

came on board to help high school captains Fionna Drake and Clara Ponder complete the season. The team practiced whenever they could, outside of their mandatory three lessons per week. Parents across the community opened their garages and other spare spaces to the girls for practice. The teamwork and dedication displayed by the moms, team captains and the dancers is remarkable and led them to victory at the IDTA State Finals. As a former athlete, I admire the fortitude the Knoxville High School Dance Team displayed to achieve their dreams of being state champions and I commend them for their efforts and can-do attitudes. I am proud to see them represent Knoxville so well throughout the state with their talent and passion.

It is because of student leaders such as the Knoxville High School Dance Team that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate the Knoxville High School Dance Team on its victory at the IDTA State Finals in the Class A Kick Dance category.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID ROUZER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on March 2 because I was in North Carolina with the President of the United States. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 79, and YEA on Roll Call No. 80.

RECOGNIZING OUR LADY OF LOURDES ACADEMY GIRLS' SOCCER TEAM

HON. DONNA E. SHALALA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of Our Lady of Lourdes Academy, which celebrated its second soccer state championship win this last week.

With this victory, Lourdes Academy reaffirms its reputation for excellence in every field. Lourdes is well known as an academic powerhouse, and this victory is proof of the school's incredible athletics program.

The championship game was a test of the Lourdes soccer team's resilience. Although Lourdes scored an early lead in the first quarter, the game once again became tied just 2:06 before halftime. Despite the close game, the Bobcat defense was stellar, and they retook lead in the second half.

With 500 fans cheering from the stands in Spec Martin Stadium, incredible teamwork, and endless determination, Lourdes captured the Class 6A state championship with a 2-1 victory against Venice, marking the Bobcats' second state title in the past three years.

Congratulations to the Lourdes' girls' soccer team on a well-earned victory. It's an honor to represent this team in Congress, and I hope to see many of these young women take their talents on to collegiate and professional soccer.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ALLEN CONNELLY

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of The American Legion, Department of Indiana State Commander Mr. Allen Connelly.

As a 50-year member of LaGrange American Legion Post 215, Connelly's engagement with the Legion over the last half-century is historic. That includes serving as Post Service Officer, Hoosier Boys State and Flag Education Chairman, member of the District Finance Committee and District Advisory Committee, member of the Department Strategic Plan Committee and Centennial Celebration Committee, member of the National Veteran's Preference Committee and Education, Other Benefits and Homelessness Committee, and more.

Connelly has been heavily involved in his community outside the Legion as well. He served 25 years on the LaGrange Volunteer Fire Department; he was president and member of the Lakeland School Corporation Board of Trustees; he served 12 years as a member of the Bloomfield Township Advisory Board, and he has served as the Veteran Representative on the LaGrange County Drug Court since its founding. He is a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in LaGrange.

Connelly has also served our nation with distinction. He was active duty in the U.S. Army between 1964 and 1965, where he earned the rank of Sergeant. This record is testament to his civic engagement, attentiveness and hard work for which northeast Indiana is forever grateful.

ROSS ANDERSON—BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true "Man of Vision," Mr. Ross Anderson. He was born and raised in Tampa, Florida and has left an indelible mark in our hometown. Mr. Anderson graduated from Hillsborough High School and the University of South Florida. He received his graduate degrees from Columbia Southern University and Waldorf College, respectively. While Mr. Anderson takes great pride in his distinguished education and vocation, he is most proud to be the father of James Elaissaint-Anderson and Henry Tillman Jr., and the grandfather of Jasmine Tillman.

Mr. Anderson saw a profound need in our community for mentorship directed towards young men whom he often refers as "our boys." His vision for mentorship led him to leave his career as a successful corporate executive. In 2006, one year into his tenure as a teacher, Mr. Anderson helped found Men of Vision at Sligh Middle School. In 2010, Men of Vision, Inc. was established with the concept of "Action & Vision can change the World." The effort starts at the community level but

knows no limits in its outreach. In Mr. Anderson's world, "our boys" enhance their personal development, and by doing so, address the physical and social needs of their communities. It also follows that they then promote better relations among all people through a framework of friendship and service, and provide an overall vision for the future.

Men of Vision is open to young boys and men from ages 10 to 19, fifth grade through post-secondary school. The group is organized into elementary, middle and high schools throughout the community. Membership is open to young men regardless of race, color, ability, creed, gender, national origin or religion, reflecting the diversity of Tampa Bay, the community it serves. The impact has been tremendous.

Mr. Anderson serves as a guide, mentor and advocate for "our boys," some who may be on the brink of hopelessness. By boosting these individuals and turning them instead into confident contributors and leaders, Mr. Anderson lifts our community one Man of Vision at a time. He has dedicated his life to ensuring that Tampa's future generations believe they can make a difference in the community in which they live by focusing on serving others and respecting themselves as vital members of our community. Nearly 100 percent of Men of Vision complete high school and many continue higher education.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of Florida and my neighbors across Tampa Bay I am proud to honor Ross Anderson this Black History Month. Mr. Anderson's untiring efforts and selfless devotion are a shining beacon to all of us, especially the young people in our community. The time and energy he has invested into developing our youth and making Tampa Bay a better place to live are unmatched. His legacy will live on in history through the hundreds of young men and the community at large that he has inspired and impacted.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TJ COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Mr. COX of California. Madam Speaker, due to flight mechanical issues and delays, I missed votes on March 2, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 79, and YEA on Roll Call No. 80.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PHIL COTT

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Mr. Phil Cott, a beloved member of California's 33rd Congressional District, who passed away at the age of 68 on February 6, 2020 after a decade-long bout with kidney cancer. Phil served as the principal of Webster Elementary School in Malibu, California for more than 20 years, capping off a storied career as an educator, lawyer, and administrator.