

Mr. Speaker, agriculture is the backbone of the Big First District and our country. Our farmers and ranchers do more than just produce food. They strengthen our economy. They support rural communities. They fuel our Nation. They help feed a hungry world. They remind us that America's strength has always been with our hardworking farmers and ranchers.

House Republicans are delivering for those producers. We passed a farm bill that gives agriculture certainty. We passed year-round E15 to strengthen markets and expand consumer choice. We are advancing an Ag appropriations bill that supports USDA's core mission and invests in the priorities that matter to farm country.

Under President Trump and Secretary Rollins, we finally have an administration that understands American agriculture is setting our producers up for success. American farmers and ranchers feed, fuel, and clothe the world. They deserve a government that has their backs.

Mr. Speaker, that is what we are fighting for.

HONORING DYLAN VALLE

(Mr. LATIMER of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dylan Valle, a proud and devoted member of the SEIU Local 32BJ and a true public servant in our community.

As the Hudson Valley district leader, Dylan represented 4,000 union members fighting for fairer protections, safer working conditions, and dignity for the working class.

Those who knew Dylan will remember his big smile and generous spirit that inspired all those around him.

I am grateful for Dylan's tireless advocacy on behalf of ordinary working people across New York to improve the lives of those around him.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of this body and the entire 16th Congressional District, I extend my deepest condolences to Dylan's family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing him. Dylan's devotion to his community will always be remembered, as his legacy will endure.

REMEMBERING JOE GERMANO

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a dedicated, longtime Mamaroneck resident, Joseph Germano, who passed away in May, just a few weeks before his 101st birthday.

Born in the village, Joe graduated from Mamaroneck High School in 1943 and immediately signed up for the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II. He served in the Pacific theater on the USS *Eldorado* and participated in the battles of Iwo Jima, Okinawa, and the Philippines.

After the war, he returned to his hometown and became the owner of a local business for nearly 50 years. Joe

was active in veteran organizations, such as the VFW Post 1156 and The American Legion Post 90. He was a leader at St. Vito's Roman Catholic Church and a member of the Mamaroneck Public Library board and the village's traffic commission. He was a fixture at Harbor Island Park throughout the years.

Joe and his wife, Louise, have four daughters, four grandsons, and five great-grandsons. Joe has left behind a legacy of generosity and community commitment, and that will last over the next 100 years.

From the floor of the House of Representatives, we salute Joe Germano, a true son of Mamaroneck.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL IMMIGRATION HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during National Immigration Heritage Month to recognize the contributions of immigrants to our Westchester and Bronx communities and to recognize their positive impact on the entire country.

I speak at a time when the Delaney Hall Detention Facility in Newark, New Jersey, houses detainees in horrific conditions. The situation of mass deportation of hardworking individuals seeking a better life is not what the Framers of the Constitution envisioned.

When hopeful immigrants arrive at our shores, they heed the promising words inscribed on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

Mr. Speaker, as we near our 250th anniversary as a nation, I remind my colleagues that the United States of America is a land of opportunity for all.

RECOGNIZING OVERMOUNTAIN VICTORY TRAIL ASSOCIATION

(Ms. FOXX of North Carolina was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, it is wonderful that we are celebrating our 250th anniversary. We need to be constantly reminded of what sacrifices were made at the beginning of our country to allow us to be the freest, greatest country in the world. Many men and women sacrificed their way of life and their lives themselves in that effort. We need to keep them in mind, always.

In support of that idea, I rise to recognize the Overmountain Victory Trail Association for its continued work to preserve, protect, and interpret the route to the Battle of Kings Mountain, one of the most significant battles in the Revolutionary War.

Earlier this year, I had the pleasure of meeting with David Doan, the president of the association; his wonderful wife, Jane; and Tom Vaughan, the association's treasurer. All three were

immensely passionate about the work they engage in, and it is easy to see why. They all care deeply about sharing one of the greatest stories of the American Revolution.

The Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail spans approximately 300 miles, and patriot militia, known as the Overmountain Men, traveled along it to the Battle of Kings Mountain. In Newland, North Carolina, there is a beautiful mural depicting the Overmountain Men crossing the Yellow Mountain Gap en route to this battle.

What makes their story so unique is that these men did not come from rarefied backgrounds. They came from the Carolina backcountry and Appalachians, and they picked up arms, made the hike of 330 miles, and unleashed liberty upon British forces.

The Battle of Kings Mountain was a pivotal American victory, one that dealt a serious crushing blow to British forces as they tried to gain control over the Southern Colonies.

Mr. Speaker, we ought to recognize the dedicated work of organizations such as the Overmountain Victory Trail Association in helping preserve and share the history of our Nation with generations to come. We are grateful for all they do and salute their efforts.

RECOGNIZING CAPITOL HILL OCEAN WEEK

(Ms. BONAMICI of Oregon was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, this week, hundreds of scientists, conservationists, explorers, students, and advocates from across the country are gathered here for the 25th anniversary of America's premier ocean policy event: Capitol Hill Ocean Week, or CHOW. This week marks 25 years of translating science into policy and cultivating partnerships to protect the coasts, fisheries, and habitats that sustain our economy and our world.

As our Nation marks its own 250th anniversary, this week challenges us to reckon with both the threats and opportunities we face as stewards of the ocean: to chart a course for the next 250 years by protecting the ocean because of its importance to our shared prosperity and to the planet.

Mr. Speaker, 250 miles above us, the International Space Station crosses the horizon every 90 minutes. From that vantage point, there are no borders, but there is a lot of blue. More than 70 percent of the Earth is ocean, providing habitat for thousands of known species, driving economies for coasts and nations, and regulating the climate effects on every harvest, port, and storm.

Down here at sea level, we are testing the limits of our blue world. The same waters that feed and connect us are warming, becoming more acidic, and rising faster than at any point in human history.

This Nation was built by the sea. Our maritime heritage runs through every port, fishing village, and coastal community. The science and tools we have built to help us steward our waters have saved countless lives, properties, and habitats. They are among this country's greatest achievements.

We jeopardize that resilience if we fail to manage ocean resources wisely. As climate change accelerates, shifting currents and migrating species are redrawing economic maps and straining international cooperation. These risks undermine trade, safety, and stewardship.

Nearly one-third of the seafood consumed in the United States is now tied to illegal or unreported fishing, a black-market industry worth up to \$36 billion a year, often entangled with drug smuggling and forced labor. These networks plague ecosystems, weaken supply chains, undercut U.S. workers and businesses, and erode the rule of law.

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The Trump administration is choosing to compound the risks and undermine the country's lead agency, NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, by shedding thousands of its workers and threatening to eliminate its research office. Belittling science in the name of modernization will erode our Nation's talent and further strain our oceans' resources.

Here is the good news. When we choose stewardship, it pays dividends. Every dollar invested in NOAA yields \$112 in benefits—in jobs, in stability, and resilience. Ninety percent of the U.S. fisheries are now sustainably managed. American ocean science has stimulated an \$827 billion blue economy that supports 3.3 million jobs. That didn't happen by accident. It happened because leaders worked together and kept focus through the countless partnerships that keep our coasts working and our ecosystems thriving.

I represent a significant part of the magnificent Oregon coast. When I visit, I see future ocean leadership, and I see what it can look like: fishers using real-time data to avoid depleted stocks, students mapping kelp forests that store more carbon per acre than any forest on land, and scientists working to research marine energy that can harness the power of the tides to keep the lights on.

Capitol Hill Ocean Week reflects these ambitions and calls us to realize them. That is the vision for future demands: science in service of security and cooperation in service of resilience.

That partnership means embracing the truth that conservation and competitiveness are not opposites. They are inseparable. The same science that restores coral reefs also protects coastal infrastructure. The same satellite technology that tracks illegal fishing also improves disaster response. The same diplomacy that defends marine

ecosystems also deters instability and preserves human rights.

After 25 years of organized ocean advocacy, we know the challenges and are equipped with the solutions. What we need now is the shared resolve to turn that knowledge into action.

The ocean won't wait for our politics to calm. Its currents are eroding coastlines and economies. If we delay, we will cede precious resources and influence to those who would exploit both. If we act, we can turn climate risk into resilience by decarbonizing commerce, restoring blue carbon ecosystems, and expanding the industries that will define a sustainable century.

That is the challenge we face to make the ocean once again a source of unity rather than division, abundance rather than scarcity, and cooperation rather than conflict.

As co-chair of the bipartisan House Oceans Caucus, I have seen what is possible when we keep that focus. We have bridged party lines, brought agencies and industries to the same table, and shown that ocean health does not need to be partisan.

The scientists, fishers, explorers, and advocates here at Capitol Hill Ocean Week know that leadership, like the tide, is never still. The future of American prosperity and the blue planet depend on it.

CLARKSTON VFW POST 1443 CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

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

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible milestone of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1443 in Clarkston, Washington, which celebrated its 100th anniversary on May 26.

For one full century, the venerable post in downtown Clarkston has stood as a sanctuary of service, transforming the heavy, unspoken burdens of global conflict into a legacy of enduring local fellowship.

Mr. Speaker, it is deeply fitting that we celebrate this centennial milestone precisely as our Nation marks its 250th anniversary of American independence. The history of VFW Post 1443 is a microcosm of the grand tapestry of American freedom. It bridges the gap between the revolutionary ideals of 1776 and modern preservation of liberty.

The brave individuals who left Asotin County to fight on distant shores did so to protect the promise of our Republic. Many did not return home. For those who returned and found a home at Post 1443, the memories of their comrades were woven into the work building a century of camaraderie, youth mentorship, and veterans advocacy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking the members and auxiliary of the Clarkston VFW Post 1443 for 100 years of unwavering devotion to our community and the United States of America.

HONORING CHIEF LINDSAY MOON

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 24 years of service to the Nation by Chief Master Sergeant Lindsay Moon, Command Chief of the 92nd Air Refueling Wing at Fairchild Air Force Base.

Chief Moon made notable contributions as a developmental flight test boom operator in the development of air refueling operational procedures for the F-35 Lightning and the KC-46 Pegasus. Following that, he was selected to stand up a boom operator exchange program advising the Royal Australian Air Force during initial fielding of their KC-30A Multi-Role Tanker Transport refueling program.

Over the duration of his career, Chief Moon has amassed over 4,300 flight hours, over 1,000 instructor/evaluator hours, 170 test flight sorties, and 132 combat sorties.

Chief and Mrs. Moon will relocate soon to western Washington, where Chief Moon will begin a new career with Boeing.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Chief Moon. On behalf of Congress and a grateful United States, we are grateful for his service.

HONORING COLONEL CHAD K. CISEWSKI

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I also rise today to honor the 24 years of service to the Nation by Colonel Chad K. Cisewski, known to his airmen and the Fairchild community as "Chewey," commander of the 92nd Air Refueling Wing at Fairchild Air Force Base.

Chewey's retirement brings his 2-year command of the 92nd Air Refueling Wing to a close, which in turn caps 24 years of outstanding service to the U.S. Air Force.

The airmen of the 92nd Air Refueling Wing made major contributions to the successful outcome of Operation Midnight Hammer, and for their valiant actions, over 20 airmen of the 92nd Air Refueling Wing were recently recognized with the granting of the Distinguished Flying Crosses and Bronze Star Medals.

Colonel and Mrs. Cisewski will soon begin a new career and a new chapter in their lives where he will be at the Air Force ROTC program at the University of Minnesota, Duluth.

Mr. Speaker, I and all of Spokane, Washington, know Chewey as a humble leader and a true gentleman. Now, all of the United States and Congress knows it as well.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Congress and a grateful United States, we salute Chewey's service.

CELEBRATING THE NINE MILE STORE

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the passage of a major milestone for one of Spokane County's oldest institutions: the Nine Mile Store. Located in Nine Mile Falls, Washington, it has reached its 120th continuous year of operation.

The Nine Mile Store has been a community cornerstone for 120 years, going back to the day it was opened by Ed Tormey in 1906 to support the construction of the adjacent Nine Mile Dam.