commissioner's Cup Championship. Not only is this the team's first title in franchise history, but it is also the first time a professional team has brought back a championship to Binghamton since 2011.

Binghamton, New York, is a hockey town, and we are grateful to the Black Bears for choosing our city to plant their roots in 2021. We are even more proud to call ourselves champions.

Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to attend a game ending in a thrilling overtime victory, and I have to say that my wife, Corinne, and my kids, Abigail, Elias, and Theo, still haven't stopped talking about that game.

Like the city of Binghamton, this team is gritty and resilient, and it is reflective of our city. That was clear to me then and even more apparent upon watching their incredible playoff run.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in congratulating the Black Bears and its ownership group led by Andreas Johansson, Head Coach Brant Sherwood, and the entire staff on the ice and in the back office. Of course, we extend our appreciation and congratulations to the Binghamton Black Bears players led by captain Tyson Kirkby.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate our Binghamton Black Bears and the city of Binghamton.

NDAA DISAPPOINTMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Ms. SHERRILL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my deep disappointment in what my colleagues on the far right have done with this year's National Defense Authorization Act.

Instead of building on the bipartisan work we achieved in the Armed Services Committee, they have loaded up the bill with MAGA culture war amendments and refused to allow a vote on amendments that would improve the quality of life for servicemembers, their families, and the American people.

For centuries, a cornerstone of the American people's trust in our military has been reinforced by laws like the Posse Comitatus Act, which provides a guarantee that our Armed Forces are there to protect them, not police them.

There are dangerous gaps in the laws that govern National Guard deployment. Every year since the former President first abused these laws to suppress protests in Washington, D.C., I have introduced an amendment to make sure that any future President cannot skirt these important laws.

If elected to another term, Donald Trump has promised to be a dictator on day one and has outlined his intent to weaponize the military and law enforcement to go after his political opponents. I can't say I am surprised that this year the House is refusing to even debate this amendment.

I am also deeply concerned by the turn this bill took when it comes to our servicewomen. When I was first commissioned 30 years ago at the Naval Academy, there were many who argued against women serving in leadership positions. People circulated James Webb's op-ed titled: "Women Can't Fight." They said women couldn't withstand the g-force of F-15s like men could.

In fact, the Chief of Naval Operations at the time said women wouldn't be serving on submarines in his lifetime and received a standing ovation from the brigade of midshipmen.

By the time I graduated, things were changing. My class of 1994 was the first eligible to serve in most combat roles, so I got my wings. I became a helicopter pilot and helicopter commander, and I flew missions across the globe.

It is that opportunity that allowed me to eventually become a Member of Congress, the fact that I was given the opportunity to lead, serve, and climb the ranks in pursuit of a shared mission. It is because of that progress that we finally have the first woman Chief of Naval Operations and member of the Joint Chiefs. We have the first female commander of an aircraft carrier, my classmate, and the first woman superintendent of the Naval Academy.

Today, I see my Republican colleagues trying to take us backward, offering amendments to strip women's ability to serve in combat roles, to make our military less inclusive for Black, Brown, and LGBTQ servicemembers, and to repeal the Pentagon's policy that allows servicewomen to be reimbursed for travel to get an abortion.

Frankly, it is like we are living in The Upside Down. These policies will not make our military stronger. It will make it harder to recruit and retain talented Americans who simply want to serve our country, just like I did.

Today, after the fall of Roe, we are sending servicewomen and their families to serve in States with draconian abortion laws, States like Texas, which has the 49th worst reproductive care in the Nation.

These are orders. They don't have a choice of where they want to serve. If

we are going to tell them to serve in Texas or Florida, we should, at a bare minimum, ensure that they have the baseline reproductive care and rights that they deserve.

We send servicewomen overseas to risk their lives for their country. We should not be sending them to Texas or Florida or Idaho to risk their lives giving birth.

That is why I offered an amendment to codify the DOD's travel policy, an amendment to ensure that military service providers know the care they are legally obligated to provide servicewomen and their families, an amendment to ensure that servicewomen know the care they are entitled to regardless of where they are stationed, and an amendment to ensure that the military can provide emergency care to servicewomen, including medically necessary abortions. It is why I offered an amendment to lift restrictions on the DOD, so military facilities have the freedom to perform abortions.

Guess what? All of these amendments were ruled out of order by my far-right MAGA colleagues on the Rules Committee. In the greatest deliberative body in the world, my Republican colleagues wouldn't even bring these up for a debate or a vote. They would rather tuck their plans away in Trump's Project 2025 or a speech to the Susan B. Anthony List rather than debate them on the merits or go on the record with their votes.

Mr. Speaker, I know, as a veteran, that we must do better for servicemembers and military families, but today's bill has once again been hijacked by the far right, not to improve our military or national security, but to drive an agenda that makes America look small, attacks women, and ultimately will be detrimental to the greatest fighting force in the world.

CONGRATULATING MICHAEL MCKEE

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Michael McKee on being the recipient of the 2024 John van Hengel Fellowship Award.

Feeding America presents this award to an executive of a partner food bank for excellence in leadership, local impact, national influence, and entrepreneurial spirit in the area of hunger relief.

For over a decade, Michael has served as the CEO of the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, which distributes food to one of the largest regions in Virginia. He has overseen the food bank's tremendous growth, including expanded warehouse capacity, thousands of people served each month, and millions of pounds of food distributed each year.

During COVID, Michael ensured that vulnerable populations, such as chil-

dren, seniors, and immigrants, continued to have access to nutritious food. More recently, his innovative partnerships include collaborating with Sentara RMH to launch a new online directory of food assistance resources and with the National Association of Letter Carriers in a successful Stamp Out Hunger campaign.

Mr. Speaker, I once again congratulate Michael for the national recognition of his efforts and tireless advocacy to end hunger in our part of Virginia.

CONGRATULATING DEBBIE MARTIN

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Debbie Martin of Frederick County Middle School for being named the Discovery Education Educator of the Year.

This distinguished award recognizes educators who demonstrate unwavering commitment to student achievement, innovative teaching practices, and unique contributions to learning. Debbie Martin exemplifies all of these qualities and more.

Discovery Education offers digital classroom resources, including podcasts, science experiments, videos, and articles, which Debbie Martin has utilized in her own classroom to shape the next generation of Virginians.

After 28 years of teaching in Frederick County, including 21 years at Frederick County Middle School, Debbie announced her retirement at the end of the school year.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Debbie Martin for her well-deserved recognition and thank her for her years of devotion to the students of Frederick County.

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CELEBRATING THE GEORGE WASHINGTON HOTEL'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate The George Washington Hotel in Winchester, Virginia, as it celebrates its remarkable 100th anniversary.

Since its opening in 1924, "The GW" has stood as a beacon of hospitality and splendor. Located at the intersection of East Piccadilly and North Cameron Streets, it was once the tallest building in Winchester.

For half a century, The GW flourished as a premier luxury destination. By 1978, it had transformed into an assisted living facility before closing its doors 1993. In 2003, The George Washington Hotel was purchased and underwent a meticulous restoration. By 2008, the hotel once again opened its doors, rejuvenating its historic grandeur.

Today we honor The George Washington Hotel's first century, celebrating its enduring legacy of resilience and charm. Congratulations to The GW on reaching this significant milestone. Here's to another hundred years of exceptional hospitality and profound success.

CONGRATULATING CLARKE COUNTY 4-H POULTRY JUDGING JUNIOR TEAM

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary achieve-

ment of the Clarke County 4-H Poultry Judging Junior Team. For the third consecutive year, these outstanding young Virginians won first place at the State level.

Among this talented group of fourth to eighth graders were Samuel Sinclair, Josiah Sinclair, Molly Solich, Brendan Whalen, and Finn Whalen.

The team won the 2024 State 4-H/FFA Poultry Evaluation Contest in Harrisonburg, Virginia, which consisted of evaluating eggs, patties, live birds, and ready-to-cook birds.

Under the guidance of their coach, Brian Cather of Clarke County, these students have been practicing since February, preparing rigorously for the statewide competition. Their hard work and commitment are truly commendable.

Please join me in congratulating these remarkable 4-H members and their coach for this extraordinary accomplishment.

BIDEN'S WEAK IMMIGRATION EXECUTIVE ORDER

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Biden administration rolled out another ineffective executive order supposedly aimed at securing our border. This executive order claimed that the U.S.-Mexico border would shut down once illegal crossings hit 2,500 per day. That would result in nearly 1 million additional illegals crossing over the border during the next year.

The American people deserve more than an election-year stunt that won't actually secure our borders.

For the past 3½ years, Biden has failed his responsibility to the American people to secure our borders and safeguard our national security. Instead, Biden and his administration have taken over 60 executive actions to open our borders and completely dismantle one of the most secure borders our country has ever had.

The chaos unleashed by Biden's policies has turned every community into a border community whether in the form of rising crime, the fentanyl crisis, or massive strains on our hospitals, schools, and other community services.

Mr. Speaker, it is far past time that we hold the Biden administration accountable for its complete dereliction of duty to secure our borders. The executive order is nothing but a desperate ploy to boost Biden's poll numbers ahead of November. The American people deserve an administration that will put their safety and concern first by implementing actual solutions to this border crisis, not political theatrics.

HONORING ROBERT HUGHES

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday two basketball legends were lost. One of those basketball legends was from Fort Worth, Texas, better known as the "Mayor of Stop Six," and that was Coach Robert Hughes.

Coach Robert Hughes was the winningest boys high school basketball