

legislature will convene for its final regular session day of the 153rd general assembly. With it, the State senate and statehouse will bid farewell to several retiring legislators, leaders with over a century in combined public service to our State of neighbors.

Representing constituencies across Delaware, spanning the partisan and ideological spectrum, I was proud to call these legislators colleagues during my 4 years in the general assembly. I had the chance to see their devotion to their constituents, and I will take a moment in this Chamber to celebrate their service.

In my old stomping grounds of the Delaware State Senate, my forever president pro-tempore, Senator David Sakola, is retiring after over 35 years in office. During that time, Dave has been a tireless champion of public education, environmental sustainability, and equality.

For the last 6 years as the President pro-tempore of the State senate, Dave led a caucus that raised the minimum wage, passed paid family and medical leave, advanced historic gun safety legislation, and protected vulnerable neighborhoods whose rights and freedoms have been anything but secure. I am proud to call Dave not only a former colleague but a friend and mentor.

Across the aisle, Senator Dave Lawson is retiring after 16 years representing western Kent County. A Vietnam veteran, retired Delaware State trooper, former volunteer with his local fire company, and a businessman, Dave has spent his life serving the Nation that he loves. He has paid it forward time and time again, fighting for those who put their lives on the line for all of us from veterans to first responders.

In the statehouse, my dear friend Deb Heffernan is retiring after 16 years representing the Sixth District. During her time in Dover, Deb has been an effective advocate for her neighbors delivering for teachers, families, caregivers, and people with disabilities. She has brought her expertise to defending our environment and investing in next-generation infrastructure in her district and across Delaware. During my time in the Delaware General Assembly, Deb and I teamed up often, including to lead the successful effort to pass paid family and medical leave statewide.

To my former colleagues who are also turning the page on this chapter of their service, Representatives Ron Gray, Rich Collins, Charles Postles, Jeff Hilovsky, and my friend Kevin Hensley, I thank each of them for their service on behalf of our neighbors across the First State.

From supporting small businesses to promoting financial literacy, protecting people with disabilities to fighting for farmers, they have worked across the political divide to champion causes on behalf of their constituents.

Mr. Speaker, in Delaware, public service is not defined by the title be-

fore your name nor the side of the aisle you sit on. It is defined by our capacity to deliver for our neighbors, working across difference to ensure government works for those it is meant to serve.

I thank my former colleagues and my friends in Leg Hall for their years of service to the greatest State in the history of the Union, and best wishes to a happy retirement.

□ 1030

HONORING BILL GRUMMONS

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

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor a dedicated member of the city of Spokane Fire Department, Mr. Bill Grummons.

Bill has been promoted to deputy chief of training and safety in the department. As deputy chief, Bill will oversee and support members of the department in their training to help them become better prepared for the challenges of the fire service.

Bill's collaborative leadership style and commitment to improvement within the department will benefit both personnel and the community greatly.

Bill joined the Spokane Fire Department in February 2012. During his career, he served as a firefighter at Station 4, lieutenant at Station 1, captain in staffing at Station 18, and battalion chief of the south battalion.

With the increased risk of wildfires in eastern Washington, it is a good reminder that it is brave and talented men and women, like Bill, that we need in charge.

With his years of experience and commitment to the department, I have no doubt he will do incredible things to strengthen the Spokane Fire Department and help take care of our wonderful community.

Please join me in congratulating Bill Grummons on this well-deserved promotion and wishing him nothing but continued success in his new role.

WHITWORTH UNIVERSITY LAUNCHING NURSING PROGRAM

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to share the wonderful news that Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington, is launching a new bachelor of science in nursing program to strengthen care and address critical nursing shortages across the Northwest.

The school is set to launch in the fall of 2027. This 4-year BSN program reflects Whitworth's commitment to addressing the growing demand for highly trained nurses across the Pacific Northwest. This program is designed to expand access to high-quality nursing education while preparing graduates to serve in hospitals, clinics, and community health centers.

The BSN program will be housed in Hawthorne Hall, which is being transformed into a dedicated 22,500-square-

foot nursing education facility. The space will feature state-of-the-art simulation and skill labs designed to prepare students for real-world healthcare environments.

I commend Whitworth University for launching its new nursing program, a significant step toward addressing the growing demand for healthcare professionals in the Northwest.

This investment will create new pathways for students, support our hospitals and clinics, and help ensure families across the region have access to high-quality care for years.

REMEMBERING FRANKIE DEWITT

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a dear friend, a great patriot, and a wonderful citizen of eastern Washington, Mrs. Frankie DeWitt.

Frankie was an extraordinary woman whose kindness, strength, and unwavering commitment to others and to public service touched countless lives across our community.

Frankie was born in Oregon. With her father, a civil engineer, she traveled extensively throughout her childhood, living in Okinawa, Afghanistan, and Iran. It helped shape her lifelong approach to seeing people as they were and treating everyone with dignity and grace.

Frankie was a dedicated volunteer in the arts and at her church, and she spent 50 years involved in local conservative and Republican politics.

Frankie served as State committee-woman, GOP chair in Yakima, and northeast chair for the Washington Federation of Republican Women. She worked tirelessly to strengthen our party, support candidates, and encourage civic engagement across eastern Washington.

When I first ran for office in 2010 for the State senate, Frankie was a member of my campaign's brain trust. Her wise advice and sometimes critical guidance, always delivered with kindness, were essential to our success. I specifically remember Frankie telling me not to ride in cars in parades but to get out and shake hands with the public.

As I have continued my political career, Frankie's influence has remained with me. The values she lived by—service, compassion, and commitment to others—continue to serve as a reminder of why we do this work.

Frankie is now reunited with her beloved late husband, Tom. She leaves behind three wonderful children and seven granddaughters. Her memory remains a blessing, and her legacy lives on for the countless lives she touched.

As we celebrate these 250 years of our wonderful America, it reminds me that it is civically minded people like Frankie DeWitt who continue to keep this wonderful Republic.

RECOGNIZING CUPCAKE CUTIE BOUTIQUE

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate the Cupcake Cutie Boutique, a Mount Vernon establishment built on family, faith, and Black excellence.

The founders are a mother-daughter duo who opened their small business over 10 years ago. The pair faced challenges familiar to many small business owners, including the pandemic, in which they never stopped serving the community.

We salute Montika Jones and her daughter, Miesha Stokely, the baker, for this wonderful business.

Due to the current administration's policies, small businesses everywhere are struggling amidst rising tariffs, energy costs, and economic fallout. As a member of the Small Business Committee, it is important to me that small businesses get the proper support and respect that they deserve.

We should support women-owned businesses and African-American-owned businesses. A mother-daughter team, like Cupcake Cutie Boutique, must continue to thrive alongside all the wonderful small businesses in our community. That is how we achieve economic growth for all.

MARKING ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Alzheimer's Awareness Month to call my colleagues to action in confronting this devastating disease.

I have met with representatives from the Alzheimer's Association to discuss their legislative priorities and how advocates can draw attention to this disease. In these meetings, we spoke about the importance of early detection and proper screenings.

The ASAP Act, bipartisan legislation, does just this by providing Medicare coverage for blood-based dementia screening tests.

Our need for action comes when the current Presidential administration denies basic science and proposes cuts to and constraints on key research institutions, such as the NIH.

One in nine Americans over the age of 65 are diagnosed with Alzheimer's. They deserve more. They cannot afford cuts to research that can lead to curing this horrible disease.

RIISING COSTS OF FAMILY TRIPS

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, it is that time of year when summer break starts and families across the country embark on family trips.

The rising costs of fuel, food, and basic necessities are making it difficult to take on any expenses beyond their basic needs. The average national gas prices remained at and above \$4 since the start of the war with Iran. Families are already absorbing the rising costs of utility bills and increased healthcare premiums. Many families cannot handle an extra expense for a vacation.

Airlines are reducing their flight schedules; travel demand is decreasing; and international tourism into the United States is dropping rapidly.

Sadly, this administration demonstrates that it does not care about

the cost of living when I hear President Trump say: "I love the inflation."

My hope is for my fellow Americans to have the opportunity to make new memories with their families without having to make concessions due to rising costs around every corner. This is a priority that we must address.

HONORING LOYD ARDREY

(Mr. NORMAN of South Carolina was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Loyd Ardrey of South Carolina. Loyd was renowned throughout Rock Hill as a central part of the community and was deeply beloved by all those who encountered him.

Loyd grew up in Rock Hill and attended Winthrop Training School before graduating from Rock Hill High School. He attended Spartanburg Junior College and then served our great Nation in the United States National Guard.

After his time of service, Loyd returned home to work in the printing industry with his father at Record Printing. He was successful in the printing business, eventually opening his own company, Regal Graphics, where he worked for many years.

It was in 2003 that Loyd first established Ebenezer Grill. Under his leadership, The Grill, as it was known, quickly became a famous establishment in both Rock Hill and the entire State.

Loyd was known as the owner of the best hot dog and barbecue place in town, and The Grill became a household name. Under his direction, the restaurant attracted customers from all over with its incredible food, low prices, and welcoming atmosphere.

Loyd himself was the magic behind it all, welcoming anyone, with the utmost generosity and kindness. Whether it was young people, businesspeople, or construction workers, he was a true friend to all.

Loyd was also a quiet philanthropist. Ever humble, he quietly supported Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen, Haven Men's Shelter, and many other important causes throughout the community. He would annually host a hot dog-eating contest on the Fourth of July, where all the proceeds went to charity.

Loyd was a man of deep faith. He faithfully attended Westminster Presbyterian Church and was committed to the Sunday school community there.

Mr. Loyd Ardrey passed away on May 15 of this year at the age of 77. Since his passing, hundreds have spoken about the deep impact he made on their lives. His legacy is truly undeniable.

I am honored to recognize Mr. Loyd Ardrey for a life that was well lived.

CELEBRATING IMMIGRANT HERITAGE MONTH

(Ms. BARRAGÁN of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, it is Immigrant Heritage Month. This month, we celebrate what millions of Americans have been cheering: The remarkable success of the United States men's national soccer team at the World Cup.

Across our country, families have gathered in living rooms and restaurants to watch Team USA compete on the world's biggest stage.

As our national team inspires our country, the Trump administration has chosen a different message. Just days ago, the Department of Homeland Security posted social media messages featuring members of Team USA alongside slogans such as "Defend the Homeland" and "Built the Wall."

Think about that irony. The administration pushed anti-immigrant messaging by using the very images of a team whose success shows the very value of immigration.

Many of the players on Team USA are immigrants or are children of immigrants. Several players were born outside the United States or hold dual citizenship. Their stories span continents, cultures, and generations.

This is not a weakness of America. That is America. One of our team's star scorers, Folarin Balogun, is a perfect example. He was born in Brooklyn while his Nigerian parents were temporarily living in New York. Under the Constitution of the United States, he became an American citizen at birth. Today, he wears our Nation's jersey. He scores goals for our country.

Yet, the same administration celebrating our players is trying to end birthright citizenship, the very principle that made Balogun an American in the first place.

Now, this issue extends far beyond soccer. The Trump administration has pursued policies that make it harder for people to come here legally, harder for families to reunite, harder for refugees to find safety, and harder for talented students and workers to build their futures in our country.

Across the country, communities continue to experience ruthless immigration enforcement actions that separate families, create fear, and leave children wondering whether a parent will come home at the end of the day.

We should ask ourselves simple questions: Who are we losing? Who never gets the chance?

Maybe it is the next star striker who would score the winning goal for Team USA.

Maybe it is the Nobel Prize-winning scientist who would discover a cure for a devastating disease, like Katalin Kariko, who immigrated from Hungary to the United States for a postdoctoral fellowship. Her research made the COVID-19 vaccine possible.

Maybe it is Omar Yaghi, an immigrant born to a Palestinian refugee family living in Jordan, who immigrated to the United States at 15. Professor Yaghi, of UC Berkeley, received a Nobel Prize in chemistry last year.