

floor. Whose picture was on the front of that paper? Bonnie and Clyde.

He told his boss, "They just came here. They are in Rockwall. That is their car." His boss called the local sheriff. Ralph couldn't hear the conversation, but the sheriff said something to the effect of, "Thanks for calling about Bonnie and Clyde. I've got two stray dogs I've got to catch. Once I get those dogs, I'm going after Bonnie and Clyde."

After the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, Ralph joined our Navy to fly naval aircraft. He went to Pensacola, Florida, for his first training.

As fate would have it, he met a Hall of Fame baseball player, Ted Williams of the Boston Red Sox, the last man to hit over .400 in a season. Knowing he had Ted on his baseball team, Ralph found a young Army sergeant and said: "Hey, son, I want to bet you my whole paycheck on a baseball game, Navy versus Army."

The day of the game, Ralph knocked on Ted's door. Ted answered with a fishing pole and some gear to go fishing. Ralph said, "You have to play baseball and beat Army." Ted said, "I came here to learn to fly, defend America, and then fish." Ralph held the game up so Ted could go AWOL, absent without leave, and go fishing.

Of course, that night, Ralph had to go home to his queen, his beloved Mary Ellen, and tell her, "Honey, I have just lost my entire paycheck betting on a baseball game with the Army."

Ralph got out of flight school and went to war. He flew the F6F Hellcat on aircraft carriers. Now, I was a naval aviator, and I have to tell you, those guys were crazy, crazy, crazy courageous. Right now, if you land on an aircraft carrier, you have what is called the meatball. This ball gives you course and glide slope. In those days, they had guys with paddles.

Ralph said his proudest achievement in naval aviation during the war was to make sure on his record book that his takeoffs were the same number as his landings.

As fate would have it, once again, Ralph came home to Rockwall, Texas, to become a lawyer. The local county judge retired, so there was a vacancy. People said, "Ralph, you should run our county. File for election." Ralph didn't want to play politics. That wasn't his business. But driving home, he said, "You know what? I will just apply, maybe be there for just a couple months and go back home to my lawyer job." He filed 1 minute before the deadline that year, 1 minute.

He was driving home. The local radio was booming: "Ralph Hall, running for county judge." Guess who was outside his home, waiting with an angered look on her face? His queen, Mary Ellen.

That fate got Ralph going into public service and got Ralph here on Capitol Hill.

As fate would have it, when America goes back to the Moon sometime in the next couple years, they are going to do that because of Ralph Hall.

God bless Ralph Hall. As our dear friend Gene Cernan said: May you always have fair winds and following seas. You shot for your Moon. You are still among the stars.

God bless Ralph Hall.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, as a third-generation farmer from California's San Joaquin Valley, I wish everyone a happy National Agriculture Day, something that we do throughout our country.

I am proud, obviously, to represent the heart of California's San Joaquin Valley. But our agricultural productivity throughout the country, beginning with the very origins of the history of the United States, has truly been one of the tremendous assets that we have had.

We are home to the most productive agricultural land in the world, not only throughout the country, but in California. Our farmers, our dairymen and -women, our ranchers, and our livestock folks feed the country. I have often said that our food security, that dinner that we have on our dinner table every night, is a part of America's national food security.

As a senior member of the House Agriculture Committee, I am proud that we delivered a comprehensive farm bill last year. Now it is part of our job to ensure that we implement that farm bill as a safety net for agriculture throughout the country. But it is also a safety net for those who are working poor, those who are, unfortunately, recipients of food assistance programs and the school lunch and the school breakfast programs. So the farm bill does a great deal to help all Americans.

This year, the Agriculture Committee will work to ensure that those promises we made in the farm bill will be implemented in the way we intended. The subcommittee that I chair, the Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture, will be at the vanguard of that effort.

Today, on National Agriculture Day, let us thank those who grow America's food and fiber and put it on America's dinner table every night. I am talking about the farmers, the dairymen and -women, and the farmworkers, who, through their hard work and the fruits of their labor, make this all come together.

VISAS FOR CITIZENS OF PORTUGAL

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, soon, the Portuguese Caucus will be reintroducing legislation that is important for not only the United States, but for our ally Portugal. We will be introducing bipartisan legislation that will allow citizens of Portugal to be eligible for what is called the E-1 treaty trader visa and the E-2 treaty investors visa.

Portugal is one of the United States' oldest allies and a close economic part-

ner. The United States became Portugal's largest trading partner outside the European Union in 2015. Bilateral trade reached \$4.2 billion in 2015, a 30 percent increase from 5 years ago.

However, because Portugal did not have a bilateral investor treaty with the United States before joining the European Union, they are one of only five European Union countries whose citizens are not eligible for the E-1 and E-2 visas.

This is long overdue. It is good for the United States; it is good for Portugal; and it is good for increased economic activity between both countries. It is bipartisan. Hopefully, this year, we will be successful in implementing these E-1 and E-2 treaty investor visas.

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

We helped create NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, not only to protect our European allies, but to protect our interests. For 70 years, it has done just that, a remarkable success.

Next month, in April, we have invited the Secretary General of NATO to come address a bipartisan joint session of Congress to take assessment of and to commend our NATO partners, along with the United States, for a job well done.

How do you say a job well done? Well, after World War II, over the last 70 years, this is the longest peacetime period in Europe in 1,000 years. Think about that. The last 70 years has been the longest peacetime period in Europe in more than 1,000 years.

NATO has been one of the cornerstones that has created that peace dividend, being an absolute and critical barrier against the aggression of the Soviet Union and other totalitarian states, being there for the fall of the Iron Curtain. NATO's relevance today is just as important as it was then.

RECOGNIZING McCAFFREY'S FOOD MARKETS

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, our local businesses in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, help make our community vibrant and prosperous. Today, I am proud to recognize one such business, McCaffrey's Food Markets, which was recently named Business of the Year by the Newtown Business Association. Each year, the Newtown Business Association recognizes a business that contributes to our regional economy and contributes substantially to the community at large.

The McCaffreys opened their first supermarket in 1986 in Lower Makefield and over the past three decades has expanded throughout Pennsylvania and

New Jersey while maintaining its headquarters in Middletown Township.

McCaffrey's Food Markets and the McCaffrey family are both noted for their generosity to our community and are noted supporters of the American Red Cross, St. Mary's Medical Center, the American Cancer Society, and the 9/11 Garden of Reflection, among many other organizations and memorials.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud McCaffrey's Food Markets, the McCaffrey family, and all their amazing employees for their investment in our community and their entrepreneurship.

I also thank Bill Sheffer and Beverly Dimler of the Newtown Business Association for all their leadership in our community.

RECOGNIZING BUCKS COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a nonprofit organization in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, that is seeking to assist college students as they enter the workforce. The Bucks County Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, based in Newtown, recently teamed up with Bucks County Community College to collect attire for college students.

Mr. Speaker, a critical component to ensuring the success of recent college graduates, and those who will be graduating in the future, is making sure that they are equipped with the resources they need to succeed. I applaud the work of the Bucks County Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, especially the organization's executive director, Anne Marie Hyer, for her service.

I also thank Bucks County Community College for its collaboration with this dynamic organization and so many others in our community.

HONORING JOHN POPRIK

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and memory of a very, very special member of the Bucks County community, John Poprik, whom we recently lost.

Born in Philadelphia, John attended Father Judge High School and Drexel University, where he graduated in 1970 with a degree in accounting. He was a respected business executive, having served as the CFO of Better Material Corp. before becoming the CFO of Sommer Maid Creamery.

John was truly dedicated to making our community a better place through public service. He served on the Northampton Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority, the Bucks County Drug and Alcohol Commission, and Pennsylvania's Office of Unemployment Compensation Board of Review.

More than anything, John was a dedicated family man. He spent some of his most treasured moments with his five grandchildren, his wife, Pat, and his children.

I extend my deepest condolences to his beloved wife of 50 years, my dear friend Pat Poprik, and their sons, Brad and Matt. May John, a good and decent

and honorable man, enjoy his eternal reward for a life well-lived.

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WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

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

Mr. WALTZ. Mr. Speaker, each year in the month of March, our Nation takes time to celebrate Women's History Month and to recognize the important role women have played in our personal, local, national, and world history.

We have made progress elevating women throughout our society, but it is not enough. There is still more work to be done here at home and around the world.

Women play a critical role in the history of every American.

As the son of a single mother who worked multiple jobs while putting herself through night school, I owe everything I am to this strong, independent, American woman. She and millions of other women like her blazed the trail for me, for today's young women, and, particularly, for my 15-year-old daughter, Anderson.

I am proud to be raising a young woman at a time where we have seen tremendous gains for women in our Nation.

I am proud to serve alongside a historic 102 women here in this Congress, the 116th Congress, including trailblazers like MARTHA MCSALLY, the first female fighter pilot in Congress, and numerous other Republican colleagues in the House who were the first women to represent their districts: Representatives like LIZ CHENEY and ELISE STEFANIK, who are working diligently to ensure more female candidates have the resources they need to compete in our election system, and countless others who inspire me.

As these national role models continue to be important, it is also critical to recognize the important role local heroes and local women have in our communities and our Nation, including many from my own district in Florida. That is why each week this month I will be honoring local women who have had or are having an important impact in our community, women like:

Alice Scott Abbott, a Flagler County resident of the early 1900s who worked with the national women's suffrage movement and, following the ratification of the 19th Amendment, fervently employed her fellow Flagler County women to register and participate in the 1920 November election;

Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, who founded the Volusia County School that would later become Bethune-Cookman University. She was a national leader on issues related to civil rights, to education, to women and young people until her death in 1955.

Mr. Speaker, as these local heroes exemplify, women and their contribu-

tions are critical to our success as a nation, but I also believe their strength is an essential part of our national security.

As a Green Beret who operated all over the world, I know firsthand where women thrive in business, where they thrive in civil society, in politics, and in government, extremism does not. Where women thrive, extremism fails.

As an Afghan elder once told me during one of my combat tours, he shared with me his secret weapon in defeating the Taliban. It wasn't a weapon or a missile or some type of other secret device. It was his teenage daughters, whom he had sent to India to be educated. He looked at me and said: This is our secret weapon to defeat extremism.

And I will quote for you, Mr. Speaker, the Nobel Peace Prize-winning young girl who was shot in the face for attending school, Malala Yousafzai. She said: "Extremists have shown what frightens them most: a girl with a book."

So this Women's History Month must serve as a reminder that as a nation we have a responsibility to empower women who participate in every aspect of our society—not only for the betterment of America, but also as an example for the world.

So thank you to the women of my district, our Nation, and the world who worked to make their communities a better place for us all.

DAYTONA BIKE WEEK

Mr. WALTZ. Mr. Speaker, This week is Daytona Bike Week, where my district welcomes nearly 300,000 avid motorcyclists for our community's 78th annual celebration of liberty, freedom, and two-wheeled, motorized muscle. No other event comes close to matching our combination of bikes, Florida beaches, sun, and fun.

It all started in January 1937, on a 3.2-mile race course running along the world's most famous beach—Daytona Beach. Riders first headed south on the paved roadway of Route A1A, turned left onto the beach, then raced north on the sand until turning back onto the pavement at a spot now marked by a favorite local restaurant named Racing's North Turn. Then, the riders did it again and again and again for 200 miles.

This was the birth of the famed Daytona 200 motorcycle race and the Bike Week that now surrounds it. Since then, only World War II has interrupted these annual festivities. Today, the Daytona 200 headlines Bike Week as a spectacular finale in the famed Daytona International Speedway.

Don't miss the week's other high-adrenaline racing, too. The American Flat Track series opens its season this week, and the Daytona Supercross is back again, bigger and better than ever.

If you are unsure of where to start, try the brand-new official Bike Week Welcome Center, located in One Daytona.