

Before joining her firm, she served as a public defender for Cass County. In that role, she achieved the dismissal of a double-murder charge against a court-appointed client who had been wrongly accused.

She is a graduate of Creighton University School of Law. She consistently rises to the occasion and goes above and beyond for her clients.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize her accomplishments and commend her as one of Nebraska's most skilled rural criminal defense attorneys.

CELEBRATING RURAL LAWYER DOUG STRATTON

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize an often-overlooked segment of our legal profession: rural lawyers.

Across our First District and in communities throughout our State, rural lawyers represent the very best of the profession, selfless service, and meaningful local impact.

□ 1015

Today, I highlight and detail the larger-than-life career of Doug Stratton of Norfolk. Doug's focus areas include criminal defense, civil litigation, as well as domestic work.

Many of you may have already heard of Doug through his breakthrough re-litigation of the Beatrice Six. In sum, thanks to his belief in his clients' wrongful conviction and new evidence, Doug was able to award the defendants nearly \$30 million from the United States Supreme Court.

A native of northeast Nebraska, Doug worked as a small-town lawyer after he earned his J.D. from Yale Law School. Even when big-town law firms came to him to take up cases, Doug continuously worked on behalf of rural Nebraskans.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to highlight Doug's remarkable career and reputation.

RECOGNIZING RURAL LAWYER BRE FLAHERTY

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an often overlooked segment of our Nation's legal profession: rural lawyers.

Across our First District and in many of our communities, rural lawyers represent the very best of the profession: selfless service and meaningful local impact.

Today, I highlight the work of Norfolk's own Bre Flaherty. Through her career at the Platte County Attorney's Office, Bre built a strong reputation for excellence and community service, earning her appointment earlier this year as a county court judge in Nebraska's Fifth Judicial District.

Her professionalism, grit, and passion for juvenile law have all paved the way for success in serving fellow Nebraskans. Earning her J.D. from the University of Nebraska College of Law, she has remained engaged in giving back to the communities and the experiences that shaped her.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored to highlight Bre's work. I remember her

as a mock trial student when I was the team coach. She should be celebrated for her community service and her integrity, which continue to guide her career.

RECOGNIZING RURAL LAWYER TIM WOLLMER

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an often overlooked segment of our Nation's legal profession: rural lawyers. Across our First District and in many of our communities, rural lawyers represent the very best of the profession: selfless service and meaningful local impact.

Today, I highlight the distinguished career of Tim Wollmer of David City with a practice spanning family law, business matters, civil litigation, estate planning, criminal defense, and more.

Tim's integrity and steadfast commitment to the truth exemplify the vital role lawyers play in their communities. As an attorney, Tim has provided essential legal services to central and eastern Nebraska for more than 17 years, helping individuals and families navigate complex legal and financial matters.

A graduate of Creighton University School of Law, Tim has earned the trust and the respect of the David City community and the surrounding areas.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Tim's accomplishments and his service today on the House floor.

EXTEND TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS FOR SALVADORANS

(Mr. RASKIN of Maryland was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, in Maryland's beautiful Eighth Congressional District, Montgomery County, Maryland, something shocking is about to happen.

In 1 week, tens of thousands of people in our community will lose their Salvadoran temporary protected status. They will lose their work authorizations, and many will lose the careers that they have worked hard to build here, packing up whatever belongings they can fit into a couple of suitcases. They may be separated from the rest of their families and forced to return to a country where they will face violence and human rights violations. Their departure will create great dislocation and heartbreak in many neighborhoods.

For the past 25 years, Salvadoran TPS holders have raised their families here and sent their kids to our schools, started small businesses, and added to the vibrant culture of Maryland's Eighth District.

They have believed in America, and they form an essential part now of our communities. The Free State is the third-largest population of Salvadoran TPS holders in America. Every year, the 23,000 of them who call our State home contribute an estimated \$732 million to our community. They have been a powerful driver of our prosperity.

One of my Salvadoran constituents who obtained TPS and arrived in Maryland when she was just a baby has built an outstanding career here as an educator at an elementary school where she herself went to school in the only State and in the only country she has ever known.

As a product of Montgomery County Public Schools, she is proud to give back to the community that helped her family establish a life in the United States. She hopes to keep educating the next generation of leaders. Yet the looming end of TPS next week threatens to strip her away from her students. The abrupt revocation of her status also threatens to separate her from her U.S. citizen spouse.

Another constituent also arrived in Maryland as a child. After escaping brutal poverty in El Salvador, she went on to achieve success by providing professional cleaning services to households throughout our community. She has been an active member of her local church and congregation. With her TPS designation now in question, she worries about having to abandon her livelihood, her family, and the community she loves. She does not know what the future holds.

Other hardworking Salvadorans have played an important role in the growth of one of Montgomery County's finest paint manufacturing companies. In their many years working for the company, these constituents have made impressive use of their work authorizations.

They manage business affairs for the company, test its new paint formulas, and efficiently facilitate the delivery of products to doorsteps across our community.

These neighbors have enriched the social, economic, and cultural life of our State. Their loss will be felt in classrooms left without teachers, un-built houses, renovations unfinished, landscaping projects abandoned, friendships severed, and families deprived of breadwinners and loved ones.

The Trump administration, if you are listening, please extend this vital program. Do not turn a blind eye to what is taking place. America has always served as an asylum for humanity. As Tom Paine said, it is a place of refuge for hardworking people fleeing economic, intellectual, political, religious repression and poverty from all over the world.

The administration should extend TPS and assure Salvadorans of their place in our community.

REMEMBERING FRANK BEARD OF ZZ TOP

(Mr. NEHLS of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, a true Texas legend, Rock & Roll Hall of Famer and the heartbeat of ZZ Top for more than 50 years, Frank Beard.

Frank passed away on August 17, 2026, in Richmond, Texas, at his ranch,

surrounded by his family. He is now reunited with ZZ Top's base player, Dusty Hill.

As a teenager, Frank picked up the drums, and he never looked back. From 1966 to 1968, Frank played alongside Dusty Hill in the band American Blues before the two of them joined up with Billy Gibbons and formed the iconic band ZZ Top and made history.

In 1970, that classic trio, Billy, Dusty, and Frank, played their first show at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Beaumont, Texas. From that night on, the trio stayed together for over half a century, putting out hit after hit and entertaining millions of fans all over the world.

Frank's steady Texas backbeat was the foundation of that sound. He kept ZZ Top's rhythm locked in for more than 50 years.

Billy Gibbons said it best: "The world lost one of the most naturally innovative drummers and a great and true son of Texas."

I know Frank is deeply missed by his wife, Debbie, his three children, the whole ZZ Top family, and fans all over the world.

Frank Beard will always be a staple of Texas and rock and roll history.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I will miss seeing my friend, Frank, on the golf course and riding around in his sports car in Pecan Grove. Rest in peace. May God bless him.

OPERATION MIDWAY BLITZ ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of 1 year since the Federal Government under the Trump administration invaded Chicago, an American city, through Operation Midway Blitz.

President Trump was elected promising to go after "the worst of the worst," but what we saw in Chicago was a spree of violence committed by masked goons against nonviolent citizens who overwhelmingly had no criminal records.

These Federal agents racially profiled people, pepper-sprayed neighborhoods, ripped families apart, and conducted military-style raids all to please much of the racist MAGA base. They did it all solely based on the color of a person's skin or the work they did: construction workers, landscapers, and street vendors like the beloved woman outside my district office who simply sold tamales.

Then they held these people in appalling conditions at the Broadview ICE Processing Center and beat those who protested outside.

ICE agents killed Silverio Villegas Gonzalez after he dropped his children off at school and then blatantly lied about it. Border Patrol Agent Charles Exum shot Marimar Martinez, a Montessori teacher, five times and bragged

about it. All of this violence was brought on by their own government. It is shameful.

Donald Trump and his top officials, including white supremacist Stephen Miller, tried to take our dignity and divide our community, but they failed.

The people of Chicago organized. We armed ourselves with whistles, phones, and our U.S. Constitution. We looked after each other. Rapid response organizers kept the community informed. Volunteers organized walking groups and carpools to get our children safely to school. Churches and nonprofits delivered groceries for those who were afraid to leave their homes.

In the face of this massive opposition, the Federal Government largely backed down. One year later, people in Chicago are stronger, but many remain fearful and traumatized. Many of these agents continue to operate with impunity and no respect for due process.

However, efforts to hold these agents accountable are moving forward. These criminals cannot continue free and immune after the heinous acts they committed while working under DHS. Operation Midway Blitz serves as a tragic example of why DHS cannot be reformed. It is a rogue, lawless agency built to harm us. It must be dismantled, and in its place, we must rebuild an immigration system that keeps us safe and honors humanity.

When Democrats take over Congress and ultimately the White House, we must act. It has been over 40 years since immigration reform, and we are seeing what that is doing and has done to communities under this administration.

Communities like mine can no longer wait.

HONORING RAUL MUNOZ

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Raul Munoz, a beloved community member, entrepreneur, and cultural steward whose work contributed to my community's gastronomic richness.

Raul helped make Little Village the vibrant center of Mexican culture and community that we know today. He first became connected to Taquerias Atotonilco while delivering ingredients in the early 1970s, eventually purchasing the restaurant and ensuring its authentic flavors remain a part of 26th Street, cementing it as one of Little Village's most enduring institutions.

Raul's legacy is more than his restaurant. It is about family, hard work, and the enduring connection between heritage and community. Raul showed that even when people leave their homeland, we never leave our culture behind. We carry it with us and root it in our communities just like Raul did.

Mr. Speaker, my thoughts are with Raul's family and loved ones. May he rest in peace, and may his legacy live on in the community he helped build.

□ 1030

CATHERINE WATTS CELEBRATES 100TH BIRTHDAY

(Mr. CLINE of Virginia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Catherine Watts of Buchanan, Virginia, who celebrated her 100th birthday on August 17, 2026.

For 100 years, Catherine's life has been rooted in Buchanan. She has built a life defined by faith, family, hard work, and service to her community.

For more than 75 years, she has been a devoted member of Trinity United Methodist Church, serving on committees, singing in the choir, and continuing to give back to her church and her community.

Catherine spent 45 years with Lee's Carpets and Burlington Industries, raised a family, and served organizations throughout the region.

She and her late husband, Joseph, shared 53 years of marriage and raised a family grounded in faith and strong values. Catherine says: "God has been good to me." Her life is a testament to those blessings.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Catherine Watts on 100 remarkable years and wishing her continued health and happiness.

RECOGNIZING PHOENIX WOOD 16U FASTPITCH SOFTBALL TEAM

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Virginia Phoenix Wood 16U Fastpitch softball team of Vinton, Virginia, for capturing the 2026 USA Softball One True National Championship. These talented young women completed an undefeated tournament run, averaging 10 runs per game, while outscoring their opponents 67-9, and finishing with an outstanding .490 team batting average.

This outstanding team includes Alexis McFarland, Lilly Gillispie, Addie Lowry, Tinley Humphries, Averi Fuller, Heidi Dixon, Jocelyn Weddle, Morgan Smith, Elissa Caricofe, Madelynn Ray, Katelyn Mills, Olivia Pierce, Kenley Cundiff, Gianna Pitzer, Zoe Sartin, Emma Sartin, Madison McDaniel, Ava DeJesus, Matilyn Gouldthorpe, and Ashleigh Johnson.

I also commend Head Coach Allen Wood and Assistant Coaches Kassie Brammer and Ashley McCallum for their exceptional leadership and dedication to these young women.

I congratulate the Virginia Phoenix on this remarkable achievement. Their hard work, sportsmanship, and perseverance have brought great pride to Vinton, to the Roanoke Valley, and the Commonwealth of Virginia. I wish them continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE STRASBURG HIGH FOOTBALL TEAM

Mr. CLINE. I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to recognize an extraordinary achievement by a high school football program from the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. The Strasburg High School Rams captured the first State football championship in their school history, defeating Glenvar High School 49-27 in the