festival committee, the volunteers, and the community leaders, whose dedication has sustained this extraordinary Buffalo institution for 50 years.

As we commemorate this golden anniversary, may we all remember Juneteenth's call to protect freedom.

CELEBRATING 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF WESTMINSTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Immigrant Heritage Month, I rise today to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Westminster Economic Development Initiative, better known across Buffalo and western New York as WEDI.

For two decades, this extraordinary organization has been a driving force for opportunity and empowerment in the City of Good Neighbors. Through its work in education and economic development, WEDI has helped thousands of western New Yorkers of all ZIP Codes, backgrounds, and languages build stronger futures.

From literacy programs that prepare young people for success in school to small business initiatives, like the West Side Bazaar, that provide entrepreneurs with mentorship and access to capital, WEDI opens doors and expands opportunities across our community.

What makes WEDI so special is that it recognizes the talent and potential already present in our communities and provides people with the tools they need to thrive.

In neighborhoods too often overlooked, WEDI has created pathways to economic mobility, empowered working families, and helped build a more inclusive and equitable Buffalo.

Today, we celebrate 20 years of impact, leadership, and service. I thank everyone at WEDI for their unwavering commitment to western New York and for helping to ensure that the American Dream remains within reach for every member of our community.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate WEDI on this anniversary. Onward to even more.

RECOGNIZING TONY MATTIVI

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tony Mattivi and celebrate his confirmation by the United States Senate to serve as United States District Judge for the District of Kansas.

Mr. Mattivi has spent his career working to uphold the rule of law, protect Kansans, and keep our communities safe.

Before serving as the 13th director of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, he spent more than two decades as a Federal prosecutor. In that role, he handled some of the toughest cases imaginable related to drug trafficking, violent crime, racketeering, organized crime, gangs, money laundering, and terrorism.

He served as the antiterrorism and national security coordinator for the district of Kansas, prosecuted cases involving threats tied to al-Qaida and ISIS, and helped bring justice in cases that directly affected Kansas communities, including an attempted attack at the Wichita Dwight D. Eisenhower National Airport.

As director of the KBI, he continued that work with a clear focus on public safety. Under his leadership, the KBI helped form the Joint Fentanyl Impact Team, expanded child victims units in western and southeast Kansas, and completed a major upgrade to Kansas' biometric identification system.

Tony Mattivi understands the law. He understands law enforcement. He understands Kansas. I congratulate him on his confirmation and thank him for his years of service to our State and our country. I am confident he will serve the people of Kansas well on the Federal bench.

RECOGNIZING UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS BSEBALL TEAM

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the University of Kansas baseball team for a historic and record-breaking season. The Jayhawks brought incredible pride to Lawrence, the Big First District, and the entire State of Kansas.

This season, KU won the Big 12 regular season title outright and then captured the Big 12 tournament championship for the first time in 20 years. They finished the year with 45 wins, tying the school record, and hosted the first-ever Lawrence Regional and Lawrence Super Regional.

Along the way, the Jayhawks set school records in conference wins, road and neutral site wins, home runs, and batters struck out. They also earned a spot in the NCAA tournament for the second consecutive year, something the program has done only one other time in school history.

I congratulate Coach Fitzgerald, the players, staff, families, and all Jayhawk fans on an outstanding season. They made Lawrence proud, made Kansas proud, and showed the country that Kansas baseball belongs on the national stage.

RECOGNIZING CO-OP CITY

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the men and women who lead the essential grassroots organizations of Co-op City in the Bronx, the many building association presidents who are elected by and represent the many shareholders in each of the 35 buildings that comprise the complex, which is the largest housing cooperative in the United States. Each building rises as high as 33 stories with up to 500 units in those complexes.

The building association boards organize annual activities and advocate on behalf of the residents. They organize around holidays and special events, such as back to school, Halloween, and Christmas. They conduct fundraisers to provide money to enhance common areas. They form a group to lobby for overall improvements in the complex, as well as their buildings.

The civic life of Co-op City begins with these volunteers. Let me mention just a few of the most active individuals who head their respective buildings:

Building 13, Leslie Peterson;
Building 6, Lauren Lassiter;
Building 28, Idalia Reyes;
Building 27, Aaron Carnegie;
Building 26, Tanya Cruz-Cooke;
Building 2, Al Quattlebaum;
Building 8, Tremaine O'Garro;
Building 9, Linda Collins;
Building 35, Carol Arthur; and
Building 33, Tobias Garcia.

There are many more to celebrate.

From the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, we salute all the Co-op City building association presidents for their commitment of time and effort on behalf of their neighbors.

HONORING RUTH HINERFELD

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, our home area lost an impressive woman last month, Ruth Hinerfeld of Mamaroneck, at age 95.

Ruth, a Massachusetts native, made her life and legacy in Westchester with her husband, Norman. A Vassar graduate with three children and two grandchildren, Ruth was a pillar of the local League of Women Voters and rose to national prominence as the national League of Women Voters president in 1978.

Ruth had direct involvement with the national Presidential debates in 1980 with Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan. She was appointed to various national boards, such as the U.S. Advisory Committee for Trade Negotiations and the Overseas Development Council. She maintained voluntary involvement with Common Cause, UNICEF, the Municipal League, and the Council on Foreign Relations.

Ruth was always gracious and warm to the people she dealt with, both locally and nationally. Ruth Hinerfeld had a life well-lived.

From the floor of the House of Representatives, we salute the life and times of Ruth Hinerfeld.

RECOGNIZING VILLAGE OF IRVINGTON

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding programs provided by the village of Irvington that benefit the senior citizens of that community.

Under the able leadership of senior coordinator Joan Armstrong, in the senior center on Bridge Street, the Irvington seniors serve hundreds of seniors annually with a daily nutrition program at lunchtime weekdays each week, and activities and programs to engage seniors of all ages.

There are fitness classes, from tai chi to chair yoga; mental fitness programs; and a variety of board games, mahjongg, bridge, along with the classic senior staple, bingo.

Joan and her talented crew host annual events for Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, Halloween, 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 Arlene Burgos and Village Administrator Charles Hessler.

From the floor of the House of Representatives, we salute the work of the Irvington seniors, the active and energetic members who show that age is more a state of mind.

FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES EXEMPLIFIED BY THE HOOSIER STATE

(Mr. BAIRD of Indiana was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the history, heritage, and enduring legacy of innovation that defines the great State of Indiana.

During the 250th anniversary of our Nation's founding, it is vital to remember the foundational principles that have driven American progress. Many of those principles have been exemplified by the Hoosier State.

Founded in 1816, Indiana was built on the foundation of hard work, strong families, and tight-knit communities. Our pioneers cleared the wilderness, building a society grounded in faith and freedom.

It is this unique spirit that led Indiana to produce three Presidents, six Vice Presidents, and three Supreme Court Justices, earning our reputation as the birthplace of national leadership.

That drive to excel is also illustrated by our long history of industrial manufacturing. Long before modern technology hubs emerged on the coasts, Indiana was a premier powerhouse for early American automotive manufacturing. Our soil is where brilliant engineers and automotive inventors tested their limits. They built legendary companies like Studebaker and Duesenberg.

This relentless spirit of innovation led directly to the creation of the legendary Indianapolis Motor Speedway in 1909. Today, we host the world-famous Indianapolis 500, rightfully known as The Greatest Spectacle in Racing. The event brings hundreds of thousands of fans from across the globe to our State every year.

It is that exact standard of Hoosier engineering excellence that gave the world early rearview safety mirrors and cruise control.

Indiana agriculture also helps feed and fuel the world. I am a lifelong farmer who studied animal science, so I know firsthand that agriculture is the heartbeat of our State and our national economy. These producers consistently make Indiana a top national producer of corn and soybeans, driving our bioeconomy and supplying global markets.

We are also the number one producer of popcorn in the entire United States. In fact, the popcorn king himself, Orville Redenbacher, was a proud son of Indiana.

The Hoosier State is also the Nation's top producer of commercial ducks, pumpkins, and peppermint.

Indiana has a rich sports history with the Indiana Fever, Indiana Pacers, and the Indianapolis Colts, who have also achieved historic wins throughout their history. The first-ever Major League Baseball game was held in Indiana in 1871.

Our colleges and our universities have contributed to this history, as well. Purdue University's basketball team has been dominant, with an NCAA championship appearance in 2024 and a Big Ten championship this past season.

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While I will always be loyal to the Boilermakers, I must congratulate our neighbors in Bloomington, Indiana, the Indiana University football team, who also recently had a perfect 16–0 season, bringing a national championship to the Hoosier State.

Notre Dame has a storied football program with 11 consecutive national championships, including one led by the great Lou Holtz, and seven Heisman Trophy winners.

The true measure of Indiana has always been the people: leaders, trailblazers, and visionaries who shaped world history.

There are so many famous names from Indiana: the Jackson family, Axl Rose, Larry Bird, David Letterman, Colonel Sanders, Irene Dunne, Madam C.J. Walker, Steve McQueen, Cole Porter, Wilbur Wright, Ernie Pyle, Amelia Earhart, James Dean, General Burnside, and Abraham Lincoln, to name just a few. We are truly the birthplace of greatness.

Indiana is a proud State that honors its past while building its future. I am honored to represent Indiana's Fourth Congressional District. As we celebrate 250 years of our great Nation, I look forward to seeing our State lead the way for future generations. The best is yet to come.

HONORING INDY HONOR FLIGHT

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th flight of the Indy Honor Flight. This organization hosts flights for veterans from Indianapolis to Washington, D.C., and boasts an unwavering commitment to serving veterans.

Founded in 2012, the Indy Honor Flight has flown nearly 4,000 veterans to D.C. to view the memorials. The organization runs four flights a year. Each flight has around 86 veterans and 86 guardians aboard.

Indy Honor Flight also hosts a large welcome-home celebration when the veterans return to Indiana for the public to show its appreciation for those who have served.

The organization is based in Hendricks County, and most of the leaders and volunteers live in the Fourth District. This is truly a community effort, with approximately 200 volunteers offering their time to make each trip happen. I congratulate them on this historic milestone.

HONORING RAFE POMERANCE

(Ms. JAYAPAL of Washington was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Rafe Pomerance. Rafe passed away on May 21 at the age of 79 in Washington, D.C. Rafe fiercely and steadfastly championed environmental causes for nearly five decades.

Rafe was a beloved advocate for climate action. Born in New York City in 1946, Rafe grew up among nature in Connecticut and was a graduate of Cornell University. He was an activist, organizer, policy expert, and diplomat.

The New York Times described him as the ''Paul Revere of Climate Change,'' an environmentalist who discovered an obscure 1979 report that burning coal heats the atmosphere, a man who devoted his life to warning the public and policymakers about the dangers of climate change. He dedicated his life to uplifting the dangers of climate change and was instrumental in advancing awareness of the issue.

Rafe set the foundation for understanding climate change as a comprehensive problem that demanded urgent policy action.

When Rafe first started this work, inspired by a report by the Environmental Protection Agency on the impact of coal emissions on global warming, the risks of climate change were not being recognized or addressed. Scientists had been measuring increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration since the early 1960s, but their warnings remained largely overlooked by both governments and civil society.

Rafe was one of the few who recognized the magnitude of the threat and was compelled to sound the alarm. He organized the first briefings ever about climate change with policymakers, developed relationships with news media to bring the issue into public view and mobilize stakeholder groups to pursue collective action.

Today, climate change is one of the key issues driving political discourse, in large part because of Rafe's early leadership and insistence that we could not afford to look away.

Throughout his distinguished career, Rafe served the American people in government and nonprofits. He was the U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Environment and Development from 1993 to 1999. In this capacity, he represented the United States at both the Berlin and Kyoto Conferences of the Parties. Rafe was instrumental in organizing the 1986 Senate hearings on climate change and helped negotiate a landmark UN treaty on global greenhouse emissions.

Rafe was a dedicated champion for the environment at a number of organizations including Friends of the