

therapy, speech therapy, and some medications help, as well. CP is the most common movement disorder in children. Researchers are working every day to identify strategies to address the causes and effects of cerebral palsy.

One such pioneer is Dr. Kathleen Friel, a Westchester resident who herself has battled with CP since birth. She has overcome her own case to achieve master's and doctoral degrees in physiology and neuroscience. She has also written and lectured extensively about the disease and therapies to reduce its impact—all of this personal bravery and effort while this Federal Government blindly and foolishly cuts NIH funding for the very research victims so desperately need.

Mr. Speaker, from the floor of the House of Representatives, we salute Dr. Kathleen Friel for her personal battle with CP and her lifetime commitment to ease the suffering of her fellow individuals who also deal with cerebral palsy.

□ 1015

CELEBRATING ST. THOMAS MAR THOMA CHURCH

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday, the congregants of St. Thomas Mar Thoma Church will celebrate their 45th annual parish day, reflecting on their years of heritage and gratitude for parishioners not only from Yonkers, where the church is located, but from those who live across Westchester, the Bronx, and elsewhere in the metropolitan area.

The church dedication dates back to January 25, 1981, with the present house of worship on Morris Street, in Yonkers, established in June of 1990.

This parish has taken on a mission for youth ministry, the Junior Conference for Sunday School Children, and regional activity for youth camps from Connecticut to Pennsylvania.

The church provides its Christian charitable outreach with a community barbecue annually on Memorial Day and clothing drives and giveaways for needy in the neighborhood. Taking their cue from the great apostle St. Thomas, who went from Jesus' side to India to deliver a Christian message of faith, St. Thomas Mar Thoma has delivered a message of service and faith in this current day.

From the floor of the House of Representatives, we salute the clergy and the congregants of St. Thomas Mar Thoma Church on this, the 45th parish day.

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO VANESSA GIBSON

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I extend happy birthday wishes this week to Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson as she celebrates another year of service to her Bronx neighbors and friends.

I had the pleasure of serving with Vanessa as a colleague in the New York State Assembly alongside many former assembly colleagues, JOE MORELLE, ADRIANO ESPAILLAT, PAUL TONKO, CLAUDIA TENNEY, NICOLE

MALLIOTAKIS, GRACE MENG, and Leader HAKEEM JEFFRIES.

Vanessa Gibson's service in that chamber, exemplary as it was, was a prelude to her subsequent tenure in the New York City Council, where she was elected in 2013 and 2017, and now her historic election as the first female and the first African American to serve as Bronx borough president in 2021, re-elected in 2025.

As she celebrates her birthday this Thursday, March 19, we give her a happy birthday shout-out from the floor of the House of Representatives.

Happy birthday to Vanessa Gibson.

HONORING SHANE DIGIOVANNA

(Mr. LANDSMAN of Ohio was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a friend and a constituent, Shane DiGiovanna.

Shane was born with EB, a rare and painful disease that makes the skin incredibly fragile. There is currently no cure. It is sometimes referred to as the worst disease you have never heard of.

Shane has bandages across most of his body. This disease, because of what happens to the skin, leads to infection, illness, and the kind of cancer he is fighting now.

Over the course of his life, Shane has had over 150 surgeries. Yet, he is one of the kindest, most spirited human beings I have ever met in my entire life. He is a remarkable person and, truly, one of the best people who I know.

Shane is brilliant. He is funny, curious, deeply empathetic, and full of joy. He graduated from college at Rice University, even though it is not something people expected of a child with EB. Yet, if you know Shane, it is not surprising. He was already reading, I think at college level, in the second grade.

Shane sends me pages of ideas and notes about history, politics, and why he believes the country can always be better. Shane has already lived longer than just about anyone with EB. He has used that time to make the world better for others, and his advocacy began when he was just a child.

After one of his first surgeries, Shane brought a stuffed animal named "Doggie" with him to the hospital. It made such a huge difference for him, so he created Doggie's Friends, Shane's charity at Cincinnati Children's Hospital, to provide a stuffed animal to kids who are undergoing surgery. He saw something that he knew would help, and he got it done. It is just who Shane is.

I met Shane as an advocate. I had just gotten elected to the United States Congress, and he had reached out to say that he wanted to talk about rare disease work, and he invited me over. I went to Shane's house and sat in his kitchen, and we went through all of the legislative priorities for the rare disease community.

I was all in immediately not just because the policy moved me, but Shane was so compelling, charismatic, and convincing. Since that day nearly 4 years ago, we have texted just about every day. We talk about politics, books, history, shows, life, and what else I should be doing to help families dealing with rare diseases.

Some of that work has already led to real progress. Congress reauthorized the Rare Pediatric Disease Priority Review Voucher Program. The program helps to speed up treatment development for nearly 15 million children who are living with rare diseases.

Congress also passed the Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act. The law helps children to get specialized care across State lines without delays or higher costs. Of course, there is also the funding for research. Rare disease research is a good idea for some. It is life or death for these families.

That is why Congress has to step up to fund this research and make sure that the research we have funded reaches the people who will turn that research into treatment and care, to support its innovation, and to keep families healthy, which leads me to Shane's bill.

We introduced Shane's bill just last week, a bill that would require the Department of Health and Human Services to study the impact of fully covering bandages for people who are living with EB.

Believe it or not, these families have to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars for their bandages, even though the bandages help to ensure that these kids, young people, are less likely to go to the hospital, less likely to get an infection, and less likely to cost more.

The bill ensures access to these supplies to improve care, reduce hospital visits, and ease the enormous financial burden that families already face. This is Shane's bill, a bill inspired by his life and the families he has spent years fighting for.

Mr. Speaker, when you meet someone like Shane—someone who is curious, compassionate, and brilliant—you want to do more and be better.

I saw Shane's impact most clearly at his celebration of life, a room filled with people from across the country who have been touched by his kindness.

He is a funny, social, and gifted person, and his legacy is the life he lived, the people who he touched, and the work we will keep fighting to do, including this bill.

HONORING AIRMEN LOST IN KC-135 CRASH

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

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor six heroic Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice and gave their lives in defense of the United States.

On March 12, 2026, six American airmen were tragically killed when a KC-

135 refueling aircraft supporting U.S. military operations in Iran crashed in western Iraq.

Today, we remember them by name: Major John “Alex” Klinner, Captain Ariana Savino, Captain Seth Koval, Captain Curtis Angst, Technical Sergeant Ashley Pruitt, and Technical Sergeant Tyler Simmons.

Three of these brave airmen were members of the 99th Air Refueling Squadron, which operates in Birmingham, Alabama, in my district.

I will take a moment to talk about the lives and legacies of these three airmen.

Major Alex Klinner was 33 years old, a native of Auburn, Alabama. He entered the Air Force through the ROTC program at Auburn University in 2017.

Major Klinner deployed in 2019, 2020, 2022, and 2026, and he served as chief of the squadron’s standardization and evaluation at the 99th Air Refueling Squadron since 2024. He was promoted to major in January.

A devoted husband and father, Major Klinner is survived by his wife, Libby, their 2-year-old son, and a 7-year-old set of twins.

Captain Ariana Savino was 31 years old. Captain Savino was a native of Covington, Washington. She entered the Air Force through the ROTC program at Central Washington University in 2017. Captain Savino deployed in 2020 and in 2026 and had served as the chief current operations pilot at the 99th Air Refueling Squadron since 2024.

Captain Savino was passionate about serving and supporting Latin women in aviation.

A dedicated friend and sister, she is survived by her parents, siblings, and pets.

Technical Sergeant Ashley Brooke Pruitt was 34 years old and a native of Bardstown, Kentucky. She entered the Air Force in 2017, deploying overseas three times and serving as an assistant flight chief of operations at the 99th Air Refueling Squadron.

Technical Sergeant Pruitt is remembered as a selfless servant and a radiant mother by those in her community. She is survived by her husband, Gregory, 3-year-old daughter, and a stepson.

The loss of all six of these brave American patriots is devastating, and my prayers are with their families as they grieve.

I know I speak for all of us in expressing our deep sorrow and immense gratitude for their service to the United States.

On behalf of Alabama’s Seventh Congressional District and a grateful nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the lives of six airmen who paid the ultimate price. May they rest in peace, and may we never ever forget their sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for a moment of silence.

#### HONORING CAPTAIN ARIANA SAVINO

(Mr. BAUMGARTNER of Washington was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Captain Ariana Savino of Covington, Washington, who tragically lost her life in the KC-135 crash over Iraq during Operation Epic Fury.

Captain Savino was one of our Nation’s heroes, someone who made the ultimate sacrifice in service of our country.

We celebrate and mourn all of America’s heroes who lose their lives in combat operations or in training, but this loss hits especially close to home for those of us from Washington State.

While she was not based at Fairchild Air Force Base, the Fairchild Air Force Base community and all who serve the tanker mission exemplify extraordinary courage and quiet professionalism. Their work of keeping our aircraft fueled and our operations moving is essential to every mission that our Nation undertakes around the world. We are heartbroken by this tragedy.

Eastern Washington stands with Captain Savino’s family, friends, and the brave airmen and -women of Fairchild. May her memory continue to shine brightly, and may her loved ones find comfort in knowing that she served with honor and deep devotion to the United States of America.

#### HONORING AIRMAN 1ST CLASS KIMBERLYNN BLOOD

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Airman 1st Class Kimberlynn Blood of Fairfield, Washington, a shining example of the proud tradition of service that defines eastern Washington.

Airman Blood is the third generation of her family to serve the United States Air Force, following her great-grandfather and her grandfather. Her father also served in the United States Navy from 2003 to 2008, and several members of her family are veterans or currently serving.

Each week, when I come to the floor, I try to recognize one of the bright lights of eastern Washington, and Airman Blood is certainly one of those bright lights.

A former Civil Air Patrol member, Airman Blood graduated basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base on December 4, 2025, with honors, ranking in the top 10 percent in her class and as the only female in her squadron.

She went on to earn the prestigious Flight Chief Air Award at Sheppard Air Force Base, placing among the top 5 percent of her aircraft fuel systems class. Her first duty assignment will be at RAF Lakenheath in the United Kingdom.

Airman Blood’s achievement reflects the patriotism and dedication that run deep in eastern Washington, and her community is incredibly proud of her commitment to serve our Nation.

□ 1030

#### CELEBRATING NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate National Agriculture Week.

Agriculture is the backbone of eastern Washington, the heart of our economy, our culture, and our communities. In spite of escalating production costs and other challenges, our farmers and ranchers remain dedicated to feeding our families and strengthening our Nation.

From wheat and apples to some of the finest chickpeas and lentils in the world, eastern Washington’s producers help feed a hungry planet while building healthy soils and strong rural communities. Their resilience, innovation, and work ethic embody the best of the American spirit.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all of our hardworking farmers and ranchers across the Nation for all they do and wish all of America a happy National Agriculture Week.

#### RECOGNIZING CITY RESCUE MISSION

(Mr. BEAN of Florida was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, what does it take to change a city? Sometimes it starts with a cup of soup.

Eighty years ago, in Jacksonville, Florida, three businessmen did exactly that. They walked the streets handing out soup to men who had nowhere else to turn—no fanfare, no program, just compassion in action.

From that small act in 1946 grew the City Rescue Mission, an institution that has spent eight decades restoring hope to men, women, and families facing homelessness, addiction, hunger, and hardship.

What began as a small ministry has grown into a comprehensive network of services that provides emergency shelter, recovery programs, job training, medical care, and lifelong transformation for thousands of people in northeast Florida.

For 80 years, the mission has reminded our community of a simple truth: The strength of a city is measured not by the buildings or the economy but by how it cares for those struggling the most.

On May 7, the City Rescue Mission will celebrate—how about this, Mr. Speaker—its 80th anniversary with a dinner honoring its legacy and looking toward the future.

The real story isn’t the anniversary. It is the thousands of lives changed because someone cared enough to act.

Mr. Speaker, may God continue to bless the men and women who have been a part of the mission and continue to this day to be a part of that mission. To think, Mr. Speaker, it all started with three people walking through the streets of Jacksonville, carrying nothing but soup. Sometimes the smallest acts of service create the biggest change.