

Sheeran and Lauren Connell couldn't join us today.

On behalf of the residents of the Village of Sleepy Hollow and the United States House of Representatives, I am honored to recognize our esteemed elected officials today and thank them for their dedicated service on behalf of the residents.

Over the years, Sleepy Hollow has not only embraced its storied past, but also evolved into a thriving village that continues to honor its traditions while welcoming new growth and innovation. It is places like this that make New York's 17th Congressional District so special.

I thank all the Sleepy Hollow residents and stakeholders who throughout the course of this year have made this celebration such a great success. Their passion, dedication, and love for this community are what make Sleepy Hollow such a unique and cherished place to call home.

IMMIGRANTS SERVE VITAL ROLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with immigrant communities across the country, the people who we call our friends, neighbors, and loved ones.

We know that immigrants serve a vital role in the fabric of our Nation. Unfortunately, Donald Trump and his allies have spent their time and energy spreading lies about them. The most recent lies about immigrants are as dangerous as they are false, and they are part of the same tired playbook that we have seen from extremist Republicans time and time again.

From Springfield, Ohio, to Hudson County, New Jersey, immigrants are being vilified, threatened, and harassed. Immigrants don't feel safe going to work, picking up their children from school, or even going to their places of worship. This is a direct result of the dangerous rhetoric coming from the very top of the Republican Party, and it is unacceptable. It is past time that we return to the level of political discourse that lifts immigrants up, not tears them down.

I am immensely proud to represent New Jersey's 8th Congressional District, a community that is over 40 percent foreign born. I, myself, am the grandson of Cuban immigrants. Their story and the stories of so many in New Jersey and across the country are what make America great.

Our district is proof that when we stand side by side with immigrant families, embracing different ideas, cultures, and backgrounds, we make our communities stronger.

In Congress, I strive for leadership rooted in respect, and I would hope that all those who have the privilege of serving in elected office would do the same. That is how we promise a future

for this country rooted in respect, integrity, and inclusivity.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds Members to refrain from engaging in personalities toward nominees for the Office of President.

□ 1130

RECOGNIZING SAMANTHA STELP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. LESKO) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my daughter, Samantha Stelp. As many of you know, I will be leaving Congress at the end of my term this year, so I would be remiss if I didn't recognize people who are very important in my life.

First, I want to say happy birthday, Samantha, because today is her 39th birthday.

Samantha is our oldest child. For those of you who don't know, over 30 years ago, I left my abusive ex-husband, and my young daughter at the time and I struggled. There were times when we had no place to live and no money. Samantha and I have been through a lot.

Then, of course, I happily got remarried. My husband, Joe, raised our daughter, Samantha.

Now, she is a grown woman. She has four kids of her own, my four grandkids, and she is absolutely amazing. I am so proud of her. She not only works full time, but she takes care of four kids ranging from 2 years old to 13 years old. She finds time to go to football games and school activities and paints things and does projects. I don't even know where she gets these talents.

I just want to say that I am proud of her. I thank her for always supporting me and for always being there for me. I love her.

RECOGNIZING JARED LESKO

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my son, Jared Lesko. As you know, I will be retiring from Congress this year, so I want to make sure I talk about the people important to me, including my son, Jared Lesko.

Jared is my youngest child. He is 26 years old. My husband, Joe, and I are proud of him. He is working in the IT field, has a great job, is very successful, and is getting married next March to his high school or grade school sweetheart, who he has known since eighth grade.

I am so excited. We are going to be going on a cruise for his wedding, and I will see my youngest son get married then. He is getting married to his sweetheart, Audrey, and they are going to have a wonderful life. He bought a home last year, and I couldn't be prouder of him.

He has been there supporting me from day one. I remember, years ago, he would help me out in the Phoenix heat to register people to vote. We sat

out at the Peoria Sports Complex, handed out water, and asked people if they were registered to vote. I don't know how I convinced them, but I convinced my entire family to come help me. He has always been there for me.

I wish my son, Jared, much success now and in the future.

HONORING THOMAS F. CARLIN

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a good friend of mine who was a U.S. Army veteran, in the Vietnam war, and a union leader in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, Thomas F. Carlin. We called him Tom Carlin.

Tom was a great guy who sacrificed and worked so hard for the working men and women of the DFW area.

In addition to serving in Vietnam, Tom worked for American Airlines for 40 years, and he held various leadership positions throughout his union career, including vice president of the Texas AFL-CIO for nearly 35 years.

Later in life, Tom battled the effects of Parkinson's disease, which he picked up when he was in Vietnam as a result of his exposure to Agent Orange, which so many of our veterans have suffered from, from the 1960s during the Vietnam war.

Because of his work in labor, Tom was also honored with induction into both the Texas AFL-CIO and the Texas Labor Management Hall of Fame.

Tom has just been a great guy, a great friend, and a great supporter. I have known him and his wife, Peggy, very well.

Tom was so proud of his son, who is a pilot for Delta Airlines, Tommy. Tommy has been with Delta for a while now. I have never met Tommy in person, but because Tom was so proud of him and talked about his only child, I felt like I have known Tommy forever.

That is the kind of family that Tom and Peggy put together, just great people who not only cared about their own family but their union family, veterans, and all north Texans. That is what Tom worked hard for, creating a better way of life for everybody.

Mr. Speaker, I give my condolences to the Carlin family, all of his union brothers and sisters, and everybody in north Texas because people will miss Tom Carlin and his big Irish smile and friendliness that he always brought to the table.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 36 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GUEST) at noon.

PRAYER

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

O bless the Lord, with all our soul. May all that is within us bless Your holy name.

May this be a day where we keep our tongues from speaking evil of other people with opposing thoughts. May this be the day when we do not allow ourselves to speak deceitful words against those who have angered or frustrated us, but let all that is within us bless Your holy name.

May we commit ourselves to turn from evil and do good, even when the wrong seems easier or more expedient. May we dedicate ourselves not just to seek peace but to pursue it.

Let all that is within us bless Your holy name. May we lift up holy hands, faithful hearts, and righteous minds without anger or dissension in prayer to You, not only on this day but in all the days of our service to You and to Your people.

Let all that is within us bless Your name, the name in which we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania 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 PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

TELEHEALTH WEEK

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize National Telehealth Awareness Week.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and in recent years, telehealth services have added tremendous reach and value to communities across the country, especially in rural America.

As a former healthcare professional who spent nearly 30 years serving rural populations, I appreciate how telehealth has increased access to care across rural communities like those that I am proud to represent.

It is essential that we protect this vital resource as a viable option for patients.

During my time in Congress, I am proud to have led efforts to expand telehealth services for veterans and members of the armed services and their families.

To continue this progress, last year I introduced the bipartisan HEALTH Act to cut red tape and permanently allow community health centers and rural health clinics to provide telehealth services to their patients, including audio-only appointments for Americans who may not have access to broadband or the necessary technology to complete video appointments.

Mr. Speaker, telehealth is a crucial resource for providing care in underserved communities, and I will continue to advocate for the expansion of this essential resource.

CUTTING BACK ON WASTEFUL GOVERNMENT SPENDING

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

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the passage of my bipartisan bill to cut back on wasteful government spending, the LIVE Beneficiaries Act.

My bill, with my colleague, Representative GUS BILIRAKIS, passed the House with unanimous bipartisan support this week. That level of support speaks to just how much sense this bill makes.

It requires Medicaid to check the death records each quarter, so they stop paying benefits to deceased enrollees sooner. Between 2009 and 2019, more than \$249 million in these improper payments were made across 14 States, \$3.7 million in my State of Minnesota.

It is a commonsense bill in a town where more common sense is needed.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their support.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. VLADIMIR UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

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

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Or-

thodox Cathedral in our district in Parma, Ohio.

St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral was established in 1924 to fulfill the spiritual and social needs of the newly-arrived Ukrainians. After an increase in membership from World War II refugees, a new temple and parish center were built in Parma in 1958.

Parishioners established educational opportunities on religion, Ukrainian language, dance, music, and art that have benefited the local community to this day.

I commend St. Vladimir Cathedral for its role in producing upstanding citizens of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District, and I wish them a very happy anniversary.

IMMIGRANTS BAIL OUT FEDERAL PROGRAMS

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

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the hypocrisy of the No Bailout for Sanctuary Cities Act.

My Republican colleagues seem to have missed the irony of proposing this bill. Right now, this month, we honor the contributions of the Latin community to this Nation, knowing that immigrants contribute nearly \$100 billion in Federal taxes every year.

Immigrants bail out Federal programs with their labor and taxes, but it is the Federal Government that has to stop the bailouts?

Mr. Speaker, you miss me with that. Chicago and Illinois know immigrants contribute to the economic and social vibrancy of our communities.

Mr. Speaker, you have to ask yourself: Why else might Republicans propose a policy that would strip billions in Federal funds from States like New York, California, and Illinois?

Can you think of a reason, Mr. Speaker?

I can. It is a political stunt to take money away from diverse communities and Democratic cities.

Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, I will be voting "no" on H.R. 5717, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

HATE HAS NO PLACE ON LONG ISLAND

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

Mr. LALOTA. Mr. Speaker, hate has no place on Long Island.

Recently, we Long Islanders witnessed a disturbing act of vandalism and hate targeting the BAPS Temple in Melville, a sacred place for countless peaceful, family, and faith-focused Hindus who proudly call Long Island home.

In response, I joined more than a dozen elected officials and religious and community leaders who stood together to send a clear message: Acts of