

They are proud because women have the freedom to make their own healthcare decisions without the fear of politicians getting in the way.

Lastly, they are proud because our children can go to class and thrive while us moms and dads don't have to worry about their school being defunded or, worse, the next target of a deranged mass shooter.

Mr. Speaker, that should be something all of us can get behind, and it is why I will urge my Republican colleagues to reject Project 2025 and work with us to build a future where people have every chance to get ahead.

RECOGNIZING BANK OF BOTETOIRT'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a cornerstone of our community, the Bank of Botetourt, as they celebrate 125 years of dedicated service.

Founded as the Bank of Buchanan in 1899 and chartered by the general assembly, the institution began its journey on Main Street in Buchanan. In 1995, they changed their name to the Bank of Botetourt.

Today, they have grown into a vital part of our local economy, boasting \$800 million in assets and employing 133 individuals across 13 locations.

Covering 2,500 square miles, they positively impact the lives of residents throughout Botetourt, Franklin, Roanoke, and Rockbridge Counties, as well as the city of Salem. Most recently, they have expanded their reach by establishing new offices in Rocky Mount and Goodwill's Melrose Plaza in Roanoke.

Throughout its remarkable 125-year history, the bank has been guided by seven dedicated presidents and remains one of only six Virginia State-chartered banks to have existed before the establishment of the State Corporation Commission.

Mr. Speaker, I, once again, congratulate the Bank of Botetourt for 125 years of outstanding, efficient, and courteous service to our citizens. May their success continue for many more years to come.

□ 1030

RECOGNIZING MUHLENBERG LUTHERAN CHURCH'S 175TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an incredible milestone for Muhlenberg Lutheran Church in Virginia's Sixth District as they celebrate their 175th anniversary this year.

Muhlenberg has come far from their humble beginnings in 1849 in downtown Harrisonburg. The first worship space was a small, wooden structure on the corner of Wolfe and Main, and the congregation boasted 50 baptized members.

The church grew in size and spirit, and after one century, Muhlenberg broke ground on its current location along East Market Street.

The new soaring spire was topped with a unique "Gospel cross" containing four outward-pointing arrows. The cross is a perfect representation of the church's identity as members go forth in all directions to live out Christ's love.

Muhlenberg's values can be seen in their work to establish People Helping People and Second Home to sponsor refugee families and to support numerous local nonprofits and global missions.

Muhlenberg celebrated their anniversary with a homecoming banquet complete with live music, catered lunch, the unveiling of their signature quilt, and a special program recounting memories of the many saints who have gone before them.

As they mark 175 faithful years, they look forward to many more, inviting all to gather at the wellspring of God's grace.

HONORING GOLD STAR MOTHER'S DAY

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, this week, we honor Gold Star Mothers and the families of our fallen servicemembers.

Gold Star Mother's Day, observed on the last Sunday of September, is a tribute to the valor of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our Nation and the immense pain their families endure.

The Gold Star symbol originated during World War I when families displayed blue stars for their loved ones in the military.

When a servicemember was lost, families would replace the blue star with a gold star, a poignant representation of the profound loss experienced by these families. It is a symbol of love, loss, and sacrifice.

While we may never know the exact number of Gold Star families, the national Gold Star Family Registry reports at least 472,259 fallen military members are honored by loved ones. In Virginia alone, at least 9,640 servicemembers have been recognized.

Today and every day, we remember the bravery of our fallen heroes and acknowledge the tremendous sacrifice made by their mothers, fathers, siblings, and loved ones.

Their families endured unimaginable pain, yet they show incredible resilience and strength. Their sacrifice shapes their lives and reminds us of the true cost of freedom.

As we honor Gold Star Mothers, we extend our deepest gratitude to all military families. They are the backbone of our Armed Forces, supporting their loved ones through deployments and navigating uncertainty with resilience.

As a Nation, we are forever grateful for the sacrifices made by our servicemembers and their families. Mr. Speaker, we must continue to provide support and resources to help Gold Star families heal and honor the memories of their loved ones.

RECOGNIZING TERRI TULLEY

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable individual from

Virginia's Sixth District, Ms. Terri Tulley.

Tulley served in the United States Marine Corps from 2000 to 2003 and broke her leg while stationed in Japan in 2001. Due to complications, her leg was amputated in 2020.

Tulley went on to train for the National Veterans Wheelchair Games in a variety of sports, including swimming, adaptive fitness, softball, pickleball, air rifle, and cornhole.

Tulley was one of 13 people chosen to compete in New Orleans in July on a team sent by the Veterans Affairs facility in Martinsburg, West Virginia.

She competed in 7 events and left with 1 gold medal and 2 silver medals in swimming and adaptive fitness. She also placed in the top 8 for pickleball and the top 10 for air rifle.

Her remarkable athletic accomplishments and commitment to overcoming adversity are testaments to her exceptional character. Her achievements as an athlete, veteran, wife, and mother deserve commendation.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate this achievement, we congratulate Terri Tulley on her remarkable feats and thank her for her service. On behalf of Virginia's Sixth District, I extend our deepest gratitude and best wishes.

HONORING LEONARD KRAEMER

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, today I honor a special person from Virginia's Sixth District, Mr. Leonard Kraemer, for his amazing service to our country.

WORKING IN A BIPARTISAN MANNER

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

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to answer a question that I was asked actually on the plane ride here yesterday from Michigan.

I was sitting next to a woman. She recognized me. She was from a different political affiliation. She said: It just looks like such a mess in Washington. Is anything getting done?

I will highlight some of the things that we actually did get done this week, just in the past week, because of bipartisan cooperation.

It doesn't make headlines, it is not sexy, but I think it is important to understand that the country wants us to work together, and when we do, we pass things that are important.

This week, we passed important bipartisan priorities and legislation. We worked hard to get them across the finish line.

Here is an example. We passed the Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism Pilot Program Act. It is a lot of words, but it is a bipartisan bill I introduced in December of 2023. It is basically TSA PreCheck for freight coming across our borders. This bill will cut a lot of red tape for companies transporting goods across our borders.

In Michigan, we are a northern border State. It will help keep our country

safe by creating this pilot program that allows us to move more freight and allow freight and warehouse companies to participate in Customs and Border Protection's CTPAT program. It is a public-private partnership that basically allows you to get preclearance to move freight and store freight that has been precleared.

I introduced this bill because Michigan is a border State. Every single day we have 40,000 commuters, tourists, and truck drivers coming across our border.

Mr. Speaker, \$323 million worth of goods every single day is coming across our borders, one of the busiest land borders in the country.

I introduced this bill specifically because of freight companies and businesses like Frontline Logistics, which is a small, 15-person business in Brighton, Michigan. They reached out and they said: Hey, we want to expand this TSA PreCheck program so we can grow our business and other small businesses can grow.

The bill will become law because it was bipartisan, and I am grateful to the group of bipartisan Members in the House who sponsored this bill and helped get it passed not just in the House but in the Senate, and it is on its way to be signed at the White House.

Here is another example from yesterday. There was not a lot of press on this. We passed the IMPACTT Human Trafficking Act, which is designed to give survivors of human trafficking and law enforcement officers who fight this crime the tools and the resources they need.

Michigan is number eight in the country for human trafficking. Again, our border plays a role in this. It is an issue that is close to many people's hearts. We have had young women, in particular, taken from their homes and moved across State lines.

Again, this bill will become law because it was bipartisan, and I was proud to introduce it with Representative JOYCE as well as Representatives WAGNER and TITUS. That bipartisan support got it over the finish line in the House and in the Senate.

Similarly, just yesterday, the House passed the Senate version of the Building Chips in America Act, a bipartisan bill that Congresswoman KIGGANS introduced here in the House and on which I am a proud cosponsor.

It will streamline the process so that we can build more microchips in the United States, manufacture more microchips in the United States. We invented those microchips. We make zero percent of the microchips that go in cars. That is a problem. We were able to pass this yesterday because it was bipartisan, and it passed unanimously in the Senate.

These bills are evidence that we do not need to be at each other's throats. In fact, being at each other's throats is principally against the mission of what it means to be a Representative.

It means you are not getting work done. It means you are doing things for political posturing. It means that you care more about making a statement that makes the news or goes viral on Twitter than you do about actually moving the ball down the field for your constituents.

I hope that when Congress returns in November and when a new Congress is sworn in next year, we can learn that basic lesson. We do our best work when we work together, even when it is hard.

We could do things that support the Commerce Department. Yesterday, they put in a big countermeasure to make sure that Chinese-connected vehicles aren't moving around in the United States. Congress should pass legislation that strengthens that.

We could pass the farm bill, which should be bipartisan, a big piece of legislation every 5 years.

The National Defense Authorization Act, funding our military, funding our military salaries, big appropriations bills that go to the essential function of government, all of that is work on our plate after the election.

I sincerely hope that we are able to act like adults and do the things that most people want us to do, which is get in a room, hash things out, hammer it out, compromise, and move the ball forward for the American people. I urge my colleagues to remember this. It is much easier to get things done when we work together.

HOUSING ISSUES

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

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss Vice President KAMALA HARRIS' housing plan.

First, let's talk about the broader problem. Housing is less affordable and less available today, and it is bringing costs onto the American people.

Overall, housing underproduction costs the U.S. economy \$1.6 trillion in lost wages and productivity every single year.

The U.S. needs to build 4.3 million more apartments by 2035 to meet the demand for rental housing. This includes 600,000 units to fill the shortage from after the 2008 financial crisis.

Underproduction of housing has translated to higher housing costs, resulting in a decline of 4.7 million affordable apartments from 2015 to 2020.

Housing underproduction also increases the cost of living for families, inhibits geographic mobility, burdens both renters and buyers, and stifles economic productivity.

According to one estimate, from 1964 to 2009, our national housing shortage lowered aggregate economic growth by 36 percent.

All of that is to say there is no question we have a housing supply problem in this country. Unfortunately, Vice President KAMALA HARRIS' plans would make the problem much, much worse.

The Harris plan's goals are to "lower housing costs for working families and end America's housing shortage." The problem is that the Biden-Harris policies and the Harris plan will actually raise housing costs and worsen the housing crisis.

I will break it down piece by piece to demonstrate why. First, let's start with KAMALA HARRIS' proposal to add tens of thousands of dollars in new downpayment assistance for home buyers.

Large amounts of downpayment assistance might sound nice, it might sound like it is free, but it is exactly the wrong answer in this environment with housing shortages across the country.

More government subsidies won't bring housing costs down. They will continue to increase demand and drive prices even higher.

The great irony is that this policy would hurt the very people it is intended to help. Think about a young person who is currently renting but planning to buy a home. He and his wife may be looking at prices on Zillow and diligently saving up for a downpayment on a nearby house. They financially planned for this goal, and they have been working toward it for years.

If the Harris plan's subsidy were to go into effect, the prices of those homes would increase. They could find themselves further from their goal, even if they were able to receive the promised subsidy themselves.

It is a classic example of why progressive economic policies fail. Instead of working through a market-focused solution, the Harris plan simply throws money on the problem, and it hopes for the best. That is not leadership, and that is not going to solve the problem.

Next, let's talk about rent caps. Earlier this year, the Biden-Harris administration announced their intention to impose rent caps on "corporate landlords."

Rent caps are a failed policy with a long track record of exacerbating housing shortages by dissuading developers from building new rental units in high-demand areas.

If investors know that future rent increases will be capped, they shift their capital elsewhere. That means less building, less housing supply, fewer options, and it drives demand for existing units even higher, which pushes rents up in buildings that aren't even subject to the caps.

We have seen how these policies work in New York and San Francisco where rent control has been in place for decades.

According to AEIR, rent control policies in New York City resulted in more rental units being abandoned than built in the 1970s and 1980s.

We can expect more of the same under the Harris plan, which will replicate these failures on a national scale.

To recap, the Harris plan would implement an expensive downpayment assistance subsidy. It would hamper new