

2030, the Inflation Reduction Act will allow the federal government to negotiate prices for 80 of the most crucial medications on the market. The true cost of the price gouging schemes by Big Pharma is American lives, and I am proud that my colleagues and I have successfully strengthened the ability of Medicaid and Medicare to provide affordable medication to Americans.

Healthcare is a right. As we celebrate the 58th anniversary of Medicaid and Medicare, I recognize the critical rolls that these laws play in and reassert my dedication to ensuring the right of all Americans to affordable, quality healthcare.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 369.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHARLES L. "CHUCK" HAYES

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Charles L. "Chuck" Hayes, of Radford, Virginia, who passed away at home on July 6, 2023. Mr. Hayes was described by his loved ones as a "beloved husband, father, teacher, and friend."

Mr. Hayes earned his undergraduate degree from Troy State College and his master's degree from Indiana University. He went on to teach acting, directing, theatre history, and literature and cinema at Radford University for 40 years. He also directed for theatre, opera, film, radio, and television, directing over 40 productions at Radford.

The University's Department of Theatre and Cinema, its alumni, friends, and family recently honored Mr. Hayes' career by naming the Pridemore Playhouse stage for him, in recognition of his many contributions to Radford University, the theatre program, and its students.

Additionally, he worked with the Virginia Governor's School for the Arts for four years and served as its director in 1987 and 1988.

Mr. Hayes met his beloved wife, Betsy L. Robinson while doing summer theatre in her hometown of Danville, Kentucky, and married in 1962 and had three children together.

Mr. Hayes is survived by his wife, daughter Dr. Paige Horst (Randall), son Hunt Hayes, son Anthony Hayes (Korena) Hayes, grandson Tallis Horst (Kimberly) and their four children, granddaughter Carrie-Rose Zepp (Ben), and grandson Jed Horst. I wish them condolences on the loss of their loved one.

Mr. Hayes was hugely influential in the Radford community, touching the lives of countless students during his 40 years at the school, nurturing life-long friendships. I know he will be greatly missed.

CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JAMARI MCIVORY

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the accomplishments of Savannah Christian's own, Jamari McIvory.

Jamari is a rising senior at Savannah Christian, playing three sports: track, football, and basketball.

In May, he won the 2023 Georgia Highschool Associations Class 3A State Title in both the 200 and 400-meter races, running a lightning-fast 21.65 and 48.1 seconds, respectively.

After winning these championships, Jamari was named the Coastal Empire Boy's Track and Field Athlete of the Year by the Savannah Morning News.

Just last week, he won his second AAU Nationals 400-meter run in Las Vegas, besting the competition by over two seconds.

At the end of the month, Jamari will travel to the 2023 AAU Track and Field Junior Olympics at Drake University in Indiana.

Bring the title home to the Coastal Empire.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER KEITH MORTENSEN

HON. BRAD FINSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officer Keith Mortensen, who is retiring on July 31st after 30 years serving as an officer with Mankato Public Safety.

A proud son of southern Minnesota, Officer Mortensen earned his degree in law enforcement from Mankato State University and went on to serve in the Mankato Department of Public Safety, first as road patrol and eventually as a school liaison officer.

Last year, Officer Mortensen was awarded the Minnesota Juvenile Officer of the Year award for his work as a school resource officer, specifically for his work fostering relationships with area youth.

He created "Cops and Bobbers," a summer program that connects local kids with law enforcement officers through the fun of fishing. Because of the leadership and dedication of Officer Mortensen, the program has now helped more than 400 young adults and will serve future generations of students for years to come.

I want to thank Officer Mortensen for his years of service and the example he has set for all of us in southern Minnesota. I congratulate him on his retirement, and I wish him the best of luck in this next chapter.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBEN GALLEGO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, today I missed a vote on final passage of H.R. 4366—Military

Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act 2024, because of the birth of my child. Had I been present on the House Floor, I would have voted NO. As a combat veteran myself, I believe it is our duty and responsibility to ensure all veterans are provided the care and resources they have earned. This year, however, I would not have been able to vote for this bill in good faith.

Speaker McCarthy allowed the most radical members of his party to hijack a bill meant to support our veterans. House Republicans passed amendments that do the opposite, including provisions that restrict access to medically necessary gender-affirming care, discriminate against the LGBTQ+ community, and eliminate efforts to combat climate change.

Although there were dozens of amendments that I would have opposed, I want to highlight 5 where I would have cast the following individual votes:

1. NO on Ogles Amendment No. 2, which would transfer \$3 million from NATO's Security Investment Program to the Spending Reduction Account at the end of the bill.

2. NO on Greene Amendment No. 3, which would cut the \$73 million increase in funding for the NATO Security Investment Program.

3. NO on Greene Amendment No. 34, which strikes funding for the Office of Resolution Management, Diversity, and Inclusion.

4. NO on Bost Amendment No. 35, which prohibits the VA from using funds to submit a beneficiary's name to the NCIS list based on VA's appointment of a fiduciary.

5. NO on Roy Amendment No. 40, which prohibits funds in this act from being used to carry out President Biden's climate change executive order.

Instead of passing bipartisan legislation that treats ALL veterans with respect and honor, House Republicans chose to discriminate against those who have sacrificed so much for our country. This is a major step backwards, and I cannot support this bill.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as the Senior member of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness I am grateful to recognize the historic significance of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Department of Defense State Partnership Program.

The Department of Defense State Partnership Program was established in 1993 and has evolved from a program designed to assist countries emerging from behind the Iron Curtain to one that now involves 88 partnerships with 100 nations, and the National Guard of every state and territory of the United States. Every year, members of the National Guard typically engage in more than 1,000 events during which they work with partner militaries to bolster capabilities, improve interoperability, and enhance principles of responsible governance.

The State Partnership Program delivers a significant return on investment by broadening the pool of security partners who are willing and able to support defense and security cooperation objectives around the world. In fact, most of the earliest State Partnership Program partner countries in Europe have gone on to become United States allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and many of them credit the State Partnership Program and their National Guard State partners with helping to make that possible.

Last year, with the leadership of Adjutant General Van McCarty continuing the tradition of Adjutant General Bob Livingston, the South Carolina National Guard celebrated the 10-year anniversary of our State Partnership with the Republic of Colombia. Since the launch of our mutually beneficial partnership, we have assisted in humanitarian aid, disaster relief, jointed combined training, and the internal transformation of civilian and military systems. The California National Guard has been instrumental in assisting the military of Ukraine and now is effectively facing War Criminal Putin, the monstrous dictator.

Being a father to four sons who have served overseas in the military and a 31-year veteran of the U.S. Army Reserves and the South Carolina Army National Guard, I am appreciative of the rich military tradition held within the Second District of South Carolina. Our district is home of Fort Jackson in Columbia, while Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter and Fort Gordon in Augusta, Georgia, are located just outside the District.

I am grateful to see the National Guard working with the commanders of the combatant commands and the Department of State to increase State Partnership Program partnerships by 2 nations per year for the next 15 years. The outsized influence of the program in developing and supporting enduring relationships around the world serves both the interests of the partner nation and the United States.

Last, and most importantly, I want to express my deep gratitude for the continuing service by members of the National Guard in support of the Department of Defense State Partnership Program.

HONORING SERGIO SUAREZ AND TAQUERÍA LOS COMALES

HON. JESÚS G. "CHUY" GARCÍA

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today I want to honor Sergio and Mary Suarez, residents from my district and small business owners as they celebrate the 25th anniversary of their restaurant, Taquería Los Comales.

Twenty-five years ago Sergio and Mary decided to open a taquería in Melrose Park, Illinois. They were determined to make it the best of the best.

With dedication and creativity, they put together a menu that combines authentic Mexican recipes with American community traditions, all surrounded with hospitality and family love.

Since he was a child, Sergio has had to work to help support his family. At the age of 6, he was shining shoes to make some

money. He never thought he would become the restaurant owner and business leader he is now. He immigrated to the United States from the Mexican state of Jalisco as a teenager and has built his American Dream one small business at a time.

Sergio's business instincts and work ethic have been key to his success. He chose Melrose Park as the location for his first restaurant at a time when it was growing in diversity and the residents needed a friendly neighborhood restaurant with the Mexican food that reminded them of their mom's and abuela's recipes. That's what Los Comales is for many of us.

Sergio has used his experience with business success to support and mentor other aspiring business owners, especially those that came from Mexico and are now living in the United States. In turn, he, is helping the community increase their markets, assisting immigrants, and creating more businesses and jobs. Immigrant-family owned restaurants like Los Comales are pillars of our community and engines of our local economy.

I wish Sergio and Mary Suarez, their whole family and Taquería Los Comales, many more years of success.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ALEX VELASQUEZ

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Alex Velasquez, a member of the Greatest Generation, a man who captured the essence of the American Dream and touched the lives of so many people in his community.

Alex was born during the Great Depression. He grew up in a single parent household and supported his mother and sisters at a very early age. He went from being a bellman, to an usher at a movie theater, to then enlisting in the Navy at the age of 18.

After being honorably discharged in 1946, Alex continued his spirit of the American Dream in pursuing barbering. His barber shop that he opened in 1954 continues to hold its legacy today, holding much more meaning than just a simple hair cut to his clientele. His barber shop was the center of chisme in Santa Ana.

Alex was a man of honor, service, and of inspiration to all young Americans with big dreams. He passed away on February 6, 2023. Alex was 97 years old.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the life of Alex Velasquez. May he forever rest in peace.

HONORING THE LIFE OF U.S. ARMY CORPORAL DEWEY E. REWIS, JR.

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dewey Rewis, Jr., a

POW/MIA who, seventy years after he was reported missing, was finally identified.

In 1950, the Waycross Georgia native joined the Battery D, 15th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion, 31st Regimental Combat Team, 7th Infantry Division stationed in Korea.

He was reported missing in action on December 2, 1950, after his unit came under attack while advancing along the eastern banks of Chosin Reservoir.

In 1953, four POWs returned home from Korea and reported that Cpl. Lewis had been a prisoner of war and had passed away in March 1951.

During Operation Glory, North Korea returned the remains of some U.S. soldiers that had died in the area north of Chosin Reservoir known as "Death Valley".

Unfortunately, Dewey was not among those returned. He was determined to be unrecoverable on January 16, 1956.

In October of 2022, researchers were able to identify Cpl. Rewis' remains using mitochondrial DNA and Y chromosome analysis.

Dewey's name is recorded on the American Battle Monuments Commission's Courts of Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, along with others who are still missing from the Korean War. He will have a rosette placed next to his name to indicate that he has been accounted for.

Cpl. Rewis paid the ultimate sacrifice for his country, and today we honor him.

HONORING THE CITY OF DOVER, IDAHO ON 100 YEARS

HON. RUSS FULCHER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, I want to make a special mention of the 100th Anniversary of the City of Dover, Idaho. Dover is situated near the beautiful Lake Pend Oreille and is in the northern part of the district I represent. On July 22nd and 23rd, the City of Dover celebrated 100 years of history with a boat parade, historical walk, and community barbecue—wrapping up with an exceptional Sunday service at the historic Dover Church, which has served as the heart of the community for the last 100 years.

I am honored to serve communities like Dover in Idaho, and I wish the city of Dover a bright future in the next 100 years.

IMPACT OF GUN VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

SPEECH OF

HON. SHONTEL M. BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

Ms. BROWN. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman JACKSON and Congresswoman CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK for leading a Special-Order Hour on July 25 to discuss the impact of gun violence on Black communities.

As members of the Congressional Black Caucus, we have an obligation to speak out