

First Congressional District for giving me the honor to serve these last few years, and also my incredible staff, who both here and in Iowa have given their all to Iowa and to this country. You have made me proud every single day to know you.

Importantly, I also want to say thank you to my family: my husband, Daniel, who has been my rock and been with me every step of the way; to my siblings and nieces and nephews, who have taught me to never take myself too seriously; and to my parents, who I know are watching right now because, as I found out within the first 6 months of being in Congress, they actually DVR and record C-SPAN every day so that they can find me on the floor during votes.

You know, I think back to the day that they came to visit right before swearing in. My very first visitors to my congressional office, where my dad, Jerry, a UA retired union pipefitter welder, and my mom, a retired public school secretary, held hands and walked through the door of their 29-year-old daughter's congressional office.

I can't imagine what they thought, but I hope it was better than when I told them and sat them down at the age of 24 and said I was running for Iowa's State House, where my mom blurted out, "Why in the heck are you doing that?"

Well, it has been 7½ years since mom asked that question, and I hope every day they have seen the answer.

The reason I entered public service was because of them. You see, my parents couldn't give me a trust fund or debt-free college, but what they gave me was worth a hell of a lot more.

They taught me about treating people with respect, and seeing work to be done and doing it; about standing up for those who need a voice; and, most importantly, to never think you are better than anyone else no matter what you do or where you go.

The work I have done both in Iowa and here in Congress has been shaped by the stories and the lives of my constituents and my family, from my late grandfathers, one a firefighter and one a Purple Heart World War II vet who worked in a meat packing plant, to my uncles; from a former UPS driver to a small business owner; and my mother-in-law and my sister-in-law, both who are heroes and nurses.

Because of them, my fight for working families, wage protections, collective bargaining, paid leave, workplace protections, have continued to be, in every sense of the word, personal, and that is the way policy should be.

These laws we pass—and, unfortunately on some occasions don't pass because of stalemates—aren't just dollars and cents on a page. They are affecting people's lives.

I hope for this body and for the American people that we can have a Congress and a Senate who sees that and understands the value of public service.

Until we get there fully, I hope that young people across the country find their "why" and run. We need you. And when you get here, I hope you do the work and I hope you find an incredible staff like I did to help you do it.

You see, this place is not about the crystal chandeliers or the fancy titles. It is about the work. It is about the people in your district. It is about finding common ground where you can and just getting things done.

I have been proud to get to work with my staff the way that we did passing my first bill within the first 2 weeks, becoming the youngest woman in the history of this body to ever pass a bill through this floor; to working on the Small Business Committee and beginning to chair the Rural Development, Ag, Trade and Entrepreneurship Subcommittee, where we got to fight for things like better access to markets for our farmers and for our small business owners; to stepping up for our childcare workers, who need it most right now; and the work that we did on that Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, along with the honorable Chairman DEFazio, getting to help pass some of the best investments in rural infrastructure that has ever come out of either one of these Chambers; to standing here, I think in this very spot, having to fight back against attacks on Davis-Bacon wages, good wage protections, in the middle of a pandemic; to helping our farmers, our biofuel industries, trying to fight for and also getting done the biodiesel tax credit extender; to, again, one of the things I might be most proud of, standing here sharing a story that was hard to tell about my own battle with endometriosis, and then fighting and working with my staff to help double that funding for research that had been at the bottom of the National Institutes of Health's research for years.

I also just want to say a special thank you to the staff in Iowa, who have been there for my constituents in one of the toughest years we've ever had, this pandemic, where they have taken calls from folks wondering about their unemployment checks, wondering about how they are going to be able to feed their family because they are unemployed right now through no fault of their own, to then, on top of it, going almost 2 weeks without electricity post-derecho in my district, which was basically like a Category 4 hurricane that came through and decimated large parts of my district.

The way that my staff stepped up when, again, they themselves didn't even have electricity or WiFi is extraordinary. You make me proud every day.

And the way that my constituents came together, it made me proud to be a Congresswoman and to be an Iowan.

You see, I, again, just want to say one last big thank you to my staff. You are all incredible public servants that I am blessed to have known and some of the best public servants I have ever

met. And I should know, because I met one of the best.

That late grandfather I talked about, that firefighter, he was the one who taught me what all of this was. You see, he is the guy that I would sit around the kitchen table with when I was 10 talking about what was happening in the world. And he is also the guy that taught me what public service should be. You see, when he would run into a burning building to save people's lives, he didn't call and ask first: What color is your skin? Where are you from? Who do you love? What language do you speak?

He just showed up and he helped people, and he did his job.

That is what I have tried to do here every single day, both here in Congress and my 4 years in the State House in Iowa. It is what I will continue to do in whatever I do next.

It has been an honor and a privilege to get to serve in this body and represent this district and this country.

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

#### RECOGNIZING MISSISSIPPI'S LINEMEN AND POWER COMPANIES FOLLOWING HURRICANE ZETA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PALAZZO) for 30 minutes.

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of the linemen of Mississippi.

Following the recent Hurricane Zeta, almost 100,000 homes in our area were left without power due to the heavy rains and winds.

Nearly 1,000 of Mississippi's linemen jumped to action to serve their neighbors during our time of need. These storm teams are expertly trained and well-equipped to reinstate normalcy following a storm, and I am proud to acknowledge their work here today.

As one of America's most dangerous jobs, these individuals go to work knowing they serve a critical cause providing the power that empowers our daily lives.

So when you make a call to a loved one, use hot water, turn on an air-conditioner, or stay up to date on the news, remember the brave linemen who make these services possible.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to take a moment to thank Mississippi Power, Coast Electric Power Association, Singing River Electric Power Company, Pearl River Valley Electric Company, Dixie Electric Power Association, and the many other workers within Mississippi and from out of State who banded together to restore power back to our area.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our gratitude to these unsung heroes. Without them, our future would be a lot less bright.

RECOGNIZING THE MISSISSIPPI 1A STATE CHAMPION FOOTBALL TEAM, LUMBERTON HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a high school football team within the Fourth District of Mississippi that now can claim the prestigious title of State Champions.

The Lumberton Panthers defeated Biggersville High School, 20-14, at Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium.

This is the Panthers' fifth State title in school history and the first State title for head coach Zach Jones.

Their win was secured with just 24 seconds left of play and a tied scoreboard after senior receiver K'nylan Willis carried a touchdown pass from a junior quarterback named Rodney Parker.

The Panthers were 12-1 this season, a record to be proud of.

2020 has brought many challenges to our Nation and has not left our students and sports teams untouched.

In my opinion, there are few things better than a community coming together to celebrate the resilience and strength of young athletes.

Congratulations again to Lumberton High School, all of their players, coaches, staff, and many supporters. This will truly be a football season to remember.

RECOGNIZING THE MISSISSIPPI 5A STATE CHAMPION FOOTBALL TEAM, WEST JONES HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a high school football team within the Fourth District of Mississippi that now can claim the prestigious title of State Champions.

The West Jones Mustangs defeated West Point High School, 33-27, at Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium.

This is the Mustangs' first State title in school history and for head coach Scott Pierson, a 27-year coaching veteran.

The Mustangs were behind with 50 seconds to go when senior quarterback, Alan Follis, rushed 63 yards for the touchdown.

West Jones' season concluded with a 13-2 record, showing that, even in times of adversity, victory is possible.

Seeing a group of young athletes come together to rise above the challenges they face and a community circle around them is very special, especially in a year like 2020.

Congratulations again to West Jones High School, all of their players, coaches, staff, and many supporters. I am sure this will be a season they never forget.

□ 1845

RECOGNIZING OAK GROVE HIGH SCHOOL ON STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a high school football team within the Fourth District of Mississippi that now can claim the prestigious title of State champions.

The Oak Grove Warriors, led by Head Coach Drew Causey, defeated Oxford High School, 29-28, at Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium. This is the Warriors' second State title in school history.

The Warriors were 1 point behind with 7.1 seconds to go after a touchdown when junior quarterback Kabe Barnett made the split-second decision not to kick the extra point to take the game into overtime and, instead, rushed 10 yards for a 2-point conversion to win the game.

Oak Grove Warriors' season concluded with a 13-0 record, a perfect season even in the midst of so much uncertainty in the world.

These young athletes have risen above all the chaos that 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic has brought. They have shown great strength and leadership and brought a community together in a divided time.

Congratulations again to Oak Grove High School, all of their players, coaches, staff, and many supporters. 2020 will truly be a season to remember.

HONORING 2020 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS IN FOURTH DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition today of two Mississippi elementary schools that were awarded the 2020 National Blue Ribbon Schools award. This prestigious award is given in acknowledgment of overall progress and closing achievement gaps and/or being among the State's highest performing schools.

The first school was Popp's Ferry Elementary School, located in Biloxi, Mississippi. Popp's Ferry is a title I school for kindergarten through third grade, serving 500 students.

I want to congratulate the principal at the time of the nomination, Dr. Todd Boucher; the current principal, Dr. Vivian Malone; Biloxi Public Schools Superintendent Marcus Boudreaux; as well as all members of the Popp's Ferry faculty and staff.

The second school is D'Iberville Elementary School in D'Iberville, Mississippi. D'Iberville Elementary is a title I school for kindergarten through fourth grade, serving more than 700 students. This is their second Blue Ribbon Schools award, having previously been honored in 2009.

I want to congratulate Principal Cindy Dusang, Harrison County Schools Superintendent Roy Gill, and all D'Iberville Elementary faculty and staff members.

It is an honor that two of the four Mississippi schools awarded the National Blue Ribbon Schools award call the Fourth District of Mississippi home.

Mississippi is fortunate to have schools and educators dedicated to preparing the next generation. So congratulations again to Popp's Ferry and D'Iberville elementary schools on this incredible achievement.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF RUPERT H. LACY

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize a true leader of Mis-

issippi for his outstanding career of service, Mr. Rupert H. Lacy.

Mr. Lacy has served as the director of emergency management, homeland security, and e-911 for Harrison County, Mississippi, for 13 years.

He was appointed director in December 2007 and has been responsible for a wide range of public safety activities, including emergency planning, hazard mitigation, emergency communications disaster response, and recovery for Mississippi's second most populous county, comprised of five cities and more than 200,000 residents.

A native Mississippian, Mr. Lacy was touched by disasters growing up and saw the chaos they could cause firsthand.

In the late 1970s, he started as a volunteer firefighter but has served in many capacities since then, including deputy director of Harrison County Emergency Management, warden of Leake County Correctional Facility, captain of support services for Harrison County Sheriff's Department, and training officer for Harrison County Sheriff's Department.

An expert in all-hazards comprehensive emergency management, Mr. Lacy has been a leader on several high-profile incident management teams and delegations.

During Hurricane Katrina in 2005, he served as logistics section chief. From 2008 until 2020, Mr. Lacy served as co-chairman of the National Hurricane Conference's response committee, helping scores of coastal communities share their best practices and lessons learned.

He is detail-oriented, organized, and prioritizes safety above all, which is precisely the type of person you want running point during hurricane season or an unprecedented pandemic.

Mr. Lacy was mentored by the late former Harrison County Emergency Services director, Wade Guice, and has since continued this tradition of mentorship with his coworkers and all who come in contact with him.

When asked about Mr. Lacy, many of his coworkers responded that he is a strong father figure in their lives and has taught them so much through his positive example.

After many years of faithful and distinguished service, Mr. Lacy retired as EMA director on December 1, 2020.

A resident of Saucier, Mississippi, he is married to Ivy Lacy and is the proud father and grandfather of three children, four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren, who all certainly enjoy the extra time with him.

We thank his family for being so understanding of his long hours spent serving others. Over the door in his office, Mr. Lacy kept a plaque that said: "Remembering the past and working in the present to protect the future of Harrison County."

It is safe to say he lived this creed well. Mr. Lacy's length and breadth of experience in public safety are to be applauded.

I know many join me in wishing him a happy and restful retirement. It is my honor and privilege to recognize the remarkable career of Mr. Rupert H. Lacy.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF STAFF SERGEANT ROBERT E. CARTER

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the legacy and the outstanding life of service of Purple Heart recipient Staff Sergeant Robert E. Carter.

He was born September 2, 1986, in San Luis Obispo, California, to Rick and Linda Carter. Staff Sergeant Carter attended Rio Vista High School and San Joaquin Delta College as a firefighter for a degree in fire science. He was also in the process of completing his bachelor of science in public health at The University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

Staff Sergeant Carter joined the United States Army on April 25, 2007, and attended training at Fort Benning, Georgia, where he graduated as an 11 Bravo Infantryman.

Staff Sergeant Carter's first deployment was in 2007 to Baghdad under the Dagger Brigade in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

His second deployment was from November 2008 to November 2009 for Operation Iraqi Freedom as a rifle team leader and platoon designated marksman in charge of Small Denial Team's counteroffensive for IEDs. It was during this deployment on April 5, 2009, that he sustained injuries from an IED explosion while conducting dismounted clearance of a hostile village in Balad Ruz, Iraq.

His final deployment was in July 2011 to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. During this deployment, he created and implemented the Afghanistan National Army's sniper course.

His last assignment before retirement was to serve as a sniper-observer course trainer.

A few of Staff Sergeant Carter's awards and decorations included: Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Valorous Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, NATO Medal, Expert Infantryman Badge, and Combat Infantryman Badge.

He earned each of these accolades and will be remembered for his unwavering service to his country.

Staff Sergeant Carter was laid to rest on October 19, 2020, at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery.

He is survived by his fiancée, Erica Farmer. Staff Sergeant Carter was a beloved son, brother, and friend to all who knew him.

He accomplished more in just his 34 years on this Earth than most do in a lifetime. I had the pleasure of meeting with and presenting Staff Sergeant Carter with his Purple Heart award on January 24, 2020.

He was a true American hero, motivated by the love of his fellow man. We

are all indebted to the sacrifices he made through his unwavering commitment to boldly defending our country.

It is an honor to recognize Staff Sergeant Robert E. Carter's life and legacy of service.

HONORING THE WORKS OF CANNIE LEE CODY

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding career of service of Mr. Cannie Lee Cody.

Mr. Cody hails from Jacksonville, Florida, and volunteered at 18 years old to serve his country in the United States Coast Guard.

After a few years, he decided to follow the path to become a detective. At the age of 29, Mr. Cody graduated as valedictorian from the Duval County Patrol Academy. He served as a highway patrolman for 5 years, eventually reaching the rank of detective sergeant at the Duval County Sheriff's Office.

In the 1960s, riots began to break out in Jacksonville, Florida. One riot occurred on March 23, 1964, and on that evening, Mrs. Johnnie Mae Chappell, a mother of 10, was shot and killed. Mrs. Chappell had returned home by bus and then walked to a local store. Upon arriving home, she realized she had left her wallet and went to look for it along the highway.

According to witnesses, a dark sedan slowed down and a shot was fired from the vehicle, which killed Mrs. Chappell. The case was left open and unsolved.

Five months later, Mr. Cody and his partner encountered a young man who they suspected was involved in the murder. This encounter led them to three other assailants who also confessed to Mrs. Chappell's murder.

By this time, they had tracked down the murder weapon and enough evidence to close the case. They gave the uncovered information to the chief of police, but sadly, they were removed from the case and lost their jobs a year later.

Mr. Cody had spent the following decades trying to get justice for Mrs. Chappell and her family. For years, he sought vindication and to expose the corruption of the officials involved.

Mr. Cody went on to write a book called "The 14th Denial: A Civil Rights Memoir," which inspired the movie "Wanted Justice: Johnnie Mae Chappell." Both the book and movie are thought-provoking and share an incredibly important story.

For his service, Mr. Cody is being honored by the Department of Veterans Affairs for his dedication to our country and the civil rights movement.

Mr. Cody has spent his life fighting for what is right and serving others. It is an honor to recognize the heroic career of service of Mr. Cannie Lee Cody.

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

#### CAPITOL HILL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the

gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) for 30 minutes.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Mississippi for his great remarks about these wonderful heroes, men and women in uniform who served our country valiantly overseas and here in law enforcement.

I had the honor of attending the funeral of a constituent who passed away when the helicopter went down in Sinai a few weeks back because he was one of my constituents in San Antonio, and it was a great celebration of his life.

I want to thank the gentleman from Mississippi for honoring these great folks, your constituents in Mississippi. I appreciate it.

Mr. Speaker, here we are, as predictable as Christmas. We are at it again, a 7-day continuing resolution, which the American people look at in wonder and amazement during the Christmas season, that every year their illustrious leaders in the House of Representatives can find their way to be even more incompetent, year to year, in how we conduct the affairs of this great Nation.

We might as well call these funding debacles the Capitol Hill Christmas Pageant. We show up. We put on a show. We sell out the American people. We close up and head home. And we do it like clockwork.

I don't know if anybody has noticed, but we are almost at \$28 trillion in debt. We are blowing past our gross domestic product, a general sign in history of a nation in decline, which none of us, of course, would want to acknowledge that the United States of America would be facing.

□ 1900

I am in amazement as I watch my colleagues running around talking about budget caps. I am a fan of budget caps, but there are no budget caps here. Anyone who is talking about budget caps, going over them or going under them, we don't adhere to budget caps. We set budget caps in 2011, and had we adhered to them we would have saved almost \$800 billion since then.

But what do we do? We have these deals. We come together. We jack up the budget caps. We blow out spending in defense. We blow out nondefense discretionary spending. And then we all kind of wave at each other and complain about spending and go home. That is we do.

What are we going to do next week? We are going to spend another \$1.4 trillion, which, again, will bust existing caps by at least a little, and then some will jockey around about that, about whether we should save the \$12 billion and try to adhere to those caps, forgetting the fact that we are \$300 billion over the 2011 caps. In other words, there are no caps.

We have already spent \$2.6 trillion on COVID relief spending.

So what does that mean next year, Mr. Speaker? We are blowing past \$30 trillion in debt.