

I congratulate His All-Holiness on this amazing achievement. I know people in Iowa are extending that congratulations, and I welcome him to the United States.

RECOGNIZING CLARENDON HILLS LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM

(Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the outstanding athletes of the Clarendon Hills Little League team, who recently finished an incredible season.

This remarkable group made local history by advancing all the way to the 2025 Little League World Series, a testament to their dedication, discipline, and work ethic.

Like so many baseball fans across the country, I was inspired by their determination and spirit. They have certainly captured our hearts. While they may have fallen short of the ultimate prize, their accomplishments are something to be celebrated.

Congratulations to the Clarendon Hills Little League team. They have made our community and all of us incredibly proud. We can't wait to see what they will achieve next season.

HONORING MICHAEL NOLAN

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Michael Nolan, who dedicated 48 years of his life to serve our country at the Social Security Administration.

He is a great example of dedication and service to his fellow Americans.

Mike Nolan wanted to be a Catholic priest, but he left the seminary system in 1975. When he heard of an agency that would help the aged and the disabled, he felt the need to apply to work for the Social Security Administration.

He ensured the Social Security Act worked for people and took his calling seriously by serving and advocating for the rights of beneficiaries.

We are grateful to Michael Nolan's contributions to the Social Security Administration, including the modernization of the systems, disability policy, and unhoused population advocacy.

I thank him for his service to our country and wish him the best on his well-earned retirement.

HONORING MIKE LEDOUX

(Mrs. FISCHBACH of Minnesota was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Mike LeDoux on his retirement after spending over 30 years with the Minnesota State Patrol.

During his many years of service, Sergeant LeDoux has conducted over 40,000 traffic stops, made 1,000 DUI arrests, and has not missed a day of work since 1998.

For Sergeant LeDoux, joining law enforcement was truly a calling. He comes from a long line of law enforcement dating back to his great-grandfather, and he has proudly carried on this family tradition.

He also served as president of the Minnesota State Patrol Troopers Association. In his capacity as president, I worked with him at the State legislature, and he has become a good friend.

I once again congratulate Mike on over 30 years of service to the State of Minnesota, and I thank his wife, Melissa, for her help and support of Mike and for putting up with a dining room table buried in papers.

Congratulations to both of them on a well-deserved retirement.

COMMENDING MYESHA COOPER AND ROBERT JOHNSON, SOUTH FULTON POLICE OFFICERS

(Mrs. MCBATH of Georgia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend two City of South Fulton police officers, Sergeant Myesha Cooper and Officer Robert Johnson.

On Saturday, August 16, Sergeant Cooper and Officer Johnson were called to the scene of an accident where they swiftly rescued a mother and her two children from an overturned vehicle.

As I continue to reflect on an invigorating August work period, it is a privilege to come back to Washington to uplift and to amplify the everyday stories of exceptional bravery and quiet heroism that can be found all across my district.

These two police officers represent the very best of law enforcement, and I am honored to recognize their service to my community back home.

On behalf of my office, the Sixth Congressional District of Georgia, and the United States House of Representatives, I thank Sergeant Cooper and Officer Johnson.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, our public health system is on life support while Secretary Kennedy pulls the plug on lifesaving programs.

Just 9 months in, he fired his own CDC director and has forced out disease experts who protected us through a pandemic and disease outbreaks.

He has perpetuated distrust in vaccines, while we see the highest number of measles cases in more than three decades.

He has decimated gun violence prevention research while 10,000 people have been killed by gun violence, and that is just so far this year, including Georgia officer David Rose, who was shot and killed while defending CDC employees from a gunman who was provoked by anti-vaxing rhetoric.

While CDC's staff reels from the violence that they have witnessed, they face threats to the work that they do

that keeps us safe and healthy. Our public servants who have dedicated their lives to the health of others deserve better. The American people deserve better.

OPERATION ROLLING THUNDER

(Mr. BAUMGARTNER of Washington was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the extraordinary success of Operation Rolling Thunder, a multiagency task force led by the U.S. Marshals Service in partnership with local, State, and Federal law enforcement.

In just one coordinated effort, 55 violent fugitives were taken off the streets of Spokane County in the city of Spokane Valley.

These individuals were wanted for crimes including: homicide, kidnapping, sexual abuse, assault, domestic violence, and much more. Thanks to this operation, our communities are safer immediately and measurably so.

Operation Rolling Thunder carried added significance as the first-ever Homeland Security Task Force operation conducted in the Eastern District of Washington.

By uniting Federal, State, and local resources, law enforcement was able to focus on our region's most violent and repeat offenders; strengthening public safety, national security, and our ability to respond to emerging threats.

This kind of success doesn't happen by accident. It takes planning, trust, and exceptional teamwork. I commend the U.S. Marshals, Spokane County Sheriff's Office, Spokane Valley Police, Washington State Patrol, the FBI, ATF, Homeland Security, Department of Corrections, the U.S. Attorney's Office, Spokane County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, and many other local, State, and Federal law enforcement agencies that stood shoulder to shoulder in this effort.

I also give a special shoutout to two leaders of this operation: Sheriff's Sergeant Patrick Bloomer and Acting Supervisory Deputy U.S. Marshal Carson Taylor. Their leadership helped make this possible.

Mr. Speaker, this is what public safety and action looks like.

□ 1030

HONORING ROGER REED

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Roger Reed, a man whose legacy is defined not only by his distinguished legal career but his deep love of family, history, faith, and Cougar football.

Born in Portland in 1939 and raised in Wenatchee and Spokane, Roger was a lifelong learner with a passion for the law.

After graduating from Washington State University and earning his law degree from the University of Washington, he served as deputy Spokane prosecutor and later as chief of the

Eastern Washington Attorney General's office before cofounding the respected law firm, Reed & Giesa.

Roger was so much more than his resume. He was a history buff with a personal library focused on the Civil War. He was a faithful member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He loved Elvis, Jackie Robinson, rhubarb, and reading the newspaper.

Roger Reed was a great man, a great friend, and we honor his legacy.

COMMENDING ACTIVE4YOUTH

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, as the father of five, with my youngest daughter attending her very first cross-country practice today, I rise to commend the remarkable work of Active4Youth, a community-supported nonprofit that is transforming lives in Spokane.

Mr. Speaker, we have too many fat kids in America, and we need to get more of them out running cross-country.

Founded 25 years ago by local teacher Heidi Bresson and her husband, Mike, Active4Youth brings free cross-country programs to as many as 6,000 elementary students each fall. In a city where many families face economic hardship, this may be the only chance some children have to wear a uniform, be part of a team, and to feel that sense of belonging.

This is not a school-funded program. It exists because individuals in our communities step up. It is working. Research from Washington State University shows Active4Youth participants have better attendance and significantly higher achievement in both math and language.

This is more than running. It is physical activity, academic support, community connection, and character development all in one.

Mr. Speaker, as we begin a new school year, let us recognize the power of programs like Active4Youth to change lives.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO CALIFORNIA

(Ms. RIVAS of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, happy birthday to the greatest State in the Union. Mr. Speaker, 175 years ago, California was admitted as the 31st State in the Union.

For 175 years, California was built by people from across the globe who came in search of a better life. This includes my mother, who immigrated to the San Fernando Valley in the 1960s and worked multiple jobs so that my sister and I could live out the American Dream.

Stories like mine are what make California great, and it is what has made California special for the past 175 years. Generations of immigrants, workers, dreamers, and innovators have propelled California forward and made it a beacon for the rest of the Nation.

Those advancements did not come without challenges, and communities across our State currently face threats to their livelihoods that directly challenge our State's values.

Because of the Trump administration, many in my district and across the State live under fear that ICE will tear their family apart.

In just 9 months, Trump has manufactured a crisis that harms our most vulnerable, including students starting a new school year, senior citizens, young children, and disabled individuals. He is detaining hardworking individuals who are in this country legally and providing for their families so they, too, can have a chance at their American Dream.

I know California, and Californians are tough and resilient. Last month, I met with Mariela from Panorama City. Mariela stepped up to support her family and neighbors because street vendors like her mom are terrified that she may be swept up by ICE and separated from her family.

Mariela's resiliency and advocacy for others in the face of Donald Trump's harmful anti-immigrant agenda embodies the spirit of California and what it means to be a Californian.

I am a proud Californian from the San Fernando Valley raised by an immigrant mother, lifted by my community, and inspired every day by the people of this State.

For 175 years, immigrants, workers, dreamers, and innovators made California a leader in the country. As we celebrate California's 175th birthday, let's recommit ourselves to protecting our most vulnerable and protecting a future where every family has what they need to thrive.

HONORING BRUCE E. MCKEE

(Mr. BAIRD of Indiana was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bruce E. McKee, a constituent from Morgan County who served our country as a member of the United States Air Force from 1979 to 1986, including serving overseas in Korea.

Bruce McKee has demonstrated outstanding service by supporting veterans in our Morgan County communities. Bruce founded the Indiana Spirit of '45, focused on remembering veterans of the Greatest Generation.

In December of 2012, McKee and the Indiana Spirit of '45 started Taps on the Square to honor fallen veterans and law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. Taps on the Square continues, rain or shine, in downtown Martinsville. McKee also works with the Battle Buddies group to support veterans struggling with reentering civilian life or PTSD.

As a veteran myself, I am grateful for the work Bruce is doing to support fellow veterans and servicemembers in our district.

REMEMBERING 9/11

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

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, 24 years ago, the United States was attacked on its own soil in a coordinated terrorist attack by a group that opposed democracy and everything that this country stands for.

On that day, nearly 3,000 Americans were killed in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Shanksville, Pennsylvania, in the deadliest terrorist attack ever committed on American soil.

Living in lower Manhattan at the time, less than a mile from the World Trade Center, I remember that day as if it were yesterday. It was a perfect September morning, not unlike today, not a cloud in the sky, and the air was warm but crisp.

I remember hearing with my own ears the explosion of the second plane slamming into the South Tower, which soon collapsed and was then followed by the North Tower.

I remember the sirens blaring as brave first responders ran toward Ground Zero to save whomever they could.

I remember watching thousands of people walking up the street covered in soot and ash in total silence.

I remember the ambulances lined up along the West Side Highway hoping to be called upon but ultimately just sitting there in line for days. I remember the rancid smell in the air, which lasted for weeks.

As anyone who lived in New York City on September 11, 2001, can tell you, those images, those sounds, those smells, that feeling never leaves you.

For months, brave patriots worked 24 hours a day to search for bodies and clean up the massive pile of debris. The government told them that the air was safe to breathe, but it was not.

That toxic air settled in the lungs and the bodies of firefighters, police officers, construction workers, and ordinary New Yorkers who lived nearby and stayed to rebuild our city. Those toxins in the air have resulted in health problems for tens of thousands of Americans.

Today, more people have died from 9/11-related illnesses than were killed on that one awful day. Survivors and first responders continue to receive diagnoses of cancer, respiratory diseases, and autoimmune disorders that were caused by their exposure to the air at Ground Zero.

□ 1040

It seems almost silly to say, but the very least that this country can do for those people who suffer today from health problems that they got from rebuilding New York City after such a devastating terrorist attack would be to make sure that their healthcare, at a minimum, is paid for.

How can we say "never forget" if we ignore the health problems of the very survivors and first responders who sacrificed so much on that terrible day and the days and weeks that followed?