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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, December 9, 2024, at 3 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2024

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

Reverend Christopher Legg, South Spring Baptist Church, Tyler, Texas, offered the following prayer:

O Lord, King of Kings, Abba Father, and friend, help me to remember that every prayer is before You, the creator of all things and the lover of our souls.

Whether we acknowledge You or not, guard us and guide us. Be our vision and our wisdom, and protect us from our own.

Search us, know us, try us, and reveal us. See if there be any grievous way in us, and lead us in the way everlasting.

Forgive us our pride, our lies, lack of appreciation for Your truth and Your love. We know You are doing a new thing. We see it springing up. Make known to us the path of life, help us experience the full joy of Your presence and the eternal pleasures at Your right hand.

We ask all of this according to the sanctifying work of Your spirit, for obedience to Your Son and the sprinkling of His blood, and according to Your perfect knowledge.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COLLINS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND CHRISTOPHER LEGG

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a devoted servant of the Lord and Savior, my pastor and friend, Chris Legg, of South Spring Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas.

I have known Pastor Legg now for almost a decade. He is a dedicated, authentic, and humble shepherd of the flock entrusted to him, and he is one of the most insightful teachers of Scripture I have ever encountered.

Every Sunday through his teaching, I am challenged to more closely align my heart and my actions with the righteousness of the living God. Committed to discipleship, Pastor Legg understands that we are all ministers of the Gospel, but he also understands that we are all broken people in need of a Savior. If we doubt that, he simply reminds us to look in the mirror.

Whether it is from the pulpit at South Spring, at Alethia Family Coun-

seling Center, behind the microphone during his Reconstructed Faith podcast, or simply engaging with everyone he meets, Pastor Legg does his best to point this lost world to a Savior who loves us each unconditionally and who came to bring us eternal life and life more abundantly.

It is my great honor to sponsor Pastor Legg, husband to Ginger, father to five, and friend to all, as Guest Chaplain to deliver the opening prayer before the United States House of Representatives.

On behalf of east Texas, I thank Chris and Ginger for their lifetime of dedication to the Gospel.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EZELL). The Chair will entertain up to 5 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

BIDDING FAREWELL TO REPRESENTATIVE DEBBIE LESKO

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I am immensely grateful to call DEBBIE LESKO not only a colleague but also a genuine friend. She is someone I admire. DEBBIE is one of the kindest and most forgiving people I have ever met in my life. I can attest to that personally because she forgave me in a very big way.

She has built a reputation as a rock-ribbed Conservative champion. From

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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her time in the Arizona State Legislature to her service here within the people's House, she never faltered in her work to protect the values and God-given freedoms of her constituents and the American people.

Her friendship and collegiality will be sorely missed as we enter into a new Congress, but I know that wherever she goes, she will continue to leave a positive, indelible mark with her work and passion. God bless DEBBIE, and may He continue to bless her family as she turns the page and enters a new chapter in her life.

HONORING DON POSTLES

(Mr. KENNEDY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of a titan of western New York's media landscape, Don Postles, who is retiring at the end of this month.

Don's career is marked by a strong commitment to journalistic integrity, pursuit of the truth, and service to the public.

After 10 years with Channel 2 and Channel 7, in 1993, he joined Channel 4 as a reporter and rose to become the station's lead co-anchor alongside his colleague, Jacquie Walker. Buffalonians have come to trust Don Postles' voice as one of honesty and integrity, guiding us through our highest of highs and lowest of lows.

Whether it was our Buffalo Bills and Sabres bringing home a victory, or a dangerous blizzard bearing down on the region, Don Postles' dedication to keeping folks informed has never wavered.

His dedication and hard work leave behind an inspiring example for the next generation of journalists to follow. On behalf of the residents of Buffalo and all of our western New York community, I thank Don. May he enjoy his hard-earned retirement.

PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize "a date which will live in infamy," the words President Franklin Roosevelt used in this very Chamber following the attack on Pearl Harbor.

On December 7, 1941, our great Nation was suddenly attacked by the Imperial Japanese Navy, leading to the deaths of 2,043 American servicemembers and civilians. Mr. Speaker, 83 years later, we remember these brave souls who lost their lives that day defending our very freedoms.

On August 23, 1994, Congress created the National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day to honor the lives lost each

year. We once again recognize and remember every man and woman who laid down their life for the United States that day.

We are forever indebted to their sacrifices. In a time of war, our great Nation was able to preserve. Let this day be a reminder to us that our freedoms should never be taken for granted. God bless those who lost their lives that day, and God bless America.

THE COURAGE OF JOE EITL

(Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, government is at its best when it helps those in need.

That is the story of Collegeville resident, Joe Eitl. Joe was born with a rare heart condition that meant only half of his heart worked properly. For years, he endured surgery and after surgery, and still at 37, Joe suffered heart and liver failure.

A transplant was his only hope. The family's nationwide search began, and in 2020 at Vanderbilt University Hospital, Joe became the first person with Down syndrome to receive a combined heart and liver transplant.

What made this possible? Medicare. Medicare saves lives. It saved Joe. Without it, thousands of Americans would not have the chance at the life they deserve. Through it all, Joe's courageous and contagious spirit never wavered. His story is not the story of sorrow, but of joy and enduring strength and of the power of community.

From his parents, Craig and Peg, to doctors, nurses, family, friends, and co-workers, Joe had love and support. May the Eitl story be the story for many others in acute need. Now, Joe is competing again with joy in the Special Olympics, a remarkable feat for a remarkable young man.

RECOGNIZING JACKSON COUNTY SHERIFF JANIS MANGUM

(Mr. COLLINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of one of Georgia's finest law enforcement officers. Jackson County Sheriff Janis Mangum will be leaving the force at the end of this year, marking an end to an incredible and historic 39-year career.

Since 1985, Sheriff Mangum has devoted her life to protecting the innocent, keeping dangerous criminals off our streets, and serving as a leader to the law enforcement officers in Jackson County and throughout Georgia.

From her time as a radio operator to being elected as the second female sheriff in Georgia history, Sheriff Mangum leaves a legacy that saved

countless lives and struck fear in the hearts of Georgia's criminals.

She was named 2023 Georgia Sheriff of the Year, and has received so many accolades and awards for her hard work and dedication, that I truthfully do not have time to list them all.

Know this, when there was a call to serve, she answered. On behalf of Georgia's 10th Congressional District, I thank her for her commitment to Jackson County and the sacrifices she has made to keep us safe. She will truly be missed.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1984 SUMMER OLYMPICS

(Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 40th anniversary of the 1984 Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles, a momentous event that redefined what the Olympics could achieve and left a lasting legacy for our Nation and the world.

The 1984 Games were groundbreaking, the first privately financed, and most financially successful in history. With 5.7 million tickets sold and events across 4,000 square miles of southern California, they captivated the world and showcased Los Angeles as a global leader.

More than a display of athletic excellence, the 1984 Games ushered in a new era of innovation, technology, and inclusivity, while fostering international good will and reminding us that sport has the power to unite where politics may divide.

From this success, the LA84 Foundation was born, ensuring that the legacy of the 1984 Olympics continues to benefit future generations. Over the past four decades, the foundation has supported millions of young people, built vital infrastructure, and led the national conversation on play, equity, and youth development.

As we look ahead to the 2028 Olympics, Los Angeles will once again welcome the world, offering a unique opportunity to harness the soft power of sport to promote peace, strengthen global relationships, and inspire future generations. Let us build on this legacy as we prepare to unite the world once again in 2028.

DELAYS IN THE FAFSA SYSTEM

(Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, across our country, students continue to face uncertainty caused by the delays in the Federal Student Aid system.

Unfortunately, the Biden administration's botched rollout of the FAFSA program this past school year left students not knowing whether they would receive aid.

Some students did not even know their financial aid status until after the start of the school year. Recently, I voted in favor of the FAFSA Deadline Act, which would ensure that FAFSA forms are made available by October 1 of each year, allowing students and their families and their schools the necessary time to complete, process, and receive those applications.

These delays impact students, both at flagship universities and at trade schools, leaving the students unsure of how they will afford the tuition in their chosen careers.

It is time for the Senate to pass this legislation and give our students and their families the clarity that they need in order to return and resume their education.

CELEBRATING ONE YEAR OF MEDICAID EXPANSION

(Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVID of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join in a celebration of the 1-year anniversary of Medicaid expansion in the State of North Carolina.

As the co-chair of the State Medicaid Expansion Caucus, I am glad nearly 600,000 North Carolinians now have access to healthcare. I thank the North Carolina General Assembly for doing the right thing, and the Governor and DHS Secretary for selecting eastern North Carolina to celebrate this milestone where more than 95,000 residents now have care.

It is not just that. We are also celebrating the many jobs that are helping to boost eastern North Carolina's economy. After witnessing the closure to Martin General Hospital and other struggling hospitals in the east, expansion was vital.

Congress must see the value, benefits, and the fruits of our labor. With the expansion of Medicaid and the groundbreaking of the new Center of Medical Education building both, we remain on the forefront of delivering a healthier eastern North Carolina, and I couldn't be prouder.

□ 0915

RECOGNIZING LISA GRAY

(Mrs. LESKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a community leader whose service and dedication to myself and the State of Arizona are unmatched: Lisa Gray, my friend.

When I got elected to Congress in 2018, Lisa was my First District director and assisted me in opening the office. She did a great job.

Through her time in my office, Lisa was committed to providing the best service to our constituents and played an active role in our community.

Still to this day, Lisa is an active member of our community and currently serves as the general manager of the Sun City Homeowners Association. Lisa is a leader and advocate who fights for what she believes in.

When I look back on my time in elected office, Lisa was such an important part of this journey, and I thank her for her service and commitment to our community and our country.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Lisa, and I appreciate her.

CONGRATULATING EAST ST. LOUIS FLYERS ON FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

(Ms. BUDZINSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the East St. Louis Flyers football team for winning the 2024 Illinois State championship.

Under Coach Darren Sunkett's leadership, the Flyers went 13-1 this season, averaging an astonishing 43 points per game while giving up an average of just 7 points per game.

On November 28, the team finished their season with a 48-28 victory over Geneva, marking East St. Louis' 11th State championship and Coach Sunkett's fifth State title with the Flyers.

I want to personally congratulate each and every player, coach, and staffer who helped the Flyers achieve their goals on and off the field this season. I know that behind each win were hours of practice and preparation. Mr. Speaker, their dedication to the game of football and our local community is an inspiration.

Go Flyers.

CRUCIAL COMMUNISM TEACHING ACT

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1602, I call up the bill (H.R. 5349) to develop and disseminate a civic education curriculum and oral history resources regarding certain political ideologies, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1602, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and the Workforce, printed in the bill, is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 5349

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Crucial Communism Teaching Act".

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are the following:

(1) To help families, civic institutions, local communities, local educational agencies, high schools, and State educational agencies to prepare high school students to be civically responsible and knowledgeable adults.

(2) To ensure that high school students in the United States—

(A) learn that communism has led to the deaths of over 100,000,000 victims worldwide;

(B) understand the dangers of communism and similar political ideologies; and

(C) understand that 1,500,000,000 people still suffer under communism.

SEC. 3. DEVELOPMENT AND DISSEMINATION OF CIVIC EDUCATION CURRICULUM AND ORAL HISTORY RESOURCES.

The independent entity created under section 905(b)(1)(B) of the FRIENDSHIP Act (40 U.S.C. 8903 note; 107 Stat. 2331 note), also known as the "Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation", shall—

(1) develop a civic education curriculum for high school students that—

(A) includes a comparative discussion of certain political ideologies, including communism and totalitarianism, that conflict with the principles of freedom and democracy that are essential to the founding of the United States;

(B) is accurate, relevant, and accessible, so as to promote the understanding of such political ideologies; and

(C) is compatible with a variety of courses, including social studies, government, history, and economics classes;

(2) develop oral history resources that may be used alongside the curriculum described in paragraph (1) and that include personal stories, titled "Portraits in Patriotism", from diverse individuals who—

(A) demonstrate civic-minded qualities;

(B) are victims of the political ideologies described in paragraph (1)(A); and

(C) are able to compare the political ideologies described in paragraph (1)(A) with the political ideology of the United States; and

(3) engage with State and local educational leaders to assist high schools in using the curriculum described in paragraph (1) and the resources described in paragraph (2).

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

The terms in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801) shall apply to this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce or their respective designees.

After 1 hour of debate on the bill, as amended, it shall be in order to consider the further amendment printed in part A of House Report 118-791, if offered by the Member designated in the report, which shall be considered read, shall be separately debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question.

The gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material to H.R. 5349.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5349, the Crucial Communism Teaching Act authored by Representative SALAZAR from Florida.

Communism is a cancerous ideology that has a long, dark history of political suppression, persecution, and violence. There is no question about that.

This ideology has led to the deaths of over 100 million men, women, and children worldwide, and it tramples the human rights of 1.5 billion people across the globe.

If you think this is a thing of the past, think again. The Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation put it this way: "The Berlin Wall fell in 1989, but communism didn't. One hundred years after the Bolshevik Revolution, one-fifth of the world's population still lives under single-party communist regimes in China, Cuba, Laos, North Korea, and Vietnam."

The freedom we enjoy is a threat to these communist regimes, and they benefit when their atrocities are covered up.

It is no surprise that malign foreign actors are infiltrating American educational institutions to spew propaganda and keep the horrors of communism buried.

For example, the Chinese Communist Party, the CCP, is using Confucius Classrooms under the guise of cultural exchange centers to undermine the principles upon which this Nation is built.

They are explicitly organized by the CCP to project soft power on American students. The strategy is straight out of the Soviet playbook. In 1960, the USSR established the Peoples' Friendship University as a cultural and literary exchange program to indoctrinate students in developing countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

This blatant attempt to inject foreign ideologies into schools undermines the fundamental purpose of American education. It goes without saying that we should be teaching American values in American schools.

Make no mistake, every dollar that flows into American classrooms from the CCP comes with strings attached, and the most important string is the requirement that instructors censor themselves to appease Beijing.

The censorship stifles academic freedom, which is a cornerstone of the American educational system. Academic freedom encourages open dialogue, the free exchange of ideas, and the pursuit of knowledge without fear of reprisal.

Confucius Classrooms, however, undermine these principles by fostering an environment where educators are pressured to align with the CCP's agenda, stifling critical thinking and true intellectual exploration.

Yet, over 500 K-12 schools across the United States have allowed the CCP to establish itself in their halls under the guise of Confucius Classrooms, which has been especially concentrated close to military bases.

To make matters worse, currently, 28 percent of Gen Zers hold a favorable opinion of the term "communism," and 18 percent of Gen Zers think communism is a fairer system than capitalism and deserves consideration in America.

These disturbing statistics make it clear that we are in a war of ideas. President Reagan's quote is even more prescient: Freedom "is never more than one generation away from extinction."

We celebrate accountability, free markets, human rights, and good governance, while communism seeks to subvert these ideas. We must protect and nurture our own democratic values for them to continue to thrive.

This is a serious problem that must be confronted, and the Crucial Communism Teaching Act is the answer.

This legislation will offer States and local school districts optional educational materials with which they can educate high school students about the dangers of communism and how these systems are contrary to the founding principles of freedom in the United States.

This is all about preserving those founding principles, safeguarding the freedoms that have always defined this great Republic throughout its history, and educating this Nation's future leaders about the true nature of this caustic ideology that is communism.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote for the Crucial Communism Teaching Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise on H.R. 5349, the so-called Crucial Communist Teaching Act.

Let me start by acknowledging that there is value in educating our students about the dangers of totalitarianism and the atrocities committed under communist regimes, but the truth is we are debating a bill that skirts around key historical lessons and only risks further politicizing education.

Rather than bringing forward substantive legislation to address challenges that our children face in the classroom, Republicans want us to focus on this narrowly tailored bill that leaves out important issues that we should be discussing about communism.

We should be taking action to address the actual challenges that our children are facing, like legislation to increase investments in early childhood education, closing achievement gaps in our schools, tackling the mental health crisis among our youth, increasing graduation rates, and making college more affordable.

These are the challenges that people are actually facing, but this bill—in fact, this entire session—has been silent on those issues.

Furthermore, the bill fails to provide a complete and comprehensive approach to teaching students about the full history of communism. If we truly want to educate students about the dangers of extremism, we should be teaching them about all forms, not just communism, but about fascism and other ideologies that have sought to strip people of their rights and freedoms.

Even with communism, the bill neglects to mention the long history of using the label "communism" to inflame, scare, and pit Americans against each other. The bill remains silent when it comes to specifics, such as the discussion about the history of the House Un-American Activities Committee.

Many fear that this approach will not only oversimplify this complex issue but also distort our students' understanding of history.

What is more troubling is that while we are debating this bill, Republicans are ignoring the actual efforts to invest in education and ensure that all children have the opportunities to succeed. We should be passing legislation that prioritizes their future, not creating distractions on divisive partisan messaging.

I urge my colleagues to come together to support legislation that would truly make a difference in the lives of American students. This legislation only directs an organization to create a limited curriculum on communism that public schools can adopt or not at the discretion of the local school system.

Let's focus instead on policies that improve academic achievement, close achievement gaps, increase graduation rates, and make higher education more affordable, issues that demand our immediate attention.

Mr. Speaker, I advise my colleague that I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close when the gentleman is prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 0930

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5349, the Crucial Communism Teaching Act, and I thank my colleague from Florida, Representative SALAZAR, for her work on this important legislation that comes from personal experience with communism.

Communism has a long and dark history of political suppression, persecution, and violence that has been whitewashed by foreign influence in American education institutions for a long time. Schoolchildren should receive an accurate and comprehensive education on communist regimes and policies.

Communism has led to the deaths of over 100 million victims worldwide. It has failed every time it has been tried, and, sadly, polls today show that one in five millennials and one in three members of Gen Z have a positive viewpoint of communism. Wow.

Mr. Speaker, that data is troubling, and solutions start with ensuring an accurate education.

What this legislation does is it says: Local K-12 schools are local K-12 schools. The bureaucracy in the Federal Government is not going to put the thumb on the scale, but we are going to give the opportunity for accurate educational tools to be put in place if they choose to do it.

Mr. Speaker, I think there are a lot of American parents who would be thrilled with the opportunity of knowing that these resources, put together by people who understand the history, will be there for them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 5349 as an initial, positive step toward restoring the greatness of our country with the understanding of the evil influence of communism that is still there and invading our country at this very moment in our classrooms.

Mr. Speaker, I urge its passage.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. SALAZAR), who is the bill's sponsor.

Ms. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the passage of my bill, H.R. 5349, the Crucial Communism Teaching Act.

My legislation will develop a curriculum on the real, brutal history of communism and provide States with the resources to implement it from kindergarten through the end of high school.

This bill is crucial at this hour for the health of our Nation.

Why is that, Mr. Speaker?

It is because America's youth has been brainwashed by media and academia for the last 30 years to believe that communism is good.

What a travesty. What a horror. Ask my parents and my community if that is true.

I am just going to bring you some proof, Mr. Speaker. Nearly 40 percent of Gen Zers and millennials think that "The Communist Manifesto" written by Karl Marx is a better defense of freedom than the Declaration of Independence written by Thomas Jefferson.

Just picture that, Mr. Speaker. Jefferson and Karl Marx, for 40 percent of Gen Zers, Marx wins over Jefferson. What a problem we have in this country.

The Declaration of Independence, as we all know, gave birth to the longest and most prosperous democracy in the world, ours, and that is why we have to preserve it through this bill.

More than one-third of millennials approve of communism because they do not know what they are talking about or what this is all about. They don't know that communism has claimed

over 100 million lives all over the world, making it the deadliest ideology known to mankind.

I represent the people of the city of Miami, which is the heart of the Cuban exile community. It is the refuge of hundreds of thousands of Cubans, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans who have, in record numbers, fled the horrors of this ideology. We would like, through this bill, to teach our kids not to fall into that trap.

Let's just talk about Venezuela. Venezuela has the largest oil reserves in the world. That is a fact. It used to have the same GDP as Germany only 25 years ago. That is another fact. It has an inflation rate right now of over 150 percent. The average Venezuelan has lost 15 pounds for lack of food in a country that has the largest oil reserves in the world. Something doesn't match.

In the last 25 years, nearly 8 million Venezuelans fled the country, a country that, as I said, has the largest reserves of oil and is full of natural resources.

Now let's go to Nicaragua. It was the breadbasket of Central America 25 years ago. Under Communist Daniel Ortega, 28,000 properties have been expropriated, and Nicaraguans now are poorer than they were in the seventies.

A couple of years ago, seven of the last presidential contenders were put in jail because elections for Communists is a problem, therefore, you have to stifle them and you put your political opponents in jail. That is the easiest part because there is no accountability.

Now let's go to Cuba where my parents come from. My parents fled in the sixties. Seventy percent of Cubans today eat only once a day. The average Cuban makes \$1 a day as income. In 1960, Cuba had a per capita income close to Italy or Argentina.

Hunger, being hungry, is a very powerful motivator. Thousands and thousands of Cubans, I have known some of them, throw themselves into the ocean in the Florida Straits to get to Miami, facing the sharks and facing drowning just to escape that Communist inferno. They expose their children to that. Just picture what that means. What kind of life do you have to be living wherever you are in Cuba that you throw yourself into the ocean and face the sharks in the dark?

Today, the average Cuban has 1 hour of electricity, and they have no food, no water, no medicine, no clothes, and they are desperate to come to the United States.

This is an island that is 90 miles away from the United States, which is the most powerful economy in the world, and an island that could be Taiwan, Singapore, or Hong Kong but for communism.

Now let's leave this hemisphere and let's go to China. In China, up to 55 million people starved to death under Mao Zedong in the Great Leap Forward.

Mao was one of the most evil Communist leaders, we all know, but, Mr. Speaker, do you know that nearly one-half of our American kids do not even know who Mao Zedong is?

In Cambodia, the Khmer Rouge murdered 1 million people.

In the USSR, 10 million were sent to freeze to death.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. SALAZAR. Communists are in the business of power. It only takes one generation to believe their false promises and we lose everything.

We cannot misinform our children. Knowledge is power. Churchill said that by studying history, "the farther backward you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see."

Communism only leads to destruction and misery.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support from my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. This bill has nothing to do with politics, and it has nothing to do with political parties. It has to do with preserving the institution and what we have created as a Nation.

Let's teach our children about the truth. Let's not fall into the trap. Let's start from kindergarten to teach the children, and then they will be able to make a knowledgeable decision when they go to the voting booth.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support from my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. Let's pass H.R. 5349.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, let's be clear. If this wasn't about politics, then it would also have included fascism as well as communism. While the majority pushes this bill forward, it narrowly focuses on teaching some aspects of communism. We are ignoring the broader issues that affect students every day.

We should be working together to improve academic achievement, close learning gaps, improve graduation rates, make college more affordable, and other important education issues.

Instead of pursuing this distraction, let's focus on the real challenges that students face in the classroom today. Let's pass substantive legislation that supports our educators with the resources to provide a safe learning environment and empowers our students to succeed and prepares them for the future.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to prioritize the actual needs of the students, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me thank my colleague from Florida for her remarks.

We can do a lot of good things in our country, including closing the border and taking care of inflation. If we do not teach our young people the danger

of communism, then we will rot from within.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. SALAZAR for her leadership.

Communism's long, dark history of political suppression, persecution, and violence is established fact. As I mentioned at the start, communism has led to the deaths of over 100 million victims worldwide and currently tramples the human rights 1.5 billion people across the globe.

It is troubling that so many Gen Zers have no problem with communism or even embrace it. This is the result of at least two factors: the lack of accurate educational materials in U.S. schools and malign foreign actors who successfully push their propaganda.

The good news is that Republicans have a solution that has bipartisan support. H.R. 5349, the Crucial Communism Teaching Act, will support State and local efforts to educate high school students about the dangers of communism and how those systems are contrary to the founding principles of freedom in the United States.

Communist influence and infiltration in schools is real. Students need accurate information about how dangerous these ideologies are. By passing this bill, Congress can send a message that it stands against hate, indoctrination, and radicalization of America's next generation of leaders.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate on the bill has expired.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. MANNING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. It is now in order to consider the amendment printed in House Report 118-791.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, as the designee of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GOTTHEIMER), I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 4, after line 9, insert the following new subparagraph:

(B) is updated periodically to ensure the curriculum includes both past and present communist and totalitarian regimes, with a focus on—

(i) ongoing human rights abuses by such regimes, such as the treatment of Uyghurs in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) by the People's Republic of China; and

(ii) aggression by such regimes against democratic nations and democracy, such as actions taken by the People's Republic of China to deter pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong and the increasingly aggressive posture by the People's Republic of China toward Taiwan, a democratic friend of the United States.

Page 4, beginning on line 10, redesignate subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1602, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, this amendment offered by my colleague, Representative JOSH GOTTHEIMER of New Jersey, ensures that the civic education curriculum in this bill covers how past and present communist and totalitarian regimes have committed grave human rights abuses and threatened democracies.

Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that communist and totalitarian regimes view democracies as a threat. They have repeatedly sought to undermine democracies and threaten their stability at every turn. Nevertheless, these regimes often trample the rights of many of their own citizens, especially ethnic and religious minorities.

As we know, the People's Republic of China has committed grave human rights abuses and, according to the State Department, continues to carry out genocide, crimes against humanity, forced labor, and other human rights violations against Uyghurs in China's western provinces.

The PRC also poses an increasingly aggressive threat to Taiwan, a key democracy and a vital partner of the U.S. which shares our fundamental values.

I firmly believe that it is worthwhile for students from all backgrounds to better understand these facts. This amendment broadens and expands the curriculum that would be made available to high school students to help them become more aware of history and how communist and totalitarian regimes threaten our security and values.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting Representative GOTTHEIMER's commonsense amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Utah is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. OWENS. As mentioned, this amendment would ensure that optional learning resources developed by the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation are periodically updated, with a special focus on China's human rights abuses and aggression against democratic nations.

The Chinese Communist Party has egregiously and repeatedly violated human rights. They have persecuted Muslim minorities, displayed aggression toward Taiwan, and cracked down on peaceful pro-democracy protesters. In Chinese schools, they are indoctrinating students to ignore or dismiss these human rights abuses.

□ 0945

They are not content to only brainwash their own students. They are also attempting to indoctrinate American students, as I mentioned in my opening statement.

American students need to know about Communism and especially the

evils of the Chinese Communist Party. The Gottheimer amendment would ensure that these optional resources fully include information about China's abuses so students can get a full version of history.

Mr. Speaker, I support the gentleman's amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN), my good friend and cousin.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I am just becoming acquainted with the amendment and the legislation now, but it seems to me it is a very good idea to educate people on the dangers and the perils of Communist totalitarianism, as well as other kinds of totalitarianism, such as Nazi and Fascist totalitarianism, the forces we defeated in the last century.

Obviously, there are a lot of Americans who need a primer on the dangers of Communist totalitarianism, such as the President-elect, who still seems to have a love affair with Kim Jong-un, the last remaining Communist dictator on Earth, who is a major threat to the human rights of people who live in North Korea.

Vladimir Putin, the former head of the KGB, who described the collapse of the Soviet Union as the worst catastrophe of the 20th century, remains a severe threat to democracy and freedom all over the world.

Along with the distinguished chairman of the committee, I am sorry that there is not an explicit recognition of Nazism and fascism here, but there is no problem with educating people about the dangers of Communist totalitarianism because there are so many people, including the President-elect, who seem not to remember the dangers of Communist totalitarianism and what people like Vladimir Putin did under Soviet Communism and the threat that continues to be posed.

Mr. Speaker, I think the amendment makes good sense to identify the Chinese Government's violent mistreatment of the Uyghurs, of people in Tibet, and continuing human rights violations that are taking place.

This means we shouldn't be making alliances with Communist and totalitarian oligarchs all over the world. We should be criticizing them and challenging them for the violations of human rights of people who live under their empire.

America should not be aligned with the oligarchs and the Fascists and the Stalinist Communists all over the world. We should be aligned with the democratic movements, people who are struggling for freedom and human rights.

I am sorry that this was written in such a partial way, but it at least gets at part of the problem, and I hope it will be a real education to the incoming administration, as well as to young people, about the dangers of people like

Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong-un, Communists who have undermined human rights and freedom in our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President-elect.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the previous question is ordered on the bill and on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING).

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING).

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 327, nays 62, not voting 43, as follows:

[Roll No. 492]

YEAS—327

Adams	Cherfilus-	Fitzpatrick
Aderholt	McCormick	Fleischmann
Aguilar	Chu	Flood
Alford	Ciscomani	Fong
Allen	Clark (MA)	Foster
Allred	Cleaver	Fox
Amo	Cline	Franklin, Scott
Amodoi	Clyburn	Fry
Auchincloss	Cohen	Fulcher
Babin	Cole	Garamendi
Bacon	Comer	Garbarino
Baird	Connolly	Garcia (TX)
Balderson	Correa	Gimenez
Balint	Costa	Golden (ME)
Banks	Courtney	Goldman (NY)
Barr	Craig	Gonzales, Tony
Barragán	Crawford	Gonzalez, V.
Bean (FL)	Crow	Good (VA)
Beatty	Cuellar	Gosar
Bentz	Curtis	Graves (LA)
Bera	D'Esposito	Green, Al (TX)
Bergman	Davids (KS)	Griffith
Beyer	Davis (NC)	Guest
Bice	De La Cruz	Guthrie
Bilirakis	Dean (PA)	Hageman
Bishop (GA)	DeGette	Harder (CA)
Bishop (NC)	DeLauro	Harris
Blunt Rochester	DelBene	Hayes
Bonamici	Deluzio	Hern
Bost	DeSaulnier	Higgins (LA)
Boyle (PA)	DesJarlais	Hill
Brown	Diaz-Balart	Himes
Brownley	Dingell	Hinson
Bucshon	Doggett	Horsford
Budzinski	Donalds	Houchin
Burgess	Duarte	Houlahan
Burlison	Dunn (FL)	Hoyer
Calvert	Edwards	Hoyle (OR)
Cammack	Elizy	Hudson
Caraveo	Emmer	Huffman
Carbajal	Escobar	Huizenga
Carey	Eshoo	Hunt
Carl	Españat	Issa
Carter (GA)	Ezell	Ivey
Carter (TX)	Fallon	Jackson (NC)
Cartwright	Feenstra	Jacobs
Case	Ferguson	James
Castor (FL)	Finstad	Jeffries
Chavez-DeRemer	Fischbach	Johnson (SD)
	Fitzgerald	Jordan

Joyce (OH)	Mfume	Sewell
Joyce (PA)	Miller (IL)	Sherman
Kaptur	Miller (OH)	Simpson
Kean (NJ)	Miller (WV)	Slotkin
Keating	Miller-Meeks	Smith (MO)
Kelly (IL)	Moolenaar	Smith (NE)
Kelly (MS)	Mooney	Smith (NJ)
Kelly (PA)	Moore (UT)	Smucker
Kennedy	Moore (WI)	Sorensen
Khanna	Moran	Soto
Kiggans (VA)	Morelle	Spanberger
Kildee	Moulton	Spartz
Kiley	Mrvan	Stansbury
Kilmer	Murphy	Stanton
Kim (CA)	Napolitano	Staubert
Kim (NJ)	Neal	Steel
Krishnamoorthi	Neguse	Stefanik
Kuster	Newhouse	Steil
Kustoff	Nickel	Strickland
LaMalfa	Norcross	Strong
Landsman	Nunn (IA)	Suozzi
Langworthy	Obermole	Sykes
Larsen (WA)	Owens	Tenney
Larson (CT)	Pallone	Thandekar
Latta	Palmer	Thompson (CA)
LaTurner	Panetta	Thompson (MS)
Lawler	Pappas	Thompson (PA)
Lee (FL)	Pelosi	Tiffany
Lee (NV)	Peltola	Timmons
Lee Carter	Pence	Titus
Leger Fernandez	Peters	Tokuda
Lesko	Pettersen	Tonko
Letlow	Pfluger	Torres (CA)
Levin	Phillips	Torres (NY)
Lofgren	Posey	Trahan
Lopez	Raskin	Trone
Loudermilk	Reschenthaler	Turner
Lucas	Rogers (AL)	Valadao
Lynch	Ross	Van Drew
Mace	Rouzer	Van Orden
Magaziner	Ruiz	Vargas
Malliotakis	Rulli	Vasquez
Maloy	Ruppersberger	Veasey
Mann	Rutherford	Wagner
Manning	Ryan	Walberg
Mast	Salazar	Wasserman
Matsui	Salinas	Schultz
McBath	Sánchez	Weber (TX)
McCaul	Sarbanes	Webster (FL)
McClain	Scalise	Wenstrup
McClellan	Schiff	Westerman
McClintock	Schneider	Wied
McCollum	Scholten	Wild
McGarvey	Schrier	Williams (TX)
McHenry	Schweikert	Wilson (FL)
McIver	Scott (VA)	Wilson (SC)
Meeks	Scott, Austin	Wittman
Menendez	Scott, David	Womack
Meng	Self	Yakym
Meuser	Sessions	Zinke

NAYS—62

Arrington	Gooden (TX)	Omar
Biggs	Green (TN)	Perry
Boebert	Greene (GA)	Pocan
Brecheen	Grothman	Pressley
Burchett	Harshbarger	Ramirez
Bush	Jackson (IL)	Rosendale
Cárdenas	Jackson (TX)	Roy
Carson	Jayapal	Scanlon
Casas	Johnson (GA)	Schakowsky
Clarke (NY)	Kamlager-Dove	Smith (WA)
Cloud	Lee (CA)	Steube
Clyde	Lee (PA)	Stevens
Collins	Luttrell	Takano
Crane	McCormick	Tlaib
Crockett	McGovern	Underwood
Davidson	Mills	Van Deyne
Davis (IL)	Moore (AL)	Velázquez
Estes	Nadler	Waters
Foushee	Norman	Watson Coleman
Garcia (IL)	Ocasio-Cortez	Williams (GA)
García, Robert	Ogles	

NOT VOTING—43

Armstrong	Galleo	Massie
Blumenauer	Garcia, Mike	Molinaro
Bowman	Gomez	Moskowitz
Buchanan	Gottheimer	Mullin
Carter (LA)	Granger	Nehls
Casten	Graves (MO)	Perez
Castro (TX)	Grijalva	Pingree
Crenshaw	LaHood	Porter
Duncan	LaLota	Quigley
Evans	Lamborn	Rodgers (WA)
Fletcher	Lieu	Rogers (KY)
Frankel, Lois	Luetkemeyer	
Frost	Luna	

□ 1018

Messrs. COLLINS, JACKSON of Texas, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, and Mr. GROTHMAN changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Ms. ADAMS changed her vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I missed a series of votes today. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 492.

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I voted incorrectly today. However, if I had voted as I intended, I would have voted “YEA” on Roll Call No. 492, the passage of H.R. 5349.

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately missed votes today due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 492.

Mr. LALOTA. Mr. Speaker, I regret to have missed this vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 492.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present to cast my vote on Roll Call No. 492. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2024, TO MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Monday, December 9, 2024, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VAN DREW). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

HONORING JOHN W. HALL

(Mr. BAIRD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor John W. Hall. John Hall is 99 years old and a U.S. Army veteran who fought in both World War II and the Korean war.

Hall became a prisoner of war in December of 1944 following the Battle of the Bulge. John Hall and his fellow POWs faced extremely harsh conditions in the disease-ridden POW camps with little or no food each day. He and his fellow POWs were liberated on April 2, 1945.

John Hall earned a Bronze Star for his service in Korea, where he was wounded in combat.

To this day, Hall exemplifies humility and insists that he is not a hero. Yet John is precisely that. Our country

owes him our utmost gratitude for his courage and selfless sacrifice to defend our country and our precious freedom. I thank him for his service.

IN MEMORY OF YVONNE JOHNSON

(Ms. MANNING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my dear friend and a true pillar of the Greensboro community, Yvonne Johnson.

Few individuals have so completely embodied the spirit of their city as Yvonne did for Greensboro. A proud native, she graduated from Dudley High School and received degrees from both Bennett College and North Carolina A&T State University.

It was during her college years that she became deeply involved in the civil rights movement, marching with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and participating in the historic Woolworth's sit-ins.

Her relentless dedication to justice paved the way for nearly 30 years of service on the Greensboro City Council, where she made history as the first Black person elected to serve. Later, she shattered another barrier as the city's first Black mayor.

Yvonne was a trailblazer, a role model, and a real leader. I will miss her, but I feel privileged to have known and worked with her. Surely her memory will be a blessing for all who knew her, for she made Greensboro a better place for all of us.

REMEMBERING ATHANASIOS "TOMMY" PAPPAS

(Mr. CAREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CAREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Athanasios Pappas, or as he is lovingly known to the people of Columbus as Tommy of Tommy's Diner in Franklinton.

Tommy made a simple meal really feel just like a celebration. Since 1989, his warm hospitality, larger-than-life presence, as you can see from this picture, made Tommy's Diner a neighborhood institution.

Today, we honor Tommy's hard work and service to the city of Columbus and all of central Ohio. Our thoughts are with his wife, Kathy; his sons, Michael and Louie; and the entire Pappas family.

HONORING ALICIA "CHUCKY" HANSEN

(Ms. PLASKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and celebrate

the first Alicia "Chucky" Hansen Day in the United States Virgin Islands, designated by the Virgin Islands Legislature as December 6.

From the moment Senator Hansen stepped into the Virgin Islands Legislature in 1986, she committed herself to being an advocate for Virgin Islanders and individuals from all walks of life.

Our beloved Chucky was truly a force to contend with and a role model and mentor for young girls and women. She continues to hold the record for the longest serving senator from St. Croix.

Senator Hansen committed much of her time to The American Legion, supporting our territory's veterans. She was a lively radio personality, engaging with our community on a weekly basis. Let me tell you, if Chucky was for you, nobody could be against you.

We remember and honor Senator Hansen's memory today.

HONORING ALABAMIANS KILLED AT PEARL HARBOR

(Mr. PALMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, December 7, marks the 83rd anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Dozens of Alabamians were killed on this tragic day, including 32 on the USS *Arizona*, and Julius Ellsberry was believed to be the first Black Alabamian to die in World War II.

I rise today to honor the memory of all these brave Alabamians and Americans, but I would like to specifically focus on Chief Carpenter John Arnold Austin from Warrior, Alabama.

On the morning of December 7, John was aboard the USS *Oklahoma*, which was the first ship to be attacked by the Japanese on Battleship Row. John and many of his shipmates found themselves trapped, but he found an escape route and is credited with saving 15 sailors that day. Unfortunately, he perished in the process.

Chief Carpenter Austin was awarded the Navy Cross posthumously. His citation reads: He gallantly gave his life in service of his country. The USS *Austin*, a destroyer escort, was later named in his honor.

As we honor those lost, let us remember and reflect on their sacrifices and the high cost required to preserve freedom.

□ 1030

ANNIVERSARY OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE 13TH AMENDMENT

(Mrs. LEE CARTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. LEE CARTER. Mr. Speaker, today marks 159 years since the ratification of the 13th Amendment on December 6, 1865, which abolished slavery and freed nearly 4 million enslaved persons including some of my ancestors.

When you look at these formerly enslaved, you see the hopes and dreams that were written and promised in our United States Constitution. However, the path to freedom has been unevenly realized across this Nation, and true freedom remains a work in progress.

In fact, it still exists as the legacy of slavery and injustice endures. Mr. Speaker, because the 13th Amendment was incomplete, it allows slavery to exist if a person is convicted of a crime, and this disproportionately affects Black Americans.

In 2023, Black Americans were incarcerated at rates five times higher than White Americans. As of 2022, White households held wealth six times that of Black households.

If we are truly to live up to our creed of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, we must end these disparities as soon as possible. As we honor the progress achieved, let us recommit to building a future of justice and equality for all.

HONORING CHRISTIAN COUNTY WESTERN DISTRICT COMMISSIONER BILL BARNETT

(Mr. BURLISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bill Barnett, a remarkable public servant, as he celebrates his 80th birthday.

For over two decades as the Christian County Western District Commissioner, Bill's leadership transformed our community with paving roads, building bridges, and modernizing services that have improved countless lives.

Beyond infrastructure, Bill's faith has guided his life. A devoted member of the Nixa Church of the Nazarene, he and his wife, Glenna, embody compassion and service. Bill also supports boards and causes from senior centers to environmental initiatives, all while running a small business and cherishing his role as a family man. Bill's faith, integrity, and dedication inspire us all.

Happy 80th birthday, Bill. Your legacy is a blessing to us all.

CELEBRATING SYLVANIA TOWN CRIER MICHAEL LIEBER

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, at this holiday season and other auspicious occasions, I rise to celebrate a cherished, inspiring tradition that bridges history, culture, and community. It is the enduring role of the town crier.

In northwest Ohio, Sylvania's town crier, Michael Lieber, embodies this vibrant legacy with distinction and flare. For nearly three decades, Mr. Lieber has been a living emblem of civic pride,

dressed in 19th century regalia, ringing his handbell, and calling out proclamations with unmatched zeal.

His booming voice proclaiming "Oyez, oyez, oyez" has carried the spirit of Sylvania not just across Ohio but across the globe, from Melbourne, Australia, to the airwaves of Good Morning America.

Town criers, once vital in relaying news to an illiterate public, now serve as keepers of history and creators of joy. They infuse modern events with old-world charm. Mr. Lieber's dedication highlights the best of American ingenuity and community service, connecting us to our past while celebrating the present.

Let us commend town crier Michael Lieber and his fellow criers for preserving this unique, joyful tradition and inspiring us to honor our shared history. Their contributions remind us all that civic pride is a timeless virtue.

We thank Mr. Lieber.

ADDRESSING THE UNEMPLOYMENT SYSTEM IN CALIFORNIA

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, California's unemployment system is failing. The State owes \$20 billion to the Federal Government because of mismanagement and rampant fraud. Small businesses are going to be left to pick up the mess.

In order to address the root problem, California should instead help small businesses, not shove the problem onto them. Instead, they are going to see higher unemployment insurance taxes that cover up this debt, higher taxes on already struggling businesses in my home State, on top of the taxes, regulations, and red tape they already face.

These small businesses are key to getting people back to work, but they are being crushed by these policies that prioritize bureaucracy over actual solutions. When a State cannot account for many billions of dollars of unemployment, as well as through the EDD, let alone the billions that are missing now for homeless issues, it needs to get back in focus on what is important for the people of California.

We have crime to solve. We have water we need to store and help with our agricultural community. We have homeless problems that are still not being met. We have housing issues we need to address. Instead, we get more and more of this kind of corruption.

The path to recovery starts with our small businesses in California, not harming them with more taxes.

HIGHLIGHTING THE WORK OF THE MENTAL HEALTH CAUCUS

(Ms. SALINAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the work that my colleagues in the Mental Health Caucus and I are doing to address America's mental health and addiction crises.

When I first took office, my home State of Oregon ranked second to last in the Nation in terms of access to mental health services and dead last for the widespread prevalence of mental illness.

It is why I made this issue a top priority and took on a leadership role as co-chair of the Mental Health Caucus, where our Members have introduced around 200 bills during this Congress alone to address various pieces of the mental health puzzle.

Personally, I have introduced my own bills related to mental health and cosponsored dozens more. I have held listening tours, roundtables, and town-halls to hear directly from community members, to understand the challenges they face, and establish strong relationships with advocates and treatment professionals to ensure our solutions are guided by lived experiences.

These actions have helped raise awareness and reduce the stigma around seeking care, but that is merely just the first step. I know there is still so much more work to be done. I remain committed to reaching across the aisle and working with my colleagues in both parties to continue this work to make strides on this issue in the next Congress.

CONGRATULATING OHIO'S 13TH DISTRICT CHAMPION OF THE WEEK KENDRA SANTIAGO

(Mrs. SYKES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Kendra Santiago as Ohio's 13th Congressional District Champion of the Week.

Last month, while on the job, pizza delivery driver Kendra Santiago saved a man's life in Fairlawn, Ohio. While she was taking his order over the phone, Kendra became concerned about his speech patterns. As a former nurse's aide who is also pursuing a career as an EMT, Kendra volunteered to make the delivery.

When she arrived at the man's house in Fairlawn, his wife told Kendra that he was no longer breathing. Kendra sprang into action and helped stabilize the man until paramedics arrived. Kendra visited the man several times in the hospital during his recovery, extending her care and concern to her neighbor.

She says she hopes that this will inspire others in our community to learn how to identify the common signs of a stroke, seizure, and other potential health risks. Ohio's 13th Congressional District is home to many champions just like Kendra who work hard every day and don't hesitate to lend a helping hand to a neighbor in need.

Kendra's selfless act is a shining example of why our district is known as the birthplace of champions.

We thank Kendra and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors, especially her endeavor in becoming an EMT. I hope she continues to inspire our community just as she has inspired me and the entire country.

HONORING ATHANASIOS "TOMMY" PAPPAS

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend, Tommy Pappas. Tommy's story is an American Dream. Born in a small village in Greece, he taught himself to cook as a child. For the last 35 years in Columbus, he owned and opened Tommy's Diner.

Tommy's wasn't just a restaurant. It was a community hub. From neighbors, Governors, mayors, to construction workers and judges, everyone was welcome. If your photo made it to Tommy's wall, you had made it.

Tommy didn't just celebrate the famous. He remembered every customer's name and treated everyone the same. Tommy's was one of my favorite places for breakfast. I held interviews there, and I even held my Presidential inauguration ticket lottery there.

Tommy's Diner was featured on the Food Network show's "Diners, Drive-ins, and Dives." His legacy will live on.

Rest in peace, Tommy. I was lucky to call him my friend.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF STEPHEN FAESSEL

(Mr. CORREA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the remarkable career of my very good friend, Anaheim City Council Member Stephen Faessel.

Stephen has spent his entire life giving back to the city of Anaheim. He was first elected to the city council in 2016 and now serves as a member of the board of directors of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

Stephen is a strong advocate of history, and he is a founding member of the Muzeo Museum and Cultural Center in Anaheim. As board secretary, he has been able to teach history to young people, tourists, and anybody else in Anaheim who wants to listen to the great story and history of the city of Anaheim.

As he leaves the Anaheim City Council, I want to recognize Stephen for his hard work and dedication to our community. We thank him for giving back. I know he is not done, and I know we are going to hang out at more events in the years to come.

CONGRATULATING MILLINGTON STUDENT BODY VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM

(Mrs. McCLAIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Millington High School varsity football team for winning the Michigan Division 7 State championships last weekend. The Millington Cardinals took home their first-ever State championship in football with a 24-0 shutout and capped off their undefeated season as champions. I might add they were the only undefeated team in the State this year.

Congratulations to Coach Germain and the talented group of young men for their incredible accomplishment on the field. He has made Michigan's Ninth District proud, and I hope he cherishes this memory for the rest of his life.

Congratulations again to the Millington student body. Go Cardinals.

CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF OREGON DUCKS

(Ms. HOYLE of Oregon asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Oregon Ducks on their 12-0 season and having the No. 1 ranking in college football.

Congratulations to Dan Lanning who led this football team to the only undefeated record in college football.

I also want to give a shout-out to quarterback Dillon Gabriel who has thrown over 3,200 yards and is the Big Ten's offensive player of the year; the offensive and defensive lines that continue to win games in the trenches; Bryce Boettcher who leads our team in tackles; Tez Johnson who leads our team in receptions; and Jordan James who has rushed over 1,000 yards this season.

We Oregonians are proud of our Ducks, and we wish our team luck against Penn State tomorrow. We will be cheering you on to the title. Go Ducks.

□ 1045

HONORING GLORIA FOX

(Ms. PRESSLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an activist, an advocate, a legislator, a trailblazer, and now an ancestor, the Honorable State Representative Gloria Fox.

Representative Fox retired as the longest serving woman in the Massachusetts State House, but even before making electoral history, she had already cemented her reputation as one

of the fiercest advocates in the city of Boston, and that activism was born from an uncompromising love of community, the pursuit of justice, and her constant presence in her district, from community meetings, to ribbon cuttings, to Sunday brunch after services.

Whenever she was greeted with a, "Good to see you, Rep," she would exclaim, "Good to be seen." She was a truth teller, a justice seeker inspiring order. Although, no one wanted to follow her on the microphone in a speaking program, we would follow her anywhere.

As I reflect on the incredible legacy of Representative Gloria Fox, I keep returning to her ability to make every constituent feel seen—actually, anyone who ever met her felt seen because her impact far exceeded the geographical bounds of her district.

She had an ability to make everyone feel seen and to see greatness in everyone. From our foster youth to our elders, to people living with HIV/AIDS, to those that are incarcerated, she made everyone feel seen and centered in her policies and in the budgetary investments that she fought for.

May she rest in power. I thank Gloria Fox for making us all feel seen. I know I will certainly miss seeing her.

GRATITUDE FOR CALIFORNIA'S FIREFIGHTERS

(Mr. TAKANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, as California's fire season draws to a close, I rise to express my deepest gratitude to CAL Fire, Riverside County, and the city of Riverside firefighters for their unwavering dedication to keeping our community safe.

This past season, the Canyon Crest, Hawarden, Minton, and Eagle fires scorched for than 2,500 acres in Riverside County. As we see the intensity and frequency of fire emergencies grow, our local firefighters have consistently risen to the occasion, to working around the clock, putting their health and safety on the line, and tirelessly battling the flames to protect our homes and families.

I also acknowledge the tremendous contributions of former Riverside Fire Chief Michael Moore, who retired after more than 40 years of dedicated service this past September, and I extend my congratulations to Chief Steve McKinster as he assumes the leadership of the Riverside Fire Department.

THE PURPLE STATE

(Mr. NICKEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, North Carolina is a true purple State. With our nearly 50/50 split between Demo-

crats and Republicans, North Carolinians expect fairness when it comes to how their voices are represented in Congress.

The Republican-controlled legislature's latest mid-decade gerrymandered election maps did more than just silence voters in North Carolina. They reshaped the balance of power in Washington, D.C., costing Democrats control of the U.S. House of Representatives.

The congressional map we used to have with a 7-7 Democrat-Republican split reflected the true political makeup of our State. It was fair. It gave voters on both sides confidence that their voices mattered, but that wasn't good enough for legislative Republicans in Raleigh.

They threw fairness out the window, forcing through a mid-decade map that handed Republicans an unfair 10-4 advantage in this next Congress. That is 71 percent of North Carolina's seats in the House going to Republicans in our 50/50 State.

It doesn't take a mathematician to see what is wrong with that. Now, with Adam Gray's victory in California's 13th District giving Republicans a bare three-seat majority in the House, it is clear that gerrymandering tipped the scales in their favor and cost Democrats control of the U.S. House of Representatives.

If not for Republican gerrymandering, HAKEEM JEFFRIES would be our next Speaker of the House with a 218-217 victory. That is why I am fighting for my bill, the Fair Maps Act, which establishes an independent non-partisan redistricting commission in every State, which I know you support, Mr. Speaker.

While I am not going back to Congress because of gerrymandering, I am not giving up or going out quietly. The people of North Carolina deserve better.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF BAYONNE CHAPTER OF UNICO

(Mr. MENENDEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Bayonne Chapter of UNICO National on their 75th anniversary.

Since their inception in 1949, these dedicated men and women who volunteer in service to their community have lived up to their values of unity, integrity, charity, and opportunity.

Rooted in their Italian-American heritage, the entire Bayonne Chapter of UNICO has left a remarkable impact on New Jersey throughout their history, supporting underserved families, investing in impactful local organizations, and working tirelessly to bring our neighborhoods together.

It was my honor to join them this year honoring the 2024 Man of the Year, my friend Brian Dellabella. It is a

privilege to represent Bayonne in Congress, and on behalf of all of New Jersey's Eighth Congressional District, I congratulate the Bayonne Chapter of UNICO on 75 great years.

RECOGNIZING GEORGIA FOOTBALL

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the football teams of two incredible institutions in our State: Georgia Tech and the University of Georgia.

Last week, these two university football teams played one of the most exciting games many of us have ever witnessed. This incredible game was neck and neck and went into eight overtimes, which is the second most overtimes in a college football game ever, only eclipsed by the 2021 Illinois-Penn State game, which had nine overtimes.

More importantly, the respect that the players—these gridiron warriors—staff, coaches, and fans showed each other after such a heated exchange was truly admirable.

Our in-State rivalry remains the gold standard of rivalries in college football. After the last whistle blew, both teams showed the deserved respect to each other. Seeing Coach Kirby Smart and Brent Key embrace each other after the game reminds us all of what sportsmanship truly looks like.

This was truly the game of the year, a game of clean, old-fashioned hate that ended with the utmost respect. I congratulate Georgia on their win and to Georgia Tech for their incredible resolve.

We are so proud of both of these teams.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, December 6, 2024.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON: Please see the attached letter of resignation from the U.S. House of Representatives effective December 8, 2024.

Sincerely,

ADAM SCHIFF,
Member of Congress.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS,

Washington, DC, December 6, 2024.

Hon. GAVIN NEWSOM,
Governor, State of California,
Sacramento, CA.

DEAR GOVERNOR NEWSOM: I am so privileged to have been chosen by the voters of California to serve as their next United States Senator, following in the footsteps of a true giant of the Senate and a mentor of mine, former U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein.

As you know, Senator Laphonza Butler, who has served the people of California with great distinction the last thirteen months, has announced her intention to resign so Californians can have their duly elected representation in the United States Senate as soon as possible. I thank Senator Butler for her leadership, friendship and service. She has made a great difference in the lives of every Californian.

I, therefore, write to submit my formal resignation from the United States House of Representatives effective December 8, 2024. It has been my honor to represent the people of California's 30th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives for the last 24 years. I am so grateful to my constituents for giving me the chance to serve them in the House, and to the residents of the state of California for now providing me this new opportunity in the Senate to serve the entire state I love.

I look forward to representing all of the people of California, and doing my utmost to make sure that our state continues to provide opportunity, creativity, innovation, and a wonderful quality of life for generations to come.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

ADAM B. SCHIFF,
Member of Congress.

IT IS THE MATH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAWLER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, a couple things. First, I committed a sin last week. How many of us have always learned when you do one of these floor speeches, like I did a couple weeks ago—and I never ever ever read the comments, except over Thanksgiving.

First, I have to find a way to say thank you. You have a few hundred people who watch some idiot here try to sound like an economist and walk through what they see happening in the debt, deficits, growth opportunities, and the demographics.

Remarkable. A lot of folks have really smart ideas, then about half of them are probably Russian trolls. They really do need to work on their English, because they pop up saying—no, no English person would speak that way.

The other thing that is frustrating is you get the folks you can tell who are intellectually trapped about two decades out of date. My favorite one is, well, you can save Social Security by just raising the cap. I did entire floor speeches earlier in the year showing the economics and the numbers that take people making over \$400,000, \$500,000, remove the cap, it was only covering 36 or 38 percent of all shortfalls, and now you have chewed up your seed corn. You have functionally no additional places to go to cover those other margins.

I appreciate everyone who is willing to comment. I appreciate the ideas, but here is an idea I would like to share for anyone on this campus and the Mem-

bers of Congress. If you go to our Schweikert website, our official website, there is a place there you can sign up for what we call the daily debt.

Every day, we send you a text message. That text message—we built this whole system to reach into the Treasury's statements and tell you, hey, here is what we borrowed today. Here is what we borrowed this month. Here is what we borrowed every second.

Yesterday, we were, I think, at \$74,500 a second over the last 12 months. Get that. Sign up for it. You are going to get a text message from us every working day. Those people who do not understand the gravity of the growth of the debt—we now have, I think, a few thousand people that get the daily debt text message from our office, and I think it is starting to change the culture around here to deal with reality.

I can give you example. Just before we went on Thanksgiving a couple weeks ago, I held up this board and said, hey, we are going to hit \$36 trillion of borrowing in the next day or so. I stand here with the same board from functionally 2, 2½ weeks ago.

It is no longer \$36 trillion. As of yesterday, it is \$36.176 trillion. Meaning, in those 2½ weeks since we were last here, we added another \$170 billion of borrowing. At that current rate, we are clicking off functionally a \$1 trillion every 105 days.

In all the people you heard come to the microphone this week, how many of them came up behind the microphone and said: We are going to borrow, every hundred some days, another \$1 trillion?

There is the crisis. We have people walking up and down the hallways—I just had someone out here grabbing me, begging me, saying: Now don't cut any of our things that the Democrats gave us a couple years ago.

Yeah. I know. Every dime of it is borrowed money.

Remember—and I need to—let's see if I can make this make sense. For every dollar of tax receipts we take in—last year, when we borrow \$1.00, we spend \$1.39. We take in \$1.00, we spend \$1.39. That \$1.39 is borrowed, and these numbers just get worse.

This is the thing that makes people so angry. Every dollar of borrowing over the next decade is not some fancy this or that. It is interest and healthcare costs.

I think we are in a moment where baby boomer retirements this year will be about 13,000 people a day. They are moving into their earned benefits. Remember, we have a societal deal. You work so many quarters, you get Social Security. You do this, you pay in your FICA taxes, those things, you get Medicare.

Okay. This place is unwilling to have conversations of how to modernize the way we deliver healthcare to change the price, so every day this government is going to borrow \$6 billion or \$7 billion.

□ 1100

It is the math. Think of that. I added on here, even if I remove the interest we have to pay every day, for every dollar we take in, we spend \$1.21.

The interest this year will be about a trillion dollars. A decade from now that almost doubles. It is our reality.

Let's actually try to make a point here once again. I am sorry for anyone who has been crazy enough to watch one of these presentations, but for some reason, I can't get this to sink in.

Take a look. This is 2024, so we have already gone through this—mandatory 24 percent. What we get to vote on is about 26 percent of spending. What that means is you see here in the blue “nondefense” and “defense,” every dime a Member of Congress votes on here is borrowed. Every dime in defense is borrowed. Every dime in discretionary is borrowed. Remember the previous slide I showed you. For every dollar we take in, we spend \$1.39. Do you know what that means? That is a chunk of what is mandatory.

People ask me: What is mandatory, DAVID? It is those earned benefits. It is borrowed money. I need to explain this real quick because, back to the comments on last week's speech, Social Security does not add to the debt. Paying back the borrowed money from the Social Security trust fund does add to the debt.

Let's walk through this once again. Here is Social Security. They built up a trust fund of trillions of dollars, but today, the tax receipts that come in from your payroll tax—that 12.4 percent for Social Security, half paid typically by your employer, half paid by you; unless you are self-employed, then you pay for the whole thing—those taxes don't cover the benefits.

This month all those taxes come in, and Treasury, Social Security calculates it. Oh, we are short this much. They reach over, call Treasury, and say—we have these special Treasury bills that we pay interest on, and they actually get a fairly decent rate of interest on—we need to cash in this Treasury. Treasury goes and borrows money to give money back to pay back the money they have borrowed from Social Security.

No one stole your money. Social Security doesn't add to the debt. Paying back the trust fund of Social Security does because the money is borrowed.

I hope I said that in the simplest fashion, but the point I am trying to make here is we are on the cusp of being able maybe to try to do very hard things, but the army of bureaucrats, the army of people who want stuff—and there is spending, here is our check, but there is also spending to the tax code.

Look, I am on Ways and Means. Give us this special carve-out. That is technically spending. Everyone needs to get their head around this. Every dime we as Members of Congress vote on is borrowed money.

All right, let's actually have a little something even more dystopian. It de-

pends on how you like to calculate it. Most people are going to tell you that last fiscal year, which ended October 1, so in the 2024 fiscal year, the United States Federal Government borrowed 6.4 percent of the economy. If you put in the interest paid back to the trust funds, it may be like 6.8.

Think of that. The entire economy, you are borrowing that 6.4 percent of the entire economy that year. Why this chart is important, the baseline of law—and this is where I am going to make some people angry in a moment, so hang on—the baseline says in 9 budget years, we are not borrowing that 6, 6.5, 6.8, whatever it actually is. We are going to be borrowing 9.2 percent of the entire U.S. economy, that year's debt. The next year is bigger, and the next year is bigger, and the next year is even bigger. It is demographics. It is debt, deficits, and demographics. Debt is driven by us. We got older as a population.

A couple of weeks ago, I showed some of the—if you go to the Census Bureau dataset, you can see, if you do some of the math, it is somewhere between 11 and 16 years the United States has more deaths than births.

Process that. What are you willing to do policywise to deal with the reality that all across America, over the next decade, you are going to see schools closing because there are fewer kids? Sorry to hear that. Look, I am 62, and my wife is 62. I have a 2½-year-old and a 9-year-old because we are pathologically optimistic. When you look at this chart—I always think that joke is funny, but maybe it is a little too dark. This chart makes it clear. The baseline, in 9 years, we are borrowing 9.2 percent of the economy.

If you read the political Washington press this week, we all know we have a huge tax issue we have to deal with. Parts of the 2017 tax reform that I was part of from Ways and Means expire, meaning working people, LLCs, small businesses, partnerships, those things all have your taxes go back to the tax rates prior to 2017.

The first year, in 2026, it is about \$400 billion. Over the 10 years, as we often talk about things here, it is—what?—let's use \$4.6 trillion. Okay, we have a number of Members, more in the Senate, saying don't pay for it, creating sort of this language saying, well, we are going to say it is policy baseline. No, the law is the taxes are going up. We should find a way to pay for it.

If we do policy baseline, this is at the end of the decade. We are not borrowing 9.2 percent of the economy. You have to add about another point on that. You are somewhere in 10 percent of the entire economy will be borrowed every year.

I need you to think through for people who are interested who watch world markets and debt and what is going on in the world—how many of you remember last summer what happened in Great Britain? Remember, they were going to lower taxes? I love lower

taxes. What happened to the British pound? What happened to British interest rates? Remember the bond vigilantes showed up?

What happened in France just 2 days ago? Remember, they were trying to do an austerity budget just trying to get back to where they are mandated under the European Union on their amount of debt they are borrowing, and the government collapsed.

What happened in South Korea? Remember, part of that battle was trying to do a budget because South Korea's population is collapsing.

Maybe we should actually have some introspection here of what is going on with us and the world. Do you think the people that we sell our debt to are going to keep looking the other way and just keep buying it? Are they going to want premiums? Or are we going to have taken so much capital out of the economy that there is almost no growth?

You actually have both models out there. You have where debt markets have charged very high interest rates because of the debt, and you also have the Japanese model. They had huge savings, but they also went almost two decades with almost no economic growth because the capital didn't go to new plant equipment to become more productive; it went to finance the country's debt. Both are miserable because both create the same amount of tax receipts. You have very high interest rates. I have to finance that, so here are my spendable dollars. You have very low growth, lower tax receipts. They both cause the same crisis.

If you are someone who likes to have the intellectual exercise, go read some academic papers. It is great, but the effect to our society is the same.

This is the baseline. This is without the games and the gimmicks.

Let's one more time do one of the most difficult boards here—actually, no. I am going to skip one.

Let's finish this thought. Both CBO and one of my joint economic Ph.D.'s, basically, we are working on modernizing or updating the data that CBO put out a couple of days ago on what would happen if, that portion of the expiring tax provisions, we continue it. We continue the tax. This is for working people and small business people, but we find a way to pay for it.

It turns out, and this chart is a little hard to read because we printed it at the last second, but if you can see up here, what happens is if you pay for it, you actually get positive growth. You get to do the extension of the current tax policy, but if you pay for it, the size of the economy actually grows. Tax receipts actually go up.

If you just throw it on the debt bucket, you actually slow down the economy. You have stripped so much more capital. Remember, I just told you—what?—\$4.6 trillion over the 10 years? You have just sucked that much out of available capital for you to be able to

get a loan to buy that plant equipment, to become a more productive business, to invest in your workers so you can pay them more. This is the battle that you are going to see around here for the next few months of: Do we look the other way and say, oh, let's just do what is easy, stick it on our kids, stick it on your retirement? Yes, we will pay all sorts of interest. Yes, the bond markets will punish us. Maybe at some point we will have the fun of a failed bond option because the bond market will realize we have no sense here of how fragile we are making the U.S. economy by the piling on of U.S. debt.

The economists said, Congress, Senate, if you are listening, try to do the moral work of let's extend those tax cuts. These are for hardworking people, small businesses. Extend them. Do the hard work and find a way to pay for it. That is how you get the morality of the benefit of additional economic growth and also communicate to those debt markets that the United States is actually serious about starting to provide some stability.

Remember, and it has actually been 6, 7 weeks since I last actually did this chart, but at that time, United States was number 14 on the credit stack. That means Greece could sell a 10-year bond cheaper than the United States.

You want us to still have the exorbitant privilege of the U.S. dollar being the dollar that denominates the world for trade, those things. Do you think we get to continue to hold that extraordinary privilege when we are crushing the debt markets with more debt, flooding the world with more of our bonds?

This isn't a game. I know it is hard to go home and talk to your voters and say, hey, we borrow \$74,500 a second. Our expectation is, by the end of the year, that number may be somewhere in the mid-eighties, maybe approaching \$90,000 a second.

What is the driver? This is the CBO number, and this chart is actually a little out of date. Mr. Speaker, 100 percent of the debt for the next 30 years is the very thing that Members of Congress like me aren't allowed to come behind these microphones and tell you.

Interest—that is the interest in blue, but it is Medicare. In 9 years from now, when the Social Security trust fund is empty, do you double senior poverty in America, or do you find some way to backfill that? Do you reach into the general fund and say we are going to supplement it, or do we actually have any people here—the problem is you are not allowed to actually talk about Social Security because the Democrats over there are going to run attack ads on you, making it absolutely toxic to have the morality of how you fix Social Security. It is math. The trust fund will go empty.

So, \$124 trillion deficit, but guess what has \$9 trillion of, we will call it, positive because the spending grew slower, grew slower than the economy. It is actually what we call defense-non-

defense discretionary. Ultimately, it becomes \$115 trillion of debt 30 years from now. It is 100 percent interest Medicare, interest Social Security.

□ 1115

Those are our demographics, and if someone around here goes: Well, they stole my money. No, they didn't steal your money. The average couple on Social Security gets a crap rate of return, but you get all the money you put into Social Security in like a \$72,000 spiff.

It is Medicare that that average couple puts in, oh, forgive me, I don't have my chart, but it was like \$280,000 over their work life, and they get like \$600,000, \$700,000 back. It is that that is the primary driver of U.S. debt.

My argument is: Don't talk about going in and cutting benefits. Let's talk about modernizing.

Mr. Speaker, do you not think the technology around us, the ability to make people healthier, when we have actually done whole presentations that obesity over the next 10 years is over \$9 trillion in additional healthcare spending, wouldn't the morality of making people healthier, helping them be healthier be incredibly moral and really good for Federal debt?

That is part of the argument I use when I come here over and over and over. I am going to show some charts on that, modernize, modernize, modernize.

There are binary folks around here who say: tax more, cut more. I have a whole presentation I have done here multiple times. All the taxes the Democrats want to do we have scored. It is about 1½ percent of GDP when you do the economic effect. Almost every cut proposal that has been done on our side is about 1 percent of GDP. So you have 2½ percent. I just showed you in 9 years we are over 9.2 percent of the economy, 2½. Last year, we borrowed what, 6.4, 6.8, it depends on what you want to score.

Does anyone see a problem?

All of the discussions where people come behind these microphones and say: We are going to tax more. It is just a fraction of the problem.

We are going to cut our way. It is a fraction of the problem.

Until you modernize and have that modern revolution in how we deliver services, what we think of as government, and how we do it. You can't change the spending enough.

The problem is that requires thinking and reading, and it also requires our staff. For any staff who are watching this, read things that you normally wouldn't.

One of the things I am just incredibly hopeful about is when you have someone like Elon Musk and the conversations we had yesterday. You could tell, Mr. Speaker, he was saying: How do I deliver the service and use technology to do it better, faster, cheaper, and dramatically more? That is the morality of not destroying the United States economy.

That is because regarding this economy, when we hiccup, the rest of the world gets a cold.

God forbid if we had a debt crisis, how much of the world goes into mass starvation and poverty?

We don't think about the morality of our place in the world.

Let's actually do some things that are a little more difficult math wise. The U.S. will spend \$1.39 for every dollar of revenue. Fine.

I am trying to point out in the budget year we are walking into now, Mr. Speaker.

Do you see the little black line?

That is the break even. So those are our tax receipts.

Mr. Speaker, do you notice a problem?

Now, every dime of the gray, which is what I get to vote on, is borrowed money, but now it is actually going into things that are mandatory. The blue is interest that we have to pay. So think of this all here as mandatory.

Last year and this coming year—and it gets bigger and bigger and bigger and bigger into the future—every dime of tax receipts is not enough to even cover the things that are on autopilot. Yet I will get some of the folks around here who will go: Well, you guys did tax reform in 2017.

Do you remember what was happening, Mr. Speaker?

Do you remember how many U.S. businesses were abandoning the United States?

Do you remember what growth rates were and what productivity investments were?

At some point here I know we will have to deal with the falsehoods, particularly as the left and the press walk through, it was tax cuts for rich people. Except it is more progressive than the old tax system, meaning the wealthy now pay a higher percentage of U.S. income tax spending than they did before.

We just threw this chart together just trying to point out: There is where we did tax reform.

Mr. Speaker, do you notice that in the entire world, industrialized world, what is the country that actually had investment in productivity and growth?

We are it.

Right today we actually have a pretty darn good economy. GDP now, I think, yesterday was projecting, we are sitting at about 3.2 percent GDP. That didn't just magically happen. We can also see some of the giveaway money that the Democrats did in the inflation reduction, which has had almost no true economic productivity impact. It turns out it was the allocations of the tax reform at the end of 2017.

The problem is those provisions that got us that productivity are expiring. Some have already substantially expired.

Mr. Speaker, how do you deal with the concept of we have no money but we need to fix things in the tax code

because we need the growth but we need wage growth because we just finished an inflation cycle?

In my community, the Phoenix-Scottsdale area, unless you make about 27 percent more today than you did the day Joe Biden took office, then you are poor.

Think of that.

Do you want to know why so many Americans are cranky?

It is because they are poorer.

It is not enough to take credit for the economy being good. That is great. However, if your wages haven't kept up with inflation, then you are poorer.

This is just a point because there was a Democrat Member earlier today behind one of these microphones saying: giveaways to rich people.

All righty.

Mr. Speaker, I would love to be one of the top 1 percent. Yay. They represent about 22 percent of all income, which is stunning. I believe we need dramatically more wealth income growth in let's call it the lower quartiles. Great. You get that through productivity and productivity investment. That 22 percent of income pays 40 percent of all U.S. income taxes.

One more time: Today's tax code is more progressive than before the Republicans' tax reform.

How many times have you heard Democrats come behind these microphones and tell the truth about that math?

Mr. Speaker, I think there was something on here saying if you actually did—the top 50 percent of income pay like 85 or something. Let me see if I can find it on here, as I am just standing here staring. I think it is on one of my next charts. We have a remarkably progressive tax system. That is on income taxes.

Often when you hear people talk about taxes, they conflate things.

Here is your payroll tax, but you are getting it back. That is actually to fund those retirement benefits.

How do you think you get your Social Security?

How do you think you get your Medicaid?

How do you think you get your unemployment?

However, the portion of income tax, is actually remarkably progressive.

The top 1 percent share of income taxes has increased over time. So this is sort of—let's see if I can make this work. So last year, and excuse me, in 2021, 45 percent of all income taxes were paid by that top 1 percent.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we may have the reality of having to deal with all these tax brackets. Yet it is so hard to make public policy when you have people polluting the minds of the American public with things that are fake.

Mr. Speaker, I think there was a Senator from New York that used to say: You are welcome to your own opinion, but you are not welcome to your own facts.

The facts are the facts are the facts.

If you are going to do hard things and hard math, then can we at least agree?

This one came from Tax Foundation. That is a nonpartisan group.

Mr. Speaker, let's actually walk through ideas.

We are going to have to fix the expirations on the tax code. We have an incoming President who has ambitions of how do we help particularly the working middle class. You have people like me who are terrified of the speed and the growth of debt for my own retirement let alone my kids. Remember, my 2½-year-old, the math says he will now be part of the first generation that will be poorer than his parents.

The math says today when he is 23 years old, 24 years old, all U.S. taxes, from tariffs down to income taxes, everything, will have to have doubled just to maintain baseline spending. It is demographics. We are getting older as a society and starting in 1990 the number of children we had started falling. It is math.

If I came to you right now, Mr. Speaker, and said: All right, let's think like economists. Let's do the morality that we believe growth is moral. It is also the American birthright.

One of the tax issues we need to work on is the two things that had some of the greatest impact in growing the U.S. economy, one was expensing.

You are a company, you are going to buy a new piece of equipment so you can make things better, faster, cheaper.

How do you pay people more money? Inflation won't get you anything.

You do it by productivity. You pay your workers more because they are more productive and investments in plant and equipment mean you are more productive.

We showed in all sorts of charts that the ability to buy that piece of equipment and expense it. That is not a tax cut; it is a timing effect. You can depreciate it over 7 years or take it right now.

If you do the long run, the Treasury still gets the same money, they actually get more by expensing because your investment cycle in becoming more productive is faster. Great.

There is a second half of that, and that was expensing for research and development. You are going to spend money trying to come up with a new pharmaceutical or a new piece of technology or a new, better, faster way to do something. It is expensive because often they fail.

Nevertheless, that is how you stay ahead of the world and you keep the United States as an innovation leader.

We are doing some math right now saying: What happens if you are to come back and reinstate that expensing for research and development?

However, now we are being told we don't really have enough people with the advanced STEM degrees to actually do some of that hard science.

What would happen if you said: We are going to do this as tax policy, but

we need the other policy if we need to go to a talent-based immigration system.

As President Trump said: We are insane. We educate people, and then we send them home. That is the point.

We did some math over this summer, and we are going to actually do a whole presentation on it. This makes people mad, but it is math. It is good math, and it is well-documented.

Mr. Speaker, when you have inbound populations into the United States—I am not going to categorize whether they came in as asylum seekers or they crossed border illegally or they are on some sort of visa, whatever it is—but those with less than high school, our model and the literature says they actually cost maybe \$360,000 to society because of the benefits we give.

Over here, the green, this is what happens if you bring people in who have advanced degrees. It turns out society takes in well over \$800,000 in tax receipts over their time.

If I came to you, Mr. Speaker, and said: We need the vibrance of economic growth, we need to be innovators, and we need their money because we have to have a way to keep paying for the benefits we have promised.

What happens is, we start to do our tax reform and we say: Hey, we are going to do things that fix that depreciation of research and development so we can be an innovative leader and we are also going to do a talent-based immigration and attach that to it so we actually have the talent so we maximize the growth. It is just sort of a unified theory. They work together.

That is what I am trying to pitch here. Please think.

This place often is, I use the term binary, it is do this or do that. It is more complex. Sometimes it is four or five pieces of legislation that have to interact with each other, then some regulation, then some other policies that all come together to maximize the benefit of the idea.

To our brothers and sisters in the staff, start thinking like economists. The hole we have dug for this Nation is remarkably massive. If you think there are simple solutions to the complexity of the debt problem we have, you are absolutely wrong. It turns out the solution is going to be complex. It is doable. Time is just running out.

Let's do some ideas.

Hey, Schweikert, you always get behind the microphone. I am just going to race through some ideas. Some of them I have done before, but there is one I want to do backwards. Let's see, I skipped it last week.

□ 1130

Over the last 6 years, we have had 390,000 Americans die of fentanyl. We have had 390,000 of our brothers and sisters die. Some were accidental. Some were addicts.

I don't think society was ever prepared for a synthetic drug that almost instantly rewires the brain.

Do this thought experiment with me. If I came to you and said: There is going to be what we'll call a vaccine—it is technically not a vaccine—a vaccine for fentanyl that actually does a protein attachment, meaning it can't break the brain-blood barrier, and it lasts 6 months to 1 year.

With just that, we think we gain over \$11 billion, and we haven't even worked in the cost estimates of what happens when you have 390,000 of your brothers and sisters dead over 6 years.

Start to think like a revolutionary. Instead of dumping more money into rehab, why don't we do the rehab and say: There is a chance here we can make it so the person addicted to fentanyl or the law enforcement or firefighter doesn't die from the exposure to it. Guess what. The idea is great economics.

This is an example of thinking differently.

What happens instead of spending the money to maintain people's misery? Money could be spent to end the misery.

We have done a number of different bills, from diabetes to other things, saying we need to help our brothers and sisters have affordable insulin. Wouldn't it be more moral if we could actually take on that 33 percent of U.S. healthcare spending that is just diabetes and dramatically reduce the number of our brothers and sisters who have the disease? That is moral. The other is just maintenance of misery.

Let's just run through a couple of other ones that we have been trying to model, such as the Medicare Transaction Fraud Prevention Act. It turns out there is a couple of great articles out there. If you dive into them, what is the most powerful thing that can be done to deal with Medicare fraud?

It is not a bunch of lawyers. It is not a bunch of investigators. It is a data scientist. The problem is data scientists are really expensive right now, and CMS is having trouble working out their pay schedule to hire them. This is the person who sits down and builds the model and says: Okay, this doesn't make sense. Go look at that. This doesn't make sense.

We believe there is \$60 billion annually—not over 10 years—every single year in Medicare fraud, and you can find it using data scientists.

Remember how I was telling you before how we need to find \$4 trillion or so to cover an extension of the tax cut? That is \$400 billion a year. This is \$60 billion from doing the right thing.

There are ideas here.

There is the use of technology that, hey, here is my doctors' notes and here is my insurance contract. Do you have a bunch of billers fight with each other over months and months and months trying to collect between the insurance company and the insurance company is saying you didn't document things right? Well, there is this concept of clean claims, where the AI says: Here is the doctors' notes. It matches the contract. Automatically pay it.

We think that saves \$31 billion every year. Well, heaven, I am getting close to \$100 billion just on those two things using technology.

We have already dropped a piece of legislation—this one is over 10 years—that just cleans up some of the fraud and sets some timelines on the employee retention tax credit. Well, that is almost \$80 billion.

These are just a handful of ideas that we have actually had scored. How do I get the brothers and sisters around here, the Members who are elected, their staff, the press, the public to see there are solutions where you don't have to keep piling onto debt, but it is a revolutionary use of technology to make government better, faster, and cheaper.

There is hope. There really is hope. Why the hell is this place so terrified of doing anything different? So many of the solutions you hear around here sound like it is the 1990s. We are all walking around with a supercomputer in the palm of our hand. Use that technology to make this another American century.

Mr. Speaker, I am losing my voice, and I think I actually made the point. Thank you for tolerating my diatribe, and I also know the Speaker has an appointment to keep.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

BIDDING FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. KILMER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, over most of the past decade, each time I boarded a plane to head to D.C., I would write a note to my kids, Sophie and Aven, to explain to them why I was leaving and what I would be working on while I was gone.

My kids were three and six when I started here, and when they were little, my letters were elementary: "This week, I will be working for more jobs in our region."

My letters always ended with: "Be good. I love you."

Later, as they became older, my notes to them became more complicated, covering all sorts of things, from Russia's invasion to Ukraine, to immigration reform, to the intricacies of the congressional appropriations process. Even as they became more complicated, a common thread in each of those letters was this: I tried to communicate to them that I was trying to work every day to make things better for their generation and for their country.

Mr. Speaker, today, as I prepared to give these final remarks on the House floor, I sent my kids this note, and with your permission, I will read it.

I wrote:

Sophie and Aven—After 20 years total in public service and the last 12 years in Con-

gress, I have had a lot of people ask me what I have learned.

Honestly, I have learned a lot.

I have learned that my left knee handles the aisle seat way better than the middle or the window.

I have learned where the best cups of coffee, the best tacos, the best burgers, and the best bathrooms are in Washington's Sixth Congressional District.

I have learned more lyrics to more songs driving around our district than anyone could imagine and certainly more than my staff cared to hear me sing.

But I have also learned some valuable lessons, and today, kids, I want to share with you some of the things I have learned.

I have learned the importance of knowing your why.

As you guys know, I grew up in the district that I represent, in Port Angeles.

When I was in high school, it was right around the time the timber industry took it on the chin, and a lot of my friends' parents lost their jobs, and a lot of my neighbors lost their jobs. It had a big impact on me.

So I went off to college, and my senior thesis was focused on how to help timber towns in Washington State. When I went to grad school, my doctoral dissertation focused on challenges facing single-industry communities. I looked at mining towns in the U.K. and timber towns in Washington, trying to figure out what to do when the main industry that is the reason for a community's existence declines.

While I was always interested in our democracy, I didn't know I was going to run for office. I was working in economic development, and, honestly, I just got grumpy. I found myself saying: Our ability to grow jobs in this region is surely impacted by what government does and doesn't do.

Finally, some of my friends said: Well, you seem like you have a lot of good ideas, and you sure complain a lot. Why don't you go do something about it?

The next thing I knew, I was serving in the State legislature.

Then, about 12½ years ago, my predecessor, Norm Dicks, who has been and continues to be an extraordinary friend and mentor to me, called me and said: In an hour, I am going to announce that I am not running again, and you should figure out whether this is something you want to do.

The chance to create more economic opportunity for more people in more places was the main reason I came here.

That is my why.

I came to Congress because I wanted to grow jobs and help the area where I grew up.

It has been the honor of my life getting to represent my hometown and our entire region. Whether it has been helping folks get access to broadband or securing funding for ports, fighting for our community hospitals, delivering funds to address flooding, securing investments to restore Puget Sound, or helping ensure that the Federal Government lives up to its trust and treaty obligations, I have been honored to work for our region. I would like to hope that the work that I have done has provided more opportunity for folks who deserve it.

Part of that effort involved taking some of the findings of my doctoral dissertation and some smart ideas from some other folks and turning them into legislation called the RE-COMPETE Act, legislation to provide flexible, multiyear support to communities that are struggling. I am really proud that we got this bill included in the CHIPS and Science Act, and I am proud that it has become the most popular program in the history of the Economic Development Administration, getting 565 applications from 49 States.

Out of the 565 applications, there were 6 that got large-scale implementation grants,

and one of the 6 was for the region where I grew up. How cool is that?

What are the takeaways?

Well, first, apparently, I am really slow. It took me more than 20 years to do something with my doctoral dissertation, but, most importantly, I never forgot my why.

Sophie and Aven—Whatever you do in your life, I hope you find your why. I hope you are able to find something that gives you as much drive as helping my hometown gave me.

Mr. Speaker, I also wrote my kids the following:

Sophie and Aven—I have also learned about the importance of being a steward. I want to encourage you to care about your country, your community, and the organizations that you are a part of.

Tearing things down is easy. Building things up is hard.

In a commencement speech delivered in 1968 at Cornell University, former Secretary John Gardner spoke about the importance of stewardship. He spoke of the importance of people being what he called loving critics of the institutions and communities in which they work, and he spoke of two concerns.

Sometimes, he said, institutions and communities suffer from what he called uncritical lovers, folks who went about their business smothering their institutions with love without thinking about how to improve them.

Functional organizations and successful communities want to get better.

Gardner also said that institutions and communities suffered from unloving critics, people who treat an institution like the pinata at the party.

I see that a lot in my job. The most popular thing a politician can do is bash Congress, and if it is done in a way that is focused on demolition rather than on improvement, that is a problem, too.

So why do I mention this? Well, John Gardner sounded that alarm 56 years ago, and the alarm is ringing louder now.

According to recent polling, faith in our institutions is at a historically low point. I am not just talking about Congress—which, according to recent polling, is less popular than head lice, colonoscopies, and the rock band Nickelback—but, according to recent polling, a majority of Americans no longer view institutions of higher education as forces for good.

Fewer and fewer Americans have faith in public schools. Less than one in five have faith in newspapers and in news media in general. Faith in business is at the lowest point it has been since Gallup began polling that question. Heck, even organized religion has taken a hit. You know you are in trouble when we are losing faith in faith.

What does it mean for us? It means all of us—we, all of us—need to be better stewards. Each of us needs to be a loving critic of our community and of the organizations and institutions about which we care.

For me, it has meant trying to make Congress better. That is why I became chair of the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, which was nicknamed the fix-Congress committee. We showed that Congress can do things better when folks checked their partisan agendas at the door and just focused on working together. The Democrats and Republicans on that committee were loving critics of Congress.

We did things differently, to sit not by party, not on a dais, but around a round table, sitting next to someone from a different party. We had one staff, not separate Republican and Democratic staffs. We broke bread together and planned the work of the committee together, and it helped.

Our committee, in the midst of Presidential elections, pandemics, insurrections, and other chaos, managed to pass 202 recommendations to make Congress function better for the American people. At this point, over half of them have been implemented. Another quarter are on their way toward implementation.

Now someone can look at our record and say: Well, hey, bang-up job, pal. Clearly, Congress is fixed.

Obviously, that is not the case, although I am reminded of a conversation I had right there on the House floor with the House Chaplain during the 15th or so round of votes for Speaker of the House. I saw her here on the House floor, and I said: Pray harder.

She put her hand on my elbow, and she said: Just imagine how bad things would be in this place if I wasn't praying so hard.

So that is sort of how I look at the work of the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress. I think that, over time, you are going to see some positive change within this institution because of that work.

I feel lucky that I got to work with some loving critics of the institution, such as William Timmons and TOM GRAVES. I want to thank them for being collaborators, partners, and friends.

I also appreciate the efforts of STEPHANIE BICE and JOE MORELLE, who want to see the efforts to improve Congress continue.

I thank Speaker Emerita Pelosi for her vision in creating the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress and for her faith in me to serve as its chair. It has been such an honor to get to learn from her throughout my time in Congress.

I also got to work with amazing committee staff, such as Yuri Beckelman, who has an infectious enthusiasm for making the institution better; Derek Harley, who, over the last 4 years, has spent more time than anyone I know working to improve Congress; Allie Neill and Jake Olson, who built the committee from the ground up; and Marian Currinder, who brought more content knowledge on Congress than anyone.

It takes special people to try new things, and I applaud all of the committee staff for the courage and commitment to that cause.

We were also blessed to work with a cohort of nonprofits and think tanks and academics who have dedicated their time and energy to making government work better, and their work matters.

□ 1145

To state the obvious, there is a lot more work to do there. We are better than our current politics. I feel so lucky to have been partners with them, and I sure hope to continue to partner with them down the road.

Sophie and Aven, I have tried to be a loving critic of this institution. I hope you will find a way to play that role in our democracy as well as steward the places and organizations that you care about.

Mr. Speaker, I wrote my kids that I have learned that we are incredibly fortunate to live in one of the most special places on the planet. A lot of the work I have done has been focused on being stewards of those places, and I feel so grateful to have had amazing partners in that work. We are blessed to have the most extraordinary national park on Earth, with places like the Hoh Rain Forest and Hurricane Ridge. We are fortunate to have folks who work for the Park Service as stewards of those treasures.

We are fortunate to have the United States Navy in our community. Our community is stronger because of the patriots who serve this Nation and call our community home. They bring their service ethic, skills, community pride, and pride as Americans to our community. We must be stewards for them and make investments in our naval shipyards to ensure that they can continue to keep our servicemembers and country safe.

We are fortunate to be home to more military veterans than nearly any other place in our country, and, again, we are stronger for that. If someone serves this country, we should have their back. I am grateful for the folks at the VA and all the veterans service organizations who do that work.

We are fortunate to have communities with local leaders, county and municipal elected officials and staff, port districts, public utility districts, chambers of commerce, economic development councils, and many others. There are too many to name, but they have been my friends and partners, and together, we have navigated a pandemic, built affordable housing, supported local businesses, and worked to make our communities safer and more vibrant. We have worked to fix flooding in Grays Harbor and to fix traffic problems in Gorst. We have stood up a forest collaborative to try to manage our forests in a way that works better.

Mr. Speaker, these partners are stewards. They are my friends, and I am grateful for them.

I wrote: Sophie and Aven, we have also worked to recover Puget Sound. We are fortunate to have this natural treasure that has supported livelihoods and lives for generations. We are fortunate to have a group of stewards that are fighting to help it.

Paramount among those stewards are our Tribal partners. We are fortunate to have 12 Native American Tribes who call Washington's Sixth Congressional District home. They are extraordinary stewards who think seven generations into the future.

I have worked with our Tribal partners on efforts to combat the climate crisis and to deal with its impacts as they try to move to higher ground, to strengthen Tribal healthcare and housing options, and on so many initiatives. The Tribal leaders in our region have been my friends and partners. They have taught me so much, and personally, I feel fortunate to consider them my friends.

Sophie and Aven, one of the lessons I have learned is that the boat moves best when everyone has their oars in the water rowing in the same direction. You get further with partners, and I am so grateful to every constituent who has been a partner in the work of our office.

Sophie and Aven, there are other things I have learned. I have learned that we have work to do to protect this amazing democratic Republic. When I say "we," I mean all of us.

President Kennedy said: "In a democracy, every citizen, regardless of his interest in politics, 'holds office'; every one of us is in a position of responsibility; and, in the final analysis, the kind of government we get depends upon how we fulfill those responsibilities."

To me, that is a reminder that we are not observers in this democracy. We are participants in it.

How is that going? An NBC News poll found that 70 percent of Americans agreed with this statement: America is so divided it is now incapable of solving big problems, and the problem is getting worse.

There was a battleground poll last year that found that, on a scale of 0 to 100, with 0 being no conflict and 100 being civil war, Americans put us at a 70. The median was a 70. That is the highest on record. That means, on average, Americans believe we are more than two-thirds of the way to civil war.

I visited a YMCA in our district thinking they wanted to talk to me about gymnasiums struggling from the pandemic. Instead, they wanted to talk to me about conflicts breaking out at the Y due to politics.

I don't think we just need to accept that. None of us should throw up our hands and say, well, I guess that is just life in 2024. We just won't solve any big problems and just hate each other and worry about getting punched out on the elliptical at the gym. We need to figure out how to engage folks we disagree with.

To that end, I introduced a bill called the Building Civic Bridges Act to support local efforts to bridge divides, to train AmeriCorps members in the skills related to bridge building, and to support colleges and universities that are doing work in this space. I hope Congress will eventually pass it.

We are even trying to do some of the bridge building in Congress. I am a co-chair of a group called the Bipartisan Working Group, which is about a dozen Democrats and a dozen Republicans who meet regularly over breakfast to just try to find some common ground.

I don't want to mislead you all into thinking that we are all sitting around the table and holding hands and singing "Kumbaya" or closing our eyes and doing trust falls into each other's arms. We stopped doing that after we dropped a guy. But I do find myself thinking that the work we are doing in the Bipartisan Working Group, the challenging work of trying to solve problems together, is something we need to see more of, not just in Congress, but in our country, too.

I am grateful to my colleagues who are part of that group, particularly SCOTT PETERS and my friends ANDY BARR, JACK BERGMAN, and JOHN RUTHERFORD, who have been great partners from the Republican Conference.

There are also civil society organizations, academics, and individuals trying to bring folks together to foster understanding, dialogue, and collaboration across our diverse communities to build bridges. I am really grateful to them. I am hopeful that their work will help us live up to our national motto, "E pluribus unum," "Out of many, one."

Just yesterday, former President Obama said: "If you want to create lasting change, you have to find ways to practice addition rather than subtraction."

Sophie and Aven, I hope you will do the hard work of trying to bridge divides. We all have choices about whether we exacerbate polarization or bring people together. We do better when we listen to people, when we choose to go into conversations understanding that we may be wrong and others may be right, when we respect people even when we disagree with them, when we show empathy when we are trying to bridge those divides.

Sophie and Aven, we are going to rely on your generation to help us heal.

Sophie and Aven, I have learned the value of having an amazing team. You have been there when I have been asked by people, "What are you proudest of during your time in Congress?" You have always heard me give the exact same response, "I am proudest of my team."

A lot of the success that I have shared with you wouldn't have been possible without the tremendous team I have had. From the beginning, I had an office led by Jonathan Smith in D.C. and by Meadow Johnson in the district. They, and the rest of the team, got us

off to a great start. They had vision and hustle that set the tone for us.

Over time, Joe Dacca became my district director. Whether we were visiting the naval shipyard, rooting for the Huskies, or listening to 80's tunes circumnavigating the Olympic Peninsula, Joe was an amazing partner.

Rachel Kelly was a top-notch chief while I chaired the New Dems and the modernization committee. She was a tremendous leader for our team, especially during the tumult of the pandemic.

It was such a pleasure for me to watch the growth of Andrea Roper, who started as an intern on my campaign, became scheduler in my district office, and went on to become our district director and deputy chief of staff. She is a terrific professional, and I am proud of her.

Heather Painter and our policy team have been tenacious about getting pucks into the net for our constituents. Heather is so talented. In fact, I won the lottery with talented leg. directors.

In addition to Heather, we had Katie Allen, who was a wizard on environmental issues and knew so much about salmon recovery and managing healthy forests.

We had Aaron Wasserman, who laid the foundation for our work with the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

My first LD, Kevin Warnke, always engaged with a strategic mind and with kindness.

I am grateful for every person who worked on our policy team over the years.

I have had such excellent team members who helped us communicate with our constituents: Stephen, Tim, Jason, Martha, and Ian, who led the way.

We had amazing schedulers in D.C. and in the district who made sure we always made time for our constituents, including Jolie and Tory, who are here today. I am grateful to each of them.

Cheri Williams has dedicated her life to helping our constituents and has had a talented group of caseworkers, including our longtime team member, Chantell Munoz. They have done so much good for so many people that I could spend my entire time telling stories of the wins they have gotten for the people we represent.

Sophie and Aven, I have had folks in the district, people you kids have met at events over the years, including, currently, Courtney, Haley, and Stephanie, and folks like Nicholas, Rob, Katy, MaryJane, Judith, and others who served our constituents for a long time and who have made sure we were available, accessible, and accountable to our constituents.

My current chief of staff, Andrew Wright, is everything Americans should want in their public servants: ethical, kind, visionary, someone who hustles, someone who looks for wins for the American people. In every role he has been in on our team, he has been just awesome. I am grateful for him.

I can't name everyone, but every person who worked on our team is worthy

of gratitude. Over the years, I have had absolutely outstanding folks who have worked in my district and D.C. offices, and I am so grateful for that and the fact that, without exception, they have focused on doing the right thing for our constituents.

I also thank the Irwin family for sharing their daughter Kate with us. Though Kate passed away a few years ago, I think about her often and have told colleagues and staffers her wise words during one of our last times together. She said, "This isn't have-to-do stuff; this is get-to-do stuff." She was an amazing young woman who made a very big difference in far too short a time.

I thank each and every team member who served the people of Washington's Sixth Congressional District during my time in office. Together, we made a real difference.

Sophie and Aven, whatever you do in your life, I hope you have a team as good as I have had—people who work hard, who do the right thing, and who care.

Sophie and Aven, it is good to have a crew. You have heard more about the New Democrat Coalition than most Americans and certainly than most teenagers. I was honored to serve as leader in the New Dems throughout my tenure in Congress, including serving as chair.

The New Dems are the best kept secret in politics, a group of pragmatic, problem-solving Democrats who chase impact more than headlines. Simply put, they are focused on getting things done for the American people. Politics could use more of that.

I thank Ron Kind and JIM HIMES for being mentors to me in that coalition as well as the New Dem staff, including former staff members like J.D. Grom and current leaders like Anne Sokolov and Leighton Huch, among others. I also thank Helen Milby, who has been the fairy godmother of the New Dems and an amazing friend to me.

Beyond that, I assure you that you can even find friends in the most unusual places, even in Congress. When I got to Congress, I was told, if you want a friend in this place, get a dog. I feel very lucky that my experience hasn't been like that at all.

Sophie and Aven, I am proud that you can sing the AMI BERA song and you know that he is a delight to travel with, that you speak of SCOTT PETERS like he is a superhero, and in many ways, he is. I am proud that you can do the DAN KILDEE handshake and that you know that he is an amazing roommate who has been with me on the toughest days here. I am proud that you know what to do for ADAM SCHIFF when you see the Dave Grohl autobiography and that you watched "The Big Lebowski" to honor him and his courageous leadership.

I am proud that you are wowed by friends like Abigail and Mikie, who are former CIA agents and helicopter pilots and who have such bright futures; that

you know JIM HIMES hosts a great dinner party and that when I met him, I told you that I would at least have one friend in Congress; that you know that LORI TRAHAN can get me to laugh on even the roughest of days; that you know PETE AGUILAR and I get into trouble when we sit next to each other at events, and that institution is stronger because PETE is one of its greatest leaders with a bright disposition, a willingness to have tough conversations on both sides of the aisle, and a passion for service.

Sophie and Aven, I am sort of tickled that when I read this note to you on the House floor, it will formally enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names "Back Row Hecklers," "Rusty Butterknives," and "The Indespicables" into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

But whatever we call them, they are people I have broken bread with, talked about the world's problems with, been through a whole lot personally with, and I want each of them to know how grateful I am for them, for their friendship. Though I am moving on from Congress, I am confident I am not moving on from my friendships with them.

I appreciate my plane buddies, particularly SUZAN DELBENE, ADAM SMITH, DAN NEWHOUSE, and MARILYN STRICKLAND, who, in addition to being great leaders and partners, often made the time go faster on what really is a long flight. They have been amazing partners in standing up for our State.

I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge my former roommate and former colleague, Denny Heck, who is a great Lieutenant Governor and a dear friend who often shared his warm almonds with me on the plane.

I am thankful to the class of 2012 in Congress. What a dynamic group of people. Included among them are HAKEEM JEFFRIES and KATHERINE CLARK, both of whom are dear friends and stewards of this institution.

Outside of Congress, I have had an amazing support system of friends and family. I am grateful, Sophie and Aven, to your Uncles Ryan and Jason and to your grandparents. They have instilled in me an ethic of service and have supported me throughout. My mom and dad taught me the value of education and the importance of thinking before you speak, and they taught me one word—family.

□ 1200

Tim, Ryan, and Ray are the definition of friends, being there when I most needed a hand and spending a very long day with me.

Turi Widsteen has been my longest friend, and her family has been important to me for decades.

Andy Weinstein and Jon Goldman, my college roommates, with whom I have shared music and laughter and ups and downs, have been there from the beginning.

Sue and Chad have been rays of sunshine while working in a place that occasionally needs more sunshine.

I enjoy thinking about leadership, asking all of the questions, and visiting Abe at the Lincoln Memorial with Lauren.

I want to voice special gratitude to J.J. Balaban, who has been the most extraordinary adviser and friend a guy could ask for. I would not have served in Congress had it not been for his advice and help. Since I get to put this into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, I want to say this: I love you, J.

I have learned how lucky I am to have such good friends.

Finally, Sophie and Aven, I have learned how lucky I am to be your dad. I am grateful to you both. You were 3 and 6 when I was elected to this job. You are now 15 and 18. Over the years, you have come with me to fairs and festivals, parades and party events. You have met two Presidents and even talked about SpongeBob SquarePants with President Obama in the Oval Office. I hope some of those experiences are amazing memories for you, just as they are for me.

Having said that, as nourishing as this job has been, in some respects I know it has come with profound costs for our family. Every theatrical performance and musical recital I missed, every family dinner I wasn't there for all had an impact on our family.

I thank your mom for supporting me personally and professionally. I thank her for supporting our family during some tough times, particularly when I was in Washington, D.C. Though our marriage didn't last, my gratitude to her does.

Sophie and Aven, I am conscious that I didn't always deliver in the way I wanted, and I hope you will forgive me for that. I hope you know that I was really trying my best to make the world better for you and for your generation.

I want you to know how proud of you I am. You are informed. You are inquisitive. You can walk into a room of adults and make conversation about the events of the world. You have learned to use your voices in powerful ways. You can study politics or be involved in JROTC, and people see you as leaders.

You have become terrific citizens in a way that makes me proud, that would make your oma proud.

I remember sitting right over there in January of 2013 when I was sworn into this body. Aven didn't last long, but Sophie sat by my side when I got sworn in. When the ceremony was over, Sophie, you looked at me and said: Why was that supposed to be special?

I hope, after 12 years of service in Congress, you see that this was special, that the capacity to work to try to solve problems for our region is, indeed, a special honor. I hope, despite personal setbacks and frustrations with our politics, you come away with hope.

As I wrap up two decades in public service, I am so grateful for the people of the Sixth Congressional District for

giving me the honor of representing them. As I conclude this role on their behalf, I am hopeful.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks once wrote:

Optimism and hope are not the same thing. Optimism is the belief that things are going to get better. Hope is the belief that if we work hard enough, together, we can make things better.

He also wrote:

It needs no courage to be an optimist, but it does take a great deal of courage to hope.

Sophie and Aven, the task ahead for each of us, myself included, though soon from outside this building, is to be a part of that, to work together to make things better, to have hope.

Sophie and Aven, have hope. Be good. I love you.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan, DAN KILDEE, my friend.

I AM HONORED TO HAVE SERVED MID-MICHIGAN
IN CONGRESS

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I thank my friend and colleague, Mr. KILMER.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the House for the last time as a Member of this historic symbol of our democracy.

It has been the honor of my lifetime to serve my hometown and the people of mid-Michigan in Congress. I am so grateful to my constituents for putting their trust and faith in me to represent them for the last 12 years.

Every day that I have been in public service, I have been focused on doing what I can to improve the lives of the people back home. I am so very proud of the work that we have been able to accomplish together to make Michigan a better place.

I am particularly proud of what we have done to revitalize our manufacturing base and to bring jobs back to this country. As I have said a few times in this Chamber, I am from Flint, my hometown, so I know firsthand about how unfair trade deals and the lack of industrial policy has hurt working families in the communities that I represent.

In Congress, I got to work. As a member of the Ways and Means Committee, I helped to replace NAFTA with a better deal for America's workers. Under a Democratic Congress, we passed new laws like the CHIPS and Science Act, the Inflation Reduction Act, and the bipartisan infrastructure law to incentivize us to make things in America. Those manufacturing policies strengthen our manufacturing and our U.S. supply chains. The real important aspect of that is it has grown our local economy.

These laws have worked. Already in mid-Michigan, we have seen major companies expand and invest like SK siltron in Bay City, Hemlock Semiconductor in Saginaw, and NanoGraf right in my home county, Genesee County. These companies are hiring hundreds of workers to produce American-made semiconductors, advanced manufacturing chips, and electric battery materials to help ensure that America

leads the way in manufacturing in the 21st century.

To lower costs for families, again, I got to work passing new laws to put more money in the pockets of hard-working Michiganians. We authored the electric vehicle tax credit. We expanded the child tax credit to lower costs. In fact, I consider the refundable tax credit, the child tax credit, to be perhaps the best vote I have cast in my career in public office.

We all come to Congress with our own priorities. Revitalizing mid-Michigan manufacturing was certainly one of mine. The beauty of public service is that we are always learning something new from the people that we work for, from our constituents.

I am very grateful to advocates in my district who first educated me on one of those issues, and that is the issue of PFAS contamination, chemical contamination. Today, most Americans now know the dangers of PFAS to their health and the environment, but back then when we first got started on this, most Members of Congress couldn't even spell PFAS, let alone know what it is.

I first heard from constituents like Cathy Wusterbarth and Tony Spaniola about water quality issues in Oscoda, and we got to work urging faster clean-up of PFAS contamination surrounding the former Wurtsmith Air Force Base.

I helped establish with my friend, BRIAN FITZPATRICK, the first Congressional PFAS Task Force, which brought together Democrats and Republicans around this issue to more urgently address a real public health threat and to ensure that those exposed, and especially our servicemembers, have access to the healthcare that they deserve.

Finally, after years of advocacy, we have made progress. This year, the Biden administration announced the first-ever drinking water standard for PFAS and designated certain PFAS chemicals as hazardous substances to ensure the polluters, not taxpayers, have to pay to clean up that contamination.

There is a lot more work we have to do to deal with cleanup of PFAS chemicals, but I am proud of what we have done and I am proud that we have done it by working together in a bipartisan fashion. I look forward to watching what my colleagues will do to continue to address this really important public health issue.

Of course, throughout my time in Congress, the issue of clean drinking water has defined much of my work. In the richest country on the planet, at the richest moment in its history, drinking water should be something that is a right, not a privilege.

One of my really proudest accomplishments here in Congress was working to provide real relief to Flint families during that terrible Flint water crisis. I worked to replace those lead pipes, expand healthcare services, and to establish the Flint Registry, which

gives access to ongoing support for the long-term effects of that terrible crisis.

What happened in my hometown wasn't an anomaly. It was a warning to the rest of the country that we have got to be serious about commonsense regulations to protect public health. From the moment that that manmade crisis began, I knew we had to get to work.

Throughout the crisis, I organized numerous delegations of Members of Congress to come to my hometown of Flint. Democrats and Republicans responded. They came and met directly with the families affected by this terrible crisis. They learned about the decisions that led to the crisis in the first place, and they helped build support for Federal action.

I brought President Obama to Flint to hold a townhall with the families affected. For over 2 years, I worked with the Obama administration to expand Medicaid, Head Start, and healthy nutrition programs for families that really needed those supports because of the exposure to lead.

Because of that work, in 2016, despite the fact that then, like now, I was serving in the minority, I was able to secure \$170 million in an aid package to help replace those terrible lead service lines, to create the Flint Registry, and to expand healthcare services.

I will be forever grateful to Speaker Emerita NANCY PELOSI, then our Democratic leader, who recognized that a Republican majority needed Democratic votes to pass a year-end budget bill, and she deputized me to go finish the deal. She sent me directly over to meet with Speaker Ryan, and we were able to include that single Democratic priority in that budget bill that provided the aid to the families of Flint.

As I also prepare to leave Congress, I am frequently asked, what will I miss the most. It is not hard to list the things I won't miss. It is also not tough to list those things I will miss the most: the friendships that I have made in this body. I thank my colleagues.

First and foremost, to Michigan's congressional delegation, it has been a real honor to be the dean of our Democratic delegation and to work alongside our two great Senators, Senator DEBBIE STABENOW and Senator GARY PETERS and to previously be able to work with one of my mentors, the late Senator Carl Levin. We came together to protect the Great Lakes, to support the hardworking men and women of the auto industry, and to clean up that terrible PFAS contamination that I mentioned.

Specifically, to Speaker PELOSI, a masterful legislator, a masterful tactician: Simply put there is no one better in this business or who I have learned more from. I thank her for never forgetting about the people of Flint and always fighting for America's children, to give a punch and to take a punch for those kids. She has done that her whole career.

Democratic leader HAKEEM JEFFRIES is a true and honest friend, a classmate

from our 2012 class. We often joke about how the term “my good friend” is tossed about in this body pretty loosely, but he is an honest and true friend and an incredible leader for our House Democratic Caucus. I thank him for the trust that he placed in me to serve in the House Democratic leadership and to serve as the co-chair of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee.

Hakeem and I came to Congress together, along with an amazing group of people in 2012. They are all friends. We share a special bond. I am especially grateful to three members of my class—one of whom you just heard from—who are not just friends but became my roommates over the years: JARED HUFFMAN from California; of course, DEREK KILMER, my buddy from Washington State; and AMI BERA, also from California. They have not only been roommates, but in that role have helped me get through some of the good times. They also were there as a listening ear to help me get through some of the really tough personal challenges that I faced during my time here in Congress. These are friendships that will last forever.

There are other groups—the baseball team, the guys in the corner, and the indispicables—Congressman KILMER mentioned them. We will explain that off the record. Two of them are here, DEREK KILMER, of course, and ADAM SCHIFF, a group that we have been able to bond over and strategize with and sometimes just listen to one another. Those friendships will go on and on. Even though ADAM is moving over to the Senate, I expect he will still remember our names.

To my chairman, RICHIE NEAL, the chairman of the oldest, and what I think to be the most powerful committee in Congress, the Ways and Means Committee, serving on that committee, especially under the leadership of RICHIE NEAL has been some of the most meaningful work of my career: to pass fair trade deals, to cut the cost of insulin, to protect Social Security and Medicare and to cut taxes for working families, and especially expanding that child tax credit.

□ 1215

Mr. Speaker, it has been one of the greatest honors of my lifetime, of course, to work with the people here.

One of them was a special friend, a person who I was very fortunate to get to know first as a person I admired from a distance but then became a colleague and a true friend. I am, of course, talking about the late John Lewis.

I remember when we first got here how many times we would say to one another: As rough as it was, aren't we lucky we get to go to work every day with John Lewis?

I remember literally sitting on the floor here when John led an effort to call attention to gun violence. It is the kind of good trouble that John was

known for. I was happy to participate in that moment, never fully understanding until recently what devastating impact the pain of gun violence can have on families across the country. I am now one of those families. I didn't know it then.

I got to call John Lewis for the last few months of his life every single time that we had a vote on the floor of the House because he designated me to cast his vote for him during the COVID proxy rules. He was too ill to be here.

He gave me this incredible gift to vote for myself and Michigan's Fifth District and then to come to that podium and announce to this Congress that I was about to cast a vote on behalf of the gentleman from Georgia's Fifth District, John Lewis. The person known most for the precious right to vote gave me a gift I will carry with me for the rest of my life, and that was the opportunity to carry his vote to the floor of this House.

I thank my extended family, really, my staff. To the dozens of team members, the past and present members of my crew, thanks for your hard work, for your dedication. I have really had the most talented and selfless team, dedicated D.C. and district staff. I could have ever hoped for. They pour their hearts, their souls, and themselves into this work.

I have often told my staff that, while I carry the voting card and wear this pin on my lapel, they serve in Congress. They have done that extraordinarily well.

I especially thank my longtime chief of staff, Mitchell Rivard, who has been with me not just since my campaign but who came to work for me even when I launched my campaign in 2011. He has been with me ever since, on the good days and on the days that were not so good, like being sworn in for first time. Then, he and I were both here in the Capitol on that terrible day, January 6. He has become like family. He has done an outstanding job leading my team, and I am excited for the great things that each of my team members will accomplish as they move forward.

Mitchell and my district director, Jacob Bennett, were with me from the day I came to Congress until the day we packed up the office to go home. The country is really fortunate that they will both continue to serve in this institution.

I want to thank a couple of my other team members who were with me for most of my time here, Jordan Dickinson and Ghada Alkiek, who I have known since they were probably too young to vote. They have been an important part of this experience for me.

I said many times that while I have been elected to lots of different public roles, I have never felt I changed jobs. I just got different business cards and a different toolbox to do my work because my job responsibilities have been the same, which are serving, working for, and representing those people who I work for.

I was first elected to public office when I was 18 years old. Five decades later—hard to believe—I continue to love public service and believe that this important work is that, important and honorable service.

For me, it is time to go home. As I reflect on my time in Congress, I am thinking about the future. I am excited to see that Michigan has elected to be represented by a soon-to-be new Member of Congress, Kristen McDonald Rivet. I know Kristen. She will be a great, commonsense, pragmatic leader for our area. I am especially proud that I helped to elect the first woman ever to represent this district in Congress.

While I am stepping back from public office at the end of my term, I am most definitely not retiring. I am looking forward to a new chapter, continuing to serve Flint and that region but just outside of elected office.

I have a lot of friends to thank for helping me get here, and it is impossible for me to list all of them. I do want to mention one of them.

Larry Rosenthal would have turned 62 today. He has been my friend for almost 40 years, my closest political adviser, my confidant. We lost Larry over the summer. I wouldn't have been a Member of Congress without him. I wouldn't have been as successful as a Member of Congress without him being at my side, and he was there every step of the way. He really was family.

To my family, especially my wife, Jennifer, I say thank you. She has stood by me and given up the most through my public service here. I know, at least I think, she will be glad that I will be home full time. She has put up with a lot.

Thank you, Jennifer.

She has done so while having to deal with her own health struggles. She is my hero.

I am grateful to my kids, to my son Ryan, my daughter-in-law, Ginger, and their children, the two most perfect grandchildren to ever occupy the Earth, Caitlin and Colin.

To my son Kenneth, who lives in New York, and my daughter, Katy, they have put up with my schedule. They have given me the reason and the inspiration to continue to fight on. They have supported and defended me, even when the unfair critics chose to take their grievances to them instead of directly to me.

To my mom, Margaret, my greatest defender, and my late father, Jack, I thank you for all you did to make this journey possible. I was happy to look into this gallery 12 years ago and to see you as I took this oath of office. I miss my dad every day, but I know, when I watched them up there, how proud he was. Thinking of that day still makes me smile.

To my siblings, most especially my late brother, Tim, who we tragically lost this past March, they and their families were always a part of this experience, so much that one of my former staff, Ghada Alkiek, once

coined the term the B.I.C. for my family, the Built-In Crowd.

My family has endured a lot. I wouldn't be who I am, and we couldn't endure the recent pain our family has experienced, without one another.

Of course, I want to mention my late uncle, Dale Kildee, my predecessor in Congress, a mentor and a teacher to me since childhood. He was a man who set an example, an example that I have tried to live up to, that you can fight hard for the things you believe in and still respect the human dignity of everybody around you, even those with whom you disagree.

Thank you, Dale, for that lesson. Congress needs to heed your example now more than ever, and that lesson has been tested even on me. I still remember the chair I sat in and the wall I hid myself behind on January 6, knowing that some of the people who I share this Chamber with contributed to the necessary precondition for that attack.

I have not been able to look at them the same. I have tried to take the lessons that my uncle provided me and continue to treat those people with dignity. It has been a challenge, but it is one I believe I have been able to overcome. I encourage future Congresses to continue to look at Dale Kildee as an example.

Mr. Speaker, I will end where I started, expressing my deepest and most sincere gratitude to the people of my home communities and to the people in Michigan. It has been an honor of a lifetime to be your voice. I did my best. I will see you back home.

Now, Mr. Speaker, for the very final time, I yield back.

CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAWLER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY) for 30 minutes.

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to report that the newly formed Department of Government Efficiency has homed in on perhaps the single-greatest example of government waste in United States history, and that is California's high-speed rail boondoggle.

Here are the facts that the DOGE X handle cited, all of which are true.

The high-speed rail project was originally projected in 2008 to cost \$33 billion. It is now projected to cost up to \$127.9 billion.

Its estimated completion date was 2020. Of course, we are past 2020 now. As of 2024, zero passengers have been transported. Indeed, the majority of the system has not even been fully designed, yet it has received \$6.8 billion in Federal funds, and they are requesting an additional \$8 billion in Federal funds.

In short, the cost has quadrupled, and nothing has been built. Actually, I am being a little bit unfair. There was an announcement earlier this year in May

where the High-Speed Rail Authority, which really has to strain to come up with milestones to advertise to the public—there was a lot of hoopla surrounding the unveiling of an \$11 billion bridge to nowhere that took 9 years to build, which is about the only thing that the High-Speed Rail Authority has to show for its efforts over the last 16 years.

A few years ago, The New York Times did an expose, reporting that at the current pace, the high-speed rail project will not be completed this century. I actually asked Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg whether he agreed with The New York Times' assessment. He said that, yes, it will be completed this century, although I gave him several opportunities to give his own estimation of when it will be completed and he declined to do so.

To give you a sense of how bad things are, in the early days of the project, the lead operator abandoned the project to go build a rail system in North Africa because they said that it was less politically dysfunctional there than in California. That operator, by the way, brought a high-speed train online in Morocco in 2018.

High-speed trains are not impossible to build. Californians and Americans travel abroad, and they ride them. They ask why we can't have them here. It is just impossible in California because of stratospheric levels of political incompetence.

Indeed, the head of the California High-Speed Rail Authority testified last year that the project is \$100 billion short in funding. In spite of all the billions that have been poured in by California taxpayers and through Federal support, there is still a funding gap of \$100 billion.

This was the former head of the California High-Speed Rail Authority because they have since gotten a new one, and they are now up to five CEOs throughout the life of the project. The number of CEOs outnumber the number of passengers five to zero.

What are some of the things that some of these past leaders of the high-speed rail project have had to say about it? Well, you can ask Michael Tennenbaum, who was the first chairman of the California High-Speed Rail Authority. He said, "I realized the system didn't work. . . . I don't know how they can build it now."

There is also Dan Richard, the longest serving chairman of the California High-Speed Rail Authority, who said, "I don't think it is an existing project. It is a loser."

Rich Tolmach, the head of the California Rail Foundation, said, "It will never be operable."

Former Governor of California Jerry Brown, perhaps the biggest supporter of the project, has derided opponents of the train as small-minded people, but this is an incredibly small-minded project. In fact, it is a nonexistent project at this point in time.

Even if built, even if the high-speed train magically materializes by the

end of the decade, it will still be yesterday's technology.

□ 1230

China, right now, is working on a train that they are planning to complete by the end of the decade that will go up to a 1,000 kilometers per hour. At this point, it is past time to stop throwing good money after bad. We should end all Federal support for the high-speed rail project because that Federal support is keeping the project on life support, and is then forcing California taxpayers to continue to pay billions and billions of dollars more.

Meanwhile, our roads are among the very worst in the country despite us paying the highest taxes in the country. That is the very definition, by the way, of inefficiency, when you pay the most and get the least in return.

The high-speed rail, in short, is a staggering waste of taxpayer dollars that fails to meet the transportation needs of either today or tomorrow. I look forward to working with the new DOGE commission and my colleagues here in the House to see that we bring this boondoggle to an end once and for all.

PROTECTING CALIFORNIA'S VALUES

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, this last week, California Governor Gavin Newsom called a special emergency session of the legislature for the purpose of Trump proofing California or protecting California values.

There is a question of whether this session is even legal given that the State constitution allows for a special session to be called under extraordinary circumstances, and you might wonder whether the result of a dually conducted Presidential election could truly constitute extraordinary circumstance.

More than that, it is clearly a farce despite the Governor's claims that this is an emergency situation. It was such an emergency that they gaveled in for about an hour and then went home for a month without passing any legislation.

We should just examine the Governor's claim that we need to protect California values, protect the status quo in California against any forces of reform that may be coming from Washington, D.C.

What exactly is the Governor aiming to protect? Is it California's national lead when it comes to homelessness, the fact we have half the unsheltered homeless in the entire country? Is that what Governor Newsom is aiming to protect?

Is it our poverty rate that is the highest in the Nation? Is he looking to protect our lead when it comes to poverty? When it comes to retail crime, does he want to maintain the number one record for the worst retail crime in the country?

Does he want to maintain the number one spot when it comes to antibusiness regulations, or when it comes to frivolous lawsuits, or when it comes to unemployment.

Actually, we are now only the second worst in the country when it comes to unemployment, so perhaps his protective measures are aiming to get us back in the lead.

Is he looking to protect our standing as the worst State in the country when it comes to an increase in wages—wages have stagnated in California more than any State in the country—or when it comes to restrictions on workers and the right to earn a living?

Is he looking to make sure that California maintains its lead in gas prices, well above the price of gas in any of the other 49 States? Well, we know he is looking to do that because his own car board just passed regulations that are going to raise gas prices about 60 cents a gallon more.

Is he looking to protect our standing as number two in the country in housing costs; number two in the country in water bills; number three in the country in energy and electricity costs; number three in the country in inequality; number one in the country when it comes to income taxes? He certainly wants to protect California's lead in that respect.

Does he want to protect our budget deficit which was reported last year as number one in the country; or our standing third in the country in road disrepair; or maybe it is the fact that California has the highest illiteracy rate in the entire country?

Perhaps that is the value that Governor Newsom is aiming to protect. Or relatedly, the fact that we are second out of the 50 States when it comes to educational inequity.

If we were still in the COVID days, he would certainly be looking to protect our national lead when it came to school shutdowns, business shutdowns, and COVID mandates. We know that he is looking to protect our national lead when it comes to illegal border crossings for the first time since the nineties. Over the last year, the highest level of illegal border crossings have been in the San Diego border sector because he stood by California's standing as a sanctuary State.

When it comes to funding for illegal immigrants, surely he is looking to protect our lead there as California is the only State in the country that is offering free Medicaid to those who are here unlawfully. Most certainly we know the Governor is looking to extend California's four-peat in leading the Nation in one-way U-Haul rentals and is looking through his protective special session, I am sure, to make that a five-peat.

No, Mr. Speaker, California values, as Governor Newsom envisions them, do not need protecting, and I would argue they are not actually the values of Californians. What we are seeing happen in our State is that Californians themselves are looking to Newsom-proof California.

That has been happening in my district for quite some time where we have developed a different model;

where we support law enforcement, where we support small businesses, and where we believe in respecting the personal decisions of folks in our community.

As a result, we are one of the few areas of the State that people are actually moving to. By all of these metrics that I just mentioned, we are doing much better than the State as a whole.

However, we are seeing Newsom-proofing measures taking hold, not just in my district, but across California. For evidence of this, look at the overwhelming passage of Prop 36 on the ballot this November. This was a measure to make crime illegal again in California. It largely rolled back the notorious Proposition 47.

Gavin Newsom, and I might add the leaders of the supermajority in the legislature, fought it every step of the way. He concocted several schemes to un-Democratically remove it from the ballot even after it qualified through a citizen petition process.

Then he led the “no” on Prop 36 campaign. Yet, at the end of the day, it passed in an overwhelming victory, nearly 70 percent of the vote, an overwhelming majority: Democrats, Republicans, and Independents. It passed in all 58 counties, wasn't close anywhere, even passed in Newsom's hometown of San Francisco.

Mr. Speaker, California is now on a path back to sanity, and I have great hope for the future of our State. Frankly, I think that the Governor's attempts to get himself in the headlines and whatever theatrics may be coming are not going to stand in our way of getting our State moving in the right direction.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL LEE

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize retiring Placer County Water Agency Board Member Michael R. Lee for his more than 40 years of dedicated public service.

Mr. Lee began his career in government in 1972 at just 27 years of age. He served as a Placer County board supervisor for 16 years before moving into his role as director of the Placer County Water Agency where he served for 27 years.

Not only did Mr. Lee work as a government official, but he also owned and operated his own businesses, including the Villa Market and the Loomis Travel Agency.

He demonstrated his unwavering commitment to the community by serving in a variety of local, regional, and national organizations, boards, and commissions, including the Loomis Chamber of Commerce, South Placer Heritage Foundation, Sierra Planning Council, and the National Association of Counties to name a few.

Throughout his career, he played a pivotal role in improving transportation, law enforcement, fire protection, water resources, and community welfare programs in the region.

Mr. Lee achieved a wide diversity of accomplishments to improve the qual-

ity of life and experiences for the residents, businesses, and visitors of Placer County. One particularly noteworthy accomplishment was his leadership in the development of the Twelve Bridges project and expansion of the corresponding PCWA canal system for this new community.

His efforts with this project significantly contributed to the vibrancy and transformation of the city of Lincoln. It is because of the devoted effort of people like Mike Lee that Placer County is such a great place to live, work, and to raise a family.

As a pillar in our communities, he is known by others as one who exhibits diligence, honor, integrity, thoughtfulness, and wisdom in his work, and an unwavering commitment to the people of Placer County.

I am confident that Mr. Lee's exceptional contributions to the community, local business, and local government, and the legacy he built within those spheres will continue to benefit the county for many years to come.

Therefore, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I am honored to recognize Mr. Michael Lee for his four decades of dedicated leadership, and I join the Placer community in wishing him the very best in his retirement.

ROSEVILLE BOY SCOUT TROOP 11 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to mark and celebrate the 100-year anniversary of Boy Scout Troop 11, located in Roseville, California.

Troop 11 was first chartered in 1924 by American Legion Post 169, and it is the oldest continuing Boy Scout troop in Roseville.

It is a scout-run, leader-mentored, and parent-supported troop that focuses on personal growth, leadership development, and community outreach.

One core tenet of Troop 11 is the “good turn” concept, which helps Scouts grow as they participate in community service projects and provide acts of good and kindness toward others.

Troop 11 is involved in a variety of local projects, including giving aid during times of emergency, hosting community events such as pancake breakfasts and the crab and spaghetti feeds, as well as retiring worn U.S. flags to name a few.

Groups like Boy Scout Troop 11 play an integral role in developing self-reliance and community building, preparing the youth who participate to become the leaders of tomorrow. Their commitment to excellence of character and tenacity to build a better world is inspiring to all those around them.

Therefore, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I am honored to recognize Roseville Boy Scout Troop 11 for reaching this significant milestone, their centennial celebration.

RECOGNIZING ELAINE ANDERSEN

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize retiring Folsom City Manager Elaine Andersen for her years of dedication to serving the Folsom community.

Elaine's career to public service to the people of Folsom, the Sacramento area, and the State of California spans over three decades, while serving as Folsom city manager for the last 6 years.

Prior to her service to the city of Folsom, Elaine Andersen enjoyed an eminent career in numerous roles working for the city of Sacramento and the State of California, as well as in public affairs, specializing in legislative projects for the private sector.

She began her nearly 20 years of service in the city of Folsom as a special projects manager and would go on to dutifully serve in a wide array of roles as acting director for various departments, deputy city manager, and assistant city manager, all of which contributed to the prosperity of the Folsom community.

Elaine's commitment to public service was fostered in her studies as she received her bachelor of arts degree in political science from the University of California, Berkeley.

Elaine's experience and knowledge combined with her love for the city of Folsom enabled her to excel in her tenure as Folsom city manager. She demonstrated exceptional leadership managing a staff of over 400 workers across multiple departments and an annual budget exceeding \$250 million.

She successfully helped facilitate the development and construction of Fire Station 34, improving the public safety of the region, as well as the beautiful Prospector Park to promote public recreation and well-being.

Elaine's ability to collaborate with multiple facets of the community, including local businesses, city council, and the hundreds of staff she leads ensured that Folsom remains a great place to live, raise a family, and conduct business.

Elaine has also been successful in securing Folsom City Council's adoption of the first strategic plan in many years. This plan established guidelines for the city to ensure a continued commitment to financial stability and sustainability, public safety and infrastructure, economic and community development, and organizational effectiveness to best prepare for the future while seizing current opportunities.

Elaine Andersen has truly embodied what it means to be a public servant. I am certain her life's work of service to her community will leave a long-standing legacy as her impact will benefit the region for years to come.

Therefore, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, it is an honor and a privilege to acknowledge Folsom City Manager Elaine Andersen for her career of exemplary leadership and public service. I join the Folsom community in wishing her the very best in her retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

DELIVERING A SPECIAL MESSAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise, and I am always proud to have this preeminent privilege of standing here and addressing those who are within the Chamber as well as people who may be without.

I rise today still a liberated, unbought, unbossed, unafraid Democrat. I rise today to deliver a special message as it relates to slavery and the Holocaust.

Before I get to the message, I have a bit of housekeeping. I have had persons tell me that it appears that I am looking down and that my eyes are closed when I am speaking. I have no control over the camera angle. I am looking straight ahead now, and I will be looking straight ahead most of the time. So if there is some adjustment that the persons who operate the camera can make, I would greatly appreciate it, and I thank them very much.

I am very proud of some things that have happened. Just this week on Wednesday, this House passed S. 91—that would be a Senate bill—and I am proud to know that the House passed this bill because this bill was a special piece of legislation. This bill, S. 91, passed by voice vote at about 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, and this bill, S. 91, was to award a Congressional Gold Medal collectively to 60 diplomats in recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Holocaust.

I am proud that this piece of legislation passed the House. There are many reasons to be proud. The people who were there to rescue persons and assist persons during the Holocaust, the victims, they ought to be recognized. The Holocaust occurred, and it was one of the worst crimes ever committed against humanity.

I am proud to also tell you that I supported the legislation. I have my signature on that legislation, and that means something to me. I want people to know that when it comes to stepping up and standing out and standing for the people who have suffered in this country and around the globe, I would like to let people know that I am among those who are always going to be there as best as I can. I can't take on every challenge, but I want to take on as many as I can, and this is one that I am proud to say that I am a cosponsor of.

In fact, I became a cosponsor on March 17 of 2023. The legislation itself was filed on January 26, 2023. A few months later I became a cosponsor of this legislation.

This legislation when it was filed had 13 original persons on it, an original sponsor and then original cosponsors,

and it proceeded through the House. In the House it was H.R. 537. On June 11, 205 Members were on this legislation. I was one of them. I am proud to say it again. As one of them on June 11, this piece of legislation was passed in the House. It passed the House and then went to the Senate with 295 Members having signed on to it.

On December 4 it passed in the House by voice vote, and I was a Member that signed on to that bill. I was one of the persons that signed on to it.

Now, I mention this bill, and I am proud to be associated with it, but I am also proud to be associated with another piece of legislation, H.R. 1244. This piece of legislation would posthumously award a historic Congressional Gold Medal collectively to Africans and their descendants enslaved within our country from August 20 of 1619 to December 6 of 1865. I am proud to be the original sponsor of this legislation.

This legislation has 125 Members on it. Just as the legislation to recognize the heroes of the Holocaust had 290-plus Members, this legislation has to have 290 Members or more for it to pass the House. We have 125.

This legislation was filed on February 28 of 2023 about a month after the legislation was filed to honor the heroes associated with the Holocaust. I am proud to be on both pieces of legislation. The legislation that we have filed to honor the persons who were enslaved, whose lives were sacrificed has been in the House now for about the same length of time as the legislation to honor the heroes of the Holocaust.

So let's just take a moment and read some of what this legislation says that would honor those persons who were enslaved posthumously with a Congressional Gold Medal. I might add that the heroes of the Holocaust received this posthumous honor as we are trying to acquire the same for the persons who were enslaved.

I will read from a Dear Colleague that we sent out to our colleagues here in Congress:

Support the historic Congressional Gold Medal for America's economic foundational fathers, mothers and children, the enslaved.

It reads:

On July 18, 1956, Congress, the House and Senate, awarded a Congressional Gold Medal to Confederate soldiers.

I might also add to soldiers who associated themselves with the Union.

However, to this day, Congress has never awarded a Congressional Gold Medal to the over 10 million enslaved men, women, and children who toiled for over 240 years to build the economic and infrastructural foundation of the wealthiest nation ever to exist on our planet.

These foundational mothers and fathers of our country labored arduously constructing our cities, roads, bridges, and wells. They laboriously planted as well as harvested the food that fed our Nation. They were the de facto producers of the cash crops that fueled our Nation's foundational wealth.

These enslaved human beings of African ancestry toiled as slaves without remuneration or recompense. Their humble hands

were relied upon for the construction of some of our Nation's most renowned edifices and monuments including the White House, the Capitol building, and the Washington Monument.

In truth, their sacrificed lives provided the genesis of our Nation's economic preeminence. These sacrificed human beings, men, women, and children, were the greatest contributors to the American foundational economy . . .

Why would I say they were the greatest contributors?

Because for more than 240 years—it has been estimated to be about 246—but for more than 240 years they sacrificed their lives. Their lives were sacrificed. They didn't do it willingly. They were forced into slavery. They were enslaved, and it was intended that this would go on ad infinitum. It was never intended at the genesis of slavery that it would be for just a few months or a few years, maybe a few decades, one century—no, it was to be forever. Their lives were sacrificed to make America great.

So if you are in this country today, regardless as to why you are here or how you arrived, know that you are standing on the sacrificed lives of more than 10 million people who were enslaved. And their enslavement is what has made this country what you see and what you experience today.

Let me continue:

Yet their contributions are almost universally forgotten, under-recognized, ignored, overlooked, and/or undervalued.

For these and countless other justifications—this is what I said to my colleagues in the letter I sent to them asking for their support.

For these and countless other justifications, I am beseeching Congress as a matter of conscience to award a Congressional Gold Medal collectively to the human beings who are the foundational mothers, fathers, and children that toiled as slaves without recompense or recognition for their unparalleled contribution to the infrastructural and economic development of the nation we enjoy today.

We have awarded similar Congressional Gold Medals to others. My prayer is that we can do it for them. But we haven't.

That doesn't mean that what we did on Wednesday should not have occurred. I supported it. I believe that people of good will should have the courage to support the victims of the Holocaust and the heroes of the Holocaust.

Just as I believe it strongly, I believe equally as strongly that people of good will, the same people that signed on to the legislation so that we could have the vote on Wednesday, I believe people of good will such as these people can sign on to a bill to accord a Congressional Gold Medal to the enslaved persons, the economic foundational mothers and fathers of the country whose lives were sacrificed for more than 240 years to make America great.

Yes, I thank all who have signed on.

I have to be candid. I regret that we didn't get 290 signatures so that we could pass this legislation in this Congress. I regret it.

It is a painful thing to say we didn't get those 290 signatures. We made the appeals. It is a painful thing to say we didn't get 290 people to honor them just as we honored the victims of the Holocaust, just as we honored the persons who were heroes of the Holocaust. Some 60 of them have been honored as of Wednesday. I believe that we can do a similar thing for the persons of African ancestry who suffered here in this country.

□ 1300

Mr. Speaker, I want you to know that notwithstanding the fact that it didn't pass, hasn't passed in this Congress, and I don't think it will, I would love to think that we could push it through now. I don't think we will. However, I plan to file it in the next Congress. If it is God's will, I plan to do it and ask my colleagues to sign on to it again, and maybe we will get the 290.

Nevertheless, it is a painful thing to know that we could not get the 290 in this country in this Congress, which means we have to start all over again with the bill to honor the persons who are the economic foundation, the mothers and fathers, of the country. We have to start again in a new Congress next year, a new House, a new Senate, and a new President and push forward.

I just hope and pray that the 290 persons plus who signed on to the legislation to accord the Congressional Gold Medal to the heroes of the Holocaust posthumously, I just hope and pray that they will sign on to this legislation to honor persons who were the foundational mothers and fathers.

They never received any recompense, they never received any remuneration, and they never received any kind of thank you for your sacrifice.

The country has not been fair to them. The Congress has not been fair to them, but I still have hope. I will still come back and present the bill again. As long as I am breathing and I am in this Congress, I will be pushing for this legislation to pass.

I just want to know that people treat all crimes against humanity similarly, maybe not exactly same, but similarly. I just hope that we will treat this crime against humanity the same way we have treated the crime against humanity that we respect as the Holocaust.

Two crimes have been committed against humanity. One has been treated fairly in terms of what we are doing here in the House, the other has not. However, I believe in second chances and third chances.

So I close with these words, Mr. Speaker: I think it is difficult for people in this country to embrace what happened to the enslaved because it happened here. It is easy to look through the window of life and take a principled, conscience, and laudable position. It is difficult to look into the mirror of life and be equally as principled and conscience and laudable.

It is difficult because when you look through the window of life, you are looking at someone else and what they have done and you can see the horrors and you can speak with fervor about those horrors. However, when you look into the mirror of life, you are looking at yourself, and I believe that it is difficult for a good many people in this country and in this House, the House of Representatives, and in the Senate to look into the mirror of life and speak truth to yourselves about what happened and what we ought to do to show respect for some 246 years of suffering and sacrifice that made America great.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

THE WAR ON THE NUCLEAR FAMILY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, obviously, we are about to begin a new session, and one more time I would like to review what I think are some of the major mistakes that this body has committed over the last 50 or 60 years that we should be revisiting now, now that it is apparent the American public wants some change.

It is a goal of this body, and really even a constitutional mandate, that we treat everybody equally and that we don't prefer one group of people or ethnic group of people over another group of people, people of one lifestyle over another lifestyle.

Nevertheless, one more time I think I have to bring up that it is very apparent that we are treating people differently and that is particularly with regard to people who elect to raise children in marriage and people who, for whatever reason, sometimes their fault sometimes not their fault, elect to raise children out of marriage.

Mr. Speaker, if you look at almost every single government program, they are conditioned or based upon percent of poverty. If you are below a certain income level, then you are eligible for that program, and if you are above a certain level, then you are not eligible for benefits under that plan.

Since in a household with a man and woman both there and both parents of a child, it is overwhelmingly likely that one of them is working full-time, they will be making \$40,000 or \$50,000 or \$60,000 or more, that couple will almost never be considered to be in poverty.

Mr. Speaker, if you have another situation in which the mother and father are in different households, if one of these people is not working or working minimally, making maybe \$15,000 or \$16,000 a year or less and the other person is working full-time, then that is considered to be not in poverty.

As a result, financially, there is an incentive to make a household in which the mother and father are not both there the norm.

Now, almost all of the programs that began with the so-called war on poverty in the 1960s gave grants or money to people who did not have both a man and a woman in the household. Some of these programs at the time were known as food stamps, some were healthcare, what is known as Medicaid, or different States have different words for it. In Wisconsin we call it BadgerCare.

We have low-income housing which is, again, available only to people with low income. As a matter of fact, in a lot of these low-income housing projects one of the goals they have when they hire managers is to make sure that there is not a man in the household or a father in the household because then you shouldn't be able to take advantage of the program.

There used to be cash grants called AFDC which were eliminated during the Gingrich/Clinton years, and they, again, gave cash basically to people in situations where you did not have a mother and father at home. It has since been replaced by TANF grants.

If someone does decide to work 14, 15, or 20 hours a week there are grants for daycare that are not eligible for situations in which you have both parents at home. If you want to go to college, there are grants called Pell grants available, but not available to people in which you have both the mother and father at home.

This should concern us all. It is not difficult to come up with hypotheticals. Another program which kind of discourages full-time work is called the earned income tax credit program where a family can wind up with \$5,000 or \$6,000 that you won't get if you are making say more than \$40,000 a year or married to somebody with a normal income.

We have to revisit this problem.

These programs have changed America such that in 1965 before these programs kicked in, only about 5 percent of children born in America were born to a family without a mother and father at home. That number is now over 40 percent.

Other programs have become more popular. Something I think we ought to remember is that it is not the cost that bothers me as much as it is what it is doing to America.

At the turn of the century, we had about 17 million people on FoodShare, what people call food stamps. That number is now 42,000. In other words, we have over doubled the number of people on food assistance. America is very generous. I tour my food banks all the time. They do a fantastic job. Mr. Speaker, I love those food banks.

America does have to cover people, but in order to get on food stamps, Mr. Speaker, you need a lower income, and I think we ought to be spending more time wondering why.

Right now, unemployment is almost nonexistent, but despite the fact that we have almost nonexistent unemployment, we skyrocketed up from 17 mil-

lion to 42 million people on food stamps. So it is important.

I want to dig into these programs because some of these programs give people on the programs benefits that people not on the programs would not use.

Mr. Speaker, if you talk to your clerk in the local food store they will comment, if you ask them frequently, that people on the government benefit are buying things that the people behind the counter would not think of buying.

We have to ask ourselves: Is that right?

There is a housing program called section 42 which, in my opinion, does more to benefit property tax developers than it does to benefit the people living in the housing. There is a program in which because the government pays for 70 percent of the cost of the housing, the housing built for so-called low income is frequently nicer or more lavish.

If you look at the kitchen counters and if you look at where they build the properties, they are more lavish than the average American finds.

I had a staffer a little while ago who got married, and when she and her husband were looking for housing, they were disappointed to find that the nicest housing was all low income and they would not be able to afford such nice housing.

I talked to a property developer, and he found it difficult to buy new land for new apartment projects because he always got outbid by the developers who were having 70 percent of their projects paid for by the government.

I have got two problems there. One is the general marriage penalty associated with the programs and the other is whoever put the program in there and supports the program appears to me to be more concerned about making money for property developers than even the people who need the low-income housing.

I should point out that some low-income housing is going to be a necessity. We have people on Social Security whose incomes are so low that they can't even afford an apartment. I can understand the reason for this housing. Overall, the point is that we, right now, are operating a policy in this country and have been operating the policy for 50 years that says: We don't want both mom and dad in the home with the children.

George Gilder has written a lot about this problem. Robert Rector has written a lot about this problem.

There is no question that one of the reasons we have gone from 5 percent of the children born without a mother and father at home to now over 40 percent is that the problem is the government is encouraging this.

Mr. Speaker, I want to point out, you may say, well, that is sure surprising. This is not something that we wanted.

However, there are a lot of people who actually view the American nuclear family as a problem. Karl Marx,

which seems kind of strange, 170 years ago felt a goal of the hard left, the progressive left, whatever you want to call it, was to abolish the family.

There are names that maybe are forgotten, but in the sixties, we had the radical feminists like Kate Millet, who was a well-known person, talked about destroying the American family. She, for whatever philosophical reason, didn't want men in the household. So there are people who want this.

Two of the three people who founded Black Lives Matter called for ending the so-called Western prescribed nuclear family structure. There is no question that about 5 years ago around here Black Lives Matter was perceived to be a very powerful institution, and a lot of people spoke about it positively. So it is important to remember they wanted to get rid of the nuclear family.

□ 1315

How are we going to get back to where we used to be, where almost all children had a mother and father at home unless there would have been some catastrophe and one of the parents would have died?

I think that is something that we should be looking at unquestionably over the next 3 months.

This is a totally artificial thing. When I talk to people in other countries, such as Korea and India, it is almost unheard of all of this not having the father in the home.

Why did it happen in the Western countries and the United States? No question, I think the reason is government policy has encouraged it.

I hope that, in the next 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 months, as we look at government programs, we have as our goal not discriminating in favor of families that don't have a mother and father at home and, even more importantly, stop discriminating against and displaying hatred and inequity against families in which both mother and father are at home.

One other anecdote of a program, Pell grants, which I mention just briefly. I have been talking about this, even before I got here, for 25 years of my life, and once I talked to a young gal who must have been 23 or 24 about the marriage penalties associated with college scholarships, what she thought about this.

She said she and her husband got married before they were having children, but none of her friends were getting married because they got free college. In other words, they wanted to have the government pay for their college, and they realized that whoever puts together this Food Stamp program had, whether it was intentionally or unintentionally, put together one more program in which you were discriminated against if you were married and actually were discriminated against if your parents were married.

It is another problematic situation here, and I hope that the American public and conservatives around this

Capitol and throughout the country demand a situation in which we stop discriminating against the old-fashioned nuclear family.

I think that is the most important problem facing America and the next Congress. It is a difficult issue to deal with because you don't want to be labeled mean or cruel. On the other hand, as a public policy, I think coming up on 60 years, maybe 55 years, brazenly discriminating against a nuclear family with a mother and father at home has to end.

We should stop treating the mother-and-father family at home so poorly. We should stop penalizing them by keeping the newer apartments off the market for them. It is not right that they can't afford things in the food store that maybe people with potentially lower income are.

As far as health insurance is concerned, we discriminate against middle-class America. They frequently have big, \$15,000 to \$20,000, deductions on their healthcare, deductions that we would not give to somebody who, under normal circumstances, does not have both parents in the home. This is another example of discrimination and another example of policy in which we try to destroy the American family.

I think the first step here is to have more and more people talk about it. I think the American people should be aware of it. The American people should not be supportive of any program that so brazenly discourages having a mother and father at home. I realize it can happen.

I will finish with this. When this was first brought to my attention, there was a great author by the name of George Gilder, who wrote books about this family situation in the late 1970s and the early 1980s, and he actually studied what was known as the ghetto at the time in Albany, New York.

He followed around a young couple, a man and a woman, after the young woman got pregnant, was going to become a mother.

George Gilder was probably born around 1940. He felt at the time that that would be cause for concern and alarm, that the young woman was pregnant. In fact, he found out that, at that time in Albany, New York, it was not considered a bad thing, but it was considered a good thing because now they would be eligible for food and eligible for medical care and finally be able to get out from under their parents. They were given their own apartment.

By the way, I find that in my district, too. When I talk to people administering the low-income housing, it is not unusual that people get into low-income housing because they are leaving their parents' house, which a lot of young people want to do, but I guess one way to get your own apartment is to have a child. I am not sure that is a good thing.

In any event, George Gilder, looking at things, found a certain subset of so-

ciety that felt it was monetarily beneficial to have a child without the father legally around. As a result, we were probably shifting society away from and discriminating against the mother and father at home.

George Gilder made another observation as he studied this class of people. Traditionally, in our society, the purpose of the father has been to support the family, and George Gilder found that, frequently, fathers' income went up and responsibility level went up as he got married and had children and assumed the role of being the breadwinner and responsible for paying the mortgage, that sort of thing.

As we got away from having the father in the home, they lose that motivation or that purpose in life. As they lose that purpose in life, they are more likely to do drugs and more likely to not be as productive citizens. In other words, the dad becomes more productive after he gets married, not before he gets married.

Not only is this, I think, the current policy, a problem for children, but I think it is a big problem for men, as well. It is something that isn't talked about nearly as much as it should be, but sometimes people wonder why there is such a higher percentage of men incarcerated than women, a higher percentage of men dying of drug overdoses compared to women. I think part of it is because it has been the policy of the Federal Government to chase men out of the household.

In any event, I leave my conservative friends around the country with this desire: over the next couple of months or 3 or 4 months, we talk about the perverse incentives and the apparent hatred of the American government for households with a man and woman both available to raise the children, and we work toward an equitable government in which we at least treat the two-parent family equally in the eyes of the government, as we do families in which both parents are not available.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

\$37 BILLION MUSK DOGE COIN SCANDAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHWEIKERT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, we are told that Trump has a mandate and that, as a result of this election, the Republicans have a mandate to outlaw interstate travel by pregnant women, to deport 20 million people, to trash NATO, trash the dollar, and slash Social Security.

Let us look at this mandate. Let's try to see the size of the mandate. There it is, that little area there.

Mandate, my ass. This is the smallest possible differential between the two parties.

If we can put up the next chart.

Let's compare this mandate historically.

Calvin Coolidge, that is a mandate. He won the popular vote by 25.2 percent. Joe Biden, 4½ points. Mr. Speaker, that is three times the mandate that is being claimed by the Trump administration. This chart shows an edge for Trump of 1.7 percent.

Since we created that chart, California has finally counted its votes. We in California, we take a month to vote, and then we take a month to count the votes. They are still valid. So it is really 1.5 percent difference.

Compare that to Hillary Clinton's mandate. In 2016, she beat Trump by 2.1 percent of the popular vote. That might be a mandate, but this here, that is a squeaker. That is like saying you watch a football game and one team beats the other 48 to 47 because of a missed extra point, and that is a blow-out? Hardly.

There is no mandate to outlaw interstate travel by pregnant women or to trash NATO or deport 20 million people.

If anything, we will see the reason people voted the way they did, not only here in the United States, but around the world, although we would want to put this right side up.

Here we go.

Yes, inflation peaked at about 9 percent in the United States, and the Biden-Harris administration was held responsible by voters. Keep in mind this was a post-COVID effect. We saw it in the U.K., where they had 11 percent inflation; in the EU area, 11.5 percent, but people were pretty angry at that inflation, and you do have a mandate to bring it down, but I have good news for the Republican Party.

We Democrats have already done nine-tenths of the work. You see, it was about 9 percent. It is now down to 2.6 percent inflation, and every economist will tell you that you want about 2 percent inflation. Some would argue even higher, but the real hawks say 2 percent inflation in the economy.

We brought it down from 9 percent to 2.6 percent. It is your responsibility to get it down that last 0.6 percent, but you do not have a mandate to deport 20 million people.

Now, let's talk a little bit about an aspect of cryptocurrency that hasn't come up, and it also relates to the administration of the Federal Government. You see, we have a number of departments in the Federal Government, and we name them. We don't name them after companies. It is called the Department of Transportation. It is not called the Pepsi Cola Department.

Think of how much money a tobacco company could make if we took that big canyon in Arizona and renamed it the Marlboro Man Canyon. We don't do that, except once.

We now have a commission. We have had other commissions designed to study the efficiency of government and our expenditures, but this is the first

time we have called the commission a department and spelled out DOGE, D-O-G-E. Well, why is that? Is that just a funny name? No, it is not.

It is pimping out the U.S. Government to help a private investment by naming a very important commission after dogecoin.

So what has happened? Has it worked? Has it spiked up dogecoin? You bet. Dogecoin went up by 2½ times, almost 3 times from election day to a week after election day.

You might say: Well, we now have a crypto-friendly administration. No. Bitcoin went up 27 percent. Dogecoin went up about 270 percent. Who knew about this? Who profited from it? How much profit was reached? The increase in that 1 week was worth \$37 billion to those who bet on dogecoin.

Elon Musk tells us that he is serving on this commission and not earning one penny, but he is the one person in the country who knew that we would have something called DOGE, and he knew it the day Trump was elected, and many people who thought Trump would be elected maybe knew a day or two before.

In the 10 days before the name was announced—I think it is actually a week—we saw this value increase by \$37 billion, or 270 percent, roughly, compared to 27 percent for bitcoin.

□ 1330

Certainly, Mr. Musk knew. This is the increase in DOGE.

Now, let's talk about how it compares to Bitcoin. We see a peak on DOGE right there at the announcement, so who was buying DOGE in the days before?

Who knew that that would be the announced famous name of a department that is getting more ink than just about anything else in government? Elon Musk knew. The man who says he is not going to earn a penny from the Department of Government Efficiency has already made some undisclosed portion of \$37 billion.

I call upon Mr. Musk to show this country his trading in cryptocurrencies from a few days before the election until today so that we can know how the man who won't take a penny is benefiting, or perhaps not benefiting, from the \$37 billion increase in the value of this cryptocurrency as a result of his unique name.

He says he is doing it for free. There are, of course, others who knew the name and might have known the effect on the value of dogecoin.

Let us talk a little bit more about cryptocurrencies. Cryptocurrency claims to have one advantage over the dollar and that is that it is electronic. What about the dollar being electronic? It is, to some degree. We have Venmo and Zelle, but crypto has spent more money buying politics perhaps than any other industry, depending upon how you define the other industries.

For hundreds of billions of dollars, what do they get for it? They passed in

this House a law prohibiting the Federal Reserve Board from making the dollar electronic and more efficient. Why? Because of the same reason that Pepsi-Cola would like to pass a law saying you can't put any bubbles in Coke. They want to use the power of the Federal Government to cripple their main competitor.

I commend Donald J. Trump for his brilliant statements of 2019 when he said, in July, "I am not a fan of Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies, which are not money and whose value is highly volatile and based on thin air. Unregulated cryptoassets can facilitate unlawful behavior, including drug trade and other illegal activity. . . . We have only one real currency in the USA, and it is stronger than ever, both dependable and reliable. It is by far the most dominant currency anywhere in the world, and it will always stay that way. It is called the United States dollar."

He was right in 2019, but he has changed, and the importance of this change should not be underrated.

I got involved in looking at cryptocurrency because of my involvement in foreign affairs. I saw the pressure we were able to put on Iran. Why? First, there was a huge disagreement, at least in my party, about the nuclear deal that we negotiated as a result of that pressure. We split into two camps. Some said that the pressure we put on Iran is so intense that we are getting a good nuclear deal, and some said that the pressure we are putting on Iran is so intense that we should get a better nuclear deal. They agreed on one thing: It is the pressure.

What was that pressure? I have been here since 1997. I voted for sanctions on Iran. I proposed sanctions on Iran. What was effective? When we told countries that if they wanted to use the U.S. dollar, they had to diminish their oil purchases from Iran. It was the power of the dollar, not the power of our aircraft carrier groups, that forced Iran to sign an agreement they otherwise wouldn't have and might have been able to get an even better deal than that.

What is the effect of taking the dollar out? First, we lose that international power and, God forbid, to achieve our foreign policy aims, we would have to commit our soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen.

Second, we have a level of fiscal responsibility in this House that would make Argentina blush. How is it that we usually get away with it? We get away with it because of the role the United States dollar plays in international affairs. It is the reserve currency, so yes, we print it. That would be inflationary. Most of the time, it isn't. It was for a couple of years during COVID.

We print these dollars. We spend them because we don't want to raise taxes and don't want to cut benefits. How do we get away with it? Everybody else in the world is using the dol-

lar. Donald Trump understands the importance of that. As I quoted him, he understands how critical it is that the U.S. dollar plays that role.

So, what happened to Donald Trump? Well, he takes the right position to defend the power of America and the wealth and income of American families unless he can get a lot of money for doing the opposite. We saw the crypto industry provide hundreds of millions of dollars in campaign contributions. Then, we also saw the creation of World Liberty Financial, a crypto company controlled by Trump's family, to which he has an official position as chief crypto advocate. So now Donald Trump has become chief crypto advocate, abandoning the interests of America and abandoning the interests of American families.

What is the objective of crypto? It is said here by crypto backer Sam Altman. He says, "I think the idea that we have a global currency that is outside the control of any government," so the U.S. can't use it to enforce its tax laws, its sanctions laws, or its laws against the drug trade, "is a super logical and important step on the technology tree."

That is what the crypto world wants to do to us. They tell us. Trump knows how bad it is, and until he could profit by doing the opposite, he agreed with me on this issue.

I look forward to fighting for the Trump of 2019 on this issue. Let's move on to the next slide.

Mr. Speaker, just to show you that Trump understands what is going on, there is another possible currency, not a cryptocurrency, which has not benefited him, and that was a proposal that he opposed.

We require a commitment from these countries—which countries? Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa—that they will neither create a new BRICS currency nor back any other currency.

Why this intense effort to prevent them from creating another currency? Because Donald Trump knows that having the dollar reign supreme means lower interest rates for American families. It means America has greater influence in the world. He still knows that rival currencies are bad for the American family, the American people, and the American Government, and he is opposed to new currencies when he can't make extra money from their creation.

But when he sees the campaign contributions from cryptocurrencies and when he sees the money his family is going to make off of their new crypto enterprise, he seems to move in the other direction.

COMMENDING SOUTH KOREA'S PEOPLE AND PARLIAMENTARIANS

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I commend the people and the parliamentarians of South Korea. They inspired the world when they were faced with an outrageous declaration of martial law. The parliamentarians fought their way

into their parliamentary building and voted 190-0, including all the members who were able to vote from President Yoon's party, to stop the martial law.

President Yoon's declaration of martial law was absolutely outrageous. It was an affront to South Korean democracy and an affront to the worldwide effort for democracy and the rule of law.

What was also outrageous was his attempt to justify it on national security grounds because that declaration of martial law and—thank God it was stopped in a few hours—not only did nothing to enhance South Korea's national security; it undermined it because what are the two pillars of South Korean national security? The first is the unity of the South Korean people in their dedication to democracy and the rule of law. President Yoon undermined that. Second, it is the relationship between the Republic of Korea and the United States and the American people.

Our commitment to South Korea is not a remnant of the fact that we fought together in the 1950s. Yes, we remember history, but our dedication to South Korea is there because of our shared dedication to democracy.

President Yoon tried to undermine that. I applaud the people of Korea and the parliamentarians of Korea on making sure that he was unsuccessful.

MAKING AI A TOOL FOR GOOD

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, in May of the year 2000, I was at this podium talking about the dangers of what I called engineered intelligence, artificial intelligence from our computer engineers or new types of mammalian life from our biological engineers, say a 1,000-pound mammal with a 200-pound brain that might beat my grandkids on the law school admissions test.

Right now, artificial intelligence is the rage, and the question before us is, is it a tool or is it a creature? The answer is clear: For the next quarter century at least, it is a tool. It is a powerful tool, an increasingly powerful tool, and we need to do a lot in Congress to make sure it is a tool for good.

We also have to think of the second half of this century and whether artificial intelligence becomes a creature with its own volition and its own objectives.

We are spending trillions of dollars to make artificial intelligence more intelligent. If we didn't, and we are, but while we are doing it, so is China, so is Europe, and so are others. Nothing is going to derail this effort to use artificial intelligence to make money and power, but while we are spending trillions making AI more powerful, perhaps we should spend 1 percent in a government agency to do some research on how to deal not just with the problems that confront us in the next few decades, but those that confront us in the second half of this century.

I mean, we need to do research. I look forward to working with my colleagues in designing a bill to authorize

this so that we are monitoring for and preventing self-awareness, ambition, survival instinct, volition.

If we do not, then all I can say is this. It was several hundred years ago, some would say perhaps only 100 years ago or less, that our ancestors showed a new level of intelligence. We said hello to the slightly less intelligent Neanderthal, and then we said good-bye to Neanderthal. I realize there are genetic studies and footnotes to what I am saying, but we are here, Neanderthal isn't, and that is because that was the last time a new level of intelligence arose.

It is only a matter of time before artificial intelligence is more intelligent than any human. I mean that in a generalized sense, not just doing the things computers are good at, but doing the things that we do.

We had better make sure that the machines we build do not literally take on a life of their own, create their own objectives and their own tasks, seek to survive and propagate, and seek to achieve their own objectives.

□ 1345

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California has 8 minutes remaining.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, artificial intelligence is a powerful tool. It will be a more efficient tool.

The question is, will it remain unaware?

If it becomes aware, will it have objectives?

Some have said that artificial intelligence will be the perfect Zen Buddhist, well aware of the situation but utterly uncaring as to what happens.

You go to today's largest computers and say: I think I should hit you with a sledgehammer and remove all your parts and sell the parts.

How much will I get for the parts?

Today's computer, today's artificial intelligence, will do its best to calculate the value of those parts.

You go to the stupidest or one of the less intelligent life forms, perhaps a cockroach running across the floor, and tell it that you want to stomp on it and see how it reacts. It has a survival instinct.

Let us hope that artificial intelligence does not develop a survival instinct, that it does not develop self-awareness.

However, let us not just hope. Let's take 1 percent of what we are doing to make AI more powerful to make sure it is safe. I look forward to working with my colleagues on that objective.

While I am talking about engineered intelligence, many decades from now we will confront another issue, and that is genetic engineering, designed to create new levels of intelligence. Whether they start with elephant DNA or human DNA, certainly a mammal with a genetically engineered brain 10 times the size of the average human would probably be pretty smart.

While I do not know whether artificial intelligence will have a survival instinct, ambition, a desire to affect its environment so as to ensure its own survival or its propagation, I do assume that any life form we create will have all those things. As I exemplified with the cockroach, every biological entity has a survival instinct. The DNA that did not wish to survive and propagate didn't, and it isn't here.

We will confront that issue many decades from now, and our successors or their successors will have to wrestle with what kind of genetic engineering can be done that affects intelligence.

Our Congress here has got to deal with the computer engineering that is already in front of us. We can worry about some of the short-term things: Is a self-driving car safe or will we see an automobile accident? That is important. We want to save people from automobile accidents, but it is not existential. We, as humankind, have lived through automobile accidents and bad drivers.

What is existential is the possibility of creating an artificial intelligence with general capacities and self-learning that also happens to develop—we don't know how this arises. We don't even know whether it exists in certain animals. We know it exists in ourselves—self-awareness, ambition, a desire to survive, and an ability to set its own goals.

I look forward to working with my colleagues. My fear is that all the money and power in the world is going to go hell-bent for making AI powerful, and there will be nothing, not even crumbs going into making AI safe. Those few crumbs will go into dealing with issues that involve the safety of one person today who could be hurt in an automobile accident, and even less than crumbs will go into the bigger issue of whether AI develops its own ambition and self-awareness.

Mr. Speaker, in less time than I was allocated, I have covered four different subjects, and I look forward to rejoining with so many of my colleagues next week. I yield back the balance of my time.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Kevin F. McCumber, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1432. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the deductibility of charitable contributions to certain organizations for members of the Armed Forces.

H.R. 3821. An act to reauthorize the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act of 2018.

H.R. 5863. An act to provide tax relief with respect to certain Federal disasters.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 91.—An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal collectively to 60 diplomats, in recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Holocaust.

S. 4243.—An act to award posthumously the Congressional Gold Medal to Shirley Chisholm.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, December 9, 2024, at noon for morning-hour debate.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 7779. A bill to promote remediation of abandoned hardrock mines, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-823, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 8150. A bill to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to establish procedures for conducting maintenance projects at ports of entry at which the Office of Field Operations conducts certain enforcement and facilitation activities; with an amendment (Rept. 118-824, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Energy and Commerce discharged from further consideration H.R. 7779.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Ways and Means discharged from further consideration H.R. 8150 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILL

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII, the following action was taken by the Speaker:

H.R. 7779. Referral to the Committee on Natural Resources extended for a period ending not later than December 19, 2024.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. BEAN of Florida (for himself and Ms. HAGEMAN):

H.R. 10317. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to establish a community engagement requirement for certain individuals under the Medicaid program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BURCHETT:

H.R. 10318. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize the use of physical

or digital copies of certain certificates for certain Federal Aviation Administration inspections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. FLOOD (for himself, Mr. BOST, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. CISCOMANI, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska):

H.R. 10319. A bill to require annual reports on bonuses awarded to career Senior Executive Service employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. KILEY (for himself and Mr. FONG):

H.R. 10320. A bill to amend title 51, United States Code, to establish a Commercial Space Transportation Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. LATTA (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

H.R. 10321. A bill to amend the definition of "production facility" in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 to exclude an equipment or device capable of reprocessing spent nuclear fuel in a manner that does not separate plutonium from other transuranic elements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. McIVER (for herself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. EZELL):

H.R. 10322. A bill to improve the effectiveness of body armor issued to female agents and officers of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. NICKEL (for himself and Mr. CLYBURN):

H.R. 10323. A bill to modify the prohibition on financing in the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. OGLES:

H.R. 10324. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to address telework for Federal employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. PETERSEN (for herself and Mr. EDWARDS):

H.R. 10325. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to carry out a program for post-disaster reforestation and restoration Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. ROSS (for herself, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Mr. BACON):

H.R. 10326. A bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to reform certain proceedings before the United States Center for SafeSport; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHNEIDER (for himself, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mr. SOTO):

H.R. 10327. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize veterans who are entitled to educational assistance under the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to use such entitlement to participate in a career transition internship program for veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SCHNEIDER:

H.R. 10328. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow taxpayers to designate overpayments of tax as contributions and to make additional contributions to the Homeless Veterans Assistance Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Com-

mittee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. VAN DREW (for himself, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. MACE, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia):

H.R. 10329. A bill to provide that it is unlawful to knowingly distribute private intimate visual depictions with reckless disregard for the individual's lack of consent to the distribution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE (for herself, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BERA, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. SHERMAN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CORREA, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. COSTA, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. PORTER, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. LIEU, Mr. Cárdenas, and Ms. LOFGREN):

H. Res. 1610. A resolution commemorating the 40th anniversary of the LA84 Foundation and of the 1984 Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles, California; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. BEAN of Florida:

H.R. 10317.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Necessary and Proper Clause of Article 1 Section 8

The Congress shall have the power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution . . .

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to establish a community engagement requirement for certain individuals under the Medicaid program.

By Mr. BURCHETT:

H.R. 10318.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize the use of physical or digital copies of certain certificates for certain Federal Aviation Administration inspections.

By Mr. FLOOD:

H.R. 10319.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require annual reports on bonuses awarded to career Senior Executive Service employees, and for other purposes.

By Mr. KILEY:

H.R. 10320.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend title 51, United States Code, to establish a Commercial Space Transportation Administration, and for other purposes

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 10321.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8, Clause 18:

The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Executive the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the definition of 'production facility' in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 to exclude an equipment or device capable of reprocessing spent nuclear fuel in a manner that does not separate plutonium from other transuranic elements, and for other purposes.

By Mrs. McIVER:

H.R. 10322.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18, Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

To improve the effectiveness of body armor issued to agents and officers of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

By Mr. NICKEL:

H.R. 10323.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

General Welfare Clause

The single subject of this legislation is:

Export Import Bank

By Mr. OGLES:

H.R. 10324.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section VIII

The single subject of this legislation is:

Telework for federal employees

By Ms. PETERSEN:

H.R. 10325.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1. To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Disaster, Environment

By Ms. ROSS:

H.R. 10326.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

To reform certain proceedings before the United States Center for SafeSport.

By Mr. SCHNEIDER:

H.R. 10327.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program

By Mr. SCHNEIDER:

H.R. 10328.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

tax contribution to support homeless veterans

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 10329.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Criminalizing the distribution of private, sexually explicit images without consent.

H.R. 4422: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.

H.R. 4832: Ms. CHU.

H.R. 4896: Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 5127: Mr. LANDSMAN.

H.R. 5141: Mr. LANDSMAN.

H.R. 5200: Mr. CRANE.

H.R. 5664: Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 6652: Mr. MFUME.

H.R. 6721: Mr. MCGARVEY.

H.R. 7779: Mr. GALLEG0.

H.R. 8312: Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 8770: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.

H.R. 9005: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 9060: Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 9157: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.

H.R. 9250: Mrs. FLETCHER.

H.R. 9298: Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 9497: Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 9625: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.

H.R. 9912: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 9950: Mr. YAKYM, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. MOLINARO, and Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.

H.R. 10203: Mr. LOUDERMILK.

H.R. 10254: Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mr. BOST.

H.R. 10300: Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.J. Res. 226: Ms. TITUS, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.

H. Res. 1079: Mr. PETERS.

H. Res. 1551: Mr. DUNN of Florida and Mr. WALTZ.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 427: Mr. MILLER of Ohio.

H.R. 549: Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 1279: Mr. MEUSER.

H.R. 1491: Mr. THANEDAR.

H.R. 1634: Mr. CROW.

H.R. 2401: Mr. LANDSMAN.

H.R. 2407: Mr. FALLON.

H.R. 2552: Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 2559: Mr. CROW.

H.R. 2700: Mr. BUCSHON.

H.R. 2742: Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 2923: Mrs. McIVER.

H.R. 3611: Mr. JACKSON of Texas.

H.R. 3721: Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 3768: Ms. TOKUDA.

H.R. 3850: Mr. BEYER.

H.R. 4303: Mrs. McIVER.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS— ADDITIONS AND WITHDRAWALS

The following Members added their names to the following discharge petitions:

Petition 18 by Mr. COHEN on House Resolution 1452: Ms. Adams, Ms. Kelly of Illinois, Ms. Stevens, Ms. Moore of Wisconsin, Mrs. Lee Carter, Ms. Lee of Pennsylvania, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Garamendi, and Mr. David Scott of Georgia.

Petition 19 by Mr. STEUBE on the bill (H.R. 1279): Mr. Carter of Georgia, and Mrs. Lee Carter.

Petition 20 by Mr. MOULTON on House Resolution 1560: Mr. Deluzio, Mr. Sorensen, Mr. Magaziner, Mrs. Watson Coleman, Mr. Davis of Illinois, Ms. Stevens, Ms. Wasserman Schultz, Mr. Norcross, Mr. Larsen of Washington, and Ms. Titus.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

AMERICA'S CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2024

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on S. 3791, the American Conservation Enhancement (ACE) Act.

The ACE Act helps to preserve ecosystems, restore habitats, and conserve wildlife by reauthorizing the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act, and the Chesapeake Bay Program, among others. I strongly support these programs and the vital conservation efforts they undertake across the Nation and that's why I will support this bill.

Unfortunately, it also includes an exemption for lead-containing sport fishing equipment under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). Section 107 of the bill would prevent the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from regulating lead tackle under TSCA even if the agency determines that it poses an unreasonable risk to human health.

This section is a solution in search of a problem. To date, EPA has not taken steps to regulate lead tackle under TSCA, and if they did, it would not necessarily result in a ban. In fact, TSCA provides EPA a range of options to protect public health short of a ban—like labeling.

TSCA exists to protect human health, and only authorizes EPA to take action when the agency finds an unreasonable risk. If EPA finds that lead tackle poses an unreasonable risk to human health, we should not take away its authority to address it.

The toxicity of lead to humans and wildlife is well-established. Ingestion of lead can sicken and kill wildlife and can pose a risk to humans handling lead. Considering the risks, several states have banned the use of lead tackle and sinkers, and, in 2023, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service finalized a rule to phase out lead ammunition and tackle in national wildlife refuges by 2026. Blocking any potential EPA action on lead tackle under TSCA will not stop these regulatory efforts. But it will lock in the uneven patchwork of protections from the harms of lead tackle across the United States.

Congress provided EPA with the authority to regulate dangerous chemicals with the goal of protecting public health and the environment. We should let EPA do its job. Congress should not make it standard practice to provide exemptions from our bedrock environmental laws at the expense of public health. Especially for something as dangerous for humans and wildlife as lead.

While I continue to strongly oppose this section, I do support the other provisions in this bill and therefore vote in favor of S. 3791.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2024

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following votes, but had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 479; YEA on Roll Call No. 480; YEA on Roll Call No. 481; NO on Roll Call No. 482; NO on Roll Call No. 483; and YES on Roll Call No. 492.

RECOGNIZING TODD MUTCHLER'S CAREER AND SERVICE TO NORTHVILLE TOWNSHIP

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2024

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Todd Mutchler of Northville, Michigan, on the occasion of his retirement. His dedication to making Northville Township and Wayne County a better place for all its residents is worthy of commendation.

Todd attended Eastern Michigan University where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and a Master's degree in Interdisciplinary Technology. Combined with his innate drive to help people, his studies inspired Todd's passion for public service. He began his career with the Canton Township Police Department, serving for 28 years before joining the Northville Township Police Department as Police Chief. During his time at the helm of the Northville police force, Todd spearheaded the creation of the Canton Response to Hate Crimes Coalition, receiving the Pioneer Award from the International Association of Chiefs of Police. He also crafted policy surrounding religious head coverings for inmates, a policy that has since been modeled by police departments across the Nation. This accomplishment was recognized with the Peace and Justice Award from the Council on American Islamic Relations.

Todd's commitment to his community led him to the position of Northville's Director of Public Safety in 2016, before being promoted to Northville Township Manager in 2019. As manager, Todd oversaw the building of a new Essential Services Complex and the removal of the decaying state psychiatric hospital buildings. Community members and his peers refer to Todd as a "champion" and "titan" for Northville Township. His love and devotion to the community as reflected through his work is admirable and inspiring.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring and celebrating the service and leadership of Todd Mutchler. His vision for Northville Township and Wayne County has always been rooted in respect, inclusivity, and collaboration, values that he ensured were upheld in every decision he made for the com-

munity. I thank Todd for his decades of public service, and wish him all the best as he moves on to the next chapter of his life.

HONORING DR. HILDA SHIRK'S SERVICE TO PUBLIC HEALTH

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2024

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and give thanks to Dr. Hilda Shirk for her longstanding service to public health in south central Pennsylvania.

Navigating the complexities of the health care industry takes a dedicated and hard-working team of leaders. I am pleased to recognize Dr. Hilda Shirk for her passion, dedication, and commitment to improving healthcare in Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District and the surrounding communities as she prepares to step down as Chair of the WellSpan Health Board of Directors.

Dr. Shirk has helped WellSpan to achieve tremendous growth in a rapidly changing industry. Under her leadership, WellSpan has become a nationally recognized leader in patient quality, significantly increasing access to and the overall quality of its care. Dr. Shirk's tenure embodied WellSpan's mission of creating healthy communities and continuously expanding care.

Dr. Shirk previously served as the President and CEO of the Lancaster Health Center. Dr. Shirk's longstanding commitment to public health is evident by her record of success in the field.

It is with great pride that I congratulate Dr. Hilda Shirk for her admirable career in healthcare, and I sincerely thank her for her service to WellSpan Health and the greater community.

RECOGNIZING SENIOR CONSTITUENT ADVOCATE AND CASEWORK MANAGER, LUIS GONZALEZ FOR HIS EXCELLENT WORK ON BEHALF OF MINNESOTA'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. DEAN PHILLIPS

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2024

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my Senior Constituent Advocate and Casework Manager, Luis Gonzalez, for his work on behalf of every constituent in Minnesota's Third Congressional District. I could not be more proud or grateful for his service.

Luis was born to immigrant parents, Sandra and Dimas, from Mexico. Raised in Houston, TX, after being born in Long Beach, California, he joined the Marine Corps straight out of high

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

school. Luis served honorably for eight years, including a combat deployment supporting Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR). He served with the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, Heather Co., where he worked alongside exceptional Marines and honors the memory of Sgt. Trujillo, Cpl. Nowicki, Cpl. Hernandez, and Cpl. Gee. After his military career, Luis transitioned into public service, joining Congressman DEAN PHILLIPS's team through the Wounded Warrior Fellowship Program, and quickly became the heartbeat of the office. We are so grateful that he chose to stay as a permanent member of my staff when his fellowship position ended.

When Luis commits, he commits. He adopted Minnesota as his home, our staff as his platoon, and our constituents' causes as his mission—and we're all better for it. A passionate advocate for people. The man even has a "MN03" tattoo. Luis is generous with his gifts and living proof of the immense value that exists in recruiting individuals from different life paths for careers in public service.

Luis is a strong advocate for veterans and the issues they face as they readjust to civilian life. Luis works tirelessly to make sure all vets and constituents get the assistance they need in a timely manner. Once Luis is on the case, he will not let go till the issue is resolved. His coworkers are never tired of hearing a boisterous "Let's go!" from his office after getting a favorable response from an agency on behalf of a constituent. Many of his colleagues agree that he would be the person they would call in the middle of the night with an emergency, both because he is so loyal he would always be willing to help and because he has inevitably dealt with any dramatic situation you can imagine at least once in the past.

In addition to his official role, Luis also served as the Unofficial District Officer Security Guard, Half Marathon Coach, and Pastry Chef. Outside of work, Luis is the best dad to Graysen Carol, an outstanding partner to Michelle, and an inspirational soccer coach in the Anoka Community.

Luis has embodied radical hospitality during his time working for my office—both as he engages with constituents and as he encourages and supports his teammates. He builds trusting relationships and strives to provide the best constituent service to each constituent and in every circumstance. He is an invaluable member of our team, and we are so impressed by his growth in this office.

The people of Minnesota's Third Congressional District were lucky to have his dedication and leadership, and he will be dearly missed. I wish Luis all the best in his future endeavors and thank him for four years of faithful service to this Nation in my office.

HONORING THE COMMUNITY SERVICE OF YAHARA LISA GUTIERREZ

HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2024

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the remarkable career of Judge Yahara Lisa Gutierrez, a trailblazer in the legal community of El Paso County.

Born in Ojinaga, Chihuahua, Mexico, Judge Gutierrez's story is one of courage, resilience

and determination. She earned her Bachelor of Business Administration in 1991 from the University of Texas Permian Basin and her Juris Doctor in 1994 from Texas Tech University, becoming a distinguished member of the legal profession.

Since taking the bench in 2009, Judge Gutierrez has been a transformative force in El Paso County's judicial system. She has presided over cases involving child abuse and juvenile delinquency with a deep sense of responsibility and compassion. Her leadership has driven innovative reforms, including the establishment of the County's first Protective Order Court, Children's Cross-Over Court, and the first Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Court in Texas. These specialized courts reflect her commitment to addressing complex social issues with empathy and effectiveness, ensuring that justice serves to protect and uplift.

Beyond the courtroom, Judge Gutierrez has devoted herself to community service. As a member of the Texas Children's Commission and the El Paso Women's Bar Association, and as a founding member of the El Paso Project Future internship program for aged-out foster youth, she has worked to empower and support others. Her accolades, including the Foster Parent Association's Judge of the Year Award, the Honorable Sam Paxon Outstanding Jurist Award, and the Trailblazer of the Year Award, highlight her contributions to the legal profession and our community.

Today, it is my privilege to honor Judge Yahara Lisa Gutierrez for her exemplary service, leadership, and dedication to our community, and wish her and her family the best upon her retirement.

HONORING NICK COE'S SERVICE AS CHIEF OF STAFF

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2024

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and congratulate Nick Coe for more than six years and three sessions of Congress in service with my office.

Nick has been a dedicated public servant and political staffer for several years across various campaigns in Minnesota. Having gone to college at St. Olaf in Minnesota's Second District, I'm glad he was able to help this office serve that community so well.

Nick has been with me since before I was sworn in. He opened my first District Office with just a flip phone and some folding chairs and has since served as my Chief of Staff for nearly four years. Nick has guided the office through different administrations, a pandemic, changing committees and moving to DC from Minnesota.

He's been instrumental in setting up strong casework teams, securing funding for community projects across the Second District, building a strong brand back home and ultimately fostering a long-term strategic vision for my office.

It was a joy seeing Nick's life grow while in my office. He got engaged and married to Hannah and they've welcomed lovely Charlotte all while he's been here.

I've always appreciated Nick's advice and counsel over the years and wish him the best in his future.

HONORING THE CAREER AND SERVICE OF MAJOR HAROLD HEATLEY

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2024

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the career and service of Major Harold Heatley, current chief deputy of the Tazewell County Sheriff's Office, who retires from his career in law enforcement this year.

Major Heatley's life of service started when he made the significant step of enlisting in the U.S. Navy in 1981. Through the Navy, he exercised great discipline, respect for his peers and courage. His ascent in the U.S. Navy culminated in the ranking of chief petty officer.

His service to the military led him to stints in Alaska and the Philippines, where he served as a military police officer. His time spent on vessels such as the USS *Tuscaloosa* and USS *Bristol County* highlights his service to the country.

Following his military service, Major Heatley dedicated a career to a private security firm as a field supervisor and later as a vice president of operations.

By 2004, Major Heatley moved to Tazewell County, Virginia. He started work as a patrol officer with the Tazewell Police Department. Other duties he held with the department included night shift patrol sergeant.

Major Heatley served the Tazewell County Sheriff's Office starting in 2010. He worked as an undercover narcotics detective and chief deputy. He also contributed to substance abuse recovery efforts, helping nonviolent offenders seek treatment and raising awareness of such programs.

In 2015, Major Heatley starred on WVVA news and their 'All Points Bulletin' (APB) features, taking over a segment that used to be headed by former Tazewell County Sheriff Harry Cundiff. His tenure with media also included features on APB Morning Edition and APB Extra.

As a result of the news program, WVVA credits Mr. Heatley with taking nearly 1,000 plus wanted suspects off the streets, in both Virginia and West Virginia.

WVVA anchors and producers appreciated Major Heatley's service to the community and outlined the warmth and kindness he brought to the newsroom. Following his 2023 departure from the network, numerous WVVA employees remarked their love and admiration for Major Heatley.

The illustrious service of Mr. Heatley is recognized by the local Tazewell County Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. Post 9696. In January of 2024, the organization awarded him the Officer of the Year Award and thanked him for his tremendous service to law enforcement.

A Virginia House of Delegates Resolution filed in the summer of 2024, commends Major Heatley for his outstanding career in law enforcement and legacy of service to the residents of Tazewell County.

In my time working with the Tazewell County Sheriff's Office and Major Heatley, I greatly appreciated his advocacy for the safety of Tazewell and his support of local law enforcement and veterans. He served on my Veterans Advisory Council as well as my Service Academy Board.

I congratulate Major Heatley on his retirement. After such an accomplished and distinguished career in serving the United States military and the Tazewell County Sheriff's Office, he is more than deserving of a peaceful and restful retirement. As his colleagues and his community extol him for his accolades, I wish Major Heatley nothing but the best.

TRIBUTE TO ANGIE GIANCARLO

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2024

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Angie Giancarlo, a valued staff member of the House Committee on Appropriations, who has 25 years of experience working in the federal government. Her commitment to our country exemplifies the hard work and commitment of an esteemed public servant.

Angie began her government career in 1999 when she joined the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works as a Staff Assistant. She was eventually promoted to Professional Staff Member. During her time on the Committee, she had a major hand in securing key legislation, such as the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 and the Safe Accountable Flexible Transportation Equity Act—A Legacy for Users.

In 2011, Angie took her twelve years of policy expertise to the House Committee on Appropriations, specifically the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies, where she would oversee accounts pertaining to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers civil works program, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and Department of Energy's power marketing administrations and petroleum reserves programs.

In September of 2017, Angie became Majority Clerk and Staff Director for the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Subcommittee. Her achievements during that Congress include the enactment of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Acts for Fiscal Year 2018 and Fiscal Year 2019.

When the House Majority switched hands in 2019, Angie continued to serve as Minority Clerk during the 116th and 117th Congress. In the Minority, Angie fought and secured many conservative priorities in the final full-year bills.

Her extensive experience earned her the position of Majority Clerk and Staff Director of the Subcommittee at the beginning of the 118th Congress. In times of divided government, her ability to negotiate resulted in significant wins. Her efforts to find common ground also led to the completion of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2024.

It is my distinct honor to recognize Angie's significant contributions to the federal government and our Committee as she transitions from her role in Congress to her next endeavor. Her tireless commitment, characterized by countless early mornings and late nights, has been invaluable to our country. Her expertise and knowledge on energy and water issues will be greatly missed. I wish Angie the best in the adventures to come, and I thank her for her dedicated service to the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2024

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, on December 6, 2024, I was not recorded on Roll Call Nos. 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490 and 491. Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on Roll Call Nos. 484, 485, 486, 487 and 488 and voted "NAY" on Roll Call Nos. 489, 490 and 491.

RECOGNIZING THE CHAMBERS HILL FIRE COMPANY

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2024

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored and privileged to recognize the Chambers Hill Fire Company on its 70th Anniversary.

The Chambers Hill Fire Company in Swatara Township, Dauphin County, was founded in 1954. Its charter, espousing that the "terms of its existence is perpetual," speaks clearly and loudly with regard to its tireless commitment to service. The Company initially bought a 1923 Hahn pumper from Goodwill Fire Company of Enghaut, and a 1942 Mercury ambulance from Steelton to provide the best possible fire protection and emergency medical services to Township residents. The Company's founding members then built a station on Chambers Hill Road, which the Company has occupied ever since, over time expanding and modernizing the historic building.

From its humble beginnings, the Chambers Hill Fire Company has earned the American Red Cross award for "Top Shelter in Dauphin County," and the Pennsylvania Department of State Keystone Democracy Award for "5th Precinct of 9,000" for being an excellent voting site. In addition to myriad awards and recognitions, the Company performs numerous and varied community services, including—but not limited to—the Bethesda Mission Women's Shelter, Chambers Hill United Methodist Church, Princess Club for disadvantaged girls, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Paxton Street Home, and the Hershey Medical Center.

The Chambers Hill Fire Company is run by volunteers who selflessly give of their personal time, energy, and treasure while risking their personal safety for the community they love; a long-lasting tradition in America and one that the Company intends to continue. The Company honors the legacy of many exceptional members they've lost over the years, to include, but not limited to: former Fire Chief Bill Metka; Jiggs Landvater; Earl Caton; former Treasurer Harry "Bo" Speelman; former Steward Rick Moyer; and longtime Firefighter, Emergency Medical Technician, and Chief Jack Wolfersberger. Saving lives and performing countless hours of unpaid service, their mantra that "Nothing is as strong as the heart of a Volunteer" is heard strongly and loudly.

Mr. Speaker, I'm honored and privileged to recognize the Chambers Hill Fire Company on the auspicious occasion of their 70th Anniver-

sary. On behalf of a grateful 10th District of Pennsylvania, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the United States of America, their service sets the standard by which we all should be judged.

TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. TIMOTHY J. BOWMAN

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2024

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and honor the life and legacy of a good friend, Rev. Dr. Timothy J. Bowman. Dr. Bowman, a retired United Methodist minister who resided in Columbia, South Carolina, was a native of Sumter, South Carolina. He was the son of the late Thonie Elizabeth and Jake Bowman.

Dr. Bowman earned an Associate of Arts degree from Sumter Area Technical College and both Associate of Arts and Bachelor of Arts degrees from the University of South Carolina. He also received a Master of Divinity degree from Gammon Theological Seminary (ITC) in Atlanta, Georgia, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia.

An ordained United Methodist minister, Dr. Bowman was actively involved in both church and community initiatives. He previously served as Vice Chairperson of the Dorchester County Community Action Agency Board of Directors and was a member of the Dorchester County Head Start Policy Council and the South Carolina Head Start Association. Additionally, he served on the Jenkins Orphanage Board of Trustees in Charleston, South Carolina, the Medical Ministry Board of Directors, and the Charleston Mayor's Advisory Committee. During his tenure at Old Bethel UMC, Dr. Bowman developed the Old Bethel UMC Outreach Youth Alternative Program in downtown Charleston, South Carolina.

Dr. Bowman served as a member of the South Carolina Conference UMC Board of Ministry, the Walterboro District UMC Board of Ministry, and the Walterboro District Committee on District Superintendent. He also served on the Board of Trustees for Gammon Theological Seminary and was a member of its Founders Day Committee. A lifelong advocate for social justice, he was an active member of the NAACP.

A proud member of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Dr. Bowman was also active in Free and Accepted Masonry. He achieved the 32nd degree and held numerous positions of distinction, including Master, Royal Arch, Knights Templar, Consistory, Eastern Star, and Shriners. He was also active with the Lincoln High School Preservation Alumni Association (LHSPAA).

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Bowman served as a Marine Corps Corporal and was wounded in combat during his service in Vietnam, earning him the Purple Heart. He was married to Mrs. Yvonne Davis Bowman, and they were blessed with four daughters: Chenoa Franklin (deceased), Dr. Pamela Bowman, Shenelle Bowman, and Jacobi Bowman. He was also a devoted grandfather to two grandchildren, Seth Franklin and Sydney Bloome.

HONORING TWIN CITIES PBS' "ALMANAC" ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2024

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 40th anniversary of "Almanac", the iconic Twin Cities PBS television show and the longest-running primetime TV program in Minnesota history. On December 7, 1984, Almanac broadcast its first episode, beaming in-depth coverage of state and federal public affairs into Minnesotans' homes. Forty years later, the program continues to inform audiences every Friday evening about the latest developments in politics, government, history, culture, sports, and more.

Today, program hosts Eric Eskola and Cathy Wurzer are joined by reporters Mary Hammer and Kaomi Lee, in addition to local personalities Kevin Kling, Sheletta Brundidge, Tane Danger, Paul Douglas, Larry Fitzgerald, Sr., and others. Under the guidance of producer Kari Kennedy and a variety of expert guests and public figures, this team uses their deep knowledge of our state to provide analysis, entertain, and inform viewers about the issues shaping Minnesotans' lives.

Throughout its 40 years, Almanac has played a special role in Minnesota politics as a source of in-depth reporting, thoughtful analysis, and even music and humor. This Friday night TV staple has enhanced our state by fostering respectful discussion across party lines and informing viewers in every corner of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Almanac, a trusted and reliable pillar of journalism in Minnesota, broadcast on Twin Cities Public Television and livestreamed via the PBS App every Friday night at 7:00 p.m. Central.

CELEBRATING STEVE GLAZER

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2024

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, along with my colleague Congressman MARK DESAULNIER, I rise to recognize Senator Steven (Steve) Glazer of California's 7th Senate District for his dedication to public service to our shared constituency.

Steve was born in Sacramento, California, and earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from San Diego State University. His roles in leadership started while he was a student when he served as president of the associated student body and chair of the California State Student Association.

In 1983, Steve began his career in public service as a press secretary for then-Assemblyman Gray Davis. Steve played a pivotal role in raising awareness for missing children by championing the movement to put their faces and stories on milk cartons, bus stops, and billboards.

In 1989, Steve founded his own public relations, media, and political consulting firm, Glazer & Associates. Steve served as senior advisor to Kathleen Brown's campaign for

State Treasurer and Michael Woo's 1994 race for Secretary of State.

Steve also successfully campaigned for Proposition 46, which created a trust fund to provide shelters for battered women, low-income senior citizens, and unhoused communities.

An accomplished political strategist, Steve served on the City of Orinda Parks and Recreation Commission from 1997 to 1999. Steve was later elected to the Orinda City Council in 2004, 2008, and 2012. He continued his service to the City of Orinda and was elected mayor in 2007 where he served until his election to the State Senate to 2015.

Some of his notable accomplishments during his tenure in the Senate include authoring a truth-in-lending law requiring more transparency in the lending process for small businesses and co-authoring a law banning the sale of flavored tobacco in California.

Steve has remained steadfast to his principles and in his commitment to improving the lives of those in his community. With the utmost respect for his service and with best wishes for his future endeavors, we extend our deepest gratitude and congratulations to Mr. Glazer as he enters this new chapter of his life. We hope the conclusion of this chapter allows him to spend more time with his wife, Melba, and his daughters, Ariel and Alex.

CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF ATW HEALTHCARE SOLUTIONS

HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2024

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate ATW Health Solutions on their 10th Anniversary of operation. ATW provides first class healthcare management and consulting services to the residents of the 1st Congressional District and Chicagoland communities.

Founded in 2014 by Dr. Knitasha Washington, DHA, MHA, FACHE, ATW Health Solutions provides unparalleled service and innovation in the healthcare industry. Dr. Washington has over 30 years of experience in the healthcare field that has allowed her to lead ATW to become one of the top small businesses in our community.

In 2009, Dr. Washington tragically lost her father, Anthony T. Washington, Sr. to a preventable medical error. This event inspired her to found ATW, and to name it in his memory. His impact is still being felt through his daughter's work to this day.

Dr. Washington has served as a board member for the National Quality Forum, National Association of Health Services Executives (NAHSE), MedStar System Patient and Family Council for Quality and Safety, and the Franciscan Health Missions and HR Committee. Through her service she has continued to advocate for equitable health solutions and work with key stakeholders to achieve these goals.

Over the last 10 years, ATW has earned national praise for transforming healthcare delivery systems as a small, minority owned business.

As unjust disparities persist in the healthcare industry, small businesses like

ATW continue to strive for a better future for all Americans, no matter their background.

Over the next 10 years the incredible staff at ATW will continue their vital work to deliver healthcare systems and treatments throughout the industry in a more efficient and equitable manner. As their Congressman, I cannot wait to see what their future holds.

The incredible research team on staff have brought previously unheard voices in healthcare to the forefront of the conversation so that healthcare outcomes continue to become more equitable. Today, we celebrate their 10th anniversary with them and wish them another 10 years of similar success and achievement.

CELEBRATING DR. ANGELIKA SCHROEDER'S STORIED CAREER AND SERVICE TO IMPROVING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

HON. JOE NEGUSE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2024

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to honor and thank Dr. Angelika Schroeder for her storied career and dedication to serving communities across Colorado, for her commitment to improving educational opportunities for our students, for her advocacy on behalf of our schools, and for her mentorship and friendship throughout the years.

Dr. Schroeder is a lifelong public servant, dedicating more than 30 years to Colorado's education system. She attended the University of Colorado, Boulder, where she earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics, a master's degree in business administration, and a doctorate in accounting. Dr. Schroeder then shared her expertise with students as a tax CPA and college professor of accounting. From there, her passion for education led her to become involved in her daughters' schools at the local, district, state, and national levels.

In 1995, Governor Roy Romer appointed Dr. Schroeder to an advisory board of the State Board of Education. In 1999, she became a member of the Boulder Valley School Board, where she served as treasurer and vice president. In January 2009, Dr. Schroeder was appointed to the State Board of Education to fill a vacancy and was later elected to the board in November 2010. She has since been re-elected twice and will complete her final term in January 2025.

Throughout her career, Dr. Schroeder has also served on the boards and executive committees of the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB), the Alliance for Quality Teaching, and the Public Education and Business Coalition. She has participated in the National School Boards Association Federal Relations Network, where she worked with members of Colorado's congressional delegation, including myself, to push for policies that strengthen our education system and make progress on critical issues—supporting bills like the No Child Left Behind Act and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

In sum, Dr. Schroeder has had a tremendous impact on the people of Colorado, consistently upholding her commitment to enhancing our state's education system and ensuring

that we serve our students to the best of our ability. The impacts of her actions will be felt for many years to come.

So, on behalf of Colorado's 2nd Congressional District, I thank and honor Dr Angelika Schroeder for her invaluable contributions to paving a better future for our state, country, and the upcoming generations.

I Thank Angelika and wish her all the best in your future endeavors

RECOGNIZING POLICY ADVISOR
AND SENIOR CONSTITUENT AD-
VOCATE, MEG MONTGOMERY,
FOR HER EXCELLENT WORK ON
BEHALF OF MINNESOTA'S THIRD
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. DEAN PHILLIPS

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2024

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my Policy Advisor and Senior Constituent Advocate, Meg Montgomery, for her work on behalf of every constituent in Minnesota's Third Congressional District. I could not be more proud or grateful for her service.

Meg Montgomery was raised in Minnesota's Third Congressional District. After graduating from Robbinsdale Armstrong High School, she moved to North Carolina to attend Duke University where she obtained both a degree in Biology and the ability to be completely insufferable during March Madness. Meg spent a decade to New York, NY where she completed her Masters in Public Health and worked in a variety of health systems administration roles. Eventually she returned to Minnesota and began working for me in March of 2019, where she has covered both outreach and legislative activities in a variety of issue areas including healthcare, environment, energy, agriculture, aging, and education. The only things Meg loves more than health policy are her husband Dan and three children Rory, Montgomery (Monty), and Frances Miller.

As hilarious as she is brilliant, Meg always has a meme at the ready for any, and all situations. Her quiet wit and good questions always leave an impact on those around her. She provides invaluable advice on any situation and has the best style around. Meg is incredibly humble but should be so proud of her work in my office. She has helped me introduce several bills including: The ADINA Act requiring the same labeling standards for drugs as those that already exist for food; The School Access to Naloxone Act which would provide funding for and training on opioid reversal agents in schools; and The Expanding Health Care Options for First Responders Act which would create a Medicare buy-in program for first responders for the years between retirement and Medicare eligibility.

Meg has an extraordinary talent of turning a compelling constituent story into impactful legislation that will improve lives. She has created a unique role for herself serving as a policy and outreach staffer from the district office, which allows her the opportunity to leverage deep stakeholder relationships in order to inform the Congressman's legislative initiatives. Learning the legislative process while in the

DC office is one thing, handling from the district is another matter. Meg is a bridge builder across various constituent groups to gather perspectives and gain valuable knowledge. She routinely guides me and our team through complex policy issues to make informed decisions. She is an excellent representative of me in the community and a trusted and high-performing team member.

The people of Minnesota's Third Congressional District were lucky to have her dedication and leadership, and she will be dearly missed. I wish Meg all the best in her future endeavors and thank her for over five years of faithful set vice to this Nation in my office.

HONOR OF SERVING THE THIRD
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY IN
THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENT-
ATIVES

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2024

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today one final time in this sacred chamber to thank my neighbors in the Third District of New Jersey for the honor of getting to represent them in Congress over these past six years.

It is an honor that I never thought I would have. This was the district my parents chose to create a life and build a family. This was the district that raised me. I went to public schools in the same area I represent now. I played little league on the same fields I drive by heading to meet constituents. It's these places—and these people—that shaped me. I am forever grateful for that.

As I grew up, I watched my parents—my mother, a nurse, and my father, a medical researcher working to find cures for cancer and Alzheimer's—work to give back to the community that gave us everything. They had a saying that service isn't just a job, it's a way of life. And so, it was for my community and for my parents that I served.

If service is a way of life, then it's important that you start by understanding the people you serve. To do that, I held at least one town hall every month I served—81 in total—to hear directly from the people I represent. Sometimes, those people didn't agree with me. Oftentimes, I came away learning something new. Every time, I walked away with a renewed dedication to working for them—no matter who they supported or how they labeled themselves.

From town halls to small business walks to tours of organizations just trying to help, I carry with me still a million conversations that inspired me. Whether it was the Superstorm Sandy survivors who just wanted a fair process in rebuilding, volunteers at food pantries who just wanted to make sure that their neighbors didn't go without a good meal, or those military families who were looking for ways to give back after their service was over, I want to say thank you for every constituent who helped give me purpose.

It was that purpose that drove my actions. Last month, I helped to cut the ribbon on a

brand new VA health clinic in Ocean County—one of my first major priorities and a reminder that there should be no mountain too big to move to help our veterans. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I was proud to deliver wins for our servicemembers, their families, and my own community. From pay raises to better health care to improved childcare, I would like to thank every person who served and for the honor of getting to work for you as a member of the House. And it was the purpose I derived from those conversations that helped me start to lay the groundwork for building a brighter future for our state. From delivering on infrastructure and passing bills like the CHIPS and Science Act and the Inflation Reduction Act to make investments in the jobs of the future, we can better prepare New Jersey to lead in the rest of the 21st century.

If there is one thing I am most proud of during my six years representing my community in the House, it is the seemingly small acts that made a massive difference to our constituents. The thousands of casework cases closed and tens of millions of dollars returned back to our community showed that public service can make an impact. It doesn't matter if it was a passport expedited so a grandparent could see their new grandchild or critical Medicare or VA benefits secured so someone could put food on the table and pay rent, this work mattered and was our way of giving back.

No member of Congress does this alone. While our names are on the doors, it's the people behind the doors that work every day to serve and make our communities better. I want to thank each and every one of them for their hard work—often under very difficult conditions—to give back. Every win that I have been lucky enough to achieve is theirs too. As a thank you, I would like to submit their names for the record so that they can be properly recognized for the imprint they've made on this district.

My current team: Elizabeth Antonowicz, Marshall Burkhardt, Thomas Carnes, Amanda Carte, Anna Connole, Anthony DeAngelo, Kristen Foca, Ben Giovine, Danielle Giulino, Gabriela Hartney, Julianna Heck, Jason Ingle, Catherine Melman-Kenny, Hafiza Kazi, Amy Oliver, Amy Pfeiffer, Nikitha Rai, Forrest Rilling, Jerome Townsend, Lynette Whiteman.

Previous staff: Riham Amin, Sharon Anderson, Hillary Caron, Anna Conn, Gianna Djuric, Sophie Friedfeld-Gebaide, Sean Gregory, Sarah Izaak, Benjamin Kamens, Matthew Knowlton, Yujin Lee, Benjamin Olarsch, Susan Pansius, Antoinette Miles, Nathan Riggins, Cecily Scott Martin, Thomas Smith, Tyrus Stokes-Ballard, Virginia Walkey, Maura Weaver.

As I look ahead at my new role getting to serve my state, I do so with excitement and humility. I look forward to get to serve my community again—this time in the United States Senate—but always remembering the work done, the conversations had, and words that will forever echo from my parents, that service isn't a job, it's truly a way of life.

CONGRATULATING GENERAL DONAHUE ON HIS PROMOTION TO FOUR-STAR GENERAL AND THANK HIM FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE TO THIS COUNTRY

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2024

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of General Chris Donahue and congratulate him on his promotion to four-star General as he relinquishes his long and distinguished command of the XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Liberty.

A proud West Point graduate, General Donahue has dedicated his life to serving this country. Starting off as a Ranger, General Donahue has deployed over 20 times throughout his career. His deployments took him to active combat zones including in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syria.

General Donahue has served in numerous leadership positions including Director of Operations for Joint Special Operations Command, the Commandant at the Infantry School in Ft. Benning, and most recently as Commanding General of the XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Liberty. During his time at Fort Liberty General Donahue embodied his motto of "leaders jump first and eat last" as he always put the service members under his command first. General Donahue instituted the Sunset Liberty March, designed to honor veterans, active-duty service members and Gold Star Families. This incredible initiative brings together members of the community, veteran groups and active-duty service members to remember and commemorate those who have given their lives in defense of this country, as well as their family members. I am so proud to have worked with this great American and am excited to see him succeed throughout the rest of his honorable career.

Because of his vast leadership experience, and clear dedication to his country, I can think of no one better to be promoted to four-star General. While Ft. Liberty is sure to miss General Donahue's leadership, we look forward to his continued service to our great Nation as a four-star General.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in congratulating General Chris Donahue on his promotion to four-star General and I thank him for his years of uniformed service to the United States.

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF THE ANAHEIM TREE LIGHTING FESTIVAL

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2024

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 30th Annual Anaheim Tree Lighting Festival, which will bring our community together this Sunday, December 8, 2024. The festival rings in the holidays with a very special tree-lighting celebration on the steps of Anaheim City Hall in Downtown Anaheim.

For the past 30 years, the Annual Anaheim Tree Lighting Festival has provided holiday fun

to everyone in our community—and it is one of my hometown's favorite annual celebrations.

The City of Anaheim worked together with many community partners to create this event, including Children Dental Fun Zone, Credit Union of Southern California, Home Comfort USA, Knorr, Land Care, Taqueritos, The Frida Cinema, Zambos, and the Orange County District Attorney's Office. This year, the Anaheim Tree Lighting Festival includes entertainment and food, a Holiday Village, the Candy Canine Costume Contest, a visit with Santa & Mrs. Claus, a brief performance of The Nutcracker by the Anaheim Ballet Company, and the Tree Lighting Ceremony in front of City Hall.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Anaheim Tree Lighting Festival, which for 30 years has brought joy and festive spirits to help greet the holiday season.

HONORING CHARLES M. HALE, JR.'S SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2024

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and give thanks to Charles M. Hale, Jr. for his longstanding service to his community as a first responder.

It takes incredible courage to be a firefighter, and Charles M. Hale, Jr. of Hanover exemplifies this trait unequivocally. Mr. Hale recently retired from Hanover Area Fire and Rescue after 34 years of service. In that time, Mr. Hale has received numerous awards and citations for his actions in the line of duty. In 1992, Firefighter Hale was involved in the rescue of multiple civilians from an apartment fire. For his actions, Mr. Hale was awarded the Medal of Valor, the highest award in the country for public safety officers. In 2012, Mr. Hale was awarded the Medal of Merit for his actions on a vehicle accident and entrapment.

With more than 50 years of experience with fire and EMS service, Mr. Hale was a key asset to the Hanover Area Fire and Rescue. Not only was his experience vital, but his mentorship to all the other firefighters was crucial in making the Hanover Fire Department what it is today. For more than three decades Charles M. Hale, Jr. represented his community with bravery and courage. It is heroes like Mr. Hale that remind us of what it means to truly be a servant to your community. It is with great pride that I congratulate Mr. Hale on his retirement, and I sincerely thank him for his service to the community.

RECOGNIZING TECHNICAL SERGEANT LACEY MCCUEAN

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2024

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to recognize Technical Sergeant (TSgt) Lacey McCuean on her retirement from the United States Air Force.

TSgt McCuean enlisted into the Air National Guard on March 15, 2023, with the 171st Air

Refueling Wing with a Personnel AFSC. She quickly distinguished herself through exceptional dedication and service, taking it upon herself to initiate and revamp ten Squadron file plans and earning an outstanding score during staff-assisted visits. TSgt McCuean completed 30 promotion packages—no mean feat, and true commitment to developing her peers.

Then transitioning to the 193rd Special Operations Wing, TSgt McCuean played a pivotal role in enhancing mission readiness by enlisting 55 new Airmen, briefing over 1,000 individuals on Air National Guard opportunities, and mentoring future leaders through the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps. She was a key figure during Operation Allies Welcome, serving in a senior leadership role, and streamlining in-processing operations that reduced reception time by 25 percent for three lodging compounds for over 16,500 refugees, and chaired the Commander's support staff for a 200-member squadron.

In addition to exemplary service, TSgt McCuean volunteered at local food banks aiding over 1,000 at-risk families, while balancing her academics, maintaining a 3.5 GPA, and earning a dual Bachelor's degree in business and non-profit leadership. TSgt McCuean is known by her peers for her remarkable energy, demeanor, confidence, leadership skills, and contagious morale.

Mr. Speaker, I'm honored and privileged to congratulate Technical Sergeant Lacey McCuean on her well-earned retirement. Her tireless and faithful service to our Commonwealth and Nation sets the standard by which we all should be judged.

TRIBUTE TO THE SYLVAMO EASTOVER PAPER MILL

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2024

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a longstanding employer in Eastover, South Carolina. The Sylvamo Eastover Mill is celebrating 40 years of operation, and I join them in marking this significant occasion.

Sylvamo operates some of the most technologically advanced paper mills in the world and is driven by the promise of paper to educate, communicate, and entertain. The Eastover Mill is the largest, lowest-cost producer of uncoated freesheet paper in North America and the fourth-largest manufacturing employer in Richland County, South Carolina. Iconic paper brands like Hammermill, HP, and Williamsburg are all produced at the Eastover Mill, along with a variety of paper products that are staples of American businesses and homes.

Sylvamo's Eastover Mill proudly employs 800 men and women and supports over 5,000 additional jobs in related industries in surrounding communities. Additionally, through its Community Council, the Mill has demonstrated a longterm commitment to listening to and addressing community concerns.

Over the last few years, Sylvamo has provided several hundred thousand dollars to local nonprofits like Transitions Homeless Services, Harvest Hope Food Bank, and the local United Way. Employees participate in

community cleanup days, Reading Is Fundamental book giveaways with local schools, the Lunch Buddies School Program, and holiday events with the Eastover Senior Resources Group. In honor of Eastover's 40th anniversary, Sylvamo has also pledged an additional \$40,000 donation to local organizations, including Webber Elementary, Richland County Library, Mother DeVeaux Adult Day Care, and Harvest Hope Food Bank.

The Eastover Mill and Sylvamo are also committed to the long-term health of our forests and ecosystems. They partner with For-

est Stewardship Council (FSC) and Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)-certified suppliers to ensure that the fiber used in their paper products is harvested from responsibly managed forests in surrounding areas. The Mill also proudly produces over 90 percent of its energy in-house from renewable, carbon-neutral biomass residuals.

As part of its 2030 Sustainability Goals, Sylvamo is committed to increasing workforce diversity by achieving 30 percent women's representation, 35 percent women in leadership, and 25 percent minority representation in

North American salaried positions alongside specific regional targets.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in congratulating Sylvamo's Eastover Mill on its 40th Anniversary. The Eastover Mill is a shining example of the future of American manufacturing—producing the paper we rely on responsibly and sustainably, supporting family-wage jobs, and contributing to the Eastover and Richland County communities. I wish Sylvamo continued prosperity and success in the years to come.

Friday, December 6, 2024

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

The Senate was not in session and stands adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, December 9, 2024.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 13 public bills, H.R. 10317–10329; and 1 resolution, H. Res. 1610, were introduced. **Page H6443**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H6444**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 7779, to promote remediation of abandoned hardrock mines, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–823, Part 1); and

H.R. 8150, to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to establish procedures for conducting maintenance projects at ports of entry at which the Office of Field Operations conducts certain enforcement and facilitation activities, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–824, Part 1).

Page H6443

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Reverend Christopher Legg, South Spring Baptist Church, Tyler, Texas. **Page H6415**

Crucial Communism Teaching Act: The House passed H.R. 5349, to develop and disseminate a civic education curriculum and oral history resources regarding certain political ideologies, by a yea-and-nay vote of 327 yeas to 62 nays, Roll No. 492.

Pages H6417–21

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and the Workforce now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. **Pages H6417–21**

Agreed to:

Manning amendment (No. 1 printed in part A of H. Rept. 118–791) that directs the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation to periodically update

D1110

their curriculum, and include the ongoing human rights abuses and aggression against democratic values by the People's Republic of China.

Pages H6420–21

H. Res. 1602, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 5349) and (H.R. 7198) was agreed to Wednesday, December 4th.

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday, December 9, 2024 for morning-hour debate.

Page H6421

Member Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Schiff, wherein he resigned as Representative for the Thirtieth Congressional District of California, effective on Sunday, December 8, 2024.

Page H6425

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote developed during the proceedings of today and appears on page H6421.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR MONDAY,
DECEMBER 9, 2024

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 7673, the “Liberty in Laundry Act”; and S. 4199, the “Judicial Understaffing Delays Getting Emergencies Solved Act of 2024”, 4 p.m., H-313 Capitol.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

3 p.m., Monday, December 9

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12 noon, Monday, December 9

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Tiffany Rene Johnson, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, and vote on confirmation thereon at 5:30 p.m.

House Chamber

Program for Monday: To be announced.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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