

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 Elaisaint-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.

Born on July 2, 1951 in Los Angeles, California, Phil attended Venice High School and the University of California, Los Angeles. After graduating, Phil taught for 14 years in Culver City as an elementary school teacher and served as president of his teachers' union for six years.

Phil then decided on a bold mid-career pivot, attending law school at night and eventually becoming a lawyer. He also served as a Los Angeles County deputy District Attorney, where he had numerous successes in the courtroom. However, Phil told friends that he missed working in public education and returned as an administrator, beginning his tenure as the principal of Webster Elementary School in 1990.

As principal, Phil introduced innovative projects and ideas to the benefit of Webster's students, including Websterville, an annual recreation of a colonial American village. Phil also led annual trips to Yosemite National Park and was key in establishing the school's computer lab. Phil was known among Webster's teaching staff for encouraging individuality and creativity in the classroom and contributing to a warm and friendly environment for the students.

Phil is survived by his wife, Charlee; children Rachel and Daniel; and grandchildren, Heaven and Paris. May his compassion, leadership, and devotion to those around him live on in the students he inspired and educators he helped nurture over his 37-year career.

HONORING TUSKEGEE AIRMEN DAY

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL
OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Alabama State Legislature's joint resolution which recognizes March 7 as Tuskegee Airmen Day. House Joint Resolution 120 will acknowledge the honor and valor of those Tuskegee Airmen who risked their lives in defense of our country, despite racism, prejudice and segregation.

In 1941, a group of African American men in Tuskegee, Alabama, joined together to form an all-African American squadron of pilots known as the Tuskegee Airmen. This squadron fought fiercely overseas on behalf of the United States of America during World War II, proving that patriotism and love of country conquers even the cruelest forms of bigotry. Segregation barred African Americans from enlisting alongside white Americans, and prior to the Tuskegee Airmen, the United States had never had an African American military pilot.

After being rejected from enlisting during World War I, African Americans spent more than two decades advocating for the right to enlist and train as military aviators. With help from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, labor union leader A. Philip Randolph and Judge William H. Hastie, these advocates were successful in passing Appropriations Bill Public Law 18 with an amendment by Senator Harry H. Schwartz of Wyoming, which designated funds for training African American pilots. The money was then invested in civilian flight schools willing to train African American pilots.

In June of 1941, the 99th Pursuit Squadron at Tuskegee University was founded. The unit consisted of 47 officers and 429 enlisted men who began primary training at Moton Field before moving to the Tuskegee Air Field about ten miles to the west for conversion training. Tuskegee Air Field mirrored existing all-white air fields like Maxwell Air Field only forty miles away, providing African American pilots with the same rigorous training as white Americans.

Major Noel F. Parrish advocated for the Tuskegee Airmen to be allowed to enter into combat, petitioning Washington, D.C. on their behalf. Eventually, in 1943, the Tuskegee Airmen were deemed eligible for combat and were sent to North Africa to join the 33rd Fighter Group under the command of Colonel William W. Momyer. Given little guidance from experienced combat pilots, the Tuskegee Airmen flew toward Italy where they attacked the small and strategically located volcanic island of Pantelleria. The island eventually surrendered, and the Airmen flew on to Sicily, receiving a Distinguished Unit Citation. The men went on to fight with heart and valor throughout World War II, proving to America and to the entire world that African Americans were just as capable as white Americans of serving their country. In many ways, these men displayed even more patriotism, as they actively fought to overcome barriers in order to serve and protect.

The Tuskegee Airmen's legacy is one that should make the state of Alabama truly proud. These men are part of Alabama's remarkable legacy of advocating for civil rights, proving that the determination of African American Alabamians can charge the course of history, not only for our country but for the entire world.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the exemplary service of the Tuskegee Airmen, and to the Alabama State Legislature for acknowledging their service through the passage of House Joint Resolution 120. May we celebrate the resilience and sacrifice of the Tuskegee Airmen not only on March 7, but every day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KATIE PORTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Ms. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for suspension votes on Monday, March 2, 2020 due to the California primary election. Had I been present, I would have assented to H.R. 5931, H.R. 5003, H.R. 5932, and H.R. 4351 passing by voice vote.

IN HONOR OF ANNISTON WINNING THE AHSAA CLASS 4A BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Anniston girls basketball

team for winning the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) Class 4A basketball championship.

The Bulldogs defeated Deschler 61 to 51 in the championship game on February 28th at Legacy Arena.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating the students and faculty of Anniston High School, the coaches, the players and all the Bulldogs fans on this exciting achievement. Go Bulldogs.

IN RECOGNITION OF RICHARD E. FOX, M.A., RECIPIENT OF AN- CIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS MAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend Richard E. Fox, M.A. as the recipient of the Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 4 Paul "Hook" O'Malley Man of the Year award. He will be honored at the organization's annual gathering on Wednesday, March 4, 2020.

Reverend Fox, son of Richard and Ann C. Madden Fox, was born in Pottstown, Pennsylvania and raised in South Wilkes-Barre. In June 1983, Reverend Fox graduated from E.L. Meyers High School and the Wilkes-Barre Area Vo-Tech School with a concentration in warehouse management. He was a member of the 100th graduating class of the University of Scranton, earning a degree in Christian Traditions in 1988. While at the University of Scranton, he also studied at St. Pius X Seminary in Dalton. In 1992, Reverend Fox graduated from Christ the King Seminary in Buffalo, New York with a master's degree in pastoral ministry.

On June 27, 1992, Reverend Fox was ordained as a priest at St. Peter's Cathedral Church in Scranton. Following his ordination, he served as assistant pastor at churches across Northeastern Pennsylvania, including Epiphany Church in Sayre (1992 to 1995), Immaculate Conception Church in Scranton (1995 to 1998), and St. Jude's Church in Mountain Top (1998 to 2000). He then served as pastor of Blossburg Area Catholic Community in Tioga County (2000 to 2003), Holy Trinity/Holy Child Church in Nanticoke (2003 to 2005), Immaculate Conception Church in Scranton (2005 to 2007), Holy Family Church in Luzerne (2007 to 2009), St. Eulalia's Church in Roaring Brook Township (2009 to 2010), as well as other churches in Exeter and Old Forge in 2010 and 2011.

After serving many communities across the region, Reverend Fox called Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Lake Silworth his home parish from 2011 to 2016. Since 2016, he has been the pastor at St. Patrick's Parish in Scranton.

Reverend Fox has two siblings, Bridget Fox Ford, married to William Ford, and the late Christopher Fox.

He is the proud uncle of his niece and nephew, Mitchell and Cameron Ford.

It is an honor to recognize Reverend Richard E. Fox as the Ancient Order of the Hibernians Division 4 Man of the Year and congratulate him on his distinguished career in