

at preparing students to respond to a fire hazard.

I would like to thank Council Rock ACHIEVE staff John Engelhardt, Dan Bartleson, Steve Ruane, and David Marcinkowski for their work in preparing Bucks County students for the future.

I would also like to thank Lingohocken Chief David James, along with firefighters Gary Davis, Charlie Vaughn, Ted Middleman, and Glenn Forsyth of Newtown Township Emergency Services for their dedication to our community.

At a time when our fellow citizens in California are experiencing devastating wildfires, firefighters' skills and expertise are appreciated and so sorely needed. We need them now more than ever.

#### RECOGNIZING LINDSEY SPRITZLER

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a student from Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, for her outstanding achievements.

Lindsey Spritzler, a senior at North Penn High School in Lansdale, was recently selected as a member of the 2018 All-National Honor Mixed Choir and is performing at their annual conference this week in Orlando, Florida.

Lindsey was one of only 240 individuals across our country to be selected to join the vocalist team. This is certainly no small feat. In order to even qualify, Lindsey had to be selected for the Pennsylvania All-State Chorus and place near the top of her section.

I applaud Lindsey for her hard work and exceptional talent.

We are also proud to recognize Music Department Chair Matthew Klenk for his commitment and dedication to our community and for his service to the North Penn School District as well.

On behalf of our entire community, we all look forward to seeing what Lindsey will accomplish in the future. We know they will be great things.

#### RIGHT HONORABLE WINSTON CHURCHILL'S 144TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, this week Speaker RYAN and Leader PELOSI welcomed members of the Churchill family and the distinguished Ambassador from the United Kingdom to the United States Capitol in honor of the 144th anniversary of the birthday of the Right Honorable Winston Churchill. It is always a touching and fitting ceremony here in the people's Capitol.

I recall well one of the most fateful assignments of our predecessor body, the Continental Congress, when a special committee was formed, something Congress is great at. That special committee included John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson, and Jefferson was assigned this great task of drafting the Declaration of Independence.

Well, Mr. Speaker, he completes his work, and he comes back to the com-

mittee and he outlines his 27 grievances against the King. He has worked on it for days. Benjamin Franklin and John Adams review that work, and they make 80 changes—80 changes.

It just shows that, no matter how good the author is, once it is turned over to a committee, there will be change.

Of those 80 changes, about 25 percent of the Declaration of Independence that we know today, one of those changes speaks to the heart of the friendship, the underlying friendship, between the British and American people, for one of their changes was Jefferson's poignant lament, which reads as this: "We might have been a free and great people together."

So that was taken out of the document, even though Jefferson outlined the 27 grievances why America should separate itself from Great Britain.

I like to reflect on that when we fast-forward to Winston Churchill coming to America in 1946 and speaking at Westminster College in Missouri, when he toasted what he called the fraternal association of the English-speaking peoples.

He said in that talk: "But we must never cease to proclaim in fearless tones the great principles of freedom and the rights of man which are the joint inheritance of the English-speaking world and which through Magna Carta, the Bill of Rights, the habeas corpus, trial by jury, and the English common law find their most famous expression in the American Declaration of Independence."

So, on this 144th anniversary of the birth of Winston Churchill, someone who was of both, American and British, I salute his birth. I salute that special relationship between the United Kingdom and this great country.

#### RECOGNIZING ALICE ANDREWS

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Alice Andrews, a good friend who was recently awarded the 2018 Neil Compton Award for her tireless work in conservation in Arkansas.

Born and raised in El Dorado, Alice received her undergraduate degree in fine arts from Henderson State University, where she fell in love with arts and the environment.

She is more than a 40-year member of the Ozark Society and has served extended terms as Ozark Society president and conservation chair.

Alice has worked for decades to preserve water, air quality, and wilderness areas throughout Arkansas. Her lifetime of service to the State of Arkansas and environmental conservation will not be forgotten.

I join all Arkansans in congratulating Alice on this achievement and wish her much continued success.

#### FARM BUREAU PATRIOT PROJECT

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Arkansas Farm Bureau for participating in the American Farm Bureau Federation's Patriot Project. Arkansas is one of only four

States currently participating in this project.

The Patriot Project is a program that connects military veteran beginning farmers and ranchers who are starting their careers with experienced Farm Bureau farmers, who act as mentors.

The Arkansas Farm Bureau works to identify military veterans and Farm Bureau mentors and facilitate long-term educational and professional mentorship relationships. The military veterans should be actively farming and using their own resources while their mentor guides them towards success.

I thank Randy Veach, president of the Arkansas Farm Bureau, for his leadership in bringing this program to Arkansas, and I extend a warm hand of gratitude to the Arkansas Farm Bureau for its worthwhile commitment to our veterans.

#### LGBT EQUALITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, throughout my tenure in Congress, I have been so proud to work and promote LGBT equality here at home and around the globe.

When I was first elected as a Member of this distinguished body in 1989, our country was in a very different place than it is today in how we understood people who are LGBT and the rights and the respect due them.

Although much progress still needs to be made, it is true that we are moving in the right direction. Let me give you some examples, Mr. Speaker:

By voting to end the misguided Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy;

By funding much-needed human rights programs abroad, implemented by a wonderful agency, USAID, such as its LGBT Global Development Partnership;

By endorsing the principle of equality as it applies to marriage rights and responsibilities;

By including LGBT individuals within nondiscrimination provisions and by ensuring that these and other services funded by this body are made available without regard to sexual orientation or gender identity.

As a founding member of the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus, I have continued to build on these successes by supporting education legislation, including:

The Student Non-Discrimination bill to end bullying and harassment continually faced by LGBT students throughout our Nation;

Adoption bills, such as Every Child Deserves a Family Act;

Legislation to modernize laws and eliminate discrimination with respect to people living with HIV/AIDS; and

The Equality Act, which gives consistent protection for LGBT individuals across existing civil rights laws.