

They were soon joined by hotel employees Tammy Hall and Donovan Bond, who assisted in performing CPR until first responders arrived on the scene.

According to the paramedic captain who responded, the patient likely would not have survived were it not for the group's awareness, immediate response, and remarkable teamwork under pressure.

In recognition of their lifesaving efforts, these six individuals were honored by the Spokane Fire Commissioners. I am proud to recognize them for their courage and commend each for their exemplary actions here on the floor of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, as we approach Memorial Day, I also encourage families across the country to celebrate safely. May this inspiring story serve as a reminder of the profound difference ordinary people can make.

#### RECOGNIZING 61ST ANNIVERSARY OF HEAD START

(Ms. TLAIB of Michigan was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, this week marks 61 years of Head Start, one of the most transformative antipoverty programs in our Nation's history.

For more than six decades, Head Start has given millions of children a fair shot by providing early education, meals, healthcare, and support for working families. It showed that every child, no matter their ZIP Code or income, mattered.

Today, Republicans have cut and chronically underfunded this program, threatening the lifeline for families across the country. Instead of investing in billionaires and endless wars, we should be investing in our children.

I am calling on my colleagues to support and pass our Head Start for America's Children Act, as we mark 61 years of this successful program.

This bill would expand access to 11 million more eligible young children nationwide. Eleven million children across our country are eligible, but there are not enough spots. We would also be raising wages for our educators and strengthening support services for our families.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that Head Start works, so let's invest in this program. It is an anchor, not only for the child but for the whole family.

#### STAND FOR SAVING LIVES

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, over 3,000 people in Lebanon have been slaughtered since the start of the Israeli apartheid regime's brutal war on all of Lebanon.

More than 1.2 million people have been displaced violently. That is over 20 percent of Lebanon's entire population.

We cannot stay silent while innocent civilians are being exposed to white phosphorus bombs that melt flesh to the bone.

Inaction is not an option, Mr. Speaker. That is why I will be forcing a vote on the War Powers Resolution to end U.S. support of Israel's indiscriminate bombings in Lebanon.

We all know what doing nothing looks like, and we are witnessing right now a repeat playbook of the Israeli military's actions in Gaza. Entire families are being erased in Lebanon, villages and cities turned into rubble. Targeting of civilians has continued to be increasing, as well as the targeting of medics and journalists.

The United States is not a bystander to these war crimes. It is an active participant. Our government is providing intelligence and coordinating strikes, and the American people are tired of watching their tax dollars fuel death, destruction, and endless war. They are tired of hearing that we don't have money for healthcare or childcare at home, while watching U.S. bombs destroy hospitals and steal the futures of children abroad.

Mr. Speaker, this war powers vote is clear, and it is a moral choice. Do you stand for saving lives, or do you stand for endless wars?

#### ENDING CHILD POVERTY

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, in the wealthiest country in the history of the world, we have some of the highest rates of poverty among our children. As of 2024, more than 9.7 million children have lived in poverty in the United States. That is a 154-percent increase since 2021.

Imagine if our government invested in the well-being of our children like they invest in wars?

Congress has the power and the money to end child poverty today, feed every single one of our children today, and make sure that every opportunity that they need to succeed is available today.

Instead, we are debating \$1 billion to Trump for a ballroom that no one asked for, while defunding and destroying Federal programs that help our children get fed, clothed, housed, and educated. The hardship, food insecurity, health issues, and instability that poverty causes is impacting families throughout my district and throughout our country.

Mr. Speaker, I am calling on my colleagues to support Representative JACOBS and my end poverty resolution and support the most vulnerable population.

#### HONORING DARREL THOMAS

(Mr. BAIRD of Indiana was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Darrel Thomas, who passed away on May 13, 2026.

A proud U.S. Navy veteran, Darrel proudly served our Putnam County communities throughout his life. Darrel was a former member and president of the Putnam County Council. He served the 4-H community in numerous capacities, was a 4-H Hall of Fame in-

ductee in 2021, and worked for 31 years as a 4-H extension agent for Putnam County.

Darrel also served on the parks and recreation board. For his service in his community, he was the recipient of the State of Indiana's Sagamore of the Wabash Valley Award.

Darrel is survived by two daughters and his many grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Darrel for his tremendous service to Putnam County and to our outstanding students. May he rest in peace.

#### CONGRATULATING LYNNE S. TAYLOR

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Lynne S. Taylor, the Retter Distinguished Professor of Pharmacy at Purdue University, who recently received the prestigious Research Ireland St. Patrick's Day medal for 2026.

This is an award given to permanent academic and industry leaders and researchers with strong Irish roots. The Irish leader, Taoiseach Micheal Martin, said Professor Taylor is "helping to shape the future of medicine and strengthen international relationships."

Professor Taylor's research has been foundational for solubility-enabling technologies, helping develop life-saving treatments for diseases like hepatitis C and cancer. She has become an international expert in drug formulation science, and her work will surely save and have an enduring impact on the world.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud that this outstanding scientist is getting her recognition for her work.

#### HONORING RICHARD MCCLAIN

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Richard McClain. Rich McClain was born and raised in Logansport, Indiana, served in the U.S. Navy from 1964 to 1968, and graduated from Purdue University in 1970.

Rich was an active member of his community, volunteering at his church, the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, the Neal Home Board, the Mental Health Association, and as the chairman of the Iron Horse Festival in 1985.

Rich served at the Indiana State House from 1994 to 2012, where he was known as "Squeezer" because he printed toothpaste squeezers during elections.

Rich is survived by a loving family, his wife, Barrie; sons, Jeff and Nate; and five grandchildren, Brandt, Luran, Clark, Katie, and Saylor; a great-grandson, Warner, as well as siblings and extended family.

Mr. Speaker, my prayers are with the family and friends of Rich. May he rest in peace.

#### HONORING RICHARD FRAZIER AND ROBERT THORNE

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, as Memorial Day approaches, I am reminded of those whom I served with in Vietnam. Two have names etched in the Vietnam Memorial, Richard Frazier and Robert

Thorne. I would like to speak about the two of them today.

We were in a convoy hauling supplies on the road to Khe Sanh. My unit, the 523rd Transportation Company, used 5-ton gun trucks mounted with .50 caliber machine guns in order to protect the convoys. These gun trucks were made with scrounged-up armor. You could take an armor plate, then a layer of sandbags, and then another set of iron plates to make them work. We had to do with what we had.

Richard Frazier was a gunner on a truck called Satan's Lil Angel. He was killed in action on February 20, 1971, during an ambush near the DMZ in South Vietnam.

Robert Thorne was a driver for a truck named Proud American. I was riding with Robert on March 3, 1971, when two B-40 rockets hit the truck.

Robert Thorne steered Proud American into a mountain bank rather than going over an embankment down to the river below. That saved all of us.

Unfortunately, Robert Thorne lost his life. He was 21. It was in this truck that I was wounded, and I lost my arm.

There are no words to describe the loss of those men. I strive every day to honor their memory and sacrifice, and to live my life as a testament to theirs.

I love this country, and I feel duty-bound to keep America free and prosperous. On this Memorial Day, we honor those who fought and died so that we can live in freedom.

We cannot forget the sacrifices of men like Robert and Richard. They saved my life and the lives of fellow soldiers. They are heroes, and their courage is an example to all of us.

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HONORING THE LIFE OF  
KONSTANTINOS "KOSTI"  
KOSTIBAS

(Mr. KEATING of Massachusetts was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Konstantinos "Kosti" Kostibas.

Born on October 24, 1978, Kosti was a proud Texan who graduated with a bachelor of arts in international studies from Baylor University and a master of arts in international relationships from St. Mary's University.

After graduating from Baylor University in 2002 with the rank of second lieutenant, Kosti served in the United States Air Force as an intelligence officer until 2006. Kosti continued to serve our country throughout his career, working in cyber operations at the Department of Defense.

During his time with the U.S. Cyber Command, where he played a critical role in advancing our Nation's cybersecurity interests, Kosti was selected to serve as a legislative defense fellow for the 2023 Department of Air Force fellowship program.

My colleagues and I will forever be grateful for the years that he spent

with our office. Never failing to be the first person in the office every morning, Kosti not only brought his expertise in cybersecurity and intelligence matters but also his steadfast work ethic.

He also incorporated a wry wit and an unwavering commitment to improving the lives of all of those around him. He had the unique ability to easily connect with anyone he crossed paths with and make them instantly feel as though they were speaking to an old friend for life.

Sadly, we lost Kosti too soon at the age of 47 on April 22, 2026, after a hard-fought battle against glioblastoma.

Above all, Kosti was a devoted husband to his wife, Megan, and a proud father to his children, John and Samantha.

From his service in the United States Air Force and his years working for U.S. Cyber Command, to his time spent in Nebraska, Texas, and Maryland, Kosti will be deeply missed by all who had the good fortune of working with him and spending time with him over the years.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Kosti Kostibas, and I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing his commitment to advancing the safety and security of our country, as well as the positive light he was in the lives of so many.

May his memory be a blessing.

RECOGNIZING BILL POPE

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary coach, mentor, and pillar of the Roanoke community, Bill Pope, upon his retirement from Northside High School.

For more than four decades as head coach and an incredible 46 years in total, Coach Pope has shaped generations of young men both on and off the basketball court. Under his leadership, the Northside Vikings achieved 680 wins, one of the highest totals in Virginia High School League history.

His teams captured 17 district championships, 8 regional titles, and 3 State championships, including remarkable recent titles in 2019, 2023, and 2024. These achievements speak not only to his excellence as a coach but to his consistency, discipline, and enduring commitment to his players.

In recognition of his lasting impact, the school fittingly named its gymnasium in his honor, a testament to the legacy he has built and the lives he has touched.

As he steps away from the game, we thank Coach Pope for his service, his leadership, and his unwavering dedication to his community. May his legacy continue to inspire future generations of student-athletes.

RECOGNIZING CLARKE COUNTY GIRLS'  
BASKETBALL TEAM

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary group of

young women from Clarke County, whose teamwork and determination led them to victory in the Virginia High School League Class 2 State championship.

The Clarke County girls' basketball team defeated Union 67-55 at VCU's Siegel Center and earned their second State title in four seasons and the third in program history.

This 27-2 team was powered by the talent and unity of all of their players. Five players earned All-Bull Run District honors; and standout senior Alainah McKavish, the Class 2 Player of the Year, capped her career with over 2,200 points and a powerful performance in the title game. Teammates Anna Taylor, Paige McKavish, Savannah McCaw, Kendall Harman, Haley Foltz, Eryn Demko, Emmerson Kennedy, and Paige Stemberger also rose to the challenge.

Coach Shadd McCaw guided the team to a nearly flawless season, which earned him the Class 2 Coach of the Year honors from the VHSL and Basketball Coaches Association of Virginia.

Please join me in congratulating the Clarke County Eagles on their hard work, resilience, and success.

RECOGNIZING JOHN HANDLEY BOYS'  
BASKETBALL TEAM

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the John Handley High School boys' basketball team on capturing the program's first State championship.

Located in the city of Winchester and led by Head Coach Zach Harrell-Zook, along with Assistant Coaches Jason Combs, Trey Brisco, Donald Finley, Taralle Hayden, and Michael Brown, Hanley defeated Hampton in the Virginia High School League Class 4 championship game.

The team earned not only the program's first State title but also the school's 50th State championship overall.

Christian Dinges led the way and was recognized as the Class 4 State Player of the Year, with full support from teammates: Isaiah Baxter, Will Braunduin, Jaevon Brisco, Kyren Oglesby, Amari Brown, Silas Miller, Joaquin Pearce-Gonzales, Timothy Campbell, Asher Mattison, Aaron DeChristopher, Keon Ulmer, and ZeQuon Williams.

Coach Harrell-Zook was also recognized as the Class 4 State Coach of the Year.

I proudly commend this team for not only winning a State title but for making history in Handley's 103-year legacy.

I congratulate the Judges.

HONORING CHELSEA DOLINAR-  
HIKAWA

(Ms. PRESSLEY of Massachusetts was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my dear friend, Chelsea Dolinar-Hikawa.