

I hope everyone in this Chamber and those watching at home will take the time to thank a servicemember and their loved ones who continue to sacrifice so much for our country.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize National Charter Schools Week.

Minnesota was a pioneer in the charter school movement, opening the Nation's very first charter school in St. Paul in the fall of 1992.

Charter schools are tuition-free, independent, public schools that are open and welcome to all students, no matter ability or need. They are governed and operated jointly by licensed teachers, parents, and community members.

Today, more than 56,000 Minnesota children are educated every day in charter schools, many of them from low-income families. A child's ZIP Code should not determine the outcome of their education.

As co-chair of the Charter School Caucus, I am pleased with the bipartisan work we have been able to do to strengthen charter schools and enable the replication of successful charter programs nationwide.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the great work being done in charter schools across the country and thank the teachers and community leaders who work so hard educating their children.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES ARE SKYROCKETING

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, the skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs are forcing families to make impossible choices every day.

No one in America should have to decide between putting food on the table and paying for the lifesaving medication their children need, but pharmaceutical corporations will keep raising their prices for one simple reason: because they can.

There are a number of things that we can do, and number one is negotiate prescription drug prices under Medicare; number two, shed light on the pharmaceutical corporations' drug pricing system; number three, end patient system abuse by eliminating tactics that thwart competition; number four, allow safe importation of prescription drugs from other countries; and number five, ensure access to affordable drugs through fair trade agreements.

Lukewarm pharma-friendly approaches just won't work. Failing to

take truly meaningful action could mean the difference between life and death.

RECOGNIZING SECOND LIEUTENANT B. LOUISE BODDIE DAWSON

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

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the life and service of 99-year-old Second Lieutenant B. Louise Boddie Dawson, a driven, strong, and remarkable constituent.

A graduate of Freedman Hospital Nursing School in Washington, D.C., Louise proudly served our country during World War II as a nurse in the Army. For her dedicated service, she earned the American Campaign Medal and the World War II Victory Medal.

It was through the Army that Louise met her husband, Lieutenant Colonel Emmett C. Dawson, Jr. The Dawsons married on September 3, 1949, and moved to Sewickley, Pennsylvania, where Louise worked as a nurse until the start of the Korean war.

Always caring for people and wanting to serve better, Louise worked as a head nurse at the former Dixmont State Hospital in Kilbuck Township, while studying psychology at La Roche College.

Louise led an exemplary life of hard work and selfless service towards others. She instilled this work ethic in her daughters, telling them you never fail until you quit and by setting an incredible example for them to follow.

God only knows how long Louise will remain with us, but we always remember her extraordinary life witness to serve, be kind, and persevere.

CONGRATULATING FRANKLIN THOMAS SYLVESTER, JR.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Franklin Thomas Sylvester, Jr., on his recent graduation from the University of Connecticut Medical School, where he excelled in his clinical training. Franklin, at 25 years old, is now preparing to embark on the next phase in his preparation for life as a medical doctor.

I am proud to say that the city of New York will be welcoming Franklin as he heads to Mount Sinai Kravis Children's Hospital, where he will do his residency training in pediatrics.

I commend Franklin and all those who are graduating this spring from medical school. As an African-American male, Franklin's accomplishment has an additional significance. Research shows that diversity in the medical field is critically linked to better outcomes, and we also know that there isn't enough diversity in a profession that so often makes a difference between life and death.

Franklin recently said: "Pediatrics is where I can make the most difference. From children's health to their social issues, that is where I want to make an impact where I can."

With that kind of compassion and commitment to his profession, Franklin will serve the children of New York and this Nation in ways that make us all proud. I hope that today some young person listening to my remarks will look to Franklin as an inspiration and strive to similar accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

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

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Nurses Week, a celebration of our dedicated healthcare professionals throughout our country.

National Nurses Week begins each year on May 6 and ends on May 12, which is the birthday of Florence Nightingale, widely considered the founder of modern nursing.

National Nurses Week was first celebrated in 1954, in honor of the centennial anniversary of Ms. Nightingale's renowned humanitarian mission during the Crimean War.

In 1982, President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation officially proclaiming May 6 as the national day of recognition for nurses.

During my time in Congress, Mr. Speaker, I have had the privilege to meet with nurses and nursing associations from central Pennsylvania and to hear from them about their critical work around the Commonwealth. The tremendous impact that these nurses have on our entire medical system through their passionate work never ceases to amaze me.

I am extraordinarily grateful that Pennsylvania ranks fourth among all States in the number of professionally active nurses, with nearly 220,000 currently serving our great Commonwealth. Hospitals and medical clinics certainly couldn't operate without them. Their tireless dedication to the well-being of our children, parents, spouses, and friends supports and strengthens our local communities every single day.

I would also like to thank the families, educators, and medical facilities that have allowed these wonderful healthcare professionals to flourish in their selfless vocation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LISA PATTERSON

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

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember the life of Lisa Patterson. Lisa attended the Route 91 festival in Las Vegas on October 1.

Lisa was very active in her community. She coached softball teams, served as the president of the St. John Fisher's PTA and was active in her church.

Lisa was married to her husband, Robert, for more than 20 years, and they enjoyed running a hardwood floor business together. Lisa and Robert had three children together—Robert, Jr.; Amber; and Brooke—and had one dog named Holly Wolf.

Lisa was warm and caring to everyone she met. She had an infectious energy and a fierce love for her family.

I would like to extend my condolences to Lisa Patterson's family and friends. Please know that the city of Las Vegas, the State of Nevada, and the entire country grieve with you.

RECOGNIZING MUSKEGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Muskegon Community College, a national leader in 2-year higher education institutions.

MCC, located in Muskegon, Michigan, offers classes at state-of-the-art facilities throughout the west Michigan region.

Under the leadership of my friend President Dale Nesbary, the students, faculty, and staff have all collaborated to reach great heights. As a result of these efforts, MCC was recently ranked the top 2-year college in the State of Michigan.

MCC has excelled, in part, by emphasizing academic achievement, investing in high-quality facilities, and developing apprenticeship training programs. Last year, graduates of the nursing program ranked first in the country on the registered nursing licensing exam, achieving a 100 percent first-time pass rate.

Currently, MCC is seeking to build on its success by investing in the most significant facilities upgrades in its history.

Through its unique apprentice training program, students work to earn a skills trade certificate, with the option to complete further classes to achieve an associate's degree.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in honoring Muskegon Community College as they continue to raise the bar and provide high-quality educational opportunities for students in Muskegon County and all across west Michigan.

HONORING ROGERS HIGH SCHOOL WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor northwest Ohio's own Rogers High School women's basketball team

on their monumental achievement of winning the Division II State Championship. This breaks a nearly 37-year drought in women's basketball State titles for the city of Toledo.

The joy of their victory is shared by everyone in Toledo: the students, coaches, families, friends, teachers, and loved ones. The city even honored the Rams with a ceremony at Promenade Park.

Well deserved, Rams.

Each member of this team has now chiseled their name into the history books. What a great start for this young generation of future leaders, the players who worked so hard for this.

Go Rams. You have made Toledo proud, as you set your sights on excellence.

I include in the RECORD an article written for the Toledo Blade titled, "Toledo Celebrates Rogers Girls Basketball State Champions."

Thank you, Rams.

[From the Toledo Blade, Apr. 21, 2018]

TOLEDO CELEBRATES ROGERS GIRLS BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONS

(By Lauren Lindstrom)

The whooping cheers, celebratory signs, and ample crowd Saturday made one thing clear: Toledo loves its championship-winning Lady Rams.

Rogers High School girls basketball players were feted with a parade through the streets of downtown Toledo and a rally at Promenade Park, where they basked in the admiration of their ardent and vocal fans.

The team won the Division II state championship game March 17 in Columbus with a 51-37 victory against Gilmour Academy in Gates Mills, Ohio. First-team all-state guard Zia Cooke scored 33 points, sealing the first girls basketball state title for a Toledo team since 1981.

"I want to thank you for all of the Toledo support," said Miss Cooke, a junior point guard who also thanked her coaches, teammates, and parents. "Toledo may be a small city, but our fan base is bigger than most. Man, it's a blessing to be a state champion in 2018."

Miss Cooke teared up when talking about her grandmother, who died late in the team's season.

"She was my drive to do better, and she still is my drive to be a better person in life," she said. "I made this promise to her, and I kept it."

Rogers head coach Lamar Smith reveled in his team's underdog status.

"They said we couldn't bring this home, we've been hearing it: Rogers is done, Toledo can't win a state championship," he said. "Well, we proved them wrong. I'm very proud of these ladies."

Those who spoke Saturday highlighted not only the players' athletic successes but also their status as role models for younger students.

"It's important as a city that we celebrate our successes; that we have pride in Toledo, pride in TPS, pride in where we come from," said Toledo Public Schools Superintendent Romules Durant. He lauded the girls' success on the court and in the classroom.

"Our ladies represent what Toledo is all about," he said. "The minute they begin to think they can count us out we continue to keep fighting . . . these are our leaders today, our leaders tomorrow, and more importantly [they're] leading the city of Toledo as we move to the future."

Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz presented the team with a key to the city and congratulated the players and coaches.

"For an occasion this historic and a moment this important, we're going to go to the big guns," he said as he presented the key. "Post it with pride and—no pressure—let's do this again next year."

Members from the 1981 Libbey High School team were on hand to celebrate the next generation of champions.

"They are going to have a lifetime of memories," said Ann Strong, a center forward and class of 1981. "We still talk after 37 years about our state championship win. They have a lot to look forward to and talk about for years to come. It's a great feeling."

RECOGNIZING TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

(Ms. TENNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, this week is Teacher Appreciation Week.

Teachers inspire millions every day by instilling knowledge, evoking creativity, and motivating students of all ages in the quest for lifelong learning.

Those who have answered this special call to serve in this wonderful profession are among the hardest working and most innovative in our communities. Teachers are special people who lay the foundation for developing critical thinking skills in our children that will serve them throughout their lifetime.

Many of us remember well the teachers who made a big difference in our lives and even encouraged us to take our chosen career path.

I am forever grateful to the teachers who have changed my life, from my kindergarten teacher, Mrs. LePage, to my third grade teacher, Mrs. Huerling. These people have inspired me every day as I think about those wonderful days in elementary school.

Interesting, my son is also a graduate of the same high school and elementary and junior high as I, the New Hartford High School, and graduated some 30 years after I did.

During this week, let's take time to remember teachers and their selfless work and dedication. Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing and honoring the thousands of teachers across the 22nd District and the Nation for their love and dedication to this noble profession and this calling that will never be forgotten.

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PRESCRIPTION DRUGS CRISIS

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, prescription drug prices are rising at an unprecedented rate, unsustainable for most American families. In fact, Americans pay double what people in other countries pay for prescription drugs.

Our per capita prescription drug spending is higher than any other country. That is why last July, Democrats outlined a bold new plan to give