

physical fitness, and aerospace education. Evan has dedicated his life to service, and this award is well-deserved.

I met with Evan and his fellow cadets earlier this year. Evan stands out. He stood out from the group because of his patriotism and his passion for aviation.

Evan is not the only member, however, of the Ekstrand family to be involved in the Civil Air Patrol. Until recently, Evan's mom, Tami, served as the deputy commander for cadets of the Civil Air Patrol, St. Croix Squadron.

I congratulate Evan, again, and I wish him, his fiancée, and his family all the best.

CHICANO-CHICANA HERITAGE MONTH

(Mr. CORREA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize August as Chicano-Chicana Heritage Month and to celebrate the contributions of millions of Chicanos in Orange County and across this great Nation.

Mexican Americans have used this term, "Chicano-Chicana," to address common historical, cultural, and economic struggles in this great country.

Today, Chicanos are the largest ethnic minority in this great country. We are doctors, lawyers, scientists, teachers, police officers, and soldiers. We have fought in all wars defending this great country, and many Chicano-Chicana veterans are among the most highly decorated soldiers in this great country. Many are part of the Greatest Generation, like my constituent Ventura Hernandez, a proud World War II veteran who fought in Patton's Army and came back and built this great Nation.

Today, with this resolution, we acknowledge and recognize Chicano-Chicana Heritage Month and their contributions to this great country. We encourage young people to learn more about American history.

RECOGNIZING MELODY AND RACHEL STEINER

(Mr. MILLER of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Melody and Rachel Steiner, the Sunbow 57 Girls who sell cotton candy and homemade cookies at farmers markets across our district and northeast Ohio.

I met Melody at the Downtown Wooster Farmers Market, where she is using her business proceeds to save up for aviation school.

One of my biggest priorities in Congress has been career and technical education. I know how badly we need more pilots and aviation workers. I am proud to have young leaders in my dis-

trict pursuing their dreams and securing the future of the American workforce.

Small businesses are the foundation of our economy, as over 99 percent of United States businesses are small businesses. Whether you run a cotton candy stand or a local factory, the United States is rightfully called the land of opportunity, and the American Dream is alive and well.

I am grateful for the hard work, ingenuity, and dedication of entrepreneurs like Melody and Rachel in northeast Ohio who make our communities great places to live.

MARKING ANNIVERSARY OF MAUI FIRES

(Ms. TOKUDA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, in 2 weeks, we will observe the 1-year anniversary of last August's fires on Maui.

We will honor the lives of 102 loved ones lost and never stop looking for the 2 still missing. We will remember the neighborhoods, businesses, and, of course, the town of Lahaina that we will always love.

Even as we look back, we look ahead. In a few months, the last of the debris will be removed. Already, properties are being rebuilt, and a long-term recovery plan is being developed with extensive community input.

As we prepare to leave for the August recess, our work is not done. Disasters continue to strike, and we must deliver supplemental funding to help communities like Maui recover. This is how we best honor their grit and strength, by giving them hope for the long road ahead.

I never expected as a freshman Member of Congress that a historic disaster would occur and so drastically reshape my work here. Yet, as our Maui "family," "ohana" reflects on the past year and courageously faces the future, my commitment to them remains unwavering, and I continue to be with them every step of the way.

HONORING PRIVATE HENRY "HANK" WEBB AS VETERAN OF THE MONTH

(Mr. BURCHETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Private Henry "Hank" Webb, an American hero.

He was raised by a sharecropper, Dust Bowl Okie family who fled Oklahoma to California in 1943 in search of work. After arriving in Wasco, California, he lived and worked for 3 years in a migrant worker labor camp.

He served in the Army for 3 years and spent most of his time in Germany with an artillery unit. After the Army, he returned to college and earned his

degree in criminal justice from the University of California, Berkeley.

After graduating from college in June 1960, he entered the U.S. Border Academy, where he graduated at the top of his class. He proudly served as a Border Patrol agent for 2 years.

In 1962, he was hired as a special agent by the "once proud," his words, FBI, where he served for 25 years. He received many awards and assisted in protecting President Johnson in Mexico City and President Nixon in California.

After retiring, he continued to work in law enforcement in Texas. When he left law enforcement, he and his family moved to Tennessee.

Our country's heroes are the men and women of our Armed Forces, Mr. Speaker, like Private Webb.

It is my honor to recognize Private Henry "Hank" Webb as Tennessee's Second District's July 2024 Veteran of the Month.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JANA BOMMERSBACH

(Mr. STANTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of a legendary Arizona journalist and trailblazer, Jana Bommersbach, who passed away on July 17.

When Jana started at The Arizona Republic in the 1970s, she was one of just six female reporters in the newsroom. She worked her way up from reporter to editor, first at The Republic and later at the Phoenix New Times.

Because of her dogged reporting, the Arizona Press Club named her Arizona Journalist of the Year and honored her with its top investigative journalism prize, the Don Bolles Award, many times.

One of those award-winning stories turned into her hit book, "The Trunk Murderess," which revisited the story of Winnie Ruth Judd and a more than 60-year-old murder case. Jana earned the trust of the elderly Judd, getting her to tell her side of the story for the very first time.

That was Jana, reporting on true crime before it was trendy, but also telling the story of Phoenix as a young frontier town, full of colorful and complicated characters. Her life's work brought attention to matters close to her heart, like mental health and domestic violence, and she paired vigorous journalism with selfless advocacy, giving her time to countless nonprofits.

More than anything, she was a joy to be around, a quick-witted, gifted storyteller who would leave any room crackling up. She kept friends from all backgrounds and political parties, throwing jabs with a grin and a twinkle in her eye. Congress should take a lesson from her.

My prayers are with her family, her friends, especially Bob Boze Bell, and

all those who were moved by her writing and who laughed with her. Godspeed to Jana.

□ 0930

CONGRATULATING BRENDON GALLO AND VANDANA VERMA

(Mrs. LESKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two very special people to both my office and me personally, my deputy chief of staff, Brendon Gallo, who is in the audience today, and his fiancée, Vandana Verma, and to commemorate their upcoming wedding in Florence, Italy.

Brendon and Vandana met in college at New York University and quickly fell in love. They moved to Washington, D.C., for Brendon to pursue his interest in politics and have made a home here with their dog, Sage.

It has been a joy to get to know both Brendon and Vandana over the years and watch their love grow. I especially want to thank Vandana for her patience and understanding as Brendon has navigated the often demanding and time-consuming work of a staffer on Capitol Hill. He has done a great job.

I wish them a lifetime of happiness and blessings and look forward to celebrating their marriage next month.

CONGRATULATING KENNY BEDNAREK

(Mr. TIFFANY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kenny Bednarek of Rice Lake, Wisconsin, on qualifying for the Paris Summer Olympics in the 100- and 200-meter sprints.

Kenny is from a small town in north-west Wisconsin where he has been representing the Seventh District since he was in high school. At Rice Lake High School, he captured seven individual State titles and led his team to the 4-by-400 relay championship. He then went on to set the fastest indoor 200-meter time in the United States and the second fastest in the world before becoming an Olympian in 2020.

During the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games, he won a silver medal in the 200-meter dash.

I wish Kung Fu Kenny and all of the U.S. athletes the best of luck in Paris. Go for the gold.

CONGRATULATING THE ST. CROIX HELENITES

(Ms. PLASKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a group of exceptional young men from my home in the Virgin Islands for their division title

win this past week in Minnesota during the USA CUP tournament, the largest youth soccer tournament in the Western Hemisphere.

The St. Croix Helenites Sports Club under-16 squad played through the quarterfinals and semifinal rounds to clinch the championship. The boys on the under-11 team also played with great heart and made it to the top four in their division.

Our entire community is tremendously proud of our boys for their hard work, their great sportsmanship. The Virgin Islands is small, but when we show up, we show out, and we excel.

We are all so proud of Head Coach Raejae Joseph, Assistant Coach Dale Richards, parents, young men, and my boy Nico.

Let's go St. Croix Helenites Sports Club.

WE MUST NEVER WAVER

(Mr. ROSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join the majority of Tennesseans who stand in support of America's most important Middle Eastern ally, Israel.

Unfortunately, radical, progressive Democrats have turned their back on Israel. Democrats have shown time and time again where their priorities truly lie, favoring an Army of IRS agents over security assistance when Israel was in its most dire need.

Now progressive Democrats have chosen once again to turn their backs on our democratic ally in the Middle East by boycotting Prime Minister Netanyahu's joint address before this body. History will not view these dark and dangerous decisions lightly. Let the record show progressive Democrats sided with the pro-Hamas base of their party.

As a staunch supporter of Israel, I will be honored to be present in the House Chamber for Prime Minister Netanyahu's historic joint address.

We must never waver, Mr. Speaker.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. NORVELL "VAN" COOTS

(Mr. TRONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Norvell "Van" Coats, who tragically passed away last month.

Born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Dr. Coats answered the call to serve his country through our military. After 36 years of service, he retired from the Army as a brigadier general in 2016.

Dr. Coats wasn't one to retire so easily. He continued to dedicate his life to improving healthcare outcomes for so many at home. In Maryland, Dr. Coats took the reins as president and CEO of Holy Cross Health.

Over the years, Dr. Coats and I worked together to ensure our health centers had what they needed to address the COVID-19 pandemic and tackle the addiction and mental health epidemics that are overwhelming our communities.

Without a doubt, our Nation is better off because of Dr. Coats' selfless service.

He was a dear friend to many, a loving husband to his wife, Claudia, and a dedicated father to Maximilian and Catalina.

May his memory be a blessing.

CONGRATULATING FORD CHICAGO ASSEMBLY PLANT

(Ms. KELLY of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Ford Chicago Assembly Plant on its 100 years of operation this August.

For decades, Ford has crafted a legacy of excellence and resilience in Illinois' Second Congressional District. It has weathered economic storms, technological revolutions, and a global pandemic, emerging stronger with each passing year.

The cars that have rolled off these assembly lines are not just machines. They are testaments to the craftsmanship, innovation, and dedication of countless individuals.

As we celebrate this historic milestone, let us remember the past with pride, embrace the present with gratitude, and look to the future with excitement and resolve.

Here is to a century of achievement and to many more years of innovation, success, and Ford toughness.

On another note: Sheila Jackson Lee, you will be so missed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2025

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OBERNOLTE). Pursuant to House Resolution 1370 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 8998.

Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF) kindly take the chair.

□ 0939

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 8998) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes, with Mr. SELF (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Tuesday,