

in 1929 and graduated from Blackshear High School with the class of 1949. After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the United States Army, spending 21 years in uniformed service.

His official service may have ended in uniform, but his service to the Nation did not stop there. After returning, he began a new 20-year career as a civil servant at Fort Stewart.

On top of his work serving our country, Ralph was very active in the First Baptist Church in Hinesville, becoming a deacon and singing in the choir for over 50 years.

He is preceded by his loving wife of 66 years, Jacqueline Waters Dixon.

Mr. Speaker, my thoughts and prayers go out to his entire family, including 4 children, 12 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great-grandchild.

CONGRATULATING LEOPOLD'S ICE CREAM

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate local Savannah ice cream parlor, Leopold's Ice Cream, for being named in Yelp's Top 100 ice cream shops for 2023.

While it is the many positive Yelp reviews that landed Leopold's on this list, the parlor's superb reputation has been built on over a century of hard work and success.

Leopold's was founded in 1919 by three brothers from Greece on the corner of Gwinnett and Habersham Streets in Savannah.

Streetcar riders would reportedly jump off the streetcar to get their super premium ice cream, which is handcrafted and uses original, secret recipes and techniques handed down in the Leopold family.

Over the years, Leopold's Ice Cream has received rave endorsements by many famous historical figures and celebrities alike.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Stratton Leopold and Leopold's Ice Cream on their tremendous achievement and thank them for being a joy and an inspiration to the great city of Savannah, Georgia, and the First Congressional District of Georgia.

FOOD ASSISTANCE WILL BE SLASHED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Mrs. TRAHAN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because working families in my district and across the country deserve better than the legislation the Republican majority is forcing through this week.

Under the leadership of Speaker McCarthy, House Republicans have drafted a partisan bill that will slash funding for critical food assistance programs that parents depend on to feed their children.

In fact, under this extreme proposal, the GOP is defunding hundreds of millions of dollars from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for

Women, Infants, and Children, or WIC for short.

That means that 5 million women and children nationwide, including 74,000 children and 24,000 women in my home State of Massachusetts, are going to see their benefits drastically cut.

Mr. Speaker, if you think that sounds bad, just wait until you hear how Republicans are going to do it.

For children, House Republicans are trying to reduce the WIC fruit and vegetable benefit from \$25 to just \$11 to cover a whole month. For pregnant and postpartum women, the GOP is slashing the fruit and vegetable benefit from \$44 to \$13 a month.

For breastfeeding moms, this extreme proposal imposes a devastating 60 percent cut from \$49 to just \$15 each month.

Mr. Speaker, these cuts are unnecessary, they are dangerous, and they are cruel. Above all else, this bill is a demonstration of the Republican Party's values. It is a demonstration of what they think life is like for working families, that you can simply tell a mom and her children or an expecting mother to stop being poor, and magically they won't be poor anymore.

As someone who grew up in a working family that lived paycheck to paycheck, I can tell my colleagues across the aisle firsthand: That is not how it works.

In fact, telling families to "pull themselves up by their bootstraps" while cutting the very program that they depend on to feed their children is going to have the opposite effect. It is going to force millions of Americans—millions of children—into hunger or worse.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I know many of my Republican colleagues may not know what it is like to worry about making ends meet. They may not know what it is like worrying if they will be able to put food on the table the next day or have to swipe that EBT card at the grocery store in front of a long line praying it will cover everything in your cart.

However, there are thousands—if not tens or hundreds of thousands—of people in their home State who know exactly what that feels like and who experience that feeling every single day, and they are depending on them to stop what they are doing.

Mr. Speaker, stop trying to cut the last safety net that they have to make sure their kids don't go hungry.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose this dangerous legislation.

AGRICULTURE SPENDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4368, the Agricultural Appropriations bill which stands as a beacon of hope for our

farmers, ranchers, and rural communities.

This bill represents a balanced approach to funding necessary agencies and programs, and it also reclaims fiscal responsibility and reins in the wasteful spending that has plagued our government for far too long.

We, as stewards of the American people's resources, owe it to them to utilize taxpayer dollars wisely and efficiently. One of the key aspects of this bill is the redirection of billions from partisan bills that contained Democrats' priorities, such as the Inflation Reduction Act.

By channeling these funds toward supporting America's producers and rural communities, we demonstrate our commitment to the heart of our Nation's economy: agriculture. Additionally, we recognize the need to address the changing circumstances brought on by the pandemic.

The bill seeks to restrict the USDA Secretary's discretionary spending authority on unauthorized, non-emergency programs. We must put an end to wasteful Washington spending and hold our government accountable for every dollar spent. It also seeks to kneecap the bureaucracy in D.C. by empowering State and county offices.

By directing USDA hiring efforts to assist producers and rural communities at the grassroots level, we acknowledge the importance of local knowledge and understanding in addressing the unique challenges that they face.

Moreover, the bill includes essential clawbacks of prior appropriations, rescinding funds that were allocated for radical Green New Deal initiatives and other programs that have been deemed unconstitutional.

Mr. Speaker, I remind my colleagues that the fiscal year 2024 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies bill is not just about funding, but it is about our values, our commitment to the American people, and our dedication to a prosperous future for this great Nation.

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SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4366, the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024.

This legislation reaffirms our commitment to serving those who have served us so bravely, our military veterans.

I recently had the privilege of visiting the Bath, New York, VA hospital in my district, in Steuben County, where I witnessed firsthand the incredible dedication of the VA staff and the challenges they face daily in providing the best possible care for our Nation's heroes.

There are clinics across my district that act as lifelines for our veterans, offering crucial services that range from mental health care to cancer

treatment and beyond. These facilities are responsible for serving thousands of veterans and empowering them to heal, recover, and rebuild their lives. They deserve our unwavering support, especially in their darkest hours.

Mr. Speaker, we can agree that caring for our veterans is not a partisan issue, and I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation and secure the funds needed to uphold and strengthen our VA healthcare programs. By investing in these programs, we invest in the well-being of our veterans and their families and ensure they receive the highest standard of care that they rightfully deserve.

ENSURING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE IN RURAL AND RE- MOTE AREAS

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. TOKUDA) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, since my first day in Congress, access to quality, affordable healthcare and mental health services has been among my top priorities.

I represent one of the most rural and remote districts in the country. I have seen and heard firsthand the devastating consequences of inadequate access to care.

On Molokai, a constituent shared with me the weight and pain she felt over the loss of her daughter. The treatment and end-of-life care her daughter needed wasn't available on island, so she was forced to leave her children and family behind and tragically passed away without them by her side.

On Lana'i, a kupuna sat me down and said: "I love living here . . . but it is a difficult place to be born and to die." If you need obstetric care, assisted living, or end-of-life care, you have to board a plane, most often alone.

In Wai'anae, a close friend and community leader held up a CDC report in his hand and expressed his anger and frustration that the life expectancy of residents living on the rural west side of O'ahu was a decade less than those living in downtown Honolulu.

In the small, close-knit community of Kauai, too many people have a family member or friend who took their own life. With limited access to mental health professionals and services, our Garden Isle has historically struggled with high rates of suicide and suicide attempts.

In Kona, on the Big Island of Hawaii, a woman cried as she told me that her sister died because she couldn't get the emergency care she needed in time. She then asked me if I knew what the golden hour was, that critical window of time between emergency medical care and a medical trauma happening.

I told her I did. My mother missed hers. She was in a car accident, and the hospital in our community didn't have the appropriate trauma services to deal with her injuries, so she was taken to

the next town, where she passed away shortly after getting to the ER.

For many of my constituents, they are just one diagnosis away from a major illness and the impossible financial and family decisions that will come with it. Yet, they live in geographically isolated areas—their homes, where they continue to be denied their right to healthcare.

While Hawaii's geography and demographic makeup are, in fact, unique, these barriers to healthcare are similarly felt elsewhere across the country.

More than 60 million Americans, one-fifth of the United States population, live in rural areas. Compared with their urban counterparts, rural Americans are generally older and have less resources and poorer healthcare conditions.

While they may require more medical attention and care, rural Americans often have more limited access to care as a result of physician shortages, lack of reliable transportation options, insufficient health insurance coverage, and increased exposure to environmental and occupational hazards.

These disparities in healthcare access highlight the need for greater attention and resources aimed at improving healthcare and outcomes in rural and remote communities.

That is why I am proud to co-lead the Bipartisan Rural Health Caucus. Together with the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. HARSHBARGER), we have revived this bipartisan coalition to ensure every American, no matter their ZIP Code or circumstances, has access to the care that could literally save their lives.

When it comes to my hope for rural healthcare, it comes down to the four As.

Accessibility: The distance a patient must travel by car, plane, or ferry to receive medical services;

Affordability: The cost for a patient to get the care they need;

Acceptability: The extent to which a patient receives culturally and linguistically appropriate services in healthcare; and

Availability: The extent to which providers have the requisite resources, such as personnel and technology, to meet the individual needs of patients.

In a time of such deep divisions in our country and Congress, we must find ways to come together to recognize the urgent needs of our constituents and do better for all of our people.

The Bipartisan Rural Health Caucus will look beyond the partisan gridlock of Washington to tackle the rural healthcare crisis in the United States.

From the pristine, sandy beaches of Hawaii to the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee, rural Americans are asking Congress to step up and take meaningful action to save their hospitals and clinics, address health inequities, strengthen their healthcare workforce pipeline, ensure fair and adequate reimbursement for providers, and reduce healthcare costs.

For the health and well-being of all of our people, I invite my colleagues to join us in this movement to enhance access and delivery of healthcare and mental health services for rural and remote communities throughout our country.

REPRESENTING THE PEOPLE, NOT A BUREAUCRACY

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a government that represents the people, not a bureaucracy that represents Washington's interests.

Pending on the Supreme Court docket is *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo*, a case with the potential to overturn 40 years of bureaucratic overreach and restore the proper role of Congress, the courts, and the Presidency.

Nearly 40 years of deference by lawmakers and judges to the executive has given rise to the administrative state, sometimes called the fourth branch of government. Over time, this unaccountable bureaucracy has gradually subverted the doctrine of separation of powers laid out by our Founders.

According to the Constitution, Article I vests the power to make law in the Congress; Article II vests the power to enforce law in the Presidency; and Article III vests the power to interpret law in the courts.

In no article are all three powers—to make, enforce, and interpret the law—jointly vested in a managerial bureaucracy of 1.8 million civil service employees. The very idea is offensive to our founding.

However, at the heart of *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo* lies the doctrine of *Chevron* deference, a legal construct which would make our Founders turn in their graves. It is a 1980s judicial invention that shifts lawmaking powers from lawmakers and adjudicating powers from judges to a plenary executive branch.

In the 1980s, *Chevron* deference may have been reasonably supported by those who believed faithful bureaucratic agents could be trusted to fill in areas where the law is silent. In 2023, the Biden administration's relentless pursuit of government power has disabused any dewy-eyed believer in faithful bureaucrats.

The 40-year experiment of *Chevron* deference has allowed the bureaucracy to aggrandize nearly unlimited power, culminating in the Biden administration exceeding its authority from sea to shining sea and from cradle to grave with overregulation.

Just recently, President Biden and Secretary Cardona tossed up a Hail Mary when their illegal, economically disastrous, taxpayer-funded student loan bailout for the wealthy arrived at the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court emphatically said no. It also said