

I thank Utterback Middle School for providing an incredible learning opportunity to the students in Tucson, and I thank Principal Sanders and her team for all their great work. Go Unicorns.

#### HONORING THE CONSTITUTION

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of our Nation's founding document and to recognize Constitution Week, a time to celebrate the wisdom and foresight of our Founding Fathers and recommit ourselves to the values that define America.

I also recognize the Tombstone Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution for all of their work promoting Constitution Week across southern Arizona.

This week, 247 years ago, our Constitution was ratified, giving birth to a nation conceived in the ideals of freedom and democracy, governed by the consent of we the people, not the whims of an overseas monarch.

It established the United States as a nation of laws, where institutions are respected and all citizens are afforded a presumption of innocence and the right to a fair and speedy trial. It gave us separation of power between branches of government, preventing the concentration and abuse of power by any single entity.

Our Constitution is our cornerstone and our roadmap. As Americans, we have a responsibility to uphold these values and ideals to ensure it continues guiding us for generations to come.

On this Constitution Week, let us reflect on the principles of liberty and democracy enshrined in the Constitution and recommit ourselves to the ideals that make America truly exceptional.

God bless the United States of America.

#### BIPARTISAN PATH IS ONLY WAY FORWARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. NICKEL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NICKEL. Madam Speaker, we are just 11 days away from a government shutdown, and let me be clear: A shutdown would be a disaster for the American people.

A shutdown would disrupt vital services, halt disaster relief, and put countless Federal employees out of work. We simply cannot afford to go down that path.

Speaker JOHNSON made the deliberate choice to tie the SAVE Act, which seeks to create burdensome barriers to voting, directly to the government spending bill. He is setting himself up to fail to push a voter suppression bill. This is just another attempt to make it harder for Americans to participate in democracy.

We already have processes in place to verify citizenship during registration. Only citizens can vote in U.S. Federal elections. Let me repeat that: Only citizens can vote in U.S. Federal elections.

Study after study shows that noncitizen voting is not affecting our elections. It is a Federal crime for noncitizens to vote in Federal elections, and noncitizens who violate the law and attempt to vote anyway face prison time and deportation.

Here is the plain truth: At Donald Trump's orders, extreme MAGA Republicans are holding government funding hostage unless they can impose some of the most radical pieces of Donald Trump's Project 2025 agenda.

Instead of wasting time with political games, Republicans must stop following the former President's orders and join Democrats in a bipartisan effort to pass a short-term funding extension free of poison pills so we can keep the government open and complete a bipartisan government funding process this year. We did it last year, and we can do it again.

Instead of focusing on the needs of the American people, extreme MAGA Republicans are more interested in playing puppet for Donald Trump.

Let's be clear: Donald Trump wants to shut down the Federal Government. Is this really the leadership the American people deserve or just a chaotic circus of partisan political games?

This is not how you govern. This is how you create chaos. Instead of collaborating for the good of the country, they are threatening a shutdown just to appease a former President. Are they representing their constituents or just following orders directly from Mar-a-Lago?

Let's not forget, a government shutdown doesn't impact politicians. It harms everyday Americans. For some Republicans, it is just another opportunity for partisan political theater.

The American people are tired of the Trump show. They want results. I came to Congress to get things done. We are on track to be the least productive Congress in our Nation's history because Trump Republicans continue to play partisan political games.

Let's put people over politics and come together to pass a clean continuing resolution that supports the needs of our constituents and keeps the government open for business. We owe it to the American people to prioritize their well-being and their best interests.

I will work with anyone and everyone to keep the government open, and a bipartisan path in a divided Congress is the only way forward. Let's stop wasting time and fund the government.

#### IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE EDUCATION

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of agriculture education.

National Teach Ag Day is for anyone who wants to celebrate school-based

agricultural education, share the story of agricultural education's importance and effectiveness in the United States, and encourage students to consider careers as agricultural educators.

This recognition of agriculture education is more important than ever. The average American farmer is around 57 years old, a statistic that underscores the urgent need for agriculture education.

Inspiring the next generation of agricultural leaders is critical for our food security, and this encouragement begins in the classroom. As chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, I had the privilege of meeting with agriculture educators and students in Pennsylvania and throughout the country. Programs like Future Farmers of America and the 4-H strongly advocate advancing agriculture education and exposing our youth to the agricultural industry.

In July, I met with the Pennsylvania FFA State officers here in our Nation's Capital. We discussed many career opportunities in the agricultural field and the vital needs of a robust agricultural industry.

We interact with agriculture at least three times a day, and students must have the opportunity to learn about the industry and its career opportunities.

Madam Speaker, each one of us can play a role in advocating for agriculture education. Now more than ever, we must recognize that food security is national security, and a nation that cannot feed itself is a nation in turmoil.

As I mentioned earlier, we are at a critical point in our agricultural history. With the average age of our farmers hovering around 57 years old, it is essential that we develop the next generation of farmers.

To support the next generation of farmers, I included provisions in the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024 that bolster new and beginning farmers by increasing access to credit and crop insurance; supporting research, extension, and education activities; and improving program delivery at USDA.

As a senior member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, the co-chair of the bipartisan Career and Technical Education Caucus, co-chair of the 4-H Caucus, and a proud member of the FFA Caucus, I am passionate about advancing agricultural education in our schools.

Teach Ag Day highlights the importance of agriculture education in our schools and communities. It is not just about learning how to farm. It is about understanding the science, technology, and business behind agriculture.

I thank all of our agricultural educators across the country and the Commonwealth and in the 15th Congressional District. Their dedication and hard work are the foundation of our agricultural future, and the guidance that they provide prepares the next

generation of farmers, producers, and ranchers.

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I always enjoy my meetings with FFA and 4-H students, and our conversations give me great hope in the direction of our agriculture community.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to, once again, thank all those involved in agricultural education and empowering our next generation of farmers.

#### HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE AND LEGACY OF PRISCILLA DUNN

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

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of former Alabama State Senator Priscilla Dunn, who passed away on Tuesday, September 17, at the age of 80.

A lifelong educator and trailblazing public servant, Senator Dunn dedicated her life to the betterment of her community and the State of Alabama.

In 1961 she graduated from Abrams High School in Bessemer where she served as cheer captain and the first Miss Abrams High. After receiving her bachelor's degree from the Alabama State University and her master's degree from the University of Montevallo, Senator Dunn's passion for education drove her to the Alabama School System where she served as a public schoolteacher for more than three decades.

Motivated by the pursuit of justice, Senator Dunn spent 24 years in the Alabama legislature, first in the house and then in the senate. She held numerous leadership positions in organizations throughout Jefferson County, Alabama, including 16 years as president of Concerned Citizens for Bessemer Cut-Off, and coordinator of the Jefferson County Democratic Conference.

Senator Dunn was a true public servant. As a schoolteacher as well as a Sunday schoolteacher, she was definitely guided by her abiding faith, and she always practiced what she preached.

On a personal note, I am blessed to have known Senator Dunn and her wonderful family. As Alabama's first Black Congresswoman, I stand on the shoulders of amazing leaders like Senator Dunn who opened the doors for me and many others. She was a grande dame whose footsteps we as Black women elected officials in Alabama are blessed to follow.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the extraordinary life of former Alabama Senator Priscilla Dunn. May her legacy live on in the many lives that she impacted and touched.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 1-YEAR SINCE HAMAS' BARBARIC ATTACK ON ISRAEL

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

Mr. KUSTOFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the 1-year anniversary of Hamas's vicious and horrific attack on Israel.

As we all know, in the early morning of October 7, Hamas invaded and brutally attacked Israel and her people, murdering over 1,200 innocent men, women, and children, including 35 Americans. These terrorists violently took hostages, including Americans.

In the weeks after the attacks, I watched a 47-minute video taken on October 7. I watched it along with other Members of Congress. All of us who saw the images and heard the words and the language of that day were horrified. The savagery, the barbarism, the violence, and the pure hatred against Israel and the Jewish people is indescribable on that video, but yet we all know what happened.

Indeed, the world changed forever on that day.

Now, here we are 1 year later, and Hamas still has innocent hostages captive and we continue to see a rise in anti-Semitism across the globe and in our own Nation.

I am honored to serve as chairman of something called the House-Knesset Parliamentary Friendship Group. I am also proud that this group is bipartisan. In July, I traveled to Israel to meet with Speaker of the Knesset Amir Ohana and also Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

When I was there, I reiterated that the United States House of Representatives continues to stand with Israel. I told Israeli leadership that our Nation will ensure that Israel will have the resources that it needs to defend itself.

I also had the opportunity to visit Kfar Aza, which is a kibbutz in southern Israel, as well as the site of the Tribe of Nova music festival with the Israel Defense Forces.

Madam Speaker, I have to tell you it was deeply moving to stand where Hamas invaded and murdered and butchered so many innocent Israelis. When I was there, I met and I talked with family members and heard the real-life stories of those who survived, those who are being held captive, and those who were brutally and viciously mutilated and murdered.

Madam Speaker, I have to tell you that I am truly impressed by the resilience of the Israeli people, by their hope, and by their strong morale against the barbarism that tries to stifle the will of Israel.

The United States stands unequivocally with our greatest ally in the Middle East, that being Israel. Israel fights an enemy who not only seeks the elimination of Israel, but more broadly, the elimination of Western values like freedom, liberty, and democracy. Prime Minister Netanyahu told us as

much when he spoke right here giving a joint address to a joint session of Congress back in July.

It is so important that we come together and ensure that Israel has the resources and support that it needs so that they can combat this evil.

We also continue to condemn the blatant and brazen forms of anti-Semitism that have arisen here in the United States and certainly around the world. Such hatred can't be tolerated. It can't be tolerated in the Halls of Congress or anywhere else in this country or in the world. It is really a matter of good versus evil and life versus death.

Israel and the U.S. are committed to defeating Hamas and ensuring that all the hostages are returned home, but we can't stop there. We have got to work together to wipe terrorism off of the face of the Earth, and we have got to make sure that Israel can live in peace with her neighbors.

#### HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

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

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, this Hispanic Heritage Month, I want to honor a powerful community mother in our district. She is an advocate. She has been a social worker for over 40 years. Our community mother, Mary Turner, serves with so much incredible commitment to community.

Mary's Catholic faith drove her to service. In southwest Detroit where there are 20 different ethnicities, you will find someone who has a story about Mary helping their family.

She brings so much heart and humanity to everything that she does, helping families navigate our broken, inhumane immigration system that too often works against them.

Her commitment to justice, equality, and compassion reminds us of the essential contributions that our Latino neighbors make every day in our Nation.

Mary doesn't just serve our community, she empowers us.

As we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month and the more than 63 million Hispanic and Latino Americans in our country, let's honor people like Mary Turner and continue to fight for a future where every person, regardless of their background, has access to the opportunities they deserve.

I thank Mary Turner for her many years of service. She continues to inspire us all.

#### HAZARDOUS WASTE

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, this month I join Congresswoman DEBBIE DINGELL and Wayne County Executive Warren Evans for a townhall to discuss the impending radioactive waste shipments that are coming to Michigan from New York.

This waste, and thousands of other truckloads our residents never hear about, comes to our communities right into our backyard because Michigan