had a Wednesday group, and all these guys would meet. They basically had formally retired from their professions, but they really didn't retire from life, and they were having one great time.

Our prayers are extended to his loved ones. May they be comforted by the love and memories they hold in their hearts, and may the angels carry their beloved husband, father, and grandfather to a place of peace and joy.

□ 1215

HONORING PENN STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS FOR THEIR FUNDRAISING FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor, thank, and express my sincerest gratitude for an incredible group of students at Penn State University.

This group of students have spent the last year dedicating countless hours to support a fantastic cause benefiting pediatric cancer patients. I am talking about THON.

This year-long fundraising effort culminates in an annual 46-hour dance marathon to support more than 4,500 families financially and emotionally with children who are battling cancer.

On February 17, Penn State students, staff, family, friends, volunteers, and spectators filled the Bryce Jordan Center for the 51st Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon, more widely known as THON, to raise money for the Four Diamonds Foundation.

THON was founded in 1973 by Penn State fraternities and sororities. What began as a small fundraiser bringing in $2,000 in its inaugural year has flourished into a campus-wide effort with more than 16,000 student volunteers across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

In 1977, THON partnered with the Four Diamonds Foundation, and since then, not a single Four Diamonds family has received a medical bill thanks to the tireless work and dedication of Penn State students.

The Four Diamonds Foundation was founded by Charles and Irma Millard in 1972 after their son, Christopher, lost his battle with cancer at 11 years old. Before Christopher passed away, he wrote a story about a great knight who sought out the four diamonds of courage, wisdom, honesty, and strength to be saved from the evil sorceress. His parents realized those four qualities were all necessary to overcome cancer, and they created the Four Diamonds Foundation in his memory.

Over the past 50 years, THON has grown into the largest student-run philanthropy in the world.

Students stood from 6 p.m. on Friday, February 17 until 4 p.m. on Sunday, February 19. While it was an impressive feat to hold, what is even more incredible is the drive, fortitude, and flexibility these students showed in their commitment to this cause.

This year, Penn State students raised a record $15,006,132.46, and to date, students have shattered records and raised more than $200 million, making THON the largest student-run philanthropic effort in the world.

Of course, their dedication is to be applauded, but ask any Penn State student, and they will agree: THON isn't about them. It is about the children and the families fighting cancer.

THON is for the kids, and it is for the families to focus on celebrating more birthdays, piano recitals, science fairs, graduations, and every other milestone a child should celebrate without fear.

THON exists so one day parents never have to hear the words: ''Your child has cancer.''

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of these students, but more importantly, I am proud of the children and the families who have the courage to fight back against pediatric cancer.

Congratulations once again to everyone involved in this year's THON. We are.

ADDRESSING THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKIYE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. SANTOS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the Republic of Türkiye—the more I learn, the more I am appalled that they are allowed to remain in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

From their historic and well-documented persecution of Armenians, human rights abuses—even today—and their objections to Sweden and Finland joining NATO, why do we keep or even trust Türkiye as a partner in maintaining world order?

In major issues related to Iran, Syria, Russia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan, Türkiye is involved and not always helpful to our interests. It is time to rethink this arrangement.

My district in New York has a sizable population of Armenian descendants, multigeneration, first generation, and new arrivals. These citizens have close ties and legitimate concerns about what is going on over there in Armenia.

To my constituents: Yes, I will cosponsor H. Res. 108, but I will also ask this legislative body and my friends in the Senate to reconsider our continued partnership with Türkiye.

PROTECTING THE NATURAL FAMILY IS ESSENTIAL FOR OUR NATION TO PROSPER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, for years we have witnessed a concerted effort by activists on the left to abolish the natural family.

The natural family, a man and woman committed for life to each other and to their children, was ordained by God as the foundation of our society. The natural family is essential for our Nation to prosper because the family is the root of self-government, service, community, personal responsibility, and faith in God.

That is why today I am launching the Congressional Family Caucus. The Congressional Family Caucus will serve to defend the natural family from attempts by the radical left to erode this core foundation of our society.

The left advances abortion, fatherlessness, surgical castration, and atheism. These woke progressives attempt to diminish parental rights by eliminating parental consent and replacing families with the State.

Families are the bedrock of our values and protectors of our youth. According to Deuteronomy 6, in the context of traditional family in the home, we are to diligently instruct our children to love God and to obey His commandments.

I believe we have a moral obligation as servant Representatives to protect and to conserve the family. Families have made this country great. I am honored to be joined by Representative DIANA HARSHBARGER from Tennessee and Representative BRIAN BABIN from Texas in our efforts to protect the family.

CHILDREN'S INNOCENCE MUST BE PROTECTED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. GREENE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I announce that I am reintroducing my bill, the Protect Children's Innocence Act. This bill will stop gender-affirming care on children. It will protect children from the heinous and evil ideology that is grooming kids and making a profit off of horrific surgeries that mutilate their genitals, give them life-altering medications like puberty blockers, hormone therapy that will have permanent damage to their bodies for the rest of their lives before these kids are even grown up, before they have graduated from high school, before they are old enough to vote, before they are old enough to get a tattoo—ink on their own skin—before they are old enough to join the military, before they are old enough to make adult decisions.

This is an important bill that Congress must pass.

My bill will charge any person who knowingly performs gender-affirming care on a minor with a Class C felony. It will prohibit all taxpayer-funded gender-affirming care. It will prohibit institutions of higher education from providing instruction on gender-affirming care.

There is nothing affirming about lying to children that they can change