

the classroom with extension programs or with groups like FFA or 4-H.

By recognizing our agricultural educators, we can ensure our students have knowledge and exposure to all the opportunities the agriculture sector has to offer.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all the teachers and volunteers across the country who help propel students into meaningful careers that support our Nation's farmers, ranchers, foresters, and producers.

FAREWELL ALLISON BLANKENSHIP

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

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bid farewell to my senior floor adviser and alumna of Teams JAYAPAL, MCBATH, and PELOSI, the one and only, the incomparable, Allison Blankenship.

The last few years have been some of the most unpredictable in the history of this Chamber, and throughout all of it, Allison has been a constant and joyful guiding light.

From the longest speech in House history to the longest vote, Allison has skillfully navigated the unprecedented.

She has powered through all-nighters with a smile, with pride, and always with helpful information, because above all, she is driven by a love of country, a love of justice, and a love of this institution and its people.

We thank Allison for her hard work, and we wish her all the best on her next chapter.

We will not forget Allison, and we hope she will not forget us.

CELEBRATING GIRLS' FLAG FOOTBALL

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

Mr. WIED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a movement that is transforming the landscape of youth sports across America: girls' flag football.

Recently, Chloe Cronin, a student at Appleton North High School, reached out to my office to share a petition she started, calling on the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association to recognize girls' flag football as a sanctioned sport.

At Appleton North High School and across the Fox cities, girls are suiting up for flag football, not just for the love of the game, but to claim their rightful place on the field.

Though currently recognized only as a club sport, these athletes are showing grit, leadership, and talent. Today, over 17 States have sanctioned girls' flag football as a varsity sport, and countless others are piloting programs that give young women the chance to compete, lead, and thrive on the field.

With support growing nationwide, from college scholarships to NFL partnerships, States like Florida and Georgia have already made girls' flag football a varsity sport. Wisconsin should be next.

These young women deserve the same opportunities, resources, and recognition as their peers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this momentum and ensure every girl has the chance to chase greatness one flag at a time.

EDUCATION FIRST

(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, the 16th District of New York is lucky to have an Education First facility located in Tarrytown.

During the August work period, I had the opportunity to tour their international language campus and speak with young people from over 60 countries who are in Tarrytown to learn English.

This location in our district is one of several dozen Education First campuses around the world. They have collaborated with the U.N. to create a joint global summer school program. In addition to physical schools, they also have the world's largest online language school.

These programs are designed to help English language learners pick up the language quickly for attending school or starting a new job.

It can be hard to be in a new place, learning a new language. I applaud the courage and openness of these students in coming to the United States and meeting students from different countries. Our world is stronger because of cultural exchanges like this one, and it does a heck of a lot for the local economy in Tarrytown.

HIGHLIGHTING THE WORK OF JEFF MITTMAN

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

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the work of Mr. Jeff Mittman and congratulate him on his appointment by President Trump to serve as a member of the U.S. AbilityOne Commission.

Mr. Mittman served 22 years in the U.S. Army until an IED ended his service and caused him to lose his vision. Despite this sacrifice, Mr. Mittman made it a mission to move forward and overcome the challenges his life presented.

As one of many accomplishments, in 2019, Mr. Mittman became the first legally blind president and CEO of Bosma Enterprises, the largest employer for people who are blind in Indiana.

Beyond that, Mr. Mittman also serves as the president of the National

Association for the Employment of People Who Are Blind.

Even after losing so much, Mr. Mittman considers himself the luckiest man alive. His responses to adversity serves as an inspiring lesson to all of us.

Indiana is fortunate to have benefited from his unwavering sense of hope and leadership in our community. No one is more deserving than Mr. Mittman for this appointment, and I am truly excited to see such an inspiring Hoosier serve on the AbilityOne Commission.

□ 1710

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO DOROTHY SCHARF FRANKEL

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

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise with joy to celebrate a very special milestone. On August 24, 1925, in Brooklyn, New York, my mother, Dorothy Scharf Frankel, came into the world, and this summer marked her 100th birthday.

She is still healthy, sharp, and still the life of the party. Really, to this day she is my best supporter, my best friend, and always on my side.

At 100, she plays a fierce game of bridge, Rummikub, and bingo, always with a quick wit and competitive spirit intact. She still turns on the news every day, and she worries about her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She reminds us that age is not a limit, but a badge of wisdom, resilience, and spirit.

Today, I honor my mother, not just for reaching a century of life but fulfilling every one of those years with strength, laughter, and unwavering love for her family. She is my inspiration, and I am so proud to celebrate her extraordinary journey.

DAMAGE BY THE GRAY WOLF

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, the gray wolf has made a full recovery in the United States and has been for some time. Yet, with the introduction of more and more wolves into the rural areas, you get results like this, with cattle losses as well as the wildlife in the area being devastated.

Yet, activist lawsuits have kept wolves on the list long past the point of recovery. The result is indeed devastating for rural America.

In the Great Lakes and Rocky Mountain regions, wolf populations are in the tens of thousands. These predators kill livestock and pets, costing ranchers their livelihoods.

Some years, the USDA reports loss of nearly 5,000 cattle and sheep. They are

wiping out the wildlife in Colorado and my area of northern California, too.

Families who work hard shouldn't have to live in fear that the next attack will be on their herds or even their kids or themselves. In the Sierra Valley, for example, in northern California, just in the recent months, ranchers have lost 80 head of livestock.

Ranchers and rural residents must be allowed to defend their property and themselves, including with lethal force when necessary. Indeed, the wolves are untouchable because the protections are so strong you can't even defend yourself or your land. In effect, hazing is what is allowed. You can't even hardly disturb wolves.

We must delist them. U.S. Fish and Wildlife listed them years ago. Now, they need to go through the delisting process because the wolf has fully recovered.

HONORING DR. THOMAS L. WALKER

(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 with a heavy heart to honor the life of Reverend Dr. Thomas Lorenzo Walker, a longtime minister, community activist, gospel artist, author, and dedicated public servant.

After graduating from Shaw University, Reverend Walker pastored at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, for nearly 55 years.

He was a great gospel artist, known for his hit "One Day at a Time." He authored "Brother to Brother; You Don't Have to Die of Prostate Cancer."

Reverend Walker served 12 years on the Edgecombe County Board of Commissioners. Residents now drive across a bridge named after him on West Raleigh Boulevard, a reminder of the bridges he built linking Edgecombe and Nash Counties in eastern North Carolina.

Reverend Walker advocated for youth, voting rights, and prostate screenings. He was a cancer survivor.

He was honored with our State's prestigious Order of the Longleaf Pine, various service awards, and inducted into the Twin County Hall of Fame.

We mourn his passing, honor his legacy, and extend our deepest condolences to his family.

COMMEMORATING BRENNA KULIKOWSKI AND DAMON THOMPSON

(Mr. CRANE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the lives of Brenna Kulikowski and Damon Thompson of the Timber Mesa Fire and Medical District.

On Sunday, these brave firefighters lost their lives in the line of duty fol-

lowing a head-on collision while returning to Show Low.

Although I had not met Damon, I knew Brenna, and my heart goes out to all of those who are grieving this loss. Please continue to pray for their families and the White Mountains region as they mourn this tragedy.

As the community gathers in remembrance and gratitude, Brenna and Damon will be escorted back to Show Low, Arizona, and welcomed home as heroes.

We are all forever grateful for their dedication and service to their fellow Arizonans.

HONORING ANN HONIOUS

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

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of a National Park Service employee in my district, Ann Honious.

Since 2020, Ann has served as superintendent of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Center in Sandy Springs and has been a vital partner in our community, working hand in hand with my office, the Cumberland CID, and the Chattahoochee National Park Conservancy as we work to secure funding, break ground, and eventually cut the ribbon on the New Day Palisades project.

Thanks to Ann's leadership, our community continues to preserve and advance the legacy of President Carter's bold vision for a beloved natural resource.

I offer my gratitude to Ann for her devotion to our national public lands and celebrate her distinguished career in service to this country.

On behalf of my office, Georgia's Sixth Congressional District, and the United States House of Representatives, I congratulate and wish her the best in her retirement.

FIGHTING FOR AFFORDABLE, QUALITY HEALTHCARE

(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, so over at the Centers for Medicaid & Medicaid Services, the administrator, Dr. Oz—yes, that guy—decided they should curb waste by letting the government use AI to decide if your medical procedure is really necessary.

That means for-profit companies will use bots to deny care for seniors and working people and will get rich doing it at your expense. Right now, there are over 70 million Americans who rely on Medicare and Medicaid for their insurance.

If there is one thing that Americans agree on right now, it is that our healthcare system is sick. Our premiums are too high. Our access is

shrinking. We are all enraged by a system that is already designed to deny us healthcare coverage, not make us healthier. Our healthcare system is so perverse, we don't need yet another way for the system to screw us over.

Americans deserve affordable, quality healthcare, and AI should not be determining whether you get healthcare. That is what Democrats are fighting for.

□ 1720

HONORING OHIO CHAMPION OF THE WEEK DWAYNE GROLL

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize local business leader and the recipient of the 2025 National Small Business Association's Small Business Advocate of the Year award, Dwayne Groll, as Ohio's 13th Congressional District's Champion of the Week.

Last week, Dwayne was in town for the National Small Business Association's Washington presentation, where he was recognized for this award and his passion for uplifting small businesses.

From mentoring local entrepreneurs to advocating for supportive policies and connecting small businesses with essential resources, Dwayne ties his success to the success of others.

As an accomplished executive with over three decades of leadership and civil engineering experience, Dwayne is the current CEO and chairman of the board at Environmental Design Group. He also sits on the board of directors for the Greater Akron Chamber and serves as the inaugural chair of the Akron-Canton Advocacy Alliance.

Dwayne understands that small businesses are the lifeblood of our communities and our economies and that, by empowering local business leaders, we can shape more vibrant and resilient local economies.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my thanks to Dwayne for reminding us that the birthplace of champions, Ohio's 13th District, is stronger when we succeed together.

AUTHORITARIANISM IS A THREAT TO DEMOCRACY

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, we have talked at long length about the threat to democracy and the fear of an authoritarian leader in Washington.

The time is now. The authoritarian leader in this administration has surfaced. When the head of a communications company says that a television personality's comments can cause a television station or should cause a television station to cancel his show and