

servicing 5 years as an Airborne Ranger stationed at Fort Lewis and in South Korea.

At Fort Lewis, he met his wife, Marcia, relocated to the Yakima Valley, and quickly fell in love with Central Washington and all it had to offer his growing family. It was in Yakima that Steve came to realize his knack for construction. He spent his career managing projects across Washington and improving local infrastructure.

Steve will be fondly remembered for his jokes and stories, his welcoming personality, his kindness, and his service to his community. He will be missed by many, and my prayers are with his family and friends during this difficult time.

HONORING THE WORK OF GEORGE
M. SMART

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the dedicated service of George M. Smart, Director of FirstEnergy Corp. Under Mr. Smart's leadership, Summit County, Ohio has directly benefited from FirstEnergy's growth and success.

Mr. Smart is currently a trustee at his alma mater, Defiance College, where he was an undefeated quarterback for the Defiance College Yellow Jackets. Now, Mr. Smart devotes his time and resources to the success of athletic programs at Defiance, through the George M. Smart Athletic Center, which opened in 2012. Mr. Smart's lifelong loyalty to the Cleveland Browns, from the victorious "Kardiac Kids" in the 1980s, to the challenges of rebuilding the franchise today, serves as an inspiration to NFL fans everywhere. In 2006, the Ohio Foundation of Independent Colleges (OFIC) inducted Mr. Smart into its Hall of Excellence, thereby honoring George for his service to Defiance College, as well as his impact on society through professional achievement, leadership and scholarship.

I am especially proud of the George and Sandy Smart Family Foundation, whose mission it is to help the needy and spread the word of the gospel in the Medina and Canton, Ohio area. Additionally, the Foundation sponsors children at churches in Ecuador, which the Foundation established.

FirstEnergy experienced significant growth during the period Mr. Smart served as Director, growing from Ohio Edison with 1 million customers, to having 6 million customers in six states. Mr. Smart is concluding his service to shareholders as Director of FirstEnergy Corp. on May 15, 2018. Throughout his life, Mr. Smart has been a respected business leader, while maintaining multiple leadership positions with civic and charitable organizations in the region.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to extend my congratulations and well wishes to George for his many years of dedicated service as a Director of FirstEnergy Corp., his support of Defiance College and the OFIC, and the George and Sandy Smart Family Foundation's ongoing philanthropic efforts. While Mr. Smart served as chairman of its Board, FirstEnergy remained committed to the long-term prosperity and vitality of Summit County. His work

has been critical in supporting economic development efforts that created jobs, sustained local suppliers and attracted new businesses to the 16th District of Ohio.

RECOGNIZING THE 2018 VALLEY
VIEW WE THE PEOPLE TEAM

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, 21 students from Valley View High School in my hometown of Jonesboro, Arkansas will arrive in our Nation's Capital to compete in the We the People National Competition. For the better part of the past school year, these impressive students have given up their free time to study our Nation's constitutional democracy and thoroughly examine the history and principles of the Republic.

This weekend, they will put their knowledge to the ultimate test here in Washington. They will compete in a simulated Congressional hearing by evaluating and defending positions on historical and contemporary constitutional issues. Our government functions at its best when citizens engage in the political and policy making process, and I'm proud that these students are already preparing themselves for that process through their education.

Valley View has a history of excellence in We the People. Mrs. Traci Smith started We the People at Valley View nearly a decade ago, won the Arkansas state competition several times, and brought hundreds of students to the Capital to compete. Today, the program is led by Mr. Jacob Lamberson, who has coached at the national competition several times. Both teachers deserve our gratitude for their exceptional work preparing the rising generation for civic engagement and leadership.

I include in the RECORD the names of the competing students: Jesse Allison, Walker Bartels, Adrian Brown, Benjamin "Benji" Campbell, Aaron Dent, Cooper Fanning, Colin Ford, Simon Gomez, Dylan Johnson, Ryan Jones, Ilyse Levy, Taylor Martin, Carly Mason, Daniel Miao, Tanner Mote, Weston Myers, Camryn Pierce, Anna Rhodes, Jackson St. Pierre, Johnny Waters, and Kori Wood.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you and the rest of Congress will join me in congratulating these young men and women for their achievements and wish them the best of luck in their future pursuits.

RECOGNIZING DEANNE HAENKE

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give special recognition to Deanne Haenke from Royal Oak. I met Deanne and her family last week at a rally in Royal Oak as part of the student led National School Walkout. Deanne is a mother and a parent ally who felt compelled to speak up and let the students in her community know that there are adults who will stand with them.

I was so impressed with her courage and the passion with which she delivered her remarks that I wanted to share her speech with my colleagues. Therefore, I include in the RECORD the remarks of Deanne Haenke:

Hello. My name is Deanne Haenke and I am a parent ally.

I was asked to speak because I attended a PTA meeting at the high school where there was a discussion about school safety and the walkouts. Much to my own shock, I stood up to say a few things. After the meeting, the student leaders thanked me for what I said and that was that. But, a few days later, I got a text that they wanted me to speak at today's rally. I was flattered but very hesitant because I am not a public speaker and I wasn't sure what more I could bring to this conversation. As I was talking to my husband about it, my eldest son came running into the house saying he had gotten a text from Jonah asking if I would speak at the rally. I was looking at my husband, who I knew would understand if I said no, and then looking at my sons who seemed so eager for me to say yes. And as we talked about it, I realized, there was no way I would not speak. How could I tell my sons, whose childhood reality is so completely different than what mine was and what I wanted theirs to be, that I am too afraid to speak at a rally when they are scared to walk into school, yet they do it anyway? When there was a rumor a few months ago that a kid was planning something at the high school, I asked my son if he wanted to stay home. He emphatically said, "Yes, I want to stay home. I want to stay home every day! But if I stay home today, I won't go tomorrow and they win." So even though I didn't want him to go and as his parent I had the right to make him stay home, I listened to him, I said ok, told him I love him and, with terror in my heart, watched him walk out the door.

People who try to dismiss him because he is young are extremely ignorant to what this generation is facing and what courage they are capable of. You have all been forced to grow up far too quickly and you have every right to be heard.

This is not going to be easy. It is not going to be quick. As we see on a daily basis, common sense falls on deaf ears. I know how hard it is to listen to the adults who are not listening to you. But if you do listen to them, you will hear what they are really saying. Every dismissive comment, every immature insult is screaming that they are afraid of you. They are afraid of your determination, they are afraid of your numbers and they are most definitely afraid of your intellect because the reform you are demanding makes sense. And when they can't argue the sensible gun reform that is being proposed, they resort to personal attacks, name calling, fear mongering by shouting "Those people" want to take ALL the guns away or they try to place the blame anywhere else they can . . .

Yes there is a bullying problem.

Yes there are mental health issues.

Yes, for numerous reasons, there are some kids who don't have a good support system at home.

And of course it would be great if we could solve all of those problems and we must continue to strive to do so.

But there was bullying when I was kid. There were mental issues (and that was in a time when people didn't dare talk about mental issues so it was much harder to find help) and there were kids who didn't have a great support system at home.

Yet, we weren't dying in school.

Today, kids are the ones doing the dying. To those opposing any sensible gun reform . . . how is it possible those words do not shake