

HONORING STUART "STU" CARTER

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Stuart "Stu" Carter, a veteran, a pillar of the Sierra Vista community, and a friend to so many, who sadly passed away in November of 2025.

Stu Carter exemplified a life of service. He was a retired U.S. Air Force lieutenant colonel. He dedicated more than 45 years to military and Federal service. Even after retiring, Stu continued giving back, combining his passion for cycling with a deep commitment to supporting fellow veterans.

In 2017, Stu founded VeloVets Sierra Vista, a nonprofit that provides disabled veterans with adaptive bicycles and a supportive community to help them regain mobility and also connection. Laura and I were honored to ride with Stu and the VeloVets in 2024 and again this past December for the inaugural Stu Carter Memorial Ride held in his honor.

Through VeloVets, Stu became a vital resource for veterans living with physical injuries and PTSD. He also served as the President of Cochise Bicycle Advocates, helping secure grants that brought dozens of bikes, bike racks, and bicycles to Sierra Vista and improved cycling safety and accessibility.

Beyond cycling, Stu served numerous organizations, including the Air Force Association of Arizona, the Sierra Vista Commission on Disability Issues, the Southern Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery Foundation, and the Volunteer Interfaith Caregiving Program. He is remembered for his compassion, organization, and tireless dedication to others, as well.

Stu Carter's legacy of service will live on in these veterans and in our community that he so faithfully served.

RECOGNIZING JOYCE REID-COLEMAN

(Mrs. HAYES of Connecticut was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Joyce Reid-Coleman, who passed away on December 15 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Poochie, as she was affectionately known, was beloved by the community. After overcoming many challenges in life, she decided to channel all of her energy to giving back.

While employed at the Siemon Company, she spearheaded many annual events and programs for employees, including the Haunted Cafe for the children of employees, a Thanksgiving feast, and a Christmas extravaganza.

Joyce created Big, Bold and Beautiful Productions to expand her service work to the Waterbury community. As an entrepreneur, she opened New York Handbags Plus Dresses in downtown Waterbury. Through her organization, Joyce provided the means to send chil-

dren to prom. She worked closely with all of the high schools to select students to receive services. These services included gowns, tuxedos, shoes, haircuts, hairstyling, manicures, pedicures, all accessories, flowers, pictures, and even transportation.

Her love for children inspired her to create The Back to School Kids Day, an all-day event providing food, games, activities, and free haircuts for all of the children.

Her love for her community was unprecedented. During the holiday season, her organization would provide Thanksgiving dinner to the homeless and those in need, toys for children, and blankets for the sick and shut in. Even as she was in hospice, she hosted a large Thanksgiving dinner this last Thanksgiving.

Joyce dedicated her life to God and was a faithful servant at Grace Baptist Church in Waterbury, Connecticut. Her generous, giving, and loving spirit made her a unique blessing to so many. Her work was celebrated in the city of Waterbury and throughout the State of Connecticut.

To say that her living spirit will be missed by all who knew her is an understatement. I pray for her husband, Gene, and the family. Joyce will surely be missed. May Poochie rest well. She has earned it.

LODI TEACHERS RECOGNITION

(Ms. POU of New Jersey was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. POU. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Christine Orosz and Melanie Panarese, two exceptional educators in Lodi, New Jersey, whose dedication to their students and community exemplifies the very best of public education.

A graduate of Lodi public schools, Christine returned home to serve the district that shaped her. Since joining Lodi in 2012, she has grown from school counselor to supervisor of school counseling, overseeing guidance and mental health support for students across her district.

Working with first-generation college aspirants, English language learners, and students from working-class families, Christine has demystified college applications and financial aid. She has opened doors that once seemed out of reach.

Her leadership has helped raise Lodi's high school graduation rate from roughly three-in-four students to nearly 90 percent.

Melanie Panarese, an English teacher at Lodi High School, brings the same commitment to her classroom every single day. With two decades in the profession and 7 years serving Lodi students, Melanie's lessons encourage critical thinking and creativity.

She also pioneered an academic yearbook course allowing students to design, write, and produce the school's yearbook, building collaboration and pride in their work. Colleagues praise

her exceptional ability to make every student feel seen and valued.

Both Christine and Melanie were named New Jersey Exemplary Educators in 2025, an honor reserved for educators who demonstrate true leadership and positive influence on students and colleagues.

At a time when school districts face growing challenges and diminishing resources, educators like Christine and Melanie continue to step up, providing stability, opportunity, and hope for young men and women.

Together, their work reminds us that investment in public education is ultimately an investment in our communities and our future.

Christine and Melanie represent the very best of public education, and I am proud to honor them today.

PATERSON SCHOOLS FUNDING

Ms. POU. Mr. Speaker, while we are talking about education in America, I want to talk about something more serious: the Department of Education's continued war on our schools.

Last month, without warning, the Department informed eight schools in our district that it was rescinding \$8 million in critical funding.

I urgently appealed to Secretary McMahon. My office met with the Department, and our school districts repeatedly sought engagement. We were ignored.

Over the holidays, the Department informed us that the cuts were final and will begin immediately.

Over the next 3 years alone, schools in our district will lose millions of dollars promised and planned for. The program has already shown positive educational outcomes, and the negative consequences for our kids will be felt for years to come.

Our school districts have been willing to work with the Trump administration to remedy any issue to find a fair path forward, but that willingness has not been matched.

Across the U.S., the Department of Education is dismantling public schools. New Jersey is the latest victim.

I will continue working with our district school officials to use every single tool available to restore this funding and to fight to support public education. I will not give up on our children.

RECOGNIZING AND THANKING JOANNE HORN

(Mr. SMUCKER of Pennsylvania was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and thank an extraordinary public servant, Joanne Horn, who has retired after decades of faithful service to the people of Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District.

Joanne has been a valued member of my staff since 2017, and before that, she served for 20 years working for Congressman Joe Pitts. For nearly three

decades, Joanne has been a steady, compassionate presence for constituents across the 11th District who needed help navigating Washington's vast alphabet soup of agencies and departments.

We did some calculation, and during her time in my office alone, not counting her time with Congressman Pitts, Joanne helped more than 7,500 individuals and secured over \$46.8 million in savings and benefits that were rightfully owed to the people we serve.

Those numbers only tell part of the story. Joanne always helped seniors with Social Security, families navigating economic assistance during COVID, veterans, and countless others who felt overwhelmed and unheard until Joanne stepped in.

She didn't just do what we call case-work. She actually changed lives. Joanne treated every constituent with dignity, persistence, and care, and she never gave up on someone who needed help.

There is truly no one quite like Joanne Horn. Our office, district, and Commonwealth are better because of her service, and we are deeply grateful as she begins this next chapter.

□ 1100

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF ROOT'S COUNTRY MARKET

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate and recognize Root's Country Market on their 100th anniversary.

Root's Country Market is a farmer's market and auction based in Manheim, Pennsylvania. The market's history stretches back to 1925 when it was founded by A.W. Root as a poultry auction.

Since then, Root's has expanded to include homegrown produce, handmade goods, and a flea market, the last of which was acquired in 2005.

Today, there are 250 stands in Root's Country Market, 180 stands at Root's Old Mill Flea Market across the street, and two auctions. Root's operates every Tuesday year-round and sees up to 10,000 visitors each week.

While seeing tremendous growth in the century since its founding, the market has stayed true to its roots. Root's remains family-owned and is currently led by fifth-generation market master Emily Longenecker Rineer.

What began as a poultry auction one century ago has become a staple of Lancaster County's heritage. As Root's Country Market celebrates 100 years in business, I thank the family and their stand holders for making our community a vibrant place.

Congratulations to the Root's Country Market, and I wish them another century of success.

CONGRATULATING CONSTITUENTS NAMED 2025-2026 PENNSYLVANIA FFA OFFICERS

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate and recognize the three individuals from Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District who were installed as 2025-2026 State offi-

cers for the Pennsylvania FFA: State President Sarah Firestone, State Vice President Sally Bollinger, and State Secretary Leah Flinchbaugh.

Having emerged from a rigorous nomination and election process, a total of seven State officers were chosen to lead the Pennsylvania FFA this year. Three of the seven individuals belong to chapters in Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District.

Sarah Firestone, the new president, is a member of the Garden Spot FFA Chapter and a graduate of Lampeter-Strasburg High School. The new vice president, Sally Bollinger, is a member of the Cloister FFA Chapter and is a graduate of Ephrata High School. The new secretary, Leah Flinchbaugh, is a member of the Eastern York FFA Chapter and a graduate of Eastern York High School.

Agriculture is crucial to Lancaster and York Counties, and the newly elected officers have demonstrated both passion for and knowledge of our local community.

I commend Sarah Firestone, Sally Bollinger, and Leah Flinchbaugh for their leadership in the Pennsylvania FFA. As they settle into their new roles and prepare for bright futures ahead, I wish them continued success in all of their endeavors.

MARKING ANNIVERSARY OF LOS ANGELES FIRE

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

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago today, the communities of Altadena and Pasadena that I represent in California were struck by tragedy. In just a matter of hours, the Eaton fire, driven by hurricane-force winds reaching 90 miles an hour, forever changed the communities my constituents have called home for generations.

The fire destroyed over 9,000 structures, most of them single-family homes. It scorched over 14,000 acres, decimating entire neighborhoods and turning places of worship, schools, restaurants, and community institutions to rubble.

Most tragically, it took the lives of 19 of our loved ones, neighbors, and friends. We have recently learned that 440 additional people across southern California died in the month following the fire due to delays in medical care and exposure to toxic elements.

The Eaton fire was the second most destructive wildfire in California's history. Those we lost helped to shape the fabric of their communities, and their absence has left a void that cannot be filled. They are in our thoughts on this 1-year anniversary of the fire.

We remember Anthony Mitchell, Sr., a 68-year-old father, grandfather, and great-grandfather who brought everybody together, and we remember his son, Justin, who was born with cerebral palsy and was known for his infectious smile. Anthony and Justin both died waiting for help that they would never receive.

We remember Victor Shaw, who resided in his beloved Altadena home for 60 years and who died with a garden hose in his hand, fighting to save his property.

These are just a few of the stories of those we lost, all of whom were taken far too soon. That is why, today, I have introduced a resolution with Representative SHERMAN and Senators SCHIFF and PADILLA to commemorate and honor all the lives that we lost in these fires.

Even in our darkest days and every day since, survivors have shown extraordinary resilience and strength. First responders put their lives on the line to save others. Neighbors opened their doors to offer shelter to those who had nowhere to go. Organizations big and small came together to make sure our neighbors who had just lost everything had a warm meal, a roof over their heads, and a shoulder to cry on.

Federal, State, and local governments mobilized to get families the help they needed, help that has made a tremendous impact on our road to recovery and rebuilding. Emergency operation hubs were propped up in a matter of hours. Recovery centers were created at an amazingly rapid speed so that survivors could access free individualized guidance and assistance when they needed it most.

On top of that, FEMA approved over \$150 million in housing and other emergency assistance. SBA approved over \$3 billion in loans for small businesses, homeowners, and renters. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers did an amazingly fast residential wildfire cleanup. It was the fastest in our Nation's history.

These efforts saved lives and laid the groundwork for recovery, but the work is nowhere close to being complete. Every day that Congress and the Trump administration continue to delay, recovery becomes harder and more expensive. Families have already waited 1 year while rebuilding costs rise, housing shortages deepen, and displacement assistance expires.

Disaster aid is not a favor. It is a responsibility. Today, 70 percent of Eaton fire survivors have not yet returned home, and the majority have not even begun the arduous process of rebuilding. Almost one-half of survivors still reside in either temporary or unstable housing. Families are exhausting their savings, taking on debt, skipping medical care, and making impossible choices just to get by.

Small businesses are struggling to reopen. Families whose homes are still standing but are contaminated with dangerous toxins are being forced to decide between a place to sleep and their health.

Survivors need our help, and they need it right now. That is why I say something very important: President Trump and congressional Republicans must fulfill their responsibility to help communities impacted by disaster and