

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.

A few years after its start, the automobile began to slowly replace the horse and buggy, and a hand-cranked gas pump was installed to meet customer needs. Mr. Tormey ran the store for over 30 years before it was purchased by Stephen and Mildred Casadoro, who operated it for nearly 40 years. It would change hands several more times, and now is being operated by Steve and Corrine Rogers who continue its tradition of excellent service to our community.

I am proud to represent its current owners and all of their customers here in Congress. All of the Spokane County area in eastern Washington know of the outstanding nature of the Nine Mile Store, and now so do all of Congress and a grateful American people.

HONORING ST. STEPHEN BAPTIST CHURCH

(Mr. MCGARVEY of Kentucky was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Stephen Baptist Church of Louisville, Kentucky. This year St. Stephen will be celebrating its 100th anniversary as a congregation.

Mr. Speaker, 100 years is an incredible milestone for any person or organization, but St. Stephen's century of service in Kentucky is one that deserves special recognition.

The Book of Matthew tells us that a church can exist wherever two or three gather in His name. Well, 100 years ago, in 1926, it wasn't much more than that, as 14 faithful believers gathered in a borrowed basement and started what has now become the largest Black church in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

It is a wonderful church. The music is fantastic. The congregation is warm and welcoming. I have recently heard another pastor say that if there is a Mount Rushmore of preachers, Dr. Kevin W. Cosby is on it. Amen.

I want my colleagues here to know that St. Stephen has never just been a place to gather and worship. As Dr. Cosby wrote in his book "Getting to the Promised Land," the Black church cannot exist solely as a place where the community goes to experience a Sunday respite from the pressing burden of our people's history and present. As the preeminent institution for ADOS, Black churches in America must fill their sanctuaries with exhortations to carry out the sort of justice work that will relieve us of that burden.

Not only does it have a proud legacy of service and activism, St. Stephen is an undeniable bedrock of Black education in our Commonwealth and in our country.

Yes, the church offers educational programming, and at several points throughout its history, it has chosen to build an educational building or a family life center instead of merely expanding the size of its worship space. But nowhere is the church's commit-

ment to education more evident than its relationship with Simmons University.

Going back to its beginnings, St. Stephen's first pastor, Reverend B.J. Miller, who led the church for 44 years, was a young Simmons University student. Founded in 1879 by formerly enslaved Baptists, Simmons quickly became a national leader and was only one of two HBCUs in the country with both a medical school and a law school, educating Black lawyers, doctors, teachers, and ministers who went on to lead the civil rights movement just decades later. Reverend Miller himself helped integrate the Southern Seminary and played a vital role in the push for equal rights in Louisville.

Now, here is where things get really interesting. In 1930, the Great Depression, combined with discriminatory policies, forced Simmons to foreclose on its campus. A cornerstone of Black education and a premier institution of higher learning was seemingly gone forever.

I think there are lots of ways to have faith, but one of the ways to have faith is to understand that God has a redemptive plan for us and our world. We don't get to know the details. It might not always be easy. But as the Proverbs tell us, if you trust in the Lord with all your heart, he will make the path straight.

Reverend Miller, who was that Simmons University student, was eventually succeeded by his grandson, Dr. Kevin W. Cosby, who was just 20 years old when he took over the church in 1979. Yes, together, the two of them have shepherded this congregation for 91 of its 100 years.

When Dr. Cosby took over, it was already an amazing church. He took it to new heights. In 1997, he made a very brave decision, maybe even a divine decision, to resurrect the proud tradition of education and purchase the former campus of Simmons College, a decision solely responsible for the rebirth, restoration, and revitalization of the premier Black college that is once again Simmons College of Kentucky.

When Simmons regained accreditation, it was recognized as the Nation's 107th HBCU in 2015, the last HBCU in America. It was the most remarkable comeback in the history of higher education. Next year, the comeback continues as Simmons College once again becomes Simmons University.

None of this success has been accidental or inevitable. It is because of a faithful congregation, a family dedicated to service, and a good and gracious God. What an amazing story. May God continue to bless this church, this college, and this community.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues here to join me in congratulating St. Stephen today and wishing them a second century that is even better than the first.

RECOGNIZING GIRL SCOUTS JORDYN OLSON AND SUMMER FUNKHOUSER

(Mrs. FISCHBACH of Minnesota was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jordyn Olson and Summer Funkhouser from Fergus Falls. They were recently awarded the prestigious Girl Scout Bronze Award, the highest honor a Girl Scout Junior can achieve. This award requires dedication, teamwork, and a true commitment to creating lasting change in the community.

These bright young ladies partnered with the Fergus Falls Community Food Shelf to create accessible, kid-friendly meal options for local families. Together, they designed a "by kids, for kids" recipe brochure featuring meals and snacks made entirely from items commonly found in a weekly food distribution box. These brochures are now being distributed directly to local families.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Summer and Jordyn on their achievement.

CELEBRATING THE TRACY FFA CHAPTER

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the success of the Tracy FFA Chapter at the 2026 Minnesota State Convention. They had a great showing, including their livestock team taking first place.

The winning team consisted of Carson Lanoue, Melaina Ankrum, Lawton Verlinde, Nolan Verlinde, and Callie Johns. These students dedicated hours to practices, reviewing data, and mastering the professional reasoning required for judging livestock. Their hard work paid off, and they will now advance to compete at the national level in Indianapolis.

I am proud of these students for their dedication, teamwork, and commitment to excellence. They are shining examples of what our students in western Minnesota can achieve. Please join me in congratulating Tracy FFA on their historic performance, and I wish them good luck in Indianapolis this fall.

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RECOGNIZING LOIS WIDMARK

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero from Ivanhoe, Minnesota: Lois Widmark.

At 104 years old, Lois recently received well-deserved recognition for her extraordinary service during World War II. Serving in the Navy WAVES, Lois was stationed in Washington, D.C., where she worked as a code breaker, utilizing complex machinery to decrypt enemy information.

Lois joined the service because she wanted to do more for our Nation. Her vital, top-secret work contributed to the Allied victory and helped to protect the freedoms that we hold so dear.

Last week, in a special ceremony at her home, Lois was presented with the