

Bailey recently received an American degree from the Future Farmers of America. Bailey is the first Bellefonte FFA member in nearly two decades to receive an American degree. She has been an active FFA member since her freshman year.

The American degree is the highest FFA honor and is given to members for their dedication to their chapter, leadership, and community involvement.

To receive an American degree, members must receive their State FFA degree, be an active member of their chapter for at least 3 years, and take part in various agricultural education programs.

Bailey's FFA projects included raising beef cattle, dairy cows, goats, poultry, and rabbits. Along with raising livestock, Bailey is a small business owner, selling Western jewelry and clothing. Additionally, Bailey and her fiancé raise beef cattle in Centre County.

Mr. Speaker, Bailey should be proud of her accomplishments, and it is a great example for FFA members in our community. I congratulate Bailey on receiving the American degree.

□ 1850

#### MAKING IT HARDER FOR U.S. CITIZENS TO VOTE

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

Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because the House just voted on the SAVE America Act, which will make it harder for tens of millions of Americans to vote, not noncitizens. Noncitizens can't vote. They can't register to vote. If they do, they will be deported.

American citizens are being denied their right to vote by requiring, in this bill, all kinds of paperwork to register, all kinds of paperwork to vote.

Three examples: For married women, there are 70 million women with an ID that does not match their birth certificate. It will be harder for them to register to vote. Seniors, especially those who have been voting by mail, it will be harder for them to vote. College students and those who serve our country abroad would have to come home in order to register to vote.

This is a terrible, un-American, undemocratic, honestly insane bill that the Senate should not take up.

#### HONORING SARAH ROOT

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

Mr. FEENSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sarah Root and express the relief of our community that justice has been delivered to her killer.

In 2016, 21-year-old Sarah Root was driving home from her graduation

when an illegal immigrant, who was drunk, driving at three times the legal limit, struck and killed her. Her killer posted bail and vanished from the country, leaving Sarah's family without answers for nearly 10 years.

Sarah should be 31 today. In her memory, I fought to pass Sarah's Law, included in the first bill signed by President Trump.

Her bill is now law, and on February 3, justice finally came for her killer. He was extradited, convicted, and sentenced to more than 20 years in prison.

As a father of two girls, I cannot fathom the pain Michelle and Scott have endured the past 10 years. Sarah's Law is a promise to them and every American family that we will not ignore these tragedies, and we will act to prevent them.

#### RECOGNIZING BRADLEY SOLYAN

(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, I rise today with great gratitude for my chief of staff, Bradley Solyan, who is departing my office after 12 years of extraordinary service to the people of Palm Beach County and our country.

Brad really has quite a story. He came to Washington having been a teacher in south Florida, and then he joined my office as an intern. He became the legislative correspondent, policy adviser, legislative director, and, ultimately, chief of staff—what a role model for perseverance and dedication.

He has led with vision, patience, and a steady hand. No matter the challenge, he has always been calm, with clarity and focus. Best of all, he comes to the office every day with a very big smile, and he lifts us all.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to miss Brad dearly. I wish him great success, and I ask everybody to join me in wishing Brad great success on his new journey.

#### HONORING YVONNE FEDDERSON

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

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Yvonne Feddersen, co-founder of Childhelp, a national organization dedicated to the prevention and treatment of child abuse.

Yvonne lived an amazing, divinely inspired life.

In 1959, Yvonne was in her mid-twenties and in the midst of a successful acting career. She and Sara O'Meara, who became a close friend and cofounder of Childhelp, were on a USO tour in Japan when they found 11 Japanese-American orphans kicked out of their orphanage. Yvonne and Sara responded, finding them shelter and long-term care.

What started as an effort to help these 11 children turned into a lifelong calling. Yvonne and Sara went on to open orphanages in Japan and Vietnam, saving tens of thousands of children.

In the mid-1970s, at the behest of Nancy Reagan, they opened their first iteration of Childhelp in California. They have since created a nationwide network of assistance, including a 24/7 hotline, treatment centers, abuse prevention programs, and awareness campaigns. We are honored that they chose to headquarter Childhelp in Arizona.

On January 23 of this year, at the age of 90, God called Yvonne home. I count it as a tremendous blessing to have known Yvonne and witnessed the profound impact she had on the lives of our most vulnerable, on our community, our State, and our Nation. Her legacy will endure.

#### HONORING FIREFIGHTER HOWARD BENNETT

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

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Howard Bennett, a Camden City, New Jersey, firefighter who tragically lost his life on the job last week.

He served his community for 26 years, and he will forever be remembered as husband to Fran, father to David and Jenna, a brother, a friend, and a protector.

When it came to the fire boat, Howard's knowledge was second to none. He treated it like an extension of himself, ensuring that it was always ready for action.

His fellow firefighters will remember him for his resourcefulness. When others thought something couldn't be fixed, Howard found a way to make it work.

He was a trusted mentor to young firefighters, always willing to help, simply because that is who he was.

Firefighter Howard Bennett served with integrity, humility, and heart. Today, I honor his service and extend my deepest condolences to his loved ones. May he rest in peace.

#### HOUSING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

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

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Housing for the 21st Century Act, introduced by Chairman HILL and Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance Chairman FLOOD, which passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan support.

Housing affordability is a supply problem, and for too long, Federal policy has made it slow and expensive to build new homes.

President Trump and Secretary Scott Turner advanced housing reforms that

cut blue tape, expanded supply, lowered the price of lumber, and brought mortgage rates below 6 percent.

This legislation builds on that progress by removing Federal barriers so homes can be built faster and economically at scale without new Federal spending.

Today, it can cost over \$100,000 before a shovel ever hits the dirt to build a new home, and builders often cannot build a home for less than \$250,000. This bill modernizes housing laws, improves coordination between HUD and USDA, expands manufactured housing in rural communities, reduces barriers for veterans, and increases access to small-dollar mortgages.

Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to support this important legislation.

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#### RECOGNIZING BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF SUMMIT COUNTY

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Black Chamber of Commerce of Summit County and co-founders Robert DeJournett and Misty Beasley as Ohio's 13th Congressional District Champions of the Week.

One year ago I had the honor of attending its kick-off event in Akron, and I was truly inspired to see so many people support this catalyst for change.

After an economic study was commissioned, it was determined that Akron's Black population, who represents nearly one-third of the region—yet, the report highlighted through the Elevate Akron report that there was purposeful, intentional, and systemic exclusion from economic growth and job opportunities for Black people in the region.

Left unaddressed, this gap has threatened innovation and prosperity not just for Black Akronites but for the entire region.

Mr. DeJournett and Ms. Beasley created the Black Chamber of Commerce of Summit County to reverse that trend, enabling Black businessowners to take their rightful place in the economic ecosystem with the right support, connections, and capital to allow Black businesses to survive and thrive.

In the first year, the chamber has counseled dozens of small businesses on finances and website development, helped them compete for natural resources, and connected local leaders to maximize growth.

Congratulations to Robert DeJournett, Misty Beasley, and the entire membership of the Black Chamber of Commerce of Summit County on a successful first year and being named the 13th Congressional District champion of the week.

#### RECOGNIZING MIKE MACDONALD AND MARIA TAYLOR

(Mr. McCORMICK asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the Seattle Seahawks Head Coach Mike Macdonald and NBC sportscaster Maria Taylor.

On Sunday, these two graduates from Centennial High School in Roswell, Georgia, which just happens to be in my district, became Super Bowl stars. Mike and Maria also attended the University of Georgia together where they began their respective careers as a football coach and a sports broadcaster.

On Sunday, Mike coached his team to a convincing 29–13 victory, and Maria made history as the first Black woman to ever host the Super Bowl postgame ceremony. These achievements are a testament to their hard work, character, and outstanding education they received at Centennial.

Congratulations to Mike and Maria, and I thank them for making Roswell proud. Go Knights and go Dawgs.

#### RECOGNIZING RICHARD KIRK MCPIKE

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a profound sense of pride and a touch of sadness. After 13 years of service to this body as a chief of staff, Richard Kirk McPike is leaving my office.

Kirk has been the leader of my team since 2012, setting up the office, building LGBTQI+ political infrastructure, helping me earn the Veterans' Affairs' Committee gavel and so much more.

Kirk's proudest accomplishments are not counted in the bills passed or titles held. They are measured in the many people he has led and mentored, from interns to senior staffers. One of his greatest talents is knowing when to let go of great staff, understanding they sometimes need to grow beyond my office. Today, it is my time to do the same.

I will miss my friend Kirk. I will miss his counsel, but I know he will serve the Commonwealth of Virginia as a delegate with the same intelligence and decency he brought to this House. I wish him Godspeed and good luck.

#### RECOGNIZING SONDRALAPOINTE

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

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sandra LaPointe, a seventh grade teacher at Westview Hills Middle School in Willowbrook, Illinois.

I recently had the pleasure of surprising Mrs. LaPointe during her social studies class to honor her with our constituent spotlight award. We started making these awards after the last election to try and uplift people who

are bringing hope and joy and making us feel good about being Americans because, goodness knows, we need these voices right now.

There is not a person in this Chamber who doesn't owe a debt to the great teachers they had along the way who taught them things, but more importantly, who taught them how to learn, made them excited to learn, who challenged them to ask questions about the world because as James Baldwin said: No society progresses without those kind of teachers around them.

Mrs. LaPointe's nomination came from a former student who said: "Mrs. LaPointe's class was the one I looked forward to the most each day. Her spunky personality always brought out the best in all of the students."

From your students and from your Congressman: Thank you, Mrs. LaPointe. You make us all better.

#### HONORING JAMES R. WILLIS

(Ms. BROWN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, I rise during Black History Month to honor an extraordinary constituent, Mr. JAMES R. Willis, a marine, an attorney, and a true Cleveland legend.

In 1944, Mr. Willis joined the Montford Point Marines, one of nearly 20,000 Black men who volunteered to serve immediately after President Roosevelt integrated the military.

Despite facing racism and segregation, he served his country honorably, and in 2011, the Montford Point Marines were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of their service.

After the war, Mr. Willis built a legal career that has left a lasting mark. For more than 70 years, Mr. Willis has practiced criminal law, becoming a legendary courtroom advocate, a national leader, and a mentor across generations.

He argued four cases before the Supreme Court on protections against unlawful search and seizure, helping to strengthen the rights of all Americans.

Even today, at the age of 100, he continues his lifework. On behalf of a grateful district, I thank Mr. Willis for a lifetime of courage, service, and dedication to justice.

#### HONORING BLACK LEADERS FROM WEST MICHIGAN

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

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, during Black History Month, we honor leaders who shaped our country, and I rise today to recognize extraordinary Black leaders from west Michigan, whose impacts continue to guide our community.