

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.

HONORING ERNESTO GÓMEZ

**HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2023*

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Dr. Ernesto Gómez, who for the last fifty years has stewarded one of the premier health care organizations in Texas, CentroMed. Founded in 1973 as El Centro del Barrio, CentroMed began as a project on San Antonio's South and West sides to offer culturally competent mental health services to vulnerable members of the community. Since then, CentroMed has expanded the services it offers, providing much-needed medical care to tens of thousands of people every year.

This growth would not have been possible without the efforts of Dr. Gómez, who has served as CentroMed's President and Chief Executive Officer since its inception. He has helped grow the organization from a single clinic to twenty-seven clinics and two fitness centers across Bexar and Comal counties.

CentroMed has forged powerful partnerships, allowing it to serve even more of the South Texas community. CentroMed's collaboration with Methodist Healthcare Ministries allows it to provide services for low-income, uninsured, and houseless populations. Through partnerships with CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Health Care, CentroMed has also expanded efforts to provide care for uninsured pregnant women and infants.

Mr. Gómez has also made sure his efforts continue through the next generation of social workers, health care professionals, and activists. For the last thirty-seven years, Dr. Gómez has taught graduate-level courses at San Antonio's Our Lady of the Lake University, focusing on public policy, administration, and human behavior.

The dedication that Dr. Gómez has demonstrated for the last fifty years has been an invaluable service to San Antonio. His efforts with CentroMed have improved the lives of hundreds of thousands of people.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to express my gratitude for Dr. Ernesto Gómez a man who has helped transform my city of San Antonio for the better.

REMEMBERING YOSSEI  
HERSHKOVITZ**HON. RITCHIE TORRES**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2023*

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, Yossi Hershkovitz was a man of extraordinary integrity and kindness. His commitment to family and community, and of course to defending his beloved Israel, formed the cornerstone of his life. He had a serious, steadfast, calm demeanor and a smile that warmed your soul. Resolute and principled, he balanced his strength with a soft-spoken, warm, and generously compassionate nature. Yossi was a deeply feeling and caring person and educator. There seemed to be an endless reservoir of goodness within him. Yossi personified the essence of being a "mensch" (a person of integrity). He consistently showed up for others

and sought to increase the feelings of unity, light, and positivity in the world. When Israel's innocent were targeted, there was no question that he would rise up to defend them; and, of course, he made the ultimate sacrifice in doing so.

Yossi was born in Jerusalem on May 31, 1979. He graduated from the Horeb School and the Birkat Moshe Yeshiva in Ma'ale Adumim and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in Near and Middle Eastern Studies at Bar Ilan University and a master's degree in educational administration from Herzog College. In September 2012, he and his wife Hadas, along with their two children, arrived in the Bronx to work at SAR Academy, a Modern Orthodox Yeshiva day school. While this adventure took them away from Israel, its purpose was actually an extension of Yossi's deep commitment to Israel and the Jewish people, as they spent the next four years working with American students to deepen their connection to Israel, and instill a love of Hebrew and Jewish unity. They settled in Riverdale, leaving their family and support system behind in Israel. A young couple with two small children who did not speak English, they quickly found a supportive network within the Bronx and at SAR. Even as they worked to adjust to their new community, the Hershkovitz family generously opened their home to others, becoming an integral part of the community rather than "visitors." During their four year stay, they left an indelible mark on the neighborhood and hundreds of students.

Teachers from SAR Academy remember how Yossi truly saw the good in every single child he met. Central to SAR's mission is the idea that every child has a "divine spark," and it was immediately clear that this came naturally for Yossi, as he effortlessly connected with each child by believing in them fully. As SAR Principal, Rabbi Krauss, shared, "Yossi's approach to teaching was rooted in compassion and caring for each student as an individual. He was a man of strong ideals and Torah principles, living out his beliefs both in and out of the classroom." Yossi's previous work with at-risk youth in Israel gave him a soft spot for connecting with kids in need of extra care, and in his quiet way, he made a tremendous impact in the lives of so many students. His care was felt by all. As one student, Avi, described: "Moreh Yossi taught me to believe in myself. All of his students looked up to him and sensed he was unique in his courage and heroism." This was echoed by another student, Oren, who remembers, "he taught us discipline and exemplified a focused, serious mindset. At the same time, he laughed with us, and in doing so taught us that completing any task can be enjoyable and meaningful. He taught us important values of living a Godly life."

Yossi and his wife Hadas were a power couple. They gave 110 percent to everything that they did while at SAR. Yossi was an elegant musician who added depth to any musical performance in school, especially on Israel's Memorial Day. When he played the violin, he did so with his whole soul. His colleague in Israel, Shalom Weil, later wrote of his playing: "He was a strong, solid fellow, but when he played the violin, his whole soul peaked out from his heart." He and Hadas took their mission seriously and were roll-up-your-sleeves, "can-do" people who endlessly gave of themselves. Teachers spoke about

how when chaperoning a trip, having Yossi around was like having 10 people. No task was beneath him. He was always on board. The entire family would join the students on weekend retreats. Yossi remarkably balanced being a fully engaged teacher and a present father. Students and teachers remember watching him sitting on the floor with the babies to give his wife time to relax and enjoy during the school trips. As their family grew with the arrival of their new baby in 2014, they continued to make the most of their time in America. They regularly took advantage of time off to travel, packing into their car and traveling cross country to see the great American sights.

Upon his return to Israel in August 2016, Yossi and Hadas moved to Gush Etzion's G'vaot. As Rabbi Krauss described, "This community integrates people with special needs—in and of itself a testament to Yossi's inclusive spirit and commitment to fostering a supportive environment for all." He also became the principal of ORT Pelech for Boys in Jerusalem. While the head of school, Yossi was instrumental in introducing the use of an app named 'good point' which encourages teachers to spend a few minutes a day writing positive notes about a student into an app which automatically sends the compliment directly to the student and their parents. The app exemplifies Yossi's commitment to seeing and growing the good in people. Israeli Education Minister Yoav Kisch expressed his deep sorrow, describing Yossi as "a well-known and beloved educator who inspired his teachers and students . . . a first-rate educator. The entire education system aches and mourns his fall."

Above all, Yossi's enormous heart and belief in humanity could be seen in his deep commitment and connection to his family. "Hershkovitz was as devoted to his wife, Hadas, and his children as he was to his students," his former principal wrote. "He truly loved his wife. I learned about how to be a father and how to be a spouse from him." Yossi and his wife, Hadas, were true partners in life, making decisions together that exemplified their commitment to each other, their family, and to Israel. His legacy will live on in his five children, Be'eri, Harel, Tal, Shire and Neta, each of whom either spoke or wrote something to be read at his funeral. They spoke of his deep devotion to them, thanking him for studying with them and for being their hero. While they questioned who would now be strong for them, it was also clear that although there is no way to fill the gaping hole that has been left in this world, his family would certainly carry on his legacy.

Yossi's deep commitment to Israel shaped his entire life, and he knew that this war may mean the ultimate sacrifice. When he left to join the war, he shared with Hadas that this would probably be the last time he went into battle. As a member of the 551st brigade, he was killed alongside four of his fellow unit soldiers as they approached what turned out to be a booby-trapped tunnel next to a mosque in Beit Hanoun.

As Zvika Peleg, CEO of the ORT network put it, "Yossi's fall in the war of light against the dark, unjustly, is a symbol of the extraordinary man and educator he was." Yossi's students will need to adjust to entering school without being greeted by his warmth and deep belief in them. Yossi's children will need to