

### HONORING CAMBIANDO VIDAS 15TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Disability Pride Month, I rise to celebrate Access Living -Cambiando Vidas, on their 15th anniversary serving Latinos with disabilities in Chicago.

Cambiando Vidas provides a space for Latinos and immigrants with disabilities to build community, organize, and create equitable change through advocacy.

Their commitment to change lives by ensuring respect and dignity of all is invaluable. Each step they have taken and each barrier they have overcome has paved the way for a more inclusive society.

Congratulations to Cambiando Vidas on 15 years of remarkable accomplishments. Here's to many more years of making a difference and transforming lives.

Congratulations. Felicidades.

### AURORA THEATER SHOOTING ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the victims of the horrific mass shooting at a Century 16 movie theater in Aurora, Colorado, 12 years ago. Each year, July 20 brings back the shock and pain that reverberated across Aurora and the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, 12 lives were brutally cut short, and countless others were forever changed. The pain still echoes through our community, a constant reminder of the devastating toll of gun violence.

I remember the victims, A.J.; Alex; Alexander; Gordon; Jesse; Jessica; John; Jonathan; Matt; Micayla; Rebecca; and Veronica; their families; and the survivors who still bear the scars of that night.

I think of the heroes who risked their lives to shield and save others. Their bravery provided a beacon of hope in immense darkness.

We must not grow numb to the pain of that day. We must use their memory to continue to fight for commonsense gun reform.

May we never forget the lives lost in Aurora.

### HONORING THE LIFE OF MARGARET "PEGGY" MURRAY

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life of Margaret "Peggy" Ann Murray who passed away peacefully on June 6, 2024.

Peggy's life was a testament to dedication, service, love.

Born and raised on a farm in Huron, Ohio, she embodied the values of hard work, learning, and compassion that imbues an ethic that makes life worth living.

A proud graduate of Marquette University, Peggy's journey was marked by a profound commitment to her faith and her community. She taught CCD for 15 years and was a founding member of Habitat for Humanity's Firelands affiliate and played a pivotal role in the establishment of the Second Harvest Food Bank of northeast Ohio.

She supported education through the Charles and Margaret Nickels scholarship, named in honor of her late parents.

A lifelong member of the Democratic Women of Erie County, Peggy served on the Erie County Democratic Central Committee.

Peggy's legacy is carried on by her loving husband Dennis, Sr., 5 children, and 11 grandchildren. Her life was a beacon of service, love, and unwavering commitment to bettering her community and world around her and us.

### HONORING CONGRESSWOMAN SHEILA JACKSON LEE

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, the House has lost a giant and a trailblazer for justice and a good friend for so many of us, Sheila Jackson Lee, whom we honor here today and remember.

Born in Queens, New York, she was among the first women to graduate from Yale, and she dedicated her life to public service. For nearly 30 years she represented the people of Houston, Texas, in the House of Representatives. She was a role model for so many and for young women seeking to serve.

She led the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA, and established with her colleagues Juneteenth as a Federal holiday. Not only that, but she authored the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act with so many of her colleagues. The list goes on and on and on.

Sheila was my friend and had a thoughtful approach to foreign policy. Many don't know her efforts for years interacting with our colleagues in Europe and the European Parliament, always willing to participate and share her point of view. She was respected, and she noticed that dialogue and diplomacy should be the tools first rather than the last resort.

Her legacy will continue to inspire future generations of leaders.

We will miss you, Sheila, our friend. May you rest in peace.

### SOCIAL SECURITY

(Ms. MANNING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, hardworking North Carolinians pay into Social Security year after year with the promise that they will be able to retire with comfort and dignity.

In my district, over 158,000 retirees and families rely on Social Security, yet House Republicans' extreme budget plans to raise the retirement age to force Americans to work longer for less. That means cutting Social Security benefits for three out of every four people in my district.

While extremist Republicans are pushing to cut Americans' hard-earned benefits, we Democrats are fighting to protect and strengthen Social Security.

That is why I am a proud cosponsor of the Social Security 2100 Act, legislation to enhance Social Security benefits for the first time in 50 years and ensure the program's solvency for years to come.

Social Security is a sacred promise that Congress must keep, and I will always fight to ensure hardworking North Carolinians' benefits are protected.

### DISABILITY RIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FONG). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. WEXTON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. WEXTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the majority leader and staff for allowing me to participate in today's Special Order hour.

Mr. Speaker, before I begin my speech, I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN).

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding and for her incredible leadership in this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, as we approach the beginning of the Olympic Games, I want to extend my support and encouragement to the athletes representing their countries in the coming weeks. Among them are some outstanding athletes from the Second District of Massachusetts:

Stephen Nedoroscik, who will compete for Team USA in gymnastics;

Aaron Ortiz, who will compete for Team USA in a Muaythai match;

Gabby Thomas, who will compete for Team USA in track; and

Aisyah Rafae, competing for Singapore as a rower.

Mr. Speaker, the Olympics are a unifying moment for our country and the world. It is a time when we can set aside our differences and come together to cheer for those who represent the best in us.

To Gabby, Stephen, Aisyah, Aaron, and all of the other athletes who have worked so hard to reach this milestone: Your journey to the Olympics is already a victory. We are so proud of all

of you, and we will be cheering for you every step of the way.

Go Team USA.

Ms. WEXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Disability Pride Month, celebrated each July to commemorate the Americans with Disabilities Act.

It is hard to believe that the ADA will turn 34 years old tomorrow. I was in college when it passed in 1990. Today, an entire generation has never known life without the protections that exist because of the ADA.

We have come a long way from the days when sidewalk curbs would routinely cause insurmountable challenges for Americans in wheelchairs, and now accommodation is the rule, not the exception.

As a new member of the differently-abled community, I believe it is important not only to celebrate how far we have come, but also to recognize how far we still have to go.

The issue of disability rights and accessibility has been one I have worked on closely since my first days in public office. When I served in the Virginia State Senate back in 2015, I worked alongside Conner Cummings, a young Virginian with autism who lived in my district, and his mom, Sharon, to pass Conner's Law, legislation that closed a loophole and extended parental support for severely disabled and special needs children over the age of 18, giving relief to single parents.

I have had the pleasure of welcoming Conner and Sharon to Capitol Hill to testify on the impact of Conner's Law for families like theirs and the need to replicate it in States across the country.

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The proudest vote I took in the State senate was in 2018, when we voted finally to expand Medicaid in Virginia. Through this monumental action, we extended affordable healthcare access to hundreds of thousands of the most vulnerable Virginians, including many of those living with disabilities.

That is also why I fought so hard once I came to Congress to successfully protect and expand the Affordable Care Act, including preventing insurance companies from discriminating against people with preexisting conditions and defending the elimination of lifetime caps on coverage, which would be devastating for families of those with disabilities.

In fact, the very first constituent meeting I took when I came to Washington in 2019 was with the Little Lobbyists, a group of families with young children with complex medical needs and disabilities. I invited one of those families to be my guest at the State of the Union in 2020 to highlight just how important fighting back against efforts to undermine the ACA was for families like theirs.

Over the past year, the fight for disability rights has become a personal one. My battle with progressive

supranuclear palsy, or PSP, has robbed me of my ability to use my full voice and move around in the ways that I used to. Rather than striding confidently onto the House floor to vote, I gratefully accept rides across Independence Avenue—and, yes, I get the irony—from my office to the Capitol. I rely on a walker to get around, and in all likelihood, before my term ends, I will appear on the House floor for votes in a wheelchair.

I can no longer give the same kind of impassioned, impromptu speeches during debates on the floor or in committee hearings. This very impressive AI re-creation of my voice does the public speaking for me now. I found myself understanding firsthand just a fraction of the challenges that so many Americans live with each day.

It has been a big adjustment for me, for my family, for my team, and for my colleagues who have known me for years and have had to watch me go through these challenges, but mine is not a unique story. Millions of Americans face challenges that make it harder to move, speak, act, or otherwise live their day-to-day lives, but that disability does not define who they are.

I certainly have not allowed my new challenges to define me. This is not a situation I would have chosen to find myself in. I never thought that, at my age and otherwise good health, something like PSP could, in the space of just over a year, rob me of my ability to speak, run, or dance, and force me to stop doing the job that I love.

I also never expected to be in a position to make history by being the first Member to use an augmentative and alternative communication device, or AAC device, on the House floor. I used to be one of those people who hated the sound of my voice. When my ads came on TV, I would cringe and change the channel, but you truly don't know what you have until it is gone because hearing the new AI of my old voice for the first time was music to my ears. It was the most beautiful thing I had ever heard, and I cried tears of joy.

I am not going to sugarcoat the difficulties I have faced the past year, but what has brought me a renewed sense of determination is the opportunity to use this unique platform to try to help others.

The supportive messages I have received have been overwhelming, especially from those facing similar speaking or movement challenges who see someone like me, who just happens to be in the spotlight, persevere in the same ways that they are.

I am not doing it for praise or admiration, but I do hope that when people see me continuing to do all I can to keep living my life and doing this job I love as best I can, they understand and appreciate the courage, resilience, and spirit that so many Americans of differing abilities demonstrate each and every day.

I hope I can be a voice, even an AI voice, for Americans facing accessi-

bility challenges and other disabilities because, too often, people only see us for that disability. In truth, we are so much more.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this Disability Pride Month and in celebrating the strength and perseverance of the disability community.

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

#### RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING CITIZENS OF MISSOURI'S FOURTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD).

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. WEXTON) for her courage. We love her, and America thanks her.

#### RECOGNIZING PATRICK O'HANLON

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate our top 10 speechwriters for this year's Missouri's Fourth Congressional District Speech Competition. They were chosen to write speeches on what America means to them, and we are so proud of the work they are doing in their schools to keep the American Dream and spirit alive.

Today, we are sharing several of these speeches, the first from Patrick O'Hanlon, from Pleasant Hill, Missouri, in Cass County.

Patrick writes: "America is a special country. We have the freedom of speech and the freedom of religion. America was built by people from around the world. Our Founding Fathers wrote an amazing Constitution and Bill of Rights that limits the government's powers and gives freedom to the people."

"When a B-2 cruised over my home on the Kansas City Royals opening day, it was such a magnificent reminder of our exceptional country. It was hard not to be overflowing with patriotism. After seeing that, I am glad they are on our side. These things are a big part of what America means to me."

I thank Patrick for being such a shining light in the classroom and sharing what America means to him.

#### RECOGNIZING NATALIE MYERS

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate another top 10 speechwriter, this one from Polk County, Natalie Myers, from Pleasant Hope Middle School.

"America, Where My Heart Calls Home."

"America is more than the home of the brave. It is where the heart finds home. Home is where the heart belongs. My heart is painted with the