

featured numerous speakers, including agriculture economist Andrew Frankenfield and other industry experts.

Mr. Speaker, as the House Committee on Agriculture prepares the next farm bill, there has been universal agreement that the dairy industry's Margin Protection Program needs to be reformed in advance. To address this, we were able to make much-needed changes in last week's bipartisan budget deal.

The final agreement took a number of actions that will revamp the program to better serve participating dairy farmers. To help the program to be more accurate and responsive during difficult months, monthly margined calculations have been changed to bi-monthly. To help the program better reflect the growth in dairy herd sizes, the new law expands the first tier from 4 million to 5 million pounds. The new law raises the catastrophic coverage level from \$4 per hundred weight to \$5 per hundred weight for the first tier of covered production.

It also reduces premiums for the first 5 million pounds of production, making higher levels of coverage more affordable to provide more protection against low margins. Finally, the new law allows for the development of insurance policies for livestock producers, including for dairy farmers. This change encourages further adequate risk management tools are available the next time they are faced with disaster.

Mr. Speaker, the state of the dairy industry is much different today than it was when the last farm bill was written. Today we see low milk prices that have impacted the dairy industry across the country. The House Committee on Agriculture is not only aware of the challenges facing the industry, but we are working to help bring relief.

Another factor negatively impacting the dairy industry is declining milk consumption. This not only negatively affects dairy farms and farm families across the country but also students and their overall nutrition. Despite the fact that public school enrollment was growing, schools served 213 million fewer half-pints of milk between 2014 and 2016. Children over 4 years old are not meeting the recommended daily servings of dairy in the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

We know that milk is a nutritional powerhouse. Given the nutritional value of milk and because students need to be nourished to be at their best, this is a cause for concern. Steadily decreasing participation in the School Lunch Program, coupled with the fact that flavored milk, the most popular variety in schools, must be fat free under the current law, has led to an alarming decline in overall milk consumption.

We have lost an entire generation of milk drinkers, and they have lost out, that generation, on the nourishment and nutrition that comes from milk.

Providing students the option to consume milk with flavor has the potential to positively affect milk consumption trends among children and adults, while supporting the local dairy farmers.

This is why I introduced H.R. 4101, the School Milk Nutrition Act. This bill provides the schools the option of offering low-fat, 1 percent, flavored milk instead of only fat free.

On November 29, 2017, USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue announced a new USDA rule that expands options for milk in school lunches.

□ 1030

Similar to my legislation, this rule gives schools the option to serve low-fat, 1 percent, flavored milk. Thankfully, this rule will be in effect for fiscal year 2018 and fiscal year 2019.

I look forward to continuing to craft a farm bill that puts forth the very best policy for our farmers, our families, and all Americans. I know Secretary Perdue supports the legislation, H.R. 4101, moving ahead to codify what he has been able to do with what flexibility he has and to get that done for our kids and for the dairy industry.

#### REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF SARAH JANECEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FITZPATRICK). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Sarah Janecek, a friend who passed away unexpectedly and far too soon.

Sarah was one of Minnesota's best political commentators. As a strategist, she understood all sides of the issues and brought humor everywhere she went.

Over the course of her career, Sarah built relationships across the political spectrum. She was known for lending her honesty and wit to every encounter. She commanded respect by becoming a source of political knowledge through her writing, newsletters, and commentary, and she was sought after by local and national media to provide her insights on Minnesota's unusual politics.

Our community has suffered a great loss. Sarah's bright spirit will, indeed, be missed. My deepest condolences go out to her family and loved ones. Sarah had a great heart, and we will all miss her.

#### HONORING THE LEGACY OF WRIGHT COUNTY SHERIFF JOE HAGERTY

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of Wright County Sheriff Joe Hagerty. Joe retires after 33 honorable years of service to the third largest sheriff's office in the State of Minnesota. He has a reputation for honesty and has become someone that we all trust.

Our community has been honored to have a public servant with Joe's level of integrity and accountability. His re-

spect for the rule of law and compassion for his fellow citizens made him an exceptional sheriff.

During his time in office, Joe fostered a relationship with neighboring counties to share a crime lab, which helped solve cases and bring justice. Every single day, Joe put the safety of Minnesotans above all else.

Sheriff Hagerty, I speak on behalf of all Minnesotans when I say: Thank you. We wish you a happy and healthy and well-deserved retirement.

#### RECOGNIZING CARVER COUNTY SHERIFF JIM OLSON

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Carver County Sheriff Jim Olson for his incredible 31 years of service to the people of Minnesota. In Jim's three-plus decades on the force, Sheriff Olson oversaw some of Carver County's most exciting and turbulent times.

When the Ryder Cup was held in Chaska, Minnesota, in 2016, Jim managed safety operations and maintained a family-friendly environment for everyone. After the passing of Minnesota legend Prince, Jim ensured that Paisley Park in Carver County remained a safe place for Prince's fans to mourn.

Jim has dedicated his life to Carver County, serving as an instructor of the Carver County Citizens Academy to inform the public about the services and role of the sheriff's office. Impressively, he also serves as a member of the Carver County Mental Health Consortium to spread awareness of mental health resources. He has been a faithful, selfless servant leader to the citizens of Carver County.

Sheriff Olson, thank you for your service. We wish you the best in your retirement.

#### RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING BUSINESSMAN BUTCH AMES

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of one of Minnesota's outstanding businessmen, Butch Ames. As chief executive officer and cofounder of Ames Construction, a family-owned and privately held construction company headquartered in Minnesota, Butch has built and grown the industry nationwide.

Ames Construction is known for heavy civil, transportation, and mining construction. With Butch at the helm, the company continues to grow and expand its reach all across the Nation. They have completed notable projects, such as Denver's International Airport, the I-15 corridor reconstruction project in Salt Lake City, the Loop 202 in Phoenix, and the St. Croix River Crossing in Minnesota.

Butch holds his company to a standard of professionalism and safety that is unparalleled, serving this Nation and his industry proudly.

Congratulations, Butch.

#### RECOGNIZING TORAH ACADEMY

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Torah Academy for entering their 73rd year educating Jewish children in Minnesota. From the

beginning and to this day, Torah Academy maintains a focus on strengthening the mind and spirit of our future leaders.

Because of educators like Dean and Rabbi Pinchus Idstein and Principal Matthew Cleary, Torah Academy offers a quality education on firm spiritual grounding. Pillars of our strong local community like Dr. Joey Greenberg and his wife, Mrs. Marina Greenberg, spread kindness and generosity to make certain Torah can execute its mission and goals.

A special thank-you to Citizens Independent Bank, that also dedicates their support.

Torah students succeed because their community supports them, and they are guaranteed to make their corner of the world a better place.

Congratulations to Torah Academy for a successful 73 years. We wish you many more.

#### HONORING DR. ROSEMARY JACKSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor the memory of Dr. Rosemary Jackson.

Dr. Jackson was an educator in Chicago. Dr. Jackson was an entrepreneur. Dr. Jackson was an exceptional community leader who passed away last week and leaves behind a stellar legacy that will endure throughout the years.

Dr. Jackson was a lifelong Chicago resident who had a passion for education, a passion that began when she was a young girl. She received her Ph.D. from Loyola University and her master's degree from both National College of Education and DePaul University.

Beginning her career as an English teacher at her alma mater, John Marshall High School—my alma mater—she went on to teach at local institutions such as Hyde Park High School on the South Side in my district, Kennedy-King College in my district, and her beloved DePaul University.

In all of these places, Mr. Speaker, Dr. Jackson deeply touched countless lives and inspired so many young people. Dr. Jackson, Mr. Speaker, was a pillar of the community and a person deeply committed to public service. She was also a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, for which she chaired several committees during her 50-year tenure as an active member.

Beyond her love for education and her love for community service, Dr. Jackson was a beloved wife and mother.

She was the vice chairman and the chief administrative officer at Chicago-based Central City Productions, the business that she helped develop with her lifelong partner, her devoted husband, my longtime friend, Mr. Donald Jackson. Central City Productions, Mr. Speaker, is best known for producing

the Stellar Awards, the first and the oldest televised awards show in our Nation that honored gospel music artists for over 33 years.

Dr. Jackson achieved so much in her life through hard work and determination. She never gave up, always fought for what was right, and made it her life's mission to help students in Chicago explore their potential and their educational possibility.

Dr. Jackson was a truly remarkable, smart, and phenomenal woman who enjoyed the arts, sports, and loved line dancing. She had a smile that would light up a room.

Dr. Jackson will be missed by her family, her friends, our city, our State and, indeed, our Nation and all those who fondly remember her beautiful and loving spirit.

I was blessed to know her, and Chicago was better because of her. My heart goes out to her entire family.

The last time I saw Dr. Jackson was last year. My late wife, Carolyn, and I were going into one of our favorite restaurants in the Hyde Park community and Rose and Don Jackson, her husband, were leaving, and we stopped for a moment and had a conversation.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the First Congressional District of Illinois, thank you, Rose. Thank you. God bless you. Enjoy your rest. You have earned it.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 41 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

February weather would deceive us and have us think spring is yet a long way off. Yet, even as cold winds blow and penetrate the depths of the Earth, Your laws nurture new life. Winter's weight breaks off what seems unfruitful branches and rushing streams wash away all that is rootless.

Invigorate the House of Representatives, that restorative justice may inspire new confidence in this Nation and the work of Congress may produce a fruitful land.

Grant that the daily work of Your people might silence a cynical world with blossoms of truth, and early growth release the scent of eternal life

in the seasons of our lifeline and forever.

May all that is done this day in the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Alabama (Mrs. ROBY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. ROBY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS ARE A PATHWAY TO SUCCESS

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, I had the privilege of visiting Central Mountain High School's Career and Technology Education Center. It is a state-of-the-art 235,000-square-foot academic career technical education complex.

The Keystone Central School District has introduced and implemented a CTE curriculum that offers a totally integrated academic, career, and technical education for all 9th through 12th graders.

The integration model allows all students to explore and attain high academic and technical skills in their chosen profession. This system is designed to provide all students with an educational exploration opportunity that is both rigorous and relevant for career and post-secondary success.

Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the Career and Technical Education Caucus and author of the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, I am thrilled to see this kind of educational complex in my community.

Offering CTE programs to students in high school truly gives them an opportunity to explore career options. There is an enormous skills gap that exists today in America. There are good-paying, family-sustaining jobs out there,