

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 PB4Y 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.

Representative ROGERS has served his hometown of Pearl and Rankin County with honor and integrity for 36 years. In that time, he was appointed chairman of the Military Affairs Committee and vice chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, and he served as a member of the Management and the Education Committees, to name a few.

Earlier this year, Representative ROGERS was presented the Mississippi Meritorious Civilian Service Award by the Mississippi National Guard for his distinguished career in public service.

Known as a man of wisdom, kindness, and selflessness, Representative ROGERS has made a positive impact on our State that will last generations.

I am grateful for the example Representative ROGERS has set for those serving in elected office, and I wish him many years of happiness in his much-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING 41ST ANNUAL MINNESOTA HMONG NEW YEAR

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

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60,000 members of the Hmong community in Minnesota who recently celebrated their 41st new year celebration.

My home State is home to one of the largest Hmong communities in the Nation. They are great neighbors and coworkers, and they have been an integral part of the fabric of our State and culture since the first Hmong family arrived in 1975.

Although I was not able to participate in this year's new year's ceremony, the celebration's theme of "Embracing the Present, Inspiring Future Generations" could not be more appropriate. Minnesota's Hmong families and leaders have worked hard to embrace everyone in their surrounding communities and inspire those interested in learning more about their rich heritage and history.

I thank all the Hmong in our great State of Minnesota for their many years of friendship with our office and wish everyone a happy and healthy new year.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF IRIS BARTLEY

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special recognition to Ms. Iris Bartley from my hometown of Tompkinsville, Kentucky, who recently celebrated her 100th birthday.

While many may begin slowing down when they reach this incredible milestone, that is not who Iris is. A mother of 4, grandmother of 14, great-grandmother of 30, and great-great-grandmother of 7, Iris can still be found

weed-eating at her home and teaching Sunday school at my church, First Baptist in Tompkinsville, Kentucky.

An accomplished musician, she is also known for her famous singing and guitar playing.

After opening a beauty shop in her own home in the mid-1940s, Iris was a hairstylist in Tompkinsville until retiring at the young age of 92.

Born and raised on a farm, she never forgot the values of hard work, faith, and family. She has always lived out those values while also instilling them in her children and their families.

While I know she still has many good years left, I, nonetheless, wanted to take this time to honor Iris for reaching the century mark. I am honored to represent someone as respected as Iris, along with the rest of my constituents in the First Congressional District.

CONGRATULATING JOHN FERRIOLA

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate John Ferriola on his retirement from Nucor Corporation after more than 28 years with the company. He has been CEO since 2013 and has served as chairman of the board since 2014. In his time with Nucor, he has worked at facilities in Texas, Nebraska, and Indiana, and at the corporate headquarters in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Nucor takes scrap metal and recycles it into new steel products in its electric arc furnaces. When Mr. Ferriola joined the company in 1991, Nucor was a small steel company that made less than \$1.5 billion in sales and had just opened two state-of-the-art steel mills in Mississippi County, Arkansas. Last year, Nucor generated \$25 billion in revenue, making it the largest steel producer in the United States.

I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Ferriola on the issues affecting the domestic steel industry, particularly the need for strong trade enforcement to ensure a level playing field for American steelworkers. He frequently appeared before the Congressional Steel Caucus to testify on the state of the American steel industry and has served as chairman of the board for both the American Iron and Steel Institute and the World Steel Association.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring John Ferriola for his outstanding career in the steel industry. I wish him all the best in his retirement.

SUPPORT ABILITYONE PROGRAM

(Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for the Department of Vet-

erans Affairs Contracting Preference Consistency Act and the AbilityOne program.

This vital bill corrects an error made in previous law to ensure thousands of blind and visually impaired Americans, many of whom are veterans, are able to keep their jobs.

Bosma Enterprises in my district, which has served Indiana for over 100 years, serves blind and visually impaired Hoosiers by giving them meaningful work. These Hoosiers want to work. They want to be self-sufficient. They want to contribute to their community. Many contributed to their country through their military service, which actually is where they sustained injuries causing their blindness or visual impairment.

But Bosma relies on contracts with the VA through the AbilityOne program to be able to provide those good jobs to Hoosiers. Sadly, changes in VA policy and a series of court rulings threaten the viability of this productive partnership.

With this important bill, Bosma and many other AbilityOne employers like it around the country will continue to provide meaningful work to those Americans.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this bill, and I urge the Senate to adopt and take it up.

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IMPEACHMENT VOTE IS SHAMEFUL

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, our Founding Fathers warned us against what is happening this week on the House floor when one political party abandons constitutional principles simply for political gain.

Tomorrow's impeachment vote is shameful and sets a dangerous precedent. Without bringing forward any evidence of an impeachable offense, House Democrats have rushed this partisan vote. You cannot impeach a duly elected President simply because you don't like him.

For the past few months, Speaker PELOSI and House Democrats have been so obsessed with impeaching President Trump that they have forgotten to do their sworn duty, and that is to work on behalf of the American people.

While I am glad we are finally voting on the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement this week, the vital trade deal was used by Democrats as a political pawn until after they brought forward their sham Articles of Impeachment.

Americans must question the timing of the votes this week: a rushed impeachment vote, and a much-delayed trade deal.

So, when the American people ask me back home, "What in the world is