

HONORING JOHN M. FOSTER

(Mr. ALFORD of Missouri was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John M. Foster of Harrisonville, Missouri, as our April Veteran of the Month.

A proud son of Cass County, John served 9 years in the Active Army Reserve with the 4th Squadron of the 4th Cavalry Division of the 102nd Infantry Division, earning the rank of sergeant first class.

After his honorable service, John dedicated his life to building his community, literally and figuratively, through his work as the owner of John Foster Construction Company and through decades of civic leadership.

He served as president of the Harrisonville Chamber of Commerce, chaired numerous community initiatives, and was instrumental in establishing the Lawrence Smith Memorial Airport.

As a charter member of the Harrisonville Rotary Club, he promoted international goodwill and service.

John M. Foster's life of duty and service to country, community, and family stands as a shining example of American patriotism.

We are proud to honor him today, proud to have him in Missouri's Fourth Congressional District, and we thank him for his service to our great Nation.

RECOGNIZING PETE & JAKE'S HOT ROD PARTS

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an iconic Fourth District small business, our Small Business of the Month, Pete & Jake's Hot Rod Parts of Peculiar, Missouri.

For more than 50 years now, Pete & Jake's has been a cornerstone of the hot rod community, crafting high-quality suspension components that are not only admired but built to actually use.

What began in 1973 as two friends restoring a pair of 1934 Ford three-window coupes quickly turned into a legendary brand. Pete & Jake's built and designed the hot rod California Kid for the 1974 Hollywood movie titled "The California Kid."

Pete & Jake later sold their California hot rod shop, along with the California Kid, to Jerry Slover, and he moved the hot rod shop to Cass County, Missouri.

His son Jason; his wife, Tina; and their son, Colton—third generation in this picture here—run the daily operation of the all-USA-made parts for hot rods.

Their family impact goes well beyond just business. They give back to our community.

Each and every year, Pete & Jake's hosts a major car show in May, with all the proceeds going to support junior diabetes research, showcasing their dedication to both the customers and their community.

Last year, Mr. Speaker, they celebrated 50 years in business, and each

May they have a hot rod show with hundreds of cars coming from all over the country into our district.

Last year, 500 hot rods from 40 States were represented. All the proceeds go, as we said, to junior diabetes research.

Small businesses like Pete & Jake's represent the American Dream, built on hard work, innovation, and passion for what they do. Today, we congratulate Pete & Jake's Hot Rod Parts on their 50th anniversary and thank them for their contributions to Missouri and to America.

GREAT LAKES, TARIFFS, AND TRADE

(Ms. KAPTUR of Ohio was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the House Great Lakes Task Force, I rise today to speak on behalf of our Great Lakes region.

My part of it is the Ninth District of Ohio that stretches all the way from Bryan, Ohio, all the way across the northern part of Ohio through Toledo, all the way to Sandusky and down to Fremont, Ohio, passing through places like Rossford, Perrysburg, Defiance, Ohio, and so many other beautiful places.

Our hardworking families depend on the Great Lakes not just for their livelihoods but for our way of life. They are the largest freshwater body on the face of the Earth, and we take the responsibility for tending that seriously.

The Great Lakes form the beating heart of our regional economy. They support hundreds of thousands of jobs, from the auto and steel industries, manufacturing to shipping, farming to fishing, and tourism to technology.

Our freshwater coast is a national treasure, and it is also a global economic engine, the third largest economy in the world that we share with Canada. We work on this together. We have from the beginning.

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative—or some people call it the GLRI—has been a bipartisan lifeline and a vital investment that has brought over \$3.7 billion to our complex ecosystem to restore our wetlands, to clean up toxic waste in hotspots, and to protect our fresh drinking water. It is complex with lots of industry, lots of agriculture, lots of people, and lots of freshwater.

We must fully fund the GLRI. Every dollar brings back four to our economy, and that just makes common sense.

Let me be clear to this new administration: Keep your hands off our lakes. We will not stand by while short-sighted proposals gut the programs that have protected our water, our health, and our jobs. I would urge the President, while he is in Michigan, to go visit Flint, Michigan, and look at what we have to do to restore enterprise and freshwater across our region.

Mr. Speaker, currently, our Great Lakes economy is being choked by

reckless tariffs and inside-out trade policies that hit us hard, including the district I represent in northwest Ohio. It hits our pocketbooks and it hits the balance sheets of thousands of companies.

Take a drive through the Port of Toledo. You will see mountains of aluminum and steel stockpiled, stalled, waiting. Waiting for what? Our workers and small businesses are paying the price for a trade war that didn't need to start, and we certainly can't win as a joint economy.

Our region, the Great Lakes region, we share with Canada. What is all of this commotion for? Tariffs on Canada, our friend—I underline that—and ally, mind you—the Trump tariffs have inflated costs across our industries, including auto manufacturing, crushing competitiveness in an industry that has long been the pride of northern Ohio and for which we have struggled for 40 years to reinvest in.

In Sandusky, in Perrysburg, in Warren, Michigan, in Windsor, Ontario, and across the industrial belt, plants are being squeezed or idled, shifts are being cut, and paychecks are being threatened.

It doesn't stop there. Tariffs on Canadian lumber, potash, and energy have disrupted supply chains our region relies on. It is our life beat.

Construction costs are soaring. Eight percent for a mortgage, who can afford that? Farmers can't access the nutrients they need, and they are in the planting mode right now. The tractors are going into the fields.

As mortgage interest rates rise, we need Canadian lumber. The cost of housing is through the roof. Energy bills climb higher and higher. This is not economic patriotism. This isn't putting America first. It is self-inflicted damage. Somebody doesn't understand where these lakes exist. We share them with Canada.

Trump tariffs on the U.S. and Canada put our workers not first but put them last. Rising prices for consumers are hitting us hard across the board.

Let's not forget tourism, one of our region's most vital and underestimated economic engines. Lake Erie supports billions of dollars of recreational boating and sports fishing, along with a boating industry second to none. We share it with Canada. Cedar Fair, with Cedar Point, the roller coaster capital of the world, draws millions, including from Canada, and they are boycotting our facilities right now. Tourism generates billions.

I ask the President, please, while he is in Michigan, to review how damaging his tariffs are to our Great Lakes nation.

CELEBRATING THE CHRISTENDOM COLLEGE LADY CRUSADERS

(Mr. CLINE of Virginia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Christendom College Lady Crusaders women's basketball team on their extraordinary

achievement in capturing the 2025 USCAA National Championship, their second consecutive national title.

Under the leadership of Head Coach Mary Minick, the Lady Crusaders entered the season ranked number 1 and lived up to the challenge, finishing with an exceptional record of 26-2 and securing three straight victories in the postseason tournament to bring home the title once again.

This remarkable team is led by seniors Bridget McCaughey, Regina Bonvissuto, Catherine Thomas, and Miranda Keller, and includes Grace Hatley, Lilly Vander Woude, Mary Pennefather, Georgie Snyder, Libby Kolesar, Audrey Speier, Elizabeth Heisler, and Serena Keller.

Miranda Keller was named Student-Athlete of the Year; Regina Bonvissuto was named Honorable Mention All-American; Mary Pennefather was named First Team All-American and Tournament MVP; and Catherine Thomas was named First Team All-American and Women's Basketball Player of the Year. Eight players were also named to the Academic All-American Team: McCaughey, Bonvissuto, Thomas, M. Keller, Pennefather, Kolesar, Speier, and S. Keller. These student athletes demonstrated incredible discipline, teamwork, and commitment both on and off the court.

Coach Minick, now in her seventh season, has fostered a winning culture built on faith, leadership, and mentorship. Her guidance, along with Assistant Coaches Annie Heisler and Jeremy Minick, has elevated the program into a true national powerhouse.

Congratulations again to the 2025 Christendom Lady Crusaders on this historic season. It is an honor to recognize such an outstanding team and the pride they bring to our community. I wish them continued success in the years to come.

CONGRATULATING SALEM HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH TEAM

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Salem High School speech team, who just made history by winning their 19th consecutive VHSL State Championship, the most in Virginia history.

With a commanding 39-11 win over E.C. Glass, Salem now holds 103 individual State titles, a record capped by senior Claire Rawlins, who earned the school's 100th with her second straight title in impromptu speaking.

Joining Claire were State champions Charlie Bain in serious dramatic, Rosalie Botos in prose, and the dynamic duo of Lucy Stratton and Bella Poarch in humorous duo.

Rounding out the team's strength were runners-up Hall Blackwood, Rebekah Steinweg, Parneet Gill, Tara Farrokhpoor, and Noah Lovern. Third place finishes went to Connor Smythers and Colton Easter, Brenasha Devlin, Ariana Turner, and Caden Smythers.

Also competing were Aly Ory, Zippy Elliot, Tori Iverson, and Lori Lowry,

all rising stars, along with Kaelyn Henzey, the team's manager, who made sure every detail of the event ran smoothly.

This team is more than a powerhouse. It is a legacy of excellence. Congratulations to Salem, whose voices are making history.

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S FIRST 100 DAYS

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, today marks 100 days since President Trump returned to the White House, and already the results speak for themselves.

In just 100 days, President Trump has delivered where it matters most: securing our border, cutting inflation, restoring American energy independence, rebuilding our economy, and enforcing the rule of law.

We are seeing the most secure border in our Nation's history, a manufacturing boom, and real relief for families who spent years struggling under failed leadership.

House Republicans are proud to be working with President Trump to keep our promises to the American people by strengthening our economy, protecting our communities, and restoring America's standing in the world.

Mr. Speaker, America is getting stronger every day, and we are just getting started.

□ 1030

HONORING ALEXIS MARGARET HERMAN

(Mr. FIGURES of Alabama was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. FIGURES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a true hometown hero, a legendary trailblazer, a family friend, a mentor to me and many others, and the former Secretary of Labor for this great Nation, Alexis Margaret Herman.

I had the privilege to work on a Presidential campaign myself, President Obama's campaign. Before I decided to join that campaign, I called Alexis Herman because she had worked on several Presidential campaigns.

I then pursued career opportunities at the White House. Again, I called on Alexis Herman because she too had worked in the White House multiple times.

When considering a run for Congress, the seat that I now hold today, I again called Alexis Herman. That is not because I had known her my whole life, it is because few people could advise on the level that she could.

Mr. Speaker, to understand Alexis Herman, you have to understand where she comes from. She was born and raised in Mobile, Alabama, my hometown. She came of age with a number of people and some names who you would recognize if you are from the Mobile area.

They were people who all were born within a 10- to 15-year range of each other, African Americans, names that some know around the world, like

Hank Aaron, but others like my father, Michael Figures, and Thomas Figures, General Gary Cooper, Lonnie Johnson, Yvonne Kennedy, Sam Jones, and this body's very own SANFORD BISHOP. They were all born and raised in Mobile, Alabama, in generally the same timeframe, and went on to break through a number of barriers, color barriers and otherwise, throughout their careers and make significant contributions to this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, Alexis Herman's parents prepared her for the life that she had. Her father was actually the first Black person elected in the State of Alabama to any position post-Reconstruction. This led to him being very active and motivated in Black voter participation. It led to him one day actually being run off the road by the Klan. His five-year-old daughter, Alexis Herman, sat in the car and listened as her father was beaten by the Klan. Her mother was a schoolteacher who Alexis had actually witnessed being thrown off of a segregated bus as a child.

This produced Alexis, who went on to be a fighter for civil rights and a fighter for women's rights. She first stood up as a young woman when she challenged why African-American students at her parochial school were not allowed to participate in religious pageantry. She was suspended for that, but that was just the beginning.

When she finished school after graduating from Xavier University, she came back home to Mobile, Alabama, and helped desegregate other parochial schools. She then helped get African Americans jobs and apprenticeships at the shipyards for the first time in Mississippi.

That led her to doing similar work in Atlanta and helping to diversify some corporations there. That caught the attention of a young Georgia Governor named Jimmy Carter, who was running for President. He ultimately named her, at just 29 years old, the director of the Women's Bureau at the Department of Labor.

Mr. Speaker, her journey took her from a segregated Alabama to serving as an adviser to Jimmy Carter and, ultimately, serving as the director of the Office of the Public Liaison, as it was called at the time, under President Clinton. That led to her being a member of the President's Cabinet as the Secretary of Labor where, under her tenure, unemployment fell to a 30-year low here in the United States. She worked to promote job training opportunities for low-income Americans.

After that, she didn't quit. She always reached back. She always gave back. She always served as a mentor to give advice to people like myself, who wanted to pursue similar career tracks.

That led her to sitting in the boardrooms for companies like MGM, Coca-Cola, and Toyota, some of the biggest companies in the world. She never forgot where she came from. She never did.

In January of this year, when she was quietly battling a condition, she took