

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING ORLANDO ELKS LODGE 1079'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MAXWELL FROST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, today, I celebrate the significant contributions of Orlando Elks Lodge to the Central Florida region. Starting in New York City, The Elks organization has grown to over 1,900 lodges throughout the United States and Canada. The Orlando Elks Lodge was established in 1907 and is now celebrating over 100 years of service.

Every year, the Orlando Elks Lodge spends over \$50,000 on programs that benefit special needs children, nourish our marginalized communities, and support our veterans. They also contribute significantly to the Edgewater Children's Ranch to help children from the Central Florida community who come from vulnerable homes.

The Elks remain steadfast in their founding principle of charity, justice, brotherly love, and fidelity. I thank Orlando Elks Lodge for their century-long dedication and service. Their contributions make a profound difference in our community, and we are grateful for their support and commitment to make Central Florida a better place for all.

HONORING THE PINECREST PATRIOTS ON WINNING THEIR EIGHTH MENS GOLF STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Pinecrest Patriots Men's Golf team, Athletic Director Jeff Hewitt, and Principal Stefanie Phillips on winning their eighth North Carolina High School Athletic Association Championship (NCHSAA) 4A Men's Golf title.

The men of Pinecrest Highschool's golf team have brought this years NCHSAA championship back home to Southern Pines. The Patriots defeated the next closest competitor by 14 strokes, setting a new NCHSAA record.

The coaches and players of the Pinecrest Men's Golf Team have brought great pride to both their school and all of Moore County. I wish them all the best and hope to see them continue their great success next season. Go Patriots.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in congratulating the coaches and golfers of Pinecrest High School on their victory in this year's N.C. High School Athletic Association 4A Men's Golf State Championship.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF REP. GEORGE NETHERCUTT, FORMER CONGRESSMAN FOR WASHINGTON'S FIFTH DISTRICT

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of former Congressman George Nethercutt, who passed away recently.

Former Congressman George Nethercutt served in the United States House of Representatives from 1995 to 2005, representing Washington's Fifth Congressional District.

Congressman Nethercutt was an influential force who led with character and conviction and embodied what it truly means to be a member of Congress. He proudly served the Fifth District for a decade, traveling around the state and back and forth to D.C. to serve his constituents and deliver on issues important to our state. During his time in Congress, he sat on the House Appropriations Committee and co-founded the Congressional Diabetes Caucus.

After serving in Congress, Congressman Nethercutt spent much of his time working to promote civic education and government service among our younger generations, an effort that demonstrated his commitment to public service.

Congressman Nethercutt is a shining example of leadership for elected officials in Washington State and across the country. My thoughts are with his loved ones and our entire state as we mourn this incredible loss.

CONGRATULATING EDWARD LEWIS ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great Marylander: Ed Lewis. He and his wife, former Maryland Democratic Party Chair Yvette Lewis, are two of my dearest friends. After an impressive, decades-long career in communications and government relations, Ed recently decided to retire. We ought to pay tribute to his many accomplishments and contributions to our community over the years.

An expert communicator with a deep understanding of public policy, Ed started to hone his skills at Howard University, where he earned his bachelor's degree in journalism, and later at the University of Maryland, where he earned a master's degree in public policy management. Ed began his career as a reporter for the Memphis Commercial Appeal. While there, he helped come up with innovative new journalism tactics, developing a best

practices handbook for online interviews. Ed has always maintained strong ties to the journalism community. He was the first Black person to serve on the National Press Club's Board of Governors. From the National Press Club Journalism Institute to the Press Club's Speakers Committee to the Corporate Advisory Council of the National Press Foundation, he's held leadership positions at a variety of other press organizations. That includes his role as a founding member of the Washington Automotive Press Association.

Ed Lewis remains a towering figure in the public relations and automotive industries. He held senior positions at the Tire Industry Safety Council, the American Automobile Manufacturers Association, Nissan, Ford, and other leading automakers. For the past 18 years, Ed served as the Director of Public Policy Communications for Toyota. These companies always knew they could count on Ed to craft a compelling message and to distill complex policy into simple terms that the public could understand. Ed also cultivated close relationships with leading figures in government and the press that proved invaluable to his work. Whether it was handling crisis communications, navigating complex interactions between the public and private sectors, or helping guide high-level business decisions, Ed proved to be one of the very best professionals in his field.

Ed has received more honors and awards than I could ever list in full, but they include the Public Relations Society of America's Platinum Award and the National Press Club's Vivian Award—among many others.

What I most admire about Ed is his commitment to giving back to our community in Prince George's County. Although his corporate career may be coming to an end, I have no doubt that his commitment to serving Prince Georgians never will. I was pleased to see him and Yvette roll out their new Fresh Start initiative in partnership with Bowie State University just this past April. The program will provide financial aid to formerly incarcerated individuals to help them attend BSU. Ed and Yvette want to give these men and women an opportunity to build a better life as well as a better community for all. For that, they have our thanks.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all my colleagues join me in congratulating Ed on his retirement and in thanking him for his service to our community—service that will surely continue for many years to come.

FRANK WOLF'S COMPELLING REFLECTION ON THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN AND ADVANCE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, at home and overseas, Frank Wolf—my good

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

friend and former colleague here in the House of Representatives—has been an indefatigable defender of human rights and human dignity.

To add to the list of his many accomplishments, Frank recently finished his term on the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, which was established by the landmark International Religious Freedom Act he authored in 1998.

Upon completion of his term, Frank wrote a compelling reflection on what remains to be done to strengthen and advance our work to ensure religious believers worldwide can faithfully practice their beliefs. As Frank's profound insights provide an excellent blueprint for religious freedom advocates the world over, I include in the Record his statement in its entirety.

In May I finished my term on the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) and I want to offer some thoughts for action going forward which I believe could help promote religious freedom internationally and domestically.

The recently released Pew Survey on religious freedom reports that over 80% of the world's population lives in a religiously repressive environment, up from 70% in 2009. We see religious persecution in China, North Korea, Iran, Nicaragua, Cuba and many other countries. All one has to do is look at the 2024 USCIRF Annual Report, which documents that people of all faiths and beliefs are being persecuted in many places around the globe.

In our own country, we see troubling violations of religious freedom—Christian schools and churches facing threats, assaults on parental rights, the FBI visiting pro-life families, some businesses canceling people and organizations because of their political and religious beliefs, and Jewish students facing rampant antisemitism on American college campuses. We witness an insidious relativism that teaches that concepts of right and wrong are old-fashioned and even judgmental. Vices are elevated, virtues are mocked, and faith is squeezed out of the public square. Our culture is coarsened because of it.

The late Cardinal Francis George, former president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Archbishop of Chicago, predicted in 2012, "I expect to die in bed, my successor will die in prison, and his successor will die a martyr in the public square." At the time I thought this was alarmist, but seeing what is happening today, his statement gives me pause.

Cardinal George went on to say, "This tendency for the government to claim for itself authority over all areas of human experience flows from a secularization of our culture. If God cannot be part of public life, then the state itself plays God."

Chuck Colson warned us of many of these things in his later writings, especially "My Final Word," which was published posthumously and was almost prophetic about the world we now face.

I believe the following three ideas would help in the fight for international and domestic religious freedom.

First.

There should be a total ban on lobbying for China. One of the recommendations on China in the 2024 USCIRF Annual Report reads "The U.S. Congress should: Ban foreign lobbying by agents representing the Chinese government and its state-affiliated commercial entities that undermine religious freedom and related human rights." At the end of the China section, there is an additional view signed by all nine Commissioners, both Republican and Democrat, that shows how

China is involved in the persecution of all religious groups in their own country and shows their influence around the world. It states:

"It is imperative to ban lobbying for the Chinese government, its state-affiliated commercial entities, and their interests while the government continues its egregious acts of religious persecution. These harsh actions impact every faith group in China with the leaders of the Catholic Church and Protestant house churches imprisoned and even 'disappeared.' Cultural genocide devastates Tibet where Buddhist monks die in prison. Physical genocide ravishes Uyghur Muslims, with millions in detention camps and children taken from their parents. Organs are harvested from Falun Gong and Uyghurs, some while still alive. Hong Kong represses Christians, including 92-year-old Cardinal Zen. China's influence spreads worldwide. China supports Iran, which provided training and weapons for the attacks on Israel by Hamas and they supply arms to Hezbollah and the Houthis. China aids Russia in its war on Ukraine and supports North Korea, one of the world's worst religious persecutors. China supports both Nicaragua and Cuba where Christians are being aggressively persecuted. Concerns are rising over China threatening to attack Taiwan, which many experts believe may lead to direct U.S. involvement and the loss of American military lives. Amidst all of this, the words of 18th-century British parliamentarian William Wilberforce about the evils of the slave trade come to mind:

'You may choose to look the other way, but you can never say again that you do not know.' Congress cannot look the other way. For the good of our country and religious freedom worldwide, Congress must ban lobbying for the Chinese government and its interests."

Recently I attended the ROTC commissioning ceremony at the University of Virginia for all military service branches. I was impressed that these young men and women are stepping forward to serve our country. To think that anyone could lobby for an adversary like China that could lead us into war and put these young people in peril is unacceptable. There must be a total ban on lobbying for China.

Second.

Do everything possible to help and support groups like Alliance Defending Freedom, First Liberty, the Becket Fund, and other outstanding groups that pursue legal action in defense of religious freedom so they can bring more cases to protect individuals and groups facing religious discrimination and establish legal precedent that carries the weight of law. Frankly, these groups have been more effective than Congress in preserving religious freedom and they need the resources necessary to expand their work. This should include fighting the rapidly rising antisemitism we are seeing around the world.

We currently have the best Supreme Court we are likely to have for a generation. This is leading to dangerous efforts to pack the court which must be resisted. Religious freedom cases reaching the Supreme Court today are generally successful, but these cases can take up to five years to work their way through the courts. It is an expensive proposition to carry a case from pre-filing through many appeals and to the Supreme Court. That is why these groups need help and support for the long term.

Many people of faith are unaware that they can protect their First Amendment freedom of religion through the active use of the courts. Many people and houses of worship do not have the resources to bring cases on their own. The fact that people don't

know their rights, nor have the resources to defend those rights, encourages school boards, government agencies, the military, employers, and others to discriminate as they believe their actions will not be challenged.

For a more in-depth study of this, see Judge Ken Starr's excellent book, "Religious Liberty in Crisis."

Perhaps an 800-telephone number and email address could be set up and advertised on Christian and other religious media for people to contact for help with their religious discrimination complaints.

Third.

While many groups have their own government affairs outreach, which is good, many groups are too small to support their own lobbying efforts. I believe there should be a lobbying firm set up in Washington to focus entirely on international and domestic religious freedom issues. The firm should be staffed by former high-level Congressional Hill staffers from both the House and Senate who know the inner workings of the Congress and government agencies. These would be people who worked on key committees and in Senate and House leadership offices.

Working with religious freedom advocacy groups they would be another set of eyes and ears on the Hill, following and helping shape legislation dealing with international and domestic religious freedom. A board of directors made up of various religious freedom groups could oversee the work of this firm. I believe this would be a direct help to all groups working on these issues.

There have been very few successes lately on Capitol Hill to further religious freedom. In the international arena, some countries that have been designated by USCIRF as egregious violators of religious freedom have been given massive amounts of U.S. foreign aid and some have expensive lobbying efforts in Washington. USCIRF has worked in a bipartisan way and has been faithful in its mission of researching, reporting, and naming international religious rights violators. Yet at the same time, USCIRF has seen its budget frozen, even cut, and it has not received the necessary permanent or long-term reauthorization from Congress.

Having worked on religious freedom issues for many years, I believe these steps would make a significant difference here in the United States and around the world. I share these thoughts with the hope that the religious freedom community will take on some of these ideas to help advance the cause of religious freedom and improve the lives of those who are persecuted.

Frank Wolf, June 2024.

RECOGNIZING PAUL AND SANDY PIMENTEL

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Paul and Sandra "Sandy" Pimentel. Both raised in Quincy, Massachusetts, Paul and Sandy first met as kids and began a friendship that would last a lifetime and eventually grow into a marriage spanning five decades. After graduating high school, Paul went on to attend Harvard University, where he received a degree in engineering and applied physics, before serving in Vietnam as a lieutenant in the United States Army. Sandy went on to attend the University of Massachusetts Boston and the Lynn Hospital School of Nursing, where she respectively received her

Bachelor of Arts in management of human services and a degree in nursing. After Paul and Sandy got married in 1965, the young couple moved to Long Beach, California, while Paul completed his military training, before moving to Albion, Michigan, where the Pimentels settled for many years with their children. In Albion, Sandy and Paul became active in forums and discussions at their church regarding racial integration and inequality as the civil rights movement continued to progress. It was also during this time that Sandy became friends with Barbara Gladney, and together the Pimentels and Gladneys started a dinner club called the "Melting Pot." The multicultural social group gained such popularity that the dinners had to be moved to large event halls. After returning to Massachusetts, Sandy and Paul continued their important work advancing social change. Paul became the youngest Deputy Secretary of State for Massachusetts and helped to create Vineyard Power, a clean energy cooperative bringing offshore wind power to the Cape and Islands. Sandy served as the Director of Human Services for the Norfolk County District Attorney's office and received awards from the Department of Interior for her work implementing the Alliance Against Racism and Violence Program and from the State of California for her efforts to empower young people to address racism in their communities.

Sadly, we lost Paul too soon on February 5, 2019, at the age of 76. Beyond their professional achievements, what Paul and Sandy valued most during their 53 years of marriage was their family. Together they raised their five children, Lisa, Christopher, Susan, Courtney, and Joanie, and many foster children. The hallmark of the Pimentel family has always been their dedication to uplifting those in their community and willingness to provide a warm and welcoming home for those who need it most. Over the years, the Pimentels have established themselves as a pillar of the Martha's Vineyard community, serving on countless committees and boards for local organizations, including Martha's Vineyard Community Services and the Martha's Vineyard Diversity Coalition Board of Trustees. To celebrate Sandy and Paul's work and commitment to helping others, Martha's Vineyard Community Services is holding a dedication ceremony for the newly named Paul and Sandra Pimentel Early Childhood Center on June 26, 2024.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Paul and Sandy Pimentel, and I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking them and celebrating their dedication to supporting and advocating for those in their community.

CELEBRATING ROSEN HOTELS
AND RESORT'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MAXWELL FROST

FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, this month, I celebrate the significant contributions of Rosen Hotels to the Central Florida region. Starting with only one hotel, the Rosen organization has grown to over seven hotels, employing over 4,000 Central Floridians. The Rosen Ho-

tels were established starting in 1974 and are now celebrating 50 years of service.

Every year, the Rosen organization provides over 500 scholarships that benefit students in the Tangelo Park and Parramore areas. Most notably, Rosen Hotels has donated millions over its 50 years to creating the UCF Rosen School of Hospitality Management, which now ranks No. 1 in the Nation.

The Rosen hotels have provided employment, welcoming stays, and memories to last a lifetime for many Floridians. I thank Rosen Hotels, for 50 years of dedication and service. Their contributions make a profound difference in our community, and we are grateful for their support and commitment to make Central Florida a better place for all.

RECOGNIZING REAR ADMIRAL
DANA THOMAS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the accomplishments of Rear Admiral Dana Thomas as she retires from the United States Coast Guard this year. I applaud RADM Thomas for her dedication and service and congratulate her on this milestone.

Promoted to Rear Admiral (Upper Half) in March 2019, RADM Thomas has had an exemplary military career, previously serving seven years in the U.S. Coast Guard and seven years in the U.S. Army. She received her Doctor of Medicine and Master of Public Health degrees from George Washington University School of Medicine and Public Health, and her Bachelor of Science in Honors Biology from the University of Maryland, College Park. She completed Command and General Staff College in 2005. She served her Internship in General Surgery at Tripler Army Medical Center and her residency at the Naval Aerospace Medicine Institute.

From her work with the Centers for Disease Control and service on the Physician's Professional Advisory Committee to the U.S. Surgeon General, to her current role as Director of Health, Safety, and Work-life for the U.S. Coast Guard, RADM Thomas has continued her commitment to service and public health. Her experience, knowledge, and steadfast initiative have distinguished RADM Thomas as an outstanding leader who has exemplified honor, integrity, and professionalism throughout her career.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in leading this body in acknowledgement of the extraordinary contributions of Rear Admiral Dana Thomas. She has tirelessly devoted her time and expertise to the advancement of public health and I thank her for her honorable service to our great Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE ASSOCIATED
EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTORS

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge members of the Associated Equipment

Distributors from all over the country who came to D.C. for their annual fly-in. These great men and women are entrepreneurs who provide millions of pieces of equipment to all kinds of industries in our country every year that help our country's economy. They deserve our admiration and thanks. They certainly have mine.

HONORING RIP DANIELS' 30 YEAR
RUN ON JZ 94.5

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated broadcaster from Gulfport, Mississippi, Rip Daniels.

Rip Daniels has made a significant impact on the field of broadcasting through his diverse content and raw nature for 30 years. He is a trailblazer and an insightful commentator.

Mr. Daniels is the founder and CEO of radio station JZ 94.5, The People's Station. JZ 94.5 was the first and is the only black-owned FM station on the Gulf Coast. In its 30-year run, the show has featured guests such as former President Barack Obama.

Rip Daniels' impact on broadcasting is seen through his dedication and commitment to his craft. He has broadcast from his studio, on the road, and abroad, capturing stories from Senegal, Tanzania, South Africa, Greece, and more. He has also witnessed and provided coverage of notable events such as Obama's presidential inauguration and the Million Man March.

Beyond his broadcasting efforts, Mr. Daniels has launched a nonprofit called the People's Station Corporation. He is the CEO of the Almanette Restaurant and Hotel and the CEO of the American Blues Network, the Nation's only 24/7 blues broadcast station.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 30 years of JZ 94.5 as well as Rip Daniels' contributions to the field of broadcasting.

RECOGNIZING ERIC JENKINS

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Eric Jenkins, who was named Indiana Teacher of the Year.

An Indiana native, Eric teaches English at Franklin Community High School, a high school in my district. Those who know him say that Eric is dedicated to his students and passionate about instilling a love of reading.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Eric for his work to grow our next generation of leaders.

HONORING DREW HEDGE COE ON HIS THIRD CONSECUTIVE NCHSAA 3A CHAMPIONSHIP IN SINGLES TENNIS

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Drew Hedgecoe of Terry Sanford High School on winning his third consecutive NCHSAA 3A state championship in singles tennis.

On May 11, 2024, Drew defeated South Central freshman Shaw Akula 6–2, 6–3 to clinch the title. Due to his hard work and dedication, Drew is breaking records on the tennis court and could soon become the second tennis player in NCHSAA history to win four straight singles championships. Drew has made his school, and all of Cumberland County, extremely proud.

I wish Drew all the best and hope to see him make history on the court and bring home another state championship next season.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Drew Hedgecoe on winning his third consecutive NCHSAA 3A State Championship in singles tennis.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISSE HOULAHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 280.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF DAN FLAVIN

HON. CLAY HIGGINS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Daniel Flavin, a uniquely integral Southwest Louisiana community leader. Dan's career spanned business, politics, and philanthropy. No matter what his means were, he always worked to benefit those around him, his family, and God.

Dan's family moved to Lake Charles in 1972, where he attended and graduated from A.M. Barbe High School. Mr. Bill Flavin, Dan's Father, was a Veteran of the Korean War and an industrious, self-made man. Despite generous offers that would force his family to leave the Southwest Louisiana community they had come to love, he resigned from his job and founded what is now the renowned Flavin Realty Inc. Dan once recalled that even at 86, his father still came to work every day. Mr. Bill Flavin clearly endowed Dan with this impulse for hard work and integrity. The Flavins' principles are emblematic of Southwest Louisiana's grit and ingenuity.

Dan bought Flavin Realty from his father after graduating from McNeese State University, inheriting it just as he had his funda-

mental values. Under Dan's management, Flavin Realty steadily grew into the organization we know today: Southwestern Louisiana's eminent real estate firm. In recognition of his personal ability, Dan was twice awarded the Calcasieu Parish Realtor of the Year Award and was selected for leadership positions in Louisiana's top real estate associations. Dan always showed great humility in his achievements, always giving credit to family and God above all.

Throughout his life, Dan's personal integrity and dedication reached beyond his own interests, overflowing into the community. He gave generously to charity and local causes. In 1996, Dan brought his talents to the state legislature, where he served his beloved SWLA community. His decade-long tenure in the Louisiana House of Representatives was noted by constituents as an era of major victories and development. Representative Flavin's greatest legislative work came amid efforts to bolster the Port of Lake Charles. His concerted legislation and advocacy made the Port of Lake Charles our Nation's 10th largest, cementing an irreplaceable source of SWLA economic prosperity for years to come.

This unwavering dedication to community was surpassed only by Dan's intertwined love of family and God. After retiring from the state legislature in 2005, Dan spent the joyful final years of his life caring for the family business, surrounded by his wife Lisa and their six children, 20 grandchildren, and a community of friends. Dan's love of God, family, and community made him an exemplary Louisianan by any definition. His work was always conducted according to our state's unique intersection of government, business, and family values.

Dan is survived by a big, beautiful Louisiana family and a forever grateful community. On behalf of Louisiana's 3rd District, I thank Mr. Dan Flavin for his generous charity and lifelong service to Louisiana. As we continue to benefit from Dan Flavin's legacy, I pray the Lord blesses his family and grants his reward in Heaven.

HIGHLIGHTING LT. COL. JOHN D. STOCK

HON. MIKE GARCIA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a member of CA-27's Edwards Air Force Base who has served with passion for over 20 years. As a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force, John D. Stock has dedicated his life to serving our Nation and training the next generation of pilots.

John D. Stock's diligent service includes 3500 hours of flight time across two oceans and five continents. By executing successful operational missions, instructing pilots and aircrew personnel, and volunteering in his local community, his leadership has had a deep impact on the aviation community and beyond.

I want to thank Lieutenant Colonel John Stock for his dedication and service. Our community is better because of him, and I look forward to seeing how he continues to make an impact on those around him.

CONGRATULATING THE SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN ON ITS 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my hometown newspaper, the Santa Fe New Mexican, on its 175th Anniversary. The first issue of the paper was printed on November 28, 1849. The New Mexican has brought stories to life about gold strikes, floods, votes on prohibition, and debates on statehood. It has shared stories of the struggles and strength of the survivors of wildfires, informed voters about their local candidates, and anointed the best chile in the city. To keep democracy strong, it made sure voters understood the positions and perspectives of local candidates for office.

Stories matter, and who tells them matters just as much. That's why it's important that an independent paper with integrity, like the New Mexican, has been telling stories about our communities since it was founded. Papers like the New Mexican help us be well informed, active citizens.

In 2023, 34 reporters from the New Mexican won first place in the New Mexico Press Association Better Newspapers contest. Amongst the awards were best investigative reporting, best news writing, best feature photo, and best special section on the recovery from the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon fire in 2022.

Independent journalism is a crucial foundation of democracy. That's clear now more than ever, as we ward off fake news and alternative facts in the battle for our nation's very soul.

I still get a copy of the New Mexican delivered to my door every day. Their stories, from high school sports to national news are crucial to the work that I do. Most importantly, however, they are vital to the fabric of New Mexico.

I like to think that future generations will sit with their cup of cafe and turn the pages to learn about their hometown from the Santa Fe New Mexican.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK T. MCHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to cast my vote for H.R. 2789. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 282.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANN ARBOR MEALS ON WHEELS PROGRAM

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Ann Arbor Meals on Wheels on the occasion of 50 years of service to the

community. The care and service that they provide to homebound members of the greater Ann Arbor community is worthy of commendation.

Ann Arbor Meals on Wheels began in 1974 as a program to provide homebound neighbors with fresh, nutritious meals. Since then, the program has expanded its services to include pet food delivery, home energy efficiency kits, personal care items, and wellness checks during drop-offs. Additionally, the program offers recipients a variety of meals that are inclusive of dietary restrictions, nutritional risks, and cultural traditions. Their delivery of over 120,000 of these meals to over 430 clients every year shows a distinct level of dedication and commitment to the community.

Ann Arbor Meals on Wheels is a community effort. It is led by the University of Michigan Health Department of Community Health Services and is made possible by the additional support of more than 250 volunteers. Staff at the Patient Food and Nutrition Services at Michigan Medicine work six days a week to prepare meals while volunteers assist in delivering meals, completing wellness checks, and providing community members with compassion and support. Many times, they are the difference in isolation as they build connections and care for those they serve. Ann Arbor Meals on Wheels also works with Lucky Kitch-

en, Washtenaw County, the Huron Valley Humane Society, DTE Energy, and other local institutions. This network of partnerships and dedicated volunteers demonstrates the integration of the program in the community, as well as the extent of the impact of the program.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Ann Arbor Meals on Wheels. For the last half-century, the program has been diligently serving homebound members of the community when they need it most. We thank Ann Arbor Meals on Wheels and its team members for their service, and we are excited to see how the program will continue to serve the community.

HONORING THE UNION PINES VIKINGS ON WINNING THE NC HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (NCHSAA) 3A/2A/1A WOMEN'S LACROSSE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Union Pines

Vikings, Coach Daniel Proud, and their Principal Andrew McCormick on their undefeated season and winning the NCHSAA 3A/2A/1A women's lacrosse state championship.

The women of Union Pines lacrosse team have brought this year's NCHSAA championship back home to Moore County. The Vikings defeated Bishop McGuinness High School 20-6 to clinch the title and cap off a perfect 18-0 season.

The coaches and players of Union Pines have brought great pride to both their school and all of Moore County. I wish them all the best and hope to see them continue their success next season. Go Vikings.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in congratulating the coaches and players of Union Pines High School on their victory in this year's NCHSAA 3A/2A/1A Women's Lacrosse State Championship.