

Chelsea and I grew up together in Chicago and attended Francis W. Parker School. She was my classmate and friend for 14 years.

I admired Chelsea's effortless brilliance, basked in her artistic talents and her infectious laugh, and was most of all inspired by her kindness.

Given her artistic talents, it was a surprise to no one that Chelsea became an artist, her love for music filling every corner of her life. She carried her vibrant passion for performance, travel, and the arts through every chapter of her life.

I rise today for her beautiful family, Nick, Atreyu, Anoki, and Suniya. I also rise today for her many beloved family members and friends who are spread as far and wide as her devotion to them. Her love for each of them is eternal.

Wherever Chelsea went, joy followed. She was melody, music, and magic. She lit up every room she entered with an unparalleled warmth and beauty.

It is with a heavy but grateful heart that I remember my beautiful childhood friend. Our senior class song by Simple Minds was "Don't You Forget About Me."

We sure won't, Chelsea. How could we ever?

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF BROTHER  
ANDREW JOSEPH, JR.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Brother Andrew Joseph, Jr., a father, husband, advocate, and a good man.

We first met several years ago at a protest demanding an end to police violence. He, alongside his wife and partner of 28 years, Deanna Joseph, had experienced unspeakable heartbreak when their 14-year-old son, Andrew Joseph III, was killed as a result of police misconduct.

Mr. Joseph turned his pain into purpose and committed to organizing with Black Lives Matter Grassroots for justice at the local, State, and Federal level, including advocating for the passage of my legislation, the Ending Qualified Immunity Act, to hold law enforcement accountable when they violate our rights.

Our collective fight for justice was strengthened by Mr. Joseph, and he will always be remembered for his dedication to uplifting community.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Joseph is survived by his daughter Deja, who recently graduated from Howard University with honors earlier this month.

On behalf of myself, my family, and my team, I extend our deepest condolences.

"Amen"; "Ashe."

HONORING LIFE AND LEGACY OF  
HAL WARNER

(Mr. MACKENZIE of Pennsylvania was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MACKENZIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Hal Warner, President and CEO of the

Lehigh Valley Humane Society, and to recognize his years of dedicated service to our community.

Hal devoted his career to strengthening organizations that served others all across the Lehigh Valley. He helped advance the Lehigh Valley Humane Society's mission of animal rescue, rehabilitation, adoption, and community outreach, improving the lives of both animals and families throughout our region. His leadership reflected a deep commitment to compassion, service, and building stronger communities.

Beyond his work at the Humane Society, Hal spent years serving non-profit organizations focused on helping vulnerable populations and creating opportunities for others. Whether supporting families, strengthening community programs, or leading mission-driven organizations, he made a lasting impact on countless lives.

Hal was deeply loved by his colleagues, staff, volunteers, and all those who knew him.

We extend our deepest condolences to Hal's family, friends, and everyone at the Lehigh Valley Humane Society as they continue his work and honor his legacy.

RECOGNIZING STEPHEN SCHLEIG

Mr. MACKENZIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officer Stephen Schleig of the Easton Area School District for receiving the 2026 National Association of School Resource Officers Bridge the Gap Award.

This prestigious national recognition honors school police professionals who demonstrate exceptional leadership, mentorship, professionalism, and dedication to students and their communities.

Officer Schleig was specifically recognized for his commitment to supporting at-risk youth and helping to build positive relationships that strengthen school communities.

As a graduate of the Easton Area School District, Officer Schleig now serves in the same schools that helped to shape his own life. Through initiatives focused on school mentorship, outreach, and community engagement, he has worked to strengthen the bond between schools, families, and law enforcement.

His commitment to service extends beyond the classroom and reflects the important role that mentorship and compassion play in keeping students safe and supported.

I congratulate Officer Schleig on this well-deserved national honor and thank him for his continued dedication to students, families, and the Easton community.

RECOGNIZING SUE BUTZ-STAVIN

Mr. MACKENZIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Coach Sue Butz-Stavin of Emmaus High School as she celebrates 50 years of extraordinary leadership and excellence in field hockey.

For five decades, she has helped to shape generations of student-athletes both on and off the field. As the

winningest high school field hockey coach in the entire nation, her teams have earned district and State championships, set records, and built one of the most successful programs in scholastic sports.

But numbers alone do not tell the whole story. Her impact can be measured through the countless young women she has mentored, encouraged, and helped prepare for success in athletics, academics, and life.

For 50 years, Coach Butz-Stavin has embodied the values of dedication, perseverance, and leadership. Her influence has extended far beyond the pitch and left a lasting mark on Emmaus and communities around the Lehigh Valley.

I congratulate Coach Butz-Stavin on this incredible milestone and thank her for the lives that she has changed through her commitment to her athletes.

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RECOGNIZING OFFICER HUNTER STOM

Mr. MACKENZIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officer Hunter Stom of the Bethlehem Police Department for his commitment to protecting members of our community.

While off duty at a local gas station, Officer Stom noticed an elderly woman who appeared distressed while speaking on the phone near a bitcoin machine. Trusting his instincts and recognizing signs of a potential cryptocurrency scam, he stepped in to check on her well-being.

Thanks to his quick thinking, Officer Stom was able to stop the victim from sending additional money to scammers and helped prevent further financial loss. He then ensured that the incident was properly documented and that the individual received assistance.

Officer Stom's actions serve as a reminder that protecting and serving is more than a profession. It is a commitment that extends far beyond the badge and beyond the call of duty. As a member of the bipartisan Stop Scams Caucus, I know how important it is to raise awareness and protect our communities from increasingly sophisticated scams that target vulnerable individuals.

I commend Officer Stom for his dedication to keeping the people of the Lehigh Valley and Poconos safe.

HONORING DANIEL G. WUCHTER

Mr. MACKENZIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Daniel G. Wuchter, Sr. He is a lifetime entrepreneur, community leader, and the owner of the Allentown Fairgrounds Farmer's Market.

CARIBBEAN AMERICAN HERITAGE  
MONTH

(Ms. PLASKETT of the Virgin Islands was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Caribbean American Heritage Month, a month of

honoring the immeasurable contributions of Caribbean Americans to the fabric of this Nation, contributions that have shaped our politics, our culture, our arts, and our very understanding of what it means to fight for justice.

Every month I try to recognize many different individuals of Caribbean-American heritage who come from many walks of life, but this month I want to focus on the accomplishments of Caribbean-American women: their accomplishments and their struggles at the highest levels of government, and at the highest levels of politics that are shaping and have shaped this country.

I stand here as a proud daughter of the United States Virgin Islands, a territory whose people carry within it the full weight and beauty of Caribbean culture.

I am honored to serve alongside my sister, Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE of Brooklyn, New York, the daughter of Jamaican immigrants, who spent her entire career championing the rights of working families, immigrants, and communities of color with a tenacity that reflects the very best of the Caribbean tradition.

I am honored to serve alongside Congresswoman FREDERICA WILSON of Florida, a proud Bahamian American, whose bold leadership and refusal to be silent in the face of injustice has made her a force in this Congress and a hero, a shero in her community.

Of course, we remember the late Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE of Texas, the daughter of Jamaican immigrants, who for three decades was one of the fiercest advocates this Congress has ever known.

These women do not simply represent Caribbean Americans, they embody the excellence that our communities demand of them.

The story we continue to write did not, of course, begin with us. It began on the islands themselves, with women like Queen Breffu, an Akwamu woman enslaved on St. John in the Danish West Indies, who in 1733 helped lead one of the earliest slave revolts in the Americas.

It continued with Queen Nanny of the Maroons in Jamaica, a leader of a community of formerly enslaved Africans who waged war against the British empire and won, seizing their own freedom and building their own societies. That spirit of self-determination is the spirit Caribbean Americans carry with them to this day and this country.

It continued with Shirley Chisholm, the daughter of immigrants from Barbados and Guyana, who in 1968 became the first Black woman elected to the United States Congress, and who in 1972 had the courage to run for President.

It continued with Claudia Jones, a journalist, activist, and visionary whose legacy endures; Cicely Tyson, who wasn't just an actor but a great civil rights leader, an advocate not

confined to the roles that were assigned to her; and, of course, Kamala Harris, the daughter of a Jamaican father who shattered what many believed to be an unbreakable ceiling when she became the first woman and the first Black American to serve as Vice President of the United States. Vice President Harris carried the hopes of Caribbean Americans with her into the White House, a reminder that children of the Caribbean do not simply contribute to this Nation. We lead. She dared to lead a nominating party 107 days. Only a Caribbean woman could do that.

Caribbean leadership extends across the region. Dame Mary Eugenia Charles of Dominica became the first woman to serve as the head of government in the Caribbean. The Iron Lady, as she was known, bent to no outside pressure. Other influential women include Dame Pearlette Louisy of Saint Lucia, Dame Cynthia "Mother" Pratt from the Bahamas, of course Ruby Rouss of the United States Virgin Islands, and now Prime Minister Mia Mottley of Barbados, who stands today as one of the most consequential leaders in the world, reshaping global conversations.

When people say we are not ready for a Black woman President, a Black woman Governor or CEO, my brothers and sisters, we have been doing it all along. We just need the support for the titles that we already deserve.

I wish all of my brothers and sisters of Caribbean descent Happy Caribbean American Heritage Month.

#### SURFACE TRANSPORTATION REAUTHORIZATION

(Mr. MANN of Kansas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the importance of the BUILD America 250 Act, the surface transportation reauthorization that the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is marking up today during National Infrastructure Week.

This marks 70 years since President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 into law. For Kansans, that anniversary carries special meaning. President Eisenhower understood that a strong transportation network was essential to the safety, commerce, and unity of the United States. His vision helped connect a growing country and gave future generations a highway system that changed the way Americans live, work, and move.

Seventy years later, America's transportation needs have changed, but Congress' basic responsibility remains the same. We have a duty to maintain a surface transportation system that allows people and goods to move across this country safely, efficiently, and reliably.

The entire House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has been

hard at work for over a year to ensure the BUILD America 250 Act delivers for American travelers. This is one of the few major bills that we take up on a regular schedule, and it has historically been bipartisan because every district in America relies on roads, bridges, rail, airports, and freight movement. That is especially true in rural America.

In the Big First, our district alone has more than 83,000 miles of roads, 4,000 miles of railroads, and more than 100 airports. That infrastructure supports the farmers, ranchers, producers, manufacturers, small businesses, schools, hospitals, and families that keep our communities strong. We also have 11,172 bridges, more than any other congressional district in the country. That is why I am especially proud that our legislation provides the largest investment in our Nation's bridges in American history.

When a highway is unsafe, a rural bridge is closed, or a freight route is inefficient, the consequences are real. A farmer may have to take a longer route to get grain to market. A rancher may face higher costs of moving livestock. A manufacturer may struggle to ship products on time. A first responder may lose valuable minutes reaching someone in need.

Transportation policy in Washington has a direct effect on the daily lives of Kansans. That is why this reauthorization must get back to the basics.

In recent years, Washington has created new programs, expanded existing ones, and spent money our country does not have. This surface transportation bill, on the other hand, focuses our limited Federal resources on the fundamental needs of our transportation system: roads, bridges, freight movement, safety, and the infrastructure that helps Americans get where they need to go.

One of my top priorities is maintaining and expanding flexibility in Federal highway programs. States are best positioned to understand their own transportation needs. Kansans should not be forced into the same mold as New York or California. A rural road that carries wheat, cattle, schoolbuses, and animals serves a very different purpose than a major urban corridor. Federal policy should respect those differences.

The BUILD America 250 Act provides States and local communities with the flexibility to direct resources where they need it most. It also helps ensure taxpayer dollars are used effectively instead of being tied up in Washington-driven mandates that do not fit local realities.

Finally, we are addressing the long-term solvency of the highway trust fund. The trust fund was created to provide a dedicated revenue source for the construction of the interstate highway system. It was built on a user-pays principle, with Federal fuel taxes serving as the main funding source.