

## HONORING JASON HUGHES

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

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of North Hall High School teacher and coach, Jason Hughes.

Mr. Hughes was more than just a teacher. He was a beloved mentor and role model. From heading the math department and educating students in the classroom to coaching multiple teams and leading Bible studies, Jason met every opportunity with a simple, yet thoughtful, question: How can I serve you better?

Jason's service-driven life made an unforgettable impact on countless students, athletes, parents, and teachers throughout the North Hall community.

In addition to his passion for serving others, Jason was known as a devoted husband, loving father, and a man of deep faith.

Tragically, a terrible accident cut his remarkable life short too soon. I extend my deepest condolences to his wife, Laura, and their two sons, Owen and Luke, during this unimaginably difficult time. I ask that we continue to pray for comfort and healing over his loved ones and the North Hall community.

Mr. Speaker, may we take comfort in knowing that Jason is with our Heavenly Father, who welcomed him home with the words: Well done, good and faithful servant. "Soli Deo Gloria"; "To God alone be the glory."

## RECOGNIZING THE RYE RECORD

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the exemplary work of The Rye Record, the local newspaper that covers the comings and goings of the Rye community since 1988.

Printed twice each month, The Rye Record features stories about the activities of local government, city council, the planning board, zoning board, and other such agencies.

Chronicles in The Rye Record include programs and services provided by local nonprofit organizations such as the Rye YMCA; the Rye Free Reading Room; the Rye Nature Center; the Rye Historical Society, and much more. It also includes the event and religious services of Rye's houses of worship and the many advanced recreation programs and special events.

The newspaper, owned by the new team of John Elsen and Zach Wydra, has led a group of new and experienced writers working together on local sports, letters to the editor, calendar of community events, articles about Rye's history, school news, and sports.

The Rye Record features reporters Camille Botello, Chris Marshall, and

Miranda Ferrante, among many. It also includes contributing writers like longtime Rye residents Paul Hicks and David Hessekiel. They capture it all.

From the floor of the House of Representatives, we salute The Rye Record, another example of local entrepreneurship and media savvy.

## HONORING GEORGIA GOVERNOR BRIAN KEMP

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Georgia Governor Brian Kemp for being recently recognized by the Safari Club International as their 2026 Governor of the Year.

Governor Kemp has excelled in his efforts to support wildlife conservation, sportsmen's rights, and public access to hunting lands. Governor Kemp has a long history of fighting for and protecting Georgians' right to hunt and their Second Amendment rights.

His administration has prioritized funding for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, which has supported wildlife habitat and conservation initiatives in the acquisition of high-value game lands.

On a personal note, knowing Governor Kemp as I do, I can assure my colleagues very few people love the outdoors and love hunting as much as he does.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Governor Kemp for prioritizing these important freedoms and congratulate him on being awarded the 2026 SCI Governor of the Year.

## RECOGNIZING AMERICA CAZARES

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

Mrs. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize America Cazares, an extraordinary young woman from my district and a proud fellow warrior from Pueblo High School.

Over the past 4 years, America has electrified her community with her talent, determination, and relentless drive on the basketball court. Through countless hours of hard work and unwavering commitment to excellence, she has achieved a truly historic milestone.

America is now the all-time leading scorer in Arizona girl's basketball history across all divisions. This remarkable accomplishment is a testament to perseverance, discipline, the power of believing in yourself, and believing in your abilities.

America has not only raised the bar for athletes across our State but she has also inspired young people in southern Arizona and beyond to dream big and work hard. Her success reflects the strength of her family, her coaches,

her teammates, and the Pueblo community that has supported her every step of the way.

Mr. Speaker, we are incredibly proud of America. "Felicidades"; "congratulations" on this historic achievement. We look forward to all she will accomplish in the years ahead. "Adelante"; "forward."

□ 1750

## RECOGNIZING NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Agriculture Week. In my home State of Georgia and in Georgia's 12th District, who I represent, agriculture remains our number one industry.

During this special week and every week, I recognize and celebrate the farmers, ranchers, foresters, and producers who keep America strong, clothed, and fed. Their hard work, innovation, and dedication helps to sustain our community and provide the food and fiber that we rely on every day.

As the son of a farmer and having grown up on our family farm in Columbia County, I know how important it is to ensure that future generations can pick up that mantle and become agricultural leaders.

That is why, in the Working Families Tax Cut Act, House Republicans included a provision that saved over 6,000 family-owned farms in Georgia—12 from an increased death tax. This means more farms stay in the hands of Georgia farmers and not the Federal Government.

This week, let's take a moment to thank those who work in acres and not hours.

Happy National Agriculture Week.

## BETRAYAL OF TRUST

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

Mr. MENEFEER. Mr. Speaker, I was 5 years old in 1993 when Tupac Shakur said:

You know, it's funny when it rains it pours  
They got money for wars, but can't feed the poor.

Today, those words feel as real as ever.

President Trump, no one wants this war, and the American people literally cannot afford it.

Mr. Speaker, I am not an economist, but I understand that the U.S. war with Iran has shaken global markets, driven oil prices up more than 40 percent, and is even raising fears of a worldwide recession, impacting flights and the cost of goods. We feel it at home, where the price of gas is far more expensive than it has ever been.

This is not just about economics. It is about accountability. As a lawyer, I understand all too well that every President, including Donald Trump, takes an oath to defend the Constitution. That Constitution gives Congress, not the President, the power to declare war. Yet, Congress was sidelined. The American people were given no clear cause, no clear strategy, and no clear endgame.

We cannot afford this—not economically and not morally. America's conscience cannot afford it.

When leaders promise peace but deliver war, that is not just a policy failure. It is a betrayal of trust.

#### HONORING SERGEANT CODY SIEBERT

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

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Sergeant Cody Siebert, a beloved member of the East Range Police Department, who tragically passed away at the young age of 33.

Cody spent most of his career serving communities on the Iron Range, including his hometown of Babbitt. While serving there, he pioneered the department's K9 program, which he later carried over to the East Range Police Department with his trusted partner, K9 Taconite.

Cody served as the resident K9 officer in the Mesabi East School District. In reading the many tributes shared in Cody's memory, one sentiment stood out. He had a remarkable gift for connecting with people, especially with students.

Beyond the badge, Cody's most important role was that of a father to his two young sons, Reese and Bayne. Cody also leaves behind the love of his life, Karen.

Cody's sudden and unfortunate passing has left a void that could never be filled in his department, in the schools and community he served, and, most of all, in the lives of his family.

Mr. Speaker, the impact he made through his service and kindness will endure forever in the hearts of those who knew and loved him. May he rest in peace, and may his K9 partner, Taconite, be allowed to stay with his loving family.

#### RECOGNIZING KIRK FERNITZ

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

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary service of Kirk Fernitz, a dedicated public servant who is retiring after decades of service to our Nation, to our veterans, and to our community at the Coatesville VA Medical Center in Pennsylvania's Sixth Congressional District.

Born and raised in Germany, Kirk came to the United States as a student and earned his degree from Edinboro University in Pennsylvania before becoming an American citizen and commissioned as an Army officer.

Over the course of 30 years in uniform, he served in the Active and Reserve Components of the U.S. Army, deploying to Iraq twice and supporting peacekeeping missions in Africa under Joint Special Operations Command.

Following his military service, Kirk devoted more than three decades to the Coatesville VA, culminating in his role as the director of community and congressional affairs, where he worked tirelessly to strengthen the connection between veterans, the VA, and our community.

Kirk's career reflects a lifetime of commitment to service, to our veterans, and to our community, and they are better for it.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's Sixth Congressional District, I thank him for his dedication and wish him and his wife, Kristin, and their sons, Erik and Haydn, all of the very best in retirement.

#### HONORING EARNEST WESLEY DEMPSEY, SR.

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

Mr. ONDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Earnest Wesley Dempsey, Sr. He was a restaurateur, veteran, and a pillar of the St. Charles County community.

Ernie spent years of his life serving in the Navy before becoming an active member of the VFW post 2866, where he advocated for his fellow veterans.

In St. Charles, Ernie was locally famous for running Pio's Restaurant. He started there as a manager, and his hard work ethic paid off when he took over the business.

Ernie was a dedicated leader in his community, serving as the charter member of the Optimist Club and as a board member of the Boys & Girls Club of St. Charles County.

In 2019, he was honored with the Key to the City of St. Charles and was named Restaurateur of the Year.

Ernie contributed to everything that makes Missouri great, and he will be dearly missed.

#### DUAL COSTS OF WAR IN IRAN

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

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart to express my profound upset at the loss of American service-members who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our Nation for a cause in Iran that the administration has yet to adequately justify.

There was no imminent threat. There is no strategy for success. There is no

end in sight, and the American service-members remain in harm's way.

To add insult to injury, the administration's unilateral decision has made rising price concerns only worse for working families, who are already struggling with the costs when going to gas stations or to the grocery store.

Just yesterday, I met with the members of the Indiana Farm Bureau, who also were already struggling due to the increased costs of tariffs. Now, the war has further skyrocketed their input costs and, in particular, fertilizers.

We must be strategic in our approach to protecting our warfighters and end the cost increase this conflict is causing to everyday Americans.

As we move forward with the appropriations process, I will work with all of my colleagues to conduct rigorous oversight and hold the administration accountable for their actions.

#### RECOGNIZING ANTHONY WAYNE HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADING TEAM

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary young women of the Anthony Wayne High School cheer team.

Just weeks after capturing the National Cheer Championship title in Orlando, Florida, these remarkable athletes brought home the Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators State Championship title.

Led by Erica Black and Robin Buffy, the Generals had the highest score across all teams in all divisions.

Championships are not handed out. They are earned with early mornings, late nights, and countless unseen hours of practice. They are built by coaches who mentor, parents who sacrifice, teachers who encourage, and neighbors who show up again and again.

This victory belongs to the entire Anthony Wayne community. It reflects the strength of our schools, the spirit of our families, and the promise of our young people. Our champions have inspired us and reminded us what teamwork, perseverance, and hometown pride can achieve.

I congratulate them, and Go Generals.

□ 1800

#### REINING IN OUT-OF-CONTROL PREDICTION MARKETS

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. MOORE of Utah was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.