

2002, she answered the call by enlisting in the Texas Army National Guard, where she served until 2010 in Missouri, Georgia, and Fort Hood, Texas. In 2005, she deployed to Iraq and was stationed near Tikrit, one of the most dangerous areas of operation during that conflict.

Like many who have served in combat, Marcey returned carrying invisible wounds. The experiences of war took their toll. In 2019, Marcey found a trusted companion and a source of healing in Beignet, a beautiful black Labrador retriever who has been with her ever since.

That hasn't stopped Marcey. She stepped forward time after time. She continues to serve. She continues to be a steadfast advocate for fellow veterans through the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Today, she proudly serves as the post commander for VFW Post 4709 in Conroe, Texas, and as the District 17 commander at the State level.

She leads with integrity, purpose, and commitment to every veteran post, district, and community she serves. Marcey Phillips exemplifies what it means to serve in uniform and in life.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful nation, we thank Marcey. We thank her for her service. We thank her for her sacrifice. We thank her for continuing to lead. We are honored to call her an American hero.

#### HONORING CONGRESSIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS PILGRIMAGE

(Ms. SEWELL of Alabama was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in observance of the 61st anniversary of Bloody Sunday and the annual Congressional Civil Rights Pilgrimage through Alabama, which will take place this weekend in Birmingham, Montgomery, and my hometown of Selma, Alabama.

Beginning this Friday, March 6, we in Alabama will once again welcome Members of Congress and dignitaries from across the Nation to lay eyes on the faces and places of the civil rights and voting rights movement.

Hosted by the Faith and Politics Institute, we will retrace the footsteps of civil rights giants and pay homage to the sacrifices made in the name of equality and justice for all.

Our pilgrimage will begin in Birmingham, where we will pay tribute to the four little girls killed in the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church. Together, we will reflect on the legacy of visionary Birmingham leaders like Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth, who led the fight against segregation alongside Dr. King.

We will then travel to Montgomery, Alabama—home to Rosa Parks, the Freedom Rides Museum, and the Equal Justice Initiative—where ordinary citizens took a bold stand against injustice.

We will conclude our pilgrimage by crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge in

my hometown of Selma. We will commemorate the events of Bloody Sunday. Together, we will walk in the footsteps of our former colleague, the late, great Congressman John Lewis, who was beaten and bloodied by Alabama State troopers while peacefully demonstrating for the rights of all Americans to vote.

This year's pilgrimage could not come at a more critical time in our Nation's history. As we speak, officials at the highest levels of government are waging a concerted and coordinated effort to attack the rights and freedoms secured by our foremothers and our forefathers. They are attempting to erase our history, to roll back our progress, to silence our voices, and to dilute our power.

Meanwhile, the fate of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the crown jewel of the civil rights movement, hangs in the balance as the Supreme Court considers a case that could gut its remaining protections.

□ 1030

It is my hope that this year's pilgrimage will serve not only as a reminder of our past but a roadmap for our future.

Mr. Speaker, the foot soldiers of the civil rights movement were tacticians and strategists. In these troubled times, we should take a page from their playbook, because "good trouble, necessary trouble" is needed now more than ever.

Mr. Speaker, this year's pilgrimage is also bittersweet. It will be the last time that we will be joined in our official capacity by Congressman and former majority leader, STENY HOYER.

Congressman HOYER is retiring from the House of Representatives this year, and I pay special tribute to him and his dedication for coming annually to the pilgrimage. No one in this body has been a more steadfast supporter of our annual pilgrimage than Leader HOYER. He made the trip to Alabama 18 times, and this will be his 19th time commemorating Bloody Sunday.

I will always cherish the memories we made alongside John Lewis and our colleagues during the pilgrimage. While he will be sorely missed in the Halls of Congress, I know that Leader HOYER's service to our Nation will not end with his retirement, and neither will his dedication to protecting and advancing our civil rights.

On behalf of Alabama's Seventh Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in observing the 61st anniversary of Bloody Sunday and the upcoming annual Civil Rights Pilgrimage.

May we leave this weekend renewed, refreshed, and ready to get into some "good trouble."

#### HONORING THE HONORABLE TIM ARMSTEAD

(Mr. MOORE of West Virginia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MOORE of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable West Virginian, devoted public servant, and a faithful Christian, my friend, the Honorable Justice Tim Armstead.

Justice Armstead dedicated his life to serving the people of West Virginia with unwavering integrity, conviction, and grace. Born in Charleston on February 26, 1965, Tim graduated from the University of Charleston and went on to earn his juris doctorate from the West Virginia University College of Law.

After beginning his public service career as a press intern for my grandfather, Governor Arch Moore, Justice Armstead went on to achieve a distinguished legacy defined by his strong leadership, built on the back of his Christian faith.

In 1998, Justice Armstead became a member of the West Virginia House of Delegates and served there for the next two decades. During that time, Tim became the first Republican speaker of the house in more than 80 years. Every step of the way, Tim led from a firm commitment to conservative principles and an unparalleled witness to his Christian faith.

In 2018, he was appointed to the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia. While there, his fidelity to the rule of law and people of our State truly shined, so much so that he served twice as chief justice. He stewarded the court through a challenging time and worked tirelessly to restore public trust in our judiciary.

Tim's time as chief justice earned him the distinction of being the first West Virginian to ever ascend to the top of both the legislature and the judiciary, a truly amazing accomplishment.

Tim joined his Lord in Heaven on August 26, 2025, and he is survived by his beloved wife, Anna; his daughter, Katie; and his two cherished grandchildren.

With his passing, West Virginia has lost a principled leader, a dedicated jurist, a devoted family man, a committed Christian, and a dear friend. My family and a grateful State will miss him dearly.

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon him.

#### SUICIDE PREVENTION FOR OUR VETERANS

(Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK of Florida was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our veterans. They protect us in conflict. They wear the uniform. They stand watch in places that most of us will never see, and then they come home to stand in line.

In my district, the wait time for new mental health appointments is 31 days. It is 31 days. When you are battling an

invisible wound, 31 days isn't a wait list. It is a countdown or even condemnation.

We say that the statistics have gotten better, but better is unacceptable. There are more than 16 million veterans in the United States. More than 1.5 million veterans call Florida home. They are our neighbors, our children, and our parents.

Still, on average, one veteran dies by suicide every 65 minutes. By the time we go to bed tonight, 17 chairs will sit empty at dinner tables across America. That is 17 folded flags and 17 families staring at their phones that will never ring again. It is not because they weren't strong enough. It is not because they didn't fight hard enough, but it is because we didn't fight hard enough to give them the services that they deserve and need.

If we can send our sons and our daughters into harm's way, then it is our duty to ensure that they have access to counseling, crisis services, and the dignity of timely care when they come home.

To our veterans who are watching, they are not alone. Their service mattered, and in this Congress, their lives matter during and after, too.

Mr. Speaker, our veterans are not lost, and they are always in our hearts. They upheld their duty to us, and now it is our duty to uphold our promise to them—not in 31 days, not tomorrow, but today and now.

To all of our veterans and our VSOs who are here visiting on the Hill, we thank them for their service and their courage, and we will never stop fighting for them until we fulfill our promise to them.

#### HONORING GLADYS WEST

(Ms. FOXX of North Carolina was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, March is Women's History Month, a time when we make an extra effort to honor and recognize women across the United States and the world who have made a positive, sustained impact upon society.

The Wall Street Journal recently ran an article honoring the life of Gladys West, a brilliant mathematician who played an integral role in creating GPS technology.

Gladys was a 42-year civilian employee of the United States Navy. Due to the classified nature of her work, few individuals knew of her contributions to this now popular and essential technology as it was being developed.

Here are quotes from the article I have referenced:

"In her 42-year career as a civilian employee of the Navy, West learned to program computers and solve mathematical problems she could never have imagined in graduate school. Some of her work involved measuring the precise contours of the Earth, on land and at sea, allowing for the effects of tides

and other forces. She was particularly diligent about checking for accuracy. The research was vital for creation of the Global Positioning System, or GPS, a priority for the U.S. military in the 1970s and 1980s."

Ms. West was inducted into the Air Force Space and Missile Pioneers Hall of Fame in 2018 and was awarded the President's Award by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers for her work in helping create GPS.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. West's story is one of service, hard work, determination, and perseverance, and I am quite certain that her story and accomplishments will continue to serve as an inspiration for generations of proud Americans to come.

I thank Gladys' family for sharing her so wonderfully with the rest of the world. I thank Gladys, even though she is now gone, for the wonderful work that she did in helping our country and the world.

#### RECOGNIZING EMELIN THEATRE

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the magnificent jewel located in the heart of the village of Mamaroneck, the Emelin Theatre.

The Emelin is a nonprofit organization that brings world-class performing arts to all of Westchester, as well as nearby Connecticut. The events at the Emelin cover all genres of music, comedy, dance, family theater, and film. In the next few weeks alone, there will be performances highlighting Motown, flamenco dance, southern rock, jazz, cabaret standards, and numerous community events that will be hosted in their spacious environment.

The professional staff, led by Taryn Sacramone, ably directs and manages all of the component parts of the Emelin's mission, and community commitment to the Emelin is exceptional, led by Mark Ettenger, board president.

The generosity of the board of directors and the Friends of the Emelin provide the additional resources needed to keep this asset thriving decades after its inception.

From the floor of the House of Representatives, we recognize the tremendous presence of the Emelin in our Westchester world.

#### RECOGNIZING NEW ROCHELLE BAR ASSOCIATION

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, in this Chamber, we speak of this American experiment in democracy that is 250 years in the making under principles forged in our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the laws of the judicial rulings that have followed. Yet, these principles will die on the vine of history if they aren't taught and absorbed by each new generation of Americans.

One effort to keep those ideas alive is found in the New Rochelle Bar Association's unique outreach in the New Rochelle school system, the Lawyers in the Classroom program.

The New Rochelle Bar has signed up members skilled in all elements of the law to speak to elementary and middle school students in the nearly 10 schools in the district and make constitutional principles come alive—amendments with numbers that represent important principles: the First Amendment, the Second Amendment, the Fourth Amendment, and the 10th Amendment—helping young people understand, in everyday language, what these principles mean in everyday life.

In addition to the educators at the schools of Trinity, Jefferson, Columbus, Barnard, Webster, Davis, Ward, Albert Leonard, and Isaac Young, let me recognize some of the long list of lawyers who have dedicated time for this project: Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert, Andy Spatz, Suzanne Berger, Jennifer Pasquantonio, Regina Matos, David Lacher, Artem Djukic, Adam Sattler, Laurie Korngold, Jeffrey Levin, Michele Tombini, Barry Salzman, Stephanie Vetch, Susan Kettner, Frank D'Onofrio, Michael Schiffer, Julie Kattan, Christina Hall, Milton Kreppel, and so many more—a real all-star lineup on the frontline team for democracy.

#### CONGRATULATING BARRY AND BARBARA REITER

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate a dynamic couple, Barry and Barbara Reiter, as they plan to celebrate their 70th birthdays together later this month.

Barry and I were in Mount Vernon High School together all those years ago. He is a tad younger than I am, but he and Barbara have given years of community service over and above their professional careers and in raising their family. Their service in volunteer emergency services for their town and Barry's service on the town council are just two examples.

Mr. Speaker, take it from one who knows that age 70 is an achievement in life and an opportunity to continue to serve, and Barry and Barbara will.

From the floor of the House of Representatives, happy birthday to Barbara and Barry Reiter.

#### CONGRATULATING MORENCI HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' WRESTLING TEAM

(Mr. CISCOMANI of Arizona was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Morenci High School boys' wrestling team on winning the Division IV wrestling title for the 2025–2026 season.

The Morenci Wildcats totaled 214.5 points to win the Division IV title and were led by three teammates who each placed first overall in their weight classes.

Jacob Goodwin won the 159-pound championship with a total of four victories, with a total of three pins, as well.

Emerson Montes won the 152-pound title and secured a major decision in the championship match.