

huge disadvantage. There are fewer options for processing plants, cold storage, distribution, and retail.

I have heard concerns about consolidation at farm bill listening sessions I have hosted in Centralia and Battle Ground. We are seeing consolidation everywhere, including meat processing plants, fruit processors, and beverages distributors.

In my community, Corwin, a local beverage distributor was just bought out by a huge conglomerate, and now their beer and wine division is closed. The potential merger between Kroger and Albertsons would only add to this pressure. It is hurting our small producers.

The cost to transport and distribute goods is no longer sustainable and is forcing small businesses to close. This drives up the cost at the checkout stand, and it makes it more challenging to rely on American-grown goods. This is a national security threat.

Mr. Speaker, I am here to serve the people of southwest Washington, not big businesses. Every merger that cuts costs and skirts accountability is a blow to working people; to farmers, to processing plants, grocery cashiers, and families at the checkout stand.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand with me to find a solution to these critical issues.

CELEBRATE LOGGERS

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate generations of loggers in Washington State, including my grandfather, Dale Gilmore. If you visit my office in Longworth, you will see a chainsaw that is almost 9 feet long. It is a McCulloch Model 99. It is the same model of chainsaw that my grandpa ran in the woods up and down the peninsula.

It was shipped here in a crate built by the Stevenson High School shop class under the leadership of Scott Midland. I brought it here to remind this Washington, D.C., what real work looks like.

The lifespan of men who ran these chainsaws could be pretty short, but they chose to sacrifice to provide for their families. The power that comes from mastering a skill should invoke humility and respect for all of the people who choose to work with their hands in the woods.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 40 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

God of us all, we pray Your grace over our labor and Your blessing on all that we seek to achieve this day. Should our sense of success be borne of our envy over another, we pray Your mercy. Should we find ourselves chasing the wind in our pride, we pray You humble us gently that we would submit even our best efforts to Your sovereign will.

When winning seems to be our only goal, when we are so often caught up in our vain desire to overcome any perceived or imagined adversary, remind us again that only in You do we find the promise of true victory.

By the power of Your love, You have already defeated all that we call hateful. So with Your standard of strength before us, may we follow You and greet any fear or frustration before us with the certainty found in You, face any anxiety or anguish that threatens us with the hope You provide, and encounter any enemy with the faith in Your promise of redemption.

In all contest and critique, defeat and disagreement, in all that seeks to overwhelm our spirit of unity and purpose, remind us that we are more than conquerors in You who have shown Your steadfast love for us.

In the strength of Your holy name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Washington (Mr. KILMER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KILMER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

RECOGNIZING MARTHA RUTHVEN

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to recognize

Martha Ruthven for her service for the Second Congressional District of South Carolina. Martha has been an invaluable team member for nearly 9 years, dedicated to constituent service.

Moving from North Carolina after her nuclear physicist stepfather accepted a position at the Savannah River Site, Martha began her love of the Palmetto State.

Working in the Congressional Aiken/Barnwell office, Martha quickly became embedded in the community, attending events, meetings, and advancing constituent services. As deputy district director, Martha has long been a trusted adviser to the many thousands she has assisted.

I appreciate she will remain in Aiken. In fact, she will be heading to Savannah River Nuclear Solutions to continue community relations. I wish the best to Martha and her husband, K.T., a respected Realtor and president of Aiken Republican Club.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, who successfully protected America for 20 years, as the global war on terrorism continues moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America.

Our prayers for the courageous people of Ukraine resisting war criminal Putin, who is sacrificing young Russians for Putin's oil, money, and power.

HONORING PATTY ROSE

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

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor my friend Patty Rose for her decades of service to the working people of Pierce County, Washington.

Born and raised in Tacoma, Patty began her journey at the Service Employees International Union in 1974 where she held various roles, eventually becoming a union representative advocating for workers' rights.

In 1981, Patty joined the Pierce County Central Labor Council, serving as a delegate and executive board member before her election as the first female secretary-treasurer.

In this role, she has worked passionately to improve wages, benefits, and working conditions, making Pierce County a national leader in union membership with rates twice the national average.

Patty has emphasized inclusivity by partnering with communities often marginalized and increasing apprenticeship opportunities for young people.

Her empowering leadership has significantly shaped our community and helped workers. I am grateful for her partnership and her friendship and her invaluable advice throughout my career.

As Patty retires, we will miss her presence, but I am happy to report that she can enjoy more time with her family and traveling in her RV.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Patty Rose's remarkable career. I wish her a well-deserved retirement.

HONORING JOHN CAMACHO

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I take this time to recognize and honor the late, great John Camacho, also known as Chubado, who sadly left this world a few years ago. John left behind his lovely wife, Darleen, and children, Janice and Jeremy.

A proud son of Guam, John received numerous accolades for academic excellence during his time at Fresno State University where he obtained a bachelor of science in civil engineering.

In 1978, he and his friend Henry Simpson were the brain children of Smokin' Wheels, which consisted of off-road motorcycling, buggy, and truck endurance.

In 1979, John participated in the Baja 1000, which remains one of the most prestigious off-road obstacles in the world.

On behalf of the Nation and the island of Guam, and in these sacred Halls of democracy, I honor and recognize John Camacho as a founding father of motorsports on Guam and as a renaissance man for the sport in the region.

END HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, to go grocery shopping, some Americans walk down the block or drive a few miles to the store. But for those living in food apartheid, their experience is different.

I call them food apartheid, instead of food deserts, because deserts are naturally formed. There is nothing natural about food apartheid. It is manmade. It happens on purpose, often influenced by systemic racism.

Earlier this week, I was in Leominster, Massachusetts, to unveil a new food truck and refrigerated van for the Spanish American Center, a nonprofit with deep roots in the area, to make it easier to bring nutritious and culturally appropriate meals to everyone in the community.

Mr. Speaker, I was proud to secure \$110,000 in Federal funding for this project. We should continue to increase Federal investments in our local antihunger infrastructure to help those who have a short trip to the grocery store and especially those who do not. We should do all we can to end hunger now.

MONTANA STUDENTS ON THE CUTTING EDGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, Montana students have always been on the cutting edge of science and technology. Today, I rise to give special recognition to a group of students from Helena who may soon impact the way that we all travel.

Earlier this month, a robotics team from Helena introduced new equipment that the TSA hopes will reduce wait times at airport security. The team, known as Fusion 4133, is renowned for its technical expertise, winning the 2023 Montana regional championship and qualifying for an international competition.

What makes Fusion's design for TSA so remarkable is its simplicity. Using a 3D printer, the students designed a ramp that will allow bags to flow seamlessly through airport screening systems.

The bright group of inventors are living proof that no one is too young to pioneer new technologies. I am confident their work will expedite travel for millions worldwide. It is my privilege to recognize them on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING RANDY SMITH

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor one of western New York's greatest athletes, Randy Smith.

A natural competitor, he came to Buffalo to play basketball, soccer, and track and field at Buffalo State before he was drafted into the National Basketball Association by the Buffalo Braves in the third round.

An underdog from the very start, Randy Smith became the heart and soul of the Braves, holding records and becoming the most valuable player in the 1978 NBA All-Star Game.

Randy Smith embodied western New York's hardworking spirit and community pride. He often spent time playing basketball in local parks and visiting city schools, serving as an inspiration and mentor to kids across the community.

Randy Smith passed away at the age of 60 in 2009. During a time when our community is still healing from heartbreak and loss, we must continue to keep his legacy alive.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Buffalo Braves all-star Randy Smith and his commitment to becoming the good neighbor to the City of Good Neighbors.

RECOGNIZING WORLD WAR II VETERAN ROBERT ROTHENBERG

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

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize World War II

veteran Robert Rothenberg, an American hero from Ohio. Robert was a landing ship motor machinist's mate 2nd class on the USS *La Moure County* (LST-883).

Robert sailed the Western Pacific, from the Marshalls and the Marianas to battle-torn Okinawa.

After discharging the men and equipment on Okinawa, Robert traveled with the 6th Marine Division to Pearl Harbor.

After Japan surrendered, his ship delivered occupying troops to that country.

Despite his service in the war, Robert was never presented with any of the service medals and decorations he earned for his courage and sacrifice to our Nation. I am so pleased that we recently were able to finally present him with the American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

I thank Robert for his service. Let us never forget the service and sacrifice of America's Greatest Generation.

SPENDING CUTS WOULD HURT VIRGINIANS

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

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the impact of the broad-brush cuts in Speaker MCCARTHY's plan, a plan that would hurt Virginians, including \$30 billion in cuts for veteran spending that would hurt the veterans I represent and cuts to the vital Meals on Wheels program that would hurt seniors across Virginia's Seventh District.

To hear about the impact of this incredibly important program, I reached out to Virginians I serve to talk about the program, and I heard from hundreds of seniors, volunteers, doctors, and caregivers, who have seen the benefits of Meals on Wheels.

Carolyn from Woodbridge, who lost her husband a year before breaking her hip and turning to Meals on Wheels for support, called this service "a true blessing as I heal."

Anita from Fredericksburg whose 94-year-old aunt relies on the program said: "Please vote against defunding Virginia's senior meal delivery services."

When Shawn from Caroline County's grandmother suffered a stroke, Meals on Wheels made sure she had lunch so his parents would not have to quit their jobs to care for her.

At a time when thousands of Virginia seniors are at risk of hunger, the Meals on Wheels program should not be on the chopping block. I urge my colleagues to vote against this legislation.