

Bryant was motivated and worked hard to make a difference in the world, joining the Utah National Guard in 2009 and the Massachusetts National Guard in 2022.

Bryant excelled in the field of loss prevention and became a loss prevention manager at TJX, a role which he cherished.

Outside of his impressive career, Bryant loved motorcycles, hiking, fishing, and playing with his dogs. He found joy in the simplicity of life and enjoyed sharing it with his wife, Heather, and his two beautiful children, Jade and Calvin.

His life reminds us that even in the face of adversity, we can still leave an enduring mark on our lives and in this world.

Bryant was a soldier, a friend, a father, and, most of all, a hero to all the lives he impacted for the better.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of Bryant Adsit, and I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing his commitment to serving his community and serving our country.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL TRAIL DAY

(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 recognize National Trail Day and the amazing trails across my district.

The Pine Creek Rail Trail, located in Lycoming and Tioga Counties, is held as one of the 10 best places to take a bike tour.

The Allegheny River and Samuel Justus Trails pass through Clarion and Venango Counties and run through the heart of the Oil Heritage Region.

The Great Shamokin Path was once the route used by Native American Tribes and is in Armstrong County.

The Redbank Valley Rail Trail was named the Pennsylvania Trail of the Year in 2020 and crosses through Armstrong, Clarion, and Jefferson Counties.

Traversing Clarion, Elk, Forest, and McKean Counties is the Knox and Kane Rail Trail. This 74-mile trail is full of scenic trailways in and around the Kinzua Bridge State Park to Clarion Junction.

In McKean County, part of the Knox and Kane Rail Trail is the Mount Jewett to Kinzua Bridge Trail, which was recently awarded Pennsylvania Trail of the Year in 2023.

Mr. Speaker, this National Trail Day, I encourage you to get outside and explore the trails in your area.

CELEBRATING IMMIGRANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR COUNTRY

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Immigrant Heritage Month, a time we recognize and appreciate the immigrant experience and contributions they have made to our country, and to also recognize individuals with temporary protected status, or TPS.

TPS provides temporary protection from deportation and work authorization for those who can't safely return to their home countries due to extenuating circumstances.

TPS protects immigrants like Ana Rodriguez. Ana is a janitor in Houston who fled the civil war in El Salvador and has lived in Houston for more than 20 years.

Thanks to TPS, Ana has spent 20 years making meaningful contributions to the greater Houston area and our Nation.

That is why my bill, the American Dream and Promise Act, includes TPS holders, because this is the country that they know and call home.

Mr. Speaker, I am the grandchild of immigrants. I stand with immigrants. I have seen the contributions that they make to this country every single day across America.

We must put people over politics, immigrants over ignorance, and protect these American families by expanding TPS and passing bills like the American Dream and Promise Act that will give unauthorized immigrants and Dreamers the right to be here.

BIDEN'S BORDER CRISIS IS DETRIMENTAL TO IDAHOANS

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

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, while the crisis at our southern border continues to worsen due to President Biden's blatant disregard for U.S. immigration laws, Customs and Border Protection officers are now seeing a spike in activity at our northern border.

Last month, 16,750 illegal immigrants were encountered at our northern border, a staggering 1,240 percent increase compared to April 2021, and that is just what we know of.

CBP reports that most of these individuals are attempting to evade apprehension, unlike at the southern border, where groups often surrender knowing they will be released directly into the U.S.

Our national security is in shambles as this crisis continues to escalate with no end in sight. Unlike President Biden, I will not stand by and allow known gang members, terrorists, and foreign aggressors to waltz into our country through our northern border and Idaho.

I will continue to fight to secure our border, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

CELEBRATING IMMIGRANTS' POSITIVE IMPACTS

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize June as Immigrant Heritage Month. This month, we celebrate the invaluable contributions of immigrants and the positive impact that they have on our country.

In that spirit, I would like to share the stories of one of my constituents. Gerald Michaud is a temporary protected status recipient from Haiti who received TPS after the devastating 2010 earthquake. Gerald was in Florida on a business trip when he learned that his home country had been devastated by the catastrophic earthquake and that he would be unable to return home safely.

However, with his TPS status, he has been able to live and work in the U.S. and support his family in Haiti.

Gerald is a 32BJ-SEIU member who works as a security officer and wheelchair attendant at LaGuardia International Airport and, on the weekends, serves as a martial arts instructor with the dream to one day have his own studio.

TPS has allowed Gerald to contribute so much to our community in Brooklyn. TPS holders like Gerald across the country contribute some \$31 billion annually to the U.S. economy.

This Immigrant Heritage Month, I recognize the contributions of immigrants like Gerald to communities across the country.

RECOGNIZING SEYMOUR JOHNSON AIR FORCE BASE

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the sound of freedom is roaring at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Wayne County, North Carolina.

This past week, I visited the base with my colleague, Representative NICKEL, and Goldsboro Mayor Charles Gaylor.

It was a pleasure meeting the new wing commander. We had an extensive discussion regarding divestment, the new Air Task Force, and upgrading the combat range.

It is crucial to recognize that Seymour Johnson plays a vital role in eastern North Carolina's economy, which is economically distressed. It is imperative that we prioritize our national security interests and protect this community.

I support the National Defense Authorization Act, including a provision requiring the Air Force to contract with the Department of Defense to conduct an assessment and report back to Congress.

The Air Force must prioritize transparency and accountability to the Wayne County residents.

□ 0915

IN HONOR OF SAMANTHA
KELEHER BURSUM

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

Mr. VASQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Samantha Keleher Bursum, who died tragically in an automobile accident on March 1.

If you met Samantha, you would know that she was extraordinary. Sam was clever, vivacious, and kind. She moved with energy, purpose, and a little bounce. She spoke with insight, clarity, and an uncanny confidence.

At 14 years old, Sam had remarkable promise. She was first in her class, fluent in three languages, a dedicated volleyball player, active in numerous clubs, and founder of the mock trial club. More importantly, Sam was a good person of great faith who brought light to any situation.

Sam's good energy, light, and purpose spreads throughout her community. Her friends and family, including her sister, Katherine, and her mother, Lori, who are here with us today, feel comfort and delight in the echo of Sam's wild and joyful laughter.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VET-
ERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2025

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1269 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 8580.

Will the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. YAKYM) kindly take the chair.

□ 0915

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 8580) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes, with Mr. YAKYM (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, amendment No. 42, printed in part B of House Report 118-535, offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF), had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 43 OFFERED BY MR.
SCHWEIKERT

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 43 printed in part B of House Report 118-535.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 26, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$1,000,000)".

Page 35, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1269, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Chair, I thank the Chairmen, and one of my favorite ranking members.

Mr. Chairman, part of what we are trying to accomplish here—we are going to have two amendments basically in different categories doing this—is if we look over some of the GAO reports from the last couple of years, some of the issues we have had in claims payment processing, if we actually look at the last GAO line items, long-term services support, GAO thought there was about \$38 billion in questionable issues. If we come down on even some of the pension processing, there is about \$10 billion in questions.

We are in the age of sort of a miracle of technology.

We also know, when we read over some of the reports coming out of the VA, there are issues on trying to hire staff, trying to hire staff that is qualified, to handle the amount of claims and data and those things that come in. All we are trying to do here is sort of push in the direction of using the technology that is now amongst us.

Many of us will refer to AI, but, in some ways, it is bigger than that. It is an algorithm. It is AI, but it is the ability to use data to mine through to see that this is where things aren't working the way they should, here is where we are missing, and here is where there is fraud.

The first amendment is on expediting claims. If you have claims and they are fitting certain formats, the fact of the matter is you should be able to go through them at an incredibly rapid rate with an incredibly high level of accuracy if you adopt the technology.

Our argument is that getting the technology right is moral. It is also fiscally really sensible.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is non-controversial, and I appreciate the kind words of the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT), and I feel the same.

I am not opposed to it. It supports artificial intelligence technologies to expedite VA claims, and anything we can do to expedite VA claims efficiently and effectively is worthwhile.

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

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I would be happy to engage in a colloquy.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. You have a much higher degree of expertise. Both of you do in regard to VA issues. I do taxes and Medicare financing.

One of the reasons we were hopeful about this is because it is sort of a closed ecosystem. It gives us the chance, as we have learned with a number of pilot programs, to use this because we know the rules here, and we are saying: Here is a chance to do a test, a pilot program, and if it works with the VA, then, hopefully, our future is being able to move it into other parts of the government.

Am I being unrealistic?

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Using artificial intelligence and anything we can do to efficiently and effectively make sure that we can assist the VA in processing claims is a good thing. We are likely at the nascent stage of being able to use that kind of technology.

As this is an increase-decrease amendment, essentially it gives you an opportunity to come here and talk about the importance of highlighting the need to expedite claims, which are improving. Thankfully, we are in a much better place in terms of the backlog. I know Secretary McDonough is very focused on making sure that we can continue to do that. Having your advocacy on the floor today is helpful in spotlighting the issue and making sure that we can advance at a more rapid rate.

Mr. Chair, I yield back to the gentleman.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentlewoman being willing to tolerate me and engage in that.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 44 OFFERED BY MR.
SCHWEIKERT

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 44 printed in part B of House Report 118-535.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows: