

CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT KUMARA JAYASURIYA ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kumara Jayasuriya on his remarkable tenure as the president of Southwest Minnesota State University.

Under President Jayasuriya's leadership, SMSU thrived. In a period where most Minnesota schools saw an enrollment drop, SMSU's rose by nearly 20 percent.

Just last year, the university recorded its highest enrollment in 14 years, and I am incredibly grateful for what he has done to improve higher education in western Minnesota and to protect the legacy of a respected institution.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate President Jayasuriya on his retirement and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with him to advance SMSU.

NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY

(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, to the more than 3.8 million educators across the country, I wish you a happy National Teacher Appreciation Day.

I know our teachers work tirelessly to provide our students with an education that opens the door to opportunity, and I am sure everyone in this body can think of a teacher that profoundly impacted their lives.

Despite working long hours, without a salary that reflects the work they do, our teachers in Virginia have made sure that Virginia schools consistently rank high in the country for K-12 performance, test scores, and even safety. Over 92 percent of our students here in Virginia graduate high school in 4 years, and we have amazing teachers to thank for that.

We need to make sure our teachers are being paid what they are worth, have the support they need in the classroom, and have access to all the resources they need to do their jobs.

Happy National Teacher Appreciation Day to all the teachers out there.

RECOGNIZING DR. WILLIAM CLARK

(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 recognize Dr. William Clark, who is stepping down as chair of the Okefenokee Swamp Park Board of Trustees after 15 years of hard work and dedicated service.

Since 2010, Dr. Clark has advanced the mission of Okefenokee Swamp Park, promoting a community connection with nature and preserving its ecological health through stewardship, education, and outdoor recreation.

While serving as chairman, Dr. Clark was instrumental in expanding the park's mission to promote tourism and education. Under his leadership, the park strengthened partnerships with organizations such as the University of Georgia, focusing on conservation efforts to maintain the swamp's native alligator population.

He was instrumental in expanding ecotourism by acquiring the visitor concession at the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge headquarters and the nomination by the U.S. Department of the Interior as the next American World Heritage site.

After his successful tenure in this role, Dr. Clark has expressed enthusiasm for this transition and remains confident in the ongoing excellence of the Okefenokee Swamp Park board.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. Clark for his commitment to improving the Okefenokee Swamp Park and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

TO TEACH IS TO TOUCH A LIFE FOREVER

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Teacher Appreciation Week. My gratitude for teachers far surpasses 1 minute of time.

Our Nation is a better place because of the work teachers do every day to teach the next generation and arm them with the skills that are needed to succeed.

My favorite teacher was Rayella B. Heely, who taught my eighth grade algebra class in Mount Vernon, New York, in 1966. She was tough, and she did not give out easy grades. I did not get a particularly good grade, but she taught me concepts that I remember to this day.

Teachers are increasingly asked to do more in addition to teaching. They check in on the well-being and mental health of their students. They make sure that students get enough to eat during school meals and have notebooks and pencils and crayons. They are advocates in front of school boards to prevent cuts to funding and to resources.

There is a famous saying: "To teach is to touch a life forever."

Mr. Speaker, I thank teachers for the lives that they continue to touch and shape. As former students and parents of students, we are forever grateful.

RECOGNIZING KEITH VANBUREN

(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, today, I rise to recognize a valued member of my staff and a true American hero, Mr. Keith VanBuren.

Keith's service in the United States Army reflects the very best of sacrifice and devotion to our Nation. While deployed in Afghanistan, Keith was severely wounded when his vehicle was struck by an IED in Logar Province. For his bravery, he was awarded the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star Medal, and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

After completing his military service, Keith continued his commitment to our country. He served on my predecessor's staff, Congressman BILL POSEY, and he still proudly serves now on my staff assisting veterans and so many people in our community.

Keith recently was elected commander of the Space Coast chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. In his role, he will continue the proud tradition of honoring local heroes who have sacrificed in the line of duty.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Keith and salute him for his courage, his service, and his unwavering dedication to our State, our Nation, and our district.

CONSTITUENT OF THE WEEK: MAYOR KERRY DEVINE

(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, today, on National Teacher Day, I rise to recognize Fredericksburg Mayor Kerry Devine as this week's Constituent of the Week.

Mayor Devine also spends her time as a history teacher in Stafford County. She is a role model in civic leadership, both for the city of Fredericksburg and for her students in Stafford.

Whether in city hall or in the classroom, she has made community a cornerstone of her tenure as a public servant and educator. She has also tirelessly worked to increase reading comprehension, counter the harmful impacts of social media on young people, and she supports phone-free schools.

Her work reminds us that educators don't just teach; they shape the future. As a dad of two kids who have attended Virginia schools, I am grateful.

Mr. Speaker, today, I thank Mayor Devine and all the teachers across Virginia's Seventh Congressional District who go above and beyond to make sure every student feels seen, valued, and empowered. Their work is incredibly important.

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MINOT, NORTH DAKOTA NAMED A 2025 GREAT AMERICAN DEFENSE COMMUNITY

(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 Minot, North Dakota, my husband's hometown, named one of the 2025 Great American Defense Communities.

Only three cities across the Nation received this honor, reflecting the remarkable commitment the people of Minot have shown to the men and women stationed at the Minot Air Force Base.

Through events like the Prairie Warrior Auction and efforts by local leaders and initiatives led by the Minot Area Chamber, this community goes above and beyond to welcome airmen and support their families.

Whether it is raising funds to send airmen home for the holidays or educating the Nation on nuclear deterrence, Minot leads with pride and purpose. Their motto sums it up best: Only the Best Come North.

Again, congratulations to the city of Minot on this well-earned recognition, and thanks to this amazing community for standing behind our military every day.

WINGS OVER WAYNE AIR SHOW

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Wings Over Wayne Air Show, hosted at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, North Carolina.

It was an incredible event that showcased the pride, professionalism, and precision of our Air Force, which brought our community together on Military Appreciation Day.

Seymour Johnson is a pillar in our community that drives our local economy and brings us pride and joy. The base reflects the deep bond between servicemembers and the people of eastern North Carolina.

With the roaring of the Thunderbirds, Wings Over Wayne celebrated freedom, patriotism, and community. I thank the men and women who continue to serve our country. They make us extremely proud.

FLOWER MOUND, TEXAS, NAMED BEST PLACE TO LIVE IN AMERICA

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

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a tremendous honor for the heart of Texas' 26th Congressional District, Flower Mound, Texas, named the best place to live in America. My family and I are blessed to call it home.

The distinction didn't come from luck. It came from leadership, vision, and a community where hometown charm meets national excellence.

In Flower Mound, top-tier schools set the standard, green spaces stretch for

miles, and small businesses like Flurry's Market + Provisions bring neighbors together. It is a town where families plant roots, where freedom is felt, and where opportunity isn't just a promise; it is a way of life.

At the heart of Texas-26, Flower Mound shows what happens when faith, family, and hard work form the foundation of a community.

I congratulate the local leaders whose dedication made this recognition possible. Flower Mound isn't just the best place to live in America, it is proof that the American Dream lives right here in north Texas.

IMPROVING BENEFIT AWARENESS FOR SERVICEMEMBERS

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

Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support my bipartisan, bicameral legislation, H.R. 3159, the Improving SCRA Benefit Utilization Act.

The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act includes a specific benefit that caps interest rates on preservice debts like mortgages, credit cards, and auto loans, at 6 percent. Unfortunately, too few Active-Duty servicemembers even know about this hard-earned benefit, let alone use it.

My bill would address this knowledge gap by expanding military financial literacy programs. It would also require details of existing SCRA benefits on military activation orders.

Under H.R. 3159, creditors would be required to automatically apply the 6 percent cap to all accounts on active servicemember holds instead of requiring military members to request the cap account by account as they prepare to enter duty service.

My bipartisan legislation identifies commonsense opportunities to improve benefit awareness and utility. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to cosponsor this bill.

RECOVERING FROM NORTH CAROLINA FLOODS

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, many parts of Kentucky are just now recovering from a devastating flood that we saw a few weeks ago. I thank the first responders who were first on the scene, and thank our utility crews who worked day and night to restore utilities.

I want to let the families who lost everything know that if there is anything my office can do to be of any assistance, don't hesitate to reach out. President Trump has signed a declaration for individual assistance. FEMA should be on the ground, working with families to try to help identify any

type of assistance that the families in need can qualify for, and I encourage FEMA to continue to work with the local governments to ensure that the heavy burden of debris removal is reimbursed by the Federal Government. That is something that my office will continue to ensure to see that it happens.

We have had devastating floods. The government's responsibility is to help those in need, and that is what we expect to do. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to make that point loud and clear and hope that we can continue to work through the recovery phase.

HOLDING THIS ADMINISTRATION TO ACCOUNT

(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, Donald Trump says that he isn't sure if he needs to uphold the Constitution. It is clear to all of us from his attacks on the courts, the rule of law, our democratic institutions, our civil and legal rights, an open and free press, the dismantling of Federal agencies, and attacks on our communities that, indeed, he does not know what his constitutional duties are.

I have to say, Mr. Speaker, we are a nation of laws, a nation governed by a Constitution of the people and by the people. Donald Trump and his administration are not above the law. We will hold them to account, and that is why we are here every day fighting back, pushing back, and defending our democracy and the rights of the American people.

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

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

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tireless dedication of our public servants.

Michigan is seeing the real-time impact of President Trump's and Elon Musk's mass firings. I have heard and seen people's fears firsthand at my townhalls because civil servants are the quiet force behind the services that hold our communities together.

When a farmer in west Michigan loses a season's worth of crops, it is the USDA employee who helps them adjudicate a crop insurance claim, making sure they can recover and keep food on our tables.

Public servants are the problem-solvers, neighbors, and first responders in times of crisis. They protect our food supply, ensure veterans receive their benefits, and respond when disaster strikes. These are the people who have devoted their careers to making our country better.

We must continue to honor and support our public servants, not only during Public Service Recognition Week,