

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVEN HORSFORD

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 24, 2025

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus to honor my history—our history—American history . . .

I'm here to honor Black history during Black History Month.

This is a time to honor our elders, and the struggles they endured bringing us to this moment.

My home of Las Vegas is rich with contributions, milestones and heroes that advanced equity in our society.

People like Hattie Canty—who led the Culinary Workers Union Local 226 to fight for better wages and job security, including the longest strike in American history against unfair labor conditions—six and a half years.

Places like West Las Vegas, which became the heart of the city's Black community during segregation.

Black-owned businesses and venues along the Black Strip on Jackson Avenue allowed culture to thrive . . .

. . . while entrepreneurship and homeownership helped local community members begin to accumulate wealth.

And breakthroughs, like the Sands Hotel allowing Nat King Cole to stay and perform there in 1955, challenging racial segregation to its core at the time.

Las Vegas is one of so many, pillars of progress—progress made over generations—and progress that is under threat right now by forces who want to take our country backwards.

. . . Denigrating civil rights . . .
. . . Undermining racial diversity . . .
. . . Eroding opportunities to grow wealth and better oneself with an education.

What the forces against progress don't seem to realize, is the spirit of progress is alive and well today—every bit as much as it was for my parents' generation, and the generations before them.

I mentioned Hattie Canty—I stand on her shoulders to this day.

I spent a decade leading the Culinary Training Academy of Las Vegas that she helped found in 1993.

It trains thousands of people every year with vocational skills that help local youths, adults, and displaced workers find work in the hospitality industry.

The spirit of Black History Month is the spirit of progress—it's a flame that cannot be blown out.

I am grateful for all of the leaders who came before me.

And my commitment is to stand steadfast for future generations in this time of need, just as past generations did for me.

HONORING THE ROSWELL FIRE
DEPARTMENT ON EARNING THE
SENATOR PAUL SARBANES
AWARD

HON. RICHARD MCCORMICK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fire Chief Joe Pennino and the brave men and women of the City of Roswell Fire Department on being awarded the 2025 Senator Paul S. Sarbanes Fire Service Safety Leadership Award by the Congressional Fire Safety Institute.

The Senator Paul S. Sarbanes Fire Service Safety Leadership Award honors organizations that have made noteworthy contributions to firefighter health and safety. The award celebrates those who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, innovation, and dedication in promoting a safer environment for firefighters.

The City of Roswell's Fire Department is recognized for its collaboration with researchers in the analysis of the impact that new shift schedules and adjusted start times have on the performance and well-being of firefighters. The study evaluates both the immediate and long-term effects of these changes on the health, responsiveness, and capability of these firefighters.

Through their collaboration in this study, the Roswell Fire Department has shown a strong commitment to the well-being of their firefighter personnel and dedication to assuring that they are well-rested and in peak condition for the daunting schedule that those who wear the uniform face. This innovative leadership shows Roswell Fire Department's commitment to not only their firefighters but also to the well-being of firefighters throughout the United States.

The mission of the Roswell Fire Department is to protect life, property, and enhance the quality of life by providing dynamic services, including emergency response. Through these thoughtful studies, they are taking that seriously by ensuring their personnel are at peak performance capability.

On February 13, 2025, the Roswell Fire Department will be honored here in Washington, D.C., during the 35th Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner for then leadership and commitment to innovation and safety.

As their Representative in Congress, I am proud to have these types of leaders who strive to serve the public residing in my district. I have no doubts that the City of Roswell and its Fire Department will continue their trajectory of excellence, and I wish them all the best in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, on the morning of February 24, 2025, I was attending the University of Minnesota's National Security Research & Innovation Day in my district, and the flight I took back to Washington, D.C. was delayed departing from Minnesota. This resulted in my absence from the House during three suspension votes on February 24, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE on Roll Call No. 43, H.R. 825, the Assisting Small Businesses Not Fraudsters Act; Roll Call No. 44, H.R. 832, the Small Business Advocacy Improvements Act; and Roll Call No. 45, H.R. 818, the SPUR Act.

RECOGNIZING EMILY TUTTLE-MILLARD

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible accomplishments of Emily Tuttle-Millard our Deputy Chief of Staff. Over the course of her tenure, she served in numerous roles, consistently demonstrating professionalism and an extraordinary work ethic with a steadfast dedication to excellence. Emily was not only a vital member of our team but also an integral force behind our success.

As Deputy Chief of Staff, Emily tackled our strategic goals, including passage of legislation to address Veteran Suicide with the "Adam Lambert Act," helping support couples start a family with the "HOPE Act," and delivered on U.S. security priorities enshrined in the National Defense Authorization Act. As a fighter for folks in the heart of the heartland, Emily worked with our legislative team to ensure Iowa garnered the most priorities in the Farm Bill. Further, Emily worked across the State and across the aisle to earn our team the Top 10 most bipartisan member of Congress distinction.

As Communications Director, Emily's tenacity ensured Iowa's priorities always received national attention, from in-depth coverage ranging from "Face the Nation" to "Fox & Friends," as well as a commitment to local journalism showcasing Iowa's best accomplishments as a roadmap for national solutions. Her focus on individual constituents became legend, earning her the Congressional Administrative Office's model for tailored mail engagement. Emily navigated challenges with grace and mastered the art of turning vision into reality.

Equally, Emily was an original plank holder on Team Nunn. Coming aboard from the very

• 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.

beginning as Director of Operations, where she scheduled hundreds of meetings and listening sessions for Iowans visiting Washington, D.C. and in the district.

Most importantly, though, Emily is a mentor and friend to the team. Her ability to foster collaboration and encourage growth made our team stronger and more united. Despite her University of Illinois pedigree, Emily is as Iowa as they come, from corn dogs at the State Fair, to winning friends under the Golden Dome in Des Moines, to the marble steps of the U.S. Capitol.

We wish Emily success in her next endeavors and have no doubt she will continue to make a difference. The distinctive accomplishments of her service reflect effect greatly herself, the people of Iowa, and the United States.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2025 NORTHERN VIRGINIA LEADERSHIP AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 2025 recipients of the Northern Virginia Leadership Awards presented by Leadership Fairfax.

Leadership Fairfax is a nonprofit corporation whose mission is to inspire, connect, develop and engage the next generation of leaders in Northern Virginia so that they are prepared to serve and strengthen our community. Over 2,500 alumni from their programs have become part of a fast-growing network of civic and business leaders in the region.

Each year, Leadership Fairfax recognizes individuals or organizations that have demonstrated exceptional leadership and made extraordinary contributions to our community. It is my honor to include in the RECORD the following names of the 2025 Northern Virginia Leadership Awards recipients:

The Non-Profit Organization Leadership Award will be presented to BetterALife, a trailblazing nonprofit committed to addressing critical social issues such as education, food insecurity, and access to essential life skills.

The Non-Profit Individual Leadership Award will be presented to Michelle Sullivan, the Executive Director of All Ages Read Together (AART). Michelle has transformed the organization into a thriving program that provides early literacy support to disadvantaged children in Fairfax and Loudoun counties.

The Regional Leadership Award will go to Dr. Sharmaine McCoy, DNP, ACNP. At Inova, she has led efforts to address health disparities by organizing health fairs and community outreach programs.

The Trustee Leadership Award will be presented to Ellen Dyke, the Chair of both the NOVA Education Foundation and SPARC (Specially Adapted Resource Clubs). She is an innovative leader who has pioneered initiatives that create better opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

The Educational Leadership Award will be presented to Dr. Herman Mizell, Principal of Langston Hughes Middle School. In just one year of being at LHMS, Dr. Mizell has revitalized staff morale, improved student engage-

ment, and addressed safety concerns that existed at the school.

The Youth Leadership Award will be presented to Avery McCusker and LucyLynn Tombul. At Just 14 and 15 years old, Avery and LucyLynn dedicated over 140 hours of service to the Fairfax County community while completing their Girl Scout Silver Award project.

Mr. Speaker, the contributions of these individuals and organizations are one of the reasons why Fairfax is such a sought-after community in which to live and work, and this year's honorees highlight the legacy of Leadership Fairfax in preparing our community's future leaders to address the challenges we face. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these honorees and thanking them for their service to Northern Virginia.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF J. ROGER RICE

HON. GEORGE LATIMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of James Roger Rice, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, attorney, and man of deep faith, who went to be with the Lord on February 16, 2025.

Born on January 1, 1950, in Buffalo, New York, to James Albert Rice and Frankie Jones Rice, Roger was raised in a home shaped by Christian values, instilled in him by his mother. Roger was a standout student-athlete at Hutchinson Technical High School in Buffalo, where he excelled on the basketball court, earning All-City honors for his skill and leadership. He earned a full basketball scholarship to Kings College in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, where he played the game with heart, discipline, and excellence—qualities he carried into his career and family life. Beyond his own playing, he became a dedicated youth basketball coach, pouring into his sons and other youth. For many, he was more than a coach; he was a guiding force, building lifelong friendships and lasting lessons both on and off the court.

While pursuing his Juris Doctor degree at the University of Buffalo, Roger's life took a beautiful turn when he met Gail, the love of his life, on the first day of law school. Their first date was legendary—crossing borders to the Canadian side of Niagara Falls. That fateful meeting led to a lifetime of love, partnership, and purpose. They married in 1978; two sons were born of this union.

In 1982, Roger and Gail took a leap of faith, founding their own law firm, Rice & Rice, Attorneys-at-Law. Their firm, which later included both sons, became a pillar of the community, serving countless clients with integrity, wisdom, and compassion. With the founding partners' retirement in 2019, Rice & Rice closed after more than 35 years of service.

Roger was a storyteller and no-nonsense advice giver, who could be both profoundly wise and hilariously unpredictable, often in the same conversation. He was known for his affectionate teasing and clever nicknames. He loved food, music, movies, and showing off his dance moves. Above all, Roger was a family man. He took immense pride in the achieve-

ments of his wife, children, and grandchildren, celebrating their victories and supporting them in every endeavor. His love for his family was unwavering, and his presence was a source of strength, encouragement, and wisdom.

Roger's faith was central to who he was, and he often spoke about the help, direction, and friendship of the Holy Spirit in pivotal moments of his life. After his marriage, he became a member of Shiloh Baptist Church of Tuckahoe where he was ordained as a deacon. Over the years, he also worshiped at Bethesda Baptist Church of New Rochelle, and, until the time of his passing, was a founding member of Renaissance Church in Harlem. His commitment to his faith was evident in how he lived serving his community, mentoring others, and walking in integrity. Roger was pre-deceased by his parents Frankie and James Rice; brother Lawrence C. Brown; sister Frances Marshall; daughter-in-law, Danielle Williams Rice; and his parents-in-law, Mabel and Herman Whitaker.

He leaves behind a legacy of love and devotion, cherished by his wife, Gail Rice; his sons, Jared and Jordan Rice; his daughter-in-law, Jasmine and Jessica Rice; and his treasured grandchildren, Jocelyn, Jayden, Jameson, and Josiah Rice. He is also survived by his siblings-in-law Sandra and Glen McGhee, Quincy and Gail Brooks, and Joyce and Keno Johnson, and Margo Clarke; uncles and aunt Prince Allen Whetstone and Arnold and Esther Brooks; nieces and nephews Paula and Charles Barber, Spencer and Helen Rodriguez, Luis, Alexander, and Jasmine Rodriguez, Taila and Edward Faustin, and Darren and Christine Brooks. Additionally, a host of great-nieces and nephews, cousins, extended family members, friends, colleagues and Rice & Rice family, and former clients who will forever remember his kindness, wisdom, and generosity.

Roger Rice was well-loved and lived well. He will be deeply missed, but his footprint will endure forever in New York's 16th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING CORRINE SERVIS

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Corrine Servis of Salida, Colorado for being named the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Department's 2024 Park Ranger of the Year. She was chosen from over 115 rangers statewide.

As Operations Manager for the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (AHRA), Corrine helps oversee the day-to-day operations and upkeep of the park. She has gone above and beyond to educate and engage young Coloradans. She spearheaded programming for school groups and established internships and apprenticeships at the park. The AHRA and the Salida community are lucky to have Corrine's passion and dedication as she helps to inspire an appreciation for public lands in the next generation of Coloradans.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to thank Corrine Servis for her service and congratulate her on earning this award.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF REVEREND PHIL LAWSON

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with Representative MARK DESAULNIER to pay tribute to the Reverend Phil Lawson, a distinguished civil rights leader, pastor, and tireless advocate for social justice. Reverend Lawson passed away on January 26, 2025, at the age of 92.

Throughout his life, Reverend Lawson dedicated his life to the pursuit of equality, compassion, and nonviolence. Growing up in a family deeply committed to faith and social justice, Reverend Lawson was instilled with values that would guide his life's work. He diligently pursued higher education, earning degrees from Kent State University, Butler University, Methodist Theological Seminary, and Colgate Rochester Divinity School.

Starting at the age of 15, Reverend Lawson committed himself to justice and peace movements, participating in the Fellowship Reconciliation and studying non-violent direct action (NVDA) interventions under the leadership of Bayard Rustin and George Houser in Washington, D.C. Later, he joined the Army band in a non-combatant status and served from 1953 to 1956.

In the late 1960's and 1970's, Reverend Lawson emerged as a powerful voice for the civil rights movement. He participated in significant events such as the historic 1965 Selma to Montgomery marches alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a testament to his unwavering commitment to justice.

In addition, he served as the director of the Methodist Inner City Parish in Kansas City, Missouri, where under his leadership, the Inner City Parish played a pivotal role in organizing community initiatives, including working with the Black Panther Party and the Welfare Rights Organization to support and empower Black youth. Following his time in Kansas City, he transitioned to public service, working for the City of Berkeley as the Director of Program Development and Contract Administration from 1974 to 1980. Further, Reverend Lawson broke racial barriers as the first Black pastor of both El Cerrito UMC and First UMC in Vallejo.

In 1992, Reverend Lawson was appointed to lead the Easter Hill United Methodist Church (UMC) in Richmond, California, where he served with distinction for decades. He was instrumental in founding and supporting numerous organizations dedicated to social equity, including the East Bay Housing Organization (EBHO), the Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP), and the Black Alliance for Just Immigration. His advocacy encompassed a broad spectrum of issues, from racial equality to immigration reform and homelessness.

Reverend Lawson's commitment to non-violence and social justice was evident throughout his life. He often emphasized that nonviolence was not merely an option but the only path toward true community. His contributions were recognized in 2003 when he was honored as Contra Costa County's Humanitarian of the Year.

Reverend Lawson will be remembered for his outstanding character and for the incred-

ible impact he's had on our community. Please join us in recognizing Reverend Phil Lawson for his many contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING SHARON LAVONNE
HARRIS RISCHER

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I honor Sharon Lavonne Harris Rischer, a beloved member of our Fort Worth community, who passed away on February 12, 2025, at the age of 70. Sharon was a dedicated daughter, mother, sister, aunt, and friend, whose impact will be felt for generations to come.

Born on October 7, 1954, in Fort Worth, Texas, Sharon was a proud graduate of the Lake Como Class of 1973, having attended both Lake Como High School and Western Hills High School. She further pursued her education at Tarrant County College before beginning a distinguished career that spanned several decades. Sharon worked with unwavering commitment at Standard Meat Company from 1979 to 1993 and then with Tarrant County MHMR from 1993 until her retirement in 2014.

Sharon's faith was an integral part of her life. She was baptized at an early age and remained a devoted member of the Lake Como Church of Christ, where she was a constant source of love and encouragement to those around her. Beyond her professional and spiritual dedication, Sharon found joy in the simple pleasures of life. She was an avid cook, enjoyed shopping, and brought warmth and laughter to family gatherings, particularly during friendly card games that brought her loved ones together.

Her life was characterized by her deep care for others, and she will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her. I would also like to extend the family's gratitude to the Advanced Heart and Lung Disease Center at Baylor Scott & White Fort Worth Campus and Dr. Salmon Gohar for their compassionate care during Sharon's final days.

Sharon Lavonne Harris Rischer was truly a pillar of our community, and her legacy of kindness, faith, and family will endure in the hearts of those she leaves behind. May she rest in peace, and may her memory continue to inspire all who knew her.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF
DOUGLASVILLE, GEORGIA ON ITS
SESQUICENTENNIAL BIRTHDAY

HON. LUCY MCBATH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the City of Douglasville on the occasion of its Sesquicentennial Birthday. For 150 years, Douglasville has contributed to the rich history of the state of Georgia, and I am honored to uplift today's remarkable milestone. Back home in my district, constituents will gather this evening at the Douglas County Mu-

seum of History & Art for a reflection on the history of the city and a celebration of the progress they hope to make in the future.

I want to commend Mayor Rochelle Robinson, the Douglasville City Council, and every resident who made this week's celebration possible. It is thanks to the devotion of public servants like them who make Douglasville such a wonderful community in which to live, work, and raise a family.

I congratulate the City of Douglasville on reaching 150 years, and Happy Birthday.

RECOGNIZING ANNETTE STOLBA

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Annette Stolba of Buena Vista, Colorado for her 42 years of service with the Chaffee County Communications Center.

Annette began her career as a public safety dispatcher in 1983 before 911 emergency services were available. Over the next 40 years, Annette helped countless Chaffee County residents in their time of need. The Chaffee County community will remember Annette's role in keeping them and their loved ones safe.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to thank Annette Stolba for her four decades of service to the citizens of Chaffee County.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOSEPH
M. BRISTOW

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of Joseph M. Bristow, a former Councilman from Hackettstown. Joseph Bristow brought his passion for preservation and community to Fredon Township, New Jersey.

He was a true New Jersey icon whose legacy of kindness, service, and dedication to his community will be remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him. A graduate of the University of Connecticut, Joseph earned a Bachelor's degree followed by a Master's degree from Villanova University. He also pursued doctoral courses at the New School for Social Research, reflecting his lifelong dedication to education.

Joseph spent over four decades as a professor at County College of Morris (CCM), where his belief in the transformative power of knowledge inspired generations of students. Inspired by change, he saw the potential for enhancing his community. He was a founding member of the Committee for Crime Prevention (known as the DARE program), demonstrating his commitment to creating a safer and more just environment. His dedication extended to the younger generation as a devoted Little League coach, where he taught not just the fundamentals of the game, but also the values of teamwork and determination.

As a Town Councilman, a member of the Board of Adjustment, and a member of the Library Board, Joseph was known for working tirelessly to be a beacon of change for his community. Faith was central to Joseph's life and influenced everything he pursued. He was a dedicated member of Trinity United Methodist Church and an active participant in the United Methodist Men's group. His unwavering belief in the power of community and spirituality was evident in all that he did.

Our hearts go out to his wife, Patricia, and his three children—Joseph, Laurie, and Thomas—and all who knew and loved him. May his memory continue to inspire us all and live in the heart of our city.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JAY DUNLAP

HON. MIKE FLOOD

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Jay Dunlap, whose work in financial services helped create hundreds of great jobs and strengthened communities across the Cornhusker State.

Born in Douglas, Nebraska, Jay completed college and then spent two years of service in the United States Navy. After leaving the military, he put his experience to work finding remarkable success in Nebraska's banking sector.

Jay was instrumental in the growth of two prominent Nebraska banks, each of which continues to carry forward his legacy of hard work, dedication, and a deep commitment to giving back to the communities they serve.

Jay's life's work was not just about banking. It was about building relationships and investing in the future of Nebraskans. He will be deeply missed, not only as a pillar of Nebraska's economic success, but also as an inspiring example of integrity and generosity.

Our hearts and prayers go out to Shirley and the entire Dunlap family as we all celebrate his life and legacy.

HONORING COACH BEN REAVES, JR. AND THE MILTON HIGH SCHOOL EAGLES FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. RICHARD McCORMICK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

Mr. McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true leader in our community. It is my distinct privilege to honor him and his team by sharing their achievements.

Ben Reaves, Jr. is the Head Football Coach of the Milton High School Eagles, who on December 17, 2025, beat Langston Hughes High School Panthers scoring 56–35 to clinch back-to-back State Championship titles in the highly competitive 5A Division of Georgia High School Football.

Their high-powered offense, led by starting Quarterback and Miami University bound Luke Nickel, University of Georgia commit Tight-End Ethan Barbour, and electric Running Back T.J.

Lester, steamrolled opponents over the previous two seasons. Football is in genetics. Coach Reaves inherited his passion for coaching and mentoring young athletes from his father, who was a longtime coach at Newton High School. After playing for his father in high school as a standout wide receiver, Coach Reaves played for a season at the University of Georgia before he transitioned to his true calling: coaching. After making multiple coaching stops on his journey, Coach Reaves joined Milton High School's staff as an offensive coordinator in 2017. As a member of the football coaching staff, he helped turn Milton High School into a football powerhouse building on top of the three region titles and playoff games the team has won since 1950.

In 2022, Coach Reaves took over the program from his successor, Coach Adam Clack, and has since led the Eagles to a strong 23–6 record. Coach Reaves exemplifies the tradition of football excellence in our community and is known by all as an incredible mentor, coach, father, husband, and friend. The success of the Milton High School team is a culmination of efforts, from the players to the coaches, parents, teachers, and training staff. However, there is no question about who the glue is that holds the program together and drives it toward excellence. I extend my best wishes to Coach Reaves and the entire Milton High School team going into the next season, Go Milton Eagles.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I recently gave birth and am unable to travel to D.C. to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 43; YEA on Roll Call No. 44; and YEA on Roll Call No. 45.

NEWSLETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following newsletter to give an update to my constituents on Hurricane Helene recovery efforts and legislation to protect U.S. communities.

Dear Friend,

The 119th Congress is well underway, and I'm excited to continue serving the people of Western North Carolina from my seats on the House Appropriations and Budget committees.

In addition to serving on the Appropriations Committee's Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee, I am honored to have been appointed to the role of vice chairman of the National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs Subcommittee.

Under a unified government, the new majority has a rare opportunity to reverse America's spiraling debt and create a safer and stronger future for our Nation. I'm eager to walk with my colleagues to make real

changes that will better the lives of the American people, continue to bring federal resources to aid in WNC's recovery, and fix how Washington works.

THE PEOPLE OF WNC ARE NOT FORGOTTEN

It was a privilege to welcome U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy to our mountains and accompany him to see the devastation brought by Hurricane Helene as well as our efforts to clean up and rebuild.

During his time in Haywood County, we surveyed the damage at I-40 near the Tennessee line, and it was confirmed that I-40 is set to partially reopen on March with one lane available in each direction.

The people of Western North Carolina continue to be reminded that we are not forgotten, and I appreciate Secretary Duffy for his attention to helping out mountain folk rebuild.

FIXING A BROKEN AGENCY

It's an honor to be named by President Trump to the FEMA task force to fix how this broken agency works.

After being on the ground throughout the Hurricane Helene response, it's clear that an overhaul of FEMA is necessary to more effectively and efficiently respond to natural disasters.

I'll be lending the insights I've gained so that our Nation will be fully prepared to prevent and respond to future disasters, and to save lives.

PROTECTING U.S. COMMUNITIES FROM THE FENTANYL AND BORDER CRISIS

In the House, we have voted on and passed multiple bills—including the HALT Fentanyl Act and the Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act—to make our communities safe again by combatting the fentanyl and border crises wrought by the previous administration's open border policies.

The temporary order designating fentanyl-related substances (FRS) as a Schedule I drug is set to expire soon. If this designation expires and is not made permanent, these substances will become street-legal, taking away law enforcement's authority to seize fentanyl and allowing drug traffickers to continue funneling deadly drugs into our country.

I voted in support of the HALT Fentanyl Act to permanently classify FRS as Schedule I drugs as defined by the Controlled Substances Act. Schedule I drugs have high potential for abuse with no accepted medical uses, and this bill would make sure that law enforcement has the resources to keep these drugs off our streets and allow for further research of FRS.

In addition to the fentanyl epidemic, many Americans have paid the price for illegal immigrants breaking our laws and engaging in high-speed chases to avoid detention. The Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act would make it a criminal offense to operate a vehicle within 100 miles of the southern border while fleeing from Border Patrol agents or any law enforcement officer assisting Border Patrol, including jail time and being prohibited from ever receiving legal status in the U.S.

STREAMLINING THE FEMA APPLICATION PROCESS FOR DISASTER VICTIMS

After Helene hit Western North Carolina, I saw how complicated and difficult the disaster recovery assistance applications were. Many folks had to apply to multiple agencies, including FEMA, the SBA and USDA, for disaster assistance, each of which had its own extensive applications.

That's why I introduced the Disaster Survivors Fairness Act, which would streamline FEMA's application process and improve coordination among federal agencies to more effectively aid disaster victims.

February 25, 2025

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This bill would direct the FEMA administrator to develop a universal application for federal disaster assistance to be used across

agencies and authorizes information sharing across these agencies. This is an important step toward making sure we are prioritizing

the people and not the bureaucracy after disaster strikes.

With my warmest regards,

CHUCK EDWARDS,
Member of Congress.