

their dedication to our students that builds strong public schools and, therefore, strong communities.

As a senior member of the Education and Labor Committee and a product of public schools, I know the incredible role our schools play in communities across the Nation.

Public schools today have much good news to share, from increasing graduation rates and reduced dropout rates, to improved ratings given by communities on school performance.

Public schools welcome every child, regardless of ability, race, wealth, language, country of origin, or needs. By strengthening the public school system, we strengthen the democracy of our country.

Supporting public schools today will build a stronger workforce for tomorrow. The future of our Nation to produce in the manufacturing industry, the farm, and the information age will be based on the investment we make today in supporting public schools. Schools today are integrating the new ideas that are being explored by businesses and industry.

Strong public schools are vital to our national security. Our military's success is dependent on members who can apply their knowledge and skills to navigate the increasingly complex tools that keep our country safe.

In many communities, the school district is the largest employer. Teachers, bus drivers, administrators, cafeteria workers, coaches, and facilities management all depend on the school district, and all these jobs contribute to the fabric of a community. Communities are stronger and schools are better when we all work together to support public education.

Public schools also make sure kids receive at least one nutritious meal a day. More than 30 million school lunches are served each day, including 20 million free and 2 million reduced priced lunches. For some students, the only meal that they receive will be the one that they get at school.

Mr. Speaker, a child's opportunity for success should not be left to chance. Every child needs a quality, well-equipped school right in their neighborhood, where they can learn, be inspired, and thrive.

Public education has always been the great equalizer in the United States. I am grateful for the contribution of our public schools, and I know that, together, we will continue to work to strengthen them for our most precious resource: our children.

HONORING ANNE BEILER

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

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, March is Women's History Month. I would like to take this time to honor a notable woman from my district, Ms. Anne Beiler, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Anne is well known in our community but is also well known and beloved throughout the world, since she is the founder of Auntie Anne's pretzels. She was born into an Amish family, and her parents became members of the Amish Mennonite church when she was 3 years old. She was a baker and a bread maker and worked at a waitressing job, which taught her the values of hard work and customer service. She learned to make pretzels when she worked at a food stand in a farmer's market.

Eventually, she started her own pretzel business. In 1989, she opened the first franchises throughout central Pennsylvania. Auntie Anne's unmistakable pretzel aroma can frequently be smelled in malls around the country and the world, and I am very honored to recognize her hard work here today.

Anne has also been instrumental in supporting many organizations and causes in our community. Currently, she serves on the board of the Museum of the Bible here in Washington, D.C. I am honored to recognize Anne Beiler on Women's History Month.

HONORING MARILYN WARE

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, March is Women's History Month. I would like to honor a notable woman from my district, Ms. Marilyn Ware, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Ms. Ware was CEO of American Water Works. During that time, she grew that company to a market cap of \$8.3 billion.

Marilyn was also involved in the local community, serving as chair of the Lancaster County GOP from 1978 to 1980. She was a pioneer in fundraising and cared deeply about the direction of our State and our country. She was always doing all that she could to make sure our country was on the right path. In our local community, she was a lifetime advocate of farmland and open space preservation.

From 2006 to 2008, Marilyn served as Ambassador to Finland. She was passionate and hardworking, always looking to make a difference and to recruit young people into the world of politics.

Unfortunately, Marilyn passed away in 2017, but she left a lasting legacy for women and for people all across my district. It is an honor to recognize her on the House floor today.

HONORING JACKIE PFURSICH

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, March is Women's History Month. I would like to honor a notable woman from my district, Ms. Jackie Pfursich, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Jackie currently serves as the Lancaster County clerk of courts, where she has served since 2016. Since then, she has improved the court system by modernizing the criminal court with an electronic filing system. This allows attorneys and case participants to file documents electronically and helps speed up our court process and make it more efficient.

Jackie began her legal career as an assistant attorney for the Pennsyl-

vania Office of General Counsel, Department of Labor and Industry, where she prosecuted those who violated the Commonwealth's labor laws.

She resides in East Hempfield with her husband, Ed; and children, Ella, Nathan, and Tyler. Jackie is an example of a strong, innovative, and hard-working woman. I am honored to recognize her on the floor of the House today.

HONORING PEGGY STEINMAN

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, March is Women's History Month. I would like to honor a notable woman from my district, Ms. Beverly "Peggy" Steinman, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Peggy served as the chairwoman for Steinman Communications. Her family's business history in our area actually began not long after the founding of the country. They were responsible for publishing many of the local papers in our area, including our daily newspaper, the LNP, and Lancaster Farming. Peggy took helm of the companies in 2010 and did an extraordinary job of leading Steinman Communications.

More importantly, Peggy is a leader in our community in philanthropy, always working to make Lancaster County a better place. She served on the leadership boards of the United Way of Lancaster and, currently, works with the Steinman Foundation to improve the quality of life for people in our community. She loves our community and is always giving back. For that reason, I am honored to recognize her on the floor of the House today.

ILLEGAL ALIEN CRIME VICTIMS

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

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise, once again, to share stories of Americans who once were vibrant and alive but now are dead because Washington's open borders policies fail to protect our own people.

I yearn for the day when there are no more speeches like this to give because we have secured our borders and there are no more illegal alien killings to describe.

On average, roughly 2,000 illegal aliens are apprehended each year by Federal agents for homicides committed on American soil. Another, roughly, 120,000 illegal aliens are arrested each year for other criminal activity, including 50,000 assaults and 15,000 sexual assaults.

For emphasis, behind each statistic is a crime victim who would have been spared if America simply secured our porous southern border.

In Marshall County, Alabama, an illegal alien was recently arrested for first-degree rape of a 12-year-old girl. According to Marshall County Sheriff Phil Sims, the illegal alien had at least 10 different aliases, four different birth dates, and two prior deportations. In 2008, the illegal alien was charged with DUI in Louisiana and deported. In 2009,