

and the enthusiasm of not only America's soccer world, but much of that throughout the entire globe.

Their performance over the past few weeks leaves no doubt that they are the best team in the world, but their victory Sunday is a stinging reminder that members of the team are being paid much less than their male counterparts.

With four World Cup titles, four Olympic Gold Medals, and a long history of dominance, they are the most successful team in the history of women's soccer—more successful on the world stage than the United States men's, their counterparts.

And what we are really talking about here is an issue that has been out there for many years, and that is equal pay for equal work. The highest paid male soccer player makes \$200,000 more than the highest paid female player.

Over the past 3 years, the women's team generated more revenue and higher TV ratings than their men's counterpart.

The gap is a stark reminder of the persistent and frustrating reality that women's sports are undervalued and their stars, simply, are underpaid. That is a fact.

But it is not just the playing field where the women's work is undervalued; it is also in the workforce. In the United States, women who work full-time still earn only 80 cents, on the average, for every dollar earned by a man. Today's wage gap robs women of over \$400,000 over the course of their working lives.

So equal pay for equal work is really, I think, an incredible value that we must pursue in this Congress. It is the fair thing. It is the right thing to do.

In March, I joined my colleagues to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act, which will give women tools they need to fight pay discrimination, and I urge my colleagues in the Senate to pay attention to the strong support for the bill and to ensure that, in fact, we follow up and get it to the President's desk.

Also, in March, the U.S. soccer team sued for equal pay, alleging gender discrimination, with the men's team supporting their efforts. This really goes back to title IX that was started decades ago to ensure that, in our collegiate sports, women could have the same access to the same sporting programs throughout our universities.

Now, this week, we are going to see parades in New York and in Los Angeles celebrating this great world championship, this victory. But shortly after the final whistle on Sunday solidified these women's efforts in history books, celebratory cheers in the crowd quickly erupted into chants of "equal pay, equal pay," showing their support, as well, for which a groundswell, I believe, is developing.

It is time, therefore, that we end pay disparity on the playing field and in the workplace once and for all.

Congratulations to the United States Women's National Soccer Team. Go USA and equal pay.

IN HONOR OF GENE HAAGENSON

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I also rise today to recognize and honor the career of Gene Haagenson on his retirement.

A successful television news reporter for four decades, Gene spent the past 27 years covering stories throughout my home in the San Joaquin Valley for KFSN TV, Channel 30. He had the pleasure of working with so many of us over the years.

An adept, smart reporter, he is known and respected for not only his fair reporting, hard-hitting questions, and the embodiment of a true professional, he did his homework. He knew what he was talking about.

Gene's professionalism, his commitment to fair and balanced reporting will be missed, but he leaves a robust foundation for future journalists to build upon. He is a mentor, and he is a teacher.

I wish him the very best with his family and his grandchildren in his new exciting phase of life.

But I will encourage him, as I have before, that he use all these skills that he has honed over the years and teach, teach in our colleges and universities, the future journalists of America, to ensure that we have a vibrant, fair, and free press that is the cornerstone of our democracy. Gene has a lot more to give, and I hope he does so.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Gene Haagenson for his achievements, his outstanding commitment to Fresno, the San Joaquin Valley, and to our country, for always—always—standing for a free and fair press.

IN MEMORY OF EDWIN RUSSELL
MEGONEGAL

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

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great man and a friend who recently passed away, Mr. Edwin Russell Megonegal, or, as his friends called him, Russ.

Russ passed away peacefully last week on June 21, 2019, at the age of 97. He was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on October 21, 1921.

Mr. Megonegal was part of America's Greatest Generation, serving his country during World War II and the Korean war in the Army Air Corps, the Air Force, and retiring in 1973 from the Pennsylvania National Guard, with the rank of colonel.

He was a graduate of Franklin & Marshall College and Temple University.

Mr. Megonegal had a long career in education in Pennsylvania as teacher, assistant principal, principal, and retiring as assistant superintendent of the William Penn School District.

He and his beloved wife, Tigger, retired to Lake Mary, Florida, in 1981, where he served as the commissioner of the City of Lake Mary. He and Tigger

made Clay County their home in 1991 and immediately became ensconced in their community.

I first met Russ in 2012, while running for office. He was at every meeting, every gathering, and knew everyone. He always had a smile on his face and many pearls of wisdom that he would impart upon me, whether it was solicited or not. No matter what, he also told you what he believed and what he felt and what he thought was right; and that is perhaps what I will miss most about Russ.

Russ's service to Clay County was boundless. He served on the City County Planning and Zoning Committee and the board of Penney Farms Retirement Community. He was actively involved in many of the charities, including the Rotary Club of Green Cove Springs, J.P. Hall Charities, the Clay County Salvation Army Advisory Council, the Food Pantry of Green Cove Springs, the Republican Club of Clay County, the Republican Executive Committee of Clay County, the DePaul Society of St. Vincent's Medical Center, the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, and the Clay County Fair Association.

He was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church of Green Cove Springs.

He had received many awards for his public service, including the Clay County Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016 and the Boy Scouts of America 12 Points Award in 2019. Of all of these awards, Russ may perhaps be remembered best as the unofficial mayor of Penney Farms, where he made his home.

Russ's life was full, and he touched all those who knew him. I am proud to have known him and to have called him a friend.

Russ, you will be missed.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JIM LLOYD

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and celebrate one of my constituents, Jim Lloyd.

Dr. Lloyd received his degree in veterinary medicine from Michigan State University in 1981, but he didn't stop there. He furthered his education with a doctorate in agricultural economics in 1983 and began his long career as both a published researcher and educator.

Before leaving Michigan, Jim served as the dean of the Michigan State University Veterinary College. After years of teaching, presenting, and serving the agricultural community of Michigan, Jim was selected as the dean of the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine in 2013, my first year in Congress. In that role, I had the great privilege of working with him directly on a number of initiatives.

His passion for science, his commitment to agriculture, his passion for the veterinary profession in general, and his friendship inspire not just me, but everyone who comes in contact with him.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Jim well in his retirement, and I look forward to working with him in the future.

IN HONOR OF KEN BROCK

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ken Brock.

Mr. Brock calls Keystone Heights home and is an Army veteran.

In addition to serving his country with distinction and honor, he has done something else that is incredible. Mr. Brock has walked more than 2,650 miles across the United States to promote PTSD programs for the Wounded Warrior Project, with the aim of making it to Idaho by Independence Day.

His walk began on February 1 of this year and wasn't without challenges. He faced two weekends of deadly tornadoes, deadly floods, thunderstorms, a collision with a tractor trailer, and plenty of snow.

In the midst of the Ken's trek, he was called back to Florida for a mandatory VA benefit evaluation. Not to be deterred, Ken made his appointment and got right back on the road.

Nonetheless, he arrived at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, 6 days ahead of the town's Fourth of July parade, with residents standing five deep along Sherman Avenue. Brock was featured in the parade doing what he does best: walking with his 100-pound supply cart and his service dog, Pam.

This Sunday he will receive a hero's welcome from the Keystone Heights community. I am proud to honor and celebrate Ken Brock's journey to honor our veterans.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF JACK GREER

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

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Mr. Jack Greer.

Jack passed away last week after a long life of personal and business achievement and service to his family and to his community.

So many people in south Alabama knew Jack from shopping for groceries at Greer's grocery store, a business which has been operating in our area for over 100 years. But it was through his civic involvement that Jack truly left his mark. His civic contributions are too many to list.

It was his role as an environmental advocate that he perhaps was most proud of. He was a founding member of Mobile Baykeeper and remained engaged throughout his life in protecting the waters in and around Mobile Bay.

Jack was an active member of Dauphin Way United Methodist Church, and he proudly served his country as second lieutenant in the United States Army.

I knew Mr. Jack. I have known the Greer family my entire life. My deepest condolences to his wife of 70 years, Janice, and his many surviving children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Please know that Mr. Jack lived a life you can all be proud of. He will be, and is, sorely missed.

RECOGNIZING THE ST. CLOUD POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the St. Cloud Police Department for receiving the United States Department of Justice's L. Anthony Sutin Civic Imagination Award. This award recognizes collaborative partnerships between law enforcement and their communities.

The St. Cloud Police Department received the award for its Community Outpost Project. The "Cop House," as it is more commonly known, is a refurbished residential home in a neighborhood that previously experienced a high level of calls for local law enforcement.

The St. Cloud Police Department, together with numerous community partners, now provides not only a local gathering place, but safety and health programming for the neighborhood residents out of this home.

Congratulations to Chief Blair Anderson, Lieutenant Lori Ellering, the Greater St. Cloud Public Safety Foundation, and all of the officers of the St. Cloud Police Department for this well-deserved award.

Our community appreciates all of you and all that you do to protect and serve us.

PRIORITIZING TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, on Minnesota's U.S. Highway 12 between the cities of Independence and my hometown of Delano, in just the last 5 years, there have been 811 crashes in which 239 people have been injured and 24 people have lost their lives.

Several of those lost have been high school classmates of my own children. In fact, this past March, Marleena Dieterich, a senior honor student at Delano High School and the child of Thom and Deb, lost her life as she was trying to get home.

Recently, Deputy Administrator for the Federal Highway Administration Brandye Hendrickson visited Minnesota on behalf of Secretary Chao. Following a bus tour of the most dangerous stretches of U.S. Highway 12, we held a roundtable with community leaders and residents to discuss possible solutions and the need for action.

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The accidents and fatalities on this road are avoidable. We continue to urge Secretary Chao to visit and see firsthand the danger this highway presents.

Congress must do its part to provide long-term Federal transportation funding for needed infrastructure repairs and improvements. We must find innovative and long-term solutions to address these sorely needed improvements, like the need on U.S. Highway 12.

I thank Deputy Administrator Hendrickson and everyone who participated in our roundtable. Together, we

will continue fighting for improvements on U.S. Highway 12 until we see the changes that will prioritize the safety of our neighbors, our friends, and our fellow Minnesotans.

INSPIRING FUTURE FEMALE LEADERS

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my staff and to highlight a program our office launched during my first term in Congress for high school women in Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District.

The program is called the Young Women's Leadership Program.

In addition to my staff, I want to personally thank the amazing women leaders who have participated in the program and who have agreed to be a resource and mentors for the young women who attend these programs as they get ready for life beyond high school.

Every summer, our Young Women's Leadership Program hosts three roundtable discussions featuring high-achieving professional women in our district.

To date, we have been honored by the first female brigadier general for both the Army and Air Force, the first Asian American female U.S. district attorney, a surgeon, a college professor, and numerous female entrepreneurs and business owners.

This program gives our participants insight into valuable leadership experiences and career advice during a pivotal time in their lives.

Our panelists have discussed how to negotiate your first salary, tips for networking successfully, managing a work-life balance, and countless other lessons.

We live in a time in our Nation's history where everyone is important and needed, especially strong women.

Again, I want to thank the incredible women leaders who have participated in our program to pay it forward for the next generation of women leaders, and I encourage my Republican and Democrat colleagues here in Congress to do the same in all of your districts.

A BETTER WAY TO AGE

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, we recently held a senior forum for residents of Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District. This forum was an opportunity to connect our seniors and their caregivers with resources to assist with health, lifestyle, and future planning needs.

I want to thank the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging and the Central Minnesota Council on Aging for partnering with our office to make this event a success.

Recently, the House passed the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act. This non-partisan law, more commonly known as the SECURE Act, will make it easier to establish retirement plans and removes age limits for IRA contributions.

The SECURE Act will allow our seniors more flexibility and improve their quality of life in retirement.