

together more than 1,700 students from over 60 countries and territories.

After advancing through local and State competitions, Zining earned second place in the world in the mathematics division for his original research on knot projections, developing a new mathematical theorem that had never been established before.

His achievement reflects not only exceptional talent and dedication, but also the strength of STEM education in the Lehigh Valley and the Poconos.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Zining, his family, his teachers, and the entire Emmaus High School community on this remarkable accomplishment.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. PERCY H. DOUGHERTY

Mr. MACKENZIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Percy H. Dougherty of Wescosville, who passed away on May 17 at the age of 83.

Dr. Dougherty dedicated his life to education, public service, and the advancement of the Lehigh Valley. As a professor and department chair at Kutztown University, he mentored generations of students and helped shape the field of geography.

As a Lehigh County Commissioner for 28 years and a member of the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission for nearly four decades, he played a leading role in guiding the growth and development of our region.

Dr. Dougherty will be remembered for his intellect, dedication, and commitment to improving the community he called home.

As a friend, I also recognize he had a great sense of humor, and I always enjoyed speaking with him when I saw him at local events.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my deepest condolences to his wife, Anne; his sons, Robert and Thomas; his grandchildren; and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

RECOGNIZING WALTER RYBARCZIK

Mr. MACKENZIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Center Valley resident and World War II veteran Walter Rybarczik who recently celebrated his 105th birthday.

Walter served in the U.S. Army Air Corps as a radio operator and gunner aboard B-24s in the Pacific theater. He flew dozens of dangerous missions in service to our Nation, demonstrating extraordinary courage and dedication.

As we recognize this remarkable milestone, we also honor a generation whose sacrifice, service, and patriotism helped secure the freedoms that we enjoy today.

As we recognize this remarkable milestone of Walter's 105th birthday, the people in the Lehigh Valley want to congratulate Walter and also thank him for his service to our country.

NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE
AWARENESS MONTH

(Mrs. SYKES of Ohio was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, this National Gun Violence Awareness Month, I rise today thinking about families in Ohio's 13th Congressional District, families whose lives were changed forever by gun violence.

One of those families is still grieving the loss of LaTeris Cook, a 27-year-old father of four who was killed during a mass shooting at a neighborhood block party in Akron just 2 years ago. What should have been a joyful summer gathering turned into chaos and tragedy. Twenty-eight people were shot. An entire community was and remains traumatized.

Megan Keleman was a recent college graduate who was killed in a Taco Bell drive-through in Tallmadge, Ohio. Her killer, a man who was not allowed to have guns, not only killed her but killed himself in a tragic situation. Her family now mourns her death by advocating for gun safety programs.

Another Akron family continues to carry the pain of losing Cortez Davis, Sr., who was shot and killed in 2021 while picking up a child for a birthday celebration. His mother, Delonda Glover, now works with anti-violence organizations in Akron to help prevent other families from experiencing the same heartbreak. She said something that captures the pain so many families carry after gun violence: "Losing a child is a different kind of hurt and pain." She is right.

Finally, my friend Ericka Weems was killed in 2020 in her home. The crime has gone unsolved, despite national attention. We lost a beloved friend, daughter, educator, and sister.

Because gun violence leaves permanent scars on families and communities long after the headlines fade, my heart goes out to the Cook family, the Glover family, the Keleman family, the Weems family, and every family in Ohio's 13th Congressional District and across the country who are trying to heal after losing loved ones to senseless and preventable violence.

While these tragedies occurred in my district, the truth is they could have happened anywhere in America: schools, grocery stores, movie theatres, workplaces, birthday parties, the United States Capitol. Too many Americans feel like a shooting can happen anywhere at any moment.

Already this year, our country has experienced more than 160 mass shootings. Last year alone, more than 24,000 Americans died by gun suicide.

Since 2020, firearms have been the leading cause of death for children and teenagers in the United States.

In my district, Akron police have responded to 562 calls involving shootings or shots fired through the end of April of this year. That is a 21 percent increase compared to the same time last year.

These are not just statistics. These are children, parents, friends, neighbors, entire communities being forced to rebuild again and again.

But to the people of my district and to the people across America, this

threat of living with gun violence every single day, I want to tell you this: It does not have to be this way. We can stop the cycle of violence.

Four years ago, Congress proved progress is possible when we passed the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, the most significant gun safety legislation in decades, because Democrats and Republicans came together to expand background checks, close the dangerous boyfriend loophole, crack down on illegal gun trafficking, invest in mental health services, strengthen school safety, and fund community intervention programs that are saving lives now.

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Yet, there is so much more work to be done. It also shows that when Congress chooses courage over politics, we can make our communities safer.

Yet, today, instead of building on that progress, this administration is moving us backward. Just weeks ago, the Trump administration announced efforts to roll back key gun safety protections, including weakening enhanced background checks established under the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, rescinding restrictions on stabilizing braces, and repealing the bump stock ban that President Trump himself put into place after the deadly Las Vegas shooting in 2017.

There are now even proposals that could make it easier to mail handguns through the postal system, opening the door to more gun trafficking and more dangerous weapons flowing into our communities.

Mr. Speaker, if you talk to any law enforcement agency, they will tell you that guns continue to create a problem for the work that they do every day. They encourage us to be smarter on gun safety regulations and ensuring that not only are the communities safer but that those who are sworn to protect and serve us can be safe in their communities, as well.

These rollbacks are a choice, Mr. Speaker, and my constituents cannot wait any longer. Americans are demanding action. They want safer schools, neighborhoods, and communities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mrs. SYKES. They deserve leaders who are willing to put people over politics.

Mr. Speaker, this Gun Violence Awareness Month—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has again expired.

Mrs. SYKES.—as we remember families like the Cooks—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman is no longer recognized.

HONORING THE NEXT GENERATION OF SERVICEMEMBERS

(Mr. HARIDOPOLOS of Florida was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary event on Florida's Space Coast.

At the 2026 Space Coast Enlistment Ceremony, more than 230 young men and women took the next step in their commitment to serve our Nation by enlisting in the United States Armed Forces. This is a remarkable event and was the vision of Brevard Public Schools Board Chair Matt Susin, whose leadership helped create a meaningful opportunity to honor these young Americans as they begin a life of service.

As the father of a servicemember, I recognize that these individuals are choosing a path defined by duty, sacrifice, and love of their country. They will serve in the Air Force, Marine Corps, Army National Guard, Navy, and Coast Guard, carrying forward the legacy of those who have defended our freedoms in the past.

The ceremony also brought together 241 Junior ROTC cadets from across Brevard County, a reminder that the next generation is already preparing to lead.

On the Space Coast, we understand freedom is protected by those who are willing to step forward, and today we honor these enlistees, their families, and the leaders like Matt Susin and the members of the Brevard County Schools Board, who are helping to inspire the next generation of American service.

STRENGTHENING PORT CANAVERAL AND FLORIDA'S SPACE COAST CEREMONY

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight a major investment on Florida's Space Coast.

I was proud to join local leaders at Port Canaveral to announce a \$20 million Federal grant that will support the construction of new cargo berths that will strengthen one of the Nation's most important ports.

Port Canaveral is far more than just a cruise destination. It is a critical economic engine for our region, supporting jobs, commerce, and supply chain necessary to keep Florida moving.

This investment will expand not only the cargo capacity but the overall infrastructure that is needed in challenging times. For the Space Coast, this means more opportunities, more jobs, and continued economic momentum for the families and businesses that call the Space Coast home. They will have the fuel necessary in all times of trouble.

This is exactly the kind of practical investment that we need to continue to make sure Florida continues to lead the Nation in growth.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DARCIA JONES FRANCEY

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Darcia Jones Francey, a true champion of Brevard County whose impact will be felt for generations.

A third-generation Brevardian, Darcia devoted her life to making her community and our community strong-

er. She was known as a connector of people, someone who brought together people in support of causes that mattered and endured. This effort is not unnoticed.

Darcia served on countless boards and different community groups, supporting organizations across the Space Coast, from the arts to healthcare and programs helping those truly in need. Her dedication as a volunteer and community work leader helped raise awareness, build partnerships, and strengthen the fabric of Brevard County.

Darcia also had a unique ability to make everyone around her feel valued and important, leaving a lasting impression on all of us who knew her.

Today, we remember Darcia not only for what she did but how she lived—with purpose, passion, and a deep love of our community.

HONORING ALEC HALL OF ALLIANCE CYBER

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding veteran, entrepreneur, and leader from Florida's Space Coast, Alec Hall.

Alec is the president of Alliance Cyber, a service-disabled, veteran-owned small business based in Cocoa, Florida.

Through Alec's leadership, Alliance Cyber provides cybersecurity and IT solutions that protect government agencies, nonprofits, and businesses across our State and beyond.

Alec's impact goes far beyond business. Through the Alliance Cyber Gives Foundation, his team supports STEM education, workforce development, and career pathways for transitioning servicemembers, investing directly in the next generations.

It is because of these efforts that we recognize Alec Hall and the amazing work at Alliance Cyber.

PORT CHESTER SENIORS

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding programs provided by the Village of Port Chester that benefit the senior citizens of that community.

Under the able leadership of Maryann Nielsen in the Port Chester Senior Community Center in Village Hall, the Port Chester Seniors serves hundreds of seniors annually with a daily nutrition program at lunchtime 6 days a week, along with activities and programs to engage seniors of all ages, including on Saturday, which is unique among many other programs.

There are fitness classes from tai chi to chair yoga, mental fitness programs, a variety of board games—mah-jongg; bridge; along with the classic senior staple, bingo. Maryann and her talented crew host annual events, as well, for Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, St. Patrick's Day, and a host of celebrations. There are day trips planned to shopping locales and tourist sites, as well.

The programs are supported by the village board under the leadership of Mayor Luis Marino and Village Administrator Stu Rabin.

From the floor of the House of Representatives, we salute the work of the Port Chester Seniors, the active and energetic members that show that age is more a state of mind.

PRIDE MONTH

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Pride Month.

As a supporter of the LGBTQIA+ community and a member of the Congressional Equality Caucus, I rise to honor the achievements in the fight for equality but also refocus on the work that lies ahead.

Many of the champions in the fight for equality are organizations like the LOFT Center in White Plains, New York. This organization provides acceptance and access for the LGBTQIA+ community in the wake of the current administration's attacks on equality.

The LOFT Center offers services ranging from support services, educational seminars, health screenings, training series for allies and businessowners, silver connections for members over 55, and much more.

I commend them for being a champion in this fight, and I am proud to represent such a welcoming district, where people are judged by the content of their character. We will work to ensure that everyone has a place where they are accepted, even in the face of prejudice.

DISMANTLING OF AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the intentional dismantling of affordable healthcare in our country.

Following the big, ugly bill last July, which failed to extend the premium tax credits critical to lowering the cost of healthcare for working families, Affordable Care Act enrollment for 2026 has fallen to about 23 million people, a decline of just over 1 million people.

Studies predict that this may climb to as many as 5 million people dropping out of the ACA market by the end of this year alone. This isn't surprising given that the last year represented the highest increase in deductibles ever.

Many Americans have shared their stories about how they cannot afford to take on the rising premiums, and my colleagues choose instead to prioritize nonsense legislation and policies that do nothing to address real problems.

Mr. Speaker, more people will die younger or put off preventative health visits if they do not have access to affordable healthcare. If we will not address America's healthcare situation head-on, then let those of us who are willing to address the situation take action.

NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

(Ms. MORRISON of Minnesota was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)