

the most outspoken, ferocious, and unyielding champions our Nation has ever seen. John Burton was a towering and progressive warrior who for half a century never pulled a punch in his dogged fight for a fair future for our children.

Paul and I are heartbroken to hear of his passing, as he was my longtime mentor, close confidant, and dear friend. All who knew John knew that behind his sometimes profanity-laden language was a profound progressive voice for how to make real the promise of America.

As I wrote in the forward to his memoir in his book, "I Yell Because I Care," John yelled a lot because he cared a lot, especially about our most vulnerable neighbors.

He dreamed of a city without homelessness or hunger and a society dedicated to full equality, no matter the person or who they love. He also dreamed of an economy where every working family could succeed and a world at peace where every child could reach his or her fulfillment.

Guided by a big heart and aided by a brilliant, strategic mind, John was boundlessly effective in every arena in which he served, whether in the United States Army as a patriotic American; bringing the concerns of Californians to Congress; as a member of the California State Assembly; as a member and the president pro tempore of the California Senate, the Democratic leader of the Senate; or twice serving as the chair of the California Democratic Party.

He cultivated his friendships in politics, music, community, and sports, nurturing deep decades of long relationships and always engaging new people.

Personally, I will always be grateful to John for managing my very first campaign for Congress in 1987 to fill the seat that belonged first to his brother, Phillip, and then to his sister-in-law, Sala.

Someone just sent this to me. When we were in the Speaker's private office right before I was sworn in, John had felt overwhelmed and just left. Speaker Wright wouldn't start the ceremony without him because whether it was for Congress or the Assembly or the State Senate, the people who served with John knew the power of his legacy even more than he sometimes realized.

When I came to Congress, I told them: Sala sent me. I came here to fight against HIV and AIDS. Sala did send me, but it was John who helped me get here.

My campaign promise was: A Voice That Will Be Heard.

I am sure everyone can just imagine how he savored that when I became Speaker of the House. Enough about me. Let me get back to John.

For more than three decades in Congress, I was blessed to have John as a source of wise counsel, sound judgment, and brash humor. He always served as a constant reinvigoration of

my inspiration to carry on the fight for the people.

From the work of his foundation to end child homelessness, especially among homeless foster children, to a strengthened California Democratic Party fighting for our values to a new highway that was named for him to ensure future generations will know his name, it is fitting that the legacy of this legislative and legendary liberal lion will live on in our State in so many ways.

May it be a comfort to John's beloved daughter, Kimiko, or Kimi, as we call her; grandchildren Juanito and Mikala; and all of his loved ones that our State and, indeed, the entire Nation join his family in mourning during this sad time.

We all want John to rest in peace.

□ 1010

HONORING KANSAS STATE FAIR TRADITIONS

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, this week, thousands of Kansans across our State will travel to the Big First District to partake in the annual tradition of the Kansas State Fair.

I had the privilege to travel to Hutchinson this weekend for the fair. My wife, Audrey, and the kids will be there tomorrow, and there is truly nothing like it.

Typically, Congress is not in session during the first week of the fair, and I am able to spend a few more days there with my fellow Kansans. While I am saddened that I couldn't stay longer this year, I want to take a moment on the House floor to recognize the significance of this tradition and the people who make it possible.

The Kansas State Fair is one of the crown jewels of our State. For more than a century, families have made the trip to Hutchinson every September to celebrate agriculture, spend time together, and showcase the very best of our State. It is a place where urban and rural Kansans alike come together, where grandparents bring their grandchildren to see livestock shows, enjoy funnel cakes and candy apples, ride the Ferris wheel, and come together to honor agriculture as the backbone of our economy and culture. The State Fair is truly a reflection of who we are as Kansans.

In Kansas, agriculture is more than an occupation. It is a calling, a calling that is the heartbeat of the Big First District. The fair celebrates that and honors the men and women who devote their lives to feeding, fueling, and clothing the world.

From livestock shows to crop displays, the fair is a reminder of the faith, work ethic, and service that define our communities. It is also a place where we invest in the next generation by highlighting the accomplishments of FFA and 4-H students who will carry

our agricultural tradition forward and emerge as future leaders of agriculture in our great State.

On Saturday, I had the privilege of announcing the annual legislative showmanship competition alongside Mary McCurry, the chairwoman of the Kansas Fairgrounds Foundation board. This event is unlike anything else in the country. It gives lawmakers the opportunity to learn directly from Kansas FFA and 4-H students about how to show livestock and, more importantly, about the commitment and dedication it takes to care for those animals. These young people are the future leaders of agriculture, and I was inspired by their passion and knowledge.

I would also like to acknowledge Mary Kane with Kansas FFA and Ann Sankey with the Kansas State Fair Foundation board for putting on a great event again this year.

I congratulate this year's winners, and I am grateful for everyone who made the event possible.

I also had the opportunity to hear from our State's farmers, ranchers, and agricultural producers and our industry leaders on Saturday morning. We reflected on how Congress delivered big wins for Kansas agriculture this summer through the working families tax cuts, but we still have more work to do.

Kansas farmers and ranchers still need a fiscally conservative 5-year farm bill that addresses the needs of today, not just those of 2018. My House Agriculture Committee colleagues and I are working hard to deliver a farm bill 2.0 to further support the men and women who show up every single day with the determination to feed, fuel, and clothe the world.

Mr. Speaker, the Kansas State Fair is about more than rides, exhibits, and shows. It is about honoring the Kansas families and traditions that make agriculture strong and investing in the next generation to maintain that leadership tomorrow. Kansans are proud of this tradition, and I am proud to represent Hutchinson and the Big First District, home of the Kansas State Fair, here in the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Lasky, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 452. An act to award 3 Congressional Gold Medals to the members of the 1980 U.S. Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Team, in recognition of their extraordinary achievement at the 1980 Winter Olympics where, being comprised of amateur collegiate players, they defeated the dominant Soviet hockey team in the historic "Miracle on Ice", revitalizing American morale at the height of the Cold War, inspiring generations and transforming the sport of hockey in the United States.

RECOGNIZING TRIVITS FAMILY

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

Ms. McBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Trivits family from Hockessin, Delaware.

Recently, Evan Trivits wrote to me about his wife, Angela, who, last September, was diagnosed with ALS. The slow and progressive impact of ALS, paired with our devastating lack of clarity about its causes, is a metaphorical perfect storm of grief.

The Trivits family dreams of a future where ALS is no longer a death sentence, and I share that dream and echo their resolve.

Evan and Angela are a shining light in our community and are emblematic of the values that Delaware is built on. They are harnessing the power of hope to build a collective passion that can do the important work needed to save lives.

Through strength, resilience, and raising awareness, Evan and Angela are demanding better from all of us and turning their uncertainty into action.

The act of caregiving is often shaped by moments of fear, frustration, and heartbreak, but more than anything else, it is shaped by purpose, devotion, and grace.

In part because of Evan and Angela, I am proud to join my colleagues on the ALS Caucus because families deserve urgency, attention, investment, and real solutions.

I thank the Trivits family for their courage and determination and for reminding us of the need to advance meaningful, lifesaving solutions.

HONORING LIEUTENANT DAVID MOYER AND TROOPER BRIAN NIETO

Ms. McBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two extraordinary public servants, Lieutenant David Moyer of the Millsboro Police Department and Trooper Brian Nieto of the Delaware State Police. They were recently awarded Medals of Valor, the highest honor their departments can bestow.

On June 22, Lieutenant Moyer responded to a dangerous pursuit that ended in Lewes, Delaware, where he came under direct fire from a suspect wielding an AR-15. Under threat, Lieutenant Moyer held the line and even helped evacuate a wounded resident to safety.

At the same time, Trooper Nieto made a split-second decision. Knowing an officer was pinned down, he maneuvered into harm's way, drawing the suspect's attention and likely saving Lieutenant Moyer's life.

These are not routine acts of bravery. They are rare, decisive moments that speak to the highest ideals of law enforcement. Their courage, humility, and service remind us what public safety truly means.

I am grateful to Lieutenant Moyer and Trooper Nieto for their valor, their leadership, and their sacrifice to our State of neighbors.

COMMEMORATING 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAYERS JEWELERS

Ms. McBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Sayers Jewelers in Smyrna, Delaware, in August. Sayers is a small, multigenerational business that has been operating in the town of Smyrna since 1950.

Sayers has been supporting their neighbors throughout Kent County year in and year out, consistently standing alongside their community and demonstrating that successful small businesses are the bedrock of our small towns.

Sayers is one of many examples in Delaware and beyond that reminds us how essential it is that we support small businesses, innovation, entrepreneurs, and the folks in our communities who employ our neighbors and drive success and investment in their community. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and Delaware is the State of small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for Sayers Jewelers and congratulate them on their continued success. I thank them for continuing to pour into Smyrna, Kent County, and the greater central Delaware region one family heirloom at a time.

CONGRATULATING ROBBIE STEPHENS

Ms. McBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Robbie Stephens on becoming the new fire chief of the Lewes Fire Department.

Chief Stephens brings nearly two decades of experience to this role, having served as lieutenant, captain, training officer, assistant chief, and deputy chief. He is also a firefighter with Wilmington's Squad 4, where he is known for his skill, humility, and deep dedication to public safety.

This is more than a title. It is a vote of confidence from a department and community that knows leadership when they see it. Chief Stephens' service reflects the very best of Delaware: commitment to neighbors, courage under pressure, and a heart for giving back.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Chief Stephens and thank him for stepping up, once again, this time to lead.

RAISING AWARENESS OF WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS of Iowa was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise awareness of World Suicide Prevention Day on September 10. Suicide remains a critical issue, affecting individuals and communities worldwide.

Mr. Speaker, 2025's World Suicide Prevention Day is focusing on changing the narrative on suicide by shifting from a culture of silence and stigma to one of encouraging open and honest conversations to help provide support to prevent suicide.

The suicide rate among veterans, especially those aged 18 to 34, remains

stubbornly high. As a veteran myself, I have championed the No Wrong Door for Veterans Act and several other bills to help strengthen suicide prevention for veterans. I have also reintroduced the Corrections Officer Blake Schwarz Suicide Prevention Act, legislation aimed at providing critical mental health support for corrections officers around the country.

I will continue to advocate for policies that break the stigma around suicide and advocate for brain health awareness and suicide prevention.

As a young college student, I actually was one of the people on a suicide hotline, so I know how tenuous it is and that people need support and help.

This day reminds us that every life has value and every person deserves support. Let us work together to remind those who are struggling that they are not alone and that help is always within reach.

□ 1020

HONORING LAVERN HARVEY

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of LaVern "Vern" Harvey.

Vern passed away on August 8 at age 81 with his family by his side. Vern was born and raised in Iowa and attended the University of Iowa where he got a bachelor's degree in economics.

In 1996, he married his wife, Christine Bullington, and entered the United States Army. Vern served as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam. He received many accolades for his service and was later discharged as a captain in 1970.

For over 50 years, Vern called Bettendorf home.

Vern managed two businesses, Harvey Homes and Kirkwood Investors Realty, where he contributed greatly to the community by building affordable homes.

Vern went on to serve three terms as an Iowa State House representative for district 779. As a fellow veteran, I understand Vern's services, sacrifices, and commitment to our Nation.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Christine; his children, Mitchell and Megan; and the rest of his family.

Vern was unwaveringly kind. He was a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather and committed to the betterment of Iowa, Bettendorf, and our Nation.

RECOGNIZING HIS ALL-HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, who is the spiritual leader and the "primus inter pares"; "first among equals" of Greek Orthodox Christianity worldwide, a church of over 300 million people.

His All-Holiness is visiting the United States to receive the Templeton Prize, the world's most prestigious award in religion and science.