

Mr. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that the House last week approved the FY27 agriculture appropriations bill, the second FY27 appropriations bill brought to the floor under regular order.

The bill we passed contained the PURR Act, which is a bill I have championed to modernize the labeling requirements of pet and animal food.

The Kansas Second District is the pet and animal food capital of America, employing nearly 20,000 people in all aspects of the industry, from nutrition research and development to production.

Overall, the animal feed and pet food industries annually contribute nearly \$100 billion in value to the U.S. economy and more than 750,000 jobs.

Modernizing the labeling requirements on these products will improve efficiency and reduce compliance costs for pet food manufacturers. It will strengthen the industry. This will have a direct benefit for the affordability of pet food for consumers and animal feed for our farmers and ranchers.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Appropriations Committee for including this important measure from my district in the bill. I look forward to the Senate advancing it and the President signing it into law.

CONGRATULATING DAVISON IGBINOSUN

(Mrs. McIVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. McIVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Davison Igbinosun for being selected by the Buffalo Bills with the 62nd pick in the 2026 NFL draft.

Davison is a graduate of Union High School and was New Jersey's top recruit in the 2022 high school football class. Davison began his college football journey at Ole Miss before transferring to Ohio State. There he developed into one of the Big Ten's top defensive backs and a pivotal player on one of America's strongest college football defenses.

In his three seasons at Ohio State, Davison started 42 of 43 games. He was a First-Team All-Big Ten selection in 2025.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of New Jersey's 10th Congressional District, I congratulate Davison as he continues to represent Union High School and embarks on his professional football career.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS ARE ELIMINATING WASTEFUL SPENDING

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that under the leadership of Speaker MIKE JOHNSON, House Republicans are eliminating

wasteful spending, exposing fraud, and keeping taxpayer dollars for the American families.

House Republicans are supporting President Donald Trump, passing the Rescissions Act of 2025, cutting wasteful spending, stopping the funding of radical agendas, holding agencies accountable, and implementing congressional oversight.

Being loyal to President Trump, I am here tonight and tomorrow and not present at the South Carolina Republican primary that I have always attended with voters who I so appreciate for their support.

I am here because I am loyal to President Donald Trump, and I request loyalty reciprocal. Attorney General Alan Wilson and the Wilson family, Roxanne and myself, have been loyal to Donald Trump since 2015, and we are urging that there be a coendorsement in the upcoming election, which will be the runoff of June 23 for Governor of South Carolina.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Trump is reinstating peace through strength, revealing war criminal Putin lies, insulting Trump, mocking Trump, with war criminal Putin murdering children with a tax on civilian population.

RECOGNIZING EASTMAN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

(Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it is a proud history, a new beginning, and a brighter future for eastern North Carolina.

After closing in 2009, the historic Eastman School in Halifax County is reopening its doors as Eastman Leadership Academy. From its humble beginnings in 1894, serving generations of families, to closing due to consolidation, Eastman's story has always been about community.

Soon, students will fill these hallways again: learning, growing, and writing the next chapter of this incredible legacy.

With the dedicated vision of Superintendent Cunningham, the Halifax County Board of Education, and the Board of Commissioners, the school will serve students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

Eastman's reopening is a reminder that when communities invest in education, they are investing in new opportunities, leadership, and the future.

FIGHTING ISLAMOPHOBIA

(Mrs. McCLAIN DELANEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. McCLAIN DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as it was only 18 days ago when two gunmen opened fire

at the Islamic Center of San Diego, killing three, injuring one, and inflicting terror on not just a community but to Americans everywhere.

Since taking office, I have met with religious communities across my incredibly diverse Sixth District of Maryland, including many of our Islamic community centers. My Muslim neighbors not only fear this violence spreading to Maryland but are concerned they must prepare for it.

Today, I share their concerns and a request to fight Islamophobia in this body. Sadly, one of my Republican colleagues recently did tweet: Dogs were preferable to Muslims. It was very reprehensible.

I for one believe we must fight all targeted violence or hateful intimidation or religion or classification, be it Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, racist targeting, or anti-LGBTQ.

Curiously, the House GOP leadership has remained silent as some support the Sharia Free Caucus where 66 congressional Members advanced legislation that singles out Muslim communities saying they threaten the U.S. system in our country. It is not only untrue but counters our freedom of religion. Our Muslim communities must feel that they are treated with respect. Hate has no place in our Congress.

□ 1930

HONORING CONGRESSMAN BILL POSEY

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. HARIDOPOLOS of Florida was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, with a heavy heart today, we recognize our former colleague of 16 years here in the House of Representatives, Congressman Bill Posey.

Sadly, on May 9th he passed away surrounded by his lovely family, led by his fantastic wife, Katie; and their two children, Cathi and Pam.

We have many Members here tonight who would like to express their not only condolences to the family but, of course, talk about his success serving our country, State, and community.

I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN), chairman of the Science Committee.

Mr. BABIN. The first thing I would like to say is I appreciate this Special Order for our good friend, sponsored by my good friend, MIKE HARIDOPOLOS, who is representing that great district on the Florida Space Coast.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of our friend and former colleague, Congressman Bill Posey. For more than a decade in Congress, Bill faithfully served the people of Florida's Space Coast with integrity, humility, and a deep love of his country.

Before coming to Washington, he dedicated years to serving his community in local and State government, always guided by the belief that elected

officials should answer first and foremost to those that they represent.

Today, I remember Bill not only as a colleague but as a good friend. For eight years, my wife Roxanne and I were neighbors across the hall from Bill and his wife Katie. Bill and Katie were the kind of friends who were always there when you needed them. Roxanne and I used to joke that if you ever needed to borrow a cup of milk or an egg in Washington, we knew exactly where to go, and that was across the hall.

Bill represented one of the most fascinating districts in America: home to Cape Canaveral and Kennedy Space Center. Over the years, I made many trips to Florida's Space Coast, and Bill was always very, very proud to show me around.

We attended launches and events together. We marveled at America's achievements in space exploration. We shared dinners, including Florida rock shrimp. As an east Texan, I wasn't sure what a rock shrimp was. Bill convinced me they were worth trying, and he was right.

Bill's enthusiasm for America's space program was contagious. He understood better than most the importance of innovation, exploration, and maintaining our Nation's leadership in space. He championed the men and the women whose work keeps America at the forefront of discovery and inspired future generations to reach for the stars.

Bill, as a young man, even worked on the Apollo program in the late sixties and early seventies, and he shared those experiences with me.

Many people may not know that Bill was also a race car driver. That adventurous spirit never left him. Whether he was racing down a track or advancing America's space program, Bill approached life with energy and determination. He was a fierce champion of keeping America's science, space, and technology secure from our adversaries' prying eyes as well.

Roxanne and Katie became the closest of friends over the years, and that friendship is something that our family will always cherish.

For those who served alongside Bill, they will remember not only his accomplishments but also his no-nonsense conservatism and his presence.

Mr. Speaker, our thoughts and our prayers are with Katie, his family, his friends, former staff, and countless Floridians whose lives were touched by his long service. Bill Posey was a good man, a faithful public servant, a great friend, and he will be deeply missed. I am jealous of you being able to represent that great district.

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for the kind words for our good friend.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON), the chairman of the Agriculture Committee.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for

sponsoring this Special Order hour, recognizing my dear friend, Bill Posey. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to share a few words about my dear friend, former Congressman Bill Posey.

Bill was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and a friend to many. He dedicated more than 20 years to public service in this Chamber and as a Florida State legislator.

Bill's reputation as a Florida legislator was one of a changemaker. As the Florida Governor noted: Bill Posey earned a reputation in the Florida legislature as a principled conservative, a problem-solver, and a pioneer in government transparency and accountability, serving in both the Florida House from 1992 to the year 2000, and in the Florida Senate from 2000 to 2008. He was widely respected for constituent service and principled leadership.

Bill and I were first elected to Congress in 2009. It was really during the November orientation after the election that I found my friend, when we were sitting in new Congress Member school, basically. That was also the same time that my wife, Penny, and Katie started a relationship as dear friends that continues to this day. They both quickly became dear friends.

Bill was a mentor, helping me to find my legislative feet, as someone who had never served in the State legislature. He and his wife, Katie, helped Penny and I navigate life in Washington, D.C. He truly was an esteemed colleague who was unwavering in his commitment to American values.

Bill's love for Katie was undeniable. Katie and my wife Penny continue to be the closest of friends.

Bill served on the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, fitting for a man who represented Florida's Space Coast and one who spent part of his career working at the Kennedy Space Center.

I remember fondly his personal tour of Cape Canaveral and his pride in sharing the behind-the-scenes tour of the industry, from the launchpad to the rubber room.

During a personal visit to Florida, Penny and I spent time with Bill and Katie at their church camp for a couple's faith retreat. The messages were inspiring, and the fellowship was outstanding.

I was troubled by the fact that they actually swam and canoed in water shared by alligators. I guess that is a Florida thing, definitely not a Pennsylvania thing.

I had the opportunity to experience firsthand Bill's passion for racing, a.k.a., driving fast. I rode with Bill in his muscle car to a local car show, and that is a ride I will not soon forget.

Bill poured his heart into all he did. He served with dignity and humility. His character and his wisdom will be sorely missed. He was a patriot. He was

a conservative. He was a family man. He was a man of faith, and he was my friend.

I find comfort in knowing that he was welcomed into the arms of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Penny and I will be attending a memorial and celebrating Bill's life this coming Saturday in Florida.

Mr. Speaker, may God bless Bill's loved ones. I thank the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his kind words. I know they were dear friends.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Congressman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS). Actually, the first time I had the pleasure of meeting him is because of Bill Posey. I remember that event we did in Vero Beach and I look forward to serving together in years to come.

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. I remember that well, and I thank you for allowing me to speak a little bit about our friend.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Congressman Bill Posey, who represented Florida's 15th and Eighth Districts for more than 16 years and devoted his career to serving the people he loved.

Bill's public service began in the 1970s on the Rockledge City Council, and he went on to serve in both the Florida House and the Florida State Senate. He earned a reputation as champion of fiscal responsibility, government accountability, and policies that strengthened working families.

He never viewed public office as a platform for himself. He saw it as a responsibility to serve others with integrity and purpose.

Bill's commitment to his district was unmatched. He loved his district. He loved the Space Coast. He understood its history, industries, and people. No one fought harder for America's leadership in space exploration.

Drawing on his own experience working on the Apollo program at Kennedy Space Center, he became one of Congress' strongest advocates for NASA, domestic manufacturing, and the aerospace workforce that defines Florida's Space Coast.

He showed how a Member can fiercely defend a district's core industries without falling into subsidies and cronyism, staying true to his principles of limited government and free market strength. Bill was also a national leader in advancing transparency.

□ 1940

He pushed Congress to read the bills it votes on and was instrumental in securing the rule that requires legislation be publicly available for 72 hours before a vote. Wouldn't it be nice to go back to that? Sure would be nice to go back to that standard that Bill worked so hard to set up.

He worked to reform and strengthen trust in the institution and reminded all of us that accountability begins right here at home in Congress.

I had the privilege of serving with Bill in the House Freedom Caucus, where we fought side by side for limited government, fiscal discipline, and the belief that Washington works best when it works within the Constitution.

Bill lived those principles every day.

Getting back to what we were talking about, he invited me to come down to his district. I was the chairman of the Freedom Caucus, and he said: I need you to come on down to my district. We went, and it was basically a day-and-a-half of real education for me in campaigning because there was not a free moment to sit down.

I will tell you this: I couldn't understand why he thought I needed to be down there, because he was so well loved. It was amazing.

Bill Posey approached public service with humility, steadiness, and a deep love for the people he represented. He will be missed. I miss him.

I wish to express my condolences to his wonderful wife, Katie. What a gracious host she was for me when I was down there. She made sure I had everything I needed and more.

I will say this: Bill leaves behind a legacy of principled leadership, tireless advocacy, love of family, love of country, love of God, and an example of how to be a Member of Congress.

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman BIGGS for his personal visit, as well. It means a lot to us. I thank him for being here tonight.

Next, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), my colleague from Florida. He and I, of course, served together with Congressman Posey in the Florida Legislature in the early 2000s as part of that memorable election of 2000, as well.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I did serve with Bill Posey in the legislature, and I remember my first year in 1998. I had made a campaign promise, and I was going to keep that promise.

I am not going to get into the legislation, but the leadership was pushing a particular bill. I had made a promise to my constituents that I would not be for that particular policy. Bill stuck up for me. It is tough when you are a freshman, and he stuck up for me. He said: Just go right ahead and do what you think is right and what is in the best interests of your constituents. I never forgot that.

Also, Bill endorsed me when I first ran for Congress. He was one of the first ones to do that.

Integrity, he kept his word.

Now, I will tell you this: He had a great sense of humor, as well. When I first ran in 1998, my opponent, I guess because of my stature, called me Danny DeVito. So Bill, on the floor of the House of Representatives for 16 years, called me Danny. When he did it publicly, other Members would whisper in his ear and say: Bill, that is not his name. His name is Gus. He would say: I know that. It is a joke between the two of us.

He was just a genuine great guy and cared about this country so very much.

I rise to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend and former colleague, Congressman Bill Posey, whose decades of public service left an indelible mark on the State of Florida and, of course, our Nation.

Bill was a dedicated public servant. Again, he never deviated from his principles. He was a conservative and, above all, a man of integrity.

Long before we served together in the House of Representatives, as I said, Bill and I had the privilege of serving alongside one another in the Florida Legislature. He was a senior member, and I was a junior member; but he never treated me differently.

During those years, I came to know him as a thoughtful policymaker, and a tireless advocate for his constituents. He was someone who approached every issue with humility, common sense, and a deep respect for the people he represented.

When Bill was elected to Congress, he carried those same values with him to Washington, D.C. He never lost sight of who sent him here. He worked diligently to ensure that the voices of Florida's families, seniors, veterans, small businesses, again, taxpayers, were heard.

His commitment to fiscal responsibility, government accountability, and public service earned the respect of his colleagues, as we can see here, on both sides of the aisle. Even if the other side didn't agree with him, they certainly respected him.

What I will remember most, however, is not Bill's legislative accomplishments, as impressive as they were, but his character, Mr. Speaker. He was a loyal friend, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and a man of deep faith whose actions reflected his values every single day. He treated everyone with kindness and respect and conducted himself with a level of civility that serves as an example for all who choose a life of public service. He truly was a throwback.

My thoughts and prayers are with his wonderful wife, Katie. What a great individual and what a wonderful person. He loved her so much very much. My thoughts and prayers are with his children, his grandchildren, his friends, his former staff, and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

While he will be greatly missed, his legacy of service, leadership, and dedication to the people of the State of Florida and the United States of America will endure for generations to come. He was a great role model. May his memory be eternal.

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman BILIRAKIS for his comments for our good friend, Congressman Posey.

Mr. Speaker, I yield now to the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. McCLAIN DELANEY). I thank her for joining us tonight.

Mrs. McCLAIN DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and legacy of Representative

Bill Posey and his long legacy in public service to the State of Florida, to our country, and to the field of science and innovation.

My husband, John Delaney, served with him on the Committee on Financial Services and considered him a friend and greatly admired his knowledge of the banking sector, his integrity, his ability to always reach across the aisle and to always be pragmatic.

I admire him now as a current Member, looking back on my long experience on SST, where he had a commitment to aerospace, to NASA, to satellite services, and to innovation generally.

Most especially, I was a friend of Katie Posey for many years while a congressional spouse at the Congressional Club. Both of them served well in terms of their bipartisan relationships, lifting up to know the other congressional families. They were always full of faith, civility, and a deep sense of service to country and to others.

May God bless their family. I send my deepest condolences, and I thank him for his service. I give my best to Katie and family.

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman McCLAIN DELANEY for her kind words. I know she is dear friends, especially with Katie, and it means a lot to us that she is here tonight.

I know there are others who are coming in and out tonight, but I wanted to kind of give those who were listening some background, as some had mentioned, about Bill's storied career in Florida politics. It is a memorable one.

I had the opportunity to know Bill for almost 30 years. He was a true mentor of mine as I was elected back to the House of Representatives in 2000 when he had moved over to the State Senate. He always offered a guiding, smart hand to a young member of the legislature. It was that confidence that allowed me to find some success in the legislature because he treated me like a son. It really meant a lot to me that a person who was just such a storied person in our community would take the time for new members to get up to speed on some of the challenges we faced in Tallahassee at that time.

□ 1950

One of the people who really made a difference on me, as well, was one of his former staffers, now my staffer, Valentina Valenta. She is a remarkable person and understands the budget inside and out because Bill focused so much on the transparency angle in the budget. That was his passion.

As Congressman BIGGS talked about earlier, this idea of a 72-hour rule is something we have in the State of Florida. We are the Sunshine State, and he really believed that when you are spending other people's money, you should allow time so that it goes into the sunshine. He would like to say: Good ideas in the sunshine prosper and grow. Bad ideas will wither under that powerful sunshine, as well.

That was the vision of what Bill Posey had when he served in not only the United States Congress but before then, the State Senate; before then, the State legislature; and before then, in local government on the city council in Rockledge. Bill was a person who, put simply, when there was a problem, like a good NASCAR or maybe a NASA mechanic, he went out and fixed it.

Bill didn't care about the headlines. In fact, whenever I talked to him, he tried to avoid the press. He wanted to do his work behind the scenes, work with people and just go out and solve problems and then get back to his family and friends, who understood his commitment to his home community, known as Brevard County.

That is what Bill—we already mentioned this—as I think Congressman BABIN and others talked about, his heart was always in Brevard. Though he served here in Washington for 16 years, he was always focused on Brevard County and making sure we did not have some of the challenges we faced after the Apollo program.

He did so much to make sure that when the shuttle program was ended in 2011 and 2012, we made a successful transition over to what we now know as the Artemis project that is so successful, which, back in April, found, of course, so much success, going around the Moon for the first time since 1972.

It was his work behind the scenes with so many other Members here in Congress. I am proud to say that, with NASA, as my colleague, DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, is here today, it was a bipartisan project to make sure that Florida stayed the epicenter of space flight in America, and we are seeing that success today.

It is, again, that work behind the scenes that no one saw, and no one really thought possible, that we could find the amazing success we are seeing today with new companies along the lines—in fact, one of those being SpaceX, which is being potentially valued at over \$1.75 trillion, to show where we are going in space.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my former senate colleague in the legislature and now congressional colleague, Congresswoman DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. I recognize her and thank her for joining us tonight.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his leadership and, really, compassion for our dear friend Bill Posey. The term “friend” is thrown around loosely in politics, and Bill was someone who had a wry sense of humor, someone who you knew where you stood with him. He was someone who didn't mince words and someone who didn't take himself or, really, almost anything too seriously.

He always had kind of a joke that was on his lips, but he was, as Congressman HARIDOPOLOS mentioned, really someone who lived and breathed the Space Coast. He was really the voice of NASA here in Congress, and he

always fiercely stood up for his community and his people.

He was humble. He was someone who did not swing from the rafters. You knew that he cared about the issues that he worked on, but he kept his head down, his nose to the grindstone, and he focused on his core set of priorities.

That is why I am here today to honor our late colleague, Congressman Bill Posey. He was a man who loved his home State of Florida and someone who was willing to put aside partisan politics to make it a better place for all of us.

I can personally vouch for this because he and I worked together since we began our public service work all the way back in 1992, when we were both elected to the Florida House of Representatives, in the legislature. We were also subsequently elected in the same year to the State senate, and it continued well into our time here in Congress.

Congressman Posey was a no-nonsense, principled legislator. Of course, we had our differences. We had many of them, in fact. We used to laugh about how little we agreed on, but when we came together and when we could find an issue on which we could work together, really, it was always incredibly impactful.

Bill Posey was committed to making Florida's coastlines and our children safer. He could drop his partisan flags and cross the aisle even in our most recent times when so many others would waver or refuse.

I saw it immediately, too, when he and I both worked in Tallahassee, Florida's capital. We joined forces to prevent children from drowning by ensuring our pools and spas were safer. That is no small matter in the Sunshine State.

I will tell you that I was working for 3 years to pass the Preston de Ibern/McKenzie Merriam Residential Swimming Pool Safety Act in Florida, and it was tough. There was a lot of Republican opposition. I remember the day like it was yesterday, when Bill came over to me and said: You make a lot of sense. We have to stop the kids from drowning. These are entirely preventable tragedies.

He just got it, so he spent political capital because he knew that it mattered, and he knew it would save lives. He was someone in Congress who just continually kept at the issues that mattered to his constituents. He was a fierce advocate for the Space Coast, as well as Florida's estuaries.

Those are the common bonds, really, that draw all Floridians together. We are a delegation that there is a boatload of things that we don't agree on, but when it comes to fiercely protecting our coastline, whether it is from oil drilling, or whether it is making sure that we can continue to restore the Florida Everglades, or if it is ensuring that we can protect our homeowners, condominium owners, kids in

our year-round warm-weather State who really have a much higher likelihood of drowning, Bill was right there on so many issues.

Another example is, after the Nation saw the tragic death of 98 souls in Surfside, Florida—you remember when the Surfside condominium building came crashing down in the middle of the night, 1:30 in the morning. That Champlain Towers South was in my congressional district at the time. I went to Bill, and we knew we had to do something about making sure that those condominium buildings, especially on the coastline, were safe.

I asked him to co-lead the Making Condos Safer and Affordable Act. People all over our State need that help, so we worked together to push legislation that would help maintain their structural integrity and keep residents safe.

There are other bright moments over his long career, as my colleagues have attested to, and for that, he will be truly missed.

My heart is with his beloved wife, Katie, who was always by his side, never far. She was a true life partner. My condolences to their loved ones. May Bill's memory be a blessing.

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ for her kind words. It is great to see her. I know Bill spoke highly of how you all worked together across party lines. I am really grateful that she is here tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to close tonight by walking through some of the things that Bill did work on, as the Congresswoman just spoke of. Again, it was a passion for him. He saw problems, and he fixed them.

That is what, again, I loved about Bill, as I mentioned earlier. He was a person who stayed out of the limelight. He didn't really care about who got the credit, but he wanted to just go out and solve problems. He was, again, a mechanic at heart.

One of those issues, as Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ talked about, was the Indian River Lagoon. This is a lagoon that historically has had challenges, and Bill was passionate about taking this on. One of the issues that he did, again, work across the aisle on was what he created with Members of the other side of the aisle on the Congressional Estuary Caucus.

That is where we are focused on solving the problem, where it is not happening just in our home State but around the country, how we can clean up our rivers that eventually work into our oceans.

It was mentioned with NASA—again, a champion for NASA, not just because he represented the area, but he literally worked on the Apollo program, and it was something that he knew would bring America together, even in the most partisan of times.

□ 2000

Before entering politics, he was a person who, after leaving his work at

the Kennedy Space Center, went into the real estate business and found tremendous success. But he was willing to put aside that incredible economic success for his own family because he wanted to serve this country. That is why he entered public life and left a lot of, candidly, resources on the sideline because he chose to serve in public life.

He was known as Mr. Fix-It. I will be talking about this at his celebration of life on Saturday in Melbourne. But one of the issues that really separated him, as Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ talked about on some fronts, was everybody remembers the election of 2000. That was the year where we had the hanging chads and, of course, that incredibly razor-thin election where Florida would decide the election.

Candidly, we were embarrassed of what happened in the election of 2000. So when people looked around the room in the Florida House and Florida Senate and when Jeb Bush was Governor, they said: Who are we going to bring in to fix the election laws in the State of Florida? They brought on Bill Posey.

If you haven't noticed, guess who is running the best elections right now in the entire country: The State of Florida.

I remember when I was elected last November, in 2024, within 7 minutes we knew not only who won the election, but almost all the results were in after the polls closed at 7 p.m. in Florida. That is how remarkable and that is how efficient we want it to be. We were counting those early votes, counting those absentee ballots, and once those ballots were tabulated, within minutes you knew the verdict, which is very different than what we are seeing right now in some States.

That is who Bill Posey was. He saw a problem, he wanted to fix it, and he never talked about it again. That was the ironic part about it.

Here is a person who should be known around the country for fixing elections in a positive way and getting the tabulations done quickly and correctly. That is what we need more of in America is a problem-solver like him.

Also mentioned was Bill being on the Financial Services Committee. When I was thinking about what committees to serve on as I enter Congress, I went to him and said: Where was your passion? He said: MIKE, I held out for one job, and that was to be on Financial Services.

He really felt like some of the banking laws in our country needed commonsense reforms, and he worked all 16 years on the Financial Services Committee. So many people saw his work with NASA, but as FRENCH HILL, our current chairman, talks about, Bill Posey was always diligently there pushing for the idea of transparency.

Through the years, we have seen horrible situations, whether it be Enron or the housing market crash. He was making sure that when people put those dollars in banks or in invest-

ments, there was more transparency, that the investor actually had the information in front of them. That was the kind of person he was.

I am just so grateful that his colleagues who served with him so long showed up tonight because it was that work behind the scenes that really made a difference.

What I saw firsthand in our 25-year-plus relationship was that it was always remarkable watching Bill, a tried-and-true fiscal conservative, be willing to listen to whoever came before him. He was a person who said you can disagree without being disagreeable. That is what I loved about him. He could be a little cantankerous at times, but he always took the time to listen.

As I mentioned and I will mention again over and over, he never left Brevard County. Whenever he could get out of Washington, he got out of Washington. He and Katie loved to get back home and be around the people they loved most, especially their daughters Pamela and Cathi.

After he left Congress in 2024, after those elections, he spent really the last 18 months being involved in those passion projects. One of those is he was actually involved in a car rally across the country as he and Katie went around the country. I am still amazed they actually did it because it was a challenging race, but he had such a passion for cars.

I remember he even went to New Smyrna racetrack for the Governor's Cup for many years because he just loved stock car racing. That was his passion and it was in his blood.

Most recently, he spent so much time with his grandkids, whether it was out West in California or in Alabama, and spending a ton of time with his daughters, especially those who lived in Brevard County.

He was a guy who put family first. It wasn't a cliché. He was a person who, again, was passionate about things when other people took passion in those same ideas.

I am just so grateful that I had the opportunity to know him for so long as he served our country so ably, and he gave back so much and took on so many financial challenges because he loved this country so much.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona.) Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, as I close, before I yield to our friends on the other side of the aisle: Bill Posey will not be forgotten because he never forgot those folks who gave him the opportunity to be here.

I am looking forward to seeing so many friends back home on Saturday as we celebrate his life.

I was with him sadly that Thursday before he passed on that Saturday. To see the love that his family expressed in those days as they knew they were going to leave him for a period of time, it just shows the commitment that his family had for him because he loved his family and he loved this country.

I will try to leave it on a lighter note. I remember he said to me when I got elected to the legislature: MIKE, I remember when I first was elected to the legislature, and I couldn't believe I was in the Florida Legislature. Here was a guy from Rockledge, Florida, who grew up loving cars and space and had a beautiful family and a young wife.

Then he said: After about a month or so, I couldn't believe how these other people got here.

That was the thing about Bill Posey. He had that wry sense of humor, as Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ spoke of.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity for us to speak about our good friend Bill Posey. He will be dearly missed. He was a true patriot and friend to our community, and I know I have very big shoes to fill here in the United States Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

COMMEMORATING JUNETEENTH

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Ms. MCCLELLAN of Virginia was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to anchor this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour commemorating Juneteenth.

Next week, the Nation will pause to celebrate Juneteenth. Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, when Union Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, and issued General Order No. 3, which finally freed more than 250,000 enslaved people in that State.

For while the Emancipation Proclamation officially went into effect on July 1, 1863, emancipating those enslaved in the rebelling States of the Confederacy, it took over 2½ years for the news to reach the western-most Confederate State of Texas.

Broadly, Juneteenth marks Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, or Black Independence Day. Juneteenth is considered the