

CONGRATULATING HARRIS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY AND CHILDREN'S MUSEUM HOUSTON

(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 to recognize two Houston-area institutions, the Harris County Public Library and the Children's Museum Houston, for winning the 2024 National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the highest honor in their field.

This is an incredible achievement for the museum and library staff, who pour their hearts into ensuring that every child can reach their full potential.

Growing up poor in south Texas, we didn't have a library, but we had the county send us the bookmobile that came to our farm every month. I enjoyed every single book in that bookmobile. I have always said that but for the books that that bookmobile brought to me, I probably would not be where I am today.

Books and museums allow kids to explore, dream, create, and open their eyes. These resources are vital and must be preserved, especially during the summer. Access to museums and libraries over the summer allows children to be ever inspired and entertained.

Instead of banning books, we should be building libraries, making them a learning hub for our communities. We must put books over bans.

RECOGNIZING GLIOBLASTOMA AWARENESS DAY

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise awareness for the millions of patients, families, and caregivers who are battling glioblastoma.

Glioblastoma is the most common malignant brain tumor in the U.S., with 14,490 new cases diagnosed last year.

Recently, I introduced a bipartisan resolution expressing support for the designation of July 17, 2024, as the Glioblastoma Awareness Day. This resolution increases glioblastoma awareness, which is critical to research and treatment advancements and brings hope to those fighting this devastating disease.

This is personal to me, as my wife, Patty, battles glioblastoma.

Together, we will continue to build on the progress we have made as we search for a cure. I thank my colleagues for their support in bringing the crucial legislation to raise awareness by designating July 17, 2024, as Glioblastoma Awareness Day to the House floor and across America. In God we trust.

HONORING BERKELEY, ILLINOIS, AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. GARCIA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the centennial anniversary of The Rose Town, the village of Berkeley, Illinois.

From its origins as a town of German and Dutch farmers with a population just under 800 residents, Berkeley has become a residential town with transportation corridors that give easy access to the metropolitan region.

Although nestled between two interstates and home to a major railroad and commuter train, Berkeley has managed to maintain a small-town atmosphere.

One hundred years later, with a population of just over 5,000, Berkeley's streets are lined with residential homes, green spaces, and a bike path, reflecting a community that values its past while embracing progress and diversity.

Here is to the next 100 years, Berkeley.

AMERICA NEEDS SALTY ELECTIONS

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the House for passing the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act led by fellow Texan Representative CHIP ROY.

Article I, Section 4 of the Constitution establishes Congress' role in Federal elections. While it is limited in this role, Congress does have an obligation to ensure that only citizens vote in Federal elections.

Today, this legislation is more critical than ever. Preservation of our Republic necessitates free, fair, and honest elections.

As I have said a number of times as county judge in Texas, what we need are SALTY elections—secure, accurate, legal, transparent elections—with you, the American citizen, involved every step of the way.

Right now, in America, there is growing distrust in election results because of growing abuses and documented instances of election fraud. Yet, there are continuing efforts to allow illegal immigrants to participate in our Federal elections when it is already against the law. This is incomprehensible to me.

The SAVE Act makes commonsense reforms to preserve integrity in our elections by requiring proof of citizenship when individuals register to vote, and it will remove noncitizens from voter rolls.

By passing the SAVE Act, the House has taken an important step to ensure every single American vote counts

with full measure. I applaud Congressman ROY for bringing this action.

IMPROVING AMERICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, when creating the National Highway Program, President Eisenhower wrote to Congress: "The uniting forces of our communication and transportation systems are dynamic elements in the very name we bear—United States."

Nearly 70 years later, we once again reached a critical moment: Our aging infrastructure could not meet the modern demands of a united society—internet access, roads and public transit, clean water.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act did meet that.

As a member of the Regional Leadership Council, I have seen the hard work of congressional Democrats and President Biden up close: a fundamental improvement to the very foundations of our country, including in my home State of Pennsylvania.

In our Commonwealth, we are investing \$11 billion in highways and bridges, public transit and rails, airports, and EV infrastructure; nearly \$2 billion in affordable high-speed internet; and \$1 billion in clean drinking water. Those investments have spurred nearly \$3 billion in commitments from Pennsylvania's private sector.

Together, we are not simply rebuilding. We are reimagining a stronger, greener future with the collaboration of Federal, State, and local governments. We are the United States of America.

□ 0915

CONGRATULATING SHAINÉ CASAS

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

Ms. De La CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a swimming great from McAllen, Texas, who will represent our Nation at the upcoming Olympic Games in Paris, Shainé Casas an 11-time world championship medalist and a three-time NCAA champion who recently qualified for the Olympics in the 200-meter individual medley.

When the 200-meter individual medley begins on August 1, all of south Texas will be rooting for Shainé. We congratulate him on his achievement and representing our hometown with honor. I am proud to call him a constituent and a role model for our region's rising athletes.

EMBRACING AUTHORITARIAN TACTICS

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, last night during the debate on the Freedom Caucus-led inherent contempt resolution, Republicans once again tried to silence me. They wanted to take my words down. They wanted to prevent me from speaking on the House floor, not because I disparaged a Member but because I criticized their resolution. You heard that right. The freedom-loving Freedom Caucus wanted to silence me.

They believe in free speech for themselves. They regularly attack President Biden and Democrats in a most personal and vicious manner, but because I told the truth about their resolution, they tried to forcibly silence me.

It is chilling, it is scary, and it is frightening that Republicans are embracing authoritarian tactics to silence their critics. This is Congress, not the Kremlin, Mr. Speaker, but this is a pattern that connects them to authoritarian leaders like Putin.

I will fight back. I love this institution and this country too much to allow Republicans to trample on our freedom.

HONORING DAVE TOLLIVER

(Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to posthumously recognize Mr. Dave Tolliver.

Dave was born to William and Emma Tolliver on September 5, 1947, in Pierpont, West Virginia, and he passed away on Monday, June 3, of this year.

Dave leaves behind him a long legacy of dedication to his community, his State, and his country.

Throughout his life, Dave took on many important roles. He proudly served in the United States Army, 101st Airborne Division, became an ambulance driver for the Wyoming General Hospital, and worked for the Beckley Fire Department. He also worked as a school bus driver for the Raleigh County Board of Education and eventually ended up working in the local government where he served as a county commissioner in Raleigh County.

His fellow commissioners have credited him with providing 98 percent of the county with water. In a State as mountainous and rural as West Virginia where the majority of the people rely on private wells, this was no small feat.

Dave was an honorable man and a kind man who had a servant's heart and cared deeply for his community. I am so grateful I was able to work with him in my capacity as a Member of Congress.

Dave leaves behind him a wife, two children, and many, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We are going to miss him. God bless you, Dave.

NORTH CAROLINA ART COMPETITION WINNERS

(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, I rise to congratulate the three winners of North Carolina's First Congressional District Art Competition.

Kayla Lassiter, a Bertie High School senior, won first place with her piece, Rainbow-Hued. Lassiter brilliantly used color and digital design.

I had the distinct honor of meeting her and her mother right here in our Nation's Capitol where her artwork will remain on display for thousands of visitors to see.

Nathan Varney, a J.H. Rose High School senior, was a runner-up with his piece, Bamboo Forester.

I also proudly recognize Jocelyn Hernandez Jimenes, a North Edgecombe High School student who earned third place with her piece, The Mythical Bird.

Clearly, we have incredible, creative, talented artists in eastern North Carolina. I now commend all of this year's participants.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2025

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on H.R. 8772, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1341 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 8772.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from New York (Mr. LALOTA) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 0921

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 consideration of the bill (H.R. 8772) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees.

The gentleman from California (Mr. VALADAO) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) each will control 30 minutes. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer H.R. 8772. The Legislative Branch Appropriations Act for 2025.

The recommendation for the fiscal year 2025 Legislative Branch Appropriations Act provides \$5.546 billion, excluding Senate items, which are traditionally left to the Senate to determine. The bill supports the legislative branch as an essential branch of government and ensures the House is open to and works for the American people.

Regardless of what side of the aisle you are on, we can agree that our greatest duty is to our constituents and that this bill funds our ability to advocate on their behalf. It invests in the resources necessary to provide robust oversight of the executive branch. It also includes modest increases to ensure the safety of the Capitol complex and the work of the Capitol Police as well as the institutions that support our work such as the Library of Congress and the Government Accountability Office.

I believe the bill balances the legislative branch's capacity to effectively serve the American people in a fiscally responsible manner.

I thank Chairman COLE for his leadership and guidance throughout this process, and I also thank Ranking Member ESPAILLAT for his cooperation and support throughout the formation of the bill. Finally, I thank the legislative branch staff for their hard work in getting the bill to this point.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today, Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 8772, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act of 2025.

Before I discuss the bill, Mr. Chair, let me start by taking a moment to thank our colleague, JENNIFER WEXTON, who represents Virginia's 10th District, for her unwavering dedication and service in this Congress. I am in awe of her courage and wish her and her family all the best. We will miss Ms. WEXTON all over Congress here. She has been an exemplary Member of this House, and we trust that her legacy will be forever cemented in this House. We thank Ms. WEXTON for all that she does, her courage, her resilience, her honesty, and her commitment to the American people.

I thank also my colleague, Chairman VALADAO, and the subcommittee staff who work daily to ensure the legislative branch has the resources that it needs to support America and its people. Really, this work is so important to our Nation.

As the chairman indicated, the bill before us today includes \$5.5 billion in