

Bank Award for Lighting Africa and the United Kingdom-based Guardian Magazine named him one of the “50 People Who Could Save the Planet.”

□ 1015

In 2014, Bob returned to elected office when he was again elected to represent nearly a million people in the San Fernando Valley in the California State Senate.

Throughout Bob’s 14 years in the State legislature, Bob Hertzberg has always been a champion for the communities he represented in the San Fernando Valley, and he was named One of the Most Influential People in Southern California by our hometown paper, the Los Angeles Times. Bob was always committed to delivering results for the San Fernando Valley and beyond.

During his tenure in the California State Senate, Bob Hertzberg served as majority leader from January 2019 to January 2022.

Mr. Speaker, Bob Hertzberg is a one-of-a-kind, exceptional person, and on behalf of my constituents, the great people of California’s 29th Congressional District, I thank him for his many years of public service and for delivering time and time again for the people of Los Angeles and the people of California and by touching the world in the most positive way. Once again, I thank my friend.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL NUDO

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

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a member of my staff, Michael Nudo, for his dedication and service to the constituents of Arizona’s Eighth Congressional District.

Michael Nudo is a U.S. Army veteran who served for 8 years and attained the rank of specialist. He joined my staff first as a caseworker in my district office before coming to Washington, D.C., to serve as a legislative assistant.

Throughout his time in my office, Michael has shown his dedication to the constituents of our district and to me, first by expertly navigating their issues with Federal agencies and now by finding legislative solutions to pressing problems in our community.

His commitment and strong work ethic were on display throughout his tenure, and I have no doubt he will bring the same to all of his future endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Michael for his leadership and service to me and the Eighth Congressional District. His dedication and determination were critical to the success of our office and improved the lives of those living in our district.

RECOGNIZING TIM O’NEILL

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a member of my staff, Tim O’Neill, for his dedication and service to me and the constituents of Arizona’s Eighth Congressional District.

A native of Maine, Tim joined my staff as a legislative assistant and has been a key member of our team, handling important issues like immigration, COVID, and healthcare throughout the 118th Congress.

Tim is a steadfast conservative who is always ready to join the fight for the values that make our Nation great. His hard work and commitment to serving our district and Nation were assets as we navigated complicated challenges.

As I leave Congress, I have no doubt Tim will go on to do great things as he continues his public service. I wish Tim nothing but the best in all of his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING ASHTYN ROULAND

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a member of my staff, Ashtyn Rouland, for her dedication and service to me and the constituents of Arizona’s Eighth Congressional District.

Ashtyn joined my staff as my press assistant. In this role, she ensured that our constituents were up to date with all that was happening in our offices, both in Arizona and Washington, D.C., through our weekly newsletter and frequent social media posts.

As Members of Congress, we know the importance of communicating our work to our constituents, and communication staffers are essential to this endeavor.

I thank Ashtyn for her work and dedication to our team.

As I leave Congress, I have no doubt Ashtyn will go on to do great things. I wish her nothing but the best in all of her future endeavors. I appreciate my staff greatly.

RECOGNIZING TANIA BARRICKLO

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

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the photographer Tania Barricklo on her retirement from our local hometown newspaper, the newspaper I read growing up as a child, the Daily Freeman, where her truly breathtaking work brought the pages to life for 25 years.

Tania has a wondrous ability to distill the essence of the Hudson Valley into every frame. In a single image, she captures entire motions and emotions that transport viewers back to the original scene itself.

Through her work, she has immortalized moments big and small, from documenting high-profile events that will go down in our community’s history books to preserving the game-winning shot for the local high school athletes to hold dear for the rest of their lives.

Tania is a staple in our community, an unwavering and reliable presence.

She and her photographs will be forever intertwined with Kingston and Ulster County’s history, and I thank her personally and on behalf of our entire community for her invaluable con-

tributions to the lives of Kingstonians’ past, present, and future.

I wish her the absolute best in her retirement and hope to see her very soon on the streets of our great community.

THANKING JOHN LIPSCOMB

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank a true pillar of the Hudson Valley community, John Lipscomb, for his decades of fierce advocacy for our environment and cherished Hudson River, as he retires from his role as Riverkeeper’s vice president of advocacy and chief patrol boat captain.

John has been sailing the Hudson River since his childhood, and his dedication to its care and rehabilitation runs deeper than the depths of the river itself.

Throughout his career, John has sailed infinite miles on that river, taken thousands of water samples to inform and advance cleanup efforts, and, through his work on documentaries, has introduced thousands of others near and far to what we know in the Hudson Valley about our river. It is of vital importance, and we have an obligation to its keeping and preservation for future generations.

I wish John the absolute best. He is more than deserving of a restful retirement, but I don’t expect to see him sitting back anytime soon. I am heartened knowing that his passion will not fade, and the Hudson River will continue to see him going up and down its shores.

HONORING MARTHA STREVER

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor New York State’s longest serving teacher, the inspiring Martha Strever, now in her 64th year teaching math to middle school students in the Hudson Valley.

Martha is the teacher every parent wants for their child. She is rooted solely in uplifting the lives of students and empowering them through limitless learning.

Born and raised in Hyde Park, she brought her zeal for teaching to the Red Hook Central School District in 1961 and hasn’t slowed down for a minute since.

Her impact knows no bounds. She has molded thousands of students—in some cases, three generations of students from the same family—into high-achieving academics and exemplary Hudson Valley citizens, who have in turn passed the lessons from their beloved Ms. Strever on to countless others.

In fact, 30 years ago, she taught a young woman in her math class who is now the principal of that school and actually her boss.

Martha Strever is a true treasure of the Hudson Valley, and I thank her for her profound service to our community for 63 years past and for more to come. She says she has no plans to leave the classroom anytime soon.

CONGRATULATING KIWANIS CLUB OF WAYNESBORO ON ITS CENTENNIAL

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Kiwanis Club of Waynesboro as they celebrate their centennial.

For 100 years, the Waynesboro Kiwanians have shown a deep commitment to children in our community. In the 1930s, they sponsored a clinic for children in need. During the 1950s, they acquired a campsite that hosted many summer activities for local youth, including scouting and 4-H clubs.

Today, with 53 members, the Kiwanis Club actively promotes childhood literacy by providing books to public schools, hosting eight Little Free Libraries, and building a library at the Boys & Girls Clubs. They also host an annual Halloween event that brings together over 3,000 families for a safe celebration.

In addition, the Kiwanis Club of Waynesboro invests approximately \$45,000 each year into our community through grants, scholarships, and donations to nonprofits.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Kiwanis Club of Waynesboro on this remarkable 100-year milestone. Their dedication truly makes our community a better place.

CONGRATULATING SIGNAL KNOB MIDDLE SCHOOL FFA

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Signal Knob Middle School Future Farmers of America chapter for winning the national Middle School Model of Excellence award at the 97th National FFA Convention & Expo in Indianapolis. The national Middle School Model of Excellence award is given to a chapter that displays the ability to grow leaders, build communities, and strengthen agriculture.

The chapter is led by a Signal Knob teacher and FFA adviser Dakota Stroud, who said he is "ecstatic to have our chapter recognized for [the members'] hard work through the school year in creating and executing events and activities that benefit our students, school, and community."

Students Piper Dellinger and Emily Hamrick, who are now freshmen at Strasburg High School, represented Signal Knob's FFA chapter and led the presentation. They spoke on the many activities and events that the Signal Knob FFA chapter participated in during the 2023-2024 school year.

I again congratulate the Signal Knob Middle School FFA chapter for excelling in the areas of agriculture and leadership and making the Shenandoah Valley proud. I wish the entire chapter the best of luck in future endeavors.

CELEBRATING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROTARY CLUB OF WAYNESBORO

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the Rotary Club of Waynesboro

as they approach their centennial. Chartered in December 1924, the Waynesboro Rotary Club has dedicated nearly 100 years to service.

They have consistently met over lunch on Tuesdays and have fostered a commitment to the community through the Four-Way Test, ensuring their initiatives are fair, beneficial, and rooted in truth.

The club has evolved since the first project of beautifying the grounds of the local library. They have helped individuals without homes, supported environmental efforts, and provided school supplies, often partnering with local organizations to maximize their impact.

To mark its 100th anniversary, the Rotary Club has teamed up with the Central Shenandoah Valley Office on Youth and Waynesboro Parks and Recreation to create a traffic playground for children to practice bike riding and learn about traffic safety. Many of these children may also have the opportunity to receive scholarships from the club, which have totaled over \$350,000.

I have no doubt the Rotary Club of Waynesboro will continue their vital service. Mr. Speaker, I commend them for their past century and wish them continued success in their efforts to prioritize service to others.

□ 1030

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE 119TH CONGRESS

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a critical moment in our Nation's history.

The Biden-Harris administration's policies have severely weakened our country, putting the American people at risk. From the disastrous withdrawal in Afghanistan, resulting in the loss of 13 servicemembers and arming the Taliban with our equipment, to compromising our allies' energy security by waiving sanctions on Nord Stream 2, this administration has consistently failed the American people.

Allowing \$6 billion to flow to Iran, a state sponsor of terrorism, is both reckless and dangerous.

Simultaneously, we see China continuing its human rights abuses while our Nation grows increasingly dependent on its supply chains.

At home, we have seen a Chinese spy balloon surveil sensitive military sites, a border crisis that continues to spiral out of control, and a fentanyl epidemic devastating our communities.

Working with the incoming Trump administration, House Republicans are ready to lead. We will secure our borders, restore energy independence, and prioritize America in foreign policy. We will protect American jobs and combat the inflation that is squeezing hardworking families.

As we enter the 119th Congress, I look forward to working with my colleagues to reverse the damage done by the Biden-Harris administration and get our country back on track for the American people and our future.

HONORING THE LATE COLE WILLIAM SCHMIDTKNECHT

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

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the late Cole William Schmidtknecht. Born in 2001 in La Crosse, Wisconsin, Cole was a 22-year-old who, according to his parents, Bil and Shanon, did life on his own terms. Cole was known to them as Mr. Independent. As a toddler, he walked himself into kindergarten.

Bil and Shanon said that Cole always stood up for the little guy. Growing up, Cole had a love for gaming and enjoyed playing in video game tournaments. He had gained a following online on Twitch that he shared with many of his gaming friends. His mother, Shanon, said he had a lifelong curiosity for knowledge. Cole had an affinity for elephants due to their wisdom and kindness and had wanted a tattoo of one on his arm.

Cole had recently moved back to Appleton, Wisconsin, to live with his best friend.

In January of 2024, Cole went to the pharmacy to refill his steroid medication for his asthma, a medication he had taken for years.

A big 3 pharmacy benefit manager had increased the price of Cole's daily asthma medication from around \$35 to over \$500. He was told that no generic drug would be covered by his insurance, and Cole was forced to choose between his medication and his rent. He chose to pay his rent.

Five days later, Cole suffered a severe asthma attack that led to cardiac arrest. On January 21, 2024, Cole passed away.

These pharmacy benefit managers are the middlemen of drug pricing. They are owned by Fortune 20 health insurance companies and are working for profit, not patients.

PBMs claim to negotiate on behalf of employers and patients to lower drug costs, but the Federal Trade Commission's July investigation into PBM price gouging abuses showed the facts.

PBMs mark up the cost of drugs by thousands of percent above their acquisition cost and have captured \$300 billion from the U.S. healthcare system. They have invested none of that into research and development for new drugs.

PBMs influence what prescription drugs are available and what they cost by mandating patients receive expensive, brand-name drugs when cheaper, generic drugs are prescribed and are readily available.

Now their greed is on full display. At the July House Oversight and Accountability Committee hearing, I questioned big 3 PBM executives about these markups. I asked CVS Caremark President David Joyner, now CEO of CVS Health, why he was charging \$6,229 for a \$16 multiple sclerosis drug. This is a 38,000 percent markup for lifesaving