

gave their lives to save seven children from harm in that house that awful morning. Nothing could be more heroic.

We can honor their lives by giving the police officers and first responders who keep our communities safe the respect and the support they deserve.

I ask Members to join me in a moment of silence from a grateful Nation to honor the lives of Paul Elmstrand, Adam Finseth, and Matthew Ruge.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF BOB BOOKER

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of my dear friend, Bob Booker, who passed away on February 22 at 88 years young.

He was a historian, a U.S. Army veteran, and a passionate civil rights leader who was not afraid to stand up for what he believed. State Representative Joe Armstrong and I named a bridge after him when we were both in the State legislature because of all of his hard work. He really cared about his community and making it a better place.

In 1966, Bob was also elected as Knoxville's first Black Tennessee State Representative.

Bob was a dear friend of mine, and I knew him for many years. He worked with my dad at UT, and he knew my mama because she taught at Knoxville College, a historically Black college. He continued to be a great friend to me and my family after they passed away.

I have one particularly fond memory of Bob. One night when Kelly, my wife, and I were at a noted honky-tonk in Knoxville, Bob was there, as well. Kelly and I had snuck in, and we were in the back row. He belted out a karaoke song and dedicated it to us. He knew his music and had an incredible record collection that I loved and admired whenever I went to his house. He was an excellent host and an excellent cook.

I give my condolences to Bob's brother, Percell, all of his friends at Marie's Old Town Tavern, and everyone who knew and loved him. Bob will be missed.

#### RECOGNIZING THE FAMILY EMPOWERMENT CENTER AT METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the new Family Empowerment Center at Metropolitan Baptist Church in Newark.

For more than 16 years, the church's sacred and cherished Willing Heart Community Care Center has been a pillar of service to the community. It has provided food and clothing to residents

and families in difficult times. It has brought relief to community members who have suffered during Hurricanes Ike, Sandy, and Irene. It has guided the desperate toward hope and salvation.

Now, the care center will become the Family Empowerment Center. It will provide more advanced, quality medical care for families, and it will help unemployed workers improve their chances of getting a good-paying job.

I am a strong supporter of job training programs. I secured \$1 million for a local program to increase minority employment in advanced technologies. I cannot wait to see what the Family Empowerment Center will do for our community.

#### COMMEMORATING JOSEF BRODER

(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 commemorate Josef Broder for his dedication to the University of Georgia family as he enters retirement.

Known as one of the university's most highly regarded educators, Dr. Broder was tasked with enhancing the college's teaching programs. His efforts resulted in record-breaking student enrollments, increased diversity in student representation, and greater participation in study abroad initiatives.

As a Georgia resident, Josef Broder held prestigious titles, including D.W. Brooks Distinguished Professor of Agricultural and Applied Economics; Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor, and Distinguished University Professor.

Dr. Broder played a pivotal role in establishing the Congressional Agriculture Fellowship Program and introducing degree programs on the Tifton and Griffin campuses.

Having dedicated to two distinct terms as interim dean and director, Dr. Broder skillfully navigated the college through critical transition periods. Even after his leadership roles, he continued contributing his time as the associate dean for academic affairs.

May Dr. Broder enjoy his well-earned retirement.

□ 1430

#### CUBAN STATE SPONSOR OF TERROR DESIGNATION

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

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my profound frustration at the continued Trump-era policies toward Cuba. For 65 long years, the Cuban people have suffered under the weight of an American embargo.

Now, Cuba's completely unwarranted designation as a state sponsor of terror is causing new waves of hardship for the people of the island.

It is also impacting our allies and friends. Mr. Speaker, I met with many ambassadors from close partners of the United States when I was in Cuba, and they were unanimously opposed to the state sponsor designation.

Trump and Pompeo created this designation, knowing it has no merit, and it was a political trap for the Biden administration.

Mr. Speaker, I call on President Biden to step out of that trap, finally, and stop this cruel and counterproductive policy. He should remove the state sponsor designation today.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO ALEX DAVID WOLFSIE

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

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise before you to pay tribute to a remarkable young man, Alex David Wolfsie, whose life was tragically cut short almost 10 years ago on March 10, 2014.

Alex's commitment to our Nation, demonstrated by his service in the United States Navy, exemplifies the best of American valor and dedication.

A Mahopac resident who graduated from Kennedy Catholic High School in Somers and SUNY Cortland, he felt the call to service and enlisted on September 25, 2012. He traveled from the training grounds at Great Lakes Naval Station north of Chicago to Pensacola, Florida, to San Diego, California, to his final post in Guam.

His mission was clear: serving our country. He was preparing for deployment aboard the USS *Bonhomme Richard* in Japan before a tragic accident cut his life short.

He came from a family of service—his father was a member of the NYPD—and sought to carry on that service to our State and Nation.

I know the Carmel Town Board is gathering next week to honor Alex for his service. We will never forget his service and his sacrifice. May God bless the Wolfsie family.

#### A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE

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

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues one simple question: Do you honestly believe that you have any right to tell me or any woman in America what I can do with my own body?

Do you have any right to tell me when, if, or how, I decide to have a family; or the thousands of women across Alabama who had their rights stripped away this week to become a mother; the thousands across this country who are facing the devastating experience of having a miscarriage and not being able to get care; and the millions of women, including myself, who

woke up 2 years ago to the news that the Supreme Court had stripped away our rights.

Yet, you stand here on the House floor denying the rights of women to IVF and reproductive care and telling your donors that you will enact a 100 percent abortion ban this November.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman's time has expired.

Ms. STANSBURY. It is our body, it is our right, and I will not yield.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman's time has expired.

The gentlewoman is no longer recognized.

Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

#### REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

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

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to underscore the devastating impacts that we have seen from Republicans' extreme and unrelenting attacks on reproductive freedom.

Since the Trump-packed Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, we have seen children as young as 10 years of age who have been raped who could not get abortion services. We have seen women who have suffered miscarriages and who have had to sit in the car until they were septic to get the treatment that they needed.

Moreover, now we have seen the Alabama Supreme Court strip away the right to in vitro fertilization with its decision last week and three centers stopping IVF services.

Republicans in the House and the Senate say that they support in vitro fertilization, but when given the opportunity to actually preserve it, they failed. Mr. Speaker, 125 House Republicans cosponsored legislation that would ban IVF, and the Senate has rejected legislation to make it legal.

These decisions belong between patients and their providers.

#### UKRAINE AID

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

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, history has its eyes on us. Right now we are facing the most critical threat to the rules-based order since World War II.

The entire free world is at risk as the autocratic Vladimir Putin and his brutal, barbaric army are marching through our democratic ally, Ukraine, heading toward our NATO allies.

Our allies are perplexed and worried: What are we waiting for? Why aren't we stepping up and helping Ukraine?

Furthermore, China is watching to see whether the U.S. will stand up against vicious autocrats and stay the course to defend the free world.

We Democrats have stood in strong support of sending additional aid to

Ukraine, but Speaker Johnson has refused to bring any Ukraine support bills to the House floor for a vote at a time when Ukraine is literally running out of ammunition to fight Russia.

I ask my friends on the other side of the aisle, and I ask you, Mr. Speaker: What are you waiting for?

The world has its eyes on you.

#### OWENS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Hallelujah, Mr. Speaker, community college education and all the opportunity it presents with workforce development is finally being implanted in the largest city in the entire northwestern quarter of Ohio at Toledo which has been so long ignored. Community college education is so vital to our future.

I stand here to celebrate this agreement signed this week between the University of Toledo president, Greg Postel; the president of Owens Community College, Dione Somerville; and Toledo Public Schools superintendent, Dr. Romules Durant. I am so proud of them.

I congratulate them for working together to plant seeds of hope and new opportunity for generations denied before us. Education, retraining, GED certification, and workforce skills have so long been denied our citizenry.

I thank them for caring. It would be located on the Scott Park Campus.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all citizens to support this new partnership and to offer their indispensable resources to ensure the enterprise succeeds beyond anything that our community has ever known.

Mr. Speaker, help me make a pathway for a brighter, stronger, more educated and innovative Toledo and region.

God bless the partners. God bless our people. God bless America.

[From UToday, Feb. 27, 2024]

UTOLEDO, OWENS AND TPS PARTNER ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCOTT PARK CAMPUS

(By Tyrel Linkhorn)

The University of Toledo, Owens Community College and Toledo Public Schools will work together on an initiative aimed at bringing new educational opportunities to the University's former Scott Park Campus.

The new partnership was announced Tuesday by UToledo President Gregory Postel, Owens President Dione Somerville and TPS Superintendent Romules Durant at an event in which they signed a letter of intent formalizing the agreement.

UToledo sold the Scott Park Campus to TPS last year.

"The University of Toledo is proud to strengthen our long-standing partnerships with Owens Community College and Toledo Public Schools in our shared commitment to ensuring all members of our community have an opportunity to achieve their educational and career goals," Postel said. "By working together, we can help close the educational attainment gap in Toledo to celebrate both individual successes of earning a

college degree and also the community benefit of strengthening the workforce and economic prosperity of our region."

The partnership grew out of a feasibility study commissioned by Owens to look at the potential need for the community college to establish a physical presence within the city of Toledo.

The letter of intent is the first step in the partnership, calling for leaders of the three institutions to collaboratively decide on the type of educational programming that will be offered through the partnership. Partners intend to look at credit and non-credit coursework.

"Our goal is to increase access to high-quality educational opportunities in the city of Toledo that benefit the northwest Ohio region," Somerville said. "With partners at Scott Park, we can build a foundation to address the needs for today's students and workforce development."

"This new initiative with Owens Community College and The University of Toledo allows TPS to continue providing new and exciting educational opportunities for our students," Durant said. "We are excited that the future of the Scott Park Campus includes not only TPS students but adult learners who are ready to expand their education as they plan for their future."

UToledo has a number of partnerships with both Owens and TPS. Among them are Rocket Express, which creates a seamless pathway for students to earn a bachelor's degree from UToledo after starting at Owens, and Toledo Early College, which brings hundreds of TPS students to campus as they work toward their high school diploma while also completing college courses.

#### AKRON REGIONAL TECH HUB PHASE II FUNDING

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Ohio's 13th Congressional District in our quest to become a leader in polymer innovation.

Ohio's 13th Congressional District made its mark as the rubber city capital of the world, building our middle class, growing our population, and literally supporting the movement of people all across the world.

Our community has proudly continued this legacy by becoming a trailblazer in polymer science and polymer engineering.

Last year, thanks to the combined efforts from a variety of local partners led by the Greater Akron Chamber, the Sustainable Polymers Tech Hub was named as 1 of only 31 tech hub finalists across the country.

This designation was a significant achievement for our region and made our project eligible for tens of millions of dollars in additional funding through the Chips and Science Act. Now, the sustainable polymer tech hub is, once again, being considered for additional investment.

It is clear Ohio's 13th Congressional District is the perfect home for a tech hub devoted to developing the future of sustainable polymers.

Polymers touch every industrial sector, and this tech hub will help ensure