

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.