

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.

□ 1700

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

during that meeting that CATHY made me feel like I belonged here.

CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS is special. During my time serving in Congress, CATHY has become a great friend and a great example of what it means to lead with grace and faith.

Even though we will miss her here, I am excited for what the Lord has in store for her. May God bless her and may He continue to guide her steps in this next season of life.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSWOMAN CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I also rise to recognize Congresswoman CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS, who is retiring at the end of the 118th Congress.

In 2004, the two of us came to the House in the same class, and we have been friends throughout our time here.

CATHY has the distinction of being the first woman to give birth three times while in the House. She is a visible and vocal leader within the disabilities community, and her advocacy is inspired by her son, Cole, who was born with Down syndrome.

I thank the gentlewoman for her years of service to this great institution, to her constituents in Washington's Fifth Congressional District, and to the American people.

May God continue to bless her, her husband, Brian; and Cole, Grace, and Brynn, their three children, as she enters a well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL

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

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, for those of us from the Valley of the Sun, the Phoenix, Arizona, area, there is an excitement around us. Our college team, Arizona State University, which was predicted to be last in its first year in the Big 12, has made the college playoffs. As a matter of fact, they won the Big 12 and they get a bye in their first playoff game.

For the community, the excitement, the joy, and having one of the youngest coaches in America, I can only be thankful to the team. Being predicted to be last and coming out where they are, you have provided hope, joy, and excitement to our community.

I thank Arizona State University football.

MAKING OUR MILITARY GREAT AGAIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE) is recognized for 60

minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, today, the House passed the Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025, otherwise known as the Fiscal Year 2025 NDAA.

The Fiscal Year 2025 NDAA will improve the quality of life for every servicemember who serves our great country. It restores the focus of our military on lethality, not woke ideology. It improves the military's ability to recruit and train our fighting forces to be able to deter China and our other adversaries. It also increases oversight and requires accountability of the Biden administration and the Department of Defense.

All of these tremendous accomplishments are why we are here tonight, Mr. Speaker.

To speak in support of this recently passed bill that will make our military great again, I am grateful for the Members who join me this evening to discuss this important bill to protect our country and restore our national security.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the State of Missouri (Mr. ALFORD).

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend Mr. ROSE for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my unwavering support for the 2025 National Defense Authorization Act.

We must ensure our Nation's military remains the greatest force for freedom and stability the world has ever known, and this year's NDAA does just that.

At this very moment, our Nation faces numerous threats from the growing aggression from China and Russia to the persistent menace of terrorism. It is imperative that we ensure our military is provided the resources and support they need to defend our interests and keep Americans secure.

The fiscal year 2025 NDAA authorizes \$895 billion in defense spending to support our military's critical missions, enabling us to modernize our Nation's capabilities. From upgrading our naval and air power to investing in cutting-edge technologies, we will remain superior against our adversaries.

Missouri's Fourth Congressional District will receive major wins in this legislation, wins that we have fought hard for on the Armed Services Committee. Whiteman Air Force Base in Fort Leonard Wood will receive a combined total of \$139.5 million for fueling facilities and advanced individual training barracks.

There will be expanded access to childcare for Missouri's military families and to programs that help military spouses attain and retain employment.

We are ecstatic to announce a 14.5 percent pay raise for junior enlisted servicemembers and a 4.5 percent pay raise for all other servicemembers.

This legislation isn't just about numbers. It is about the values that we hold dear as Americans. It is about our commitment to freedom, to justice, and the protection of our citizens.

Mr. Speaker, this year's NDAA embodied our unwavering commitment to America's military excellence, reflecting the values that have always made our Nation strong. We are prioritizing the well-being of our military families, bolstering the readiness of our Armed Forces, and fortifying our national security.

To truly restore our military's lethal edge, we have to purge the radical, woke ideologies that are being forced on our servicemen and -women, infiltrating our ranks.

□ 1715

These divisive concepts have plagued our military and are undermining our elite cohesion and combat effectiveness.

That is why this year's NDAA will take bold action: Number one, banning life-altering transgender medical treatments for minors; prohibiting the toxic spread of critical race theory; dismantling the bloated DEI bureaucracy; blocking a misguided military Green New Deal; and countering anti-Semitism.

By eliminating these destructive influences, we are reclaiming our military's focus on its core mission: defending Americans and their interests.

Mr. Speaker, as you saw today, this is not a bipartisan bill. This is an American bill.

We are not just funding the military, we are improving the lives of those who protect us every day.

By passing the 2025 National Defense Authorization Act, we have sent a clear message to our adversaries: America will not be intimidated. America will always reign as the greatest nation on Earth.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. GENE RICHARDSON

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an extraordinary man, Dr. Gene Richardson, a mentor, a friend of mine, and someone who was really like a second father to me. He was a man who had one of the biggest impacts on my life and who is one of the reasons I am standing here today in this very Hall.

Dr. Richardson was a man of remarkable character and compassion. Born in Kennett, down in the bootheel of Missouri, he embodied the values of hard work, faith, and service from a very young age.

Growing up as the youngest of five children, Dr. Richardson's life was shaped by his parents, Irl, who was a Baptist pastor, and his mother, Pearl,