

Area Chamber of Commerce twice for her accomplishments.

I am proud to have leaders like Jeff and Diana in our district. I wish them both the very best.

□ 1700

#### RURAL COMMUNITIES NEED HEALTHCARE

(Ms. HOYLE of Oregon asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Rural Health Month. One-third of Oregon's counties are frontier counties, which have even more struggles accessing healthcare than our rural communities.

We need to make sure that the people who are feeding our country—our farmers, our fishermen, and our ranchers—can access the healthcare that they need. The barriers are great.

I was just able to get \$2 million to build a chemotherapy care clinic in Curry County. It would take 7½ hours for people needing chemotherapy to be able to go get treatment, having to travel by car on dangerous roads. We need to do better.

These people are the heart of our country, and we need to invest in healthcare for our rural communities.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF SERGEANT KESTER B. HARDMAN

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

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and sacrifice of Sergeant Kester B. Hardman of Ritchie County, located in the beautiful Second District that I represent.

Sergeant Hardman, a dedicated serviceman of the Army's Second Infantry Division in the Korean war was reported missing in action after intense combat near Suncheon, South Korea.

North Korean authorities reported he had died in 1951 as a prisoner of war, but his remains were never identified. In 1954, 848 unidentified remains were recovered from North Korea and laid to rest among countless other unidentified servicemen at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii.

After 70 years of being unidentified, in May of this year, the fantastic lab of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency was able to use dental and medical records to identify Sergeant Hardman and notify his family.

Sergeant Hardman was finally laid to rest on October 17 of this year in his hometown of Smithville with the honor and dignity he deserves.

#### CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF PASTORAL LEADERSHIP BY REVEREND DR. MARCUS D. COSBY

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

Mrs. LEE CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church's great leader, Dr. Marcus D. Cosby for 20 years of pastoral leadership. Wheeler Avenue Baptist is located in the 18th District of Texas.

The church, founded in 1962 by the late great Reverend Dr. William A. Lawson, has a rich history of faith and standing for social justice.

Dr. Cosby was the immediate selection of Dr. Lawson. In 2008, he was inducted into the Martin Luther King, Jr. Board of Preachers at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia.

Under Dr. Cosby's leadership, the congregation has grown to over 15,000 dedicated members, many in the 18th Congressional District. Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church is dedicated to community service. They have a robust food pantry, meal distribution programs, and scholarships for students where they focus on closing the academic achievement gap. In 2024, to honor Dr. Lawson's legacy, Dr. Cosby and the church donated \$1 million to five universities.

Dr. Cosby is married to the lovely first lady, Mrs. Audrey Marie Cosby. They have five children, including: daughters, Adrienne, Ashley, Aliyah; and two sons, Marcus D. Cosby, II, and Matthew D. Cosby. They also have one grandson.

I celebrate Marcus D. Cosby for 20 years of pastoral leadership. I ask that we join together in congratulating this remarkable leader and look forward to his good and faithful service for many years to come.

#### TAX RELIEF FOR HOSTAGES

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

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Stop Terror-Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act.

Ryan Corbett, who grew up in my district, has been held hostage by the Taliban in Afghanistan for 832 days. It is inconceivable that Americans like Ryan, who endure such brutal hardship, should come home only to face a tax bill or penalties from our government, but that is what the current law prescribes.

Our Tax Code offers Americans held hostage just 1 year of relief before late fees and interest begin to accrue. This bill ensures that those individuals can return home without the added burden of financial fallout, allowing them to rebuild their lives.

This legislation also strengthens our stance against terrorism by revoking

tax-exempt status from U.S. nonprofits that provide financing to groups like Hamas. Just as captors holding American citizens should not receive a dime in American taxpayer aid, neither should terrorist sympathizers receive tax relief from our Federal Government.

#### VETERAN HOMELESSNESS IS UNACCEPTABLE

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address an issue of great importance to the veterans in North Carolina's First Congressional District and across our Nation: veteran homelessness.

In traveling across my district, I have heard from veterans and constituents about how unacceptable it is that so many veterans who have put their lives on the line for our freedoms are without homes.

While recent data from the VA shows a nearly 60 percent reduction in the unhoused, there is still so much work to be done.

The House overwhelmingly passed H.R. 8371. It requires the VA to implement a strategic plan expanding services to help veterans secure permanent housing, access basic needs, and receive healthcare and job support. Congress must continue to support such legislation to end veteran homelessness.

#### AMERICAN FOOD SUPPLY CONCERNS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, recently Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., has been raising concerns that a lot of people have been thinking about for a while, about what is in our food, including yellow dye No. 6, or its chemical name, Acid Yellow 23, commonly found in many snack products and things like popcorn.

This synthetic dye has been linked to allergic reactions such as hives and asthma and may contribute to behavioral issues like hyperactivity in children. It has also been criticized for potential long-term health risks, including anxiety, learning difficulties, and even possibly cancer risks when consumed in large amounts over time.

Despite being FDA approved, there are growing concerns over the safety of artificial dyes, prompting some companies to remove them from their products. I notice also that in Europe a lot of these products aren't in their foods, but they are somehow for some reason in the United States' forms of it.

Coal tar byproducts, like tartrazine, are found not only in food, but also personal care products like toothpaste, shampoo, and lotions. These synthetic

dyes can cause allergic reactions, skin rashes, headaches, and asthma, and have been linked to behavioral issues in children as well.

It is time we demand more transparency from manufacturers as well as the FDA in checking more closely about them and push for safer, better alternatives or maybe just leave them out. Maybe we don't have to have a perfectly colored potato chip. Instead, let's let it be a little more what it is. Let's support companies that prioritize health and choose products free of harmful synthetic dyes. Our health is worth it.

#### NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH

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

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize November as National Family Caregivers Month and to honor the important work of the more than 48 million American family caregivers across our country.

Every day, Americans provide physical and emotional support for their older parents, spouses, siblings, grandparents, and other loved ones so that they can live independently in their homes. These caregivers help with everything, including meals, bathing, medical care, transportation, often balancing their jobs and their family responsibilities at the same time.

In Congress, we must do our part to make caregivers' lives easier. That is why I introduced the Alleviating Barriers to Caregivers Act, a bicameral, bipartisan bill that will reduce paperwork and red tape and make it easier for caregivers to navigate the resources and benefits that they are entitled to.

Family caregivers work around the clock to make a difference in the lives of their loved ones, and it is time that our country make a difference in theirs.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF JEANNE CARTER LUCKEY

(Mr. EZELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EZELL. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I stand here today before you to honor the life and legacy of Jeanne Carter Luckey, who passed away earlier this month.

Jeanne was not only a dedicated trustee for the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, but a tireless advocate for education and the future of our State.

Throughout her distinguished career, Jeanne worked with unwavering passion to ensure that our universities and students had the resources they needed to succeed.

Her leadership on the board of the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning was marked by wisdom, in-

tegrity, and a deep commitment to Mississippi's educational system. She understood that education was the key to unlocking opportunities for generations to come.

Jeanne was a fierce believer in service to her community, her State, and to the future of our children. She leaves behind a remarkable legacy that will continue to inspire those of us in public service for years to come.

On behalf of the people of Mississippi, I extend my deepest condolences to Jeanne's family, friends, and colleagues. We will miss her leadership and her unshakable dedication to making Mississippi a better place.

#### NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JAMES). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. TOKUDA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the bipartisan Rural Health Caucus, I am proud to lead my colleagues today in celebrating National Rural Health Month.

With 61 million people, roughly 20 percent of the United States population, living across 97 percent of the country's landmass, delivering healthcare to every corner of America has required unique and innovative approaches and remains an ongoing challenge.

As the primary growers and producers of the food, fuel, and fiber that keeps our country running, rural Americans are also quickly becoming older and more ethnically diverse, dealing with the challenges of keeping up with a world increasingly dependent on broadband activity to support all aspects of life, including healthcare delivery, can be a challenge.

Since 2011, National Rural Health Day has been recognized annually on the third Thursday of November—coming up soon, on November 21—to highlight the dedication of healthcare providers and communities in addressing the healthcare needs of rural Americans.

For those of us representing rural and remote parts of this country, every day is Rural Health Day, as we fight to provide access to even the most basic care services and to work to improve health outcomes and the life expectancy of our constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I yield now to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. BUDZINSKI).

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding to me. I rise today to celebrate National Rural Health Month and bring attention to rural healthcare challenges.

In the communities that I am so proud to represent in central and southern Illinois, independent pharmacies are a lifeline. However, for too long, predatory drug middlemen, called PBMs, have squeezed independent phar-

macies out of business through their unfair, anticompetitive practices.

I recently hosted a roundtable, where I heard from several independent pharmacists throughout my district, including Michelle Dyer, the owner of Michelle's Pharmacy in Carlinville, Illinois. In 2022, as PBM s consolidated, she was forced to close multiple locations of her business, leaving three rural towns in Macoupin County without access to a reliable pharmacy.

Our conversation made clear that we must take action to rein in PBMs, who have gone unchecked for far too long. We must pass the Pharmacists Fight Back Act to provide transparency, accountability, and guardrails. We need to protect independent pharmacists and support the health of our rural communities.

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN).

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for hosting this Special Order hour and for yielding me some time.

This month, Americans celebrate National Rural Health Month, where we believe every American should have access to quality, affordable healthcare regardless of their ZIP Code.

The Big First District of Kansas is made up of 60 primarily rural counties and is home to more critical access hospitals than any other district in the Nation, several rural emergency hospitals, and a number of rural health clinics, community health centers, and federally qualified health centers. This network of care facilities is an essential pillar for providing everyday health services and lifesaving care to Kansans.

I am committed to supporting this network and networks like it, removing red tape that handcuffs providers from providing care to rural communities, advocating for increase in telehealth services, and supporting programs that provide a safety net for rural America.

While this still is very much a work in progress, we celebrate the dedicated rural healthcare workers, hospitals, and service providers who provide care day in and day out to rural America. We are incredibly grateful for their service this rural healthcare month and every month.

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN).

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join my colleagues today in highlighting the accomplishments and ongoing challenges facing access to high-quality healthcare in rural and remote parts of our United States.

Healthcare providers in areas like Michigan's First District work every day to provide the best possible care for patients while overcoming struggles unlike anything facing those in urban or suburban areas.