

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in honoring the 25th Anniversary of Reading and Beyond. Let us celebrate their legacy and their ongoing commitment to advancing educational, health and wellness opportunities to underserved families and children.

HONORING NOAH LYLES

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor my constituent and Olympic champion, Noah Lyles. Born on July 18, 1997, and raised in Alexandria, Virginia, Noah became the fastest man in the world at twenty-seven years old, completing the 100-meter race in 9.79 seconds at the 2024 Olympics in Paris, where he brought home the gold medal. He is the first American to win the 100m gold medal since 2004, a remarkable accomplishment that united us as a Nation in pride. Noah also won a bronze medal in the 200-meter race, a reflection of his talent and determination on the world stage.

Noah graduated from Alexandria City High School, where he is being honored by his alma mater and the Northern Virginia community, who are incredibly proud of his historic tourney at the Olympics this year. I am thrilled to celebrate his career as six-time world champion and Olympic achievements in his hometown and am hopeful his success will inspire the next generation of young athletes in Northern Virginia and around the country.

On behalf of my constituents in Virginia's Eighth Congressional District, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Noah Lyles.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ELISE ROXANN RHODES

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Elise Roxann Rhodes, who passed away on September 9, 2024. Known as "Lesa" to many, Ms. Rhodes was a cherished pillar of our community and brought joy to all those who knew her.

Born on February 13, 1965, in Buffalo, New York, Ms. Rhodes was raised by her parents Roosevelt and Frances Arlene Rhodes in the Central Park neighborhood. She attended Buffalo Public School No. 61 St. Joseph's Catholic Academy, and Archbishop Carroll High School before attending and graduating from Lafayette High School in 1983. While at Lafayette High School, Ms. Rhodes attended the Buffalo Vocational Technical Center, where she discovered her interest in healthcare. Afterward, Ms. Rhodes attended D'Youville University in pursuit of a career in nursing. She graduated in 1988 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing and in 1995 with a Master of Science Degree in Community Health Nursing.

Ms. Rhodes worked tirelessly as a nurse, providing exceptional care to her patients as a

Registered Nurse, Clinical Nursing Professor, Program Director, academic advisor at the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, and an advocate for underserved communities. Outside of her career, she was a member of the Parish Nurse Ministry of Western New York, as well as a volunteer for the Black Student Union at D'Youville University, advisor for the Minority Nurses Association at the State University of New York at Buffalo, and member of the Buffalo School Health Advisory Board.

As an advocate for her community, Ms. Rhodes found numerous ways to give back. She provided health education information during the City of Buffalo's annual Juneteenth and Kwanzaa Festivals. She participated in marches, demonstrations, and meetings to promote health equity and equal treatment, access, education, and rights for minority communities, especially Black and Latino communities. Because of her steadfast commitment to serving others, Ms. Rhodes was inducted as an Honorary Mother of Ka in Malika Kambe Umfazi Sorority, Inc.

Furthermore, Ms. Rhodes remained deeply committed to her faith. She was a faithful member of Elim Christian Fellowship, as well as a member of the Health Education Ministry in which she coordinated a project to make the entrance of the church fully accessible for individuals with physical disabilities. Ms. Rhodes also helped develop screening protocols for COVID-19 and acquired AED and Narcan stations at the church. Additionally, Ms. Rhodes served as the Administrative Coordinator for the Christian Education Ministry, where she was responsible for creating informational pamphlets and operational manuals for the Kingdom Growth Institute.

Ms. Rhodes was the loving daughter of Roosevelt and Frances Arlene Rhodes, cherished sister of Sonja Sidell Rhodes and Vonetia Tashika Rhodes, dear step-daughter of Faith Moore-Rhodes and step-sister of Ashley Rhodes, Briana Rochelle Rhodes, and Valerie Nicole Moody, and devoted niece, cousin, aunt, and godmother to many more.

Today, Ms. Rhodes is remembered as a hard-working woman of God, who put the needs of others first and worked to make her community a more healthy, equitable place. Please join me in honoring Ms. Elise Roxann Rhodes for her lifetime of dedication to service, and faith.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Mr. DUNN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, due to a previously scheduled medical procedure, I was unable to be in D.C. on Tuesday, September 17, 2024, and on Wednesday, September 18, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: YEA on Roll Call No. 418, H.R. 8314, the No Foreign Election Interference Act; YEA on Roll Call No. 420, H. Res. 1455, On ordering the previous question; YEA on Roll Call No. 421, H. Res. 1455, Providing for consideration of the bills H.R. 3724; H.R. 4790, H.R. 5179, H.R. 5339, H.R. 5717, and H.R. 7909, and the Joint resolution H.J. Res. 136; YEA on Roll Call No. 422, S. 1146, the

Find and Protect Foster Youth Act; YEA on Roll Call No. 423, H.R. 9076, the Supporting America's Children and Families Act; YEA on Roll Call No. 424, H.R. 7213, the Autism CARES Act; YEA on Roll Call No. 425, H.R. 1513, the FUTURE Networks Act; NAY on Roll Call No. 426, H.R. 5339, on Motion to Re-commit; YEA on Roll Call No. 427, H.R. 5339, the RETIRE Act; YEA on Roll Call No. 428, H.R. 5179, the Anti-BDS Labeling Act; YEA on Roll Call No. 429, H.R. 7909, the Violence Against Women by Illegal Aliens Act; NAY on Roll Call No. 430, H.R. 9494, on Motion to Re-commit; and YEA on Roll Call No. 431, H.R. 9494, the Continuing Appropriations and Other Matters Act, 2025.

RECOGNIZING THE REPUBLICAN NEWSPAPER'S 200TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 200th anniversary of The Republican newspaper in Springfield, Massachusetts.

For 200 years, The Springfield Republican has been the standard for journalistic excellence in western Massachusetts and throughout the nation. Since its founding by the Bowles family in 1824, the paper has been in continuous circulation for two centuries—a feat that few publications can attest to.

Over the course of my career in public life, I have had the privilege of working with publishers who navigated the paper through changes that have transformed how we receive the news. This includes the likes of David Starr, Larry McDermott, and most recently George Arwady. All have played a prominent role in the newspaper's success in an ever-changing world.

I've also had the pleasure of working with exemplary editors, including Dick Garvey, Wayne Phaneuf, and Cynthia Simison. Now, Larry Parnass continues their legacy. Their commitment to journalistic integrity has upheld the newspaper's reputation as an outlet for reliable reporting. Chronicling the triumphs and challenges that have shaped our communities with sincerity and respect, they have made The Republican a generational household name.

The paper's story started with two things: a flat-bottomed barge and a printing press. Samuel Bowles and his wife made their way up the Connecticut River and settled in Springfield, Massachusetts. In 1824, Bowles founded The Republican, and the rest is history.

From its founding, The Republican prided itself on being a paper that delivered accurate news, while never shying away from discussing controversial topics. Samuel Bowles III was quick to realign the newspaper with the newly formed Republican party and was a strong proponent of the anti-slavery movement. It was that commitment to adaptability and foresight that earned Bowles, and subsequently the Republican, the admiration of a national audience—including President Lincoln.

On April 14, 1865, after a private meeting with The Springfield Republican's Washington correspondent George Ashmun, President Lincoln invited Ashmun to attend the theater with

him and Mrs. Lincoln. Ashmun declined, and Lincoln subsequently wrote a note that read, "Allow Mr. Ashmun and friend to come in at 9 A.M. tomorrow. A. Lincoln. April 14, 1865."

Later that evening, President Lincoln was assassinated. His note inviting Mr. Ashmun to the White House the following day would be Lincoln's last written words.

I call attention to this because it speaks not only to The Republican's involvement in one of the most consequential moments in American history, but also to the paper's constant pursuit of informing its audience of stories throughout the nation and around the world. Over the course of its 200-year history, The Springfield Republican has reported on a Civil War, two world wars, and conflicts across the globe; national triumphs like putting the first man on the moon and the invention of the internet; landmark legislative achievements like giving women the right to vote with the ratification of the 19th Amendment, the genius of Mr. Roosevelt's Social Security Act, and Lyndon Johnson's Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965; tragedies like the assassinations of Presidents Lincoln, Garfield, McKinley, and Kennedy, and the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. The Republican has been there through it all.

And while The Republican was there for each and every one of these stories of national and international significance, they have continued to prioritize the reporting of local stories. Or, as they have coined it, "bringing home the news." For the last 200 years, The Springfield Republican has documented the triumphs and tribulations of this region, one filled with a rich history unlike any other; one whose history played a fundamental role in the founding of our Nation and its basic principles, including freedom of the press.

Whether it was covering visits by fifteen U.S. Presidents, Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speech at Springfield College, or foreign dignitaries visiting from around the world, The Springfield Republican was there.

Whether it was the 40 world championships won by Boston's four major sports teams, the invention of basketball by James Naismith, Dr. J's career with UMass basketball, Springfield's own Tim Daggett and his gold medal victory at the 1984 Olympics, or the countless high school athletes who have achieved All-Western Massachusetts honors, The Springfield Republican was there.

When we were ravaged by natural disasters, including the tornado in 2011, The Springfield Republican was there.

When we rebuilt our city and embarked on a renaissance that continues to take place right before our eyes, highlighted by the redevelopment of Springfield Union Station, the reinvigoration of our city's downtown, and transforming centuries-old buildings into state-of-the-art housing, The Springfield Republican was there.

In an ever-changing society, The Republican has endured a constantly transforming media market. In a time where social media dominates our nation's discourse, and misinformation and disinformation run rampant, we can continue to count on The Republican for their commitment to constant objectivity. On the occasion of their bicentennial, I am grateful for their unwavering loyalty to the people of this region.

I think Dave Starr said it best in his column published on October 24, 1999, when the

newspaper celebrated its 175th anniversary. Dave wrote, "Good newspapers like the Republican and the Union News live on because they offer a commodity that is worth the price. It's not just the news and the ads, the television listings and the sports pages, the comics and the crossword puzzles. They are important, but they are just part of what is in a good newspaper."

He continued, "A good newspaper is the embodiment of a community's hopes and dreams, its yearnings and its aspirations. It is the voice of the public it serves. It is the mirror of its community. And equally important, it is the public's guardian against dark forces that would erode or even destroy the people's rights and freedoms."

As we celebrate The Republican's 200th anniversary, we thank all those who have played and continue to play a part in upholding the paper's mission of bringing home the news—news that embodies our community here in the Pioneer Valley and promotes the tenets of a free press.

The Springfield Republican has been there, and they will continue to be there for generations to come. Congratulations from the United States of America.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO DEBBIE CONARD

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Debbie Conard, who has dedicated over 20 years to volunteering with the Richardson Fire Department. On the Fire 1 Rehab Team, Debbie supports firefighters during large fires. She is on call 24/7, leading the photography team and responding to structure fires, capturing firefighters as they save lives and property. These images serve as a visual record of the bravery and dedication of our local firefighters and are on display at fire stations throughout the city.

After completing the Citizen Fire Academy (CFA), Debbie joined the CFA Alumni Association, where she served as President for many years and remains active today. Her dedication extends to the Richardson Police Department, where she has volunteered for over 18 years. After completing the Citizen Police Academy (CPA), she continued to stay involved through the board of the CPA Alumni Association, contributing to special events, including National Night Out and Safety Fairs, as well as photographing for CPA classes.

Debbie's dedication to serving North Texans isn't limited to Richardson city limits. She volunteered at the Scottish Rite Hospital for Children in Dallas where she engaged patients with crafts, books, and games. She also volunteered with Equest, a therapeutic equestrian riding program for children with diverse needs. Through her involvement with the annual 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb, Debbie helps honor fallen firefighters and police officers who lost their lives in the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Debbie is also a volunteer photographer for Honor Flight, which celebrates America's veterans by inviting them to Washington, D.C. to visit the memorials built to commemorate their service and sacrifice.

Those who know and work with Debbie describe her as humble, sincere, and deeply compassionate. She has a generous heart and never seeks recognition of accolades for her efforts. I'd like to thank Debbie Conard for going above and beyond to serve our North Texas community.

DETECTIVE MATTHEW KING NAMED OHIO'S 13TH DISTRICT CHAMPION OF THE WEEK

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Detective Matthew King of the North Canton Police Department as Ohio's 13th Congressional District Champion of the Week.

Detective King was recognized by his peers as the Police Officer of the year for the North Canton Police Department. King has been a police officer since 2018, and has been with the North Canton Police Department since 2019.

In 2021, Officer King was promoted to Detective King when he graduated as the Valuedictorian of his Drug Recognition Expert Class, earning a 99.14 percent grade point average.

He is also a member of the Stark County Metro Narcotics Unit and the OVI Task Force.

This honor is not Detective King's first award. In 2021, he was awarded the Stark County Traffic Office of the Year. Detective King has been a model police officer for many years.

Once again, I'd like to congratulate Detective Matthew King on this distinction, and thank him for his tireless public service to North Canton. He is a perfect example of why Ohio's 13th Congressional District is known as the "Birthplace of Champions."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILEY NICKEL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2024

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, I was away from the floor during the vote on September 18. Had I been present, I would have voted YES on Roll Call No. 428.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PUERTO RICAN ASSOCIATION FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Puerto Rican Association for Human Development (PRAHD) as they celebrate their historic 50-year milestone of service. On September 19, 2024, they commemorate this accomplishment at PRAHD's Annual Roberto Clemente Gala. It is my privilege to