

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the farmers and ranchers whose work does not stop. Even in the face of extreme freezing temperatures and abnormal snowfall, Kansans are standing strong and getting the job done.

The Big First District of Kansas is one of the most productive agricultural areas in the country. It is home to more than 60,000 farms and ranches and is made up of farmers, ranchers, feed lot managers, nutritionists, ethanol producers, ag lenders, millers, and agribusiness owners who feed, clothe, and fuel the world.

I grew up in the Big First, and I spent thousands of hours on a tractor in fields and on horseback doctoring cattle in our family's feed yard. I know well agriculture's working conditions are demanding on a good day but especially so when our business partner, Mother Nature, is as unforgiving as she has been lately.

In the past few days, parts of Kansas have seen 15-plus inches of snow, electricity outages for days, and road closures that stretch from every corner of the State. But those who stand with snow up to their knees in the depths of winter or haul water in the drought of summer know agriculture does not take days off. In fact, in weather like this, producers work even harder to keep livestock and commodities safe and secure. No matter the temperature, they go to work long before most of us are awake and stay out until many of us have already laid down our heads at night.

They are the people volunteering their time to move snow at nearby feed lots so cattle can continue to be fed and watered. They are the people hauling new cows on their truck floorboards out of snowbanks and onto dryer ground. They are the people breaking ice at all hours of the day. They are the men and women staying up through the night so a baby animal gets a shot at life, a piece of equipment is ready to go early the next morning, the neighboring producer has the help they need to milk their herds, and so people like you and I have a safe and secure food supply.

As many across the country have learned in the past few years, our food does not come from a grocery store shelf. The importance of agriculture in the food supply chain cannot be overstated. This supply chain represents millions of people working every day in the U.S. It begins with farmers, ranchers, and growers, and it includes food processors and manufacturers, millers, shippers, transportation workers, and, finally, those working in grocery stores and restaurants all across the country. Each of these people are vital in ensuring we have food on our plates.

While most of us in the Big First of Kansas know how important agriculture is, I know that message can sometimes get lost on the way to the grocery store. So on behalf of all of Kansans and Americans, I sincerely

thank the farmers, ranchers, and producers who supply our food, fuel, and fiber. I thank them for pulling the baby calf out of the snowbank and nursing it back to life. I thank them for busting ice early and feeding hay late. I thank them for putting the needs of their livestock before themselves. I thank them for their never-ending, back-breaking days. I thank them especially on cold days for working so hard for the extra hours and extra strength. Their efforts keep all of us warm and fed.

It is an honor to represent them in the House of Representatives on the House Agriculture Committee. May God bless them and keep everybody safe.

#### COMMEMORATING MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Martin Luther King Jr. Day and honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

This is an important day to Michigan's 12th District Strong. It is a reminder of the legacy of a man who dedicated his last breath to the pursuit of equality and justice for all.

I am honored, Mr. Speaker, to represent the most beautiful, Blackest city in the country, the city of Detroit, where we birth movements, where every corner reminds us of the civil rights movement, of the labor movement.

Dr. King knew the struggles to end racism, poverty, and war were all interconnected, as well, and 2 weeks before he was assassinated, Dr. King speaking to sanitation workers on strike said: "All labor has dignity . . . You are reminding the Nation that it is a crime for people to live in this rich nation and receive starvation wages."

As we strive to make Dr. King's dream a reality, may we continue to fight for justice for all.

#### SOUTH AFRICA'S GENOCIDE

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today South Africa will present its case against the Israeli Government at the International Court of Justice.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the link for the case: <https://d12t4t5x3vyizu.cloudfront.net/tlaib.house.gov/uploads/2024/01/192-20231228-app-01-00-en.pdf>

It is incredibly powerful to witness people who defeated apartheid in their own country hold the Israeli apartheid regime accountable for its crime of genocide in Gaza.

Today, I am thinking of Nelson Mandela's powerful words: "We know too well that our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians."

In the past 3 months, Israeli forces have killed over 23,350 Palestinians, including more than 9,600 children. They have injured more than 59,400 Palestinians. More than 8,000 Palestinians are still missing under the rubble.

This week, Secretary of State Blinken called the case meritless. Let me read directly from the case file starting on page 59: "Expressions of Genocidal Intent Against the Palestinian People by Israeli State Officials and Others" so you can hear directly from the Israeli officials in their own words, not mine.

President Herzog said: "It's an entire nation out there that is responsible. It's not true this rhetoric about civilians not aware not involved. It is absolutely not true. . . and we will fight until we break their backbone."

He is one of the many Israeli officials to have handwritten messages on the bombs to be dropped on the children of Gaza.

Netanyahu said in his own words: "A struggle between the children of light and the children of darkness, between humanity and the law of the jungle." And he continues to say: "This is a battle not only of Israel against these barbarians, it's a battle of civilization against barbarism."

Israel's Minister of Defense said: "imposing a complete siege on Gaza. No electricity, no food, no water, no fuel. Everything is closed. We are fighting human animals . . ." Again, that is a direct quote from the Minister of Defense.

He continues on to say: "Gaza won't return to what it was before. We will eliminate everything."

Israeli Minister for National Security—again, an official within the Israeli Government—speaking of those living in Gaza said: ". . . they're all terrorists, and they should also be destroyed."

Israeli Minister of Energy and Infrastructure said: "All the civilian population in Gaza is ordered to leave immediately. . . . They will not receive a drop of water or a single battery until they leave the world."

Israeli Minister of Heritage said: "The north of the Gaza Strip, more beautiful than ever. Everything is blown up and flattened, simply a pleasure for the eyes . . . we will hand over lots to all those who fought for Gaza over the years."

I am not done. The Israeli Minister of Agriculture said: "[w]e are now actually rolling out the Gaza Nakba."

Deputy Speaker of the Knesset said: ". . . we all have one common goal—erasing the Gaza Strip from the face of the Earth. Those who are unable will be replaced."

Israeli Army Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories speaking of the Palestinians living in Gaza said: "Human animals are dealt with accordingly."

The Israeli Army Reservist said: ". . . don't leave anyone behind. Erase the memory of them. Erase them, their families, mothers and children. These animals can no longer live. . . . Let them drop bombs on them and erase them."

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the entire South African genocide case

against Israel in the International Court of Justice: <https://d3i6fh83elv35t.cloudfront.net/static/2024/01/192-20231228-app-01-00-en.pdf>

Mr. Speaker, there is simply time to save lives, to stop the Israeli Government from carrying out the genocide in Gaza. This body and the Biden administration are complicit in this genocide. Congress must stop funding the genocide of the Palestinian people with our American tax dollars.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

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#### BORDER CRISIS REACHED BOILING POINT

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, 3,400 students at James Madison High School in Brooklyn, New York, were unable to attend their classes in person. Instead of learning in their classrooms, being with their fellow students, and eating lunch in the cafeteria, these students were forced from their own school in order to make room for 2,000 illegal immigrants who recently came to New York City.

This crisis has reached a boiling point, and action must be taken to address the impact that it is having on our communities. We know the historic learning loss that occurred with school lockdowns during COVID. Now, instead of using the proven and effective remain in Mexico policy, President Biden has thrown open our doors to a record number of illegal immigrants in the past year.

It is time to secure our border. It is time to stop making American families pay the price for President Biden's weak leadership and failed policies. It is time for President Biden to join us and demand that the Senate pass the Secure the Border Act and finally address this catastrophe impacting American families because of the porous southern border.

#### ADDRESS MEDICARE PAY CUT

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in rural communities like those in south central and southwestern Pennsylvania, millions of patients rely on Medicare to see their doctors, fill their prescriptions, and live healthy lives.

Now, if Congress fails to act, those patients will be in jeopardy. Medicare pay cuts, when compiled with a 4.6 percent medical inflation, will ultimately result in higher costs for Medicare beneficiaries.

When I first came to Congress, I pledged to support Medicare and pledged to support the patients who rely on those Medicare benefits. These cuts will make it impossible for rural providers to keep their doors open. These cuts will mean longer travel and

wait times for patients to see family doctors, to see surgeons, and to see specialists.

Right now, thousands of Medicare patients are in need of a primary care physician. These Medicare cuts will drive further consolidation and force patients into higher cost settings of care that will both increase their wait times and increase their out-of-pocket expenses.

Congress must step in and address these cuts before they do irreversible damage to our healthcare system. America and our patients are relying on us to make the right choices.

#### HONORING JACKIE WALLIN

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

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jackie Wallin, a beloved figure in Laughlin, Nevada, and the architect of so much success across our community.

Jackie is retiring from her position as the president and CEO of the Laughlin Chamber of Commerce after dedicating 36 years of service to southern Nevada and the tristate area. She has been instrumental in promoting small businesses, tourism, and philanthropic work for families, veterans, and seniors across the community.

Just last week, I had the pleasure of meeting with Jackie during a roundtable conversation with the chamber. We discussed issues that face local businesses and how I can better help them here in Washington. We are working together to make sure that life is more affordable and to cut through red tape.

Notably, I got to see Jackie's work in action—not only her persistence in fighting for the interests of her community but also the genuine care and charisma she brings to every interaction.

Throughout the day, I had the pleasure of touring the beautiful riverfront in the downtown area in Laughlin, where I witnessed the incredible community development that would not have been possible without Jackie's decades of hard work. I wish Jackie the best of luck as she moves on from leading the chamber.

Laughlin is a tight-knit community that looks out for one another. Rest assured, Jackie will never stop looking out for her neighbors, no matter where she is. I expect to see her riding a motorcycle in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Jackie for all she has done for our community. Laughlin and all of southern Nevada are better off because of her.

#### RECOGNIZING MIKE HULL

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize a newly retired pub-

lic servant from central Washington, Mr. Mike Hull of Pateros.

Mike has been an educator for 42 years and has taught some of the most important subjects that engage our students to become better informed on the democratic process. It is more important than ever to instill this in our young people, and Mike has done so by fostering an environment of inclusion, curiosity, and learning. In fact, it was not uncommon for former students to return to his classroom to visit with him and to speak about the positive impact that he had on their lives.

His work in education extended well beyond the classroom. As those of us living on the West Coast know, wildfires significantly impact our daily lives and our safety. During the 2014 Carlton Complex recovery, Mike was the principal of the Pateros school, the central location for food distribution and temporary shelter, and was instrumental in coordinating recovery efforts and volunteer work. Mike led his community even when his own home was at risk from the flames.

He is truly deserving of an honorable public service recognition. I wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement.

#### TIME TO END THE FAILED WAR ON DRUGS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I will enter in the RECORD my comments that I would have made today.

Mr. Speaker, I am sad and I am angry.

I have been working for 50 years leading the effort to end the failed, unfair, cynical, dangerous war on drugs that targeted Black people, that discouraged the legal use of a therapeutic good, something that could have enriched our economy, but instead criminalized behavior, had unintended consequences, and continues to fail us today.

You have been reading comments lately about the problems we have in terms of the use of cannabis for some pregnant women who are unaware of the impact that that can have on a developing fetus. We are looking at impacts on our children from a cannabis that is much more potent than it used to be.

We don't have a system that regulates it, that taxes it, that keeps it out of the hands of children. No neighborhood drug dealer looks for identification, and they are perfectly happy to sell kids other, more dangerous and potent drugs. We don't have to do this.

The House of Representatives has passed a number of items that would remedy this situation. We passed the comprehensive MORE Act that would put it on equal footing. Frankly, we have legislation that would stop the unfair practice of taxing State-legal