

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.

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE  
SEPTEMBER 11 ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, I rise today on the solemn anniversary of the most tragic day in modern American history, the September 11 attacks.

Our Nation was deliberately attacked 23 years ago by al-Qaida terrorists, killing almost 3,000 Americans and injuring countless more in the worst attack against our homeland in American history.

On this day, let us honor the memories of the fallen and stand with the friends and families of those who perished. May their memories always be a blessing.

Let us also commend the courage of the first responders and emergency personnel who put themselves in harm's way to help the victims. While others ran to safety, these individuals braved smoke and fire in service to their fellow Americans, sometimes paying the ultimate sacrifice while in the line of duty.

While the terrorists hoped this brazen attack would break America's resolve, they were dead wrong. In the days and months following 9/11, our Nation came together with a renewed sense of fortitude, unity, and determination. It sparked an enduring sense of resilience that carried us through the darkest hour and emboldened us to hold those responsible accountable.

May God bless America.

## FENTANYL CRISIS IN ARIZONA

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to shine a light on the destructive surge and scourge of fentanyl, which is poisoning communities in my district and across the Nation. Across America, countless lives have been lost, and too many families have felt the pain of losing a loved one.

In May, I hosted Members of the Judiciary Committee for a field hearing in my district. We heard from Jill Fagan Alexander, a mother who has tragically lost not only one, but two children to the fentanyl crisis, Sam and Gabe. Tragically, these are only two of the many lives lost to the poison at the hands of the Mexican drug cartels and the Chinese Communist Party.

Amid the ongoing border crisis, the amount of fentanyl entering our country has spiked to record levels, endangering citizens across the Nation. In Arizona, the cost of this epidemic ballooned to over \$58 billion in 2023, accounting for the cost of hospitals, public services, law enforcement officers, and the loss of quality of life and productivity of those suffering from this addiction.

Just this week, this body passed H.R. 8663, the DETECT Fentanyl and Xylazine Act. This would authorize DHS to test and develop more tech-

nology to better detect these deadly drugs. However, we must do more.

I stand willing and ready to work with any of my colleagues who want to find solutions to solve this crisis. The stakes could not be clearer. One pill can kill. We must do more to fight the spread of fentanyl to ensure the safety of our citizens and our communities.

## RURAL PHARMACIES CLOSING IN ARIZONA

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, I rise today with the grave concerns over the continued reports of pharmacies closing in rural communities across my district.

I was notified by a constituent recently that two independent pharmacies in Willcox and Benson will soon close, citing the constrictive practices of pharmacy benefit managers. Local independent pharmacies are critical to rural communities as they are often the only medical provider for hundreds of miles, especially in light of the vast consolidation of large pharmacies buying up smaller ones.

We must stand for independent practices that serve our local communities. As we speak, this becomes a rural access health crisis, forcing residents of those communities to travel long distances to receive the medication and medical services that they need. This not only places an undue burden on those with limited resources and mobility, but it also increases their risk of delayed treatments and worsened health outcomes, leaving rural communities vulnerable and underserved.

It is critical that we address this growing problem now and support our rural pharmacies to ensure that all individuals, regardless of where they live, have access to the healthcare that they deserve.

## CLOSING THE BRIBERY LOOPHOLE

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

Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, 3 months ago, the Supreme Court opened a loophole in our bribery laws. They legalized, in effect, a certain kind of bribery. That is bribery where the payment to the politician comes after they do the thing they have been bribed to do.

The Supreme Court said: That is not bribery, but that is a tip. That is a gratuity, and it is not against the law.

Justice Kavanaugh said: If Congress wants this to be against the law, then they should pass a law saying so.

Well, I agree. My office has filed a bill to close exactly that loophole, and nothing else. We consider this a completely nonpartisan effort. This is simply about making sure that you cannot bribe politicians. That was the state of the law 3 months ago as we all understood it, and now that has been changed by this court ruling.

My office filed a bill. We are very grateful that a Member of the majority, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CRENSHAW) has joined us on that bill.

I am encouraging every Member of this body, regardless of party, to join us to make sure that we send a very simple statement to the country: You cannot bribe politicians. That should be against the law. Even if you come up with a somewhat creative way in which to do it straightforwardly, it is wrong. It should be illegal. If we pass this bill, it will be illegal once again.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAJOR JOHN  
"LUCKY" LUCKADOO

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

Mr. SELF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Major John "Lucky" Luckadoo, an extraordinary American hero who displayed remarkable bravery in World War II.

Now 102 years old, Major Luckadoo is one of the last remaining members of the distinguished 100th Bomb Group, famously known as the Bloody Hundredth.

Major Luckadoo grew up in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He joined the Army following the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941. After training, he served with the Eighth Air Force's 100th Bomb Group based in Thorpe Abbots, England.

Of the 40 men from his training class who served in the 100th, only four completed their tour, highlighting the dangerous nature of their mission and Major Luckadoo's extraordinary fortune and resilience.

Major Luckadoo undertook 25 combat missions over Nazi-occupied Europe, serving as both a pilot and copilot in the B-17 Flying Fortress, showcasing his outstanding bravery and expertise under highly challenging conditions and overwhelming odds.

Lieutenant Colonel John Bennett, leader of the 100th Bomb Group, aptly remarked: "What the 100th lacks in luck, it makes up for in courage."

Major Luckadoo embodied this spirit, and his extraordinary story of survival is chronicled in his biography, "Damn Lucky." Major Luckadoo's survival and the subsequent telling of his story contribute significantly to the historical record of World War II and stand as a testament to the bravery and sacrifices of the Greatest Generation.

Major Luckadoo currently resides in Dallas, where he actively engages in his community and continues to share his story, ensuring that future generations will continue to draw inspiration from his courage and dedication.

In light of his heroic service and enduring legacy, it is fitting that we honor Major John "Lucky" Luckadoo and express our deepest gratitude for his remarkable contributions to our Nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF COLONEL KENNETH WILLIAM  
CORDIER

Mr. SELF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Kenneth William Cordier, who dedicated his life to serving his country and embodied the