about school-based agricultural education, FFA, and the next generation of leaders who will feed, fuel, and clothe the world.

The National FFA Organization is a congressionally chartered school-based national youth leadership development organization that plays an integral role in preparing the next generation of leaders who will change the world.

I sincerely hope my colleagues in the House will consider joining our caucus to support agriculture and the students who are passionate about it.

REFLECTING ON DEMOCRATIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF PAST YEAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, as Congress reconvenes for the Second Session of the 117th Congress, I want to take a moment to reflect on the important achievements that the Democrats have made this past year.

The pandemic continues to be a challenge, but thanks to the funding provided by the Democrats' American Rescue Plan Act, the vast majority of Americans have been vaccinated and are protected from severe illness, hospitalization, and death.

We must also acknowledge that the Democrats' commitment to building back stronger and more equitably than before has resulted in unprecedented economic recovery from the initial impact of the pandemic.

Last month, the unemployment rate fell to 3.9 percent, the largest calendar-year decrease in the unemployment rate in history. We reached this rate 5 years before experts anticipated. That is the result of adding 6.4 million jobs to the economy since President Biden took office, regaining 84 percent of the jobs lost during the pandemic.

This economic boom was brought to you by President Biden and the Democrats in Congress who voted for the American Rescue Plan.

The American Rescue Plan supercharged our economic recovery by providing critical support to small businesses as they navigated the pandemic. It expanded the child tax credit, which helped families put food on the table and pay for childcare. It provided rent assistance so families could keep their housing.

Now, the bipartisan infrastructure law is creating millions of good-paying jobs while rebuilding our Nation's crumbling infrastructure and combating the climate crisis.

Through the American Rescue Plan and the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Democrats have delivered for the American people and created historic economic growth.

We have more important work to do. We must encourage the Senate to pass the voting rights protections that we in the House passed months ago that are critical to ensure that all citizens can exercise their most precious right to vote.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to continue our important work, building back stronger and more equitably than ever before.

□ 1045

RECOGNIZING TAYLORVILLE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL'S SEVENTH GRADE GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my hometown Taylorville Junior High School's seventh grade girls' basketball team on their 2021 State championship win.

After a back and forth game, the score was tied at 16–16 with 4 seconds to go. The Tornadoes came out triumphant after Grace Rogers hit a clutch shot.

The seventh grade girls' basketball team ends their season with an overall record of 26–2. This team's hard work, dedication, and sportsmanship shine throughout our entire Taylorville community.

I give a big tip of the hat and personally congratulate my good friend and head coach, Doug Bowsher. I congratulate all the girls on this wonderful, championship team for their hard work and dedication, and I am excited to see what the future holds for this championship Taylorville Tornado team.

CONGRATULATING DAVID BROWN

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my good friend David Brown for his retirement after more than 30 years at WAND in Decatur, Illinois.

David's ancestors moved from New Hampshire to Illinois in 1867 in a search for new farming opportunities. David is a centennial farmer, and his son is the sixth generation from his family to farm in central Illinois. After graduating from Millikin University, David also worked at WSOY radio.

David first joined the WAND news team as an ag reporter when the Farm Progress Show came to central Illinois in 1991. At WAND, many of his colleagues described him as a mentor, a friend, and one of the hardest workers they have come to know.

Throughout David's tenure at the station, he was loved by all and received an award for Media Excellence in Agriculture. According to David, he had the best of both worlds, working at his passion, and then getting to share the importance of agriculture with the viewers as a farmer and as an ag broadcaster.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate David on his retirement. It is well deserved. Now David has a little more time to spend with his four children and six grandchildren.

RECOGNIZING RAY AND BARBIE SWINDA

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Decatur residents Ray and Barbie Swinda and their Facebook page, Support Decatur IL Business.

Ray his wife, Barbie, have been using their Facebook page to show off local Decatur businesses and restaurants they have been enjoying, and encouraging others in the community to follow their lead in buying and eating local.

Ray and his wife started their page in response to larger chains harming the diversity of options for food and services in the Decatur area that Ray remembers existing as a kid. Many of the businesses that have been featured on their page have been shocked by the increase in traffic. Ray and Barbie have received responses from others in the community, including Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe herself, and have become local leaders simply through their work in promoting local businesses and restaurants.

I urge everybody, if you are traveling through Decatur, Illinois, and you want a good recommendation, go visit Ray and Barbie's Facebook page, and you will see some great plates of delicious food.

I also personally congratulate Ray and Barbie on the success of their Facebook page and thank them for being pillars of the community and encouraging so many others to invest in our local businesses.

CONGRATULATING THE GEORGIA BULLDOGS

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate as a proud alumnus of the recently crowned 2022 College Football National Champions, the Georgia Bulldogs.

Going 12–1 on the season, the Georgia Bulldogs came into Indianapolis to face the Alabama Crimson Tide.

In true heavyweight fashion, the grudge match opened as a hard-nosed defensive battle without one touchdown being scored in the first half of play.

The Dogs came out down in the second half and captained by head coach, Kirby Smart, Georgia was able to score the first touchdown to take the lead.

With a defense championed by the likes of Jordan Davis and Nakobe Dean, the Bulldogs managed to hold Alabama to one touchdown all game.

Quarterback Stetson Bennet, who by the way is from Blackshear in Pierce County in the First Congressional District of Georgia that I have the honor and privilege of representing, quarterback Stetson Bennett completed his Cinderella-story season, stepping up when it mattered most.

With an interception returned for a touchdown to seal the deal, the University of Georgia was victorious.