

are we doing this?" Well, we can't have a shutdown. We would lose.

Oh, boy. That is courageous, but okay. What if I accept your premise? What if I accept your premise that we can't do this because we have a thin majority in the House, don't have the Senate, and have a radical regime in the White House? Let me accept your premise. I have been around the block here in town a couple of times.

What happens next January? Say Republicans run the trifecta. Republicans win the White House, and President Trump is coming back in. We have the Senate with, say, 52 or 53 seats. We have a 10-seat majority or a 15-seat majority here in the House. Then what? Someone tell me then what because I have been there before.

We were there in 2017, and we didn't repeal ObamaCare and didn't pass healthcare reform.

We were there in 2018, and we didn't pass border security. Goodlatte 1, Goodlatte 2—we couldn't figure out what we were doing. We didn't do it.

What I said to this individual on the floor today was: Do you know what the excuse will be? We don't have 60 in the Senate.

That individual said: Well, we have to have a conversation about that.

That individual knows full well that the same excuses being levied right now to foist this monstrosity, this abomination, on the American people will be the same excuse in January: We can't shut down the government. You need 60 votes in the Senate, Chip. Don't you understand?

Yeah, I do understand. So do the American people, and they are tired of it.

They are tired of having their country traded away day by day, second by second, while our National Guard gets stormed at the border in El Paso, and we don't do anything about it.

We walk around wearing little pins, feeling good about ourselves as Members of Congress who refuse to stand up and defend the very Constitution that gave us the power to do something about it.

Instead of deferring to the President, we are supposed to use the Article I power under the Constitution to stop funding an executive branch that is at war with its own people.

□ 1830

We came here to change it. Last year we started to. We were working together to change this place, to vote bills off the floor, to have single-subject bills, and to have 72 hours—a mere 72 hours—to read a bill, and in just over a year, we have tossed all of that out the window, and we are back to business as usual. We jam a bill through in 24 hours. It is over a thousand pages. It is \$1.2 trillion. It is littered with all manners of sin and earmarks and spending and programs that are undermining the well-being of the American people. We are still figuring out what is in it.

Tomorrow, Republicans have a choice. You can choose to fund an executive branch at odds and at war with the American people that you represent or you can choose to say no. If you refuse to say no, if you go along to get along, you own it. You own every penny. You own every program. You own every American who gets harmed by open borders. Don't dare come looking for sympathy as you are trying to campaign all year trying to win votes when your constituents come up to you and say, why in the hell did you fund it? Because you did.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. D'ESPOSITO), a colleague of mine, so that he can, I think, regale a basketball team or talk about some good stuff back home, which is always a good thing to do.

RECOGNIZING INCREDIBLE HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL PLAYERS ACROSS THE FOURTH DISTRICT

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, CHIP ROY from Texas, for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of some incredible high school athletes from across the Fourth Congressional District back on Long Island in New York.

I would like to congratulate both the Elmont Memorial High School boys' basketball team for winning the New York State championship in their class, as well as the Baldwin High School boys' team for being crowned Nassau County champions.

The girls' teams across the district had a remarkable season, as well, with East Meadow High School winning its first Nassau County championship in its history earlier this month.

I also must give a shoutout to the boys' basketball team from my alma mater, Chaminade High School, for a big win in double overtime to secure the CHSAA Class A New York State championship.

I am incredibly proud of these student athletes who represented our community with pride and made memories that will last a lifetime.

I wish these Nassau County neighbors nothing but success in their future academic and athletic endeavors, and we will continue to advocate to make sure that girls play girls' basketball and that boys play boys' basketball.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Texas for the opportunity to speak.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York. I appreciate what he came to the floor to address. We all have these great stories back home in our districts, and it is worth regaling those things, and I am glad he got the ability to do that.

Mr. Speaker, I want to give a special shoutout to my daughter today. Today is my daughter's 13th birthday, and I just want to say happy birthday to my little girl, who is out in California of all places for this Texan—out in San Diego with her mama having a little fun for her 13th birthday.

Happy birthday to my wonderful daughter, Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### HONORING INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS OF THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STRONG). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, it is such an honor and a privilege to be a Member of the House of Representatives where we can come before this body and express what is in our heart and in our mind, and today I have the honor of speaking of individuals and organizations who have done wonderful work in my community, the San Fernando Valley.

On behalf of Women's History Month, I would like to honor these individuals and these organizations.

This celebration is not only a recognition of women's achievements, but, also, an acknowledgment of their pivotal role in shaping the fabric of our communities across our great Nation on this month of Women's History Month.

The San Fernando Valley is known for its multicultural communities and owes much of its richness to the relentless efforts of women who have built businesses, led community organizations, and spearheaded social justice movements across our community.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, let us remember and honor the trailblazers who fought for equity for women, the educators who inspired future generations, and the entrepreneurs who defied the odds to create lasting legacies in their businesses and other endeavors.

Their activism and achievements have laid the groundwork for a more inclusive and equitable community.

In recognizing the contributions of women in the San Fernando Valley, we celebrate not just their historical impact but also their ongoing role in shaping our future.

Let us continue to acknowledge and uplift their voices and acknowledge their lasting mark on our community's history and its unfolding story.

Our community's progress and prosperity are built in large part on their enduring spirit and achievements of women throughout the San Fernando Valley.

#### HONORING MARY HELEN PONCE

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Helen Ponce for Women's History Month, a distinguished author and professor whose contributions have significantly enriched Chicano literature and academia.

As we celebrate the women of our communities, it is fitting to recognize individuals like Mary Helen Ponce, whose work has left an indelible mark on our cultural landscape.

Mary Helen Ponce was born in Pacoima, California, amidst the vibrant tapestry of first- and second-generation Mexican immigrants in the San Fernando Valley.

From her early years, she exhibited a deep appreciation for her cultural heritage, a sentiment that has profoundly influenced her academic and literary pursuits and successes.

After completing her bachelor's degree in anthropology from California State University, Northridge in 1978, Mary Helen Ponce embarked on a journey of scholarly exploration.

She obtained master's degree in Chicano studies from the same institution in 1980, followed by another master's degree at the University of California, Los Angeles, where her academic prowess was recognized with the history department's prestigious Danforth Fellowship in 1984.

Mary Helen furthered her education by earning a Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico in 1995.

Throughout her illustrious career, Mary Helen Ponce held various teaching positions at esteemed institutions such as the University of California, Los Angeles; the University of New Mexico; and the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Her dedication to education and commitment to fostering understanding and appreciation for Chicano culture have left a lasting impact on her students and colleagues alike.

Mary Helen Ponce's influence in literature shines very bright to this day.

With three published books and numerous articles and short stories to her credit, she masterfully encapsulates the nuances of Chicano life and culture, exploring themes of bilingualism, biculturalism, and acculturation.

Her works serve not only as a testament to her literary prowess but also as representation for marginalized voices.

Beyond her professional endeavors, Mary Helen Ponce remains deeply committed to various organizations, including Comision Femenil San Fernando Valley, National Writers Union, and the California State University, Northridge Alumni Association.

Her unwavering dedication to preserving and celebrating Chicano heritage continues to inspire and resonate with readers worldwide.

In recognition of her outstanding achievements and enduring legacy, I commend Mary Helen Ponce for her invaluable contributions to literature, academia, and the advancement of Chicano culture in the San Fernando Valley and beyond.

May her remarkable journey serve as a source of inspiration for generations to come.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO RUBY FLORES

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Deputy Chief Ruby Flores, an exceptional leader whose illustrious career within the Los Angeles Police Department, otherwise known as LAPD, exemplifies dedica-

tion, service, and trailblazing leadership.

As we commemorate Women's History Month, it is only fitting to recognize Deputy Chief Flores for her outstanding contributions to public safety and her commitment to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Born and raised in Southern California as a proud first-generation Mexican American, Deputy Chief Ruby Flores embodies the spirit of resilience and determination.

Her journey with the LAPD began in 1994, and over the past two decades, she has ascended through the ranks with remarkable perseverance and excellence.

Throughout her distinguished career, Deputy Chief Flores has held many leadership positions within LAPD, demonstrating her commitment to community engagement, professional development, and innovative problem-solving approaches.

Her groundbreaking appointment as the first diversity, equity, and inclusion officer for the department underscores her dedication to fostering a more inclusive and equitable law enforcement environment.

In January of 2024, Deputy Chief Ruby Flores made history by becoming the first woman to receive command of the LAPD Operations-Valley Bureau and the first Latina promoted to deputy chief within the LAPD and its entire history.

Her visionary leadership, passion for service, and commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion serves as guiding principles in her mission to protect and serve the people of Los Angeles.

Beyond her professional achievements, Deputy Chief Flores remains an active member of various law enforcement associations and a proud ambassador for her alma mater, inspiring others to pursue their educational goals.

In recognition of her exemplary service, Deputy Chief Ruby Flores was honored with the Champion of Women Award by the Los Angeles Business Journal in 2022.

Her dedication to breaking barriers, promoting diversity, and upholding the values of integrity and justice embodies the very essence of Women's History Month.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Deputy Chief Ruby Flores for her outstanding contributions to public safety and her enduring commitment to making our communities safer and more equitable. May her leadership and legacy continue to inspire generations to come.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO IMELDA PADILLA

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary individual who has dedicated her life to public service and the betterment of her community beyond her immediate community and the entire San Fernando Valley: Los Angeles City Councilwoman Imelda Padilla who represents the Sixth District in the San

Fernando Valley on the L.A. City Council.

The Sixth Council District is in the heart of the San Fernando Valley, encompassing communities such as Arleta, Sun Valley, North Hollywood, Panorama City, North Hills, Van Nuys, and Lake Balboa.

This is the same Council District I had the honor to represent on the City Council just a few years ago.

Her story is one of resilience, dedication, and unwavering commitment to her constituents, embodying the spirit of leadership and community engagement that we celebrate during this special month.

Born in 1987 in Van Nuys, California, and raised in the working-class neighborhood of Sun Valley, Councilwoman Padilla's life has been a testament to the power of perseverance and the impact of community involvement.

As a first-generation Mexican American, she witnessed firsthand the challenges and opportunities that come with striving for a better life here in America.

Her mother worked as a factory worker, and her father was a gardener. She was inspired by her parents' spirit of service and the example they set for her family, and Imelda chose a path to advocacy and public service at a very young age.

As a child, she was diagnosed with rickets, a calcium deficiency, and in 2000, Imelda had surgery to address this issue at the Shriners Hospital in Los Angeles.

Imelda attended Roscoe Elementary School, Byrd Middle School, and John H. Francis Polytechnic High School. As a student, she was involved with the cheerleader team and joined the Los Angeles Youth Council.

This is when I first met Imelda, as she is one of the first recipients of the Andres and Maria Cardenas Family Foundation Scholarship and Program.

Councilwoman Padilla earned her bachelor's degree in political science from the University of California, Berkeley, with minors in philosophy and Chicano studies followed by a master's in public administration from the California State University, Northridge.

□ 1845

These academic achievements laid the foundation for her career in community advocacy and local governance.

Imelda's brother was incarcerated, and that experience inspired Imelda to come back home to advocate for young people and bring resources to the San Fernando Valley and the community that gave her and her family so much.

Imelda has taken on many leadership roles, such as a youth organizer for Pacoima Beautiful, a field deputy for then Council District 6 and a senior organizer for Raise the Wage.

Councilwoman Padilla's political journey reached a significant milestone in 2023 when she was elected to represent the Sixth District of the Los Angeles City Council.

Her platform, focused on equitable access to resources, enhancing the quality of life for all residents, and promoting social and economic justice reflects her lifelong commitment to serving others and advocating for positive change.

Beyond her political achievements, Councilwoman Padilla has made notable contributions to her community through various initiatives, including the Adelante Latino Youth Summit, designated to inspire local youth to pursue higher education and diverse career paths.

As president of the Valley College Foundation and former member of the Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council, her leadership has facilitated countless opportunities for advancement and prosperity for many Angelenos.

In recognizing Councilwoman Imelda Padilla today, we recognize not only her accomplishments but also the enduring impact of her service to Los Angeles and its residents.

Her journey from a young advocate to a respected elected leader in city government exemplifies the values we hold dear during Women's History Month: courage, resilience, and the power of making a difference in the lives of others.

Let us draw inspiration from Councilwoman Padilla's story as we continue to advocate for equity, justice, and opportunity in our own communities throughout our Nation.

I extend my deepest respect and congratulations to Councilwoman Imelda Padilla for her ongoing dedication to public service and her remarkable contributions to the city of Los Angeles.

RECOGNIZING COMISION FEMENIL OF THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great respect and admiration for an organization that has been at the forefront of empowering Latina women and their communities, Comision Femenil of the San Fernando Valley.

For over five decades, Comision Femenil has dedicated itself to improving the quality of life for Latina women, their families, and communities through a commitment to education, leadership, development, and community involvement.

Founded in 1970, Comision Femenil is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that has tirelessly worked to provide opportunities for growth and advancement to Latinas in the San Fernando Valley and beyond.

Their mission is a beacon of hope and a testament to the power of dedicated community action in creating meaningful change.

One of Comision Femenil's cornerstone initiatives is the Dr. Karin Duran Memorial Youth Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded annually to Latina students in the northeastern San Fernando Valley who are pursuing higher education. It is a critical resource that opens doors for young women who dream of a future empowered by education.

Moreover, this year marks the 30th anniversary of Comision Femenil's Adelante Mujer Latina Career Conference, an annual event that has significantly impacted the lives of countless Latina high school students.

By exposing them to higher education and career options through workshops led by professional Latinas, Comision Femenil ensures these young women can envision and pursue their dreams with confidence and determination.

Comision Femenil also excels in providing professional development and networking opportunities as well. Their monthly presentations on local community issues not only foster professional growth but also strengthen the bonds within their community and encourage active participation and advocacy.

In recent years, Comision Femenil has expanded its mentorship programs, thanks to a generous \$25,000 grant from the county of Los Angeles.

These programs, including the High School Mentorship Program and Scholarship Recipient Mentor Program, which offers guidance, support, and encouragement to young Latinas, helps them navigate through academic and personal challenges and succeed in their endeavors.

The legacy and impact of Comision Femenil of the San Fernando Valley are very profound. Their work not only uplifts individuals but also fosters a stronger, more equitable community for generations to come.

As we honor the contributions of women and organizations making a difference in our communities, let us draw inspiration from the commitment and achievements of Comision Femenil.

Their dedication to empowering Latina women through education and leadership development is a shining example of how focused, community-based action can drive positive change in our society.

I extend my deepest gratitude and congratulations to Comision Femenil of the San Fernando Valley for their dedication and service.

HONORING NICOLE CHASE

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Nicole Chase for her outstanding contributions to the Boys & Girls Club of San Fernando Valley and her tireless dedication to the welfare of youth and families throughout Los Angeles.

Nicole's story is one of devotion, leadership, and transformative influence. Through a storied career that began after her graduation with distinction from the University of California, Berkeley, Nicole has devoted over four decades to serving the community, particularly focusing on youth empowerment and development.

She follows in the footsteps of her father, Leroy Chase, who was the president and CEO of the Boys & Girls Club for over 50 years.

Her leadership as the president and CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of San

Fernando Valley has been nothing short of remarkable. Under her guidance, the club has not only expanded its reach but also deepened its impact, offering comprehensive after-school programs that cover education and career development, health and life skills, arts, sports and wellness, and leadership and character development.

Nicole's approach to youth development is holistic and inclusive, ensuring that the programs under her leadership cater to the diverse needs of young people, nurturing their potential and preparing them for successful futures.

Her work extends beyond the confines of the Boys & Girls Club. As a certified facilitator for Motivating the Teen Spirit, she plays a critical role in fostering emotional literacy and integrity among teens.

Nicole's commitment to community service is evident in her extensive involvement in various city commissions and initiatives, including the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks and the Los Angeles Zoo Commission. These roles underscore her dedication to enhancing the quality of life for all residents and her belief in the power of community engagement and development.

Moreover, Nicole's leadership extends into the areas of fundraising, mentorship, and advocacy, making her a beacon of hope and a role model for young people and her peers alike.

Her efforts in organizing teen summits, managing major sponsorships, and directing youth-focused programs have empowered thousands of young individuals, helping them to unlock their potential and aspire to greater achievements and heights.

Nicole Chase's contributions to the Boys & Girls Club of San Fernando Valley and the broader Los Angeles community reflect her commitment to making a difference in the lives of young people. Her visionary leadership, coupled with her passion for youth empowerment and community development, has left an indelible mark on countless individuals and organizations.

Therefore, it is with great respect and admiration that I commend Nicole Chase for her extraordinary service and dedication. Her work not only enhances the present well-being of our youth but also lays the foundation for a brighter, more inclusive future for generations to come.

Let us all recognize and celebrate Nicole Chase's achievements and contributions. Nicole is a great example of what it means to serve and lead within our communities.

HONORING NANCY TAKAYAMA

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor an exceptional individual from the San Fernando Valley, Nancy Takayama.

Nancy has devoted her life to advocating for the Japanese-American community, promoting disability awareness, and tirelessly working toward the preservation of Japanese-American history and heritage.

Nancy's journey began with a simple yet profound act of kindness and inclusion, inspired by a coworker's effort to communicate in sign language. This experience ignited a passion for disability awareness, leading Nancy to advocate for the hearing impaired through education and public performances.

Her work aims to foster understanding and compassion, combating bullying and promoting inclusivity from a young age to all youth.

Upon returning to her roots in the San Fernando Valley, Nancy's focus shifted toward preserving the rich history and legacy of Japanese Americans in the region. Collaborating with elder community members, she embarked on a mission to capture oral histories, ensuring that future generations understand and appreciate their heritage.

Her dedication to this cause led her to pivotal roles within the community, including her presidency at the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Citizens League and her involvement with the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center.

Under Nancy's leadership, the SFV JACL initiated the Katarou Histories Program, which bridges generations through the sharing of stories and experiences, enriching the community's collective memory.

Additionally, her volunteer work with the Grateful Crane Ensemble highlights her commitment to educating the public about the Japanese-American experience, utilizing the arts as a powerful medium for storytelling and awareness.

Nancy's advocacy extends beyond cultural preservation to encompass civil rights, as evidenced by her work with the Pacific Southwest District, PSWD, JACL.

Her efforts have significantly contributed to the protection of civil liberties and the promotion of Japanese-American heritage throughout southern California and the Southwest.

Moreover, Nancy's involvement in the Little Tokyo Business Association and the Little Tokyo Community Council underscores her commitment to preserving historical sites, including the Tuna Canyon Detention Station, a personal endeavor linked to her family's history.

Nancy Takayama's dedication to community engagement, her advocacy for the disabled, and her unwavering devotion to preserving Japanese-American history and heritage are inspirational to the people around her.

Her work not only enriches our understanding of the Japanese-American community's contributions but also serves as a beacon of inclusivity and understanding across diverse communities.

Her work is a testament to the power of community service and advocacy in shaping a more inclusive and aware society. Let us celebrate and recognize Nancy's extraordinary contributions to our Nation's culture.

Therefore, it is with great respect and admiration that I honor Nancy Takayama today.

#### HONORING GINNY HATFIELD

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize a remarkable individual from Valley Village who has made a big impact on her community, and that is Ginny Hatfield.

Ginny's exemplary service and dedication to her community, her tireless advocacy for women's rights, and her commitment to public safety make her a distinguished figure worthy of celebrating.

Ginny Hatfield's journey began with the Neighborhood Council of Valley Village, where Ginny played a crucial role in writing the bylaws and obtaining certification with the city of Los Angeles.

As a founding board member and vice president for the last 16 years, Ginny's leadership has been instrumental in shaping the community's development and fostering a spirit of inclusivity and cooperation.

Beyond her local community, Ginny has been a dedicated member of the American Association of University Women for over 30 years.

Her contributions at both the State and local levels, especially in public policy and advocacy for women's rights, underscore her commitment to advancing equality and empowerment.

Ginny's leadership in chairing the annual Lobby Day and her role as the president of the San Fernando Valley AAUW branch demonstrate her ability to inspire action and drive meaningful change.

Ginny is also involved with the San Fernando Chapter of the United Nations Association, showing that her dedication to service extends beyond her local community and to global issues, particularly sustainable development goals.

Her efforts to educate the public about the U.N.'s work and to advocate for support of U.N. programs exemplify her dedication to fostering global citizenship and understanding.

Beyond her advocacy work, Ginny has served her community in many other roles, including her service as an elder at Faith Presbyterian Church of Valley Village and her participation in the International Citizen Diplomacy of Los Angeles.

□ 1900

Her efforts to promote person-to-person connections and her work with immigrants through the San Fernando Valley Interfaith Council are testaments to her compassion and commitment to service.

Ginny Hatfield's career experiences, including roles with Congressman Tom Rees, Congressman Tony Beilenson, Assemblymember Wally Knox, and former Assembly Speaker Bob Hertzberg, have equipped her with a deep understanding of public service and governance.

Her contributions to our community and our Nation reflect a life dedicated to service, advocacy, and leadership.

Her impact on Valley Village, the State of California, and the many lives she has touched through her work and career is immeasurable.

Let us recognize and celebrate Ginny Hatfield's outstanding contributions and her unwavering dedication to making a difference in her community and the world at large.

#### POLY PARROTS GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a group of extraordinary young women from Sun Valley. This high school in California recently accomplished a feat never seen in their school's long history.

Last month, the John H. Francis Polytechnic High School girls' basketball team captured its second straight Division 1 CIF-LACS championship in a convincing 54-47 victory over the Arleta Mustangs.

The Poly Parrots saw incredible all-around team play with critical contributions from their star players and incredible contributions from other key players throughout their team.

Led by the dynamic sister duo of Hannah and Heart Lising, and seniors Sofia Cruz, Andrea Hurtado, Unique Doroteo, the Poly Parrots beat some of the tournament's toughest basketball teams en route to their championship title.

The back-to-back City Champions delivered an incredible season, as the Poly Parrots went 10 and 1 in their league and finished the season with a 17 and 9 record overall.

These young women showcased their incredible drive and resilience and showed they were not complacent with last year's title. They were hungry for more, and they certainly prevailed.

I commend Head Coach Elton Feri and the rest of his staff, Kimberly Pulido, Gabriela Gallardo, and Eduardo Alcantar for building an incredible basketball program and making sure these student athletes are succeeding on and off the court.

Congratulations to the Polytechnic High School girls' basketball team. They are the champions.

I look forward to seeing what is in store for them next year. I truly believe they can make it three in a row.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, March 22, 2024, at 9 a.m.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-3519. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a