

just weeks after graduating from high school. He served as a gunner's mate in the Pacific during World War II and was later assigned to the USS *Ault*, part of the Seahorse Squadron, in preparation for the invasion of Japan.

After the war ended, Edward remained on duty during the occupation until January of 1946. During his service, he traveled the world from Australia to Africa to Japan and back home through the Panama Canal.

He was honorably discharged with the rank of Seaman 1st class.

After the Navy, Edward built a long and successful career in the floral industry and was known for his love of fishing, golfing, hunting, and making breakfast for his grandchildren. He was the proud father of 3 sons, grandfather to 6, and great-grandfather to 13.

Madam Speaker, Edward Holmes served his country faithfully with honor, humility, and always heart. It is my privilege to recognize him posthumously as our July Veteran of the Month.

□ 1040

#### HONORING ROGER WILLIAM SWANK

Mr. ALFORD. Madam Speaker, today we honor a true American patriot, Master Sergeant Robert William Swank as our August Veteran of the Month.

He was born in Wichita, Kansas, and reared in Fort Scott. He answered the call to serve in 1967 and spent over 36 years in uniform, including time in Vietnam with the 199th Light Infantry Brigade.

Roger earned the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantry Badge, and numerous other awards. He continued his service in the Missouri Army National Guard for more than three decades and retired in 2004.

Off the battlefield, he was just as committed, serving as a mail carrier, a community leader, and a devoted family man. He was married to his wife, Linda, for 35 years, and together they have raised seven daughters.

Even in retirement, Roger remains a pillar of his community by volunteering with the Red Cross, serving his church for more than 40 years, and acting as assistant chaplain for the Disabled American Veterans organization.

Madam Speaker, I thank Roger so much for his lifelong service to our country and our communities. He is an inspiration to us all.

#### HONORING ANNE'S ACRES

Mr. ALFORD. Madam Speaker, today we are proud to honor Anne's Acres, a generational family farm in Lincoln, Missouri, in the Fourth District as our July Small Business of the Month.

Since 1999, Robert and Leslie Exendine, along with their three daughters and six grandkids, have cultivated five acres with nearly 7,000 blooming blueberry plants. Say that 10 times fast. This vibrant farm named

for the shared middle name of Leslie and their daughter Kadey is a cornerstone of our district.

During its peak 3-week season from Father's Day to the Fourth of July, Anne's Acres welcomes over 200 visitors, including local school kids. The gift shop delights a lot of people with the aroma of freshly baked blueberry muffins and refreshing slushies. I am hungry now.

Robert, a retired Air Force mechanic from Whiteman Air Force Base, and his family are now expanding, adding 8,000 strawberry plants for next spring.

Congratulations to the Exendine family, including Kadey and her sons, for their dedication. I invite you all to go visit them in Lincoln, Missouri.

#### HONORING DAN & JERRY'S GREENHOUSES

Mr. ALFORD. Madam Speaker, today I rise today to honor Dan & Jerry's Greenhouses, a small business gem in Harrisonville, Missouri, in the Fourth District, our August Small Business of the Month.

For years, Dan & Jerry's has been a cornerstone of our community. Their Farm Fresh Selects trial garden tests hundreds of plant varieties each year, making sure only the best make it to our gardens.

Beyond their exceptional products, they foster community spirit through events like the Annual Arts & Crafts Fair, Fall Festival, and Plant a Flower for Mom on Mother's Day.

These gatherings create lasting memories and strengthen our small-town bonds. We are honored to be able to visit this phenomenal spot this August during our district work period.

I thank them for their dedication to excellence and community. Let's get to Harrisonville and visit them, as well. Thank you to Dan & Jerry's Greenhouses for being our August Small Business of the Month.

#### HONORING INCREDIBLE PEOPLE OF NORTH TEXAS

(Ms. JOHNSON of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today full of gratitude and pride for the incredible people of north Texas, my neighbors, and my constituents, who have stepped up in extraordinary ways to help their fellow Texans through one of the most devastating flood disasters our State has faced in years.

We all know that when tragedy strikes in Texas, we don't wait around for permission to do the right thing. We just show up. We roll up our sleeves. We help our neighbors pick up the pieces. That has been on full display in the weeks after the floods.

I will take a moment to recognize just a few of the many heroes from Texas' 32nd Congressional District who have gone above and beyond to provide hope and help when it was needed the most.

Sabrina Pinales, Ryan Lenamon, Savion Lee, David Hardage, and Lauren

Sturdy, five of my remarkable constituents, didn't think twice before answering the call. They joined their church mission team and headed straight to the Hill Country where flood waters had washed away homes overnight.

These five north Texans have been on the ground every day helping families, clearing debris, delivering supplies, and rebuilding what was lost. They remind us that faith in action and neighbor helping neighbor is what holds this State together when times are hard.

I also want to lift up the brave men and women of the Plano Fire Department and first responders from Dallas. When floodwaters rose and families needed rescue, these heroes did what they always do: They run toward the danger. They deployed to central Texas to help rescue stranded families, clear the roads, and make sure entire communities could get back on their feet safely. They represent the very best of our communities: courage, commitment, and compassion.

It is not just these few. Across north Texas, neighbors have opened their doors to displaced families. Churches, synagogues, and mosques have collected food, clothing, and essentials. Local businesses have donated truckloads of supplies. Nonprofits like the North Texas Food Bank have mobilized to get fresh meals and water to families who have lost everything in just seconds. Countless volunteers have driven hours to help strangers through this terrible disaster.

These are who Texans are. We are defined by our resilience, by our people, by our willingness to stand shoulder to shoulder and say: "We got you."

Our State has faced immense tragedy with hundreds of victims, many of whom were children, little girls excited to go to summer camp to make new friends and create memories that would last for a lifetime. Our entire Nation mourns those we have lost, and we are holding close the families who are doing everything they can just to make it through each day hour by hour.

Those families and those victims deserve answers. We must hold State and Federal officials accountable. We have a new chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, Mr. GARBARINO from New York. It is my hope that he will respond to our calls to convene the Homeland Security Committee for an oversight hearing of these floods to examine what went wrong and how our government can do better in the future.

Texans deserve a government that matches their generosity. We deserve a government that plans ahead, responds quickly, and never lets politics get in the way of protecting our communities.

Today, I say thank you to Sabrina, Ryan, Savion, David, and Lauren. I thank the Plano Fire Department and our first responders from Dallas. I thank every volunteer, every neighbor,

every house of worship, every first responder who has made a difference during this crisis.

Mr. Rogers once said when bad things happen, to always “Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.” We have a lot of helpers in north Texas and across our State who have gone above and beyond to help with their neighbors, and we are damn proud of them.

#### CELEBRATING HENRY JOSEPH KOLINEK, JR.

(Ms. DE LA CRUZ of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. De La CRUZ. Madam Speaker, today I rise to celebrate Mr. Henry Joseph Kolinek, Jr.’s 100th birthday on July 28.

Born in 1925 in Gruene, Texas, Mr. Kolinek graduated from Kenedy High School before attending Texas A&M.

After arriving to A&M, he was drafted into the Army Air Corps and served as a staff sergeant during World War II. He flew 35 combat missions as a tail gunner and courageously protected his fellow soldiers.

After his service, Mr. Kolinek returned to Texas A&M and earned a degree in agricultural economics. He worked 15 years at Union Carbide before returning to his hometown to join First-Nichols National Bank.

His dedication to the bank for over 37 years carried him from vice president to president, and finally, to chairman of the board. He retired at the young age of 80.

Today, Mr. Kolinek remains active in his community and church, serving as a Rotarian and a member of the city council, member of the chamber of commerce, and sits on the Karnes County Airport board, as well.

On his leisure time he is often found driving the tractor on his ranch. He is a very proud father, grandfather, and a great-grandfather, as well.

Happy 100th birthday to Mr. Kolinek. I thank him for his service to our great Nation and to his beautiful community. May God bless him and his family. Happy birthday.

□ 1050

#### HONORING JOHN SPEARS

(Mr. KENNEDY of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of John Spears, the director of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library system.

Although John only became director of the Buffalo & Erie County Library in April 2022, his brief tenure, backed by 25 years of experience, left an indelible mark on western New York.

John was an inspiring leader who worked tirelessly to expand access and make libraries in western New York

more inclusive, from eliminating fines for overdue books to redesigning the Central Library to be safer and more welcoming for everyone.

John was a champion for diversity, equity, and inclusion. He was honored by the New York Library Association for innovative leadership and fostering relationships across every community.

In 2022, I had the privilege of working alongside John on a project to digitize the William A. Miles collection at the Merriweather Library, the largest resource center in western New York for information on African-American history.

From the moment the effort began, John was all in. This was just one of the countless examples of John’s commitment to making our public institutions more just, representative, and responsive to the people we serve.

John saw libraries as a way of connecting people to their potential—a place where anyone, regardless of their background, could go, sit down, and learn.

On July 20, after a courageous battle with cancer, John passed away. Yet, his legacy lives on. He created a stronger, more inclusive library system that he helped to build. His legacy will last forever.

John is survived by his partner, Brian Dimit; his father, Robert; his brother, Evans; and his sister, Katherine. He leaves behind countless friends and colleagues across western New York and beyond.

I thank John for his service, compassion, and unwavering belief in the power of community. He will be deeply missed.

May John Spears rest in peace.

#### CELEBRATING JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF GREATER BUFFALO ON 80TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of an incredible milestone, the 80th anniversary of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo.

Since its founding in 1945, the JCC has stood as a pillar of strength, compassion, and community in western New York. For eight decades, it has served as a cornerstone of our region that reflects the diversity, resilience, and generosity of western New York. With two vibrant campuses, one in Amherst and one in the heart of Buffalo, the JCC opens its doors to over 1,000 individuals each and every day.

Whether it is early childhood education, enriching after-school programs, fitness classes, summer day camps, or arts and cultural events, and much more, the JCC is a space for everyone at every stage of life.

At its core, it is a place that brings people together. It is where families grow, friendships form, traditions are celebrated, and community is built.

The JCC’s mission is rooted in inclusion. Regardless of background, faith, or ability, everyone is welcome.

The 80th anniversary of the JCC is more than a celebration. It is about the legacy that continues to shape the present and inspire the future.

I thank the leadership, staff, volunteers, and generations of families who have walked through the JCC’s doors for creating a home where values endure, culture thrives, and people belong.

On behalf of a grateful western New York, I congratulate them on a remarkable 80 years. Here is to many, many more.

#### AMERICA’S BORDERS ARE SAFER

(Mr. MANN of Kansas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, America’s borders are the safest they have been in decades. Simply put, President Trump is the border security President, and no narrative from the national media or leftwing talking heads can change that.

Border security was the number one issue on the campaign trail and is one of the main reasons that 77 million Americans elected him as President—promises made, promises kept.

It is hard to believe that, in just 6 short months, President Trump has reversed 4 years of disastrous open-border failures from the previous administration. For 4 years, President Biden and Vice President HARRIS told the country over and over again that they simply did not have the authority or the ability to secure the border. The reality is that this could not have been further from the truth.

President Trump has shown that the only thing we needed all along was a President who was not afraid to actually enforce the law.

The facts speak for themselves. During the month of June, U.S. Customs and Border Protection saw the lowest number of encounters ever on our borders nationwide. Apprehensions along the border reached a new historic low on June 28, when CBP had the lowest number of apprehensions in a single day in agency history.

Under the previous administration, 27,766 illegal migrants were paroled and released into the country in June alone. Madam Speaker, 1 year later, zero migrants were paroled into the country—again, promises made, promises kept.

This leadership is exactly what Americans voted for this past November, and House Republicans are united in equipping the President to continue securing our borders for good.

In our One Big Beautiful Bill Act, we gave our law enforcement agencies the tools and resources they need to help secure the border. We allocated more than \$46 billion to finish President Trump’s border wall and ensure that our borders have a physical barrier to keep bad actors out. We invested in the CBP workforce, equipping the agency to hire more personnel to keep our borders secure and enforce the law.

House Republicans invested in state-of-the-art border technology to stop the trafficking of drugs and humans across our border and to finally bring