

terms of the production cadence and the schedule, but now they are recovering it. Congress has had a big part to play in terms of giving the funding for programs like those that Shelby Supply is part of.

In August, I visited Divers Cove, American Systems in Norwich, SEACORP in Groton, and Collins and Jewell in Bozrah. Again, these are all supply chain companies which are part of this enterprise.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I would just say that when we look at the horizon as far as the amount of work we are talking about here, it is at least 20 years, and we have to go younger and sooner in terms of training up people in terms of the metal trade skills and engineering skills that are going to be essential if we are going to succeed in this shipbuilding plan.

This is a picture of a welding lab where last Friday we had a ribbon cutting. This is a small public high school up in the northeast corner of the State of Connecticut, Tourtellotte High School. It is a regular public high school. This is a comprehensive high school, not a trade school. Because of the submarine industrial base funding which passed in this Chamber earlier this year, they, again, are now installing more welding booths so that the students are going to be able to take advantage of this opportunity.

The welding class used to be eight kids. Now it is going to be 50. These are kids who when they graduate from high school are going to be eligible to get their security badge, go into the shipyard, and be part of this production process.

Interestingly, talking to Superintendent Melinda Smith and some of the teachers at the high school, because of this program, students who otherwise would really not be that connected in terms of the work that was going on there because they really were not college bound, attendance is now going up. It is because these kids understand that this program which they really like, which is about an hour and a half a day, if they don't show up for school, then they are going to get removed from the program.

It is a win-win situation in terms of increasing educational proficiency in terms of all subjects, but particularly in giving people a skill which is a life skill that is going to allow them to succeed in the future.

Again, this is now happening not just in trade schools, which are wonderful, the career and technical schools which now have waiting lists for kids who want to get involved, but it is also happening in nontrade public high schools. Westbrook High School in Connecticut is also going to be a part of this program, and that is how we succeed as a nation to recapitalize our Navy fleet.

#### RECOGNIZING 100 YEARS OF THE CLEVELAND COUNTY FAIR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

North Carolina (Mr. McHENRY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate a few wonderful things that happened in my district this fall.

Mr. Speaker, every September, Cleveland County, North Carolina, celebrates an iconic event that marks the transition to autumn. This year, however, we have a special reason to celebrate. It is because the Cleveland County Fair in Shelby, North Carolina, is reaching an extraordinary milestone: its 100th anniversary.

For a century, the fair has been more than just an event. It has been a cornerstone of our community. It has brought families together, celebrated Cleveland County's rich agricultural heritage, and provided endless entertainment with thrilling rides and fantastic food.

As the leaves turn and the air grows crisp, the fair is the perfect way to welcome the fall season in North Carolina, and if you are a politician running for office, then you need to be there. The fair is a must. I have spent a lot of time shaking hands there over the years.

I am really grateful for the opportunity to interact with people when they are having great family fun. I thank everyone who makes the fair happen, the volunteers and the folks who work the fair.

I congratulate the Cleveland County Fair on its 100th anniversary.

#### RECOGNIZING CAMP MEETINGS IN NORTH CAROLINA'S TENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a unique and longstanding summer tradition in North Carolina's 10th Congressional District: church camp meetings. These annual events date back to the 1800s and are wonderful celebrations of faith, family, and community.

There are three camp meetings in my district not far from where I live: the Balls Creek camp meeting held in Catawba County and the Rock Springs and Tucker's Grove camp meetings which are both held in Lincoln County and very close to where I live in Lincoln County.

All three campgrounds are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Camp meetings happen each August and last for up to 2 weeks. Families gather for worship under an arbor which is a central open-air shelter that seats hundreds of people. There are also singings, youth rallies, and plenty of time to visit with family and friends.

Many families, in fact, stay at the campground in wooden cabins known as tents. Ownership of many tents has been passed down for generations.

These are beloved events, and they truly are events. These events were started so many years ago by families of the earliest settlers to the area. Many people who attend are direct descendants of these people of faith who first started gathering more than 150 years ago.

It is important to not just honor our traditions, but to preserve them, and that is what these camp meetings do. The organizers of these camp meetings continue to do that with these important events and timeless expressions of our enduring faith. For that, we honor and thank them.

□ 1030

#### REMEMBERING CASSIE MAE SMITH

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate a remarkable woman, Cassie Mae Smith, a Battleboro, North Carolina, resident, and my State of the Union guest this year whose beautiful life spanned 109 years.

On August 10, she passed at her home, surrounded by family and friends. She was a beloved figure, affectionately called Ma Cassie by her neighbors and friends.

She was born in 1914, before women had the right to vote. Once Ma Cassie was able to exercise her right to vote, she voted in every election she could and began advocating for others to do the same.

In March, my office helped her achieve two items on her bucket list. She had never met a President or flown on an airplane. She flew to our Nation's Capital for the State of the Union. Afterward, she met President Joe Biden.

While here, I am grateful for so many colleagues from across the country and from across the aisle for taking the time to speak with her.

I am also grateful for President Biden spending time talking with her. If not the oldest, she had to be one of the oldest ever to attend the State of the Union Address. It meant a lot to her, and she was indeed grateful.

She loved our country, the United States of America. Her story of resilience and grace has touched the lives of many, including my own. Her journey has inspired us all, from working on a farm in North Carolina to traveling for the first time at 109 on an airplane to our Nation's Capital.

For those who knew her, Ms. Cassie Smith was also a woman of unwavering faith. She loved the Lord. She loved her church, Pittman Grove Baptist Church, and Pastor Thomas Ray Green and his wife, Sharon, who traveled with her for the State of the Union.

In fact, after the State of the Union, she made clear to me, she said: "I know my pastor prays for me." Frank Smith, her son, said his mother had a deep spiritual connection with God, always looking up when she prayed. He once asked: "Mamma, who are you talking to?" She said: "I am talking to the Lord."

I also recognize Faye, Frank's wife and Ms. Cassie's caregiver, and all her caregivers.

According to her son, the family had planned to celebrate Ma Cassie's 110th birthday this October with a trip to the mountains, the last item that she had on the bucket list.

Well, she didn't make it to the mountains. However, Frank, her son, said it best: "God has said, I am going to take her, perhaps, to the mountain top."

We will forever hold her legacy in our hearts, and my deepest condolences go to her family and the Battleboro community.

#### RECOGNIZING AUSTIN LIVINGSTON

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

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Austin Livingston and his years of incredible service and exemplary work for the Fifth District of South Carolina.

Austin was born in Texas. He was adopted as an infant and spent most of his formative childhood years raised in Rock Hill, South Carolina.

I had the privilege of him living in our neighborhood, and I took him on backhoe rides, along with other children, to the store and other places. He was known for his physical power on the high school tennis team and also served in our Nation's Capitol as Senate page for Senator Strom Thurmond.

This early experience left on him a lasting impression, and he was delighted when fate brought him back nearly three decades later to serve as a staff member for the House of Representatives.

He was head of the committee for the Fifth District. In between two congressional jobs, he proudly graduated from Clemson University with a B.S. in computer information systems. He also worked as a commercial airline pilot, where he flew for Continental Airlines for over 11 years. He was a leader in the commencement photography industry and started his own information technology consulting company, specializing in cybersecurity.

He has taught Sunday school at his local Presbyterian church in Rock Hill for years and helps as chair of the board of Westminster Catawba Christian School in Rock Hill.

Most importantly, Austin is an outstanding father to his son, Pierce, and he is a loving husband to his wonderful wife, Camille.

As communications director and later deputy chief of staff for my office, Austin spearheaded numerous initiatives, including extensive office renovations and building a TV studio from scratch, which I didn't have to ask him to do. He did that on his own initiative. This was during COVID, when restrictions to facilitate virtual interviews were rampant.

It is not only Austin's accomplishments that set him apart but his character. Throughout the years, colleagues and associates have consistently

noted his integrity, humility, work ethic, humor, and levelheadedness in a crisis.

I can tell you he is one of the few people I have ever met who has never said a bad word about anybody. He is a leader among leaders, and it has been a true honor to have him on my staff.

His impact on the Fifth District of South Carolina and its 725,000 people will be seen for many years to come.

Madam Speaker, please join me in expressing my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to Austin Livingston for his profound dedication and work. I wish him all the best in his new photography business, as he deserves the best of the best.

#### CELEBRATING MORTON COLLEGE'S CENTENNIAL

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate Morton College, the second oldest community college in Illinois, on its 100th anniversary.

Located in Cicero, Illinois, since 1973, Morton College is the pride of the community. The campus has an award-winning library, a student success center, and facilities equipped with state-of-the-art technology for the more than 3,500 students enrolled in it.

As a Hispanic-serving institution, Morton has remained true to its mission of enhancing the quality of life of a diverse community through exemplary teaching and learning opportunities, community service, and lifelong learning.

I am honored to have an exemplary institution in my district, and I congratulate the Morton College community. Here is to the next 100 years.

#### HONORING JORGE RAMOS

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the legendary journalist, Jorge Ramos, as he steps down after 40 remarkable years at Univision.

Jorge has been a beacon of truth and integrity, a voice for the voiceless, and a relentless advocate for justice for the Latino community.

In a world often dominated by sensationalism, he stood as a pillar of credibility, amplifying stories that might otherwise remain unheard. From covering the struggles of immigrants to challenging those in power, Jorge's work has illuminated issues that many in the media choose to ignore.

His legacy is one of courage, compassion, and unwavering commitment to truth.

"Thank you, Jorge, for being a voice dedicated to justice and for keeping our community informed." "Gracias, Jorge, por ser una voz dedicada a la justicia y por mantener informada a nuestra comunidad."

#### REMEMBERING 9/11

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, September 11 serves as a reminder to each of us and our allies across the world, across the planet, of the tragic loss of nearly 3,000 innocent Americans. It also serves as a reminder of our strength as a nation to stand united in the face of terrorism.

Yes, 23 years ago, we remember and will never forget the lives lost that fateful day as we witnessed the strength and bravery of individuals who sacrificed everything to help their fellow New Yorkers, colleagues at the Pentagon, and fellow passengers and crewmembers of United Airlines Flight 93.

We remember, Madam Speaker, Port Authority Police Officer Bruce Reynolds, who raced from the George Washington Bridge south to the towers to give his life in support of New Yorkers. Today, we honor him with Bruce's Garden in Inwood, along with 22 other members of the Inwood community who were either raised or lived in that community and gave their lives on that fateful day.

We remember Yamel Josefina Merino, a 24-year-old emergency responder who raced down to the southern tower to try to help people and was one of the first victims of that attack.

Since 2001, we have worked to increase the benefits for those who have been affected in the aftermath. I am a proud cosponsor of the 9/11 Responder and Survivor Health Funding Correction Act, which will provide additional funding to the program that provides treatments to 9/11 responders and survivors.

September 11 is a solemn day in our Nation's history. It brought our Nation together. We remember how churches in my district had processions in the street. Thousands of local residents participated.

We have heroes from Harlem, East Harlem, the Bronx, Washington Heights, Inwood, and Hamilton Heights who gave their lives for our Nation. While 23 years have passed since the attacks, we remember and mourn the lives we lost and reflect on the sacrifices and heroism of our first responders, and we vow to never forget. I know many young people who were not there on that day perhaps have forgotten or the memory has faded.

We will never forget the heroism of the men and women who gave up everything for our country, for democracy. We will never forget 9/11 and cannot ignore the magnitude of emotion and remembrance as we reflect on the lives of survivors, their families, and first responders.

May God continue to bless our 9/11 families and first responders, and may God continue to bless these United States of America.