

said that we could come together around what unites us as Americans and do the hard work of making life better for our neighbors.

So my political career began. In 2014, I won a State senate special election and went to Richmond as a bright-eyed, new legislator at a time when the legislature still didn't have a whole lot of people like me there. I was one of just a few women with school-aged kids, and I served in the minority.

I learned quickly that my best ideas for policy come from my constituents. I heard a woman's tragic story of losing her brother to an overdose and took action to make Narcan more accessible.

I worked with a mom to help pass a law that gave greater benefits to single parents of kids with disabilities. Another constituent came to me about her horrific sexual assault story, so I wrote a law empowering victims of revenge porn to file lawsuits and recover damages from their perpetrators.

Then, in 2016, another unlikely candidate for President led me to make a career change I never could have imagined. Once again, though, it was the hope that I could help people that led me to run for Congress.

I wanted to stand up for communities who did not feel represented. I stood with our Muslim neighbors at Dulles Airport to protest the Muslim ban. I became the first Member of Congress to hang a transgender rights flag outside of my office.

As the child of two parents who had worked for the Federal Government, I became a vocal advocate for the integrity of our civil service.

Most of all, I ran for Congress because of my kids. I went to Washington with the goal of making sure the stories of Virginia's families were heard, and that their Representative was fighting for their needs.

I am proud of what I was able to do, like working on legislation to invest in childhood cancer research in honor of a young constituent, Gabriella Miller, and her courageous battle and advocacy; supporting survivors of domestic violence and abuse; expanding mental health resources for Capitol Police in the wake of January 6; and standing up for human rights of Uyghurs in China.

It has been quite the unprecedented 6 years in Congress: Facing the longest government shutdown in history; not one, but two impeachments; a pandemic; an insurrection; and in the midst of it all, I began facing the greatest challenge of them all, my battle with PSP.

One of the first questions I asked my doctor after my diagnosis was if I could still run for reelection. His response was: Why would you want to? It was a very serious and sobering moment, but in truth, I had plenty of answers for him.

Above all, I did and still very much do believe in the possibility to bring hope and make change in the lives of those we serve here. As I battled this

disease, which robbed me of my ability to move and speak, I wanted to make the most of my platform to bring some good out of this terrible situation.

As I mentioned, my best ideas for legislation often come from personal stories constituents share with me. Now, it was my own struggle that I hoped to help turn into meaningful change in policy.

One of my proudest moments in Congress has been successfully helping lead the bipartisan National Plan to End Parkinson's Act to become law, the most consequential legislation ever passed to tackle Parkinson's and related conditions like my PSP. It will go a long way toward improving and saving lives.

This has been a journey, which has been so challenging, yet one which I am proud to have stood strong in and done my part to give hope and comfort to others facing similar battles.

Our disabilities and our health struggles do not define who we are, and I feel more strongly than ever that it is so important to share that truth with the world. This journey could not have been possible without so many people who share my belief that I could make a positive change and conviction that there is real good to be done through public service.

I thank my family, Team Wexton, and all of the people of Virginia-10. I hope I have made you proud. As I head into my final days in Congress, I am choosing once again to have hope.

People didn't lose hope in me after my diagnosis. I have real hope that one day we will find a cure for PSP. I see reasons for hope every day, especially young people, women and girls, and others who don't traditionally have a seat at the tables of power who are discovering and believing in the power of public service, just like I did all those years ago at Ida Lee Park.

I hope that the most impactful legacy I can leave is in the power of perseverance and persistence, in the belief that change is possible through public service, and that change is coming if we are willing to work for it.

CONGRATULATING STEFANIE SMALLHOUSE

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

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Stefanie Smallhouse on her outstanding tenure as President of the Arizona Farm Bureau.

Since the day she took office 7 years ago, Stefanie has dedicated herself to fighting for the interests of our farmers and ranchers to make sure Arizona's vibrant agricultural community continues to thrive.

Her dedication, passion, and tireless work ethic set a standard of excellence and will continue to positively impact our agriculture community long into the future.

Stefanie's tenure not only strengthened the Arizona Farm Bureau, but it also empowered our farmers and ranchers to ensure they have a seat at the table when they are addressing critical issues, like water management and sustainability efforts.

In my time in Congress, I am deeply proud of the strong partnership and friendship that we were able to forge to promote the interests of Arizona's farmers and ranchers at the Federal level. Stefanie's role on my advisory council played a key role in my work for ag and farming communities.

While her leadership will be dearly missed, her legacy will have a lasting impact on Arizona's agriculture. On behalf of Arizona's farmers, ranchers, and the people of our great State, I thank her for her service, her leadership, and her tireless advocacy.

I wish her all the best in her future endeavors and look forward to seeing the positive impact she will continue to have in our community.

HONORING SHERIFF MARK LAMB

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding tenure of Mark Lamb as sheriff of Pinal County.

Sheriff Lamb first started his law enforcement career with the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community where he rose to the rank of detective of the gang enforcement agency.

He later joined the Pinal County Sheriff's Office where he distinguished himself as a capable and tireless officer, dedicated to keeping his community safe. In 2017, he was elected as sheriff of Pinal County and became instrumental in the fight against drug cartels, human smugglers, coyotes, traffickers, and other bad actors trying to take advantage of the situation.

While Sheriff Lamb's leadership and service will be deeply missed in Pinal County, Mark will continue to serve our country.

Laura and I wish him all the best in his new role. I look forward to continuing to work with him to secure our border and keep communities in southern Arizona and across the United States safe.

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CONGRATULATING ART DEL CUETO

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my good friend, Art Del Cueto, for an outstanding career as a Border Patrol agent.

Art is a tireless public servant who dedicated his career to the safety and security of our Nation, approaching his work with a steadfast resolve and a genuine passion.

In the last 4 years, as the Border Patrol encountered its most chaotic period, Art exemplified integrity and commitment, earning the respect and admiration of his colleagues, lawmakers, and Americans across our great country.

Art will continue his work as part of the National Border Patrol Council

where he remains a tireless advocate for the brave men and women who serve in the Border Patrol, fighting for them to ensure they have the tools and resources they need to protect our border.

As a Representative of a border district, I constantly relied on Art's expertise and advice, and I will always be extremely grateful for his constant willingness to be a resource.

As Art enters a well-deserved retirement, I honor his service, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication to the safety and security of our Nation. I thank his wife, Zulma, and daughter, Zulma Alejandra, for their service as a family, as well.

On behalf of Arizona's Sixth Congressional District, Laura, my kids, myself, and our whole family, we thank Art for a career dedicated to keeping our community safe. I wish him and his family all the best as he embarks on this new journey. I thank my friend Art so much for his service. His contributions will not be forgotten. He is a true patriot.

CONGRATULATING PUSCH RIDGE CHRISTIAN
ACADEMY FOOTBALL TEAM

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Pusch Ridge Christian Academy football team for winning the 3A State championship.

The fourth seed Pusch Ridge Christian Academy Lions overcame the odds and beat the second seed LA-West Foothills 26-7.

Despite falling behind 7-0 in the first quarter, the Lions roared back, scoring 26 unanswered points en route to their championship.

The title caps off a remarkable season for Coach Kent Middleton and his team.

After starting the season 1-1, the Lions won 12 straight games, including the State championship to finish the year 13-1.

I say to Coach Middleton, the coaching staff, the student athletes, administrators, and everyone who played a part in this special season, that you have made your school and your community extremely proud. Enjoy this victory. I look forward to rooting for the Lions next season. Go Lions.

FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

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

Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to give my last speech as a Member of the House of Representatives.

What an incredible honor this has been. It has never been lost on me that the privilege of serving here was granted by the people I represent, people who trusted me to listen to them, speak for them, and conduct myself with integrity.

Every time I have stepped onto this floor, I have felt the weight of our Na-

tion's history and the hope of millions of people that we will conduct ourselves and do work that serves them well.

One of the joys of serving in Congress has been the surprise of learning how much good work you can do if you are here to do work.

I thank my staff, an incredible group of young people who woke up every morning asking themselves: How much good can I do today? A big part of the reason serving here was such a joy and such an honor was because I was able to do the work with them. I won't go down the big list of everything that we got done, but we were able to do a lot: improve water systems for small towns; expand parental leave for members of the National Guard, parents who had earned it; and improve weather radar detection for the people of North Carolina's 14th District who have needed that for decades.

When people come up to me now that I am leaving and say: Boy, JEFF, I bet you are glad to be getting out of that place, I say, no, that hasn't been my experience here at all.

Part of the reason that has not been my experience is because of the two committees I had an opportunity to serve on: Armed Services and Science, Space, and Technology, relatively serious bipartisan committees, really about the work. There is not a lot of shouting going on in the Science, Space, and Technology Committee. The Armed Services Committee, for someone who enlisted as a private 22 years ago, to be a part of classified briefings with our Nation's top military leaders, what an amazing experience, what an incredible education. To anyone who is considering running to serve, I could not encourage you more strongly.

However, that said, a word of caution to everyone back home, as well as anyone who may be listening. I know that when you look at Congress, you see a lot of anger. What I need you to know is that most of the ones who are angry here are faking. They know that eliciting your outrage is a surefire way to gain your attention. Some of them want your attention more than they want to do a good job. I have seen this over and over again, that when the cameras turn off, so does the anger.

There are moments of genuine frustration felt by everyone. It is felt by me. That is normal in a legislative body. It is to be expected. The ones who are always trying to make you angry, they are faking. It is theater. A ton of you keep falling for it, and you owe it to yourselves not to be fooled by the outrage farmers in Congress.

My request to all of you, to everyone back home, is don't reward the theater, reward the work. If you do that, you will get more work and less theater. I thank my colleagues who do their job in that manner. I thank my staff who genuinely was a constant source of energy and inspiration. I thank my family who allowed me to be away from

home to do this work. Lastly, I thank the people of North Carolina's 14th District for trusting me to be your voice. It has been the greatest honor of my life.

CONGRATULATING JAMES WOOD
HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL TEAM

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

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the James Wood High School volleyball team for their remarkable achievement in winning the Class 4 State championship. The Colonels have truly made history, claiming three consecutive State titles with their latest victory on November 23 in a five-set match against Courtland High School at the Siegel Center at Virginia Commonwealth University.

The volleyball program has secured half of James Wood's total State titles in the school's 75-year history. During the championship match, the Colonels were led by two-time State player of the year Kennedy Spaid with 25 kills, 24 digs, and 4 aces. Alongside her, three-time first team all-State player Brenna Corbin had 21 kills, 23 digs, and 3 blocks, while first-year varsity setter Kylee Plumb had 50 assists along with 15 digs and 12 service points. Their victory capped off a phenomenal season, bringing the record to 23-3 and an impressive 3-year total of 76-6.

I want to recognize each player on this exceptional team: Kennedy Spaid, Reese Justice, Bella Middleton, Kylee Plumb, Adeline Pitcock, Kyla Wilhelm, Tenley Mattison, Katilyn Brannon, Giselle Norris, Abie Tenney, Brenna Corbin, and Claire Keefer. I also want to recognize the outstanding coaching staff: Head Coach Adrienne Patrick; Assistant Head Coach Brandy Corbin; and their managers: Ethan Germeyer, Ethan Montoya, Fielding Conway, and Kyleigh Bly.

Madam Speaker, I once again congratulate the 2024 James Wood High School volleyball team. Virginia's Sixth Congressional District is incredibly proud of their accomplishment, and I wish them continued success in the season ahead.

RECOGNIZING LOUDOUN STREET MALL'S 50TH
ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Loudoun Street Mall, also known as the Old Town Walking Mall in the city of Winchester.

Over 50 years ago, a group of visionary store owners recognized a shift in shopping habits and the growing demand for convenient shopping spaces. In response, downtown businesses came together to close off two blocks of one of Winchester's busiest streets giving rise to the Loudoun Street Mall.

This bold decision led to the formation of the Downtown Development Committee. Composed of Old Town businessowners, including Betsy Helm,