

would safely usher children to school, was named in her honor.

Thelma was a remarkable inspiration to her community, and I extend my heartfelt condolences to her family and loved ones.

#### RECOGNIZING ROBERT GEBBIA

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert Gebbia from Cross River on his retirement after nearly 30 years of distinguished leadership and service to suicide prevention.

Bob has led the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, building it into the Nation's leading new suicide prevention organization. Under his leadership, AFSP expanded to more than 70 chapters nationwide and grew its annual revenue from roughly \$1 million to more than \$50 million, supporting critical work in research, education, advocacy, and community programs, launching annual Out of the Darkness Walks in cities nationwide, connecting millions of Americans affected by suicide to community, and raising awareness.

He has served as a founding member of the National Council for Suicide Prevention and on the executive committee of the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention, helping elevate mental health as a national priority.

Bob leaves behind a legacy marked by meaningful impact, compassion, and a steadfast dedication to the nonprofit sector.

As he enters retirement, I am grateful for his leadership and wish him nothing but the very best in the years to come.

#### MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, this Military Appreciation Month, we honor those who have worn the uniform of the United States Armed Forces and those who continue to wear it today.

We celebrate veterans and their families who carry the burden of war with them and the American servicemembers currently standing watch in dangerous and uncertain places around the world. Every day, they choose duty to their country over comfort.

I was proud to begin this Military Appreciation Month at the Top of Virginia Honor Flight sendoff, standing by the veterans whose service helped shape our Nation's history and preserve the freedoms that we enjoy today.

As we honor those who serve and have served our country this month, we also need to ensure that our veterans receive the care that they deserve. This includes mental health support for those who carry the invisible wounds of war.

That is why I was proud to announce the Susan E. Lukas 9/11 Servicemembers Fairness Act to extend PACT Act benefits to those who returned to work

in the Pentagon following the 9/11 attacks before it was safe.

That is why I have spoken out about cuts to the VA and threats to veterans' disability benefits. That is why I am pushing for legislation to ensure surviving spouses have the resources they need.

Military Appreciation Month is about more than just celebrating service. It is also about honoring those that still serve today, supporting veterans who sacrificed so much for this country, and making sure America keeps its promises to the people willing to risk everything to defend it.

#### UYGHUR FORCED LABOR

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, for years, the People's Republic of China has carried out and operated a vast network of forced labor against ethnic minorities.

More than 1 million Uyghurs, in particular, have been detained since 2017. Most have been forced to work in labor camps.

More must be done to combat this practice of forced labor. The Uyghur community in my district has told me terrible stories of family and friends in China being forced to work long, strenuous hours or face brutal punishment or torture in detention camps.

Unfortunately, many U.S. companies purchase products produced by these forced labor camps. Many Americans don't understand that our phones, clothes, and daily products could all have parts made from that forced labor without us even knowing.

That is why I am joining Representative MORAN and Representative CARSON in introducing the Uyghur Forced Labor Disclosure Act.

The bill is straightforward. It requires companies to review and disclose whether any of their products have been produced with Uyghur forced labor. The American people deserve to know if what they buy is a result of forced labor, and this legislation is a step towards stopping those terrible practices.

As President Trump heads to China this week to meet with President Xi Jinping, he must take this opportunity to highlight human rights abuses against Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities during this trip.

Let's put an end to forced labor and pass this bill.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize National Police Week.

We celebrate it by honoring the brave law enforcement officers who serve our communities across the country and the great work that organizations do to support them. That includes Federal law enforcement, like the U.S. Capitol Police who keep the entire Capitol Hill complex safe.

I especially thank the law enforcement personnel in my community, including all of our men and women who serve in our town and county sheriff's offices and police departments all across northern Virginia and Shenandoah.

We are also grateful for airport, metro, university, and State law enforcement officials who help protect our community in so many ways.

This is also a time to honor law enforcement that we have lost, officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty, like Ashley Guindon, a Prince William County officer who was shot and killed on her first day 10 years ago.

Every year, an average of 57 police officers are killed by suspects. Far too many, at least 184 public safety officers, die by suicide each year.

As we honor and remember servicemembers we have lost, let's continue to support our commitment to law enforcement officials and their families. It takes all of us to keep them safe too.

I thank all of law enforcement out there.

#### RECOGNIZING GENE COPENHAVER

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gene Copenhaver of southwest Virginia on his selection as president of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, the Nation's oldest and largest cattle producer organization.

A fifth-generation cattleman whose family roots in Virginia date back to the 1850s, Gene has devoted his life to agriculture, service, and leadership. He is the first Virginian in the association's 128-year history to serve as its president, assuming this role on February 5.

As President of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Gene Copenhaver represents producers nationwide, including cattlemen and women here in Virginia's Sixth Congressional District.

For over four decades, Gene balanced managing his family's cattle operation with a 38-year career as an agricultural loan officer, serving cattle producers across five East Coast States. He has held numerous leadership roles within NCBA and is past president of the Virginia Cattlemen's Association.

Despite a demanding travel schedule, he remains committed to grassroots engagement and local cattlemen's organizations, believing that strong agriculture begins at the community level.

I congratulate Gene, his wife, Jodi, and their family, and I thank him for his leadership in strengthening American agriculture and our Nation's food security.

#### HONORING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Police Week to pay tribute to the heroes who protect and serve our communities every day. Our Nation and our streets are safer because police officers put themselves in harm's way in the service of others. Their courage, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to duty are the foundation of safe neighborhoods, strong communities, and the rule of law.

This week, we recognize the men and women who have made the ultimate

sacrifice and lost their lives in the line of duty. We honor their memory, and we stand with the families they left behind whose own sacrifices are immeasurable. Their loved ones answered the call to serve, and we owe them a debt that can never fully be paid.

We also recognize the law enforcement officers who continue to serve with courage and dedication, knowing each day that their calling is the safety and protection of others. In the Sixth District and across the Commonwealth, our officers exemplify that spirit of service.

This is a time of reflection, unity, and gratitude as we honor the resilience, commitment, and steadfast dedication of those who wear the badge.

#### RECOGNIZING PAM SIMMONS' RETIREMENT

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Pam Simmons for her well-deserved retirement as director of the Rockingham-Harrisonburg Alcohol Safety Action Program, or ASAP, where she served for 38 years.

ASAP works to reduce alcohol-related accidents and fatalities through education and prevention. During her tenure, she strengthened partnerships with law enforcement, providing training and donating equipment, such as Alco-Sensors, funded entirely through ASAP fees, not through taxpayer dollars.

She also worked with local colleges, serving on the board of JMU's community coalition and established ASAP as a field placement site for psychology and health science students, helping prepare the next generation of professionals.

Pam is also proud to have served as president of the Virginia ASAP Directors' Association.

Beyond her official duties, she volunteered on the board and is president of Harrisonburg's First Night, a well-loved, family-centered, and alcohol-free New Year's Eve celebration.

Mr. Speaker, Pam Simmons is an unsung hero whose career was devoted to making our communities safer, and her services undoubtedly saved lives and strengthened the Shenandoah Valley. I thank her and wish her the very best in her next chapter of life.

#### RECOGNIZING MOUNT JACKSON'S BICENTENNIAL

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the continued celebration of the town of Mount Jackson's bicentennial, as this historic Shenandoah Valley community marks 200 years since its incorporation in 1826. This milestone is not just about celebrating the passage of time, but the incredible story of a town that transformed and refuses to stand still.

Mount Jackson is a master class in how to honor the past while building for the future. The historic 1939 Triplett School has been beautifully reimagined as the Shenandoah County Community Center, now a vibrant 30,000-square-foot hub for residents.

The Nelson Theater, a beacon of Main Street culture, is poised for its own massive renovation that will once

again make it a centerpiece of community life.

Mayor Donnie Pifer highlights that the town's forward momentum is powered by its people and businesses: Holtzman Oil and Propane, Route 11 Potato Chips, and Bowman Andros Products, each contributing to the local economy and carrying Mount Jackson's name across the globe.

As town manager Olivia Hilton put it, they are the authors of the next 200 years, and it is time to make them historic. Let us all recognize the town of Mount Jackson as a shining example of Virginia's spirit—a town that honors its heritage and investments in its future.

#### THE SILENT AND THE SINGERS WILL BE HEARD

(Mr. CASTEN of Illinois was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, what should we say to angry men in robes?

What are we going to say to men in robes who are angry about the outcome of the Civil War?

What are we going to say to men in robes who are angry about Reconstruction-era amendments to our Constitution that said that anyone born in America can't have their voice or their vote suppressed, regardless of their race?

What are we going to say to men in robes who are angry that Congress finally enshrined those protections into law through the 1964 and 1965 Civil Rights Acts?

What are we going to say to men in robes who are angry that those laws gave voices to people whose voices had been suppressed since 1619?

What are we going to say to those angry men if they believe that their robes, and their robes alone, are going to scare us into silence; that it will let them force their racist and unconstitutional wills on us?

Chief Justice Roberts has said that we now live in a color-blind society, to which I would ask you all: Does your answer to those questions depend on whether that robe is white or black?

Make absolutely no mistake, the agenda of this Supreme Court and the agenda of the Klan are far too similar.

This court decided in Shelby that Congress couldn't supervise State elections that had a history of discrimination.

They decided in Calais that it is okay to design congressional districts to suppress minority voices.

They will do that all, confident that their robes are going to scare us all into silence.

I ask you again: What are we going to say to all of these angry men in robes?

Because we do have a voice in this body. We have the legislative authority to slash their jurisdiction, to take away their ability to decide what cases to hear.

We have the power to defend this equal branch against their encroachments, to defend every American who yearns for a country that is better than this.

Now, some of you are no doubt going to favor silence. But the best among us in this body right now are going to lift every one of our voices and sing. We are going to sing a song that is full of the faith that all of that dark past has taught us but is rich with the hope that this present has brought us. Make no mistake, every one of us, the singers and the silent, are going to be heard.

#### HONORING CHIEF RUSSELL ROARK

(Mr. NORMAN of South Carolina was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a true public servant, Chief Russell Roark, whose life has been defined by dedication, by integrity, and by exceptional service to the people of Union County and the entire State of South Carolina.

Chief Roark first began his career in public safety in 1962, over 64 years ago, when he joined the City of Union Fire Department. Just one year later, he joined the Union City Police Department. Through hard work, professionalism, and steady leadership, Chief Roark quickly advanced through the ranks, becoming assistant chief of police in 1975, then chief of police in 1982.

In 1983, he played a pivotal role in the merger of the Union City Police Department and the City of Union Fire Department into a single unified agency, known as the Union Public Safety Department. He became its first director, and under his leadership, the department earned South Carolina law enforcement accreditation, becoming the first law enforcement agency in Union County to achieve such a distinction and honor.

Chief Roark also made lasting improvements to the community fire service division, emphasizing advanced training and the importance of strong fire prevention efforts. Thanks to his leadership, the department earned a class 2 ISO rating, which is the Insurance Services Office, an achievement that enhanced public safety while reducing insurance costs for the residents and businesses all across Union County.

After 40 years of service, Chief Roark retired from the Union County Public Safety Department in 2003, but his commitment to serving others did not end there. He returned just 2 days later to work with the Union County Sheriff's Department, where he served as a patrol deputy and the civil process deputy.

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In 2021, South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster awarded Roark with the Order of the Palmetto, which is the State's highest civilian honor.

Chief Roark officially retired from law enforcement in November of last