

Tim served as a vital nexus for the Spokane VET Court and Spokane Veterans Forum. By focusing on treatment, VA integration, and peer mentorship, he created a program that has graduated over 500 veterans and reduced the local veteran recidivism rate to 5 percent. This statistic represents real lives transformed and peace restored to hundreds of military families.

Tim Fitzgerald's devotion to duty began long ago. He dedicated three decades to the United States Marine Corps, retiring as a colonel after crucial leadership deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. He brought that same elite leadership to county government, earning recognition as Washington State's Clerk of the Year in both 2017 and 2022.

A true gentleman and proud graduate of the Virginia Military Institute, Tim embodies the highest traditions of public service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Tim and wishing him and his wife, Tracy, the best in the next chapter of their lives.

RECOGNIZING FERRIS HIGH SCHOOL'S FOOTBALL
HEAD COACH BILLY NEWMAN

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ferris High School's football team for naming a new head coach, Billy Newman, and I congratulate them on their first win of the season on Friday.

Billy Newman brings more than two decades of coaching experience and strong ties to the Spokane community. I remember him as a standout football player for Washington State University, and I appreciated Coach Newman when he coached my son in AAU basketball.

Billy's appointment reflects Ferris High School's commitment to strengthening its football program through character development and meaningful partnership with students, staff, and the broader community.

Billy said upon becoming the coach: "This football program will be built on school and community pride. It is an honor to represent our school, our families. . . ."

I wish the Saxons and all the high school football teams of eastern Washington success as they take on what looks to be a great football season.

I wish good luck to the players, coaches, and the entire family, and, once again, I congratulate Coach Newman and the Ferris boys' football team on that first win of the season.

HONORING LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. CHARLES
"CHARLIE" ROBERT WOLFE

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Charles "Charlie" Robert Wolfe, a longtime physician, public servant, and member of the Spokane community who passed away on September 7 at the grand old age of 94.

After earning his medical degree from the University of Nebraska, Dr. Wolfe served as an Army physician in Okinawa, attaining the rank of captain. He and his wife, Patricia, eventu-

ally settled in the Spokane Valley where he spent three decades caring for patients and strengthening the local healthcare system.

Dr. Wolfe helped establish the first full-time staffing of the Valley General Hospital emergency department and wrote Washington State's first emergency services manual. He later became a founding partner of Occupational Medicine Associates and served as a physician for Kaiser Aluminum.

His commitment to service extended beyond medicine. Charlie served in the Washington State House of Representatives, was a delegate to the Republican National Convention that nominated Ronald Reagan, and devoted years to causes including the Union Gospel Mission and Christian education.

I extend my condolences to the family, and I join all of Congress in celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. Charles Robert Wolfe. God bless you.

LESSONS ON NEW MEXICO'S HISTORY

(Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ of New Mexico was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to provide a history lesson. In 1598, New Mexico got its name. In 2026, Donald Trump's Presidency is the most unpopular of any President. His Iran war has pushed diesel prices to record levels, and his tariffs have cost Americans thousands.

How does he address the affordability crisis he created?

It is by slapping a New America label on the State of New Mexico. Let me give Mr. Trump a history lesson. New Mexicans are proud of our name and proudly patriotic. New Mexican soldiers fought in the Revolutionary War. We defeated the Confederacy at Glorieta Pass and stopped slavery's westward march. We fought for civil rights.

A New Mexican won the Supreme Court case declaring that Native Americans had the right to vote in every election everywhere.

While Trump makes billions off his Presidency and tries to gut Head Start, New Mexicans have universal childcare, free college, and no child will go hungry in our classrooms.

We have multicultural bilingual education that celebrates our diversity in a State that is 49 percent Latino, 11 percent Native American, and has some of the best ranchers and dairy farmers anywhere.

Hardworking New Mexicans are the opposite of the gold-collared, corrupt politicians who cater to Trump no matter how crazy he acts.

Mr. Trump, New Mexico has been New Mexico since before you got to these shores, and we will always be New Mexico.

MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING INDIAN
BOARDING SCHOOL VICTIMS

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sep-

tember 30, 2026, as National Day of Remembrance to honor those who were forced to attend Indian boarding schools and to recognize Indian boarding school victims and survivors.

Across New Mexico, there were 52 Indian boarding schools where Native American children were forced to relinquish their own indigenous heritage and language.

I call upon my colleagues to support H.R. 7325, the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States Act, to formally investigate, document, and report on boarding schools, their policies, and the generational effects on Native American peoples.

We must support the healing of survivors, descendants, and Tribal communities. Many of the children never returned home to their families or their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for a moment of silence for those children who did not survive, and may they never be forgotten.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RANDY LUPE

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Randy Lupe, a wildland firefighter who helped protect New Mexico during the Frijoles fire.

A member of the San Carlos Apache Tribe, Randy came with California Complex Incident Management Team 8 as the fire threatened rural communities. He spent 10 days supporting the response, carrying with him nearly 30 years of experience.

Randy brought laughter to long assignments and faith to difficult moments. He prayed with his crew, lifted their spirits, stood up for his fellow firefighters, and lived by a simple creed: Do what is right.

Tragically, Randy died as a result of a medical emergency while serving our communities. He is one of 61 firefighters we have lost this fire season.

Northern New Mexico mourns Randy and honors his sacrifice. He answered the call when we needed him most. We will remember him as a hero.

HONORING CATHERINE GARDUNO

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Catherine Garduno who recently passed away in Penasco, New Mexico, at the age of 96.

Catherine embodied resilience, faith, service, and love of country. The youngest of 12 children born to a sheepherder and a cook, she became her family's first college graduate, earning an education degree from the College of St. Joseph in Albuquerque.

A letter to Senator Pete Domenici brought her to our Nation's Capital, an experience she shared throughout her 35 years as an elementary schoolteacher. She even taught my district director in third grade.

Widowed, Catherine raised six children with strength and devotion. A devout Catholic, she received the Archbishop of Santa Fe's St. Francis Award for Volunteer of the Year. Her legacy

passed down through her nephew, the late Raul Grijalva, and her great-niece, Congresswoman ADELITA GRIJALVA. Her courage, faith, hope, and love shaped generations.

RECOGNIZING MR. CARLOS M. SALAS

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

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a gentleman who represents the epitome of success in this great country where we just celebrated our 250th anniversary, Mr. Carlos Salas. Mr. Salas is with us today with his son, Martin, and his granddaughter, Gabriela. He is a remarkable man whose life is a powerful testament to perseverance, hard work, and living the American Dream.

Carlos was born in Argentina and grew up under an authoritarian regime. After his father's newspaper published editorials opposing the regime, Carlos and his family were forced to flee their home. Their journey took them across South America. Carlos later pursued an education in England where he learned English.

In 1955, after the regime's dictator was exiled, Carlos was finally able to return to Argentina. However, following a family tragedy, he found himself on his own at just 15 years of age. He supported himself by continuing his education, working at ports as a translator, and even playing billiards to make ends meet. He later entered the army in Argentina to fulfill his military obligation.

By age 19, Carlos was studying industrial engineering while becoming a well-known billiards and chess player at a local social club. His skills even gave him the opportunity to compete against recognized players like Bobby Fischer. After graduating, Carlos pursued both his engineering career and his entrepreneurial interests, working for a manufacturing firm while also owning the Eliot Ness Club.

During this time, Carlos married his wife, Ada Cristina Salas, an accomplished female engineer who worked on the development of rocket propellants. In 1971, they welcomed their first son Carlos Salas.

Then, in 1973, the regime's dictator returned to Argentina from exile. Once again faced with political uncertainty, Carlos and Cristina made the difficult decision to leave their homeland. This time, they set their sights on the United States of America.

In 1974, while Christina was pregnant with their second son, Martin Salas, Carlos and his family legally immigrated to Connecticut to pursue the American Dream.

Their beginnings in America were humble, but Carlos and his family embraced the freedom and opportunity this country offered them. They became active participants in democracy, including serving as delegates to the

Republican National Convention in 1994. Carlos proudly became a naturalized American citizen in 2011.

Carlos went on to build an impressive career in the color and paint industry. Drawing upon his engineering background and command of multiple languages, he directed international sales and helped bring advanced American color systems to markets all around the world. Through hard work, Carlos grew a \$200,000 division of a company into a \$20 million operation.

In 1993, he and his family made South Carolina their official home. Then, in 2001, the family took a leap of faith and went into business for themselves, purchasing their own paint equipment company. Together, they successfully grew and operated their manufacturing company for more than a decade before selling the business and retiring to the great State of South Carolina.

Carlos remains an active member of his community, including service with the Lions Club and the Schmoover Club. He has never lost his competitive spirit. He still enjoys chess, poker, and an occasional game of billiards. Most importantly, he is deeply loved by his family, including his children and his seven granddaughters.

It is impossible to capture the full measure of a man's life in just a few minutes, especially a life as remarkable as Carlos Salas' has been.

His story began under an authoritarian government and ultimately brought him to the freest and greatest nation on Earth, what we call America. This is the American Dream.

Mr. Speaker, Carlos has made South Carolina and our Nation better through his determination, ingenuity, and devotion to his family and community. It is a privilege to recognize him in the House of Representatives today.

ACKNOWLEDGING CONGRESSIONAL SPOUSES

(Mr. LARSON of Connecticut was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address my fellow townspeople of my hometown of East Hartford.

In what was a heartbreaking loss for them in the primary on September 11, I wanted to especially thank them for the number of thank-yous, the cards, and the media attention that I received from all of them from the bottom of their hearts.

Mr. Speaker, I also wanted to rise and at the same time acknowledge someone who rarely gets thanked. Mr. Speaker, I think this is true of most Members of Congress. The people who often don't get the praise they richly deserve are the spouses.

Having gone through several elections—having been here for what will be 28 years—I can't think of anyone who did more on behalf of me and my children and, frankly, the First Congressional District and this great country of ours than my wife, Leslie.

Why do I say that? Like most spouses, Mr. Speaker, they do their job quietly. They do it without recognition. They do it because of their belief in the spouse who is running, but also to nurture their children.

Oftentimes, they are viewed as an appendage. Oftentimes, they are the ones who don't get the attention, nor do they ever seek it.

My wife is a master gardener, and she is incredible. She knows more about soil and soil content and the right kind of fertilizer, and what to do. Our backyard and front yard are ablossom with flowers and vegetables that come from her nurturing and caring.

Do you know what, Mr. Speaker? None of those flowers or those plants or the gardening ever say thank you. They don't speak at all. What she reveals in is how she is able to take them from seedling to flowering—without a thank-you and without applause.

It is the same way that she has stood by me over all these many years of public life and, also, our children, who she had to nurture and to explain after September 11 what was happening in Washington, D.C., and whether Dad was okay.

It is spouses who give up so much of their lives on behalf of the elected officials that they represent. They do so willingly. They don't complain. They never seek the footlights. They never truly receive the thanks that they richly deserve.

More than a master gardener, my wife, Leslie, has been there for me and my children and has done so persistently, even when things have been tough and even when there is unfair scrutiny and expectation.

I don't think Congress does enough, Mr. Speaker, for our spouses. In fact, we seem to have done less and less over the 28 years that I have been here. There ought to be more recognition for the true sacrifice that they have made. I don't think there is a Member here in the body, married, unmarried, or whatnot, who can think of people who have sacrificed more than the loved ones who they represent.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today—and I will submit remarks later for the RECORD—to thank my wife, Leslie Larson, for her continued support and love for me but, as importantly, for her children, the community she lives in, the great State, and, of course, this great Nation we all love.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RODNEY EAGLE

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of Rodney Eagle, a true pillar of the Harrisonburg community. Rodney passed away just shy of his 90th birthday, leaving a lasting impression on the city he loved.

Rodney served our country honorably in the U.S. Marine Corps, achieving the