

Their farm encompasses over 300 acres, 130 cows and three poultry houses. They're hard-working, forward-thinking stewards of the land whose recent diversification allows them to produce over 3,500 bales of haylage annually. They also partner on C&J Farm, a trucking and poultry house clean-out business.

Off the farm, they promote agriculture and rural living through Clay County Young Farmers, the county cattlemen's association and Lineville Baptist Church. Chris also serves as State Poultry Committee first vice chairman.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the 2018 Outstanding Young Farm Family: Chris and Jordyn Upchurch.

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HONORING JOHN P. LARUE

**HON. MICHAEL CLOUD**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 15, 2019*

Mr. CLOUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize John LaRue, a resident of Corpus Christi, for his commitment to his community and to the Port of Corpus Christi.

Originally from Reading, Pennsylvania, John LaRue spent the first half of his career assisting the City of Philadelphia and its Port Authority. In 1994, Mr. LaRue relocated to Corpus Christi to become the Executive Director of the Port of Corpus Christi Authority. His responsibilities included organizing, planning, and administering the Port Authority's activities.

Thanks to Mr. LaRue's 25 years of leadership, the Port of Corpus Christi transformed from a Regional Port Authority to the "Energy Port of the Americas" and the fourth-largest port in the United States. The Port is a key contributor to America's global energy dominance and is continuing to expand. Mr. LaRue's widespread expertise on port policy is lauded both domestically and internationally.

In addition to providing leadership and guidance for the POCCA, Mr. LaRue also serves on multiple advisory boards and panels. He is Chairman of the State of Texas Department of Transportation Port Advisory Committee and serves as a member of the Port Industries of Corpus Christi, as well as on the Board of Directors of the American Association of Port Authorities.

On the occasion of his upcoming retirement, I would like to extend to John LaRue my thanks and appreciation for his valuable work at the Port of Corpus Christi Authority, and on the next exciting chapter of his life.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 15, 2019*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, regrettably, I was unable to attend the votes series for May 14, 2019. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA to Roll Call No. 203, H.R. 29 Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, and YEA to Roll Call No. 204, H.R. 2379 To reauthorize the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program.

TRIBUTE TO RON WELLMAN

**HON. VIRGINIA FOXX**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 15, 2019*

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Ron Wellman, Athletics Director at Wake Forest University, who is retiring in May 2019. He leaves as the longest-tenured athletics director in the country at the NCAA Division I level, having been named to the position at Wake Forest in 1992.

He has overseen the most successful period in athletics history at Wake Forest, which ranks first in the Directors Cup in the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC), while achieving a student-athlete graduation rate of 94 percent.

Under Mr. Wellman, Wake Forest has thrived and has become a national powerhouse in men's tennis, men's soccer, and women's field hockey. The football program has seen the most successful stretch in school history recently as well.

Wake Forest's accomplishments under Wellman's leadership include five team and seven individual national titles, 22 ACC championships, 171 first team All-Americans and the renaissance of athletics facilities. During his tenure, Wake Forest has raised over \$400 million in philanthropic support for athletics.

Wellman has also played a significant role in shaping intercollegiate athletics on a regional and national level. He served on multiple committees, including the NCAA Division I Management Council and was chairman of the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship Committee. Additionally, as former president of the Division I-A Athletic Directors' Association, Wellman served on the NCAA Diversity Leadership Strategic Planning Committee.

Wellman's efforts leading Wake Forest have not gone unnoticed. In 2007-08, he was honored by two organizations: Street & Smith's Sports Business Journal named him College Athletic Director of the Year and the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) selected him as its AstroTurf AD of the Year for the Southeast Region—the second time in his career he received that honor.

Off the playing fields, Wellman helped enhance the overall development of the student-athlete. He stressed academics and instituted programs to assist and develop student-athletes in ways outside of competition. Most recently, Wake Forest athletics launched its Deacon Leader program, a comprehensive leadership development system designed to identify and develop student-athlete leaders from their arrival on campus through their senior year and beyond graduation.

Wellman earned his undergraduate degree from Bowling Green State University, where he was a pitcher on the baseball team. After receiving a master's from Bowling Green, he joined the faculty and coaching staff at Elmhurst (IL) College in 1971, serving as head baseball coach, assistant basketball and football coach and associate professor of health and physical education. Wellman was the athletics director during his last five years at Elmhurst.

I ask the House to join me in recognizing Mr. Ron Wellman, a leader of extraordinary conscience and character.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ERIC SWALWELL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 15, 2019*

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, I missed votes on Tuesday, May 7, Thursday, May 9, and Friday, May 10. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Roll Call Vote Number 185 (Passage of H. Res. 273): YES;

Roll Call Vote Number 186 (Passage of H.R. 1704, the Championing American Business Through Diplomacy Act): YES;

Roll Call Vote Number 189 (Ordering the Previous Question): YES;

Roll Call Vote Number 190 (Passage of H. Res. 357): YES;

Roll Call Vote Number 191 (Passage of H. AMDT. 199 to H.R. 986 offered by Rep. ANTHONY BROWN): YES;

Roll Call Vote Number 192 (Passage of H. AMDT. 203 to H.R. 986 offered by Rep. GEORGE HOLDING): NO;

Roll Call Vote Number 193 (Passage of H. AMDT. 207 to H.R. 986 offered by Rep. TOM MALINOWSKI): YES;

Roll Call Vote Number 194 (Passage of H. AMDT. 208 to H.R. 986 offered by Rep. SUSAN WILD): YES;

Roll Call Vote Number 195 (Adoption of Motion to Recommit to H.R. 986): NO;

Roll Call Vote Number 196 (Passage of H.R. 986, the Protecting Americans with Pre-existing Conditions Act): YES;

Roll Call Vote Number 197 (Passage of H. AMDT. 209 to H.R. 2157 offered by Rep. ED PERLMUTTER): YES;

Roll Call Vote Number 198 (Passage of H. AMDT. 210 to H.R. 2157 offered by Rep. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN): YES;

Roll Call Vote Number 199 (Passage of H. AMDT. 214 to H.R. 2157 offered by Rep. JARED HUFFMAN): YES;

Roll Call Vote Number 200 (Passage of H. AMDT. 216 to H.R. 2157 offered by Rep. LIZZIE FLETCHER): YES;

Roll Call Vote Number 201 (Adoption of Motion to Recommit to H.R. 2157): NO; and

Roll Call Vote Number 202 (Passage of H.R. 2157, the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2019): YES.

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COMMENDING THE ROANOKE VALLEY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 15, 2019*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to commend the Roanoke Valley Christian School boys basketball team, which captured the Virginia Association of Christian Athletics state title on February 23, 2019. The Eagles put on a commanding performance, handily defeating an exceptional team from Timberlake Christian School by a score of 66 to 42.

This victory carries particular meaning, as it is Roanoke Valley Christian's first boys basketball state championship in its history. Their championship caps a 27-4 season. I applaud