

pivotal in ensuring that cutting-edge technologies reach our warfighters without undue delay.

Congressman CALVERT's commitment to innovation is further exemplified by his efforts to formalize the Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) and the Office of Strategic Capital, ensuring that our military maintains its technological edge.

On a personal note, I have had the privilege of working alongside Congressman CALVERT for many years. His unwavering dedication to our Nation's security and his visionary leadership have been both inspiring and instrumental in shaping our defense policies. I am proud to call him a friend and colleague.

It is an honor to congratulate and recognize Congressman KEN CALVERT on this well-deserved award and express my gratitude for his invaluable contributions to our Nation's security.

**CELEBRATING THE MAYOR OF  
THE CITY OF PORT HURON,  
MICHIGAN FOR 15 YEARS OF EX-  
EMPLARY SERVICE**

**HON. LISA C. McCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 4, 2025*

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary leadership and enduring commitment of Mayor Pauline Repp, who has served the City of Port Huron with distinction for 15 years as Mayor. Her tenure exemplifies the values of dedication, professionalism, and selfless service that define an exceptional public servant.

Mayor Repp's life story is as inspiring as her career. Born in England and raised across three countries—England, Canada, and the United States—she became a U.S. citizen in 1988. She began her professional journey in advertising, eventually serving as Assistant to the Publisher of the Times Herald. In 1977, she paused her career to focus on raising her family, but her drive to contribute to her community remained unwavering.

Her commitment to public service began in 1983 when she joined the City of Port Huron as Executive Secretary to the City Manager. Her intelligence and reliability earned her the respect of her colleagues, leading to her promotion as City Clerk in 1989, a position she held for nearly two decades. During her tenure, she achieved the prestigious designation of Master Municipal Clerk, underscoring her dedication to the people she serves.

In 2009, Mayor Repp's passion for improving her community led her to public office. After serving as Chair of the City's Charter Commission, she was elected Mayor of Port Huron and re-elected six more times. Her leadership has been transformative, steering the City toward progress while fostering a spirit of collaboration and unity.

Beyond her mayoral duties, Mayor Repp serves as Chair for the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments and contributes to its Executive, Budget, and Regional Review Committees. She holds prominent roles with the Michigan Association of Mayors, Lake Huron Medical Center Board, St. Clair County Child Abuse Neglect Council, and numerous other boards and organizations. Her work re-

flects an unwavering commitment to the welfare of her community.

Mayor Repp's influence extends beyond her professional achievements. She and her husband Greg have raised four children and enjoy the company of six grandchildren. Having lived in Port Huron for nearly 50 years, she embodies the spirit of the city she has tirelessly served.

Mr. Speaker, Mayor Pauline Repp's 15 years of exemplary service have left an indelible mark on the City of Port Huron. Her visionary leadership, dedication to public service, and commitment to her community stand as a testament to what local government can achieve. Let us honor Mayor Repp's remarkable legacy and express our deepest gratitude for her years of service.

**RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT  
OF MAYOR JOHNNY SMITH**

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 4, 2025*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Mayor Johnny L. Smith, Mayor of the City of Jacksonville, Alabama.

Mayor Smith graduated from Collinsville High School and received his Bachelor of Science degree from Jacksonville State University. He furthered his studies with a Master of Mathematics from the University of South Carolina, Doctor of Education with a Special Emphasis in Mathematics from the University of Alabama and Post Graduate Study in Mathematics from Emory University.

Mayor Smith served on the Jacksonville City Council for 12 years and has served as mayor for 20 years. He has served in the Alabama League of Municipalities, the Alabama Recreational Trails Commission, Past Chairman and member of the East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission and Past Chairman and member of the Calhoun County Metropolitan Planning Organization.

His children include: Laura A. Smith (deceased) (David), Jennifer Smith Aguilar (deceased) and Lyle Smith (Jennifer). His grandchildren include: Glenn M. Smith (deceased), LeeAnn Smith (deceased), Kristen Aguilar, Camden Aguilar, Amelia Smith, Olivia Smith and Luke Smith.

Mayor Smith is a member of the First Baptist Church in Jacksonville and the Jacksonville Exchange Club. In 2017, he was the recipient of the Book of Golden Deeds and the Jacksonville News Citizen of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing my friend, Mayor Smith, and thanking him for his service to the City of Jacksonville. Congratulations.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. FRANK J. MRVAN**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 4, 2025*

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 23, 2025, I missed Roll Call Votes No. 24, No. 25, No. 26, and No. 27. Had I been present, I

would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 24; YEA on Roll Call No. 25; YEA on Roll Call No. 26; and NAY on Roll Call No. 27.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE AMERICAN  
SEABED PROTECTION ACT AND  
THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED  
PROTECTION ACT**

**HON. ED CASE**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 4, 2025*

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce two critically important pieces of legislation aimed at protecting our oceans and marine ecosystems from the potentially catastrophic consequences of deep-sea mining: the American Seabed Protection Act and the International Seabed Protection Act.

These bills will place a moratorium on seabed mining until its full environmental, social and economic impacts are thoroughly studied and appropriate regulatory protections are in place.

Our deep oceans and seabeds are among the last unexplored frontiers of our planet. What we do know about these ecosystems is that they are fragile, diverse and essential to the health of our entire planet. Over half of all known coral species are found in the deep sea, and it is believed that as many as ten million marine species may inhabit this area, many of which are still undiscovered.

These ecosystems are not only rich in biodiversity but also serve vital functions, such as supporting carbon sequestration processes that help mitigate climate change. Additionally, some species residing in these depths have already provided invaluable benefits to humanity. For instance, enzymes from microbes found in deep-sea hydrothermal vents were crucial in developing reliable COVID-19 tests.

While deep-sea discoveries have already made significant contributions to humanity, there is still much scientific research to be done and countless discoveries yet to be made. One of the most exciting areas of research lies in the study of dark oxygen, a unique form of oxygen recently found in certain deep-sea environments. Unlike the oxygen we typically encounter, dark oxygen exists in a chemically distinct state, revealing that oxygen dynamics in the deep ocean are far more complex than previously understood. This discovery could have profound implications not only for marine life but also for biogeochemical processes in the ocean, helping us better understand how deep-sea ecosystems function and how they may respond to environmental changes, including those caused by human activities like seabed mining. The mysteries of the deep ocean, including dark oxygen, continue to unfold, offering new insights that could reshape our understanding of marine ecosystems and the vital role they play in our planet's health.

Unfortunately, these ecosystems are now under increasing threat. The imminent expansion of large-scale commercial seabed mining poses a direct threat to these ecosystems, with potentially irreversible consequences for marine biodiversity, climate processes and communities that depend on ocean resources.

The methods used in seabed mining, including shear-mining techniques that strip away

seamounts on the ocean floor, can be highly destructive. In fact, these practices bear many similarities to terrestrial strip mining and can result in the loss of species, the creation of toxic sediment plumes and contamination of marine food chains. Additionally, mining can disrupt the natural processes that help sequester carbon, thus accelerating climate change rather than alleviating it.

Given that the environmental risks of deep-sea mining are largely unknown, and the science surrounding its impacts is still in its infancy, it is critical that we pause and take the time to assess these consequences properly. That is why the American Seabed Protection Act would place a moratorium on all deep-sea mining activities in U.S. waters, as well as any mining activities conducted by American companies on the high seas. This legislation also directs the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Academies of Sciences to conduct a comprehensive environmental and social impact study to evaluate the risks of seabed mining on ocean species, carbon storage and coastal communities.

At the international level, the International Seabed Protection Act would require the United States to oppose any international seabed mining efforts until the President certifies that the International Seabed Authority (ISA) has established a comprehensive and effective regulatory framework to safeguard these vital ecosystems. The ISA is currently under pressure to finalize mining regulations, but this process is complicated by ongoing scientific uncertainty and environmental concerns. As such, the U.S. must take a leadership role in ensuring that these regulations are not rushed and that the long-term health of our oceans is prioritized.

The reintroduction of these bills comes at a critical juncture as the ISA prepares to consider regulations that could open vast ocean areas to industrial mining. While proponents of seabed mining argue that it will provide essential minerals for renewable energy technologies, that is an assumption that should not go unchallenged, nor, contrary to some of their arguments, have we maximized the sourcing of critical minerals elsewhere. In either event, we should not and cannot simply fling ourselves headlong into a practice that, wholly unknown and improperly regulated, would certainly cause irreversible damage to our oceans and the communities that rely on them, damage that would far outweigh any arguable short-term benefit.

I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring these bills and defending our marine environment.

#### RECOGNIZING SERGEANT JONATHAN PRESLEY

#### HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 4, 2025*

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Jonathan Presley of the Frankfort Police Department for being awarded the 2024 Medal of Valor for his bravery demonstrated while responding to a critical situation within Franklin County.

During a high-risk pursuit with an armed suspect who had barricaded himself in a vehi-

cle following a multi-jurisdictional pursuit, Sergeant Presley demonstrated excellent courage and tactical precision through his coordinated response with Lieutenant Smith to de-escalate a potentially lethal situation successfully.

Throughout this critical situation, Sergeant Presley successfully disarmed the subject. His actions and exceptional teamwork skills allowed a peaceful resolution for all involved.

Sergeant Presley voluntarily performed extraordinary acts of bravery. His actions went above and have made him deserving of this fine honor. I am confident that Sergeant Presley will continue to serve as an exemplary role model for law enforcement officers across the 1st Congressional District and the entire Commonwealth of Kentucky.

#### CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF FRED MOSES

#### HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 4, 2025*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Mr. Fred Moses of Plano, Texas, who peacefully passed away on January 24, 2025.

Fred was born in Coward, South Carolina, on June 6, 1949, to Otis and Elveta Moses. He grew up from humble beginnings in a large sharecropping family with nine siblings. Fred's experiences showed him the importance of working hard, obtaining an education, and safeguarding his family's hard-earned possessions—in this case, land. This inspired him to establish an enduring legacy for his family and future generations. Fred graduated from the University of Bridgeport and later worked as an Operations Manager at General Electric Supply Company for eleven years. In 1985, he left General Electric and used his savings to establish Telecom Electric Supply LLC along with his wife Mазzie.

For over four decades, Fred's company has continued to successfully deliver exceptional supply chain services, electrical equipment, and telecommunications products to North Texas. He also served as a minister at Shiloh Baptist Church and was a generous benefactor for various charitable organizations to help provide scholarships to students in need. For his contributions to our community, Fred received the Community Leader Award from Collin County's Meals on Wheels and was selected to be recognized as a Dallas Living Legend by Verna's HELP Foundation. I was also honored to present him with the prestigious Congressional Patriot Award last year for his outstanding leadership and distinguished community service.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol in recognition of Fred's incredible life and service. He will be dearly missed by his friends, family, and all who knew him.

#### HONORING THE PEBBLE HILLS HIGH SCHOOL SPARTAN MARCH- ING BAND

#### HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 4, 2025*

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary achievements of the Pebble Hills High School Spartan Marching Band. Under the leadership of Director Maximo Sierra and the unwavering support of the Socorro Independent School District, the Spartan Marching Band has made history as the first band from El Paso to perform in the prestigious Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California.

This remarkable accomplishment reflects the dedication, discipline, and talent of the more than 300 student musicians, dancers, and color guard members who have worked tirelessly to reach this milestone. Their invitation to participate in the 136th Rose Parade is not only a testament to their musical excellence, but their commitment to representing the spirit and pride of El Paso's heritage on a national stage.

I commend the students, parents, educators, and community members who have supported the Spartan Marching Band on this journey. Their achievement is a source of immense pride for El Paso and an inspiration for young musicians across the country.

#### RECOGNIZING CHRIS SIRIANNI AS A COMMUNITY CHAMPION IN PA-16

#### HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 4, 2025*

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the work and dedication of Mr. Chris Sirianni, founder of Brewerie. In 2006, The Brewerie established itself as Erie's only brew pub and restaurant. With a deep passion for beer, they took it upon themselves to create brews that they loved, serve food that we relished, and provide a space that was unique.

Throughout their journey of operating a brewpub and restaurant, they have consistently shown their dedication to supporting local individuals, non-profits, and businesses in the area. Since they started, their goal has been to make a positive impact on the revitalization of downtown Erie and the historic Union Station. By reviving these significant locations, they have helped create a strong community connection.

Their values are centered around three principles that shape everything they do. First, they focus on crafting superior products, ensuring that every beer brewed, and every dish served exceeds expectations. The second principle is a deep commitment to caring for their staff and patrons by creating an environment where everyone feels valued, respected, and part of the family. Finally, they place a strong emphasis on being community-oriented and driven, believing that their success is linked to the success of the people and businesses around them.

Years later, these principles still drive their operations, impacting not just the excellence