

women of our farmer co-ops for the valuable time and expertise they put into supporting our farmers and our agriculture industry.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL AG DAY

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of National Ag Day, a celebration of our Nation's oldest and most important industry and the hardworking men and women who put food on our table, clothes on our back, and fuel in our cars.

The number of people in agriculture today is but a fraction of what it was 100 years ago, but the impact of today's agriculture industry is unprecedented. Today's farmer feeds about 165 people, and agriculture remains this country's number one export.

In Kansas, agriculture accounts for nearly half the State's economy, and, in my district, that number is more than 60 percent. For many rural communities, farming and ranching is the sole economic driver.

Kansas is the national leader in agriculture, ranking first in the production of grain sorghum, second in the production of wheat, third for cattle, and fourth in the production of sunflowers. In fact, Kansas is second in the Nation for the total number of acres farmed.

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Winters like the one we are currently experiencing at home have highlighted the time and dedication farmers and ranchers have to their land and animals. In Kansas, farmers with livestock are working around the clock to ensure the animals are healthy, warm, and well fed. That means enduring sub-zero windchills, blizzard-like conditions, and middle-of-the-night checks.

While agriculture has become a target of environmentalists who want to discontinue life as we know it in Kansas, I am here today to testify to the great work farmers and ranchers have done to protect and improve our air, land, and water. Farmers are the original conservationists, and continue to find ways to do more with less, while protecting our most valuable natural resources.

National Ag Day is our opportunity to celebrate farmers and ranchers, highlight the impact they have on our communities and country, and remember the thousands of products made possible by their hard work.

Back home, it is a day to introduce thousands of grade school kids to the agriculture industry with fun things like how to milk a cow, gathering eggs, and even flying drones.

I encourage Members to join me today in celebration of National Agriculture Day and take time to thank a farmer.

HONORING JOHN KILZER

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today I learned that John Kilzer, a friend, an

important figure in Memphis and in the music community, passed away.

John Kilzer was 62 years old. He was born in Jackson, Tennessee, up the road from Memphis, but he lived most of his life in Memphis.

He was the epitome of what Memphis is about. A lot of times people in Memphis call us grit and grinders, and the city is the city of grit and grind. It comes from the basketball team, the Grizzlies.

John's life was Memphis and John's life was grit and grind. He was a high school All-American basketball player who went to the University of Memphis, then Memphis State, and played basketball. Didn't play it that well, but he played it. He was on the team; a good outside shooter and a scrapper.

He got interested in other things and he had some demons with him too. Those demons came along maybe from his father, who was an alcoholic, and it caused John to have problems with abuse of drugs and alcohol as well. It interfered with his basketball career, interfered with his music life, but he never let it keep him down. He came back. He came back every chance he could.

He came back as a musician who was signed by David Geffen, had two albums by Geffen, one song that made the top ten, and songs recorded by Maria Muldaur, Rosanne Cash, and others.

He became a minister and he had a series of ministries in St. John's United Methodist Church in Memphis. It was called Recovery Ministry, where he had other musicians come and join him, and they performed for folks who were having trouble with addiction, gave them a concert every Friday and helped them on the road to recovery.

He never forgot people, especially little people. He made a big difference.

For a man from Jackson, Tennessee, who was a tall guy who played basketball, to become a musician and become a minister and a writer: quite a life.

He was influenced by Reverend James Lawson, a hero of the civil rights movement, whose simple presence at a Calvary Church Lenten service influenced John to get back into ministry.

He had a ministry degree and a Ph.D. in ministry as well that he got in London, England.

He was influenced in music—which he dabbled with but wasn't very good—by Teenie Hodges, a guitarist for Al Green. He came over to see the basketball team and saw a guitar in John's room. He took up with John and taught him the finer points of music, songwriting, and guitar playing, and John did good at that, but what John did best was helping his fellow human being.

He never gave up. He always saw hope and opportunity. And he thought in universal terms.

So when I read about my friend, John, dying, the first thing I did was go around to try to find his CD in my

condo. Most of my CDs are in Memphis, about 1,000 to 1, but I looked around and couldn't find John's CD. It must be in Memphis.

So I thought, maybe I can talk to my friend Alexa, see if Alexa can help me. I said, "Alexa, play me some John Kilzer." And Amazon Music had John Kilzer, about eight or nine songs in there, including a song he wrote with Kirk Whalum, a great saxophonist and a legend in Memphis and in the music scene, called "Until We're All Free". We are not all free until we are all free. It is a great song.

So if you have a chance, if you have got Alexa as a friend, ask her to play you some John Kilzer. It is good music.

CONGRESS MUST MEET ITS CONSTITUTIONAL OBLIGATION

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

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart as another individual has lost her life on U.S. Highway 12 in my home State of Minnesota, in fact, right in my neighborhood.

U.S. Highway 12 is the road we drive to get to and from our hometown of Delano, Minnesota. This is one of the most dangerous stretches of road in our State. The highway has actually been called the "Corridor of Death."

On March 2, 2019, Marleena Anna Dieterich, an 18-year-old from Delano, Minnesota, lost her life in another crash on this highway.

Marleena was a student at Delano High School, a member of our hometown, and a young life with so much promise. We lost her far too soon.

Today I rise to remember the life of Marleena, to remember that she was an honor student, a black belt in Taekwondo, and was planning to major in biomedical sciences and minor in premed. Her life held endless promise.

This accident, like so many on U.S. Highway 12, was tragic and senseless.

Over the years, some improvements have been made to portions of U.S. Highway 12, but until massive improvements are made to the most dangerous stretch of this highway, tragic accidents will continue to occur.

Since the beginning of 2019, just 2 months, 14 crashes have already occurred on that stretch of the highway leading into Delano in Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District. More must be done, and quickly.

While we are committed to working with the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Highway 12 Safety Coalition to ensure that Minnesotans can travel safely and securely on this road, I am inviting our Transportation Secretary Chao to visit us and see firsthand some of our most desperate transportation needs in Minnesota.

At the Federal level, Congress must start to exercise its obligation under Article I of the Constitution to dedicate and direct Federal funds to build,