

Irvin Shendow, Julius Armel, William Duncan, Lewis Ebert, Larry Goodyear, Ray Jennings, Frank Loy, Jimmy Wilkins, John Lewis, and David Juergens, who collaborated with city hall in the early 1970s to bring this vision to life.

While the mall initially thrived, it faced challenges in the 1980s and struggled for decades. However, in 2013, a revitalization began, bringing new amenities and life back to the area. Today, the mall is a true treasure of the Winchester region and a hub for the community and tourism.

From the first businessowners like Irvin Shendow of Bell's Fine Clothing, who served as chairman of the Downtown Development Committee, to then-State senator William Truban, who enabled legislation, to the current city and business leaders, the Loudoun Street Mall has become a top destination for residents and visitors alike.

I am proud to represent the citizens of the city of Winchester, the Loudoun Street Mall in the Sixth District of Virginia, and I am confident it will continue to thrive for many years to come.

CONGRATULATING SHERIFF STEVE FUNKHOUSER

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable leader and friend, Rockbridge County Sheriff Steve Funkhouser, as he prepares to retire on January 1, 2025.

A proud native of Rockbridge County, Sheriff Funkhouser graduated from Natural Bridge High School. Inspired by his family's commitment to service, he dedicated his life to protecting our community and our country.

For almost three decades, Sheriff Funkhouser honorably served with the Rockbridge County Sheriff's Office, starting his law enforcement career as a reserve deputy in 1996. He quickly rose through the ranks becoming a patrolman, investigator, lieutenant, and chief of patrol. In 2019, he was elected as the sheriff of Rockbridge County and Lexington city, winning reelection overwhelmingly in 2023.

Beyond his role as sheriff, he also served as a regional director for the Virginia Sheriff's Association and as an officer in the Virginia National Guard, retiring as a major after over 28 years of dedicated service. He has also contributed to the community by organizing Christmas shopping excursions for local residents of the Rockbridge County area.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Sheriff Funkhouser's extraordinary commitment to our community and his nearly 30 years of service. I wish him and his family the very best in his retirement and in the next chapter of his life.

HONORING LIFE AND SERVICE OF GEORGE WILLIAM HAWTHORNE

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

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life

and service of my constituent, George William Hawthorne.

George is a 102-year-old World War II veteran living in Sidney, Illinois, whose life has been a testament of service to God, country, and family.

George grew up in Granville and Ottawa, Illinois, where his family were faithful attendees of the Congregational Church.

George's family has a proud tradition of service to the country. His family enlisted in World War I, and George was active in the Ottawa Cadet Corps. After high school, George worked several jobs to support the war effort following the attack on Pearl Harbor. He was eager to do more to defend his country, so he enlisted in the United States Army Air Forces on October 2, 1942.

Due to the attrition rates among bomber crews, there was an urgent demand for pilots. George courageously rose to the challenge. His class of cadets was raced through training at twice the typical speed to fulfill the need for pilots, and many cadets dropped out of the program.

George excelled and won his wings as second lieutenant on April 14, 1944. He was set to pilot a B-24 Liberator on a 13-hour flight to the Pacific theater. As he awaited departure, George became ill and was hospitalized with a serious infection.

While in the hospital, his crew left for the Pacific. Tragically, the plane went down in the Philippine Sea after an onboard explosion that claimed the lives of several crewmates.

George still wanted to do his part to serve his country. He trained another crew and prepared for the invasion into Japan. He flew to Hawaii and was stationed there when President Truman made the decision to use atomic bombs.

George finished out his time in the service flying a rescue squadron and was honorably discharged on October 29, 1946. He entered the Air Force Reserve and served there until July 31, 1960, attaining the rank of captain.

□ 1130

Madam Speaker, after leaving the military, George continued his legacy of service by investing in his church community. He attended church regularly and served on multiple boards, committees, and volunteer projects. He also raised three wonderful children with his wife of 64 years, Louise.

Through all his years, George has remained passionate about his country and the freedom that makes it great. Like his father before him, George understands the value and the responsibility of serving in our Nation's military and defending our freedom. He instilled these values in his children and grandchildren, and many of his family members have continued George's legacy of military service.

He remains passionate about defending liberty, his family, and his right to practice his faith in Jesus Christ.

At 102, George is still excited about the future and has plans for things he still wants to accomplish. He is thankful to God for all he has been given, and he loves to talk about his experiences and the lessons he has learned on his journey through life.

On behalf of Illinois' 15th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Captain George Hawthorne for his courage and selfless service to our Nation.

PROTECTING PRODUCTION OF CRITICAL MINERALS AND RARE EARTH ELEMENTS

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, last week, the Chinese Communist Party ordered a trade embargo on the export of critical minerals to the United States, minerals like gallium, which is used in semiconductor manufacturing and also used in the development of medical and dental devices.

This embargo by the CCP is yet another warning and a wake-up call: We need to produce these critical materials right here in the U.S. It is time to increase our domestic supply chains and safeguard our productions against foreign interference.

These critical materials are used in the creation of everything from cell phones to the guidance systems used by our military. We cannot and should not allow the Chinese Communist Party to manipulate what products we are able to build here in America.

This is the time to act. Government red tape should not continue to hold up this necessary manufacturing.

Under President Trump's leadership in the new year, we must take decisive action to approve new permits that allow the production of critical minerals and rare earth elements that are so necessary for our economy.

RECOGNIZING HENRY "JACK" ROEMER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Jack Roemer of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, who will celebrate his 100th birthday on December 20.

There are so many positive things to say about Jack. He is one of the most kindhearted, salt-of-the-earth, intelligent, and witty people I have ever met. He had a long and successful career at R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, where he served as general counsel, vice president, and a member of the board of directors. He is also a World War II Navy veteran and served as an officer on an LST, or a landing ship, tank.

The world would be a much better place if there were more Jack Roemers in it. May Jack treasure this monumental milestone as he celebrates with family and friends. Happy 100th birthday to Jack, and may God continue to bless him and give him many more years on Earth.

ADMIRATION FOR REPRESENTATIVE JENNIFER WEXTON

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I want to say how much I admire JENNIFER WEXTON and the role model she has been as she has struggled with her disease.

We saw her here on the floor a few minutes ago, and I commend her for her willingness to speak openly about the challenges that she is facing and to show the world that one can deal with such a debilitating disease and continue to work for her constituents. I commend her for what she has done.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 4467. An act to direct the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to assess contracts for covered services performed by contractor personnel along the United States land border with Mexico, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7177. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to consolidate certain divisions in the Northern District of Alabama.

H.R. 7524. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to require the submission of reports on certain information technology services funds to Congress before expenditures may be made, and for other purposes.

H.R. 8219. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Lahaina National Heritage Area, and for other purposes.

H.R. 8413. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land at Swanson Reservoir and Hugh Butler Reservoir in the State of Nebraska, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 465. An act to require Federal law enforcement agencies to report on cases of missing or murdered Indians, and for other purposes.

S. 5300. An act to authorize the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to reimburse the Town of Chincoteague, Virginia, for costs directly associated with the removal and replacement of certain drinking water wells.

S. 5465. An act to clarify where court may be held for certain district courts in Texas and California.

S. 5543. An act to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to prohibit consumer reporting agencies from furnishing consumer reports containing adverse items of information about a consumer that resulted from that consumer being unlawfully or wrongfully detained abroad or held hostage abroad.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 35 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

O eternal God, You are the same yesterday, today, and forever. Although we cannot see You with our eyes, touch You with our hands, or hear Your voice with our ears, give us a clear awareness of Your realness and presence among us. Reveal to us the hidden power You wield in our lives and in this world.

Do not let us consider this time and place as our only reality, that the only thing that matters is our own perspective but give us sight to see that there is so much more than meets our eyes.

Do not let us grasp jealously the things that we own or which we, by our efforts, have accomplished, but give us hands to reach out to lift up one another, to enable each to succeed in discovering and using the skills and talents with which You have endowed them.

Do not let us get caught up in the noise of compliments and accolades or even criticisms and disparagements but give us ears to listen to Your wisdom that we would hear Your own "well done" when the day has ended.

You, O Lord, are the first and the last, the alpha and the omega. May our time and talents be used to glorify Your eternal name, in which we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BURGESS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CONGRATULATING NICK DAWKINS ON RECEIVING ALLSTATE WUERFFEL TROPHY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievement of Penn State University football player, lifelong Pennsylvanian, and starting center, Nick Dawkins.

Nick recently won the Allstate Wuerffel Trophy, college football's premier award for community service.

Every year, this trophy is given to one player across the country who combines exemplary community service with leadership achievements on and off the field.

Throughout his time at Penn State, Nick took great pride in founding the Dawkins Family Foundation. His foundation has hosted back-to-school supply drives, organized Christmas present donations, and continues to support and provide for children and families throughout the Pennsylvania community.

On the field, Dawkins was named team captain and continues to have an outstanding season, helping the Nittany Lions secure a home football game in the college football playoffs. He is a vocal leader who picks up and supports those around him, both teammates and coaches.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Nick on this outstanding achievement and wish him and the rest of the Penn State Nittany Lions good luck this weekend as they host their first college football game in Beaver Stadium.

We are.

END HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, imagine dumping over 30 percent of the food in our refrigerators into the garbage every week. That is what we, as a country, have been doing for decades with the nearly 80 million tons of food that goes to waste every year. That is enough food for nearly 149 billion meals.

Food waste costs families, businesses, and municipalities money. It produces greenhouse gases that drive climate change, and it means fewer people have access to nutritious food.

I am proud to be from Massachusetts, a State who is taking this problem seriously. A study recently published in the Journal of Science called my home State a benchmark for success in reducing food waste through our successful commercial food waste ban, extensive infrastructure network, and robust inspection program.

Last month, Boston Mayor Wu's Office of Food Justice issued a report to