

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of renowned Arkansas Democrat-Gazette sports reporter Bob Holt, who passed away December 4 after collapsing following the Arkansas football game against the Missouri Tigers, his alma mater.

Since 1981, Bob covered the Razorbacks and sports across Arkansas, bringing every game to life in a unique way that only Bob Holt could.

He was a titan of the media industry, revered for his ability to get an answer to any question, all while maintaining the utmost respect from coaches, players, and his fellow reporters.

Bob leaves a resounding legacy in his wake, and his mark in the Arkansas sports community will go down in history. Not only was Bob an unparalleled reporter, he was a faithful and loyal friend.

Matt Jones, a friend and colleague of Bob's for many years, said that if the world was full of Bob Holts, it would be a lot better world, a lot kinder world, a lot more peaceful world. It would be a world that laughs a lot more, and it would be a much, much better place.

My prayers go out to his family, friends, and all Arkansans mourning our loss.

#### RECOGNIZING THE KILOHANA TEMPORARY GROUP HOUSING SITE

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

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, for millions of our fellow Americans, Thanksgiving is about returning home, a time to gather with loved ones in a place both familiar and safe.

On my way back to Hawaii for the Thanksgiving recess, with long delays and packed airports and planes, it hit me for too many of our Maui "family," "ohana," this is but a sliver of what they have been trying to do for the past 16 months. They are just trying to go home.

A week before Thanksgiving, I joined the Folaumoeloa "family," "ohana" as they became the first family to move into the new Kilohana Temporary Group Housing Site in Lahaina. By this spring, 167 modular units will house survivors and their families.

While these housing units can never replace what was lost, we hope they will soon be made homes by the people, the love, and the hopes and dreams that will fill the space between these walls.

A big "thank you," "mahalo" to FEMA, the Army Corps of Engineers, the State of Hawaii, Maui County, and all our contractors and community partners for their hard work and dedication.

Thanks to them, families like the Folaumoeloa are moving in months ahead of schedule to a place where they

can look ahead to the future and to what this community will one day be.

#### HONORING AVON MARCHING BLACK AND GOLD

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

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Avon Marching Black and Gold, Avon High School's marching band who won both the 2024 Bands of America Grand National Championship and the ISSMA State finals for the second year in a row.

Avon High School's marching band also won all three special award categories at the 2024 Bands of America Championship, taking home awards for Outstanding Music Performance, Outstanding Visual Performance, and Outstanding General Effect Performance.

I congratulate the students on their two big wins this year, and I am proud of their outstanding talent and perseverance that has led to their continued successes and national dominance.

I also thank the parents, teachers, directors, and volunteers for their hard work and dedication to this program. They couldn't have done it without you.

Congratulations again to the Avon Marching Black and Gold.

#### SUPPORTING SERVICEMEMBERS AT HOME AND ABROAD

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, today the House passed the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025.

I voted for the legislation, as this body upholds again the over 60-year bipartisan tradition, ensuring partisan politics does not put America's national security at risk.

As a senior Member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, I greatly appreciate the bipartisan work of the defense authorizing committee. Their collaboration has resulted in a bill that supports our patriotic servicemembers at home and abroad, and the legislation meets that call through its 14.5 percent pay raise for junior enlisted servicemembers and a 4.5 percent increase for all other members of our military.

Our State of Ohio is home to over 31,000 servicemembers including those on Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard duty. They have earned this much-needed increase in pay at a time when too many of our citizens are struggling to afford basic needs.

This legislation also authorizes \$121 million for defense-related upgrades in Ohio to further strengthen avenues of collaboration between the Department of Defense and Ohio's installations.

Merry Christmas, happy holidays, and Kwanzaa to our dear servicemem-

bers who are serving liberty at home and abroad.

#### CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA FOOTBALL

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

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2024 SEC champions, my MBA alma mater, the University of Georgia Bulldogs.

During a thrilling overtime game last Saturday, the Dawgs defeated the University of Texas Longhorns 22-19. This exciting win marks the 15th time the University of Georgia will bring home the SEC championship trophy to Athens.

Congratulations to all the talented young men who put their everything into the game but especially to the Ninth District's own quarterback, Gunner Stockton, from Rabun County, who came off the bench to help lead the Georgia Bulldogs to victory.

I also want to recognize the other incredibly talented Dawgs from Georgia's Ninth District who helped clinch another SEC title. Well done to Buford's K.J. Bolden, Jake Pope, and Marek Briley, as well as to Gainesville's own Dan Jackson.

Congratulations to the entire University of Georgia football team and coaching staff led by the legendary Coach Kirby Smart.

Go Dawgs. Let's bring home another national championship.

#### SUPPORTING BARTON HEALTH SCIENCES BUILDING INITIATIVE

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support Barton College's initiative to construct a new health sciences building on their Wilson campus.

The initial funding phase is estimated at \$19 million, and it will be a wonderful investment.

It is essential to ensure a more robust talent pipeline for North Carolina's healthcare industry. Given the health disparities across eastern North Carolina, Barton College aims to ensure a brighter future for our State's healthcare system and the residents who rely on it daily for their mental and physical well-being.

A new health sciences building will provide additional labs, research space, and improved technology for students which will yield huge dividends for Wilson County and eastern North Carolina.

#### CONGRATULATING DELEGATE ERIC HOUSEHOLDER ON HIS RETIREMENT

(Mr. MOONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Delegate Eric Householder as he retires from the West Virginia House of Delegates after 14 years of service.

For the last 2 years, he has served as the house majority leader and previously chaired the house finance committee. As a small business owner, Eric ran for elected office to fight back against the job-crushing regulations coming out of Charleston and to reform our tax code.

With the help of Eric's leadership, West Virginians have less regulation, lower taxes, and educational freedom. I am proud to bestow upon Delegate Householder my Congressional Patriot Award for excellence, leadership, volunteerism, and selflessness, virtues without which our Republic cannot thrive.

While his time in the house of delegates has come to an end, I know that Delegate Householder is not done serving our State.

I thank Delegate Householder for his years of service and his tireless efforts to improve the lives of West Virginians. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

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#### HONORING HOUSTON'S MILLENNIAL LEADERS

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

Mrs. LEE CARTER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize some of the 637,000 millennials who make up 28 percent of Houston's population. These remarkable individuals are reshaping our city through their innovation, leadership, and commitment to excellence.

I recognize Danielle Keys Bess, a dynamic force in real estate and public service. She has elevated our community through her work with campaigns, organizations like Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, and the Houston Black Real Estate Association.

In construction, Julian Paul Johnson, Jr., vice president at Skilled Construction, exemplifies progress with his dedication to process improvement and his recognition as a 2019 Urban Land Institute Young Leader.

We also have individuals like Jose Torre, a construction entrepreneur, and Emily Anassi, an immigrant excelling at logistics. They remind us of the diverse talents driving our city and our Nation forward.

I would like to celebrate legal powerhouse Bianca Calderon de Lachica, whose advocacy dominates Houston's highways, and Alva Kattan, an entrepreneur redefining success.

Finally, I recognize Uzair Hasan, owner of Millennial Magazine, who highlights Houston's creativity and our future.

Together, these individuals demonstrate that America's largest generation is ready to take up the mantle.

As an Xennial, I recognize their achievements and encourage their future success to make our community a better place to live, work, and play.

#### PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM HARMFUL AND IRREVERSIBLE MEDICAL PROCEDURES

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, the National Defense Authorization Act takes an important step to protect children from harmful and irreversible medical procedures.

It includes a provision to permanently ban the Department of Defense from providing minors with medical treatments for gender dysphoria, such as hormone therapies and puberty blockers that can result in sterilization.

Children should have the chance to grow up without being subjected to experimental procedures that can cause permanent damage to their bodies and futures. These are minors we are talking about here. What business is it of the Department of Defense to be engaging in this?

These treatments are life-altering, and their long-term effects are still unknown. The Federal Government has no business funding or endorsing such practices, particularly when they involve children.

This provision ensures taxpayer dollars aren't used to promote controversial and harmful treatments for minors.

Including this ban in the NDAA reflects a commitment to common sense and the protection of our Nation's youth and focuses the Defense Department on defending the homeland. It is a step in the right direction for safeguarding the futures of these children.

#### A BIPARTISAN WIN FOR HOUSTON

(Mr. HUNT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate yet another bipartisan win for the city of Houston this week. Within the WRDA bill the House passed yesterday, there were several important priorities that Congresswoman FLETCHER and I spearheaded to ensure another catastrophic flooding event, like Hurricane Harvey, never happens again.

Specifically, the Army Corps of Engineers is now statutorily required to finish one of the most important studies facing Texas, the "Buffalo Bayou and Tributaries Resiliency Study."

Without the completion of this study, construction of a tunnel underneath our city will never be built to route floodwater away from my friends

and neighbors in TX-38 and TX-7 and into the Gulf of Mexico.

I personally thank Congresswoman FLETCHER and the brilliant staff in the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment for all of their hard work to ensure Houstonians can remain resilient in the face of another disaster.

#### RECOGNIZING CONGRESSWOMAN CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the first ever Energy and Commerce Committee chairwoman and my friend, CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS, for her excellent work in leading the most bipartisan committee in Congress.

Under her leadership, the committee has worked effectively, efficiently, and in a bipartisan manner to advance legislation that will improve the life of all Americans.

Chair RODGERS introduced bipartisan legislation that would provide necessary resources for Down syndrome research. She has also led us in combating the Biden administration's damaging overregulation and war on American energy.

I was proud to work with her on the ADVANCE Act to enhance our civil nuclear leadership, which is now law. She also held insightful hearings on TikTok and the threat that it poses to our youth and national security.

Her time as the chair enhanced the United States and its citizens, and we will surely miss her.

We surely wish her well in her retirement.

I thank CATHY for all her work.

#### CELEBRATING THE LEADERSHIP OF CONGRESSWOMAN CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

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

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the leadership of my dear friend, Congresswoman CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS.

Serving alongside CATHY has been an honor. She is not only a fierce advocate for her constituents but a principled leader with a servant heart.

As the first chairwoman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, CATHY has shown what it means to always put the needs of the American people first.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, CATHY's faith is what I admire most. Whether it is by sharing an encouraging comment or during prayer walks around the Capitol, CATHY has strived to honor the Lord every day.

After I was elected to Congress, I had the opportunity to meet with CATHY, who at the time was chairwoman of the House Republican Conference. It was