

my district have shared with me statements about how SALT is harming residents in New Jersey's 11th District.

Mayor Molly Whilesmith of Sparta said: "The current trend is to sell the house and pack the moving truck right after the youngest child graduates from high school. The cap makes New Jersey much less attractive for the average, hardworking New Jersey family."

Mayor Keith Kazmark from Woodland Park said: "Fifty-one percent of Woodland Park taxpayers pay more than \$10,000 in local property taxes, and that does not include their State taxes. That is over 1,800 residential property owners in our town."

Mayor Bruce Harris of Chatham Borough said: "The average property tax bill in Chatham Borough is about \$14,100, so 40 percent is no longer deductible. That impacts people's pockets; it also impacts housing values."

Mayor John Kelley, the Borough of Caldwell, said: "Caldwell families manage their finances and tax liability closely, and for many years have relied upon their State income taxes and Caldwell property taxes to reduce their Federal income tax through itemized deductions."

DMC PROGRAM EXTENSION

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the Department of Agriculture's Dairy Margin Coverage program.

The Dairy Margin Coverage program, or DMC program, is a relatively new voluntary risk management tool for dairy producers that was authorized in the 2018 farm bill. It replaces the Margin Protection Program for dairy.

As everyone in agriculture knows, the industry is subject to many unpredictable or uncontrollable factors.

This year, weather has left a sizeable impact on production.

The DMC program exists for incidents like this: for when factors outside of our control impact agriculture yields.

The enrollment period for the DMC program has been extended through December 20.

The USDA website has plenty of information on the program, including a tool to help select the ideal level of coverage.

Agriculture is Pennsylvania's number one industry, with dairy being the largest sector. With just a few days left to enroll, I would like to encourage our hardworking dairy farmers to take advantage of the tools at their disposal, like Dairy Margin Coverage.

HONORING PETER FRATES

(Mr. MOULTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Pete Frates.

I am reminded of something my minister at Harvard, Peter Gomes, used to say often: "The radical news of the Gospel is not that heaven is a destination of the faithful. The radical news is that God wants us to flourish in our present lives, our earthly existence, and to do so more in the future than in the past."

Mr. Speaker, Pete Frates flourished, and even in his darkest days, he looked to the future. He was the epitome of strength, leadership, and courage, both as an athlete and as an advocate.

I have met a lot of inspiring people in this job, but none more so than Pete. Because of Pete, we will cure ALS.

Mr. Speaker, to Julie, Lucy, John, Nancy, Jennifer, and Andrew, thank you for sharing him with us.

COMPELLING, OVERWHELMING, AND BIPARTISAN

(Mr. BOST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, Speaker NANCY PELOSI said that impeachment should be "compelling, overwhelming, and bipartisan."

Let me tell you that, if you come from the State of Illinois, you understand what it is to have an impeachment that is compelling, overwhelming, and bipartisan, and what it looks like.

And if you are a Member in this House and you served in Illinois, you know, because your constituents know as well.

A decade ago, the Illinois General Assembly impeached Governor Rod Blagojevich. There was clear and convincing evidence of crimes committed by the Governor.

I served on that bipartisan impeachment committee to recommend impeachment, and it was recommended by the committee 21-0.

After impeachment advanced to the floor, it passed 114-1, and the one that dissented was his sister-in-law.

Let me tell you that that was compelling, overwhelming, and bipartisan.

What we have that we are dealing with here this week is not a crime, and it is not overwhelming, and it is not compelling, and it sure isn't bipartisan.

HONORING PETE FRATES: DO NOT BE AFRAID TO BE GREAT

(Mr. LAMB asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMB. Mr. Speaker, I echo the comments of my colleague from Massachusetts, Mr. MOULTON.

On December 9, the United States lost a great hero. Peter Frates once crushed a home run into the bullpen at Fenway in Boston's Beanpot Championship for his BC Eagles.

But Pete will be remembered for another reason: ALS would go on to rob him of his physical gifts, but not his spiritual ones. Pete simply refused to give up.

He helped launch the Ice Bucket Challenge, which raised more than \$220 million. These funds have already begun to change the world for ALS patients. They helped find a new gene that may open pathways to treatment.

It is said that, in the Bible, God breaks through to humanity 366 times to say, "Do not be afraid," once for every day and once more in case we just didn't get it.

In the Christmas season, we are reminded that God sent his most precious gift to this planet for such a short time. We don't know why, but we do know that he invites others to carry the message.

Pete was known for telling others, "Do not be afraid to be great."

I cannot think of better words to close out the year of our Lord 2019 or a better man for us all to honor.

USMCA RATIFICATION IS A GREAT WIN FOR AMERICA

(Mr. ROUZER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, after months of delay, the House is on the cusp of approving the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement, a landmark trade deal that fulfills President Trump's promise to renegotiate and improve NAFTA.

This agreement reduces tariffs, cracks down on unfair trading practices, and removes other barriers to American-grown and -made products. This is particularly true for many North Carolina products.

Mexico and Canada are North Carolina's most important trade partners. North Carolina exported nearly \$10.5 billion in total goods to Canada and Mexico in 2018, and our agriculture industry is particularly dependent upon trade with these two countries as well.

My home State exported more than \$3.5 billion in agriculture products in 2017. Under this agreement, North Carolina farm families can expect to export even more.

Ratification of this trade deal means stability and more prosperity for our farm families as well as for North Carolina's economy as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Ambassador Lighthizer and his entire team at USTR, as well as the fine professionals at USDA, for their tireless work to make this achievement possible.

This is a great win for America.

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PROTECT CONSTITUTION WITH VOTE TO IMPEACH

(Ms. UNDERWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, our country's Founders created impeachment so that no President could place themselves above the law, a crucial constitutional check of power that ensures our country's security and values are protected against corruption and foreign influence in our elections.

As I have weighed this solemn decision, I have listened to our community, examined important testimony and evidence, and studied the drafted articles.

The President has demonstrated a pattern of corrupt behavior and abused his power for his own personal political gain when he pressured foreign leaders to conduct investigations against political rivals, jeopardizing our country's national security and the integrity of our elections.

The testimony and evidence put forth led me to a clear conclusion: In order to uphold my sworn oath, I must vote to protect the Constitution and will vote in support of the Articles of Impeachment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

HONORING PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS H. TRAVIS PARKER

(Mr. BURCHETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Petty Officer First Class H. Travis Parker, an American hero who served in World War II and the Korean war.

Mr. Parker enlisted in the Navy on August 26, 1942. He began his service on the USS *Midway* during World War II, flying Consolidated PBV Catalina seaplanes. He then flew Vought OS2U Kingfisher floatplanes as a member of Scouting Squadron VS-62 during the Korean war. He was stationed on the USS *Monterey*.

Petty Officer First Class Parker was honorably discharged on January 5, 1963, after nearly 21 years of service to his country.

Mr. Parker became very involved with A.L. Lotts Elementary School after his military service. He was consistently present at the school, reading to children and serving as a mentor for troubled students throughout the years.

Mr. Parker also devoted his time and resources to improving the school and always took it upon himself to help fix problems. He purchased school supplies and even fixed up a classroom after it was vandalized by hoodlums.

Our country's heroes are the men and women of our Armed Forces like Mr. Parker, not those who throw a baseball or throw a football. They served and sacrificed for our freedom.

It is my honor to recognize Petty Officer First Class H. Travis Parker as the Tennessee Second District's December 2019 Veteran of the Month.

D.C. SHOULD HAVE IMPEACHMENT VOTE

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, when the matter of impeaching President Trump comes to the House floor tomorrow, the House will vote on its most solemn matter, except for matters of war and peace. Yet, more than 700,000 Americans who reside in our Nation's Capital cannot be recorded.

It is un-American to deny any Americans who pay Federal taxes the vote on any bill. That denial is even more unconscionable, considering that D.C. residents pay the highest Federal taxes per capita in the United States.

The 23rd Amendment of our Constitution gave D.C. residents the right to vote for President and Vice President. It should follow, as day follows night, that D.C. residents should have the vote to remove the President, as well.

Yet another reason, Mr. Speaker, the House will pass our D.C. statehood bill this session.

HONORING FLORIDA FIRE MARSHAL OF THE YEAR JENNIFER PIERCE

(Mr. SPANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 2019 Florida Fire Marshal of the Year, Jennifer Pierce.

Pierce currently serves as the fire marshal of the Clermont Fire Department. With over 15 years of fire service under her belt, she also oversees the daily operations of the fire prevention division, which includes reviewing life safety plans, conducting fire investigations, and coordinating community relations.

Clermont city manager Darren Gray highlighted how Fire Marshal Pierce has provided "the highest level of service to Clermont's growing list of businesses, especially working with downtown's historic buildings and new business owners."

In addition to being awarded the Fire Marshal of the Year title, Pierce was chosen to serve as the statewide director of fire marshals on the Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association's board of directors.

Her leadership and dedication to the city of Clermont has been exceptional, and I am confident that we will see more outstanding contributions from her in the future.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank Fire Marshal Pierce and all the incredible first responders who serve District 15 and our Nation.

CONGRATULATING PIERCE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pierce County High School competition cheerleading squad for winning the 2019 AAA State championship.

Located in the First Congressional District of Georgia, this is the fifth straight year that Pierce County has won the State championship. It is the seventh time the team has posted a 97.5-point performance.

This year was a unique challenge for a team that lost nine seniors from the previous year and had 12 new members on the 2019 squad. However, they proved they were up to the challenge on the State's largest stage.

Congratulations, Pierce County. You have made the First Congressional District of Georgia proud.

CONGRATULATING CAPTAIN JOHN SHELSON

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, we are grateful for Captain John "JT" Shelson for having served in the Washington office of the Second Congressional District of South Carolina from the Army for the past year as a defense fellow.

After graduating from Drexel University, Captain Shelson enlisted in the Army, attending basic combat training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. He then attended the U.S. Army Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia, where he was awarded the Jess Walls Award for commissioning as the top graduate in his class.

In 2017, Captain Shelson assumed command of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment and was deployed to Eastern Europe in support of Atlantic Resolve. Captain Shelson has also served in Afghanistan and Kuwait.

Captain Shelson has been vital to the office for the past year. He was instrumental in repealing the widow's tax. I am grateful to him for helping enact this important legislation for military families. I am thankful for his commitment to America and wish him all the best for continued success.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism with the leadership of President Donald Trump.

HONORING STATE REPRESENTATIVE RAY ROGERS

(Mr. GUEST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Representative Ray Rogers as he completes his distinguished service in the Mississippi House of Representatives.