

He was a veteran, entrepreneur, and champion for the city. Buddy's legacy began with service in the 82nd Airborne Division during the Korean war.

Upon returning, he transformed his entrepreneurial spirit into an engine for community betterment, establishing the Boys and Girls Club of Lenoir County, revitalizing downtown Kinston, and serving 16 years as mayor.

His leadership brought over 20 industries into our region, and Kinston earned the All-American City Award not once but twice.

Buddy's life reminds us that service is a calling.

To his family, we extend our deepest gratitude for sharing such an extraordinary man with us.

To the city of Kinston, may Buddy's legacy inspire generations.

#### CONGRATULATING RUTH HENDERSON MCQUEEN

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I congratulate Ms. Ruth Henderson McQueen for making it into the National 4-H Hall of Fame.

Ruth is a remarkable Tennessean who has dedicated her life to serving our communities, agriculture, and especially 4-H youth. Ruth started out in 4-H as a fifth grader in Loudon County. Back then, her family didn't even have indoor plumbing, much less a phone or a TV. Through 4-H, Ruth's world opened up.

Madam Speaker, over her 26-year career with UT Extension, Ruth accomplished a lot of firsts. She became the first female president of UT's agriculture honor society, Gamma Sigma Delta, and she organized events like Ag Day that bring our community together.

What is most special about Ruth is her dedication to people. She oversaw a program that welcomed over 850 Japanese students into Tennessee homes, where they learned about our culture and creating lifelong friendships, Madam Speaker.

Even after retirement in 2001, Ruth stayed active. She served on boards and mentored young adults. She is also very well spoken, unlike myself. She is very compassionate, and many people have said that she is the one to call when you need a speech, a mentor, or a listening ear.

Ruth's dedication and kindness have made our community a much better place. I thank her for all she has done. She deserves this honor.

#### HONORING THE LEGACY OF SANDY ISENBERG

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of

former Lucas County commissioner and a dear friend, Sandra "Sandy" Isenberg, a trailblazer in northwest Ohio and a shero for our community. Serving as commissioner for 17 years, Sandy was a fierce and dedicated public servant with good humor and a love of people. Her impact will be felt for generations.

She paved the way for women in government when there were few role models, and she held her ground with both strength and grace and with a fierce loyalty to our home county.

She fought tirelessly for the little gal and the little guy, bringing voice and dignity to all corners of our community.

Her relentless work brought help to thousands of people and transformative projects to our community, like Fifth Third Field, the home of the Toledo Mud Hens, a redevelopment beacon for downtown Toledo that she championed.

Personally, I will always remember her wise counsel and humor. She stood shoulder to shoulder with us in every fight that mattered for our working families. Truly, northwest Ohio has lost a true advocate, friend, and formidable force.

Madam Speaker, today, we remember Sandy Isenberg with gratitude, and our community must carry forward her legacy of courage, compassion, and unyielding service.

May our love and gratitude help heal her beloved family, her sister, Barbara; Barbara's husband, Alan; her sons, Michael and Dennis; and her grandchildren, Madison, Morgan, Max, and Maris.

For all of us, Sandy was a rock of strength. Her indomitable spirit accompanies us always.

□ 1030

#### HONORING RACHEL HARRIS

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

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my chief of staff, Rachel Harris.

With my upcoming retirement, I think it is important to recognize the individuals who have supported me throughout my tenure in Congress, none more important than my staff.

Rachel joined my team as communications director in March of 2020 and has served as my chief of staff since October of 2021. Rachel is a hard worker who could always be relied upon to get things done. No matter the task, large or small, Rachel is ready to tackle it.

Originally from Russellville, Arkansas, Rachel has been committed to public service from an early age including volunteering on local political campaigns and even serving as an intern here in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Throughout her tenure, she has shown tremendous dedication to me, my staff, our constituents, the State of Arizona, and the Nation.

As I leave Congress and she leaves the House, I have no doubt she will do great things in all of her future endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Rachel for her service. I truly appreciate her.

#### COMMEMORATING BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

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

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the third anniversary of the bipartisan infrastructure law which has delivered over a billion dollars and 13,000 jobs in my district.

I see the way this legislation is helping out communities. That is why I am committed to protecting it in the next administration.

Either out of misguided priorities or merely out of revenge, I know there are Members in this Chamber who have expressed eagerness to dismantle these programs.

We have already been calling out people who voted "no" but still took the dough. Now we need to be ready to highlight how these efforts to undermine these laws would harm middle-class working families.

In my role in the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I will work to protect our landmark achievements every single day. I will happily remind my colleagues who may suddenly embrace government spending, again, under President Trump, who is really to thank for the communities' improved quality of life.

#### HIGH-SPEED RAIL

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, California has had this boondoggle since 2008 known as high-speed rail. Now it might work good in other places—Europe, Japan, places like that. Given California's topography and the nature of the people there, they are not going to use it.

Then what do we have? What was approved back in 2008 by the voters was a project costing \$33 billion, of which \$9 billion would be done by bonds, and the rest would come from the private sector. The private sector stayed away in droves because it is a big money loser.

They have instead had to go to other methods of getting funding including cap and trade, which is taxing people basically on fuel. As you see, California fuel prices are going up more and more, a buck and a half a gallon, maybe two bucks a gallon by the time the next round of taxation hits drivers in California.

They still have ideas about coming back and getting more Federal money. In the so-called stimulus act of 2009,

they got about \$3 billion out of that. They want to come back for another \$3 billion on top of the \$3 billion they already got out of the so-called Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

So this thing continues to be a rat-hole for money. We should not send any more Federal dollars there. We should not send any more State dollars or cap and trade or automobile driver dollars towards it because it isn't going to work.

Instead, let people invest in their highways and their airports, something that people actually use and can afford.

#### PREMATURITY AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mrs. McCLELLAN. Madam Speaker, November is Prematurity Awareness Month and November 17 is Prematurity Awareness Day. It is an opportunity for us to come together and commit to address the United States' horrific preterm birth rate.

This is an issue that is personal to me. My daughter, Samantha, was born by emergency C-section 9 weeks early when my placenta ruptured because I had placenta previa. I was one of the lucky ones. After 6 weeks in the NICU, she was able to come home. When she stood with me when I took the oath of office, no one would ever know that she started less than 5 pounds. Not everyone is as lucky.

The March of Dimes just issued its annual report card for preterm birth rates; and the United States earned a D-plus once again, remaining the worst grade in the report's history. Chronic conditions, inadequate prenatal care, and racial disparities fueled these historic preterm birth rates.

The preterm birth rate remains at 10.4 percent with significant disparities among racial and ethnic groups. We have more work to do. Please stay tuned because next week I will be proposing a bipartisan measure to help bring this birth rate down.

#### COMMEMORATING LOUIS BENNETT, JR.

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

Mr. MOONEY. Madam Speaker, the national World War I Memorial here in Washington was recently completed with a sculpture known as "A Soldier's Journey."

In the spirit of honoring our World War I veterans, I rise to commemorate Louis Bennett, Jr. of Weston, West Virginia. Bennett realized the power aviation could bring to the war effort and formed the West Virginia Flying Corps. When the corps failed to achieve military status, Bennett chose commend-

ably to interrupt his studies at Yale and enlist in the British Royal Flying Corps.

Bennet flew combat missions in Western Europe. Over the course of only 9 days, he amassed a remarkable high number of 12 kills of enemy aircraft. Lieutenant Bennett became known as the balloon buster for shooting down nine German surveillance balloons, which is dangerous because, when the balloons blow up, they sometimes take the plane down with them.

On August 14, 1919, he was shot down and killed by German anti-aircraft artillery. In honor of her only son, in 1992, Mrs. Sallie Bennett donated her stately home to Lewis County for a war memorial and library. Mrs. Bennett used her considerable wealth to fund memorials of World War I veterans. I am pleased we have a place to memorialize them here in our Nation's Capital.

#### BIPARTISANSHIP

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

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the passage of H.R. 82, the Social Security Fairness Act.

This legislation will finally repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset, mistakes which have unfairly reduced or eliminated Social Security benefits for millions of Americans who have devoted their years to public service. I am proud that a strong bipartisan majority came together to protect their hard-earned benefits.

As we celebrate this historic vote, it is also important to recognize that, were it not for the discharge petition, this bill, despite its strong bipartisan support, would never have even come to the floor for a vote.

Too often the extreme flanks of both parties are calling the shots, leaving the majority of Members who are seeking bipartisan and thoughtful policymaking absolutely hamstrung.

As we look forward to the 119th Congress, it is my hope that we can strengthen the discharge petition, allowing us to bring more meaningful bipartisan pieces of legislation to the floor and more bipartisan productivity back to this Chamber.

#### A GRATEFUL NATION SALUTES AL OLIVER

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

Mr. WENSTRUP. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share the life of Ohio Second District native and Major League Baseball star, Al Oliver of Portsmouth, Ohio.

Born in 1946, Al learned from a young age what it means to be a leader. After his mother passed away when he was

11, he took on the incredible responsibility of caring for his two younger siblings. A standout baseball and basketball player at Portsmouth High School, he would later sign with the Pittsburgh Pirates at just 17 years old and would make his major league debut just 3 years later.

Oliver's career lasted 18 years including stops with seven baseball teams. Most notably, Oliver was part of the September 1, 1971, Pirates lineup that featured the first all-Black lineup in Major League Baseball history. That 1971 team would later go on to win the World Series.

In 1986, Oliver retired as a seven-time all-star, a three-time Silver Slugger, and World Series champion. Much like the story of our Nation, Oliver's is a story of overcoming challenges.

Al Oliver's story of fighting through adverse odds is an example to our Nation's children in America, through hard work, and perseverance, one can accomplish anything they set their mind to. Al Oliver did that.

We thank Al Oliver. A grateful Nation salutes him.

Play ball.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY FAIRNESS ACT OF 2023

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

Mr. MAGAZINER. Madam Speaker, for 40 years an unfair law has cut the Social Security benefits of millions of police officers, firefighters, first responders, public school teachers, and other government employees, even though they pay just as much into the Social Security system as other Americans.

These people, our friends and neighbors who keep us safe and teach our children, should not be penalized for pursuing years in public service.

That is why I proudly voted this week for the Social Security Fairness Act, to end the GOP and WEP rules that have unfairly reduced the earned Social Security benefits of public servants.

This is a matter of basic fairness. All Americans deserve to retire with dignity but especially those who serve our communities in education, law enforcement, public safety, and other service roles.

It is time to right this wrong. Now that the House has passed this bill, I urge the Senate to take it up immediately and to restore full Social Security benefits for the millions of Americans who have been treated so unfairly.

#### HONORING EMS DIVISION CHIEF STEPHANIE WINEGAR

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

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Stephanie Winegar, the