

prestigious honor in the parks and recreation industry: the 2020 National Gold Medal Award for excellence in parks and recreation management and, with it, the recognition as the number one park system in the United States of America by the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association.

Like many Toledoans, I am immensely thankful for those who have fought tirelessly to create a genuine, world-class system of parks and trails right in the heart of our community. In fact, Toledo Metroparks was among 20 park and recreation agencies and four military installations across our country and in Germany considered just as finalists for the award.

Whether you enjoy bird watching, hiking, mountain biking, archery, or even just relaxing in a hammock, Toledo Metroparks has countless ways to get you outside and enjoying nature.

Congratulations to Toledo Metroparks for receiving this prestigious and well-deserved national recognition. With the recent \$23 million grant from the Department of Transportation to construct the Glass City Riverwalk, a transformative project in the heart of Toledo, our Metroparks will only continue to get better in this 21st century.

Madam Speaker, our office will gladly fly a flag over this U.S. Capitol in the honor of this gold medal award to Toledo Metroparks. Congratulations to all.

□ 1815

#### CONGRATULATING CINCINNATI ST. XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL'S FOOTBALL TEAM

(Mr. WENSTRUP asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WENSTRUP. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Cincinnati St. Xavier High School's football team on becoming the Division I Ohio State champions.

Led by inspirational Head Coach Steve Specht, the St. X Bombers clinched the title by winning the State championship by a score of 44-3, setting a record for the largest margin of victory ever in a Division I final.

This impressive showing followed dramatic come-from-behind fourth-quarter victories in both the quarterfinals and the semifinals.

I am always proud to be a St. Xavier alumnus, and I feel especially proud of the 2020 Bomber team as the school earned their fourth State championship.

I am especially proud because it is an understatement to say that the last several months have been difficult for our communities in Ohio and across the country. Yet, last Friday night, families, friends, students, and spectators, alike, were able to return to a

little bit of normalcy—exactly why sports and teamwork are so important to the Nation.

Congratulations, again, to the St. Xavier players, to Coach Steve Specht and his staff, and to the St. Xavier faithful.

Go Bombers.

#### WHY I WEAR A MASK

(Ms. DEAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEAN. Madam Speaker, I wear a mask so my granddaughter, Aubrey, can return to third grade in-person schooling as soon as possible.

I wear a mask so that one day I can go to church and be surrounded again by a community in prayer.

I wear a mask to look forward to the day when my entire family can get together.

I wear a mask so more people do not have to experience the feeling of loss my family felt when my mother-in-law, Joan Cunnane, passed away from the COVID virus.

Wearing a mask is not a political statement; it is a simple way of saying: "I value the lives around me."

Nearly 250,000 Americans are dead because of this brutal virus, and it is up to each of us to do our part.

Today, I put on my mask as an act of public health, of compassion, of care, and of respect, as a way of asking not what others can do for me, but what I am always saying behind my mask: "What can I do for you?"

#### RECOGNIZING OAKCREST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT GOVERNMENT

(Mr. VAN DREW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I want to thank Oakcrest High School in south Jersey for engaging all of us to be involved in what this Nation is built upon: representative government.

Voting is a right that we must all engage in to see the country that we want to live in. I am proud of them. I am proud of all of you and your belief in America. America is an exceptional Nation, and we can never forget that.

Our predecessors built this Nation with mechanisms in place to ensure that, even though there are problems at times, that we can self-correct and we can heal the wrongs.

I ran for reelection because I believe in a strong America, which makes a strong south Jersey. I believe that what made America great keeps America great. I believe in a strong economy, strong borders, and a strong military, anchored by strong energy, American-made and American-supplied goods and services, all while protecting our environment, our families, and core American values.

To me, this isn't about politics. A strong nation is built upon a strong

economy, built on American-made goods. We must bring American manufacturing jobs back home where they belong. A strong nation does not let foreign governments take advantage of us, and I will do everything in my power to ensure that doesn't happen.

I want to thank all of the professionals at Oakcrest High School, and I thank them for their work through this pandemic, and all of the students for the work that they have done. May God bless them all.

#### REMEMBERING CECIL CORBIN-MARK

(Mr. ESPAILLAT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today in remembrance and honor of Cecil Corbin-Mark, whose passing on the evening of October 15 sent shock waves of grief throughout New York's political and activist communities.

A Harlem native, a trailblazer in the fight for environmental justice, and an inspiration to more individuals than he would ever know, Cecil was a giant in his community and across the Nation, and his loss is immeasurable.

Cecil led a life dedicated to building sustainable communities and healthy communities. He worked tirelessly to ensure that people of color and low-income residents always had a seat at the table.

Cecil's impact on the sustainable future of Harlem, our surrounding communities, and our Nation cannot be overstated.

Our prayers remain with Cecil's family and the WE ACT community.

May he rest in power.

#### REMEMBERING FORMER REDDING, CALIFORNIA, CHIEF OF POLICE BOB BLANKENSHIP

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of former Redding Police Department Chief of Police Bob Blankenship after his passing late last month at the age of 73.

Chief Blankenship started his career at the Redding Police Department in 1972. After being promoted through the Redding PD ranks, he became chief of police in 1988. He retired after 30 years of service in 2002.

Chief Blankenship served on the State of California Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission and was president of the California Police Chiefs Association.

He was instrumental in developing statewide policies for police response to domestic violence incidents, and he brought the first Neighborhood Policing Unit to the area.