

She embodies why Black History is American history.

Thank you, giants; thank you, America; and God bless America for Black History Month—American history.

RECOGNIZING THE WINNERS OF THE HELEN RUFFIN READING BOWL COMPETITION

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor schools from Georgia's First Congressional District—Lyman Hall Elementary, Midway Middle School, and Savannah Arts Academy—for winning the regional Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl competition in Valdosta.

With their hard-fought victory, they now move on to compete in divisional competition in Statesboro on March 7. The competition started more than 30 years ago when Helen Ruffin, a librarian from Georgia, wanted to find a way to make reading more exciting for students at her school.

The Reading Bowl gained traction, and now it is a statewide tournament. In the competition, participants from each school answer questions prepared by the committee for points. Teams of students that answer the most questions correctly about certain award-winning children's books win the competition.

These three schools from the First Congressional District of Georgia beat over 40 teams to make it to the next level. I am proud we have this degree of passion for reading in Georgia, and I am thankful these schools are working hard to teach their students the value of reading.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate them on their accomplishments this year, and best of luck to them in Statesboro at divisional competition.

ACKNOWLEDGING LOCAL NAACP LEADERS

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

Ms. DEAN. Madam Speaker, as Black History Month comes to an end, I would like to acknowledge some of my local NAACP leaders:

Ms. Val Ward of Willow Grove; Mr. Craig Brown of Cheltenham; Shaykh Anwar Muhammad of Ambler; Mr. John Milligan of Norristown; Ms. Diana Robertson of the Main Line; Mr. Johnny Corson of Pottstown, whose ancestral farm in Plymouth Meeting was a key stop on the Underground Railway.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank these and other local leaders for their tireless efforts toward racial equality.

Today, I am pleased to stand here to tell you about a roundtable that we held on Monday with Black business

owners. As one constituent expressed to me, they need allies; and so I stand here today as an ally for the Montgomery County and Berks County communities in pursuit of a world free from divides of race, ethnicity, gender, and nationality.

Yes, Black History Month is ending tomorrow. May we never stop celebrating Black History Month. It is our American history, and it is the pathway to equality for all.

CONGRATULATING TERESA HALEY

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Teresa Haley, who was honored as the Activist of the Year at the NAACP Image Awards last week.

Teresa is the president of her local NAACP branch in Springfield, Illinois, as well as the first female president of the NAACP Illinois State Conference. She has worked tirelessly to advocate for the Black community in Springfield and issues critical to NAACP members nationwide.

I have had the pleasure of working closely with Teresa in an effort to bring national recognition to the 1908 race riot site in Springfield by declaring the site a national monument. Ultimately, the riots that occurred at that site played an integral role in the formation of the NAACP in 1909, just a year after the race riots in Springfield.

I am proud to recognize Teresa's fearless leadership, and I look forward to continuing to work with her to bring this national recognition to Springfield, Illinois.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Teresa on this prestigious honor. I am very proud of her.

STRENGTHENING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

(Ms. BONAMICI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, Benjamin Franklin said: "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest." I agree.

I am proud to lead the Public Schools Week resolution with my colleagues, Representatives POCAN, GRAVES, and THOMPSON. This resolution recognizes the importance of and contributions of our public schools to the country and to our Nation's young people.

I came to Congress to strengthen public education and to make sure that all students, regardless of their race, color, national origin, ZIP Code, or family wealth, have an equal opportunity to obtain a high-quality, well-rounded public education.

At the State of the Union, I was disappointed to hear the President dismiss public schools as failing government schools. Public schools are not disconnected from the communities

around them. They are our schools, our children, our students in our communities; and it is our collective responsibility to do all we can to strengthen, not weaken, our system of public education.

I will continue to fight for public schools every day, and I am proud to honor them this week.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF ARLEIGH BIRK

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

Mr. STAUBER. Madam Speaker, this week we said good-bye to a brave member of the Greatest Generation. Arleigh Birk, Minnesota's last known survivor of the horrific attack on Pearl Harbor, passed away just 2 days before his 100th birthday.

Arleigh Birk was born and raised on a farm in North Dakota and joined the Navy when he was 19 years old. He was a 21-year-old Navy gun director stationed aboard the USS *Honolulu* when Pearl Harbor was attacked on Sunday, December 7, 1941.

As enemy forces dropped bombs, Arleigh courageously returned fire. His ship suffered damage during the attack, and Arleigh was transferred to the USS *Denver*, where he fought numerous battles throughout the Pacific theater.

After that war, he was honorably discharged and married the love of his life, Marion. Together, they had five children.

On Minnesota's Iron Range, Arleigh became a local legend, known for his kindness and record of service.

Over the years, he kept in touch with many of his fellow veterans through the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association and often attended local events to honor the Americans lost on that infamous day.

Madam Speaker, Arleigh lived an inspiring life, and I am proud to honor him here today. While he may be gone, Arleigh's legacy of service, sacrifice, and courage will live on in our hearts and our minds forever.

RECOGNIZING THE SHIPES FAMILY OF BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA

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

Mr. COX of California. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Black History Month to recognize the Shipes family of Bakersfield, California, who have served as a pillar of the African American community for over 70 years.

In southeast Bakersfield, the Shipes' family business, Mr. Discount Plus store, has stood the test of time. First opened in the 1940s, the store is one of the last original Black-owned businesses in the Cottonwood neighborhood of Bakersfield, and it remains a beacon of Black entrepreneurship.

Mr. Discount Plus store has become a gathering space for African American communities as local leaders drive forward plans to revitalize and transform the Cottonwood neighborhood for future generations to enjoy.

I am proud to recognize the Shipes family and their business for serving their community for over 70 years, and we look forward to another 70 years.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Black History Month and honoring the Shipes family for their service and dedication to southeast Bakersfield, their community, the Central Valley, and our great Nation.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. and Mrs. Shipes.

CORONAVIRUS IS A CAUSE OF GREAT CONCERN

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, coronavirus obviously is a cause of great concern for our citizens' well-being and impact on our health system in its ability to deliver service in this country.

What is disappointing in the last few days, it is once again being turned into a political football by those who oppose everything that this President does, even this morning before a briefing we had to educate us Members.

Can we please just stop on the bashing and focus on what Americans expect—solutions?

There is much we don't know. It is a moving target. China hasn't been very forthcoming with information.

So, in order to provide an abundance of caution, we need to have a deliberate process, and that is what our health officials are trying to provide.

We don't want an over-panic, but we don't want an under-response either. We need to assure our citizens that proper steps are being taken—and I believe they are—in containing it in this country.

Working together for solutions and leaving the politics to the Presidential debates and the talk shows and all that is what we need to be doing. It will help us best serve the needs and provide assurances as we learn and understand the breadth of this virus and its reach into our lives in this country.

It is not Democrat. It is not Republican. It is just answers and assurances our citizens expect us to do.

□ 0915

CONGRESS MUST PROTECT AMERICA'S CHILDREN FROM THE SCOURGE OF NICOTINE ADDICTION

(Ms. ADAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2339, the Pro-

tecting American Lungs and Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act.

In 1999, I was tapped to serve as one of the founding members of the American Legacy Foundation whose mission was to create a world where young people reject tobacco, and anyone can quit. For 7 years I served as vice chair of Legacy as we fought to help create a tobacco-free generation. That organization is known today as the Truth Initiative.

We helped air the first advertisements that curtailed teen cigarette use and started us toward the end of an epidemic, but our work is not yet done. We have a new epidemic on our hands, one we cannot ignore.

In 2019, over 5 million middle and high school students used e-cigarettes. That is up almost two million students from 2018. H.R. 2339 tackles this problem. By prohibiting the sale of all flavored tobacco products, we protect our children from the scourge of nicotine addiction.

To be blunt, this legislation puts health before profit, and that is the truth.

RECOGNIZING SCOTTSBLUFF/GERING, NEBRASKA

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my home community of Gering-Scottsbluff, Nebraska for being honored as one of the top western towns by True West Magazine.

As executive director Bob Boze Bell said in the article, "There's so much history, so many stories that are told in the places, the events, the attitude of the people who live there. Scottsbluff and Gering, together, is truly a top western town."

Now in our sixth generation as Scotts Bluff County natives, my family would have to agree. Sharing this honor with famous western towns such as Tombstone, Arizona; Deadwood, South Dakota; and Sheridan, Wyoming, Scottsbluff and Gering have their own important part of American history and the role it played in our westward migration.

Home to one of the most famous Oregon Trail landmarks, the Scotts Bluff National Monument, this area was known as one of the most breathtaking sights on the journey west.

Community support and involvement has led us to this recognition. There truly is no place like Nebraska, and I am proud to call the Gering and Scottsbluff area my home.

I thank Brenda Leisy and Karla Neidan-Streeks for their work in promoting our community. I also thank the people of Gering-Scottsbluff, who, together, make our community a great place to live.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 27, 2020.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 27, 2020, at 5:41 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4998.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

REVERSING THE YOUTH TOBACCO EPIDEMIC ACT OF 2019

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and add extraneous material on H.R. 2339, the Protecting American Lungs and Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act of 2019.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 866, I call up the bill (H.R. 2339) to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the sale and marketing of tobacco products, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 866, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116-51, modified by the amendment printed in House Report 116-409, is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 2339

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Protecting American Lungs and Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act of 2020".

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 101. Cigarette graphic health warnings.

Sec. 102. Advertising and sales parity for all deemed tobacco products.