

behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, it is my great honor to commend Diana Martinez for her dedication to service and leadership. Congratulations to Diana.

COMMENDING ELIZABETH "LISA" HERNANDEZ

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of a Latina trailblazer and champion for working-class individuals across my home State of Illinois, the one, the only, State representative Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez.

Representative Hernandez is the highest ranking and longest serving Latina in the Illinois State Assembly, and she was recently elected the chair of the Illinois Democratic Party where she continues to ensure that Latinas are represented and recognized across our State.

As the current deputy majority leader in the General Assembly, she has been an advocate for quality higher education accessibility, a leader for reproductive rights and liberties, a champion for climate justice and natural disaster relief, and a defender for healthcare for all.

Whether organizing food drives to support local families or spearheading grant workshops to help small businesses thrive, Representative Lisa Hernandez is an inspiration for all Latinas in Illinois.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, it is my greatest honor to commend "my friend," "mi amiga," my colleague for her commitment to public service and tireless work to make Illinois a safe and welcoming State for women, migrants, and everyone who desires to call it home.

It is my honor to congratulate Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez with this commendation.

HONORING MARGOT TAYLOR DURING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

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

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Women's History Month, I stand here to celebrate a remarkable woman from my district whose dedication to equity and justice has made a profound impact: Margot Taylor.

Margot serves as vice president of strategy and advocacy at Planned Parenthood Los Angeles, where she has been and continues to be an integral part of the community since 2009.

Margot is a driving force for advancing reproductive health education, access to contraception, and defending the fundamental right to safe, legal abortion.

At the University of Houston, she witnessed firsthand disparities faced by Black and Brown communities. Motivated by these injustices, Margot is dedicated to dismantling systemic racism through advocacy and action. Margot's experiences fueled her passion to ensure equitable access to

healthcare and community services, especially for marginalized groups.

As the leader of Planned Parenthood's Black Health Initiative, she has championed successful approaches to address disparities in underserved communities.

With unwavering dedication to our community, Margot embodies the spirit of Women's History Month, a trailblazer dedicated to advancing reproductive rights and healthcare access for all.

HONORING DR. GABRIELA LOPEZ DURING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, this Women's History Month it is my honor to spotlight an exceptional woman from my district whose story embodies compassion and determination, Dr. Gabriela Lopez.

A San Pedro native, Dr. Lopez shattered barriers from the start. Born to immigrant parents, she became the first in her family to graduate from college and earn a doctorate in medicine.

During her time at UCLA, she recognized a critical need for inclusivity in healthcare for non-English speaking patients. She led efforts to provide translators for patients at UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital so that language barriers did not prevent access to quality care. Her actions exemplify empathy and service.

Dr. Lopez remains deeply involved with our community. As a dance instructor for a local group in San Pedro, California, she celebrates her heritage and encourages unity and belonging.

Dr. Lopez' remarkable journey has been featured on platforms like UCLA Newsroom and La Opinion. Her story serves as a beacon of inspiration for women everywhere. Her story reminds us that with determination and heart, committed to service, women can overcome any obstacle and make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

Let us honor Dr. Gabriela Lopez and all the trailblazing women who continue to shape our world with their courage and compassion not just this month but every month.

SUPPORTING WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE IN GASTON COUNTY

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

Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to gratefully announce that our office has secured over \$4.5 million to support water and sewer infrastructure in Gaston County.

We need these funds to support new jobs and affordable housing, as Gaston continues to see remarkable growth. The town of Randle is going to double in population this decade. With new families and businesses moving to the county, it strains our utilities and you can't put an apartment or an office building on a septic tank.

When I have talked to local leaders in Gaston County, this has been one of their top priorities. This funding is desperately needed and will go directly to making Gaston a better place to live and work. I am very proud that our office was able to help.

SUPPORTING GASTONIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today proud to announce that our office secured nearly \$1 million to support the Gastonia Police Department.

The funding will support a project equipping the Gastonia Police Department with technology to reduce crime, allowing officers to act in real time and protect the safety of Gastonia residents.

It is vital that we give our law enforcement the tools they need to safely reduce crime and help the people in our communities. I am proud to stand with the Gastonia Police Department to help them get the funding and tools they need to keep us safe.

SUPPORTING AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN MECKLENBURG AND GASTON COUNTIES

Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today proud to announce that our office has secured \$1.5 million to support affordable housing projects in Mecklenburg and Gaston Counties.

Our growth has made housing far too expensive, and it is making it even more difficult for working families to make ends meet.

The funding will support two projects in my district that will provide housing repair assistance and improve living conditions for families at risk of homelessness. It will also help the town of Matthews buy land and help with startup costs for new affordable housing developments. Having stable and affordable housing is the key to growing the middle class in our country.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be able to support these projects in my district.

AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE BETTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROBERT GARCIA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, last week we learned that the Jared Kushner gift continues to grow across the globe.

We already know that Donald Trump put his unqualified son-in-law, Jared Kushner, in charge of Middle East policy in the White House. We also know that Jared intervened and negotiated a \$110 billion arms deal with Saudi Arabia and pushed for Donald Trump's first state visit to be in Saudi Arabia, a huge change of policy and a huge gift to this foreign government.

We also know that months after Jared left the White House, the Saudi Prince went against his own advisers and gave \$2 billion to Jared Kushner's

hedge fund. Let's not forget that during the Trump Presidency, receipts also show that at least \$7.8 million in foreign cash went directly to Donald Trump's businesses.

Now, Jared is pushing new deals in Albania and Serbia, trading on the connections he made during his White House service. The Trump crime family grift never stops. I have said it before and I will say it again. It is time for investigations. This kind of influence peddling harms our national security.

Instead of wasting time on a sham impeachment against President Biden, we should be focused on stopping the real corruption that has been committed by the Trump family. The American people deserve better.

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 11 o'clock and 13 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. STRONG) at noon.

PRAYER

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

Holy God, break into our lives this day and reveal the wonders that You alone perform. The heavens declare Your glory. The skies proclaim Your handiwork. They have no need for words, yet their praise goes out to the ends of the Earth. Your creation sings of Your greatness.

Ignite in our hearts the love that You impart to each one of us, through friends who love at all times and kin who are born to carry us in adversity. The earnest advice from close companions bears the sweetness of Your counsel. The people You have gathered around us, friends, family, and colleagues, are the reminders of Your loving provision.

Today, then, as we hear the echoes of Your voice around us, may we respond with the praise of creation and the love of neighbor, committing ourselves to careful conversation. Let us convey Your gifts of grace and mercy as we dedicate ourselves to respectful dialogue.

Refresh our souls with Your perfect law. Make the wise simple with the trustworthiness of Your statutes. Give joy to our hearts as we seek Your righteousness and give light to our eyes with the radiance of Your commands.

In Your most 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 Texas (Mr. WEBER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WEBER of Texas 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1332. An act to require the Office of Management and Budget to consider revising the Standard Occupational Classification system to establish a separate code for direct support professionals, and for other purposes.

S. 3648. An act to amend the Post-Katrina Management Reform Act of 2006 to repeal certain obsolete requirements, and for other purposes.

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.

WATER TREATY ISSUE

(Ms. DE LA CRUZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to address the dire consequences of Mexico's failure to meet its 1944 water treaty obligations. The recent closure of the Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers, Texas' sole sugar operation, is a direct result of Mexico's non-compliance.

The water shortfall, which now exceeds 700,000 acre-feet, has devastated our sugarcane industry, a crucial industry for Texas, one of only three States that grow and mill sugarcane.

Mexico's breach has not just jeopardized our agricultural heritage and the livelihood of over 500 workers, it also threatens our region's economy and national food security.

The current situation is unsustainable. We urge the Biden administration to take immediate action and press Mexico on this critical issue. Time is of the essence.

FREE LUNCH TO EVERY CHILD

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

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, Art Ellison has one final wish: to provide free lunch to students in need.

Art, a Democrat from the New Hampshire State House, is currently in hospice and knows he doesn't have long to live. He is using his final time to try and pass a bill to increase eligibility for free lunch to all students at or below 350 percent of the Federal poverty line.

Making kids go hungry is cruel. That is why I am on a bill with Senator SANDERS to provide free lunch and free meals to every child. We can do it for \$3.30 a day.

Let us honor Art Ellison and get this done. He represents the best of politics.

ENERGY WEEK

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight Energy Week and how House Republicans are fighting back against the antienergy policies of the Biden administration. These policies threaten to undo years of innovation making our domestic production of natural resources the cleanest in the world.

It is clear the United States has an abundance of clean-burning natural gas, especially in Pennsylvania, which is the second largest producer of natural gas in the country.

By utilizing the Commonwealth's resources, we can provide jobs and invest directly into our communities that have suffered at the hand of the Biden administration's antienergy policies.

By revoking new oil and gas leases on Federal lands, canceling vital pipeline permits, and imposing politically motivated regulations on our energy producers, this administration is jeopardizing American jobs and risking our energy and national security.

Thankfully, House Republicans have not ignored the devastating impact these policies have on hardworking Americans.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I know energy security is national security, and we have had enough of Biden's failed far-left anti-American energy agenda.

COFA RESIDENTS IN MAUI

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

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, fire and disaster does not discriminate based on legal status or citizenship. For far too long, the help and support following a disaster that is available to many has been withheld from a few.

I rise today to highlight the plight of our Compact of Free Association "family," "ohana." They come from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the