

like long ago in Washington, but in agriculture 6 years is a lifetime. Input costs and inflation surged under the mismanagement of the last administration. Markets are more volatile, and global competition has only intensified.

Our farmers do not need more uncertainty. They need predictability. They need policies that allow them to invest, plan, and efficiently keep their farms and ranches in their families.

That is why it was so critical that we passed what I call farm bill 1.0 last year. Through the Working Families Tax Cut Act, Republican majorities in Congress delivered the most significant investment in American agriculture in decades. We strengthened the farm safety net. We modernized crop insurance. We expanded access to commodity programs. We made historic investments in conservation, research, trade, and rural development. We delivered real tax relief to family farms and ranchers that operate on razor-thin margins.

Those policies lowered the cost of doing business, strengthened risk management tools, and gave producers more confidence to keep working in the face of uncertainty. From cattle ranchers to ag lenders, Americans in agriculture truly needed those policies. In short, it helped farmers weather economic pressure after 4 years of sky-high inflation that increased input costs by more than 36 percent under President Biden, but the job is not finished.

Farm bill 2.0 is about continuing what we started last summer. It is about taking that running start and delivering a fiscally responsible, 5-year farm bill that works for agricultural producers in the real world.

The Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 does exactly that. This week, my colleagues on the House Agriculture Committee and I marked up the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, passing this legislation out of committee in a bipartisan fashion just a few hours ago.

This bill, which I consider farm bill 2.0, reflects the agriculture of today, not that of 2018. It strengthens commodity programs and disaster assistance so our Nation's producers are not left waiting on Congress every time drought, flood, wildfire, or disease strikes.

Farm bill 2.0 ensures dairy, livestock, and specialty crop producers have policies that match their risk. It protects crop insurance as the cornerstone of the farm safety net. It supports conservation programs that are locally led, voluntary, and practical.

The Farm, Food, and National Security Act expands access to credit and modernizes loan limits so producers can keep up with the capital-intensive nature of agriculture today. It strengthens rural development, broadband, water infrastructure, and rural hospitals, because agriculture does not exist in isolation. Strong

farms require strong rural communities.

Importantly, the bill is built on a bedrock of fiscally conservative policy. A farm bill should provide certainty without growing government for the sake of growing government. It should prioritize the men and women who have dedicated their lives to American agriculture instead of prioritizing paperwork. It should set our farmers up for success without getting in their way, and it should respect the taxpayer while recognizing that a secure food supply is key to national security. I am proud to say that our farm bill 2.0 lives up to those conservative standards.

This is not about politics. It is about doing our job. Farmers and ranchers plan in seasons and decades, not in continuing resolutions and short-term extensions. Every delay makes it harder for them to make decisions about planting, equipment purchases, and land leases.

Passing a 5-year bill gives producers what they need most: certainty. It gives them certainty to invest, certainty to innovate, and certainty to keep feeding a hungry world. Farm bill 1.0 laid that foundation. Farm bill 2.0 will continue that work.

As part of my farm bill impact series, I have spoken on this floor 34 times advocating for Congress to pass a farm bill, and this legislation is exactly what I have spent so long advocating for: the farm bill that builds on the agricultural wins we passed last year, and most importantly, the farm bill that our farmers and ranchers are depending on.

Madam Speaker, I call on the rest of my colleagues to recognize our bipartisan hard work and pass this legislation for the good of our farmers, our food supply, and our national security because when farmers succeed, America succeeds.

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#### IN MEMORY OF JOHN J. HEIDINGER

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

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a truly remarkable Buffalonian, John J. Heidinger, who passed away at the age of 72 on January 1, 2026.

John's presence was woven into the fabric of Buffalo, and with his passing, our city has lost a pillar in our community. To know John was to know something essential about Buffalo itself: loyalty, humor, generosity, and an unwavering devotion to the people and places that shaped him.

John was born and raised in Buffalo's Old First Ward, a neighborhood defined by its character and Irish pride. John carried that with him every day of his life.

He was one of eight children raised by Jack and Elizabeth Heidinger in a small apartment near O'Connell Ave-

nue, where love, faith, and hard work were not just values. They were a way of life.

That foundation shaped the course of John's story.

John deeply believed in the power of organized labor, in the fairness, stability, and respect unions provide working families. That conviction led him to dedicate more than 40 years of his life as an usher and ticket taker, where he stood shoulder to shoulder with his fellow union members and ultimately went on to serve as president of Local 235, which would later become SEIU Local 200 United.

As president, John negotiated fair contracts, defended livelihoods, and helped ensure that generations of workers in western New York, including me and my family, could make a better life for themselves and their loved ones.

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Madam Speaker, if we grew up in Buffalo, chances are we knew John in another way, too. In the early years of his career, John served as equipment manager for the Buffalo Sabres. He loved the team, the travel, the stories, and the joy of being part of something larger than himself.

John would even invite players, especially those far from home with nowhere to go, to his house for Thanksgiving dinner. That was John, making room at the table, always looking out for others, and always treating everyone like family.

In so many ways, John was present for Buffalo's most cherished memories. They include Sabres games, Bills games, Bisons games, Shea's performances, Kleinhans concerts, the racetrack, the Aud, The Rockpile, Pilot Field, The Ralph, and the arena.

John was the familiar face at the door. He was the one who knew everyone's name, who greeted everyone with a smile, and who made each person feel welcome.

Above all else, John's favorite role was being a devoted father to Michael, Susanne, and Sara and a cherished papa to his grandson, Ethan. He was also a beloved friend and partner to Martha.

May we honor John's memory by living with the same generosity, loyalty, and pride in where we come from that he showed throughout his life.

To John's extensive family, friends, and loved ones, we hold them in our hearts. On behalf of a grateful city and on behalf of a grateful nation, may John J. Heidinger rest in peace.

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#### STANDING WITH STUDENTS IN UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

(Mr. MCCORMICK of Georgia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MCCORMICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss legislation that is near and dear to me. It updates outdated Federal definitions and ensures

fairness for students attending universities that serve some of the most historically underserved communities across the country. Importantly, this bill has benefits with no cost.

My last tour as a marine was serving as the marine officer instructor at Morehouse, Spelman, Clark Atlanta, and Morris Brown as an adjunct professor. I then had the distinguished honor of attending and serving as student body president at Morehouse School of Medicine.

That experience shaped not only my medical career but also my understanding of leadership, service, and the responsibility we have to expand opportunity for the next generation.

Morehouse School of Medicine was founded to give opportunities to the underserved minority population and give them access to careers in healthcare and top-quality medical education. Its mission to serve the underserved is clear. Yet, for far too long, Federal policy has failed to keep pace with that mission.

This mission, which harkens back to the core principles for the foundation of the Republican Party itself, is a vital promise we should always strive to uphold.

Outdated definitions in statute have limited students at institutions like Morehouse to the resources and support they rightfully deserve. My bill is one small step to help correct that. It modernizes Federal language so that historically Black colleges and universities and other historically underserved institutions are treated fairly and equitably under the law in the way intended.

It ensures that students training to serve in rural communities, urban neighborhoods, and medically fragile populations are not disadvantaged by bureaucratic technicalities written decades ago.

As a graduate of Morehouse, I have seen the extraordinary talent and commitment of students who are determined to make a difference. They deserve policies that recognize their value and support their success.

Morehouse's legacy is incredible. I had the privilege of learning from former Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher, a towering figure in public health. His leadership set a standard of excellence and service that continues to guide my work today.

The broader Morehouse community has helped shape our Nation through leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose moral clarity transformed America; Jeh Johnson, who served as Secretary of Homeland Security; Edwin Moses, an Olympic gold medalist who exemplified discipline and determination; Samuel L. Jackson, whose artistic achievements are recognized worldwide; and Admiral Alvin Holsey, who had a long and distinguished military career.

These individuals reflect a tradition of excellence, resilience, and service. The students walking the halls today carry that same potential.

This legislation is about ensuring that Federal policy aligns with the legacy that we are trying to establish. This is about opportunity. It is about strengthening the pipeline of leaders, physicians, scientists, and public servants our country so urgently needs.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill and stand with students at historically underserved institutions in order to make sure every institution that meets the criteria is included in the growing and vital HBCU network of universities that are working every day to serve America's communities.

#### HONORING LOUIS "LON" O. NORMANDIN, II

(Mr. LICCARDO of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LICCARDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Louis "Lon" O. Normandin, II, of Monte Sereno, California, a great and very good man. A beloved businessman, philanthropist, and community leader, Lon passed away on December 17, 2025, at the age of 91.

Born and bred in San Jose, Lon graduated from Bellarmine College Preparatory and earned a business degree from Santa Clara University. He then proudly served our country as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

He married his high school sweetheart, Peggy. Together, they shared 70 years of marriage and raised a large and loving family.

Following his military service, Lon Normandin carried on his family's storied business legacy, serving as president and chairman of the Normandin car dealership, a family business bearing the Normandin name since its founding in 1875 as a horse carriage manufacturer.

Under the leadership of Lon and his kids, the dealership continued through its fifth and sixth generations, a rare achievement in America that reflects the deep bond that the Normandin family had with the community.

Over more than 60 years in the auto industry, Lon earned national recognition. He led dealer efforts to rebuild Chrysler alongside CEO Lee Iacocca back in the 1980s. Lon became a finalist for the national TIME Dealer of the Year award. He helped lead his industry as the chairman of Chrysler's National Dealer Council and as president of Chrysler's California advertising association.

Lon was a renowned business leader in the area. He cofounded Heritage Bank in Silicon Valley, and he was sought after for his business advice.

Lon was far better known and far more beloved for what he meant to our community and how he lived out his faith. He supported many in need with a particular passion for the education of children from struggling families.

As a generous benefactor, he served on the boards of the Catholic Commu-

nity Foundation, Santa Clara University, Bellarmine College Preparatory, Presentation High School, and Notre Dame High School.

Lon led major fundraising efforts to build and expand Catholic elementary schools in the area. He helped establish St. Frances Cabrini in San Jose and Holy Spirit. He also supported Sacred Heart Nativity School.

Lon served the community and his faith as a longtime member of the Knights of Malta, and he was a familiar face at every 6 a.m. daily Mass.

His generosity extended well beyond the church. For many years, he volunteered weekly at Martha's Kitchen in San Jose, serving meals to neighbors in need. I would see him in there with an incredibly big smile and lots of friends joining in. He often brought his grandchildren and children along to embrace the value of service.

Above all his accomplishments, I remember Lon for his kindness, his unwavering instinct for helping others, and his deep devotion to his family. Lon treated everyone with respect, offered a ready smile or laugh, and sought to help anyone in need. Many sought help from him and Peggy.

His six kids—Mark, Caren, David, Lisa, Diane, and Paul—went on to become great community builders in their own right.

In my own youth, Lon provided me with a wonderful role model of Christian selflessness, leadership, and service. As I eventually learned, I wasn't alone in making Lon my role model. Many of my friends in the Normandin orbit felt the same way.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Lon Normandin and extending our very deepest condolences to his beloved wife, Peggy; their six children and spouses; 14 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren. The family was the great joy and foundation of Lon's life.

Madam Speaker, we honor Lon Normandin's legacy of faith, family, and service and express gratitude for the example he set. May he rest in peace.

#### CELEBRATING AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize American Red Cross Month, which has been celebrated every March since 1943. The American Red Cross was founded by Clara Barton in 1881 with the noble mission of serving people in need.

The American Red Cross is one of the largest organizations in the country, with approximately 230 chapters in the United States and close to 300,000 volunteers.

American Red Cross Month was first recognized during World War II when Franklin D. Roosevelt urged individuals to assist with the Nation's growing humanitarian needs. What initially