

some of the incredible work these agencies do at the local level to create opportunities for people to move from poverty to financial independence.

Community action agencies administer Federal funds from the community services block grant, which continues to be the only Federal program with the explicit and overarching goal of reducing poverty regardless of its cause.

The vast majority of CSBG funds, no less than 90 percent of each State's allotment, go directly to local agencies that can use these flexible funds to tailor a unique response to poverty in their communities.

Community action agencies are highly successful at leveraging their CSBG allotments to obtain a wide array of other public and private dollars, showing the immense benefits of supporting successful public-private partnerships. These agencies often help administer a wide array of programs, including Head Start, USDA food programs, LIHEAP, Federal homelessness programs, workforce funding, and much more.

For more than 60 years, the Community Action Network has inspired a spirit of hope. It has helped millions of people each year change their lives and has improved communities all across America.

I want to highlight one of the successful agencies in Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District: the Northern Tier Community Action Corporation.

Northern Tier Community Action has served a four-county region in my district since 1966, covering more than 3,000 square miles and serving thousands of individuals annually. They operate a highly successful Head Start program, providing education, health, nutrition, and social services to families with young children who otherwise may not be able to access these services in these rural communities.

Northern Tier also provides housing assistance to families facing imminent loss of their existing housing or who are currently homeless, and they help connect low-income individuals to everything from food to energy assistance.

While agencies like Northern Tier are successful at leveraging CSBG dollars, we can and must do more to make these dollars go even further. Unfortunately, the CSBG program has not been reauthorized in nearly three decades. The program, while successful, needs some modernization to allow agencies the ability to tap their full potential and better serve families and communities.

This program has a strong history of bipartisan support because of the great work it enables, which is why I continue to be a proud partner with my friend, Congresswoman SUZANNE BONAMICI, on championing recent reauthorization efforts. Several provisions would make the program significantly stronger, including expanded eligibility and an increased authorization to make sure these funds can serve those

most in need. It is also critical that community action agencies maintain local control over planning and activities and avoid a top-down, one-size-fits-all approach.

I am also excited about the possibility of a new broadband navigator program within CSBG to respond to the broadband and digital needs of low-income families and communities.

It is time for Congress to renew our Nation's commitment to reducing poverty by reauthorizing the community services block grant program.

I am grateful for the National Community Action Foundation and the community action agencies across the country that serve those most in need every day.

DYLAN JUDE HARRELL COMMUNITY CENTER

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

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today with immense pride to recognize DJH Kids, a remarkable nonprofit organization in my district. This exceptional group has successfully obtained a key permit for the proposed Dylan Jude Harrell Community Center in Ilwaco.

This community center honors the life of Dylan Jude Harrell, who was 4 years old when she was diagnosed with diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma, a rare and incurable brain cancer, before passing away 20 months later.

This community center will strengthen the foundations of Ilwaco by addressing the childcare crisis working families are facing and bringing together folks for recreational activities and community-led events.

Community centers like this one are key at a time when the average cost of childcare in the U.S. has risen by 220 percent in the last 30 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the folks at DJH Kids and the entire team supporting the Dylan Jude Harrell Community Center. I am excited for what the future of Ilwaco has in store.

HONORING DEPUTY DREW KENNISON

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the remarkable resilience and dedication of Deputy Drew Kennison of the Clark County Sheriff's Office. With his 15-year tenure, Deputy Kennison embodies the essence of a public servant.

Just a year following an incident that led to the amputation of his left leg above the knee, Deputy Kennison made a return to patrol duty. His injury resulted from a duty-related accident where a falling tree branch trapped him in his patrol vehicle. It was the efforts of his fellow SWAT team members and emergency responders who saved his life in a moment that reflected the best of those who serve our community.

Deputy Kennison remained positive and determined to return to service

throughout his recovery. His journey is a testament to his character and passion for service.

Mr. Speaker, I stand with my community in honoring his unwavering commitment to duty and wish him success as he works toward rejoining the SWAT team. Deputy Kennison embodies the best of southwest Washington and our law enforcement community, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude for his service and the inspiration he provides to us all.

HONORING DOUGLAS "BILL" SWARTZ ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor a remarkable individual in my district, Mr. Douglas "Bill" Swartz, a distinguished World War II veteran who recently celebrated his 100th birthday.

Bill's service journey began in the Navy, where he achieved the prestigious rank of radioman first class while stationed on the USS *Clark Mills*. While serving on the USS *Clark Mills*, the vessel was struck by a torpedo in the Mediterranean and sank.

Remarkably, Bill survived this dire situation, being rescued by a British tug, and his service journey didn't end there. Bill's service took him to the USS *Kingsbury*, and from there to Hiroshima.

Following World War II, Bill met and married his beloved Nancy in 1947, and they were happily married for 68 years. During this period, Bill was called back to the Navy to serve in the Korean war as a seaplane tender in Japan.

After his Navy career, he worked for the Federal Home Loan Bank as a loan examiner.

In recognizing Bill Swartz today, we honor not only his personal journey but also the indomitable spirit and sacrifice of countless veterans who have selflessly served our Nation. Bill's story serves as an example of courage, resilience, and dedication to the principles we all hold dear as Americans.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SERGEANT ALEC LANGEN

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Sergeant Alec Lengen, who was a graduate of Washougal High School in my district and one of the five marines killed in the February 6 helicopter crash during a training flight near San Diego.

Sergeant Lengen graduated from Washougal High School, where my son would attend high school, in 2018. He enlisted right out of high school.

Becoming a marine was a lifelong dream of his, allowing him to follow in the footsteps of his father.

He was promoted to the rank of sergeant in October 2022 and was a crew chief for the CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter just like his dad. Over his career, he earned several decorations, including Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, a Good Conduct Medal, and many, many others.

Sergeant Lengen's story serves as a reminder of the sacrifice our military members and their families face while they serve our Nation.

To his family and loved ones both in Washougal and across the country: I will never understand how deeply you feel his loss every day, but I assure you that Sergeant Alec Langen's sacrifice and example for our country will not be forgotten.

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IN RECOGNITION OF CAMRYN SATTLER

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Camryn Sattler, a standout athlete from Clinton High School.

This weekend, Camryn broke another school record in the 3,000-meter run with a time of 10 minutes 20 seconds 34 microseconds, showcasing her exceptional talent and dedication.

Her coach, Tony Steen, praises her relentless work ethic and mental toughness, which have propelled her to success. However, Camryn's achievements are not hers alone. They reflect the collective effort of the entire River Queens team, who secured second place overall at the Assumption Invitational.

From sprinting to field events to relays, the Queens demonstrated their strength and versatility, inspiring us all with their potential for even greater success.

Mr. Speaker, let us applaud Camryn, her teammates, and their coaches for their outstanding achievements and continue to support and celebrate the success of our young athletes.

IN RECOGNITION OF JAXON ROBERTSON

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Iowa City High School student Jaxon Robertson's recent honorable-mention win for C-SPAN's 20th annual StudentCam competition.

Every year, C-SPAN invites middle and high schoolers to think critically about issues that affect their communities and the Nation. This year's theme was "Looking Forward while Considering the Past."

Robertson's 6-minute documentary, "Prescribing Change: America's Healthcare Crisis," skillfully examines the impact of underinsurance and lack of health coverage, highlighting healthcare accessibility, rural healthcare challenges, prescription costs, and chronic illness rates in the United States.

Robertson's proposed solutions include prioritizing preventative care and reforming the fee-for-service model.

As a doctor, rural healthcare issues are near and dear to my heart, which is why I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this incredible achievement and wishing Jaxon Robertson future success as he continues to examine complex issues that affect Iowans.

NATIONAL GOLD STAR SPOUSES DAY

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Gold Star

Spouses Day, which was this past Friday, April 5, 2024.

In 2010, Congress designated April 5 as National Gold Star Spouses Day to pay tribute to the surviving husbands and wives of fallen servicemembers.

I recognize the Iowa family of Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Petty Officer First Class Joseph Adam McSween, who, along with his teammates, gave the ultimate sacrifice during Operation Iraqi Freedom in April of 2007 when their vehicle was struck by an enemy rocket.

Erin McSween is Adam's surviving Gold Star spouse and proud mother of two girls, Lilly and Gwyneth. Erin is a native of Jasper County, Iowa, and Gwyneth is currently a student at the University of Iowa, while Lilly attends the University of Western States.

Erin volunteers with several nonprofits to advocate for Gold Star spouses and families. She is delighted to see Lilly and Gwyneth take on that advocacy to raise awareness of the unique needs of Gold Star children.

As a 24-year Army veteran, I will always fight for our servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

May God bless the family of Adam McSween. May God bless our servicemembers and veterans, and may God bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING UNIVERSITY OF IOWA'S WOMEN'S WRESTLING TEAM

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the University of Iowa women's wrestling team, which finished the season strong at the 2024 National Collegiate Women's Wrestling Tournament with 6 collegiate champions and 12 All-Americans, as well as the team title for the most points.

Despite only being inaugurated in 2021, Coach Chun and the entire athletics department have worked tirelessly to build up this program and make it among the most elite women's wrestling teams in the Nation. Because of these incredible efforts, six champion Hawkeyes will be representing their school at the Olympic trials set to take place at Penn State University next week. I also visited with the family of one of those wrestling champions, Lilly Luft, yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues today to join me in celebrating these incredible Hawkeyes and wish them well as they work to secure a spot at the Olympics this summer. As always and forever, Go Hawkeyes.

AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, the most successful internet affordability program in our Nation's history will soon run out of money unless Congress acts.

There are 23 million families who rely on the Affordable Connectivity Program in our country. If Congress doesn't reauthorize this funding, the

program will run out of money in a matter of weeks.

This is deeply concerning for thousands of our residents who depend on this program for internet access. In Michigan's 12th District alone, this program has benefited 110,000 households, reducing broadband costs in the district by \$52.1 million annually.

Losing this access would jeopardize the well-being and opportunities. Mr. Speaker, for an estimated 64 million Americans, especially our seasoned residents. That is why the program is so important and why I cosponsored the Affordable Connectivity Program Extension Act and I urge Speaker JOHNSON to bring this bill to the floor for a vote.

Access to internet is a necessity for our communities; not a luxury. From education to employment to scheduling healthcare appointments to access to health services, everyone deserves affordable internet access.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot let this crucial resource expire and leave our residents disconnected.

DISABILITY JUSTICE

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, disability rights are human rights. Everyone in our country and around the world, including people living with disabilities, deserves to lead a fulfilling life with dignity.

I am committed to dismantling the barriers and injustices our neighbors with disabilities face to ensure our country is living up to our values of equity and equal rights for all people.

Our neighbors with disabilities cannot receive the quality healthcare they need and deserve when medical facilities lack accessible equipment like examination tables, weight scales, dental chairs, and radiology devices. I can't even imagine.

This is why I joined my sister in service, Congresswoman AYANNA PRESSLEY, in urging the Justice Department to address this issue and help the disabled community access equitable healthcare. I am so grateful for her leadership and partnership.

Please know that studies have shown that women with disabilities have a higher risk of dying from breast cancer and cervical cancer but are less likely than able-bodied women to receive mammograms and other tests to diagnose those conditions because of the lack of access to equipment.

Mr. Speaker, we must address this injustice with the urgency it deserves.

RECOGNIZING EID AL-FITR

Ms. TLAIB. Today, Mr. Speaker, is Eid Al-Fitr, an end to the holy month of Ramadan.

Eid Mubarak to all my fellow Muslims in Michigan's 12th Congressional District, across the country, and the world. May Allah accept our fasts and deeds of the past month and forgive us for our shortcomings.

Mr. Speaker, this Eid is not the same for the Muslim communities that our Members represent. Gaza is on their minds and hearts today as they witness