

LGBTQ pioneer in my district, David St. Pierre.

David was the longtime owner of The Menagerie, a welcoming LGBTQ nightclub and restaurant in downtown Riverside.

Since taking ownership in 1999, David made it his purpose to cultivate an inclusive safe haven for the LGBTQ community of Riverside and the surrounding Inland Empire, while adding in a touch of fun, lively entertainment.

He did that for just over 20 years. With his passion for throwing an extravagant party, his experience in generating crowd enthusiasm as the host of many events, and a keen eye for craft and style from his background in theater, David was always the life of a fabulous time.

He made a name for himself within the LGBTQ community and was highly regarded for standing up to hate crimes and injustice and declaring that homophobia will have zero tolerance in our community.

In the words of Harvey Milk, "I know you can't live on hope alone, but without hope, life is not worth living." David, you gave our community hope, hope to live freely, be accepted, and continue to fight for LGBTQ rights. You will be greatly missed but never forgotten. On behalf of the constituents of California's 41st Congressional District, thank you for your commitment to the LGBTQ community and to our community as a whole.

CELEBRATING RUSH COUNTY'S BICENTENNIAL

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Rush County on the grand occasion of its bicentennial.

Rush County was founded in 1822 by one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, Dr. Benjamin Rush. Not only is the history rich in Rush County, but so is the hospitality and the heart of its residents.

Rushville, the county seat, was recognized by my State of Indiana as a "Stellar Community," one of only 12 communities to be honored as such.

From its lively history to its heartwarming and welcoming citizens, we invite everyone here today in the House to celebrate with us this bicentennial year for Rush County.

MONOPOLY MOMENT

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

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker, we find ourselves in a monopoly moment as a country. Multibillion-dollar corporations have grown into behemoths, eliminating any real competition in their industries and using their dominance to hurt small businesses and consumers.

Meta's monopoly power has enabled it to harm women, children, and people

of all ages without recourse. Amazon has used its dominance to copy competitors' products and run small businesses into the ground.

This slide has happened under the watch of Democratic and Republican governments alike, and it is on us to stop it. That starts with giving the FTC the resources necessary to enforce our antitrust laws.

It starts with the Merger Filing Fee Modernization Act. This bipartisan, bicameral legislation is simple. It requires that a billion-dollar corporation looking to acquire or merge with a competitor pay a fee for the FTC to review the deal. That is it: a one-time fee to help ensure we don't slide further back to the times of the railroad and steel monopolies that abused workers, hurt consumers, and killed competition.

Families are hurting enough right now. They deserve competition, not capitulation to corporate interests.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this long-overdue bipartisan package.

RECOGNIZING SEAN O'BRIEN

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a member of my team for his hard work and dedication over the last 8 years.

Sean O'Brien started working for Washington's Fourth Congressional District at just about the same time that I did. He even stepped up to run my first reelection campaign. Luckily for both of us, he was successful, and he served as my legislative assistant, my legislative director, and eventually my deputy chief of staff.

I was proud to step into the role of Congressional Western Caucus chairman with Sean at the helm. With his vision, knowledge, and steadfast support as the executive director, we worked together to build an organization that I am proud to lead.

Sean, as you join the new House alumni association, never forget what you learned in the people's House. The long hours and late nights are worth it. Our work is important, but the real work happens outside the swamp. And never underestimate a supportive team because you will always be an invaluable member of mine.

EXTREMISTS TRYING TO BAN ABORTION NATIONWIDE

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

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as leaders of the Republican Party in both the House and the Senate have introduced legislation to ban abortion nationwide.

It doesn't matter if you live in a State where abortion is protected by the voters like Nevada. Abortion would be banned in every State.

The most extreme restrictions would be held in place, and women's healthcare decisions would be taken away from you and handed over to LINDSEY GRAHAM and his Republican colleagues.

The vast majority of Americans support Roe, but the Supreme Court has stripped away our freedoms and overturned 50 years of constitutional precedent.

Since Roe, extremist politicians have introduced nearly 590 bills to ban, restrict, and control our choice. That is right—nearly 600 bills.

They are obsessed with taking away our most personal healthcare decisions, and we can't let that happen. I will do everything in my power to stop the Washington Republicans who want to take away your freedom. We will not be intimidated.

FUNDING THE GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Democrats have once again failed their job to provide funding for the upcoming fiscal year. They will now kick the can down the road until after the election and pass a continuing resolution to keep the government open until December.

Funding the government in this fragmented fashion is irresponsible, and it does not allow us to respond to the realities facing our country, like a southern border enduring over 7,000 illegal crossings every day, an energy crisis, and rampant inflation.

Additionally, CRs do not allow our military to start any new contracts, which is a real problem right now, considering the uncertainty around this world.

Every year, we know that these deadlines are coming, yet the Democrats have once again failed to deliver for hardworking Americans. In God we trust.

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AMERICANS DESERVE TO LIVE IN A SAFE COMMUNITY

(Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, Democrats are working for safer communities by investing in safety and justice. We believe that every American deserves to live in a safe community where they and their families can thrive.

That is why we are fighting for strong, commonsense action to give our law enforcement the tools they need to prevent crime. Just this month, Democrats passed the:

Invest to Protect Act, which funds the police with grants to help small, local law enforcement agencies retain and recruit officers.

The Mental Health Justice Act, which helps send unarmed mental health professionals to respond to mental health crises and save lives from potentially fatal encounters with armed police officers.

The Break the Cycle of Violence Act, which invests in effective, evidence-based community violence intervention initiatives.

And fourth, and finally, the VICTIM Act, which bolsters the ability of police to solve homicides, sexual assaults, and other violent crimes.

Mr. Speaker, we do not have to choose between safe communities and justice for all. We are delivering on that promise with these bills and more.

2023 ARKANSAS TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALISTS

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the educators of central Arkansas who have been named finalists for Arkansas Teacher of the Year for 2023.

This year, Amber Leaton of Bryant High School and Capri Salaam of North Little Rock Middle School were recognized for extraordinary commitment to their students and enhancing the quality of education across central Arkansas.

These educators have demonstrated their dedication to the success and well-being of their students by teaching with innovation while promoting character education and civic engagement in the classroom.

Our educators are vital to the preparation of our future generation. I thank these teachers for their exemplary example and profound impact in the lives of hundreds of students.

Later this fall, after classroom visits, the selection committee will name the next Teacher of the Year. I wish Amber and Capri well and look forward to the long-lasting impressions that they make on their students.

CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, to honor all those suffering and all those who have lost loved ones, and to pay tribute to a remarkable Rhode Islander.

Carrigan Nelson was diagnosed with a rare bone cancer, osteosarcoma, in 2019. Unfortunately, her story is not unique. Every 3 minutes a family receives the devastating news that their child has been diagnosed with cancer.

And yet, Carrigan nearly lost access to her lifesaving care when she lost her mother's employer-sponsored health insurance 1 month before her chemotherapy was scheduled to end.

However, thanks to the Affordable Care Act, Carrigan's family was able to enroll in Rhode Island's health insurance exchange, allowing her to complete her treatment plan.

As we raise awareness about childhood cancer this month, and the importance of screenings, early detection, and care—we must recommit ourselves to ensuring that every single family has access to affordable, quality care, and ensuring protections for individuals with pre-existing conditions so that survivors like Carrigan will never be denied the coverage and care they need.

I am honored to know and represent such a brave young woman and will not stop fighting for Carrigan and every young person battling cancer.

RECOGNIZING DR. DANIEL HARRINGTON

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dr. Daniel Harrington, the vice dean of Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine in Roanoke, Virginia, who is set to retire at the end of this month after more than 14 years of service.

From humble beginnings, Dr. Harrington attended West Virginia University for both his undergraduate and medical degrees. He then took a residency at the University of Virginia, and it was there that he learned about Carilion's nascent psychiatry residency program, which would give him a chance to develop something that was all his own.

Dr. Harrington took that opportunity in 1990, and he and his family moved to Roanoke.

In 2006, former Carilion CEO Ed Murphy approached Dr. Harrington with the idea of partnering with Virginia Tech and starting a medical school.

Dr. Harrington began traveling the country with then-Virginia Tech President Charles Steger and operated a public-private academic partnership to make the dream a reality.

Ever since, the school has been led on multiple fronts by the strong leadership of Dr. Harrington.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Dr. Harrington and his wife, Gil, best wishes for a well-deserved retirement.

ACCESS TO A PHOTO ID

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

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, there are over 21 million Americans who don't have a photo ID. That is 21 million Americans who can't obtain employment, lease or purchase a home, or open a bank account.

If you are a veteran, you need an ID to access the VA benefits you have earned. If you are a single mom, you

need an ID to access WIC and SNAP benefits for your children. In 35 States, you need a photo ID to vote.

The current process for obtaining an ID is inconsistent across States. It can be expensive, and it often requires documentation that many Americans just don't have.

That is why, last week, I introduced the IDs for an Inclusive Democracy Act. This will provide a free Federal ID to any American citizen over the age of 14 who wants one.

It will ensure that every American has access to the services that they need. And no less important, it will ensure that America has the access to every American's opinion at the ballot box.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues who support our founding promise of equality and our commitment to democracy to support this important legislation.

RECOGNIZING BABY ZION SARMIENTO

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

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and remember a special little boy from my district in Florida, Baby Zion.

Like about half of people born with Down Syndrome, Baby Zion also had a heart defect—often easily corrected with surgery. Unfortunately, Baby Zion's surgeons were unable to repair his heart, and the only option left for his family—the only way to save his life—was a transplant.

His family went through all the right channels to request one. They followed the rules. The answer that they got was no.

Why?

Because he had a disability. The system failed him. The system decided that his life was worth less than someone without a disability.

No Federal law exists to prohibit discrimination against people with disabilities who need an organ transplant.

No Federal law exists to help these families when they are most vulnerable.

No Federal law exists to save these lives.

Today, I am asking my colleagues to support legislation by my colleague from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS) to fix this tragic situation.

H.R. 1235, the Charlotte Woodward Organ Transplant Discrimination Prevention Act, is commonsense legislation that has absolutely no cost—unless we ignore it.

I personally met with Zion's family, and, in their grace, their hope is simply that we do the right thing and save the lives of many others like Baby Zion.