

1920 and incorporated it into the Soviet Union a few years later. When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, Azerbaijan declared independence and was quickly recognized by the United States.

After restoring diplomatic relations in 1992, the United States and Azerbaijan began a partnership that has continued to this day. Azerbaijanis have fought alongside American troops in the Balkans, Afghanistan, and Iraq, and their country was among the first to express support for the United States after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Azerbaijan has also fostered close ties with American allies such as Israel, providing approximately 40 percent of the oil Israel consumes and partnering on economic and national security issues. Through its leadership in the Southern Gas Corridor initiative, Azerbaijan plays an important role in diversifying energy routes to maintain the energy security of key U.S. allies in Europe. As a pluralistic and secular Muslim-majority country, Azerbaijan is also home to thriving Jewish and Christian communities. This religious tolerance has been recognized by the European Parliament.

I extend my best wishes to all Azerbaijanis on this momentous occasion and look forward to continued partnership between our two nations.

JERRY FALWELL JR., CORRECT

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, despite fake news reports during the Wuhan Virus pandemic from the New York Times and the Washington Post parroted by other biased media, President Jerry Falwell, Jr., of Liberty University has been praised May 19th by William McGurn in The Wall Street Journal:

How it must hurt to have to admit: Jerry Falwell Jr. was right.

No doubt this explains why we're not reading stories about how the president of Liberty University kept his Lynchburg, Va., campus open while keeping his community safe from Covid-19. The doomsday predicted when Mr. Falwell announced Liberty students would return after spring break never came to pass.

As the Times reported nearly a dozen Liberty students had come down "with symptoms that suggested Covid-19," a fact endlessly repeated in other news outlets. A snarky Financial Times op-ed citing "Falwell's hubris" dropped the qualifiers and asserted "twelve students promptly came down with coronavirus," which was corrected about a week later.

In a part of his early statements on Liberty's reopening that received almost no attention, Mr. Falwell said in its handling of coronavirus Liberty would prove a "model" for others. Would it kill the critics so quickly to paint Mr. Falwell as the Grim Reaper to acknowledge, if only in the name of science, Liberty's experience might have something to teach them.

RECOGNIZING MISS CLEO STEELE

HON. TOM RICE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special lady, Miss Cleo Steele, founder and President of the North Myrtle Beach Republican Club and also a very dear friend.

Cleo's dedication and invaluable service to her community and the Horry County Republican Party is unparalleled. During her three decades in South Carolina, she has worn many hats and been a master at each. She is a true leader who has been successful in everything she has tackled. Cleo's energy and tenacity are the envy of those a third the age. She never hesitates to tell you what she thinks, and I have learned you best listen. Her willingness to volunteer and help in any way possible epitomizes what it means to be a selfless servant. She is an inspiration to all that know her and all that know her are better for it.

She has served as the Vice President of the Horry County Republican Party, two terms on the South Carolina GOP Executive Committee, and the secretary for my district. Cleo has been a county, state, and national alternate delegate to the Republican Party Convention. In all roles, she has demonstrated passion for the party's conservative platform and enthusiasm.

Her presence and leadership in Horry County are irreplaceable. Cleo has been instrumental to the successes of the Republican Party in Horry County and throughout South Carolina.

Madam Speaker, I join the people of Horry County in recognizing Cleo Steele. We honor her and thank her for her past and continued service to her community and the Nation.

HONORING AMISH PARIKH, M.D. AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR ASIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, Amish M. Parikh, M.D. is a Central Florida native and University of Miami alumni. Dr. Parikh attended medical school at the University of South Florida, completing his residency at Miami's Jackson Memorial Hospital and his Cardiology Fellowship at the University of Florida—Shands Hospital in Jacksonville. He currently practices cardiology at Premier Cardiology in Maitland, Florida.

In addition to being a talented physician, inspired entrepreneur, and a devoted husband and father, Dr. Parikh considers meaningful and consistent service to his community a vital responsibility. Dr. Parikh is President of Premier Cardiology and serves on the Board for the Orange County Medical Society. His long-term leadership involvement with both CAPI (Central Florida Association of Physicians from the Indian Subcontinent) and AAPI (American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin)

was taken to a new level when he served as the Convention Chair for the 33rd AAPI Convention and Scientific Assembly held in Orlando in June 2015. Dr. Parikh prides himself on taking a hands-on approach to positively impacting healthcare and education for children, both as a board member for A Gift for Teaching and as part of community outreach initiatives addressing childhood obesity and healthy eating programs. He is also a devoted cultural leader to the Indian-American community, serving each year as the chair of the official India Day Celebration in Downtown Orlando, which was recognized by the NBA as the "Best Heritage Night in the NBA."

In recognition of his ongoing enthusiasm to support arts and culture in Orlando, Dr. Parikh and his wife Beena have recently been added to the "Donor Wall" at Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. Blending his skills in healthcare with his passion for his community and family, Dr. Parikh is honored to serve and support the Central Florida Community through the Parikh Family Fund.

IN HONOR OF HELEN HORLACHER EVANS

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Helen Horlacher Evans. Mrs. Evans was born in Fortville, Indiana on June 11, 1920 and will soon be celebrating her 100th birthday.

Mrs. Evans graduated from the University of Kentucky and began teaching home economics at Versailles High School. After conversations with fellow teachers about the newly formed Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, she joined the Army on a dare in 1942. She was in the first group of Kentucky women accepted for the WAC and at 21 years of age she was one of the youngest. She was accepted for the Officer Candidate School at Fort Des Moines, Iowa.

Mrs. Evans was trained in army food service and served as the Office of the Quartermaster General inspector for stateside WAC mess halls. In early 1945 she was assigned to the European Theatre of Operations with the Office of the Quartermaster General outside Paris, France. At the end of the war she was working along the banks of the Rhine feeding German prisoners of war. Mrs. Evans earned the rank of Captain. Her experience as a WAC is documented as part of the Veterans History Project in the Library of Congress.

Upon returning to civilian life, Mrs. Evans began work at the Veterans Administration in Louisville, KY, where she served as a senior training officer until 1951. She has served as a volunteer on many projects related to veterans, including serving as Kentucky's representative on the committee to establish the National Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. She received the Spirit of Kentucky Award for Patriotism from the Kentucky Daughters of the American Revolution. In 2018, she was inducted into the Kentucky Veterans Hall of Fame.

It is my honor to recognize this amazing patriot, celebrate her 100th birthday, and thank her for her service and sacrifice to our nation