

serving 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

them to their core? Kids are the ones doing the dying. Sadly, we know that has not affected the NRA, or the politicians they have bought and paid for. And that is only because they are not the ones doing the dying. Their ability to turn a blind eye is indefensible.

At the board meeting last week, as students and parents asked the board repeatedly, passionately and eventually pleadingly to simply state for the record that they support the students and the march today to call for sensible gun reform . . . the board sat there stone faced and silent. It is said that it is hard to speak truth to power, but as I sat there watching 14 to 17 year old kids speak, I was stunned and embarrassed by every member of that board, as it became crystal clear that it is much harder for power to speak truth.

No matter what they tell themselves, there is no excuse that they would not stand up with their community and say "we proclaim that we are with you, that enough is enough and we will not stop until sensible gun reform is passed."

Unfortunately, everyone is not on your side. But a lot of people are. So keep doing what you're doing. Keep showing up. Keep speaking out and as soon as you can, vote for the people who will speak truth to power and will not continue to repeat the same generic rhetoric that too many elected officials spew.

If you do that, you are going to save this country and I want to take this opportunity to say thank you. I have felt despair for far too long and I couldn't find solace anywhere, most certainly not from our leaders. And then you stood up. And now I have hope.

I look forward to voting with you in November and voting for you in the years to come.

Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, we must stand with mothers like Deanne Haenke and show our students that we support them in their efforts. We as leaders must do better by our young people. We as a Congress must act now.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Deanne Haenke and to thank her for her compelling remarks.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF DOOR COUNTY RESIDENT JIM SARKIS

#### HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life and legacy of long-time resident of Door County, Mr. Jim Sarkis.

Mr. Sarkis was a businessman, philanthropist, and, most importantly, a beloved husband, father, son and friend. Jim fought cancer for 4 years, never letting it prevent him from having a positive attitude and showing kindness for others. Jim will leave a lasting legacy on Northeastern Wisconsin.

When reflecting on Jim's time with us, the verses read at his memorial, Hebrews 12:1–2a are most certainly fitting, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith."

A realtor by trade, Jim pursued many passions in life including golfing, reading, storytelling, and naturally the Green Bay Packers.

In addition to these, Jim's deepest passions were to family, community, and hard work that brought him wonderful success in life. Men like Jim, who are so passionate about their family and community, are rare to find and extremely difficult to lose.

Jim's extraordinary memory will be cherished by many of the lives he touched in Wisconsin and across the United States. It is not often that everyone in a community will think of a common theme or description of a giant from their corner of the world. But "if you don't know Jim Sarkis, you don't know Door County" truly captures Jim and his legacy. May his passion, dedication, and loving spirit be remembered and carried on by all who knew him.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in honoring the legacy of Jim Sarkis and his lifelong dedication to his family, community, and the great state of Wisconsin.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CONSERVATION WORK OF SISTER JEREMIAS STINSON

#### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article from the Toledo Blade, dated the 20th of April 2018.

In doing so, I want to recognize the conservation work of the Sisters of St. Francis in Sylvania, Ohio and Sister M. Jeremias Stinson.

As the superintendent of Environmental Stewardship, Gardens, Shrines and Woodland Management, in Sylvania, Sister Jeremias has committed her life to protecting over 250 native species of trees under her care.

With Earth Day being this past Sunday, and a few weeks away from Arbor Day, we as a Nation need to recognize the part we take in our environment.

As said by Sister Jeremias, "To care for all creation, we have to balance the forces of creation. You have to make wise decisions."

[From the Blade, Apr. 20, 2018]

NUN OVERSEES CONSERVATION OF SAINT  
FRANCIS' WOODED GROUNDS IN SYLVANIA

(By Nicki Gorny)

It's a bright spring afternoon at the motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Francis in Sylvania, and Sister M. Jeremias Stinson is zipping around the grounds on a John Deere Gator, navigating stick-strewn paths through the woods as adeptly as the manicured lawns between buildings.

"We're going to fly," the 74-year-old nun tells a reporter beside her at one point, fully committed to showing off the full scope of the grounds within a time-crunched tour.

The tour, arranged just a few weeks before Arbor Day, celebrated in Ohio on the last Friday in April, covered just a sampling of the more than 5,000 mature trees that shade the grounds. As Sister Jeremias drove, she rattled off the names of species that stand tall in wooded areas and in deliberate clusters, like an arboretum between buildings just north of the Franciscan Center.

There are oaks, firs, and pines—250 native species in all to keep straight. Sister Jeremias, superintendent of the environmental stewardship, gardens, shrines, and woodland management, has mapped and documented them all.

The motherhouse holds the distinction of having the most diverse number of plant specimens in the region, said Sister Jeremias, who undertook a canopy study of the grounds that began in 2006. The grounds are also recognized as a conservation sanctuary, as approved in 1930 by the Lucas County Conservation District and Ohio Forestry Division.

"They're a great leader in promoting conversation on private lands," said Jamie Kochensparger, education and outreach director of Lucas County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Her agency is one of several at the county, state, and federal level to interact with Sister Jeremias and the religious community on forestry and conservation-related matters. With the vast majority of land in the United States under private ownership, Mrs. Kochensparger said, conscientious private partners play an important role in this arena.

"They've been great ambassadors for that," she said.

The distinctions reflect deliberate planning and maintenance on the part of the sisters, who arrived in Sylvania in 1916. Sister Jeremias sees practicality and spirituality in the number and diversity of trees on the grounds, pointing to their assistance as groundcover and windbreaks as well as their alignment with the values of St. Francis Assisi.

"Francis of Assisi; our founder, was extremely sensitive to all facets of nature," she said. "He respected it in all its forms."

"As Franciscans, we are each called—we are all called, but as Franciscans, we have a strong leaning and a strong responsibility—to look and care for all creation."

Sister Jeremias has overseen the grounds since 1974, when she submitted a proposal to leave her position as a local schoolteacher and "put full time into the witness to the dignity of manual work and contemplation." She started with the renovation of the Portiuncula chapel on the grounds, she said, and went on to maintain and, in many more instances, develop the shrines, paths, and other landscape elements that create to a prayerful environment on the campus.

Her work continues and forwards that of her predecessor, whose name came up frequently during her recent tour of the grounds.

"That fir tree over there, the tall one, was planted by Mother Adelaide," she said at one point, a variation on a theme that applied to some of the tallest trees on the grounds.

Mother Adelaide led the original sisters who established a convent in Sylvania in 1916. While some of the 89 acres they settled on were natively wooded, Sister Jeremias said, much was farmland. Mother Adelaide took it upon herself to obtain and plant trees on the campus to stabilize sandy hills, create windbreaks, and fulfill other practical functions.

"Her footprint is still here," Sister Jeremias said.

It's there, for example, in a cluster of Norway spruces behind the Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto. It's also there in a handful of original trees in the arboretum, whose establishment Sister Jeremias credited to Mother Adelaide, even if she's had to since replace many of the original trees that were planted there over the years.

This sort of maintenance has been an important part of Sister Jeremias' work on the grounds. She's overseeing several ponderosa pine seedlings in a patch near the Rosary Care Center, which will find permanent homes on the grounds as they grow larger. When the emerald ash borer more dramatically killed off 1,841 trees on the campus in 2006, she replanted an area that she now calls