

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Outdated definitions in statute have limited students at institutions like Morehouse to the resources and support they rightfully deserve.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

started out as a humanitarian call to action has grown into a larger mission. Communities across the country now come together to help those in need.

The bond between the American Red Cross and the United States Government is defined by more than a century of service. Since the organization's formal chartering in the early 1900s, the American Red Cross has had a hand in providing aid to our military personnel and their families.

The organization was pivotal in assisting servicemembers and families during World War I and World War II. During both wars, the American Red Cross recruited thousands of registered nurses and prepared millions of aid packages for the United States military and our Allies.

Today, the American Red Cross still provides support for military members and their families. However, their reach has also extended to serve communities that have been impacted by natural disasters. This organization assists in recovery efforts by providing emergency assistance, food, shelter, and emotional support to those in need.

Many people know the American Red Cross because of their commitment to blood donations. On average, they collect nearly 4.5 million blood donations and provide almost 40 percent of our Nation's blood.

In addition to humanitarian relief and blood donations, the American Red Cross has been training and educating people for over a century. The organization provides training in first aid, CPR, water safety, lifeguarding, and other emergency response areas.

Today, communities across the United States are safer because of the large number of people who have become certified by the American Red Cross. With training, these people can identify an emergency and step in to provide care.

Madam Speaker, I thank all the American Red Cross volunteers who work tirelessly to serve others and care for those in need.

RECOGNIZING JERSEY SHORE, PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania, which marks its bicentennial celebration on March 15.

Jersey Shore was founded in 1826, although the borough's rich history dates to the 1700s, when families settled in the area after the Revolutionary War. Many families chose this location because of the availability of farmland.

Before the borough's adoption of the name "Jersey Shore," the settlement was first called Waynesburg, named after Anthony Wayne, a famous Revolutionary War general who served under General George Washington. However, Jersey Shore quickly became the namesake due to the high number of settlers from New Jersey and the borough's proximity to the Susquehanna River.

Established along the banks of the Susquehanna and near numerous State

parks, Jersey Shore, also known as the Gateway to the Pine Creek Valley, offers visitors the chance to hike, bike, fish, and kayak.

Jersey Shore is a true reflection of Main Street charm and American values. It is an area many people from the Commonwealth are proud to call home. We congratulate the Jersey Shore borough on this momentous milestone.

RECOGNIZING AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND STAFF

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I want to take the opportunity to thank the members and staff of the House Committee on Agriculture.

Early this morning, we finished up 20 hours of markup and ultimately passed the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026. It is a strong bipartisan bill. It passed 2-1 out of committee. I appreciate all the members on the committee who contributed and helped to refine this bill.

This legislation really serves America's number one industry, agriculture, all of those farm families, ranch families, and communities of rural America. We look forward to bringing this legislation to the floor and, ultimately, to the President's desk.

□ 1030

RECOGNIZING GREENBURGH NATURE CENTER

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

Mr. LATIMER. Madam Speaker, I rise to salute the outstanding work of the Greenburgh Nature Center, its professional staff, and its volunteer leadership for providing an environmental oasis for all to enjoy in the middle of a bustling suburb.

The nature center is a 33-acre preserve just steps away from busy Central Avenue that offers hiking trails, demonstration gardens, and a live animal museum with barnyard animals and other wildlife. It provides educational programs, youth camps for kids, and an annual environmental set of events that welcomes the whole community.

The professional team is led by Executive Director Alix Dunn. She had spent decades in environmental work with nonprofits in California before returning home to Westchester.

Alix is aided by Marybeth Cagney, Chloe Digianni, Rosa Van Zandt, Elisabeth Mulder, Greg Wehgelaer, Andrew Michalski, and many others.

The board of directors provides volunteer and community-based support and direction, led by President Dolya Fleck and other leaders: Jackie Feffer, Melissa Jones, Naomi Haber, Jim Blann, and former Town Councilwoman Diana Juettner.

Madam Speaker, from the floor of the House of Representatives, we salute the team at the Greenburgh Nature Center for its constant advancement of this valued community asset.

RECOGNIZING SOUND SHORE ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Mr. LATIMER. Madam Speaker, the month of March, with St. Patrick's Day to be celebrated on March 17, is a time to honor those of us of Irish-American heritage.

Across the Nation, much less in Westchester and in the Bronx, there will be parades and festive dinners to salute the Irish experience and accomplishments here in America.

One such event is the 14th annual Sound Shore St. Patrick's Day Parade, scheduled for Sunday, March 22, in Mamaroneck. This loops together the Irish in communities from Larchmont to Rye and Port Chester to New Rochelle.

Tonight, there is the annual Hearts & Shamrocks dinner, which was, for many, the annual scholarship fundraising effort for deserving students. At the dinner, the parade's 2025 grand marshal, Matt McCauley, will turn over his sash to the parade's 2026 grand marshal, Joe Carvin.

Joe is a resident of Port Chester and a former resident of Rye Brook. He is an accomplished business executive, and yet he finds time to work with high school students, a voluntary action. He served as village trustee of Port Chester and as Rye town supervisor.

I regret being unable to join them tonight, but we salute Matt, Joe, and parade leaders Joe Mauro and Michael Murphy as they celebrate together.

From the floor of the House of Representatives, this grandson of Enniskillen in County Fermanagh sends our very best.

RECOGNIZING RONALD HICKS

Mr. LATIMER. Madam Speaker, I rise to salute the newly installed archbishop for the Archdiocese of New York, His Excellency, the Most Reverend Ronald Hicks.

Archbishop Hicks has assumed the spiritual leadership of the 2.8 million-member Catholic community that includes Westchester and the Bronx, succeeding the much-loved Timothy Cardinal Dolan, who served for 16 years.

Archbishop Hicks was most recently in charge of the diocese of Joliet, Illinois, and is well known by Pope Leo, also an Illinois native, who made this key assignment.

The New York Archdiocese has 300 parishes and also runs 153 schools with an aggregate enrollment of 49,000 students. It runs a seminary, cemeteries, and links with various Catholic charitable organizations.

A native of Illinois, Archbishop Hicks was ordained to the priesthood in 1994, served in local parishes as a seminary dean, and in an important assignment in Latin America before becoming a bishop.

From the floor of the House of Representatives, we welcome Archbishop Ronald Hicks to New York, and we wish him great success in his pastoral services and in his church leadership.