

the Great Depression, and those experiences shaped Howard for the rest of his life. His upbringing instilled in him a love for his church, hard work, and helping those in need.

At 17, Howard joined the Navy and served our Nation in the Pacific theater in World War II. After his service, he left the Navy and moved to Houston where he entered college.

Even after his retirement at 58, Howard is well-known throughout the community for his busy schedule of volunteering for organizations, including the United Way, the Alzheimer's Association, his church, the VA, and many more.

Howard is also a local celebrity in the GOP and often quips that he became a Republican after Governor Huey Long levied taxes on food during his childhood in Louisiana.

Today, I ask that we all come together to celebrate this great man and congratulate him on 100 years of a young life.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF EDWARD H. ZIPPERER

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of Ed Zipperer. Ed was born in Savannah, Georgia, on August 8, 1931, where he grew up working on his family's vegetable farm along Highway 17.

Ed attended Savannah High School where he was a standout in football. He then played at Clemson University before earning an agricultural engineering degree from the University of Georgia.

He went on to coach basketball in 1965, forming one of the few racially integrated teams in the State. For games on the road, Ed even bought a hot dog machine to feed his team.

Ed continued making a difference in his community by serving in the State senate from 1967 to 1975.

Ed was instrumental in creating the Skidaway Island State Park, Fort McAllister State Park, and Kings Ferry Ogeechee River public recreational area. His dedication has helped to preserve land in south Georgia for generations to come.

Additionally, Ed was the president of Chatham County Farm Bureau for 45 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we take a moment to mourn Ed Zipperer and thank him for his life of service that will always be remembered by the people of south Georgia.

CELEBRATING THE WORK OF GERALD "JERRY" COURI

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the work of Gerald "Jerry" Couri, the now former GOP deputy chief counsel for the House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on the Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials.

Jerry's impressive tenure in the House of Representatives began before me and several of my colleagues here today, during the 101st Congress.

After graduating from Marquette University, Jerry worked for Representatives Scott Klug and Paul

Gillmor, handling environmental issues related to the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. Couri then served on the committee for 23 years, specializing in chemical management and playing a large role in rewriting the Toxic Substances Control Act.

While we honor Jerry's dedication to the committee for all these years, we recognize nothing surpasses his love for Marquette basketball and his lovely wife and children.

On behalf of my office and the committee, I thank Jerry for his faithful service to the committee and the U.S. House of Representatives.

We wish Jerry the best in his next endeavors.

HONORING THE BRAVE FIRE CREWS OF THE HUDSON VALLEY

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

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and thank the brave fire crews who are battling the outbreak of wildfires that are currently devastating the Hudson Valley, centered in Greenwood Lake, Warwick, parts of western Ulster County, and have now spread into New Jersey, as well.

Undaunted by the great personal peril they are facing, these heroes are willingly putting their own lives on the line to protect our neighbors and our communities.

Each and every member of our fire and emergency response crews is saving lives, and I thank them. Their every action has spared families and property from heartbreak. They are preserving our Hudson Valley as our cherished home. I thank them for their unparalleled selflessness.

I also thank Orange County Executive Steve Neuhaus and his entire fire services and emergency management team for their around-the-clock, 24/7 work in regard to protecting the safety of our community.

We have also seen an outpouring of support from throughout the entire region across multiple States. Firefighters traveling in from across the Northeast see our community in need and are answering the call to help.

They are putting their own lives at risk to protect communities that aren't even their own communities.

I recognize the profound service, sacrifice, and life of one of those very heroes.

Daniel Vasquez was an 18-year-old State Parks aide from neighboring Ramapo in Rockland County who just a few days ago laid down his own life at the age of 18 to protect our Greenwood Lake community from the catastrophic fire raging in Sterling Forest.

Daniel was truly the best of what the Hudson Valley is: hardworking, genuine, compassionate, and a reliable shoulder to lean on for anyone and everyone who needed one. He was widely known throughout the region for his

prowess and power on the baseball field as the captain of his high school baseball team. He was even more widely known for the limitless friendship and brotherhood he extended to every person he met.

I join the entire Hudson Valley in mourning the tragic loss of such a young, bright life. I send my deepest condolences to his family and friends and my thanks. We are forever indebted to him in our community for his unwavering bravery and heroism.

To all those in our community who are facing unimaginable loss, the Hudson Valley takes care of each other, leans on each other, and carries each other through anything. This has been true for centuries of our history, it remains true today, and I am confident it will be true for many more to come.

My thoughts are with those facing such loss and with our fire crews who still at this moment throughout all last night and into this morning are putting their lives on the line while wildfires are still raging.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JOHN LODGE STONEMAN

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of World War I veteran John Lodge Stoneman who was finally given a proper burial at our brand new Ulster County Veterans Cemetery last Thursday, November 7, more than 62 years after his passing.

In 1917, John courageously answered his Nation's call to service as the U.S. entered the Great War. He put his life on the line for years, and our Nation and our community owe him a debt of gratitude we can never repay.

His legacy deserves the absolute highest place of reverence and honor, but, unfortunately, his remains for over 61 years had remained unclaimed since his passing in 1962. Through tireless efforts, Wiltwyck Cemetery volunteer Kathy Wade pieced together the story of John's entire life. I am so grateful that my office and team were able to help assist her in obtaining his military records so he could finally receive, decades later, the honorable burial he was long overdue.

I thank Kathy and the countless other community members who made it their mission to lay Mr. Stoneman in his final resting place, especially our great Ulster County Veteran Services Agency, our Ulster County Sheriff's Department, the Patriot Guard Riders, the VFW, and The American Legion, who all worked together from across our community.

Thanks to their work, John Lodge Stoneman will now rest alongside his fellow heroes and ensure his place in American history is recognized for years to come.

ST. MICHAEL'S ACADEMY, A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARTER of Georgia). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BEAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, everybody knows when it comes to ribbons, blue is the best color to receive. Our Department of Education gives out blue ribbons to the very best schools across the Nation, and that is exactly what they did for St. Michael's Academy of Fernandina Beach, Florida.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Michael's Academy for earning the highest honor an American school can achieve: the National Blue Ribbon Award.

With only 356 schools selected from a pool of over 100,000, St. Michael's has done it, and they have proven, once again, that they are an excellent, outstanding academic institution.

We already knew that Fernandina Beach was home to the best beaches and shrimp around, but now we know that education is also at the very top of its list.

Schools don't get this prestigious honor by having students with great test scores or just running the 100-yard dash very quickly. In order to win this award, schools need straight As in every category, and that is exactly what St. Michael's has done. They have managed to crush their report card.

I ask my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to join me in recognition of St. Michael's Academy and their continued tradition of academic excellence.

May St. Michael's Academy keep up the good work, and let's keep the blue ribbons coming.

BRYCEVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, good teachers get apples, but great teachers get to work at Bryceville Elementary School.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bryceville Elementary School in Nassau County, Florida, for earning the highest honor an American school can achieve, the National Blue Ribbon Award.

Out of more than 100,000 schools nationwide, the Department of Education honored only 356 with the National Blue Ribbon Award this year.

The National Blue Ribbon Award is given to schools with not only the highest test scores, but also those that have closed the achievement gap, ensuring that every single student can succeed.

Bryceville Elementary School is a small school with big accomplishments. Their teachers and leadership work incredibly hard to deliver the best possible experience for their students, and now the whole Nation knows just how great Bryceville is.

I ask my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to join me today in recognizing Bryceville Elementary School for their stunning example of northeast Florida academic excellence.

May they keep up the good work, and let's keep the blue ribbons coming.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 11 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GIMENEZ) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Rise up, O Lord, and show us Your compassion. Reveal Your steadfast love in our lives this day, that our eyes would be opened to Your abiding presence with us and in all that the day sets before us.

Be patient with us if we are slow to acknowledge and appreciate Your guiding hand in our comings and goings. Be tolerant of us and grant us Your wise counsel as we strive to be faithful in confronting the decisions facing us this season.

Don't abandon us, but in Your mercy wait for us to come to You. Wait for us as we come to realize that nothing we do today is more important than opening our hearts to receive the grace You want to lavish on us.

Nothing is more demanding of us than Your command to share Your love with those around us, that all would know of the justice and peace You desire to grant to Your people.

In Your righteous name we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 13, 2024.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on November 13, 2024, at 3:38 p.m.

That the Senate passed S. 2581.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Acting Clerk.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 13, 2024.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

MR. SPEAKER: I hereby resign, as United States Representative for Florida's First Congressional District, effective immediately, and I do not intend to take the oath of office for the same office in the 119th Congress, to pursue the position of Attorney General in the Trump Administration.

Enclosed please find the letter I have transmitted to Florida Governor Ron DeSantis.

Respectfully,

MATT GAETZ,
Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 13, 2024.

Governor RON DESANTIS,
State of Florida, The Capitol,
Tallahassee, FL.

DEAR GOVERNOR DESANTIS: I hereby resign, as United States Representative for Florida's First Congressional District, effective immediately, and I do not intend to take the oath of office for the same office in the 119th Congress, to pursue the position of Attorney General in the Trump Administration.

Respectfully,

MATT GAETZ,
Member of Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Gaetz), the whole number of the House is 433.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.