

on the occasion of his retirement. His tremendous dedication to protecting our community is worthy of commendation.

Born and raised in Ypsilanti Township, Captain Cresico joined the Fire Department in 1993. He consistently moved up the ranks of the department, advancing to Lieutenant in 2010 merely three months before becoming Fire Captain later that year. Members of Captain Cresico's crew salute his legacy of selflessness, describing him as someone who always puts the lives of others ahead of his own. Over the course of his extensive career, Captain Cresico served as a powerful force for good in our Ypsilanti Township community. He has saved countless lives, risking his own safety to rescue citizens from burning homes and acting quickly to administer life-saving medical care under immense pressure. Captain Cresico exemplifies the Ypsilanti Township Fire Department's dedication to providing excellence in all aspects of fire safety, and his steadfast commitment to protecting the township and its residents is laudable. Effective and devoted public servants like Captain Cresico are the backbone of this nation, and I am proud to have had such an admirable individual leading our Ypsilanti Township community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Captain Dave Cresico for over 30 years of exemplary service. He has selflessly worked for the benefit of Ypsilanti Township in his role as a Captain of the Fire Department, and his heroic legacy will continue to inspire our community for decades to come. I sincerely thank Captain Cresico for his three decades of dedication, and join with his family, friends, and colleagues in extending my best wishes to him in retirement.

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HONORING CAMP BLANDING  
MUSEUM AND MEMORIAL

**HON. AARON BEAN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2023*

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this Veterans' Day, I thank each and every one of our brave servicemembers who heroically answered the call to defend the United States of America from those who despise our free country.

These men and women, of whom some suffered the ultimate sacrifice, deserve our unending gratitude. One way we can attempt to pay back our impossible debt is to preserve these veterans' legacy, and the Camp Blanding Museum, since its inception in 1990, has been doing an incredible job undertaking this responsibility.

As the flagship training base for our Florida National Guard, Camp Blanding is a shining example of Northeast Floridian excellence. Offering a rich military history coupled with a tremendous Museum and Memorial, I could not be prouder to honor Camp Blanding on this Veterans' Day. Camp Blanding has my unending support and best wishes.

HONORING STAFF SGT. TANNER  
GRONE

**HON. CHRIS PAPPAS**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2023*

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the life and service of Staff Sgt. Tanner Grone of Gorham, New Hampshire, who tragically died on November 10, 2023. Tanner was a beloved son, who proudly served our country and was one of five soldiers killed in a helicopter crash in the Eastern Mediterranean, and assigned to the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (SOAR).

A graduate of Gorham High School, Staff Sgt. Grone enlisted in the Army as a helicopter repairer in 2017. He was later assigned to the 1st Battalion, 160th SOAR, also known as the "Night Stalkers," which is composed of the Army's best qualified soldiers. In 2018, Staff Sgt. Grone deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, supporting Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Enduring Freedom, respectively. He also deployed on multiple "no-notice deployments" supporting our nation's national security and freedom.

Staff Sgt. Grone will be remembered for his leadership, conduct, and selflessness. He was awarded and decorated with the Air Medal with Combat Device, Army Commendation Medal, and Army Achievement Medal with Combat Device. Staff Sgt. Grone will be remembered by his Gorham community for winning the first NHSL D2 Championship for the Mount Washington Valley Soccer Club following an undefeated 10–0 season as well as helping at his family's business, Scoggin's General Store alongside his sister and parents.

During this difficult time, my thoughts and condolences are with the Grone Family, including Staff Sgt. Grone's parents, Steve and Erica, and his sister, Emily. On behalf of the constituents of New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I commend Staff Sgt. Grone for his service and sacrifice to our nation. His legacy of service and commitment to our country will live on through those who knew and loved him.

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CELEBRATING THE 23RD ANNIVERSARY  
OF NATIONAL ADOPTION  
DAY

**HON. BRANDON WILLIAMS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2023*

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to celebrate the 23rd anniversary of National Adoption Day.

Each November, National Adoption Day is celebrated across the country to raise awareness of the more than 100,000 children in need of permanency. On November 1, 1995, President Clinton proclaimed that November would be recognized as National Adoption Month, and the first National Adoption Day occurred in 2000. Over the past twenty-two years, more than 75,000 children have been adopted from foster care during National Adoption Day ceremonies alone.

In the Fifth Judicial District, which is comprised of Onondaga, Jefferson, Oneida, Oswego, Herkimer, and Lewis counties, the first National Adoption Day ceremony was held in November of 2001 with just fifteen people in attendance. This year, on Friday, November 17th, Family Court judges will convene at the OnCenter in Syracuse to finalize the adoptions of 42 children.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this important day for children who will finally have a forever family.

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CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE YPSILANTI FIRE-  
HOUSE MUSEUM

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2023*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Ypsilanti Firehouse Museum in Ypsilanti, MI on the 25th anniversary of their founding. The historical education they provide while celebrating the accomplishments of our firefighters is worthy of commendation.

The Ypsilanti Firehouse Museum was established in 1998 by Norma and Howard Weaver. Norma's father, Henry Clement, was a firefighter for the city of Ann Arbor and died while on-duty in 1961. The Weavers were members of several vintage car clubs, including the Antique Fire Truck Association, also known as SPAAMFAA. In 1998, they created the Michigan Firehouse Museum and Education Center.

Needing a permanent home for their museum, the Weavers purchased the Old Firehouse in the historic district of Ypsilanti. The building, still standing from 1898, contains a bunk area and brass pole. A modern, multi-level exhibit area was constructed in 2002. Now encompassing a total area of over 26,000 square feet, the exhibits feature the history of fire fighting in the State of Michigan and the evolution of fire fighting technology. The collections include trucks, hoses, extinguishers, ladders, breathing apparatuses, and more.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Ypsilanti Firehouse Museum. For 25 years they have provided not only an excellent educational experience for people of all ages but have also honored our brave men and women who fight fires and save lives on a daily basis across the state of Michigan. We thank the volunteers who make the Museum possible and wish them all the best for the next 25 years.

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CONGRATULATING KEITH COLE OF  
THE WOLF RIVER CONSERVANCY  
ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2023*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Keith Cole, the executive director of the Wolf River Conservancy, who will be retiring December 15 after helping build fourteen miles of an eventual 26-mile corridor of trails

protecting the once-foul Wolf River that runs through the heart of Memphis before emptying into the Mississippi River. Keith, who took on the director's role twelve years ago, brought a business perspective and organizational and fundraising abilities to a loose confederation of conservationists organized in 1985 to oppose a gravel mine near the river. During his time as executive director of the Wolf River Conservancy, he helped raise \$62 million to preserve land that is the watershed that produces the region's drinking water aquifer while earning the accreditation of the Land Trust Alliance and doubling the conservancy's staff. An ambassador to the private donor community, he also lobbied state legislators and others in Nashville, securing a \$10 million grant from the state of Tennessee. A native of Hayti, Missouri, Keith retired in 2009 after selling his business as a Blockbuster Video franchise owner in Knoxville, Little Rock and Jackson, Mississippi. He soon took up the challenge of righting the Conservancy, which was an organization mired in debt and uncertain of its mission. By the time he enters retirement for the second time, the Conservancy will have protected 20,000 acres of land in Shelby and Fayette counties in Tennessee and Benton and Marshall counties in Mississippi. As a practical matter, that means there is no development or sources of pollution that can flow into the Wolf River's 522,000-acre watershed. The improved water quality now attracts recreational boaters and sportsmen and has stimulated the tourist economy. In September, I was pleased to announce that the Department of Interior's Migratory Bird Conservation Commission approved a North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant of \$1,308,567 to the Conservancy to protect 1,536 acres of wetlands and adjacent uplands along the Wolf River and its tributaries. The grant is expected to be matched by \$2,095,142 in funding from partners including the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, the City of Memphis, Shelby County, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, and private landowners. I congratulate Keith on a job well done and join all in our community in thanking him for the environmental victories he and the Conservancy have achieved, benefits to our city and region that will be felt for decades and decades, if not a century or more. Job well done.

OPPOSING H. RES. 845 CENSURING REPRESENTATIVE RASHIDA TLAIB

### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2023*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I strongly object to this censure resolution that seeks to punish Representative RASHIDA TLAIB (MI-12), who is the only Palestinian American Member of Congress, for using her Constitutionally protected right to free speech. Representative TLAIB was elected by her constituents to represent them in the U.S. House, and her voice and perspective are unique and valuable to our national debate.

Members of Congress have the right to express their viewpoints and represent their constituents. Our constituents will hold us ac-

countable for the job we do. What makes democracies like ours unique is that they allow free speech even when it is offensive, false, or shocking. I do not agree with everything that Congresswoman TLAIB has said, just as I do not agree with anything Congressman BRIAN MAST (FL-21) said in his remarks on the House Floor on November 1, 2023. Their First Amendment rights to free speech are still protected.

Censure is a serious tool that should be reserved for holding Members of Congress accountable for unethical or criminal behavior, like committing assault or accepting bribes, or for specific categories of speech that are not protected by the First Amendment, including direct threats against individuals, inciting treason or insurrection, or the use of aggressively insulting "fighting words" against another Member on the House Floor.

Protecting speech is the only way to ensure debate among diverse viewpoints that is an essential ingredient in every true democracy. As my colleague and constitutional scholar Representative JAMIE RASKIN rightly pointed out, we are at a moment when democracy is under attack around the world, and that makes it even more vital that we remain vigilant about protecting free speech rights here at home.

Mr. Speaker, I voted against this censure, and will continue to defend our right to free speech to represent our constituents and voice our conscience as Representatives in this great democracy.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. MARIANNETTE MILLER-MEEKS

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2023*

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, on November 8, 2023, a malfunction of my electronic voting card resulted in my vote not being recorded for the first two votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 634 and YEA on Roll Call No. 635.

#### HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES OF WASHTENAW COUNTY

#### HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2023*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County (JFS) on the occasion of their 30th anniversary. The job they have done in providing invaluable social services and resources to a diverse, international population in Washtenaw County is worthy of commendation.

JFS traces its roots back to the late 1970s, when several passionate volunteers formed a group to assist the growing number of Soviet refugee families settling in Ann Arbor. Over the course of the next two decades, these individual volunteers built the JFS's initial resettlement program, primarily addressing the needs of these "new Americans" for the first 90 days after their arrival, until they became

eligible to receive government assistance. These essential services included locating suitable housing, providing basic furnishings, assisting with employment searches, and teaching English and Civics lessons, among others. Upon the JFS's official founding in 1993 by the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County, its members continued to focus on this resettlement program while analyzing other potential areas of need in the community.

Over the last 30 years, JFS has expanded to provide a diverse array of programs and services that widely benefit the residents of Washtenaw County. Today, the organization serves more than 9,000 clients annually, offering services pertaining to Aging & Caregiving, Employment and Economic Empowerment, Community Assistance, Crisis Intervention, and more. Their Resettlement and Immigration Services programs are as strong as ever, helping individuals and families from over 20 different countries and offering assistance in 35 different languages. In recent years, they have focused on helping those escaping conflict in Afghanistan and Ukraine, easing the transition into a new community and helping these refugees achieve self-sufficiency as they begin this new chapter.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County. For the last three decades, JFS has been working tirelessly to provide valuable services to all residents of Washtenaw County, from the old-timers to the newly-settled. We thank them and are excited to see how they continue to serve our diverse Washtenaw County community over the next 30 years.

#### FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

SPEECH OF

#### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 8, 2023*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4664, Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2024. With this bill, House Republicans are enabling tax cheats, harming consumers, and inserting unacceptable right-wing policy riders.

With the \$1.1 million cut to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) budget in H.R. 4664, Republicans are once again protecting sophisticated tax cheats and greedy corporations over hard-working families. The Department of Treasury recently announced that, thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act, the IRS is pursuing back taxes owed from about 1,600 taxpayers with income over \$1,000,000. The IRS has closed 100 of those cases and collected \$122 million in back taxes. If Republicans were really serious about cutting down on our national debt, they wouldn't be gouging the budget of the agency responsible for ensuring everyone pays their fair share and follows the law. Additionally, the IRS needs to be fully funded to ensure that my constituents have their tax refunds processed quickly and aren't placed on indefinite holds when they call the agency. Democrats know that if the IRS budget is cut, it will only make it easier for tax cheats to skip out on paying their fair share.