

CONGRATULATING KIWANIS CLUB OF WAYNESBORO ON ITS CENTENNIAL

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Kiwanis Club of Waynesboro as they celebrate their centennial.

For 100 years, the Waynesboro Kiwanians have shown a deep commitment to children in our community. In the 1930s, they sponsored a clinic for children in need. During the 1950s, they acquired a campsite that hosted many summer activities for local youth, including scouting and 4-H clubs.

Today, with 53 members, the Kiwanis Club actively promotes childhood literacy by providing books to public schools, hosting eight Little Free Libraries, and building a library at the Boys & Girls Clubs. They also host an annual Halloween event that brings together over 3,000 families for a safe celebration.

In addition, the Kiwanis Club of Waynesboro invests approximately \$45,000 each year into our community through grants, scholarships, and donations to nonprofits.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Kiwanis Club of Waynesboro on this remarkable 100-year milestone. Their dedication truly makes our community a better place.

CONGRATULATING SIGNAL KNOB MIDDLE SCHOOL
FFA

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Signal Knob Middle School Future Farmers of America chapter for winning the national Middle School Model of Excellence award at the 97th National FFA Convention & Expo in Indianapolis. The national Middle School Model of Excellence award is given to a chapter that displays the ability to grow leaders, build communities, and strengthen agriculture.

The chapter is led by a Signal Knob teacher and FFA adviser Dakota Stroud, who said he is “ecstatic to have our chapter recognized for [the members’] hard work through the school year in creating and executing events and activities that benefit our students, school, and community.”

Students Piper Dellinger and Emily Hamrick, who are now freshmen at Strasburg High School, represented Signal Knob’s FFA chapter and led the presentation. They spoke on the many activities and events that the Signal Knob FFA chapter participated in during the 2023–2024 school year.

I again congratulate the Signal Knob Middle School FFA chapter for excelling in the areas of agriculture and leadership and making the Shenandoah Valley proud. I wish the entire chapter the best of luck in future endeavors.

CELEBRATING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROTARY CLUB OF WAYNESBORO

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the Rotary Club of Waynesboro

as they approach their centennial. Chartered in December 1924, the Waynesboro Rotary Club has dedicated nearly 100 years to service.

They have consistently met over lunch on Tuesdays and have fostered a commitment to the community through the Four-Way Test, ensuring their initiatives are fair, beneficial, and rooted in truth.

The club has evolved since the first project of beautifying the grounds of the local library. They have helped individuals without homes, supported environmental efforts, and provided school supplies, often partnering with local organizations to maximize their impact.

To mark its 100th anniversary, the Rotary Club has teamed up with the Central Shenandoah Valley Office on Youth and Waynesboro Parks and Recreation to create a traffic playground for children to practice bike riding and learn about traffic safety. Many of these children may also have the opportunity to receive scholarships from the club, which have totaled over \$350,000.

I have no doubt the Rotary Club of Waynesboro will continue their vital service. Mr. Speaker, I commend them for their past century and wish them continued success in their efforts to prioritize service to others.

□ 1030

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE 119TH CONGRESS

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a critical moment in our Nation’s history.

The Biden-Harris administration’s policies have severely weakened our country, putting the American people at risk. From the disastrous withdrawal in Afghanistan, resulting in the loss of 13 servicemembers and arming the Taliban with our equipment, to compromising our allies’ energy security by waiving sanctions on Nord Stream 2, this administration has consistently failed the American people.

Allowing \$6 billion to flow to Iran, a state sponsor of terrorism, is both reckless and dangerous.

Simultaneously, we see China continuing its human rights abuses while our Nation grows increasingly dependent on its supply chains.

At home, we have seen a Chinese spy balloon surveil sensitive military sites, a border crisis that continues to spiral out of control, and a fentanyl epidemic devastating our communities.

Working with the incoming Trump administration, House Republicans are ready to lead. We will secure our borders, restore energy independence, and prioritize America in foreign policy. We will protect American jobs and combat the inflation that is squeezing hardworking families.

As we enter the 119th Congress, I look forward to working with my colleagues to reverse the damage done by the Biden-Harris administration and get our country back on track for the American people and our future.

HONORING THE LATE COLE WILLIAM SCHMIDTKNECHT

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

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the late Cole William Schmidtknecht. Born in 2001 in La Crosse, Wisconsin, Cole was a 22-year-old who, according to his parents, Bil and Shanon, did life on his own terms. Cole was known to them as Mr. Independent. As a toddler, he walked himself into kindergarten.

Bil and Shanon said that Cole always stood up for the little guy. Growing up, Cole had a love for gaming and enjoyed playing in video game tournaments. He had gained a following online on Twitch that he shared with many of his gaming friends. His mother, Shanon, said he had a lifelong curiosity for knowledge. Cole had an affinity for elephants due to their wisdom and kindness and had wanted a tattoo of one on his arm.

Cole had recently moved back to Appleton, Wisconsin, to live with his best friend.

In January of 2024, Cole went to the pharmacy to refill his steroid medication for his asthma, a medication he had taken for years.

A big 3 pharmacy benefit manager had increased the price of Cole’s daily asthma medication from around \$35 to over \$500. He was told that no generic drug would be covered by his insurance, and Cole was forced to choose between his medication and his rent. He chose to pay his rent.

Five days later, Cole suffered a severe asthma attack that led to cardiac arrest. On January 21, 2024, Cole passed away.

These pharmacy benefit managers are the middlemen of drug pricing. They are owned by Fortune 20 health insurance companies and are working for profit, not patients.

PBMs claim to negotiate on behalf of employers and patients to lower drug costs, but the Federal Trade Commission’s July investigation into PBM price gouging abuses showed the facts.

PBMs mark up the cost of drugs by thousands of percent above their acquisition cost and have captured \$300 billion from the U.S. healthcare system. They have invested none of that into research and development for new drugs.

PBMs influence what prescription drugs are available and what they cost by mandating patients receive expensive, brand-name drugs when cheaper, generic drugs are prescribed and are readily available.

Now their greed is on full display.

At the July House Oversight and Accountability Committee hearing, I questioned big 3 PBM executives about these markups. I asked CVS Caremark President David Joyner, now CEO of CVS Health, why he was charging \$6,229 for a \$16 multiple sclerosis drug. This is a 38,000 percent markup for lifesaving

medication. He had no real answer to my questions.

It doesn't stop there. These exorbitant markups extend to drugs for leukemia, prostate cancer, kidney disease, and more.

At this hearing, I unveiled H.R. 9096, the bipartisan Pharmacists Fight Back Act with DIANA HARSHBARGER, a pharmacist. Pharmacists Fight Back will stop the most nefarious of PBM price gouging abuses.

PFB is the most muscular reform ever introduced at the Federal level. It will implement a transparent pharmacy reimbursement model using market-based pricing benchmarked to the national average drug acquisition cost. It will end patient exploitation in Federal healthcare plans and impose criminal violations for such behavior. No family should suffer the loss of a child from PBM greed.

Ahead of Thanksgiving, we reached our goal of 50 cosponsors to Pharmacists Fight Back, 25 Republicans and 25 Democrats. This is not a partisan issue.

Cole had his whole life ahead of him. Because Cole was forced to choose between paying his rent or shelling out hundreds of dollars to cover his medication out of pocket for a drug that did not need to be that expensive, his family is without their loved one. There is no justification for a family facing Thanksgiving without their child. Cole's death was preventable.

Since Cole's passing, Bil and Shanon, who are here today, have fought tirelessly for PBM reform. I am grateful for their presence today and that they have chosen to tell their story so no other parents experience this pain.

Cole's parents said that Cole walked his own path in life. He was known by his loved ones to have deep care and compassion for those whom he encountered.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my fellow Members to protect patients like Cole and his family and to sponsor H.R. 9096, the Pharmacists Fight Back Act. In honor of Cole Schmidtknecht, we will carry forward the fight to end the price gouging abuses of pharmacy benefit managers.

RECOGNIZING JANELLE JONES FOR MAKING OUR ROADS SAFER FOR CHILDREN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOLINARO). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible strength and resilience of Janelle Jones, a grieving mother who has turned her profound loss into a mission to protect others.

After the tragic loss of her beloved son, Makaili "Mak" James Evans, to a distracted driver, Janelle has shown extraordinary determination in advocating for pedestrian safety. Her courage is a testament to her strength and

a meaningful way of honoring Mak's memory.

Janelle's advocacy has brought much-needed attention to the importance of protecting our children by making our roads safer. Her efforts have led to enhanced pedestrian safety measures, including improvements at the same intersection where young Mak tragically lost his life. Her work serves as both a tribute to her son and a call to action for all of us.

As we remember Mak and others who have lost their lives on our roads, let us commit to honoring their memory by taking meaningful steps to prevent tragedies like this as we draw inspiration from mothers like Janelle.

GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, in the world of sport, my favorite discipline has always been women's Olympic figure skating. I have to share I still remember way back in the 1990s when I was crestfallen and felt betrayed to see the sport reduced in stature after U.S. figure skating champion Nancy Kerrigan had physical harm perpetrated against her by an opponent on the U.S. team.

As a young woman, I was perplexed and shocked and, frankly, have never fully accommodated that horrific incident that tarnished the reputation and standing of the Olympics itself.

As a lifelong citizen of Ohio, the dean of Ohio's congressional delegation, and a grateful graduate of the University of Michigan, today, as well, I feel a deep sense of responsibility to speak out on a recent degradation of worth in Big Ten football.

I shuddered this past Saturday at the Michigan-Ohio State football game when after the game itself a fracas developed on the field with the largest viewing audience of the year. It should have been a moment of sterling sportsmanship and national pride. Instead, it devolved into adolescent chaos.

Ohio's and Michigan's traditional rivalry, and it is strong, should have elevated our Nation to its best. In past decades and generations it has.

The best among us in sport often rose to higher purpose in life. Gerald Ford, from Grands Rapids, Michigan, served as captain of the University of Michigan football team. He later became President of the United States.

Even earlier, during the difficult decades of World War II, Jesse Owens of Cleveland, Ohio, who had been the finest runner ever on the Ohio State track team, led America's Olympic team to Berlin, Germany. When he entered that stadium carrying our flag, fascist dictator Adolf Hitler, who was sitting in the stands, turned his back on Jesse Owens, the greatest male runner in American history.

It appears last weekend's lack of sportsmanship was not just an occur-

rence in the Ohio State-Michigan game. There also have been brawls between Florida and Florida State, North Carolina State and University of North Carolina, and Arizona State and the University of Arizona.

Is this sport?

America is watching. Our children are watching.

The Big Ten Conference quickly and justly fined both teams \$100,000. That is not much in that world.

That was a useful but small gesture. The universities and athletic organizations must investigate and disclose those who initiated these violations of sportsmanship and set standards of play.

They must stop these abuses and must issue full, formal apologies to the people of our Nation for disgracing America's finest traditions. This moment must become a turning point and recommitment to the values that good sportsmanship should teach us: respect, cooperation and team spirit, physical and mental discipline, and, yes, good times too.

This is about more than football games or storied rivalries. Sport is about setting an American standard on the field and in the classroom. Winning isn't everything, but, as we know, living a life with honor, integrity, and respect for others is.

MANY THANKS TO THE VILLAGE WHO HAS SUPPORTED ME THESE LAST 2 YEARS

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

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, as we get close to the end of the 118th Congress, my first term representing the greatly diverse Illinois Third Congressional District, I rise in full gratitude for all of those who have supported me and held me during these not-so-easy 2 years in what we call the people's House.

We have heard that it takes a village to represent, to fight, and to deliver for our communities. However, recently, 219 Members of this body opted to persecute the village, passing a bill that puts all of civil society at risk. They took that action at the precise moment we should be uplifting and celebrating civil society as the first and most resilient line of defense for many vulnerable communities.

Without a robust civil society, countries can descend into instability, their governments becoming more prone to authoritarianism, human rights abuses, and the erosion of democratic freedoms.

While some of my colleagues came to the floor to do harm to civil society, I have come to the floor to commend the countless nonprofit organizations, faith communities, schools and universities, advocacy groups, and cultural institutions that compose the powerful civil society of Illinois' Third Congressional District.