

Center, but his impact goes far beyond the local community. In 1993 he co-founded the Comprehensive Advanced Life Support Program. Today, nearly all of Minnesota's designated trauma hospitals rely on the CALS Program to train medical personnel for life-threatening emergencies.

Dr. Carter's decades of clinical excellence, innovation, and educational leadership have saved countless lives and transformed emergency care across rural America.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. Carter for 54 years of dedicated service to his community.

CELEBRATING ENOCH HORTON, FINALIST FOR
NASA'S HUNCH PROGRAM

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Enoch Horton, a rising senior at Wadena-Deer Creek High School, who recently represented Minnesota on the national stage.

Enoch became his school's first finalist for the prestigious NASA HUNCH program. Out of thousands of students across 34 States, Enoch advanced to the final design reviews at the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

Enoch designed and presented an AI-powered satellite project aimed at improving orbital sustainability and expanding access to space research.

Enoch's achievement is a testament to his hard work and ingenuity. He has proven that big ideas and groundbreaking innovation can come from any corner of our great Nation.

Congratulations to Enoch on a remarkable achievement.

CELEBRATING SOO HAK KWON'S
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

(Mr. CISNEROS of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and uplift a major milestone achieved by an outstanding member of California's 31st Congressional District.

Congratulations to Soo Hak Kwon for graduating high school at the young age of 91 years old. Soo was a Korean-American businessowner who immigrated to Los Angeles in 1972 and moved to La Puente with his family in 1980.

He always enjoyed learning but never had the time to start taking classes because he was busy raising his family and operating a local TV repair and wig shop.

That all changed when he enrolled at Bassett Adult School 5 years ago. Last week, he received his high school diploma in his cap and gown. His teachers say Soo has a kind, warm presence that makes other students feel welcome, and he lit up every classroom he walked into.

Soo is an inspiration to our community, and he should be so proud of himself. He has reminded us all that education truly is a lifelong process.

GLENDORA BASEBALL DIVISION III REGIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIP.

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Glendora High School baseball team on pulling off an incredible comeback victory in the Division III regional championship.

Mr. Speaker, it takes grit, determination, and focus to pull off an upset win when the cards are stacked against you, and that is exactly what they demonstrated.

It is an incredible feat to win eight straight playoff games in a row. They accomplished that through teamwork and dedication to athletic excellence.

What a perfect way to cap off a great season. I congratulate them on winning a CIF championship.

Mr. Speaker, I hope they enjoy their win and know that our entire district is so proud of their accomplishment.

ALL CHILDREN DESERVE EDUCATION

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with grave concern about disturbing actions taken by our country's leadership.

The Trump administration has announced plans to move the office of overseeing special education services out of the Department of Education.

With this development, the Department of Education has hollowed itself out by delegating the vast majority of its functions to other agencies.

The President is so determined to dismantle our education systems that he is willing to put millions of students at risk and completely abandon our children with disabilities.

As a proud champion for students with special needs, I am horrified that this decision will undermine accountability and disrupt communication for families and school officials who need help.

We should be investing in and expanding special needs programs across the country so that all children can get the support they need and the education they deserve.

Instead, this administration has made the cruel decision to shut our most vulnerable students out from the programs that they rely on. This is a reprehensible action from a corrupt administration. I will do everything in my power to oppose this shameful decision and protect our disabled students' rights.

ANNIVERSARY OF OBERGEFELL V. HODGES

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the anniversary of Obergefell v. Hodges this week, the landmark Supreme Court decision that affirmed marriage equality as law of the land over a decade ago.

We honor this anniversary every year during Pride Month by remembering the activists, couples, and lawmakers who had the courage to fight for their right to love whom they love in the face of hate, discrimination, and injustice. Their relentless advocacy and conviction paved the way for marriage equality.

I am so grateful to live in a world where every LGBTQ+ individual who

calls California's 31st District their home has the right to marriage.

I will always fight to protect their right to equality and to live freely and happily as their most authentic self.

WISHING POLICE CHIEF ROBERT
NOBLE OF YORKTOWN POLICE
DEPARTMENT A HAPPY RETIREMENT

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

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Yorktown Police Chief Robert Noble on his retirement after more than three decades of public service.

Chief Noble's career has been defined by commitment, sacrifice, and an unwavering sense of duty. For more than 30 years in law enforcement, including nearly a decade as chief, he led the Yorktown Police Department with professionalism and steady leadership.

For Chief Noble, policing was never simply a job, it was a vocation. He described the department as a second family and fostered a culture of trust, respect, and community engagement.

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Throughout his tenure, he strengthened community policing initiatives, expanded school-based programs, and guided the department through the COVID-19 pandemic and other challenging moments, including the loss of an officer.

Beyond his accomplishments, Chief Noble will be remembered for his integrity, his leadership, and his dedication to keeping Yorktown safe.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Bobby, his family, and the entire Yorktown Police Department. I extend my deepest gratitude for his decades of service. May his retirement be filled with some well-earned rest and time with his loved ones.

REMEMBERING CARMINE CAPONIGRO

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Carmine Caponigro, a distinguished oral surgeon, veteran, educator, and devoted family man who passed away earlier this month.

A native New Yorker, Carmine was born in Brooklyn and raised in the Bronx, where he embodied the American Dream. As the first in his family to attend college, he earned degrees from Fordham University and New York University College of Dentistry before proudly serving our Nation in the United States Army.

After his military service, he made Rockland County his home, where he built a respected oral surgery practice, served as chief of dental service at Good Samaritan Hospital, and helped educate future dental professionals. His commitment to excellence earned him the Sister Joseph Rita Good Samaritan Award for Medical Excellence.

Beyond his many professional accomplishments, Carmine will be remembered most for his kindness, humility,

sharp intellect, and deep love for his family. He valued service, lifelong learning, and treating every person with dignity and respect.

His beloved wife of 72 years, Lydia, his children, and the entire Caponigro family are in our thoughts and prayers. Mr. Speaker, may God bless Carmine's memory and may his legacy continue to inspire generations to come.

HONORING BILL RITTER

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great New Yorker, Bill Ritter, whose decades of work in broadcast journalism have earned him the respect and admiration of viewers across our region. As he and his family face his recent diagnosis of early-stage Alzheimer's disease, I join countless New Yorkers in offering my prayers, support, and deep gratitude for all he has given to our communities.

For decades, Bill has been a trusted presence in New York homes. As the longtime anchor of WABC's Eyewitness News, he built a career defined by integrity, thoughtful storytelling, and an unwavering commitment to keeping the public informed.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have had the opportunity to join Bill on his program where every conversation reflected his fairness, professionalism, and respect for others. Even as he steps away from the anchor desk, Bill continues to lead with courage and purpose by raising awareness about Alzheimer's disease and helping families facing the same journey.

Mr. Speaker, Bill; his wife, Kathleen; his children; and his entire family are in our thoughts and prayers. We are deeply grateful for Bill's decades of service, his friendship, and his voice in our public life.

Mr. Speaker, may God bless Bill and his family, and may He grant him strength, peace, and comfort in the days ahead as he sets out to battle Alzheimer's.

RECOGNIZING WATSON PADOVANI

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a truly inspiring young New Yorker from Somers, 5-year-old Watson Padovani, who is showing all of us that you are never too young to make a difference in your community.

Earlier this June, Watson held his third annual lemonade stand outside of Bobo's Cafe in Somers, raising more than \$2,000 for Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation, which supports children and families battling childhood cancer. What began as a simple act of kindness has now become a growing tradition of compassion and service.

The Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation was inspired by the legacy of young Alex Scott, who began raising money with a simple lemonade stand in her fight against childhood cancer.

Today, Watson is helping carry that mission forward, one that has raised millions for pediatric cancer research and brought hope to countless families across the country.

Mr. Speaker, to Watson and his family and the entire Somers community that came together to support this effort, I thank them for setting such a powerful example of kindness, generosity, and community spirit.

RECOGNIZING THE '76 HOUSE IN TAPPAN, NEW YORK

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the Hudson Valley's most historic landmarks, the '76 House in Tappan, New York.

Established in 1686 and expanded in 1755, it is widely known as America's oldest tavern. Mr. Speaker, '76 House stood at the center of a growing community.

On July 4, 1774, local leaders gathered to draft and sign the resolutions of Orangetown, one of the first declarations of independence in American history, helping to lay the foundation for the freedoms we celebrate today.

During the Revolutionary War, '76 House welcomed some of the most important figures in our Nation's founding, including George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, and the Marquis de Lafayette. It also played a role in a pivotal moment of the war, including the trial of Major John Andre, a turning point that reshaped the course of the Revolution.

Today, it remains a living piece of American history, offering a direct connection to the people and events that defined our independence and reflecting the enduring spirit of freedom in the Hudson Valley. As we celebrate America's 250th birthday, I am proud to recognize the Old '76 House's legacy and its role in preserving our Nation's story for generations to come.

HONORING MIKHAIL TORRANCE

(Mr. FIGURES of Alabama was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. FIGURES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to pay honor and tribute to one of the best that my hometown has ever had to offer: Mikhail Torrance.

An incredible young man, who tragically and suddenly passed away last week at the age of just 37 years old. He was a young man whose passing has unleashed a tidal wave of shock and disbelief and raw grief and emotion back home.

I am from Mobile, Alabama. It is the same hometown as Mikhail. It is a place that has produced arguably the best historical collection of athletic talent of almost any city in this country. We have had a number one pick in an NBA draft, an NFL draft, dozens of professional ballplayers, dozens of NCAA champions, NBA, Super Bowl, World Series champions, and six pro sports Hall of Famers, and that number will grow. In fact, just last night, we further added to that legacy with the first round draft pick in the NBA of Labaron Philon, Jr.

Saying someone is among the best to come from my hometown in any sport is not something that can be said light-

ly at all, but it is something that can honestly be said about Mikhail.

I am a few years older than Mikhail, so I was already in college at the University of Alabama when he was coming up through Mary G. Montgomery High School, but I remember when I found out that the University of Florida was recruiting him. It really surprised me because I had not heard of him much before that point. This is at a time when Florida was in the midst of winning back-to-back national championships, and so I called his high school coach, John Davis, who happened to be one of my high school coaches at LeFlore, and I asked him was this kid really that good. Without hesitation, and with the grin that a coach has when he knows he has a workhorse on his team, he said: Yeah, he is. But he also said: But he is a really good kid.

Mikhail ended up coming out as a top recruit in the State of Alabama, ended up going to the University of Alabama where he did everything that was asked of him. He did it the right way. Every single year, he got better. He waited his turn, and by the time he came out, he was an all-conference player, excelled in the pre-draft process, and by all accounts was headed to the NBA.

But he had a heart condition that was discovered and it cost him his shot at playing in the league. Imagine that, being 21 years old and on the pathway to fulfilling a childhood dream and having done everything the right way. This kid didn't have so much as a rumor of a blemish on his character or his reputation, and then that dream was suddenly taken away because of a medical condition. It was tough for him, but he pivoted.

He was able to ultimately play pro ball overseas for a few years before returning home to Alabama to his wife, Jessica, and their two girls, Maci and McKenna, ages 11 and 7. He worked at the Army Corps of Engineers and in real estate, but he still stayed close to the game that he loved so much through coaching and training kids and hosting camps and refereeing local basketball games, even doing play-by-play announcing of televised college games and also doing motivational speaking, giving his testimony, sharing his pain, his struggle, his journey to inspire younger guys to continue to persevere and be better, even better than he was.

As we know, life isn't always fair, and horrible things happen. Now, we sit here in this seemingly unreal moment, and his wife and kids suddenly find themselves in a club that no one wants to be a part of. Unfortunately, I, too, am a member of that club. Coincidentally, just like his daughters, I was 11 when my father suddenly passed, and my younger brother was 7. Having been in those shoes, I can tell you that as much as it sucks being in that club, you ironically end up in another club that a lot of people actually aspire to be in, and that is the club of having a father or a husband whose life will be