

in order to protect the rest of us, and you are true American heroes.

To the doctors, nurses, technicians, EMTs, pharmacists, home health aides, and everyone else who supports patient care, from the bottom of my heart, thank you. You have gone above and beyond. Your dedication, courage, and strength deserve our most profound admiration and gratitude. Your service to your community has impacted and saved countless lives.

It would take days for me to appropriately honor each and every person who deserves special recognition. Unfortunately, I have limited time today, so I want to highlight just a few of these heroes.

From my neck of the woods in Tyler County, Texas, I want to thank Carrie Holland Evans, a registered nurse who was infected with COVID-19 in the line of duty. Since her recovery, Carrie has participated in virology studies and has donated convalescent plasma to save lives.

I want to recognize Dr. Qamar Arfeen, who delivers home health and hospice care across southeast Texas and is the head of the COVID-19 unit at Baptist Hospital, for all of his work with convalescent plasma.

From Houston Methodist in Baytown, I want to mention four brave and resilient registered nurses: Jennifer Vera, LaDuska James, Dorothy Terry, and Jon Ann Watson. Your contributions to the hospital and dedication to patient care were simply awe inspiring.

Also, from Houston Methodist in Baytown, I want to thank Gina Cotter, who collaborated across disciplines to educate and upskill nurses to provide respiratory care, while also serving as a frontline respiratory therapist.

From Houston Methodist in Clear Lake, I want to thank Dr. Omar Acres, Dr. Nina Zatikyan, and Dr. Arthur Lim, who all cared for many infected patients. I also want to recognize three registered nurses—Stephanie Dockter, Diana Freyberger, and Nicole Herrick—who all volunteered to care exclusively for COVID-19 patients so their other staff members would not have to.

I want to acknowledge the largest hospital system in southeast Texas, Memorial Hermann Health System, which has been on the front lines of the region's response to the pandemic. Memorial Hermann's more than 6,000 physicians, 8,000 nurses, and hundreds of case managers and social workers have been caring for patients and their families in one of the country's most significant hot spots. They risk their lives every day to care for our community and have worked tirelessly to slow the spread of this disease.

And, finally, I want to mention a handful of heroes from CHI St. Luke's. Thank you to Dr. Lou Hamer, a pulmonologist who closed his outpatient practice and instead fully dedicated his services to supporting the needs of COVID patients.

Thank you Dr. Monte Orahood for working day and night since the pan-

demic started and for your clinical oversight, which has undoubtedly resulted in successful patient outcomes.

Dr. George Rodriguez, thank you for providing clinical guidance and leadership on patient care and protocol development.

And I thank Dr. Zaher Shebib, who has consulted on every single COVID-19 patient case for St. Luke's.

Also from St. Luke's, allow me to highlight lab director, Charlie Combs, who is described by his colleagues as an unsung hero, as well as Chelsea Pavlowich, Christina Andrews, Sarah Hill, Candace Fernandez, Jason Case, Nidia Johnson, Cole Morse, Cassie Fire, and Lisa Agler, who are all superhero nurses and whose commitment to patients supersedes any fear of this dangerous virus.

And to the thousands of healthcare workers who, due to time constraints were not mentioned today, please know this: You are the heroes of this unprecedented time.

This country and your Congressman will forever be grateful. May God bless each and every one of you, and may we see an end to this global pandemic very soon.

God bless you.

#### DAIRY UPDATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this past Sunday, September 27, was National Chocolate Milk Day.

Chocolate milk is adored by millions of Americans nationwide and is a favorite among children. Seventy percent of the milk children consume is flavored, with chocolate being the most popular flavor. Chocolate milk is low in fat, high in nutrients, and packed with flavor.

Milk consumption, Mr. Speaker, has been declining, however, and when the National School Lunch Program removed the most popular and nutritious option from schools to only serve fat-free milk, the numbers continued to drop. As a result of these detrimental policies, we have lost nearly a generation of milk drinkers, and those milk drinkers have lost access to the best nutrition.

This detrimental policy was partially reversed when the USDA made a decision to once again allow 1 percent flavored milk back into school lunches, and I am grateful to Secretary Sonny Perdue for his leadership on the issue.

To build on this momentum, I introduced the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act last year to once again allow whole milk, both flavored and unflavored, to be offered within the program because children can greatly benefit from the essential nutrients whole milk provides.

Taking that one step further, I joined my colleague FRED KELLER to intro-

duce the GIVE MILK Act last month. The GIVE MILK Act, Mr. Speaker, gives families who use the WIC program, or Women, Infants, and Children program, more control over the nutrition of their children by making 2 percent and whole milk available through the WIC program to any child over the age of 2.

□ 0930

Currently, WIC participants are limited to low-fat or nonfat milk, meaning they are missing all the nutrition that comes from that milk fat.

This legislation will give families who depend on WIC more options when considering nutritional options for their children. It will also help increase milk consumption, which is a win for our dairy farmers.

I talked about this legislation, among other things, when I had the pleasure of joining the folks at the National Milk Producers Federation last week on their new podcast, "Dairy Defined". We covered a lot of ground, including the importance that milk plays in our diets and how coronavirus has impacted the dairy industry.

Safety net programs like the Dairy Margin Coverage program, coupled with the coronavirus relief efforts, have helped ease the burden somewhat on our producers, but times remain tough. We must continue to spread the word about these critical safety net programs so our Nation's dairy producers, those farm families, can take full advantage of all the tools at their disposal.

If there has been one positive thing that has come out of this pandemic, it is that we have seen more families returning to the dining room table, Mr. Speaker. Milk consumption has seen an uptick in the past few months and more and more Americans are benefiting from the essential nutrients that whole milk provides.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by thanking the hardworking men and women who have the 24/7, 365-day-a-year job of running our dairy farms. Thank you for working tirelessly to ensure that we have access to delicious, nutritious, and top-quality milk.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 11 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 31 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1100

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 11 a.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: