

would prohibit DOE from finalizing these new standards.

With only six legislative days to go until temporary funding expires for the federal government, the House Republican majority has thus far failed to complete a spending package for Fiscal Year 2025. They also failed to act on the Farm Bill, which is now 14 months overdue. Yet, this week, the Republicans are wasting precious time considering a bill to ban energy efficiency standards for laundry machines. This is a disappointing, yet unsurprising, end to what has been a historically unproductive Congress. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 7637 should be rejected. I urge my colleagues to oppose the bill.

HONORING DEPUTY CHIEF MIKE
SHIKANY

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Deputy Chief Mike Shikany for his outstanding 31 years of service to the Bedford Police Department and to recognize his well-earned retirement.

Deputy Chief Shikany devoted his career to ensuring the safety and well-being of our community, beginning his journey with the Bedford Police Department in October 1993 as a Police Officer, and through hard work and perseverance, rose through the ranks. From Police Corporal in 2003, to Sergeant in 2008, Lieutenant in 2020, and ultimately to Deputy Chief in 2024, his leadership has been a guiding force for the department.

Throughout his career, Deputy Chief Shikany has played a pivotal role in shaping the department's success, leading the Patrol and Criminal Investigations Divisions, and mentoring countless officers. His commitment to professional development is reflected in his bachelor's degree in criminal justice, the Master Peace Officer Certification from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, and graduation from the prestigious Senior Management Institute for Police.

Deputy Chief Shikany has earned numerous accolades, including Employee of the Quarter in 2014, a Certificate of Merit in 2013, and Patrol Divisional Employee of the Year in 2005. His career is further distinguished by numerous letters of commendation, each underscoring his exceptional dedication to law enforcement and the safety of our community.

Deputy Chief Shikany's remarkable service has left a mark on the Bedford Police Department and improved the lives of the people he has served. I thank him for his tireless commitment in protecting North Texans. On behalf of a grateful community, I congratulate him on his retirement and wish him the best in this next chapter of his life.

HONORING LEONARD LOWINGER
ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Leonard Lowinger on his 90th birthday.

This month Leonard Lowinger—who normally goes by Lenny or Len—turned 90 years old. Born on December 4, 1934, Len was raised in Mount Vernon, New York. Growing up he attended AB Davis High School where he played as a defensive guard and a kicker on the high school's football team. After graduating high school, Len enlisted in the United States Air Force where he served as a radar operator out of the Wadena Air Force Station in Minnesota during the Korean War. Len left the Air Force with the rank of Airman 2nd Class.

After his time in the service, he met his soulmate, Harriet Robbie, and the two were married on September 21, 1957. They had three wonderful children—Marci, Jeff, and Judy.

Len went into the dairy industry working for Belford Farms for forty years. When Len was not with his family or working, he filled his free time by bowling and playing golf. He also loved being a referee for high school football and basketball.

Today, Len lives in Somerset, New Jersey in my congressional district where he is loved by his three children, ten grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Unfortunately, Harriet passed away in 2023 after 65 wonderful years together.

Most recently, Len was just elected the Resident Council President at his assisted living community The Bristol in Somerset—Congratulations.

I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing Len a happy and healthy birthday.

HONORING SGT. GARNETT
FRANKLIN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retired, tenacious, and self-motivated U.S. Army veteran, Sgt. Garnett T. Franklin. Sgt. Franklin enjoyed a long career in serving and teaching.

Garnett T. Franklin was born and raised in Mound Bayou, Mississippi. He graduated from JFK High School in Mound Bayou in 1969. After high school, he enlisted in the Army, dedicated over two decades to serving in the U.S. Army Active Duty as a construction engineer. His military service offered many opportunities to serve at various Army bases and stations, such as Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Fort Campbell, Kentucky, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and Fort Benning, Georgia for Jump School. He also traveled to Japan, Korea, Belvoir, Germany, and participated in the Return of Forces to Europe. He retired at Fort Benning, Georgia in 1993.

After retiring, he relocated back to Mississippi and began teaching JROTC in Jack-

son Public Schools, Jackson, Mississippi, which included Murrah High and Lanier High School. Later, he returned to Belgium to join his family and worked with the Department of Defense in Washington State for 17 years as a fitness specialist at MWR.

Upon returning home to Mound Bayou, Mississippi, he spends his time volunteering in the community and surrounding areas. He also volunteers with a male group of concerned citizens known as the Development Committee. This group started by cleaning up the grounds of a long-standing local service station, cutting grass, pulling vines, and refurbishing an old neighborhood house. They also maintain the facility building and the Taborian Hospital grounds. Now known as the unofficial "beautification committee," this volunteer group takes pride in completing various projects around the city. As the holiday season approaches, they are preparing by putting up lights and decorations in the Milburn Crow Memorial Park and on the grounds of the Taborian Hospital for the entire city to visit and enjoy.

Volunteering in his hometown allows him to give back to the community and enjoy the pleasures of retired life. Sgt. Franklin firmly believes that the military offers valuable pathways to personal and professional growth. His life's path has shown that the military is a great career starter.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sgt. Garnett T. Franklin for his passion for leadership, service and volunteerism to the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE LAREDO
DAYBREAK ROTARY CLUB

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor forty years of the Laredo Daybreak Rotary Club. Their civic and community engagement has been a force in south Texas for decades, and I cannot wait to see what they can accomplish in the future.

Founded in 1984, the Laredo Daybreak Rotary Club has kept a keen focus on the healthcare of the community. And that focus has produced incredible results.

The club's first major initiative, helping Rotary International eradicate polio, raised more than 100 percent of their chapter goal. They then raised \$125,000 to establish aerobic exercise courts on several school campuses across the district.

Laredo Daybreak Rotary Club also put on annual screenings for glaucoma and assisted with Shots Across Texas. In districts like mine, such work is extremely important in promoting a healthy community. They are also involved in international health projects like building a clinic in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. I applaud them for it.

I also want to take note of perhaps one of their greatest accomplishments. The Laredo Daybreak Rotary Club has presented \$100,000 for the endowment of Texas A&M International University and another \$100,000 for Laredo Community College.

These funds, which were raised by an annual raffle originally started to help eradicate

polio, are integral in promoting higher education in south Texas.

The club also presents \$1,000 scholarships each year to a graduating student from all eight of Laredo's high schools.

Mr. Speaker, Laredo has been forever changed by the incredible work of our local Rotary organization. It's been an inspiring four decades: I look forward to their continued work in the local community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, due to illness, I was unable to vote in the first vote series on 12/10/24. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 493; YEA on Roll Call No. 494; YEA on Roll Call No. 495; and YEA on Roll Call No. 496.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF SHANELLE SCALES-PRESTON

HON. MARK DESAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Shanelle Scales-Preston for her decades of service to the House of Representatives as she departs to begin her new role as a Contra Costa County Supervisor.

Shanelle has lived in and served the East Bay of California her whole life. After graduating from California State University East Bay, Shanelle worked for Contra Costa County and joined then-Congressman George Miller's staff, working diligently on behalf of district residents for more than ten years. When Congressman Miller retired, I was thrilled to welcome her onto our office's team. She has served as my District Director since 2015, helping lead our efforts in the district to provide outstanding service to constituents.

Shanelle has also shown unwavering devotion to her hometown of Pittsburg, California where she resides with her husband, Damon, and their sons Jaden and Ashton. She has served on Pittsburg City Council since 2018, working tirelessly to foster a strong and diverse community throughout the City. In this role, she has spearheaded efforts to expand access to affordable housing, improve public transportation, empower Pittsburg's youth, and build a vibrant hub in downtown Pittsburg. She has been a regional leader, working with a number of key groups and agencies, serving as the Chair of MCE and TransPlan and President of the League of California Cities East Bay Division. On top of it all, Shanelle is active with several community groups including the Gateway Rotary Club and Pittsburg Reads initiative.

Shanelle was chosen by the voters to serve as the next Contra Costa County Supervisor for District 5. While I am sad to see her go from our team, I'm confident that in this role, she will continue to be an effective leader for our County. It has been a joy to work with Shanelle throughout the years and I'm incredibly grateful for her service.

RECOGNIZING BISHOP McDEVITT HIGH SCHOOL

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to recognize the Bishop McDevitt Crusaders on their incredible State Football Championship victory on December 6, 2024.

The Crusaders prevailed in hard-fought overtime against the Roman Catholic Cahillites at Cumberland Valley's Chapman Field. Crusaders' head coach Jeff Weachter and Quarterback Stone Saunders—bolstered by the Team's incredible endurance, discipline, focus, and skill—led the Team to their monumental victory.

After the Crusaders were leading 14–3 at halftime, the Cahillites rallied to take the lead by 31–28 with just under 6 minutes left in the fourth quarter. The Crusaders then tied the game with a field goal before making a critical defensive stop and sending the game into overtime. After halting the Cahillites' offense one last time, the Crusaders found their way again into field goal position, where Kicker Aidan Grella solidified the Crusaders' championship—their second in only three years.

Mr. Speaker, I'm honored and privileged to recognize the Bishop McDevitt Crusaders Football Team on yet another State Championship victory, and wish them Godspeed in their individual and Team aspirations.

RECOGNIZING MY LEGISLATIVE AIDE, CAROLINE KENNEY, FOR HER EXCELLENT WORK ON BE- HALF OF MINNESOTA'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. DEAN PHILLIPS

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my Legislative Aide, Caroline Kenney, for her work on behalf of every constituent in Minnesota's Third Congressional District.

Caroline is a Minnesota native, hailing from the great city of Minneapolis. Upon graduating from DeLaSalle High School, she followed her ambition to Washington, DC, where she attended George Washington University. In 2022, she graduated Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in political science.

Starting in my office as an intern in her senior year of college, Caroline quickly stood out as an invaluable asset to the team. She envelops and promotes Radical Hospitality, which made hiring her as Staff Assistant an easy choice. As a self-proclaimed animal lover, she took it upon herself to write a letter to the Smithsonian Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute about the future of the Giant Panda Program when its future was still an open question. This year Caroline was promoted to Legislative Aide, a position in which she has thrived, introducing multiple pieces of priority legislation including the Voter Choice Act and the Porch Pirates Act. She proudly embodies the Minnesota spirit and greets all who come to meet with her with warmth and a friendly smile.

Staff and constituents alike know that Caroline is here for all the right reasons and is a tireless advocate for those without a platform. She's a pleasure to work with and our senior staff members certainly appreciated her keeping them updated on all the latest memes and pop culture trends. As an avid watcher of *The West Wing*, Caroline reflects that same good faith and passion in everything she does. Watching her grow from an intern to an accomplished legislative staffer has been an absolute joy.

The people of Minnesota's Third Congressional District were lucky to have her dedication and leadership, and she will be dearly missed. I wish Caroline all the best in her future endeavors and thank her for two years of faithful service to this Nation—and many more to come.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MR. STEVE E. LANDIN

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the service of Mr. Steve E. Landin of Laredo, Texas. A lifelong civil servant, Mr. Landin has dedicated his career to the people of South Texas.

He began his career with the City of Laredo in April 1990 and obtained an Associate's Degree in Fire Technology, as well as a Bachelor's Degree in Finance and Economics with an emphasis in Fire Administration.

Over the course of his 30-year career with the City of Laredo, Mr. Landin served as Fire Chief and Emergency Management Coordinator for twelve years.

He retired from the city in May 2020 and joined Webb County to serve as Emergency Management Coordinator for two years.

Then, in August 2022, Mr. Landin rejoined the City of Laredo to serve as Assistant City Manager and Acting Chief of Police. In his role as an Assistant City Manager, he oversees more than ten different departments in his current role.

This makes him one of only 22 people in American history to serve as both Police Chief and Fire Chief in their community.

He's also giving his expertise back to the community. Mr. Landin is an instructor in rescue, EMS, Haz-Mat, Peace Officer, and Fire Service.

He is also a Catholic Deacon. He serves the Diocese of Laredo at St Patrick Catholic Church in Laredo.

Mr. Speaker, let us all dedicate ourselves to public service just as Mr. Landin has.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NORMA GRIFFIN

HON. MARK DESAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Norma Griffin.

Norma was born in New York City where she was raised with her sister Rita. Norma