

auditor and later was elected to the Vanderburgh County board of commissioners.

She moved into statewide politics, serving as an Indiana State representative, Indiana State auditor, and now as our Lieutenant Governor.

Lieutenant Governor Crouch has prioritized mental health throughout her tenure and is co-chair of the Indiana Mental Health Roundtable and chair of the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Task Force.

I am grateful for all Lieutenant Governor Crouch has done for the State of Indiana, and I am even more proud to call her our family friend.

#### HONORING ANN LURIE

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary philanthropist and humanitarian.

A few weeks ago, Chicago lost one of our city's most esteemed benefactors, Ann Lurie. Originally from Florida, Ann chose Chicago, and specifically the Seventh Congressional District, as her home in 1973.

For over 27 years, I have had the honor of representing the nearly 800,000 people in the Seventh District, one of the Nation's largest and most diverse.

Throughout this time, Ann Lurie and her husband, Robert, were steadfast supporters and catalysts for change within our community.

Chicago is a city where people are inclined to do things their way, and Ann was no exception. Her way meant making a profound difference, leaving nearly everything she touched better than she found it.

I had the privilege of knowing and working with Ann for over 40 years. I witnessed firsthand her unwavering dedication to healthcare, education, and social justice. Her impact extended far beyond Chicago, reaching communities around the world.

Ann funded countless initiatives in the Seventh District. Her philanthropic journey began with her roots as a pediatric nurse, which laid the foundation for her lifelong commitment to improving healthcare.

Her transformative \$100 million donation to the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago made an indelible mark on our city, creating a beacon of hope and healing for countless children and families and establishing Chicago as a national center of medical innovation and excellence.

Ann profoundly impacted education through her support for institutions like the University of Michigan and Northwestern University by funding scholarships and research programs.

She opened doors for countless students, fostering the next generation of leaders, innovators, and changemakers.

Ann's philanthropy was characterized by personal engagement. She was

not a passive donor but a hands-on advocate, often traveling to see the projects she funded firsthand to ensure her contributions were making the intended impact.

The level of involvement spoke volumes about her character and the sincerity of her mission, making her a truly inspiring figure.

Through the Ann and Robert H. Lurie Foundation, Ann championed global health initiatives from building rural schools in Ethiopia to supporting healthcare infrastructure in Kenya.

Her efforts in Human Rights Watch in the Horn of Africa underscored her commitment to advocating for the often voiceless, ensuring that fundamental human rights and dignities are upheld, even in the most challenging circumstances. Her compassion and humanitarianism were immense, and many of her local contributions had a global impact.

Mr. Speaker, Ann Lurie's philanthropy is a shining example of the profound difference one individual can make in the world.

Her work is a testament to the power of compassion, dedication, and unwavering belief in the potential for positive change.

Her passing is a tremendous loss, not just for the causes she championed but for the lives she touched. She showed us that authentic leadership is about more than what one achieves for oneself. It is also about what one does for others.

We extend our deepest condolences to her family and loved ones as we honor her life, her legacy, and her work.

#### RECOGNIZING CONSTITUTION DAY

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Constitution Day, which we observed Monday, honoring the bravery and wisdom of the 39 men who signed the supreme law of the land on September 17, 1787, at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia.

This pivotal document has truly shaped our Nation's history. For over two centuries, the Constitution has guided us, reflecting the vision of our Founding Fathers. It creates a government that is accountable to the people and dedicated to protecting individual rights.

The Constitution lays the foundation for our liberty, ensuring that America remains the freest Nation in the world and secures the God-given rights that we cherish as Americans.

As we reflect on its enduring legacy, let us remember that it embodies the values we uphold as a Nation.

Let this Constitution Day remind us of our sacred obligation to uphold its principles. We are here to serve the American people and protect their liberties, ensuring their rights are preserved for generations to come.

CELEBRATING WFIR RADIO'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate WFIR radio in Roa-

noke, Virginia, on its 100th anniversary.

As the second oldest radio station in Virginia and one of the oldest commercial radio stations in our great Nation, WFIR has been a cornerstone of our community since its founding in 1924.

What began as the passionate hobby of Mr. Frank E. Maddox with his amateur station 3BIY evolved into a vital commercial station, thanks to the vision of the Richardson-Wayland Electrical Corporation.

They recognized the power of radio to connect communities and seized the opportunity to not just sell radios but to enhance the lives of those in our region.

Before WFIR, Roanokers had no reliable radio source during the day and only sporadic signals at night. WFIR changed that reality, delivering a consistent and dynamic voice to the people of Roanoke. Today, it is a trusted source of news, information, and entertainment for countless Virginians.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate WFIR Radio on reaching this remarkable milestone and wish them continued success in the years to come.

CELEBRATING VINTON FIRST AID JUNIOR CREW'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Vinton First Aid Junior Crew on its 50th anniversary.

Back in 1973, nine students from William Byrd High School showed interest in the Vinton First Aid Crew. After attending initial training to become CPR and American Red Cross advanced first aid certified, the Vinton First Aid Junior Crew was officially formed in 1974.

The original charter members, Kenneth Drewery, Gary Honaker, Perry Spangler, Terry Fuqua, Mike Huddleston, Chris Stull, Ralph Hargis, Ray Sloan, and Danny Wood showed us what it means to serve.

These dedicated individuals were recently honored at the 2023 installation and Christmas banquet by the Vinton First Aid Crew and the town of Vinton.

While their paths may have diverged over the years, with many pursuing profound careers in public service, they remain bonded by that shared commitment from their youth. Two members, Chris Stull and Danny Wood, achieved life-member status with the Vinton First Aid crew.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing this incredible milestone. Their dedication to service over 50 years ago set a standard that continues to inspire today.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DANIEL E. KARNES

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Lieutenant Colonel Daniel "Dan" E. Karnes, a dedicated servant to our country and his community.

A proud native of Roanoke, Dan enlisted in the U.S. Army at just 17 years old, completing two tours in Vietnam.

After returning to southwest Virginia, he completed his education and devoted himself to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Dan began his career as a clinical social worker and went on to manage a counseling center for combat veterans in Roanoke, ensuring our heroes received the support they needed.

He was a constant presence in the veteran community, taking on numerous volunteer and public service roles, always with humility and a profound commitment to his fellow veterans.

He served on essential boards like the State Board of Mental Health, the Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority, and Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare.

Dan was also an active member of organizations such as the Rotary, Kiwanis, American Legion, and Veterans of Foreign Wars, among others.

Dan is survived by his beloved wife of 50 years, Nancy Walters Karnes. His dear friend, Captain Gary Powers, once said that he was an individual who selflessly dedicated his life to helping others in need.

This is a true testament to a meaningful life well lived. Let us honor Dan's legacy by continuing to support our veterans and those in need in our communities.

CELEBRATING CAPTAIN LELAND TEETS' 100TH  
BIRTHDAY

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable individual from Virginia's Sixth District, Captain Leland Teets, and his service to our Nation.

Captain Teets embodies what it means to be a devoted American, and his birthday on June 25 marked 100 years of patriotism.

Throughout World War II, Leland Teets served with the United States Army. He stormed Utah Beach on D-day, surviving two gunshot wounds to the leg from a German soldier.

After his bravery on that fateful day, Captain Teets spent 153 days in England undergoing medical care before continuing to serve in the Battle of the Bulge.

However, Captain Teets' legacy goes far beyond his military service. Returning home, he dedicated 35 years as a security officer for the Mount Weather facility in Clarke County, Virginia, contributing to the safety of our community and our Nation.

I wish Captain Teets a belated happy birthday and extend our deepest gratitude and best wishes on behalf of Virginia's Sixth District.

CELEBRATING ALPHA KAPPA  
ALPHA SORORITY, INC., GREAT  
LAKES REGION CENTENNIAL AN-  
NIVERSARY

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible women of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Great Lakes Region.

This Saturday, the Great Lakes Region will celebrate its centennial anniversary. For 100 years, our region has

risen to the call to serve all mankind in our communities across five States; Michigan, Ohio, western New York, western Pennsylvania, and western Virginia with 97 graduate and undergraduate chapters, all united in a common cause to serve our communities and to serve all mankind.

The Great Lakes Region is home to over 7,000 accomplished, intelligent, dedicated, and service-oriented members, including the members of my own chapter, Zeta Theta Omega.

I am honored to recognize the work this region has done and continues to do for the people of the Great Lakes Region each and every day, united in our sisterhood's mission.

We represent a variety of occupations and disciplines, but we come together because we are truly greater together.

We always dedicate our work to the things that are worthwhile, and we always do it with a smile. Together, we are making a real difference in our communities, and I am so proud to be a part of this powerful sisterhood.

Finally, I specifically recognize Gwendolyn Kirtley, the Great Lakes regional director, for her leadership, and the many regional directors of the past who have made the great Great Lakes Region soar and thrive.

We are thankful for their commitment to our sisterhood and to their service as we celebrate our last 100 years and prepare for 100 more.

Once again, congratulations to all of the members of the great Great Lakes Region as we celebrate our centennial.

HONORING JONES BOOTS

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

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Jones Boots of Vernon County, Missouri, as our Fourth Congressional District September Small Business of the Month.

From the humble beginnings of two employees and an inventory of just 500 pairs of boots, Jones Boots has expanded their selection over the years to more than 6,000 pairs. They have renovated their building, always focused on the customer.

Jones Boots has been in business since 1974, and they have operated in pretty much the same building they are in to this day.

Jones Boots has been in the Jones family for more than four generations and is now run by Kaleb and Kaden. We are proud to see their hard work, success, and dedication to quality customer service.

Congratulations, Jones Boots.

HONORING SHARLA HOWARD

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor our September Veteran of the Month, Mrs. Sharla Howard of Dallas County.

Sharla served in the U.S. Army and sustained an injury during training that led to her eventually being medically discharged.

It bothered Sharla that she could not deploy with her platoon in the military, so she searched for other ways to serve her country and our Nation's veterans.

She paid for and completed college alone as a single mother and in 2016 was inspired by her late husband to become a Disabled American Veterans life member at the chapter in Butler, Missouri.

Sharla volunteers her time as a chapter service officer where she assists veterans with completing paperwork to file for VA benefits. She also serves as the treasurer and bingo chairman for her chapter. Sharla has logged more than 2,000 volunteer hours since August of 2023.

Congratulations to our September Veteran of the Month. I thank Sharla for her service in the Army and for her unwavering commitment to veterans.

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OSCEOLA CHEESE HONORED AS OCTOBER SMALL  
BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Osceola Cheese, our October Small Business of the Month in the great Fourth Congressional District of Missouri.

Established in 1944, Osceola has provided cheese, beef jerky, various meat selections—I know you are getting hungry, Mr. Speaker—and also specialty sauces and mixes to Missouri and to the United States.

With the business growing, they acquired a new building in 1946, including 15 trucks. They were collecting milk from 1,000 dairy farms across our great State. When Truman Lake began to develop, the business relocated to 13 Highway and officially changed from Riverview Cheese to Osceola Cheese in St. Claire County.

Osceola has continued to expand with facility redesigns, new flavors, and new snacks. They have more than 275 varieties of cheese, from mild cheddar to chocolate cheese. That is right, I said chocolate cheese.

Congratulations to Osceola Cheese for 79 years of success. Mr. Speaker, say along with me, 79 years of great cheese. Say cheese.

GINNY FLETCHER NAMED OCTOBER VETERAN OF  
THE MONTH

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our October Veteran of the Month, Ginny Fletcher, of Webster County.

Ginny joined the Missouri Army National Guard in 2007 as a welder and deployed to Afghanistan from 2010 to 2011. She served with Missouri ADT IV Mission, an agribusiness development team that improved local agriculture and business infrastructure.

Ginny's fondest memories include her women's engagement team teaching Afghan children first aid and organizing activities. The team also empowered local women by teaching them to raise chickens, grow crops, and create sellable items.

After completing her service as an E-4 specialist in 2017, Ginny worked for