

HONORING CHIEF KEITH KIMBALL ON HIS RETIREMENT

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of Chief Keith Kimball, who served the people of Bettendorf and the State of Iowa with distinction for 35 years.

Chief Kimball started on third-shift patrol and worked his way through the ranks with grit, integrity, and a heart for service. From becoming Bettendorf's first-ever school resource officer to leading the Investigative Services Bureau and, finally, being named chief in 2018, he never lost sight of his mission: to serve and protect with honor.

He has been a mentor to many, a leader in his department, and a trusted figure in the community. Chief Kimball represents the very best of law enforcement: steadfast, compassionate, and committed to making a difference.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chief Kimball for his dedication to the people of Bettendorf and for setting an example that will inspire future officers for years to come.

I congratulate Chief Kimball on his retirement. He has earned it.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, this National Small Business Week, I rise to celebrate the small businesses that power Iowa and make our country strong.

As a former small business owner myself, I know the early mornings, the long nights, the lack of vacations, and the risks it takes to keep a business running. These men and women are the heart of Main Street America, and they deserve leaders who will fight for them.

In Iowa, small businesses represent 99 percent of all businesses in the State. In President Trump's first term, Congress passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, giving small businesses the relief that they needed to grow and hire.

I will also say that there are no Fortune 500 businesses without first starting as a small business, or a mom and pop.

If we don't act now, those tax cuts will expire, and Iowa's small businesses will be hit with a crushing 20 percent tax hike. We cannot let that happen.

Let's extend the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, protect small business owners and farmers, and keep the American Dream alive in Iowa and across the country.

IN MEMORY OF JAY BYERS

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of President Jay Byers, a proud Iowan and dedicated public servant who has led Simpson College at Indianola until his untimely passing on April 17.

Jay spent his life working to make Iowa a better place, from his years as CEO of the Greater Des Moines Partnership, where he championed economic growth across the metro, to his time as president of Simpson College, where he put his students first every single day. He brought energy, vision, and a heart to everything he did.

Jay is survived by his loving wife, Katie, and their daughters, and my

prayers are with them, the entire greater Des Moines area, and Indianola during this difficult time. Iowa has lost a leader, Simpson College has lost a champion, and many of us have lost a dear friend.

Mr. Speaker, may Jay rest in peace. Our prayers are with him.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE IS NOT JUST A CONVENIENCE

(Ms. MCBRIDE of Delaware was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. MCBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, the United States Postal Service isn't just a convenience. It is a constitutional promise.

For more than two centuries, the USPS has connected every corner of this country, delivering prescriptions to seniors, paychecks to workers, and ballots to voters. They do all of this without taxpayer funding because it was never built for profit but for the public good.

Today, that promise is under threat. This administration's effort to privatize the Postal Service would mean higher costs, slower service, and the elimination of rural delivery because corporations won't serve what isn't profitable. It will also mean the loss of strong, middle-class jobs for over 640,000 postal workers across the country, including nearly 74,000 U.S. veterans. In Delaware alone, nearly 1,000 of my neighbors would be at risk.

This isn't about efficiency. This is about dismantling public services so that Republicans can prove that government doesn't work and then hand those services to the highest bidder.

We should be strengthening the Postal Service, not selling it off, because some things should serve people, not profit.

ADDRESSING SHORTAGE OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS

Ms. MCBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, this week's travel delays and cancellations are frustrating millions, but behind the headlines is a deeper issue: a national shortage of air traffic controllers, pushing a vital workforce to the brink.

I recently toured the Philadelphia International Airport and met directly with controllers managing the skies above Delaware. They are working 10-hour days, 6 days a week, making split-second decisions to monitor thousands of lives at once. The pressure is relentless, and the margin for mistakes is zero.

On top of all of this stress, this administration and Republicans in Congress are trying to gut their retirement security. Air traffic controllers are mandated to retire at 56. Yet, this administration and House Republicans are advancing a proposal to shrink the retirement benefits for Federal employees who are retiring before 62, all to help pay for tax cuts for the wealthy. We cannot expect to solve for shortages by breaking our promises to air traffic controllers after a lifetime of work.

The problems we are hearing about at Newark could be a nationwide problem if the majority in Congress continues to disrespect and deplete this vital workforce.

CONGRATULATING STUDENTS OF CHARTER SCHOOL OF WILMINGTON

Ms. MCBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate an extraordinary achievement by students from the Charter School of Wilmington, who were just named national winners of Samsung's Solve for Tomorrow STEM competition.

These brilliant students, who I met with last week, tackled Delaware's physician shortage with an innovative solution: an AI-powered smart bandage that monitors wound healing in real time.

Their project, called AKQUA-Gel, rose to the top from thousands of entries nationwide, earning their school a \$100,000 prize package and a national title.

This isn't just a win for Delaware. It is a powerful reminder of what young people can achieve when we invest in education, in STEM, and in their belief that they can solve big problems in their communities.

While I am a proud graduate of Cab Calloway, I couldn't help but come to the well of the House to congratulate the Charter School of Wilmington. They have made Delaware proud and inspired us all.

IN RECOGNITION OF BRUCE AND PAM FRIEDLANDER

(Mr. BACON of Nebraska was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my great friends and two wonderful civic leaders of Omaha, Bruce and Pam Friedlander, during Jewish Heritage Month for their lifelong commitment to service, generosity, and helping others in our community.

Bruce and Pam grew up in Omaha, attending Omaha Central High School, but they didn't meet until they both attended the University of Nebraska Lincoln. They were married in July 1971, and each proudly say that the other is the best decision they have ever made.

Bruce tells people he started working at his grandfather's store, Louis' Market, at the age of 2 and jokes that he failed retirement five times.

In addition to running a successful business, Bruce's grandfather Louis, who is from Russia, was an avid baseball fan and would frequently take Bruce and the other grandchildren to baseball games.

Bruce said his grandfather would tear up during the national anthem at every game because he was free. Bruce says he is not trying to be his grandfather but credits him as being the best mentor he ever had.

After learning a strong work ethic from his grandfather and his father,

Bruce bought Food 4 Less at 84th and Harrison and attempted his first retirement in 1993. He then worked for Bakers, following the owner's motto: Find a way to say yes to your customers. That is something I have heard Bruce say many times. He then became director of operations for Cubby's, Incorporated, in 2005 and retired in 2015 once again.

Pam is an accomplished educator who devoted 32 years to Omaha Public Schools. She is passionate about going to the synagogue and reading the Torah. She believes people should listen to each other, be there for each other, and listen to God every day. That is great advice for everyone.

Their pride is their two children, Andee and Jimmy—I know both of them; they are wonderful—and their four grandchildren. Bruce credits Pam with their smarts. Enhancing the quality of life for others is their family's mission.

Bruce has continued his service as a member of the Jewish Federation, which oversees the Jewish Community Center, also known as the JCC, and the Rose Blumkin Jewish Home. He served as president from 2017 to 2018.

Approximately 1,500 people visit the JCC every day, and a significant number are not Jewish. Bruce credits this to the theme of the Jewish Federation, which says: "Everyone is welcome." The Friedlanders apply this to their work every day.

As the JCC gets ready to celebrate 100 years, Bruce is helping to lead a 100 Days of Giving campaign to expand the Rose Blumkin Jewish Home and serve more people. He tells everyone that the home is our safety net.

The Friedlanders have volunteered at Beth El Synagogue. In addition, Bruce helped to revamp the Omaha Community Playhouse, serving as the president of the board. Bruce and Pam were the honorary chairs for the Omaha Community Playhouse's 100th anniversary.

Bruce was named Volunteer of the Year by the Jewish Federation in 2009, 2010, and again in 2015. He has added a new role of serving with the Boys Town Boosters, who help to raise funds to ensure that every child deserves a future.

□ 1015

Reflecting on his life, Bruce often says that he was "blessed to be born into a wonderful family and a wonderful community." He tells others: "My family were experts at helping people. During the time I have spent giving back, I have had three rules: first, take care of yourself and those you love; second, do your job; and, third, take someone with you."

Bruce and Pam have passed down their wisdom to future generations, including their grandchildren. Their advice? It is not who gave the money but who made the difference; don't get your information from social media; and when you hear the jets fly overhead toward Offutt Air Force Base, realize that they are keeping us safe."

As Bruce has said: "When you save someone, God remembers your name."

Thank you, Bruce and Pam. Surely, God does remember your names. "Thank you so much"; "Toda rabah."

RECOGNIZING MAKIKO SHIRAI

(Mr. CORREA of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and service of Makiko Shirai, a Japanese foreign service worker who worked to strengthen the relationship between the United States and Japan.

On May 20, Makiko will be presented with Japan's Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold and Silver Rays, for 35 years of supporting the U.S.-Japanese relationship.

Throughout her career, Makiko served more than 90,000 Japanese nationals in the Los Angeles area, and she played a large role in the Consulate's emergency response to the 1994 Northridge earthquake and again during the attacks of 9/11 on our country.

I thank my good friend and neighbor, Makiko. I thank her for being a role model and showing us all what the power of relationships between countries can do.

Congratulations to Makiko on a well-deserved honor.

RECOGNIZING SOPHIE GARCIA

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sophie Garcia, a sophomore at Orange Lutheran High School in my district, who is making school history as the first female wrestler to win a CIF Southern Sectional individual wrestling championship.

Sophie's championship run included winning five matches in the 2-day tournament, showcasing her exceptional skill, determination, and competitive spirit.

Sophie trained very hard but studied even harder. She maintained a 4.2 GPA, earning recognition as a student-athlete scholar.

I am very proud of Sophie. I know she is going to do even better and will keep up the good work.

RECOGNIZING FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OMAHA

(Mr. FLOOD of Nebraska was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor and celebrate the recent recognition of one of Nebraska's pre-eminent banks and a pillar of the community it serves, First National Bank Omaha, better known as FNBO.

FNBO has long led Nebraska's banking sector, especially in their efforts to expand access to affordable housing across our State. By engaging with local communities, listening to stakeholder feedback, and leveraging the Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka's Affordable Housing Program, FNBO

has become a driving force in promoting homeownership across Nebraska.

Their dedication was recently recognized when FNBO was named Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka's overall Housing Champion of the Year. Along with the honor, they received a \$5,000 award, which is going to the Nebraska Housing Developers Association.

All of Nebraska is proud of the work FNBO is doing in housing. I look forward to seeing what they can do next to strengthen our communities through more affordable housing.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF BRYAN HEALTH

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize and celebrate a truly remarkable milestone for the city of Lincoln and the entire State of Nebraska, the 100th Anniversary of Bryan Health.

Since first opening its doors in 1925, Bryan Health has grown from a hospital in Lincoln into one of Nebraska's most innovative, trusted, and patient-oriented healthcare networks.

Over the past century, Bryan Health has expanded its reach and services to meet the needs of communities in Kearney, Crete, Grand Island, Merrick County, and well beyond.

Bryan Health's commitment to compassionate care and medical excellence continues to draw patients from across our State. Their enduring mission puts patients, families, and their communities first, and it has earned them the respect and gratitude of generations of Nebraskans.

Once again, I congratulate all of Bryan Health's staff and medical professionals for their 100 years of remarkable service and leadership in healthcare.

REBEL ROBOTIC FTC WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the next generation of leaders and innovators emerging from my own hometown. This inspiring group of young people is known as the Rebel Robotics FTC team.

Rebel Robotics is a FIRST Tech Challenge team hailing proudly from Norfolk, Nebraska. Founded in 2019, the team gives students the opportunity to engage directly with cutting-edge technologies and robotics shaping our future.

Most recently, Rebel Robotics stood out at the FIRST Championship held this year in Houston, Texas. Competing against top teams from across the country, they earned the prestigious Inspire Award, which recognizes excellence in programming, robot design, engineering portfolios, judged presentations, professionalism, as well as community outreach.

The Inspire Award is the highest honor presented at the competition, and it also means that Rebel Robotics secured a world championship title in Houston.

I congratulate these exceptional high school students on their achievements and for inspiring others to explore the world of robotics.