

to the individuals within them. He lived his life motto of “Work Hard, Play Hard, Pray Hard” each and every day. Bob was passionate about training and coaching athletes and helping his friends and family achieve any of their goals. He coached the Woodcrest Christian Mountain Bike Team and helped train anyone who asked in preparation for Ironman challenges, triathlons, half-marathons, and Catalina SOK runs, to name only a few competitions he loved. When Bob wasn’t racing himself, he could be found cheering on the sidelines for anyone striving to reach their goals.

I had the pleasure of knowing Bob through his service to Riverside County and can personally attest to the countless lives he touched. He was a great American, an esteemed leader, a respected mentor and a dedicated husband, father, and friend. I extend my heartfelt condolences to Kelli, to their children, Nathan, Heather, Adam, Travis, and Emily, their grandchildren Rages, Winter, Harley, and Easton, and the rest of Bob’s family and friends. Although he may no longer be with us, he will continue to have a lasting impact on the lives of his family and community.

HONORING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY
OF MR. THOMAS H. RHODES

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 15, 2020

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Mr. Thomas H. Rhodes as he celebrates his 100th birthday on June 18th. Throughout his life, Mr. Rhodes has demonstrated exemplary patriotism through his service in World War II, and longstanding devotion to his family and community.

During World War II, Mr. Rhodes proudly served his country as a U.S. Marine and participated in several major conflicts including the battles of Pearl Harbor, Midway, Peleliu, New Britain, and New Guinea. After the war, he returned to Central New York to continue his service at Griffiss Air Force Base in Rome, New York. Following completion of his military service, Mr. Rhodes was honorably discharged as a Sergeant. Today, he remains an active member of the Marine Corps League, an organization that aims to serve communities nationwide, preserve the traditions of the U.S. Marine Corps, and strengthen bonds between former servicemembers and their families.

Outside of public service, Mr. Rhodes is known for his commitment to his family. He was devoted to his late wife, Bridget “Peggy” Rhodes, and remains a dedicated father to their four children, and proud grandfather to 12 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren. Active in his community, Mr. Rhodes regularly appears in Fayetteville and Manlius parades and is a life-long member of the Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in recognizing Mr. Thomas H. Rhodes’s 100th birthday. Mr. Rhodes’s life has been one marked by admirable devotion to his family and country. I wish him health and happiness in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE
RESTAURANTS ACT OF 2020

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 15, 2020

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, there is perhaps nothing more central to communities large and small than their local restaurants. Restaurants play host to everything from first dates to marriage proposals and many of life’s important memories. The focal restaurant industry supports Top Chef Masters, first jobs, and parents working double-shifts to give their children a brighter future. The COVID–19 pandemic has put all of this in jeopardy.

Since mid-March, the vast majority of independent restaurants have closed their doors, laid off most of their employees, and are unsure what their business model will be after the pandemic. While independent restaurants employ more than 11 million people, the food supply chain touches every corner of the country and every congressional district. From farm workers and fishermen to truck drivers and distributors, the restaurant industry provides a \$1 trillion annual boost to the United States; economy, to say nothing of supporting tens of millions of livelihoods.

The restaurant industry has been uniquely devastated by the COVID–19 pandemic. This is particularly true of independent establishments that account for more than three-quarters of all restaurants and bars in the United States. The restaurant sector is the top contributor to unemployment rolls across America. In April alone, 5.5 million restaurant workers lost their jobs, accounting for 27 percent of total job losses in the month. Some of these jobs are coming back but many will not return without assistance. The National Bureau of Economic Research predicts that only 15 percent of restaurants will be able to stay open if the COVID–19 pandemic lasts six months.

The RESTAURANTS Act would establish a \$120 billion restaurant revitalization fund at the Department of Treasury. Funding would be available to food service or drinking establishments that are not publicly traded or part of a chain with 20 or more locations doing business under the same name. The grant values would cover the difference between revenues from 2019 and projected revenues through 2020. The first 14 days of the grant’s availability is only available to restaurants with annual revenues of \$1.5 million or fewer, ensuring that the smallest restaurants are prioritized. Additionally, the legislation includes administrative funding toward outreach and engagement to restaurants owned and operated by women, Veterans, and people of color. A study on this proposal found that the fund would generate at least \$183 billion in primary benefits and \$65 billion in secondary benefits—more than double the amount of the fund.

In the past three months, Congress has demonstrated the political will to pass more than \$3 trillion of relief to most sectors of the economy—the House of Representatives just passed an additional \$3 trillion of relief. There were broad-based programs and there was targeted relief for specific industries. Yet restaurants have not been a recipient of any targeted relief. We can’t afford not to act. Millions

of livelihoods, hundreds of thousands of businesses, and the fabric of our communities is at stake.

IN RECOGNITION OF STEVE
DEBAKER AND TROUT SPRINGS
WINERY

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 15, 2020

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Steve DeBaker and Trout Springs Winery for their work in creating the Wisconsin Ledge American Viticultural Area (AVA) in Northeast Wisconsin.

Steve DeBaker opened Trout Springs Winery in 2005, establishing it as Brown County’s first winery. Trout Springs Winery is Wisconsin’s only licensed fish hatchery, plant nursery, and winery all under one roof. After 9 successful years in the wine industry, Trout Springs Winery was honored by the Wisconsin Grape Growers Association as their Winery of the Year in 2014.

An AVA is a special region designated as having certain geographic and climatic features required for growing wine grapes, and the designation is often included on wine labels. Soon after opening Trout Springs Winery, Steve decided to establish the Wisconsin Ledge as an AVA. After 4,000 hours of dedicated research, numerous submissions to the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, and some assistance from the Niagara Escarpment Resource Network with the GIS mapping process, Steve and Trout Springs achieved their goal of establishing the Wisconsin Ledge as an AVA.

The Wisconsin Ledge AVA sits on the Niagara Escarpment, a land feature in Wisconsin that stretches for more than 650 miles, created millions of years ago. It touches 11 different counties in Northeast Wisconsin and contains soil and a climate ideal for growing grapes. With 22 bonded wineries within its scope and 3,800 square miles of land, the Wisconsin Ledge has become the 12th largest AVA in the world. It has grown into a tourist destination for visitors from around the world, leading to an annual agritourism increase of nearly two million tourists and over \$50 million in revenue. Steve’s commitment and work to developing the Wisconsin Ledge as an AVA has legitimized the Northeast Wisconsin as a grape growing region.

Madam Speaker, I am privileged to honor Steve DeBaker and Trout Springs Winery as the birthplace of the Wisconsin Ledge American Viticultural Area. His dedication and positive contributions to the Wisconsin agricultural industry make Northeast Wisconsin proud.

HONORING KAMERON
MIDDLEBROOKS AS THE IOWAN
OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 15, 2020

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today as tens of thousands of peaceful protesters are