

the passing of their loved one and this great Tennessee man. Mr. Speaker, with that, I say "hey."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from referencing occupants in the gallery.

HONORING DR. JAMES WEST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. NICKEL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Dr. James West, a revered Wake County commissioner and a true champion for the people of North Carolina. It is with deep sorrow that we mark his passing but with immense gratitude that we celebrate his legacy.

His journey, from protesting segregation in the sixties along with Jesse Jackson to serving as a Raleigh City councilman and Wake County commissioner, was marked by a relentless commitment to justice and equality.

Dr. West's legacy is not just in the numerous programs he initiated or the pivotal policies he championed but in the countless lives that he touched, mine included, the community leaders he inspired, and the unquantifiable impact of his vision and compassion.

We remember Dr. West for his Dr. West-isms, his wisdom, and his unwavering faith in the power of community.

As we mourn Dr. James West's passing, we also celebrate his extraordinary life, a life dedicated to service, equality, and the betterment of Wake County and its people.

CELEBRATING MR. IRA DAVID WOOD III

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and celebrate an icon of North Carolina's cultural landscape, Mr. Ira David Wood III, as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of his legendary portrayal of Ebenezer Scrooge in Ira David Wood's "A Christmas Carol."

Mr. Wood's unique and comedic adaptation of this Christmas classic has become a beloved holiday tradition for the Raleigh community.

His visionary leadership in theater, coupled with his remarkable talents as an actor, author, singer, and playwright, has left a profound impact on the arts in North Carolina.

As the founder and executive director of Theatre in the Park in Raleigh, Mr. Wood has been a cornerstone of Raleigh's vibrant art scene since 1972.

His leadership and vision have earned him prestigious recognitions, including two Medal of Arts awards and The Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the highest civilian honor in North Carolina.

As we celebrate this milestone, let's applaud Mr. Wood's extraordinary contributions not only to the arts but to the heart and soul of North Carolina.

Please join me in congratulating Mr. Wood on this remarkable achievement and wishing him continued success.

SCHOOL SAFETY

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, last week I visited the site of the 2018 Marjory

Stoneman Douglas school shooting in Parkland, Florida. Meeting the victims' families was a heartbreaking experience that I will never forget.

There is no way to describe what it felt like to see the bullet-riddled, bloodstained classrooms and hallways that remain frozen in time.

We owe it to each victim and family impacted by this tragedy to stop the epidemic of gun violence plaguing our Nation.

Just this week, another act of senseless violence rocked my district when a student was tragically killed and another seriously injured at Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School. My thoughts are with the victims' families and loved ones affected by this unspeakable tragedy.

I am sure a lot more details will be released in the coming days, but for now our mission remains clear: We can and must do more to keep our kids safe in school.

I remain committed to working with anyone on solutions to protect our kids.

STANDING WITH ISRAEL

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the No Funds for Iranian Terrorism Act.

For years, the Iranian regime has aided and abetted terrorist organizations, including Hamas.

On October 7, we saw Iranian-backed Hamas terrorists carry out a brutal and barbaric assault against the Jewish people and the State of Israel.

Both Iran and Hamas seek to destroy democracy, and we must hold them accountable for their actions.

I am proud to support this bill coming to the floor today that will ensure that not a single dollar of this funding, whether directly or indirectly, goes to support Hamas or its efforts to destroy Israel.

We must continue to stand with Israel and ensure they have the funding and resources to disarm and dismantle Hamas and every Iranian-backed terrorist threat.

HONORING DR. AMBROUS OLIVER "BUTCH" FINDLEY, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROSE). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and celebrate the life of Dr. Ambrous Oliver Findley, Jr., affectionately known as "Butch," who recently passed and is survived by his loving wife, Wanda, and his children, grandchildren, sister, nephews, and dear friends.

Butch's life was filled with tremendous acts of service. After obtaining a bachelor's in psychology from the University of South Florida, Butch's commitment to the well-being of others led him to the U.S. Navy where he selflessly served as a hospital corpsman. A man of diverse talents and interests, Butch then returned to the University

of South Florida and obtained a bachelor's in biology and premed.

Butch's devotion to the medical profession later led him to attend the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine and complete his residency at the General Hospital in Pinellas Park, Florida. After this pivotal chapter, Butch once again answered the call of duty, this time as a physician in the United States Army where he served at the rank of captain in Fort Stewart, Georgia.

For 42 years, Butch then dedicated himself to the well-being of Georgians in Rabun County, leaving an indelible mark on the northeast Georgia community that he served—first at Ridgecrest Hospital and later at MedLink Rabun. He was not merely a physician; he was a beacon of hope and healing, touching countless lives.

Beyond the stethoscope, Butch revealed in the simple joys of life. Whether exploring new adventures or finding solace in the comfort of home, he cherished precious moments with his family and friends.

Butch's kindness, compassion, and profound sense of duty will forever resonate in the hearts of those who knew him. As we bid farewell to a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend, we find peace knowing that he is now with our Heavenly Father.

Georgia's Ninth District will always remember and honor the incredible legacy that Dr. Butch Findley, Jr. left behind.

15TH ANNUAL INDUSTRY APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hall County's top industries for 2023. Earlier this month, the Greater Hall County Chamber of Commerce held its 15th Annual Industry Appreciation Luncheon at Lanier Technical College in Gainesville. On behalf of the Ninth District, I would like to recognize this year's winners.

First, congratulations to Mar-Jac Poultry for receiving the Top Large Employer award for 2023. Based in Gainesville, the poultry capital of the world, Mar-Jac Poultry plays a pivotal role in our community's economic prosperity.

With the help of its 1,400 dedicated employees, Mar-Jac Poultry processes 2.4 million birds per week with plans to expand capacity by 50 percent and create 100 new jobs. I am proud to recognize Mar-Jac Poultry for this exciting award, and I thank the company for investing in our community.

This year's top Medium Sized Employer award is Corporate Storage, a successful third-party logistics provider with 56 hardworking employees.

Over the years, Corporate Storage has evolved from the initial moving and storage company, Adams Transfer Company, which was founded in Athens back in 1903, into a thriving business that provides commercial warehousing, records management, and logistic services.

Corporate Storage recently completed a \$15 million expansion to improve service for manufacturing, healthcare, and food processing customers throughout north Georgia. Congratulations, Corporate Storage, for this well-deserved recognition.

Last but not least, I would like to honor the Top Small Employer, pdblowers, Incorporated, which employs 28 Georgians at its headquarters in Gainesville.

Founded in 1990, pdblowers is a custom manufacturer of positive displacement blower systems, including fabrication, design, and systems integration. The business has built an outstanding reputation as a leading distributor in its field due to years of exceptional customer service, innovative solutions, and on-time delivery. Congratulations, pdblowers, Incorporated.

Additional companies honored by the Greater Hall County Chamber of Commerce include: Carroll Daniel Construction for workforce development, Performance Foodservice for workforce excellence, Marel for safety performance, ZF for corporate responsibility, and Harris Products Group for environmental responsibility.

Congratulations to Hall County's 2023 top industry winners. I thank each of the recognized companies for investing in our community, driving innovation, and fostering economic growth in Hall County.

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END HUNGER NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, this holiday season, I am thankful for the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts for once again organizing a 43-mile march through Western Massachusetts to raise awareness about hunger and fundraise for families in need.

I am proud to announce that this year's march, the 14th annual, raised \$500,000. I couldn't be more grateful to all the marchers, fundraisers, and community organizers who made this happen.

I was so proud to join them on November 20 and 21 as we walked sunup to sundown, traveling from Springfield to Greenfield. We stopped at crucial community centers that work hard to feed anyone who is hungry.

A huge thank you to our fearless leader, radio personality Monte Belmonte, who has been the inspiration for the march for the past 14 years. He pushed an empty shopping cart all 43 miles and stopped to pose with roaring crowds every chance he could. He is a true local icon and hero.

We were joined by dozens of hunger advocates who marched on against freezing Massachusetts winds but kept their heads up the whole way. We were fed by the brand-new Holyoke Culinary

Arts food truck, Wake the Dead Donuts, Berkshire Brewing, Richardson's Candy, and, finally, a hot meal from pay-what-you-can Stone Soup Cafe. Of course, there were countless volunteers who made sure we had plenty of Dunkin'.

We peeked into community action centers like Lorraine's Soup Kitchen in Chicopee, Kate's Kitchen of Holyoke, and Amherst Survival Center.

I also thank the rest stops set up by the MLK Family Services Center, Fame of Holyoke, the WRSI and NEPM radio stations, Adventure East, Hawks and Reed, and Home Depot.

I thank Congressman Richie Neal for joining us at the kickoff. I thank Congressman JOE KENNEDY for keeping me company for several hours on Route 116, and Governor Maura Healey for being the first-ever Governor to join this incredible event.

I was proud of the many State legislators who joined the march, including State senators, Jo Comerford and Jake Olivera; and representatives Natalie Blais, Mindy Domb, Dan Carey, and Lindsay Sabadosa.

Special thanks to Andrew Morehouse, the executive director of the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts; Tim Garvin with the United Way; the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce; Dr. Dave; Jamie Hoag, and the amazing staff at Attorney General Andrea Campbell's office, who marched with us; as well as District Attorney Dave Sullivan, and so many more.

Although the march was hard, we all know being hungry is harder. Across the country, 44 million people are food insecure. In Massachusetts, one in five families don't have reliable access to affordable, nutritious food. That is a disgrace.

As I say every week on this floor, hunger is a political condition.

In this Congress, we have seen House Republicans attack antihunger programs every chance they get, from advocating for onerous—and let me just say, ineffective—work requirements, to slashing programs that feed hungry moms, infants, and children. It appears this extreme MAGA majority will stop at nothing to turn the clock back on the progress we have made to fight hunger.

That is why the March for the Food Bank in Western Massachusetts is so critical. It is a display of care and generosity, in spite of the fact that some here in Washington are hell-bent on taking food from people who need it most.

With the half a million dollars that these volunteers raise, the food bank will serve 1.5 million meals, but charity alone will not address the root causes that plunge people into hunger.

Food banks are a Band-Aid, but we in Congress should be pressing for deeper, enduring solutions. People shouldn't have to turn to a food bank every month. They should just have enough money to be able to buy groceries.

Programs like SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program,

keep hardworking families from having to choose between buying food and paying rent. SNAP gives participants the dignity of shopping for their own food.

We ought to fund, not cut, these programs. By the way, even if you don't agree with me that ending hunger is a moral imperative, you ought to still get on board because it saves us money in the long run.

SNAP lifted 2.8 million Americans out of poverty in 2021 and can generate almost double the economic output for each dollar invested in it.

Why do so many on the other side insist on cutting it every chance they get?

Let us instead choose to invest in SNAP, in WIC, and in our whole antihunger safety net. Instead of cutting services for those in need, we need to invest in our people, in our communities, and in our country.

We can end hunger now. What we need is the political will, and the people who marched with me on November 20 and 21 have the political will. They are counting on us here in Congress to live up to the promise of our country and make sure that nobody, absolutely nobody goes hungry.

If we do that, we can end hunger now.

PROTECT OUR COUNTRY BY SECURING OUR BORDERS

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

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government's primary role is to protect the country by securing our borders.

The Biden administration has allowed, even facilitated, an invasion of more than 8 million foreign nationals led by drug cartels, terrorists, and human traffickers.

Joe Biden has created a fentanyl crisis, a national security crisis, and a child trafficking disaster, making the U.S. vulnerable in every way. In addition, this invasion costs taxpayers billions of dollars every year.

Cartels are bringing unaccompanied minors across the border, and these taxpayer dollars are being used to fly unaccompanied children across the country on secret flights.

Secretary Mayorkas has lost track of 85,000 children, and he must be held accountable through impeachment.

Americans miss President Trump. He made border security his top priority. In Congress, I will always defend children and fight for strong borders.

GUN HOMICIDES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, while gun deaths in the United States far outpace those of other countries and now are the leading cause of death among children under 18, recent CDC