

RECOGNIZING COACHELLA FOOTBALL CLUB

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with pride to recognize the Coachella Football Club, an awesome soccer organization from California's 25th District that is lifting up young athletes and inspiring our entire community.

This past year, the Coachella Football Club's Premier team, our semi-pro squad, dominated the field. They were SoCal East season champions and went undefeated in the divisional playoffs. Coached by Aldo Caro and Octavio Bustillos, this team played one of their best seasons yet, and we are so proud of them.

They are not alone. The Coachella Football Club's Academy's 17-and-under boys' team also had a phenomenal run, winning the fall 2024 and spring 2025 SoCal East championships without a single loss. Thanks to Coaches Manuel Montano and Carlos Bustillos, they have set the bar for excellence, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

A special congratulations to Coachella Football Club owner Luis Bustillos, who founded the team with a vision to help players turn their dreams into reality. He calls the club a dream factory and continues to inspire his players to dream big.

I thank every Coachella Football Club player and coach for representing our district with grit, heart, and pride. Their success reminds us all what is possible when talent meets dedication.

CELEBRATING LIFE OF JOHN FERRO

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

Mr. BRESNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of John Ferro, a beloved member of the East Stroudsburg, Monroe County, Pennsylvania, community, who passed away on May 13, 2025.

John was born in Sassano, Italy, and dedicated his life to service, community, and family. He was a devoted husband to Josephine for 51 years, a proud father, and a cherished friend to many.

John's commitment to his community was evident through his active participation in local organizations and his unwavering support for initiatives that aimed to improve the lives of those around him. He was the chairman of the Monroe County Municipal Waste Management Authority and an active leader with the Boy Scouts Troop 83, East Stroudsburg. He truly lived the American Dream.

I had the pleasure of hosting him here in Washington, D.C., for my swearing-in, as well as Representative RYAN MACKENZIE and Senator DAVE MCCORMICK.

His kindness, generosity, and steadfast dedication left an indelible mark on all who had the privilege of knowing him. John's legacy serves as a testament to the profound impact one individual can have through a life devoted to service and compassion.

As we remember John Ferro, let us celebrate his life by emulating his commitment to community and service. May his memory continue to inspire all of us to make a positive difference in the lives around us.

CRYSTAL LAKE MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

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

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand up for the community of Crystal Lake, Illinois, which, along with over 100 communities nationwide, just had a \$5.6 million student mental health program abruptly canceled by the Trump administration.

This funding, which passed with support of both Republicans and Democrats under the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, was created in response to the Uvalde school shooting to address the growing youth mental health crisis.

I think we all remember the Republican talking point at the time that we don't have a gun problem. We have a mental health problem. Well, fine. With this grant, the Crystal Lake District 47 was able to hire trained mental health professionals and give 7,100 students access to mental health care.

Canceling this grant will disrupt critical mental health care for students who are already receiving support, weaken the district's ability to identify and intervene in early warning signs of distress, trauma, or potential violence. It undermines years of progress made in breaking the stigma around mental health.

With suicide being the second leading cause of death for children aged 10-14, gutting this funding will be life-threatening. Our kids' safety and well-being should not be a partisan issue. I urge the administration to reverse these harmful cuts.

HONORING LIFE OF BRODY JAKOB HOLT

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

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of my constituent, 12-year-old Brody Jakob Holt, a beloved son, loyal friend, and admired brother.

Brody's life was tragically cut short just weeks ago in an accident that has left his family and our community grieving. He was full of life, always smiling, telling jokes, and bringing joy to those around him. He loved sports, dirt bikes, learning new things, and

had even dreamed of becoming President someday.

Most of all, though, Brody had a servant's heart. Just days before the accident, he told his mom that he wanted to be an organ donor, and in his final act of kindness, Brody gave his heart, literally, to save the life of an 8-year-old girl.

His parents raised an extraordinary young man. May his memory be a blessing and may they find comfort in knowing that Brody is watching over them from above.

□ 1040

HONORING SPRINGFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL

(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 extraordinary resilience of the students and educators of Springfield Middle School in Lucama, North Carolina.

At the beginning of the school year, a tornado tore through the community, causing significant damage to the school.

I recall walking through classrooms. Desks were all over the place. The roof was removed, gone, ripped apart. Yet, the American flag continued to stand.

Early decisions had to be made. One, in particular, was whether the students would even be able to stay at the school or be separated and go to other schools. They insisted to stay together.

As the school year now comes to an end, I made another visit to the school. The students at Springfield Middle School had an incredible school year. They were able to do this only because so many came together to make it happen.

Principal Kelly Thomas said that what could have broken them instead brought them closer together.

To the educators, staff, and the greater Lucama community, their dedication is a shining example of the best of us and who we are as Americans.

The students, those Wild Cats, are a true inspiration.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN THRASHER

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life of John Thrasher who climbed so many professional mountains.

Instead of resting on his laurels, John helped other people climb their mountains. While many called him speaker, senator, chairman, and president, I was fortunate to call him friend.

From the battlefields of Vietnam where John was a decorated war hero

to the halls of the Florida State Legislature where John was elected speaker of the Florida House and State senator, John was a born leader.

In 2014, it came as no surprise that John became the 15th President of Florida State University. Beside him in his many accomplishments was his wife, Jean, the heart of his world. Their boundless joy for their children and grandchildren was a true testament to the family they built together.

Mr. Speaker, we honor John as a mentor, a mentor to me, and a man of purpose and integrity. John's work here is done but his legacy will endure. Godspeed, my friend.

HONORING FATHERHOOD

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss fatherhood. We must honor the amazing fathers throughout these buildings and across the Nation.

As a Congresswoman, founder of the 5000 Role Models of Excellence, and chair of the U.S. Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys, I continue to celebrate and uplift fathers.

I proudly join my colleague Representative BURGESS in a bipartisan fashion to promote building stronger families through fatherhood.

Still, too many families are broken due to State and Federal policies resulting in mass incarceration.

We must address the many facets of public policy that hinder Black fatherhood. Organizations like the Jack Brewer Foundation play such a vital role in ensuring fathers and father figures have the tools they need to raise our children.

Today, we proudly recognize the Jack Brewer Foundation of Florida. It is all about prevention, not detention. That starts with all of us.

HONORING FIRE CHIEF JEFF WILLIS

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

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career and honor the retirement of a remarkable public servant, Fire Chief Jeff Willis of the Big Bear Fire Department.

Chief Willis has had a career of over 40 years in providing fire protection services to our community.

I first met Chief Willis early in my own career in public service when I was a chairman of the Big Bear Lake Fire Protection District. Already, Chief Willis was an extraordinary leader. I learned so much from this man, not only about fire protection but about leadership.

Jeff went on to become not only a leader in our community but across the

State of California, commanding multiple fire incidents across the State.

We owe Jeff a debt of gratitude for his long public service to our community. We celebrate his career. We honor his retirement. We wish him the best of luck as he enters this next phase of his career.

RECOGNIZING DR. MARCY CATLETT

(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 I rise to recognize the exceptional leadership of Fredericksburg City Public School Superintendent Dr. Marci Catlett.

Dr. Catlett has been a trailblazer in implementing forward-thinking strategies to strengthen her students' well-being.

In the summer of 2024, she launched an initiative to curb cell phone usage in schools by requiring her students to store their phones for the entire school day.

As a lawmaker in Congress, leading the effort to remove phones from schools from bell to bell nationwide, I am grateful for Dr. Catlett's commitment to helping our students unplug.

As a father of two kids, I know the importance of creating a learning environment that nurtures the academic success and mental health of our young folks.

Collaborating with educators like Dr. Catlett has been critical in working to build a stronger future for Virginia's next generation of leaders. I extend my deepest gratitude to her for advancing these critical initiatives.

PROTECTING DEMOCRACY

(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, the Civil Georgia News of Tbilisi reports the corrupt, anti-American Georgian Dream party released a statement against democracy that said: "every single politician . . . who makes anti-Georgian statements . . . is a member of the 'deep state' network." And that: "JOE WILSON is one of the most serious manifestations. . . ."

The Georgia Dream prime minister has condemned Donald Trump with untrue charges. America stands with the Georgian people and the legitimate President Salome Zourabichvili, supporting free actions.

America supported the MEGOBARI Act with a vote of 349–42. That is 90 percent of Congress for the people of Georgia. That provides a choice to abandon the dictator Ivanishvili.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Trump is reinstituting existing laws to protect American families with peace

through strength, revealing war criminal Putin's lies, insulting Trump and defaming Trump, with murderous rocket attacks on Ukrainian civilians again today.

Congratulations to the people of Georgia and all the people of Germany for German Chancellor Merz's success meeting with President Trump this week.

STOP RENAMING SHIPS

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

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, Defense Secretary Hegseth should be one of the busiest people on the planet, defending our country and leading nearly 3 million courageous Americans in our Armed Forces. It is an awesome responsibility.

This week, Pete Hegseth spent his precious time deciding that a naval ship named after a veteran is just too gay for him.

Harvey Milk was an American hero, a civil rights leader, and the first openly gay official in California. He served his country in the Navy. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. He was someone who stood up for the rights and dignity of all, and he was assassinated while serving in public office. His memory is worthy of dignity and respect.

Removing his name from a ship is small and it is petty. It is obviously an attempt to erase the history of anyone who shows resistance to this administration. That is what autocrats and authoritarians do.

Since Secretary Hegseth took the helm, the Department of Defense has been fraught with national security risks and constant drama. I urge him to stop spending his time renaming ships because he wants to pretend that we don't exist. He should do his damn job.

□ 1050

HONORING JOEL WILLIS FOR 45 YEARS OF SERVICE TO GEORGIA

(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 honor a constituent of mine, Mr. Joel Willis, for his recent retirement after 45 years of serving his community in St. Simons Island, Georgia.

Mr. Willis epitomized strong leadership and an unwavering work ethic, earning him his position as CEO of Epworth by the Sea.

Through nearly 50 years of hard work at Epworth, Mr. Ellis transformed what was once a humble motel into a state-of-the-art retreat, tourist destination, and host to Christian conferences.