

for 32 years. Marshal Lacey was instrumental in helping protect our community through his leadership in prioritizing structure and vegetation management, as he established a nationally renowned wildfire mitigation program.

Marshal Lacey was onsite and led the efforts to combat the Waldo Canyon fire and saved my own home and thousands of others in the Black Forest fire that devastated our community, in addition to helping recover victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating and thanking Fire Marshal Brett Lacey for his service to our country and to the Pikes Peak region.

#### CONGRATULATING BALDWIN HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Ms. GILLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to congratulate the Baldwin High School girls' basketball team on winning the New York State AA State Championship.

On behalf of New York's Fourth Congressional District, I take this opportunity to commend and celebrate these young athletes for their dedication, for their teamwork, for their perseverance, and, quite frankly, their dominance on the basketball court.

This year's championship marks Baldwin's third State title in school history, a testament to the strong foundation built by the players, the coaches, and the administrators, both past and present.

We congratulate the Lady Bruins on their remarkable victory. I know they will continue to make Nassau County proud.

#### RECOGNIZING PALM BAY PIRATES GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, it is March Madness. With America currently fixated on basketball, I recognize today the Palm Bay girls' basketball team on their recent statewide victory. The team made history by capturing the State's Class 4A State championship here in Florida. The Pirates overcame a tough American Heritage squad where they rallied from a 14-point deficit to win the State title.

Leading the way was Senior Guard Jaida Civil, a University of Tennessee commit and McDonald's All American, who grabbed 9 rebounds and scored 20 points.

The entire team made critical contributions, showing their depth and the unity of this team. The championship caps off a season where the Pirates won by an average of 57 points.

I congratulate the entire Palm Bay Pirates team. They have made our entire community proud.

#### HONORING CONSTITUENT OF THE WEEK RICK SHERMAN

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

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate this week's Constituent of the Week, Rick Sherman, on being named Businessperson of the Year by the Orange County Chamber of Commerce.

For over a century, the W.A. Sherman Company has been a cornerstone of Orange County. It has provided essential electrical, heating, and plumbing services to the community. Passed down through generations, the Sherman family's dedication to service has made a lasting impact on local families and businesses.

Rick's leadership and unwavering commitment to this community are truly deserving of this recognition. As his Representative in Congress, I am grateful for the work he does each day to strengthen our local community and serve the people of Orange County.

I congratulate him again on this well-earned award. It is a privilege to highlight his story on the floor of the United States House of Representatives, and I am thankful for all he does.

#### RECOGNIZING EAGLE SCOUT COLTER LUMLEY

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

Mr. DOWNING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colter Lumley who on January 22 earned the rank of Eagle Scout. I had the honor to watch Colter from a young boy get involved in his community and do things that mattered, not just for his community but for the State of Montana.

Colter hails from Emigrant, Montana, and can now count himself among the 11 other boys who have achieved the honor since Troop 551 began in 1984. Those who know him best attest to Colter's humility and work ethic, saying that all he does is rise in the morning and put forth more effort and hard work before noon than most his age do in a full day.

His Eagle Scout project was to replace a retaining wall at the fire department in Gardiner, Montana. He arranged the preconstruction meetings, organized the delivery of the supplies, and was even able to get a price reduction to save money. He then rallied his football team and his troop to replace the wall, completing the job in 20 hours and placing over 600 cinder blocks.

Colter has made his country and his State proud. We thank Colter for setting an example for his peers and his community, and we congratulate him on this great achievement.

#### RESPONDING TO SIGNAL CHAT LEAK

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in disbelief at the troubling stories in "The Atlantic" magazine of classified attack plans carelessly leaked by the U.S. Department of Defense in a reckless and dangerous fashion.

Congress must conduct a fully independent investigation with public and private congressional hearings. The highest national security and intelligence leaders of our Nation put American's servicemembers' lives at high risk.

All responsible must be held fully accountable, including through removal or resignation from their positions. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, CIA Director Radcliffe, Director of National Intelligence Gabbard, Secretary of State Rubio, National Security Advisor Waltz, Chief of Staff Wiles, and Vice President VANCE were among those involved in the plans Hegseth shared against DOD policy on a Signal group chat on unsecured, nongovernment devices vulnerable to espionage.

Hegseth failed to notice that the group chat included a news editor and reporter with no security clearance. Only Lady Luck graced our Nation as their haphazard approach to war didn't result in the death of American servicemembers who could have ended up at the bottom of the Red Sea or over foreign soil. Their reckless leak risked American lives and our security.

Mr. Speaker, as our Marine Corps uncle would say: Shape up.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONER MIKE WATSON

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

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding life and public service record of DeKalb County Commissioner Mike Watson.

Mike dedicated his life to serving northeast Indiana in roles ranging from president of the Auburn Economic Development Commission, president of the DeKalb Central Foundation, and serving as an Auburn Common Councilman.

In December, before his passing, Mike received the distinguished County Commissioner of the Year award from the Indiana County Commissioners Association.

Mike was the architect of many projects that bettered our region such as having the Auburn Waterloo Trail become part of the Poka-Bache Connector trail between Angola and Bluffton, Indiana, and the creation of the Auburn Main Street which collaborates with the Auburn community to

be an economic driver through promoting and advancing the town's vibrant historic downtown that is welcoming for all folks.

Mike will be remembered as an incredibly hard worker, an intense advocate for his Auburn community, and an unapologetic family man. He always put his heart and soul into his work, and our community will miss him and his mentorship sorely.

#### DIGGING DEEP FOR COURAGE

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

Ms. BYNUM. Mr. Speaker, I am a woman of faith. I know I am joined in this Chamber by fellow believers of all kinds. Today, I am reminded of Ezekiel 34:3, a story about the selfishness and greed of shepherds who used their sheep for their own gain, while neglecting their primary duty which was to care for the flock.

All of us were sent here to lead, to care for, and to protect our people. I ask my colleagues: How do they justify making an agreement with farmers and not paying them money? How do they justify snatching the benefits from veterans who put their lives on the line for our country? How do they justify the erasure of the underpaid and unpaid laborers who helped build this country? How do they take from our seniors on Social Security? They don't and they can't.

Believers know that, especially in times that require courage, God always has their back. Don't just sit back and watch. Dig deep for some courage and stand up for those who are in need the most.

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#### PROTECTING EDUCATION FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that President Donald Trump, Secretary of Education Linda McMahon, and Congress are working together to return education to the proper original jurisdiction of the States.

I support President Donald Trump's plan to eliminate the Department of Education, ensuring that education decisions are made by local elected school boards, putting students and teachers first. Additionally, South Carolina has the visionary leadership of the State Superintendent Ellen Weaver in the tradition of Dr. Barbara Nielsen.

Additionally, House Republicans are protecting institutions of higher education by voting for the DETERRENT Act introduced by Congressman MICHAEL BAUMGARTNER. Foreign adver-

saries are targeting students by stealing research, limiting free speech, and pushing propaganda. As a cosponsor, I am grateful the act will reduce the foreign gift reporting threshold, close reporting loopholes, require disclosure of foreign gifts and contracts at research institutions, and hold private institutions accountable for their financial partnerships.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Open borders for dictators put all Americans at risk of more 9/11 attacks imminent, as warned by the FBI. President Trump is reinstituting existing laws to protect American families with peace through strength.

#### GUTTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, when I recently asked someone who supports gutting the Department of Education how that decision would make American education better or what the Department even does, they couldn't give me an answer.

Let me tell you how gutting this Department will hurt every parent, teacher, and, most of all, students in our country.

In Virginia alone, 5,000 teachers would be at risk of removal; our education system would face a \$2.4 billion shortfall; and we would lose \$2,000 in spending for each student. Our most vulnerable students with special needs would be unable to access the resources they need to succeed, and low-income students would go hungry.

Education has always been a great equalizer and an engine for socioeconomic mobility. Without the Department of Education, we will be left with a system that leaves Americans—rural, urban, and suburban—underserved, uneducated, and unprepared.

If we want to lead in the world of innovation and discovery, if we want opportunity for everyone, we need to invest in the next generation, our kids.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO ELSE RIKE

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

Mrs. FEDORCHAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary North Dakota woman, Else Rike. She celebrated her 101st birthday today. Instead of taking the day off, she was no doubt right where she has been for more than 70 years, at her desk in Grand Forks, North Dakota, preparing tax returns by hand with a calculator and typewriter.

Else's work ethic is unmatched and recently landed her a page 1 feature story in The Wall Street Journal. While tax preparers today rely on soft-

ware, Else relies on decades of experience and a deep knowledge of the tax code.

This beautiful woman, shown right here, is proof that hard work and sharp thinking never go out of style.

On behalf of all North Dakotans, I thank Else for living our values and for showing us what true dedication looks like.

Most importantly, happy 101st birthday, Else.

#### RECOGNIZING WEST SALEM HIGH'S INCLUSIVE SPORTS PROGRAMS

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

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize West Salem High School for its commitment to inclusivity in sports.

The Titans recently earned two national awards for their inclusive basketball program. In addition to being named a Unified Champion School by the Special Olympics, West was also added to ESPN's Honor Roll, a distinction awarded to only one school in every State per year.

Their unique program includes combined gym classes where students with disabilities are paired with other students who can help guide them through activities, as well as special equipment and necessary modifications, like shorter hoops for athletes using wheelchairs.

I am so proud of the students and faculty at West for their dedication to ensuring that every one of their peers can participate and make friends through sports, regardless of their abilities.

Again, congratulations on these incredible and well-deserved achievements. Keep up the good work, and go Titans.

#### ADDRESSING CONSTITUENTS' MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, more than 700,000 New Jerseyans sent me here to be their voice in Congress and to address the challenges they face each and every day.

Many of those constituents have sent me messages advocating for what is most important to them. Thousands have written asking me to protect Medicare, Social Security, and Medicaid. Hundreds more wrote about the rising costs of childcare and housing. Many have asked me to stop the scourge of gun violence in our communities.

Not a single person, not one, wrote about loosening regulations on their commercial walk-in coolers and refrigerators.

Why, then, are those the bills that Republicans brought to the floor this