

unnecessary overreach imposed on responsible pet owners. I will continue to fight to ensure our canine family members aren't forced to be left behind.

#### COMMENDING DAVID KRUG UPON RETIREMENT

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend David Krug upon his retirement from the city of Buffalo's Department of Permits and Inspection Services, which he joined in 1986.

At the department, David has provided excellent service to the citizens of Buffalo, ensuring that each project is given the time and attention it deserves and that the job is done right.

As the coordinator of plans, he always took the time to lend a helping hand to colleagues, assisting them in finding solutions to a myriad of code-related matters. He was the go-to person within the office, thanks to his positive attitude and expert knowledge of city and State law.

In his four decades of service, David served under nine different commissioners, issued tens of thousands of permits, witnessed the construction of large-scale projects, and played a pivotal role in the drafting and implementation of the Green Code, Buffalo's first rewrite of its zoning ordinance in decades.

A loyal and active member of AFSCME Local 650, David is a leader among his city workforce colleagues, serving as a shining example of public service at its best.

After decades of loyal and diligent service, David will be able to spend more time with his children, Liz and Abbie, both firefighters, and his beloved granddaughter, Addison.

I congratulate David Krug on a career well spent and wish him well as he enters this new, rewarding chapter in his life. Godspeed to David Krug upon his retirement.

#### RECOGNIZING HEROISM OF JOSH REDFIELD

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the heroism of Mr. Josh Redfield, a longtime employee of Tops Markets in the town of Cheektowaga and a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union.

On July 6, Mr. Redfield went to work as he would any other day, nothing out of the ordinary, until a customer told him that someone needed help in the parking lot. Josh immediately dropped everything. He found a shopper in her car who had lost consciousness.

Lynne Constantino, a retired nurse with diabetes, was doing her morning errands when she began to feel a little lightheaded and, as she put it, "a little wonky." When Mr. Redfield found her, her blood sugar was dangerously low. He took command of the situation, ultimately saving her life.

Thanks to his fast thinking and prompt action to wake up Ms. Constantino, alert store staff of the incident, direct a fellow employee to call an ambulance, and facilitate medical personnel to the car, all while under pressure, because of his action, Ms. Constantino is here with us today.

As Ms. Constantino put it, Josh Redfield is a guardian angel and a testament to the character of those who call the City of Good Neighbors home.

We recognize the heroism of Mr. Josh Redfield here today in the United States Congress.

#### RESTORING POWER TO THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. McCORMICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind this body that our role as Members of Congress is not just to pass laws and allocate funding. We are the people's House because we are the closest to the people.

We have the most crucial duty to oversee the executive branch and hold the bureaucracy accountable for their actions. Since the founding of our Nation, this oversight function has been a cornerstone of our democracy.

Yet, time and time again, we see witnesses from the executive branch refusing to answer the questions of the people. They quibble over details and dodge questions. Our hearings have become political theater. Witnesses act like teenagers caught out after curfew.

The deep state evades the constitutional oversight authority that the people's House is supposed to yield. This authority is the way our Founders intended to keep the Federal bureaucracy in check.

Enough is enough. This cannot continue. It is time to take a stand and restore the power of the people's House. We must ensure that the men and women who would act like rulers over the American people, despite never being elected, and then intentionally withholding information from the United States Congress, finally face consequences.

Under title 2 of current law, their duplicity is already illegal. Refusing to answer the people's questions that are deemed "pertinent to the question under inquiry" is currently punishable by a fine or imprisonment. The application of this law, however, has been lost to history.

Just this year, Attorney General Merrick Garland, FBI Director Christopher Wray, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, and many others blatantly and boldly violated the law and have gleefully and unabashedly refused to answer questions in hearing after hearing. They have zero respect for the American people and no fear of the United States Congress.

At a hearing on June 4, Attorney General Garland was asked if the Supreme Court's then-pending decision on obstruction charges would change the Department of Justice's actions in prosecutions related to January 6. Garland's response was: "I don't answer hypotheticals."

In November of last year, at a hearing of the Homeland Security Com-

mittee, Secretary Mayorkas simply refused to answer when asked by Vice Chairman GUEST how many daily apprehensions constituted a crisis at the southern border.

Just today, the Director of the Secret Service, Dr. Kimberly Cheatle, refused to answer nearly every single question she was asked by Members on both sides of the aisle about the egregious security failures of July 13.

This is what we have experienced over and over again. That is why I am introducing the STOP the SWAMP Act. Our legislation will make it clear that those bureaucrats who refuse to answer the questions of the American people will be permanently disqualified from Federal employment. It will further empower committee chairs and ranking members, Members from both parties, to refer cases to the Department of Justice for prosecution.

Lastly, it would give the United States Congress more tools to withhold the salaries of those who obstruct our oversight efforts. We cannot allow the swamp, the entrenched bureaucrats in Washington who believe they know better than the people they are supposed to serve, to continue to dodge oversight of Congress and rule by fiat over the American people.

We must stand up for the American people and demand transparency and honesty from those who serve in our government. Our Republic's survival hinges on it.

It is time to send a clear message that we will not tolerate any attempts to undermine our oversight role. We are the voice of the people, and we will not be silenced.

Together, we can stop the swamp and ensure that our government is truly of the people, by the people, and for the people.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

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

Eternal God, we pray this day that the soul of our colleague and friend, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, may now rest in peace. In serving You, none of us lives for ourselves, and Congresswoman JACKSON LEE has spent her life in relentless pursuit of racial justice and social and economic equity, a

champion not just for her constituents but for all those who need a voice for change.

Likewise, in faith, none of us dies for ourselves alone. Though there are many who are now enduring deep grief for her loss, may our deep gratitude for her historic and trailblazing career serve as the seedbed for an enduring legacy of dedicated and impassioned service to this country.

Lord of both the dead and the living, inspire us through SHEILA JACKSON LEE's life, fueled by her warrior spirit, that in her death we would be compelled to take up the fight for liberty and justice for all peoples.

Grant Congresswoman JACKSON LEE well-deserved rest from her labors. And may Your good and faithful servant receive Your own well done and the gift of Your eternal reward.

In the hope that is found in Your name we pray.

Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CARL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CARL 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.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the passing of the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), the whole number of the House is 432.

### AUTHORIZING THE SPEAKER TO DECLARE A RECESS ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2024, FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING IN JOINT MEETING HIS EXCELLENCY BINYAMIN NETANYAHU, PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it may be in order at any time on Wednesday, July 24, 2024, for the Speaker to declare a recess, subject to the call of the Chair, for the purpose of receiving in joint meeting His Excellency Binyamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alabama?

There was no objection.

### DIRE SITUATION IN GAZA

(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, I would like to highlight a report that came out last week from Oxfam on the destruction of water and sanitation infrastructure inside of Gaza by Israeli military operations.

The Israeli military offensive has amounted to a total siege against the water infrastructure on which civilians rely. The report provides a detailed breakdown of the significant damage to water wells, storage reservoirs, desalination plants, and wastewater facilities.

Oxfam's attempts to import critical supplies like water desalination units and repair materials have also been obstructed by Israeli restrictions. The impact on public health has been catastrophic, with reported cases of waterborne diseases skyrocketing.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Gaza need a cease-fire now. They need a surge in humanitarian aid and an end to the obstruction of the supplies entering Gaza and for those supplies to be safely delivered to the people of Gaza.

President Biden and Prime Minister Netanyahu have the power to make this happen. They can do it today.

### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARL). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1545

### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. OBERNOLTE) at 3 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

### CAPTAIN ELWIN SHOPTEESE VA CLINIC

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3249) to designate the outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Wyandotte County, Kansas City, Kansas, as the "Captain Elwin Shopteese VA Clinic".

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3249

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF CAPTAIN ELWIN SHOPTEESE VA CLINIC.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 9201 Parallel Parkway, Kansas City, Kansas, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Captain Elwin Shopteese Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic" or the "Captain Elwin Shopteese VA Clinic".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the outpatient clinic referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Captain Elwin Shopteese VA Clinic.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 3249.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3249, a bill to designate the outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs at Wyandotte County, Kansas, the Captain Elwin Shopteese VA Clinic.

A son of Kansas, Elwin "Al" Shopteese enlisted in the Kansas National Guard after high school and joined the 137th Infantry Regiment. While in the Army, he deployed to Europe during World War II and fought on Omaha Beach and as part of the Battle of the Bulge.

After fighting at Normandy, he received a battlefield commission, receiving a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart for his heroic action. He then went on to volunteer to serve in the Korean war.

After two wars, Captain Shopteese wasn't done serving yet. After Korea, Al dedicated his life to community service, advocating for Native Americans and becoming a councilmember for his Tribal nation.

Al was also directly involved in the creation of the Indian Community Alcoholism Resources Expeditors Recovery Home, or the I.C.A.R.E. Recovery Home, which provides lifesaving treatment, care, and support to people fighting alcohol abuse. He served as the executive director of the home until he passed away on June 25, 1992.

Al's service to our Nation, veterans, and Native Americans will not be forgotten. He stands as a great example of