

through their dedication to each other, but also to their faith as devoted members of the Countryside Bible Church.

George and Norma are currently 98 and 97 years old, respectively, and are still strong in their health as well as their love for each other.

With over 100 descendants, the Carpenters have left a tremendous mark on the community and beyond. I would like to recognize this remarkable couple and congratulate them as they celebrate their extraordinary milestone.

□ 1330

SHOW ME THE CRIME

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

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose the removal of Congresswoman OMAR from the Foreign Affairs Committee.

I begin by asking: What is the crime?

You see, Mr. Speaker, this is a question that many in this country have been asking over the last week: What is the crime?

Now, many were referring to Tyre Nichols, but I am asking this question as it relates to Congresswoman OMAR.

Was her so-called crime allegedly committing fraud in Brazil?

Was her so-called crime allegedly breaking campaign finance laws during her election to Congress?

Was her so-called crime stealing from a roommate?

Was her so-called crime defrauding and outright lying to her constituents?

No, it was none of the above. These are crimes that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have no qualms in countenancing when it is politically expedient.

I ask again: What is the crime?

There are those who have been accused of and/or under investigation for participating in attacking our very democracy here on January 6, and they have been seated on committees.

Here we are with our first African-born Member of Congress, who has not been accused of the above crimes or any crime, and we are wasting taxpayer dollars debating her removal from her duly appointed position on the Foreign Affairs Committee.

I ask again, Mr. Speaker: What is her crime?

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose the removal of Congresswoman OMAR from the Foreign Affairs Committee and I begin by asking what is the crime?

You see this is a question that many in this country have been asking over the last week. What is the crime? Now many were referring to Tyre Nichols, but I am asking this question as it relates to Congresswoman ILHAN OMAR.

Was her so-called crime allegedly committing fraud in Brazil?

Was her so-called crime allegedly breaking campaign finance laws during her election to Congress?

Was her so-called crime stealing from a roommate?

Was her so-called crime defrauding and outright lying to her constituents?

NO. None of the above.

But these are crimes that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have no qualm in countenancing when it is politically expedient.

So again I ask, what is the crime?

There are those that have been accused of and or under investigation for participating in attacking our very democracy here on January 6th and they have been seated on committees.

So here we are with our first African-born Member of Congress who has not been accused of the above-crimes or any other crimes and we are wasting taxpayer dollars debating her removal from her duly appointed position on Foreign Affairs.

So I ask again—what is the crime?

I certainly hope my colleagues across the aisle will do more than claim the moral high road and actually take the moral high road and acknowledge the hypocrisy and do what is right. The country is tired of the consistent double standards.

Finally, while I am still unclear of what the alleged crime is, I sure hope Rep. OMAR's so-called "crime" isn't the same as Tyre's.

RECOGNIZING ISABEL BLOOM SHOP

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th anniversary of the Isabel Bloom shop in Davenport, Iowa, and what would be the 115th birthday of sculptor Isabel Bloom.

The original Isabel Bloom was a Davenport native who attended the Art Institute of Chicago and the Vogue School of Fashion. She and her husband married in 1938 before settling in Davenport with their three children in the early 1940s.

In 1963, Isabel and her husband opened a small studio in Davenport's East Village. Bloom received multiple awards for her ceramics but perfected garden art to sell in her store. Because it was sturdy and weather resistant, her preferred base was concrete.

Though ownership has since changed, and the Isabel Bloom shop has continued to grow, the current owners, Donna Young, Cathy Nevins, and Bill Barrett, have stayed true to Bloom's original vision: to create art that brings comfort and joy to their community. As an owner of a few Isabel Bloom pieces myself, I can say their vision rings true.

Congratulations to the Isabel Bloom shop. I wish them many more years of creativity, friendship, and success.

REPUBLICANS REFUSE TO ADDRESS VIOLENT RHETORIC

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H. Res. 76, re-

moving Congresswoman ILHAN OMAR from the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Instead of focusing on real issues impacting American families, Republican leadership is attempting to exact political revenge.

The effort to remove Representative OMAR is inconsistent with previous actions taken by the House to remove Members from committees. In the past, this has only been used for Members who incited violence against other Members, and those removals received bipartisan support.

This bill is partisan, hypocritical legislation that ignores Republicans' constant refusal to address the violent rhetoric, election denialism, and extreme ideology among their own Conference.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to oppose this bill.

CHALLENGES FACING RURAL SMALL BUSINESSES

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

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, the House resoundingly passed my bipartisan bill, the Expanding Access to Capital for Rural Job Creators Act.

Rural small businesses face unique challenges that big city businesses do not. Nearly 20 percent of the U.S. population lives in rural areas, yet businesses in rural areas raised under 2 percent of total capital over the last 3 years.

My home State of West Virginia is a very rural State where no city has a population greater than 50,000 people. My legislation simply requires the United States Securities and Exchange Commission's Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation to identify and report to Congress those challenges rural small businesses face when trying to access our capital markets.

My bill will make it easier for Congress to do our jobs to make sure rural small businesses, like those in West Virginia, are not left behind.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the Senate takes this bill up very soon.

HONORING FRANCIS "BILLY" RAYMOND

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

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Billy Raymond, a letter carrier in my hometown.

In October, Francis Raymond, better known as Billy, will celebrate 30 years of carrying mail along the same postal route.

Billy is well known to residents on his longtime Delaware County route and vice versa. Billy knows the names of the kids and dogs on his route, and he greets them on his rounds.

Four years ago, Billy was honored as a member of the prestigious Million Mile Club. That club celebrates postal workers who have safely driven over 1 million miles or served the Postal Service for more than 30 years.

The United States Postal Service plays a critical role for our country, connecting family, friends, businesses, and government agencies across the Nation, and Billy Raymond is a critical part of that connection in Pennsylvania's Fifth District.

February 4 is Thank a Letter Carrier Day, so I want to thank Billy Raymond for his dedication and to extend a broader thank-you to all the hard-working postal workers serving at the 60 post offices across my district.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, today, I join my colleagues in celebrating National Girls and Women in Sports Day.

Our female athletes deserve a level playing field in competitive sports. Unfortunately, that is under attack today by the far left.

The far left's gender interpretation has created chaos in women's sports. Biological men who would otherwise not be competitive in male sports can now identify as women and dominate girls' sports. Time and again, we have seen biological men win championships in women's and girls' swimming, running, and wrestling.

By distorting reality, the left has made a mockery of competitive sports and has forced many talented female athletes to watch as their dreams are being crushed by biological males.

Mr. Speaker, whatever happened to the fight for Title IX so women's sports and activities could be on their own and have equal opportunity?

It is time for logic and reason to return to the discussion. Biological men have no place competing in women's sports.

We have gender-specific sports for a reason: Men and women are biologically different. That is not news.

Women and girls deserve to have their own women-only sports.

FIGHT AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM

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

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, on International Holocaust Remembrance Day, seven Jewish worshippers were murdered in cold blood outside a synagogue in Jerusalem.

Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker, this was no random act of violence. This was a heinous and cowardly attack rooted in hate, bigotry, and anti-Semitism.

In the face of such evil, it is imperative that we come together not as Democrats or Republicans but as Americans committed to fighting against anti-Semitism and defending the sacred relationship between the United States and Israel.

"Never again" is more than a mere hashtag for social media. It is a solemn oath.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to act against anti-Semitism wherever it is or whomever it comes from.

FIGHTING BIGOTRY AND ANTI-SEMITISM

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

Mr. SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate my colleagues on voting to remove Representative ILHAN OMAR from the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Agreeing to H. Res. 76 sends a strong message that we support Israel and the Jewish community.

I urge the 118th Congress to now stand together, proudly upholding every single American—no matter race, pedigree, religion, nor creed—as no less American than their neighbor; that Jewish Americans are patriotic Americans; and that we all have a role in fighting bigotry and anti-Semitism in our country.

We must make sure that the House of Representatives reflects such principles as a united body.

GOVERNOR DESANTIS' WAR ON EDUCATION

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

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because while we wasted our time on ridiculous resolutions, there are real and present attacks on freedom and democracy happening in my home State of Florida at the hands of our Governor, Ron DeSantis.

This week, our Governor launched a full-scale, fascist attack on a small and very important institution of higher learning, the New College of Florida.

In his quest to stoke culture war after culture war, Governor DeSantis stacked the board of trustees with ultraconservative lapdogs, who immediately fired the New College president and are now vowing a hostile takeover that will cause harm to the thousands of young, queer, and people of color who formerly considered New College a safe haven.

I know this school, and I love this school.

Governor DeSantis is waging a war on education.

We have to be clear: This isn't freedom. The people of Florida and the students of Florida will not let this happen without a fight.

HONORING FARMINGTON'S ROGUE ROBOTICS

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

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I am here to recognize the Farmington High School Robotics Team, an impressive group of students, known as the Rogue Robotics, who exemplify the spirit of giving in Farmington.

About 5 years ago, the team received a message from Cillian Jackson's father. Cillian is a young boy living in Farmington, Minnesota, who was born with a genetic condition that makes it hard for him to get around. His father reached out to the team to see if they would be interested in building a custom wheelchair for him.

This talented robotics team took on the challenge and built a wheelchair for Cillian. Over the past 5 years, they have built six more custom wheelchairs free of charge for children with disabilities across our community.

Each member of the Rogue Robotics team has used their talents and expertise to serve our community, and I am tremendously impressed by their talent, hard work, and dedication.

Our future in Minnesota is strong with these kids. I thank them for showing us what selfless service looks like.

ADDRESSING OUR NATION'S MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

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

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, we can't truly address the mental health crisis in this country without addressing the stigma head-on. For that reason, I rise today to say that I am one of the millions of Americans who balance day-to-day life with managing anxiety and depression.

It isn't always easy for me to share my struggles with mental health, but I know that facing mental health challenges does not make you weak. It makes you human, and it gives others permission and courage to also speak openly.

We have to change the national conversation so that we can pull together bipartisan support to finally address our mental health crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to turn their attention to our country's growing mental health crisis.

Addressing mental health gets to the root of some of our country's most challenging issues. The issues do not exist within a vacuum. They touch education; they touch housing; and they touch substance use disorder.

I will not stop bringing up this issue until our communities feel heard and receive the support they desperately need.