

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.

Republicans are also including drastic cuts to agencies designed to ensure the products we buy aren't harmful to our families. Since 1972, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has worked with manufacturers to protect Americans from unsafe consumer products by issuing recalls, developing safety standards, and conducting research into product-related illness and injury. Republicans have cut the CPSC budget by over \$13 million. Why would we limit the CPSC's ability to issue recalls on products that will harm our families? Instead, Congress should be encouraging CPSC to explore all allegations that appliances or other consumer products are unsafe to children and adults and should give the CPSC more, not fewer, resources for eliminating or mitigating the safety risks they uncover.

My opposition to the bill is not solely due to the inadequate funding levels. This bill, like all of the Republican appropriations measures, embraces right-wing social policy fights that have no place in the bills that fund our government. H.R. 4664 would prohibit the IRS from developing a free tax filing software for all taxpayers, prohibits agencies from enforcing regulations to curb climate change, and prohibits federal employees from using their health insurance to make personal healthcare decisions. These provisions must be rejected.

Mr. Chair, we are nine days away from a government shutdown. Instead of reevaluating their extreme 2024 funding bills and working to find a bipartisan path forward to fund the government beyond November 17th, House Republicans have once again moved forward with a bill that is so extreme that they can't even get members of their own party to vote for the bill on the House Floor. Republicans don't have the power to pass their own bad bill. H.R. 4664 joins two other appropriations bills in a purgatory of the Republicans' own making, with no chance of ever becoming law. I urge my colleagues to work in a bipartisan fashion to cut through this Republican chaos and avoid a government shutdown.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANTHONY D'ESPOSITO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to participate in voting on the passage of Rep. GROTHMAN's Part B Amendment No. 37 to the FY24 THUD bill, to reduce funding for the CDGB program by 50 percent. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 611.

HONORING THE LATE CHIEF OF POLICE OF THE LYNNVILLE, TENNESSEE POLICE DEPARTMENT, THEODORE G. "TEDDY" LOFTIS, SR.

HON. SCOTT DesJARLAIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember Chief Teddy Loftis,

who sadly passed away November 5, 2023, after 51 years of service to various law enforcement agencies, including his most recent position as Chief of Police for the Lynnville Police Department, located in Giles County within the Fourth Congressional district of Tennessee.

Chief Loftis was born in Nashville, graduated from Hendersonville High School, and immediately embarked on a career of public service. He received his Emergency Medical Technician License from Volunteer State in 1975 and was a graduate of the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy in 1980. During his long and successful career, Teddy would serve his local communities with honor and distinction including the Goodlettsville Police Department, Hendersonville Police Department, Sumner County Sheriff's Office, Millersville Police Department, and Ethridge Police Department. His experience and skills led him to the position of Chief of the Lynnville Police Department, where he continued to serve his community until his untimely passing.

Working in law enforcement is a difficult and dangerous job regardless of the size of the community, and the best officers are the ones that go above and beyond the call of duty. Teddy was well regarded as a personable soul, a man who made friends easily, and a man who knew the distinction of when firm law and order was needed and when friendly advice and understanding would suffice. He also knew the value of continuous training for himself and the value of sharing his experience and knowledge with the future generations of law enforcement leaders.

A devoted family man who loved the outdoors and could handle any "do it yourself" fix-it project, Teddy most enjoyed spending time with his wife Teresa and all his children and grandchildren. His decades of dedication to the citizens of Tennessee are truly respected and appreciated. I am proud to represent a community that has the utmost respect for all the men and women who serve our communities as members of the law enforcement community. Teddy had a professional standard and a kind, personal touch that should be the established standard for service to a community. I ask all Members of Congress to join me in paying respect to Chief Teddy Loftis for a job well done and a life well lived, and I ask this institution to join me in sending the deepest sympathies to all his family and friends.

RECOGNIZING PORTSMOUTH ORTHOPEDICS, LLC

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the acceptance of Portsmouth Orthopedics, LLC into the National Center for the Veteran Institute for Procurement. A veteran-owned small business, Port Ortho has developed a program specifically to address the needs of both veterans and active-duty individuals. Port Ortho prides itself on providing the best care to those that have sacrificed everything for our freedom, and we deeply appreciate their dedication and service to our community.

The Veteran Institute for Procurement is a certification program for veteran-owned businesses aimed to increase their ability to earn government contracts by establishing best business practices. As part of the VIP GROW program, Port Ortho will further hone its business skills and accelerate its success in government contracting, allowing it to have an even greater positive impact on the Granite Staters that it serves. We look forward to seeing how Port Ortho continues to strengthen its practice and works to extend its reach throughout the community.

On behalf of the constituents of New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I commend Portsmouth Orthopedics for its dedication to our nation's heroes. Granite Staters are fortunate to call them members of our community. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING DOÑA ANA COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. GABE VASQUEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mr. VASQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Doña Ana Community College for its 50 years of exemplary service to the New Mexico community. DACC's commitment to education, community development and workforce training have opened doors to new opportunities for thousands of students.

DACC opened in 1973 as the Doña Ana County Occupational Education Branch. Since that time, the college has expanded to six campuses, training students in a wide variety of occupations that keep our communities moving. From public health workers to teachers, electrical lineworkers to firefighters, and chefs to welders, DACC graduates can be found performing essential jobs throughout southern New Mexico. Additionally, their adult education programs and high school partnerships ensure that age is not a barrier to higher learning.

DACC has been enriched by the service of its past presidents, including Dr. Alex Sanchez, Dr. Patricio Quintana, Dr. Donaciano Gonzalez, Dr. Andrew Burke, Dr. Margie Huerta, Dr. Renay Scott, and current president Dr. Mónica Torres. On behalf of all who have benefitted from DACC's work, I thank these leaders for their vision and their commitment to educating our community.

DACC continues to look forward, with programs such as a new scholarship to support education towards renewable energy jobs. I believe that New Mexico should be a leader in building a clean energy economy, and I am grateful for the work of DACC and all of our educational institutions to build our future workforce.

As DACC commemorates its 50 year anniversary, I thank all who have worked for DACC for their service. They have ensured that education is available to all who seek it out for 50 years, and I wish them and their students the best going forward.