

Jennifer, Tyler, Ethan, Emma Grace, Hayley Joan, Ryan, Jocelyn, Brenna, Kinsley, and a great-grandson arriving soon; Dillon and Chelsey; my beloved late daughter's family, Christopher, Karina, Christopher Jr., Grayson, Michael, and Dominic.

I thank them all for supporting my service and supporting me throughout my career. I am so very proud of them all.

Once again, I am proud of everything we have accomplished together throughout my tenure.

I also thank my constituents for trusting in me to be their Representative. As I have said to both Republican and Democratic Presidents alike, my focus has been representing my district first, State second, and Nation third.

I will continue fighting for the San Gabriel Valley through my last day in office.

I wish everybody a merry Christmas, a joyous holy season, and much health and happiness in the New Year and beyond. May God bless everybody in this House and those who serve in it.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF WILLIAM C. "BILL" MOBLEY

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

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in this hallowed House of our Nation's Capitol to recognize and honor a man who has served his community well for a long period of time, Chief William "Bill" Mobley, a remarkable individual whose lifetime of service and dedication to his community, his State, and his country have earned him the great honor of being inducted into the South Carolina Law Enforcement Officers Hall of Fame.

This agency was formed back in 1797, and it exists today in 2024. In 227 years, only 400 people have met the standards to be inducted into the Hall of Fame in South Carolina.

Chief Mobley's career is a testament to his unwavering commitment to justice and public service. A graduate of the University of South Carolina, Chief Mobley distinguished himself early in his law enforcement career, earning the JP Strom Award from the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy. This recognition is reserved for the very best, and Chief Mobley embodied this excellence throughout his 43-year tenure with the York Police Department. From 2000 until his retirement in 2010, he served as chief of police, leading with integrity, professionalism, and a steadfast commitment to protecting the citizens of York.

□ 1045

Chief Mobley's public service extended beyond his work in law enforcement. For 18 years, he volunteered with the York Rescue Squad and York Fire Department, demonstrating a willingness to serve whenever and

wherever his community needed him the most.

His professional affiliations, including the South Carolina Law Enforcement Association, the South Carolina Police Chiefs Association, and the York County Fraternal Order of Police, reflect his longtime dedication to advancing the law enforcement profession and mentoring those who followed in his footsteps.

Chief Mobley's sense of duty began long before his career in law enforcement. He proudly served his country in the United States Marine Corps from 1964 to 1970 where he achieved the rank of lance corporal. His commitment to the ideals of service, sacrifice, and leadership that define the Marine Corps carried over into every aspect of his life.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Chief Mobley has been a pillar of his community. He has served as president of the Clover Optimist Club, coached Dixie League youth baseball for over 20 years, and he has contributed to organizations such as the Catawba Bow Hunters Club, the National Rifle Association, and the VFW Post 66. He is a man of deep faith, and he is also a devoted member of the Union Baptist Church.

Chief Mobley's life of service is even more extraordinary by the unwavering support of his loving wife, Emily. They have been married since 1966.

Together, they have raised four daughters, instilling in their family the same values of faith, service, and community that has defined Chief Mobley's life.

Chief Mobley represents the very best of South Carolina. His introduction into the South Carolina Law Enforcement Officers Hall of Fame is a fitting tribute to a life lived in service to others. His legacy of leadership, compassion, and commitment to justice has and will continue to inspire generations to come.

On behalf of the people of South Carolina's Fifth Congressional District, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Chief Mobley on this well-deserved honor. May his remarkable achievements remind all of us the difference one dedicated individual can make.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that you will join me in saying a big thank you to Chief Mobley.

HOLDING THE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO A HIGHER ETHICAL STANDARD

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

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, last week the Speaker of the House and the majority leader said that the report into serious allegations of misconduct by former Representative Matt Gaetz was "moot" because he had resigned from Congress.

I rise today to remind my colleagues of four names and 4 years: 1987, Bill

Boner; 1990, Don Lukens; 2006, Mark Foley; 2011, Eric Massa.

Those are four Members of Congress, spanning each of the last four decades: two Democrats, two Republicans. All four of them resigned from their seats while under investigation by the House Ethics Committee. Allegations against these Members included acceptance of bribes; sharing inappropriate, sexually explicit images; and sex with a minor child.

In all of those cases, the work of the Ethics Committee continued even after their resignation. In three of the four cases, the report of the Ethics Committee was released to the public.

In none of those cases did anyone have the gall to declare those reports to be moot.

Now, in 2024, another Representative has resigned while he was under investigation by the House Ethics Committee for allegations, including acceptance of bribes; sharing of inappropriate, sexually explicit images; and sex with a minor child. Mr. Gaetz is also alleged to have engaged in illicit drug use.

We all understand that even the allegation of such activities being committed by one of us cheapens this whole institution. We also all respect the traditions of this House. While they may sometimes need reform, we tread carefully before setting any new precedents.

We find ourselves with a tradition going back at least four decades that Members of the House who are under investigation by the Ethics Committee for these sorts of allegations cannot prevent that information from becoming public simply by resigning from their seat, yet that is exactly the precedent that the majority voted to upend last week when they voted to kill the resolution to compel the release of the Ethics Committee report on Mr. Gaetz.

Every Member of this body now needs to ask themselves if they believe that the precedent of this House holding itself and its Members to a higher ethical standard is one worth keeping.

They need to ask themselves if they believe that even if you resign from this body, future employers, whether in the public or private sector, should know if you can be trusted to represent their institutions with dignity and honor, can be trusted with their financial resources, can be trusted around underage children.

Make no mistake: Everyone who voted against the release of the report last week was saying that, no, the time has come for a new precedent where the rules no longer apply to us; where from this day forth, the Republican majority shall loudly proclaim: What happens in D.C. stays in D.C.

As our friend and former colleague Elijah Cummings would have reminded us, we are better than this.

Upholding precedents and maintaining the integrity of this House is not moot.

RECOGNIZING THE HEROIC
ACTIONS OF CARTER NICELY

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courageous actions of 16-year-old Carter Nicely from Alleghany County who heroically saved the lives of his family as their home was engulfed in flames earlier this year.

As dawn broke, Carter was awakened by an extraordinary heat. Attempting to turn on his bedside lamp, he quickly realized the electricity was out. Without hesitation, he sprang into action, rushing to warn his parents, Anthony and Kristin Nicely, and his younger brother, Brody, of the imminent danger.

Thanks to Carter's swift actions, his family was able to evacuate their home safely, though they tragically lost everything in the fire.

In recognition of his bravery, the Sharon Fire and Rescue team awarded Carter a lifesaving award, a commendation they have only bestowed once before.

Mr. Speaker, I, once again, congratulate Carter Nicely on his quick thinking and decisive action which undoubtedly saved lives.

CELEBRATING STRASBURG PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH'S 200TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Strasburg Presbyterian Church as it proudly celebrates 200 years of service.

The church was founded in 1824 by a small, dedicated group of Christians under the leadership of Reverend Dr. William Henry Foote, a Princeton graduate who came to the Shenandoah Valley to provide English language services for residents primarily speaking German.

Notably, Strasburg Presbyterian is the only church in town to withstand the Civil War, even serving as a hospital for wounded Confederate and Union soldiers after the pivotal battles of Cedar Creek and Fisher's Hill.

Today, under the guidance of Reverend David Howard, the church goes beyond traditional worship and Sunday school. It actively participates in community initiatives such as blood drives, Bible studies, pancake breakfasts, and spaghetti dinners.

With 90 active members, many of whom are multigenerational families, Reverend Howard envisions a bright future for the church, embodying the spirit of community service with the belief that "it is about putting your community before yourself."

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Strasburg Presbyterian Church for its unwavering commitment to service and hope the church continues to bless our community for another 200 years.

CELEBRATING THE ROANOKE STAR'S 75TH
ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a beacon of hope and community pride in my district: the Roa-

noke Star. It was on the eve of Thanksgiving in 1949 at exactly 8:22 p.m. when a star was illuminated for the first time atop the most prominent mountain in the heart of the city of Roanoke, Virginia.

What began as a Christmas decoration, this man-made metal star has now become an enduring symbol of our community spirit for 75 glorious years.

Built by Roy Kinsey of the Kinsey Sign Company for \$28,000, this impressive structure towers 88.5 feet tall, proudly visible from as far away as 60 miles. With 2,000 feet of neon tubing ready to shine in red, white, and blue, the Roanoke Star is not just any star; it is the largest freestanding illuminated star in the world.

Visitors come from countless places to witness this treasured landmark, take in the breathtaking view of the Roanoke Valley, explore scenic trails, or enjoy the nearby Mill Mountain Zoo. The Roanoke Star is recognized on both the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register, reminding us of our heritage and commitment to preserving our history.

As we mark this 75th anniversary, let us celebrate the Roanoke Star's significance in Virginia's Sixth District, and may it continue to shine as a welcoming beacon for all who visit.

RECOGNIZING EDUCATORS IN THE
18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
OF TEXAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MEUSER). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Mrs. LEE CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LEE CARTER. Mr. Speaker, as a former first grade teacher in Houston, I rise to honor remarkable educators from school districts in the 18th Congressional District of Texas whose dedication and impact inspires students and strengthens our community.

The Aldine Independent School District, led by Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney, serves over 67,000 students.

Amanda Lee is the Elementary Teacher of the Year from Carmichael Elementary. She fosters hands-on learning in an environment where every child is empowered to succeed.

Leticia Vargas is the Secondary Teacher of the Year from Davis High School and engages students with culturally relevant lessons and provides vital mentorship.

Rosalind Burns is the Principal of the Year from Jones Primary and has transformed her school with innovative programs and enhanced student engagement and achievement.

Next, from the Houston Independent School District, of which I am a proud graduate, our largest district in the 18th District, is Jasmine Campbell, a leader in digital tools and classroom collaboration. She empowers her students and peers through mentorship and innovation.

Alondra Lachney Mejia, a special education teacher, tirelessly supports

students with unique differences to help them overcome challenges.

Yusheba Moses is the counseling manager, and she has devoted 20 years to guiding students and counselors, driving positive change across the district. She reminds me a lot of my favorite guidance counselor, Felicia Doyle, who invested in me when I was in high school.

From the Humble Independent School District that serves 48,000 students, we have Camron Bradford, the Secondary Teacher of the Year at Summer Creek High School, who supports student well-being with compassionate lessons like "it is okay to not be okay."

Jasmine Thomas, the Elementary School Teacher of the Year at Autumn Creek Elementary, creates a kind and inclusive classroom with imaginative storytelling.

James Linse, a special education teacher at Lakeland Elementary, connects lessons to real-world scenarios, empowering his students.

From the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District, which is led by superintendent Dr. Douglas Killian and serves over 118,000 students, we have London Martin. London is a fifth-grade teacher at Francone Elementary, who achieved 100 percent participation in a district math program by fostering strong relationships with her students.

Jasmine Bookman, a sixth-grade math teacher at Campbell Middle School, inspires growth through her dedication to academic and personal development.

William "Frank" Patterson, a Navy veteran at the Carpenter Center, uplifts students with his unwavering support and generosity, including home-cooked meals.

The Spring Independent School District, led by Dr. Lupita Hinojosa, serves over 33,000 students and just this past Monday, renamed its Family and Community Engagement Center after my mother, the Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee.

I salute Rosemary Perez, a bilingual teacher at Donna Lewis Elementary, who uses innovative strategies to foster growth in her bilingual students.

Dr. Clara Thompson, who is a college counselor at Westfield High School, has guided countless students, including many first generation, to success over her 31-year career.

Scott Sims, a government teacher at Westfield High School, enriches his students' learning with his background in community service and support for many extracurriculars.

These educators remind us that teaching is not just a profession but a calling to shape future generations. Their unwavering commitment to excellence deserves our gratitude and continued support.

I commit my full support to policies that help close the achievement gap, support teachers, principals, and students, and help our public schools address 21st century needs.