

or fourth already—and asking our residents to pick up the tab for their executives to travel on corporate jets. It is shameful.

The Michigan Public Service Commission should reject these outrageous rate increases. They are not reasonable. They are not fair. We need utilities that serve the people, not shareholders.

We need public power. DTE and other for-profit utilities should be turned into publicly owned and operated services. We see it over and over again by DTE's actions that we cannot allow these corporations to continue because they are always going to put profit before our people.

#### FALLING SHORT

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA, is often hailed as landmark civil rights law or the most important civil rights laws in our country offering a promise of equal education for all of our children with disabilities.

We continue to fall short though in this promise.

The 50-year-old law is underfunded to this day. We passed it in 1975, and we promised to pay 40 percent of the cost of the Federal mandate on our school districts, and we are only reaching about 14 to sometimes 17 percent.

We are not doing enough.

Paraprofessionals alone in Detroit are working without a contract right now. Our Federal Government needs to cover 40 percent of the extra costs of special education.

#### CHINA IS A SIGNIFICANT THREAT

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

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the most pressing national security threat to our Nation right now: the Chinese Communist Party.

The CCP is engaged in a full-scale influence and espionage operation right here in the United States of America.

From Confucius Institutes to TikTok, and from spy balloons to intellectual property theft, the CCP's mission is quite clear: to collect our data, to infiltrate our country from within, and to become the world's sole superpower.

Mr. Speaker, plain and simple, we need to make a change.

We must recognize the significant threat that Communist China poses. We must decouple ourselves from our dependence on China. We must restore strong American leadership around the globe. We must ban our adversaries like China from buying U.S. farmland. We must put an end to their data collection schemes.

Mr. Speaker, we must stand behind our ally Taiwan. The path forward is clear: peace through strength and a resolute leader in the White House.

#### GOLD STAR CEREMONY

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I want to speak from my heart right now on a

subject matter that we dealt with yesterday in the rotunda not too many feet from this House floor.

I was honored to be at the ceremony yesterday for the 13 Gold Star families, the 13 servicemembers who bravely gave their lives 3 years ago on the wall at Abbey Gate due to a decision made by a failed administration to get all American troops out of Afghanistan, to leave them there—our allies—clinging to the wheels of aircraft as they tried to escape the grip of the Taliban. It was a flawed decision.

This administration never apologized to those 13 families for that critical mistake in our world history. Yesterday, someone finally had the guts to apologize to those families: our Speaker, MIKE JOHNSON. I applaud him for that.

The highest honor that Congress can bestow, the Congressional Gold Medal, was given posthumously to those 13 brave individuals, including Lance Corporal Jared Schmitz from Missouri.

I realize that that apology and that acknowledgment and those Congressional Gold Medals will never completely heal those families, but I do think it was a step in the right direction.

I was honored to have dinner with some of those families last night along with DARRELL ISSA, KEN CALVERT, and BRIAN MAST, sitting down with those families and just hearing their stories and how much it meant to be in that rotunda yesterday, and for our Nation to finally acknowledge that it was a mistake. This administration has never done that, and I think they will have to live with that.

I am glad that our Speaker awarded those Gold Star medals, and I am glad we came together. It was bipartisan yesterday in that rotunda, make no mistake. I think we all felt the pain of those family members.

I just left the rotunda and came back over here. I love going to the rotunda every morning when I can and seeing people come in for the very first time. They look up, and they see the pictures painted by people, like Trumbull and others, who have painted representations of our heroes. To have those 13 heroes with their pictures in that rotunda yesterday was very fitting.

Mr. Speaker, I just want those families to know that we stand with them. We will never forget them. We have their backs. I hope someday we can regain their respect.

Life is precious, but those willing to give the ultimate sacrifice to our Nation deserve our complete respect. I thank the families and their servicemembers for giving it all for our great Nation.

#### A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, lastly, I want to reflect on today, 9/11, as a day of remembrance. This is now the 23rd anniversary of the fateful date in U.S. history when Islamic terrorists on planes loaded with people crashed into the World Trade Center.

Let's keep that memory alive.

#### PARTISAN CHAOS

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

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, here we are once again. My Republican colleagues have decided to end the 118th Congress the same way they started it; not with a serious budget but with partisan chaos.

Let's look at the last 2 years. First, the GOP manufactured a debt ceiling crisis and took our economy hostage. Despite that, we came together as Democrats and negotiated in good faith. We struck a bipartisan deal, and we signed it into law, but the Republicans tore it up. They have ignored it ever since.

They have driven us to the edge of a government shutdown four times, all to take money out of the pockets of hardworking families and stuff the pockets of billionaires.

It is the same plan every single time: manufacture a crisis then make working people pay the price, cut their healthcare, delay their retirement, lay off the teachers.

Well, this week, they have decided to run this same play for a fifth time. They have brought another extreme partisan bill to the floor.

Speaker JOHNSON said yesterday: "... it's the right thing to do." The right thing to do?

Today is 9/11, the 23rd commemoration of the horrors that were befallen upon us on that day, and I, too, was at the ceremony honoring those heroes that we lost in Afghanistan.

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So coming up \$12 billion short for our veterans' healthcare and endangering their disability checks, that is the right thing to do?

Compromising our national security, cutting Social Security's ability to meet the needs of our seniors, and even defunding election security?

That is the right thing to do?

Come on. They know this is the wrong thing to do.

So why are we doing it?

Why this reckless 6-month CR?

It is for one reason: Donald Trump's Project 2025.

The GOP wants to delay this fight past the election into next year all in the hopes that they have a better chance at enacting Trump's extreme agenda.

What is that agenda?

Ending Social Security and Medicare as we know them, auctioning off the VA to for-profit corporations, cutting our school budgets in half, eliminating the Department of Education, eliminating Head Start, raising the cost of childcare, imposing a national sales tax, rationing healthcare for working families, and enacting a nationwide abortion ban.

The Republicans have shown us their plans for a second Trump term. They have told us it will be even worse than his first. We should believe them.

The American people reject this extremism, and so should the GOP. Let's pass a bipartisan funding agreement that fulfills our duty to our country, to our veterans, to our seniors, and to our children.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF GUSTAVOUS "GUS" HOLMES BELL III

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Gustavous "Gus" Holmes Bell III of Savannah, Georgia, who passed away on July 22 at the age of 86.

Gus, known by many as Buster, was a dedicated, hardworking man who earned a degree in civil engineering from The Citadel before attending graduate school at the University of Kentucky.

Gus was commissioned as a second lieutenant as a reserve commissioned officer in the U.S. Army. After assignments in Virginia, Texas, and New Mexico, Gus moved to Kentucky and was hired in an engineering role. Gus eventually landed in Savannah, Georgia, and was honorably discharged in 1969. Gus was an engineer who was instrumental in establishing a partnership between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia.

In honor of Gus' contributions to the city, former mayor Eddie DeLoach declared August 11 as Gus H. Bell III Day in Savannah. Gus was also a founder of St. Andrews on the Marsh School in Savannah and a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Savannah.

Gus was married for 42 years to his beloved wife, Mandy. After her passing, he was blessed to marry Jan Hall. He is survived by his three children, Lisa, Adair, and Holmes, as well as his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We mourn his loss and keep him and his family in our prayers.

On a personal note, he was one of my mentors who had a great deal to do with helping me and the city of Pooler and our tremendous growth that we experienced while I was mayor. I will forever be grateful for that.

#### RECOGNIZING RONALD COOPER

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Officer Ronald Cooper, who heroically saved the life of a woman who was kidnapped in Brunswick, Georgia.

On November 9, 2019, now-retired Glynn County police officer, Ronnie Cooper, responded to a kidnapping call on his police radio. A woman had been abducted from the daycare center where she worked. Bravely, the woman fought back against her attacker, allowing more time for Officer Cooper and the Glynn County Police Department to locate her. The assailant was

forced to change his plans, and the brave folks at Glynn County PD were able to locate the victim.

Against the clock and all odds, Officer Cooper and his partner, Officer Jeremy Stagner, successfully rescued the victim from the would-be killer.

Thanks to Officer Cooper, Officer Stagner, and all the brave law enforcement officers who work diligently to keep our communities safe from violence like this.

#### RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF FREDDY HOWELL

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Bryan County Fire Chief Freddy Howell.

Mr. Howell has had a wonderful 39-year career serving his community, and we are all better off for and will deeply miss his passionate service.

During his time of public service for Bryan County, Mr. Howell led his department in various cleanup efforts and oversaw the expansion of the fire department.

He led the cleanup for a tornado in north Bryan that damaged many parts of our community, and Mr. Howell secured several grants that grew his department's team from 36 to over 100 firefighters.

The fire department also acquired new equipment, ambulances, and tankers under Mr. Howell's leadership. With his passion for aiding others, Mr. Howell greatly enhanced Bryan County's emergency response capabilities.

Following his retirement from the Bryan County Fire Department, Mr. Howell plans to join the private sector as a customer relationship manager.

I am grateful for Mr. Howell's impactful public service to Bryan County and the First District of Georgia.

#### REMEMBERING RICHARD "DICK" BERKOWITZ

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to mourn the loss of Richard "Dick" Berkowitz, who sadly passed away this August at the age of 91 years old. He was a dear, dear friend.

After attending the Georgia Military Academy, Dick pursued a graduate degree at the Wharton School of Business. Dick proudly served in the United States Marine Corps and was stationed in France with the Army Finance Corps.

Mr. Berkowitz also had a 42-year-long career in investment banking and as a stockbroker. His career was marked with success as he was the youngest general partner ever at a Wall Street firm in 1967.

In addition to his military service and professional career, Dick will be remembered for expressing his outspoken political beliefs through writing candid memos and his involvement in the Savannah, Georgia, community.

Dick's legacy will surely be carried on by his wife, Lynn, and his five beloved children.

My thoughts and prayers are with the Berkowitz family, Dick's friends,

and every person he impacted throughout his wonderful life.

We will miss Dick. I will miss my friend Dick. God bless him.

#### U.S. SHIPBUILDING UPDATE

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, this coming Saturday, September 14, the USS *New Jersey*, the 23rd Virginia-class submarine, is going to be commissioned in northern New Jersey. It was delivered to the Navy earlier this year.

Next to me is a photo of USS *Iowa* which is going to be the 24th Virginia-class submarine which is going to be delivered next month. This is a shot from the drydock in Groton, Connecticut.

Early next year, the 25th submarine, the USS *Massachusetts* is going to be delivered to the Navy. Later in the year, the 26th submarine, USS *Idaho* is going to be delivered to the Navy. In the following year in 2026, USS *Arkansas* and USS *Utah* are also going to be delivered.

Again, these are really the most critical maritime vessels, particularly in the Indo-Pacific. We are here on China week. What is happening in these shipyards is the best rebalancing of deterrence in the Indo-Pacific region.

It is happening at the same time that we are building the *Columbia*-class submarines which are the ballistic submarines. Those submarines are actually 2½ times the size of the Virginia-class submarines. They are just massive vessels which, again, are critical because the hull life of the submarines they are replacing, the *Ohio*-class submarines, are over 40 years old. All this work, again, is something that is really driving a lot of economic activities certainly in southern New England but, frankly, all across the State.

Again, Congress has had a big part to play in terms of funding. Just in the recent supplemental, the submarine industrial base funding is aimed at three different things: number one, workforce; number two, supply chain; and number three, facility.

This is a picture of a supply chain company in Tolland, Connecticut, which is in my district in eastern Connecticut, Shelby Supply Company. The gentleman on the far right is Tim Briere. He is the owner of the company.

Their hiring has grown three times over the last 3 years because of the metal fabrication work that they do that, again, are a part of the submarine industrial base.

The woman on the far left in this picture is Amanda Dodd. She is somebody who grew up in Connecticut. She moved to Texas. She is a welder, and she moved back to Tolland, Connecticut, last year. She is part of the team there that is contributing to this production process which took a hit during COVID. There was a slippage in