

He first served as the Representative of Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District from 1975 through 1981, and then returned to Congress to serve as the Representative of Minnesota's Eighth Congressional District from 2013 to 2019.

Many who served with Rick remember him as a fighter for northern Minnesota and an avid lover of the great outdoors, and an advocate for those diagnosed with cancer.

I will always remember Rick as an exceptionally kind man. My favorite memory of Rick is the time I ran into him on a flight to Minnesota from Washington, D.C. He was a departing Member of Congress, and I was preparing to begin my first term.

Even though we disagreed on many issues, he made sure to come over and give me a hug and wish me well. I appreciated his kindness that day, and I know all of Minnesota appreciates his service.

My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Mary, and all of his loved ones as they grieve his loss.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS VIOLANTE

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

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the honorable life of Thomas Violante, an incredible businessowner from Royal Oak, Michigan, who inspired many through his pursuit of the American Dream and service to others.

Mr. Violante was born in 1929 to a working-class family. His father ran a small market, and he gained a passion for supporting his community through entrepreneurship. This passion solidified in 1951 when Thomas and his wife, Janet, purchased a small specialty store for just a pack of cigarettes and six-pack of beer. It would become the Holiday Market of Royal Oak.

Thomas Violante's business was more than just a grocery store, though. It was the embodiment of his values. He empowered his employees to be creative, to work hard, and to achieve their dreams.

Mr. Violante passed away on his 95th birthday last month. Beyond his role as a businessowner, he was a proud father, grandfather, great grandfather, veteran, and philanthropist.

He left an incredible mark on Michigan's 11th District, and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring him.

THE RADICAL GREEN AGENDA

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, California Democrats are at it again, doubling down on their radical green agenda and threatening personal freedom.

A State-funded study has suggested a ban now on gas-powered classic cars from public roads, claiming they are too harmful to the environment. We are talking about parade cars. We are talking about hobby cars. We are talking about the stuff people enjoy. We are talking about the stuff politicians like to ride in parades in when they are running for reelection.

Let's be clear, classic cars are a lot more than just vehicles. They are pieces of our history, symbols of culture, and a source of pride for countless Californians.

It doesn't stop there. These same people trying to do these bans, these green policies, could hike gas prices by as much as 85 cents, 90 cents a gallon. They want to force you into an electric vehicle while our power grid can't even handle a summer heat wave.

Meanwhile, the elites pushing these bans are still flying private jets off to meet-ups overseas and cruising on their big yachts, which spew far more emissions than they want to outlaw.

It is not about saving the planet. It is about control. We need to call out this hypocrisy and stand up for the freedoms of individuals, for their automobiles, for what have you.

I can speak for a lot of them, knowing that you will pry my 1968 Mustang gearshift out of my cold, dead fingers.

HONORING COMMUNITY OF FAITH CHURCH

(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. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor an incredible milestone for a wonderful institution in the 18th Congressional District, The Community of Faith church, which was founded after the vestiges of slavery is celebrating 150 years of faith, service, and community impact.

Founded in 1873 by the Reverend Jack Henry Yates, a former slave, who defied the odds and went on to establish businesses, schools, and churches. This congregation has a rich history of perseverance and resilience.

From its humble beginnings as Mount Pillow Missionary Baptist Church to its relocation during tumultuous times, it is now under the leadership of Bishop James Dixon II and has become a beacon of hope and transformation in our community.

I honor its former leaders, including Reverend Charlie Daniel James Dixon who served 50 years, guiding it through racial adversity, and Reverend Clovis Emory Johnson who served for 2 years and helped transition the church into new era of growth.

We also remember the leadership of Reverend Dixon's own grandfather, Reverend Jack Henry Yates who served from 1873 to 1927.

This place continues to be a wonderful place of worship, a community hub for development, education, and social justice.

As we celebrate this monumental 150 anniversary, we honor the rich legacy, but also the bright future ahead that may continue to do greater works for the glory of God and the service of all people.

Madam Speaker, I salute Bishop James Dixon II for his tremendous leadership, and his three children, Mariah, Victoria, and James W.E. Dixon III.

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RECOGNIZING THE UNITED WAY OF GREATER TOLEDO

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today, in anticipation of the Thanksgiving holiday, to recognize the invaluable efforts of the United Way of Greater Toledo to address hunger during this holiday season.

In Lucas, Wood, and Ottawa Counties, 40 percent of hardworking Iowans are at risk of not having enough to eat.

This reality highlights the critical importance of community-driven initiatives. Partnering with multiple nonprofit organizations, the United for the Holidays program brings the northwest Ohio community together to create more than 500 holiday boxes filled with 2 weeks' worth of food for families in need.

Not only are these volunteers delivering food but also hope and dignity to our neighbors in a season of giving and a time of need due to high food prices.

We are all committed to fighting hunger year round, and I am honored to keep fighting for laws that expand access to school meals and food coupons for our seniors in our summer fruit and vegetable programs and emergency food support across our communities. No family should face an empty table in the United States of America.

The majority party must move the long-delayed farm bill forward in order that our people can eat. We must build strong support systems to ensure that every Iowan has access to nutritious, reliable meals. Again, I thank the United Way of Greater Toledo for leading the way with love, for this vital effort at this season of Thanksgiving.

RECOGNIZING NORMA GRIFFIN

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

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and work of Norma Griffin.

Norma was a devoted educator, deeply committed to her community and empowering young people. She was a native New Yorker who settled in Concord, California, with her husband, Ralph, and their two sons, Ralph and Steven. She worked for over three decades in education, teaching in the New

York public school system, the Oakland Unified School District, the Mt. Diablo Unified School District, and overseas in Japan and France.

On top of teaching, Norma was a founding member of the Black Families Association of Contra Costa County in the bay area. She was a member of the Oakland Symphony Chorus and served as president of the American Association of University Women's local chapter.

For her work, Norma was recognized in 1995 as Teacher of the Year and Woman of the Year for State Assembly District 11 in the California legislature in 2008.

Sadly, Norma has passed away, and our hearts are with her friends and family. Norma will be remembered for her kindness, determination, and courage.

Please join me in honoring Norma Griffin for her incredible impact on our community and on this country.

PARTISAN GERRYMANDERING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. NICKEL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. NICKEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the urgent need for Congress to act on partisan gerrymandering in the United States. The FAIR MAPS Act is a bill I have authored. We will talk about that today. This is a huge problem for the U.S. Congress, and I am glad to have the chance to speak about this today. I am joined by one of my outstanding colleagues from the great State of North Carolina, Congresswoman KATHY MANNING.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), my friend and colleague, to speak on this issue.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me, and I really want to thank him, first of all, for his FAIR MAPS Act.

Ohio is the poster child for unfair maps. If you look at a State that voted twice for President-elect Trump and twice for President Obama, you would think that, for example, if the State has 15 Members, that it would be 8 and 7, you would sort of try to divide it equally because of 15 Members of Congress from Ohio and what is fair is fair.

What has happened in Ohio, because of a veto-proof legislature, due to gerrymandering in Ohio, in both chambers, what happens is that out of 15 seats, our side of the aisle, in Columbus, what they did down there, we have only 5 Democrats out of 15, only 33 percent, not 50 percent out of the 15. To be fair, if you have 15 seats, maybe it should be 8 and 7, you know, but to give us equal voice based on the public's right to full representation. Ohio is really the poster child for radical gerrymandering.

Recently, the polls showed that three-quarters of the people of Ohio wanted reform, and they wanted to set up a special independent commission to draw the districts in Ohio. The vast majority of people wanted change.

What happened? In Ohio, that issue was put on the ballot, but the secretary of state, who has been part of this veto-proof, one-party rule in Ohio that has become corrupt actually—Ohio is an extremely corrupt State right now, I am sad to say. People have gone to prison and more will go to prison because absolute power corrupts absolutely, including in gerrymandering.

There was this initiative that was placed on the ballot that the people voted to put on the ballot, but what did the secretary of state and attorney general in Ohio do? They wrote a gerrymandering proposition that was placed on the ballot that took up 3 pages. When the people went in to vote, just reading that, on these computers that we vote on now, took so much effort, the measure failed by a small margin because they were afraid. They didn't know what it was exactly, and it was made so complicated. Study Ohio as a classic case of hurting the people and not giving fair representation.

I just wanted to place that on the record so that those who are listening across this Chamber, across the intelligent media in our country, and the people of Ohio could hear this because they are not being represented fairly, and voices are being suppressed. That really goes against the very principle of one person, one vote and one person, one mind, to be able to have all of those views properly reflected.

I thank the Congressman for introducing the FAIR MAPS Act and focusing on this really critical matter of a democratic voice for the people of the United States of America. I can't compliment him enough. I am proud of his work and thank him for doing this.

Mr. NICKEL. Madam Speaker, I am grateful to my colleague from the great State of Ohio, a true champion for Ohio families.

Madam Speaker, I am going to talk about this a lot today, but in 1984, we had 190 Members elected to Congress in split-ticket districts. These are districts that voted for President of one party and a Member of Congress of another. This election, it looks like we are down to 13. Representative KAPTUR was one of those and has a great story to tell.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING).

Ms. MANNING. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend from North Carolina, Representative WILEY NICKEL, for holding this Special Order hour so that we can talk about such an important issue, an issue that strikes at the very heart of our democracy, and that is gerrymandering.

Last year, in my State of North Carolina, the Republican-led general assembly passed blatantly gerry-

mandered congressional districts engineered with one clear purpose: to reduce the number of Democrats in Congress.

These new maps deliberately distort the will of the people, systematically diluting the votes of Democratic-leaning areas, like my district.

Communities of interest were split, districts were manipulated with surgical precision, leaving many voters voiceless in the very communities they call home.

In my own Sixth District, the city of Greensboro, a city of 300,000 people, was split into three parts. Each piece combined with farflung, ruby-red, rural districts. The majority of Greensboro was drawn into a district stretching across 10 counties all the way to the Tennessee border. In doing so, the new maps also separate the heart of Greensboro from High Point and from Winston-Salem, effectively dismantling a triad district, a community of interest that deserves cohesive representation.

Remarkably, and not coincidentally, the newly drawn Sixth District gives a 16-point advantage to a Republican candidate over a Democratic one. As someone who has lived in Greensboro for four decades, I am outraged by the brazen disregard Republicans in Raleigh have shown the citizens of my district.

Let's be clear. This is not democracy at work. This is political manipulation at its worst, designed not to represent the people but for partisan gain.

I want to give a little bit of history about how ridiculous this gerrymandering is and what has taken place, because the Republican-led legislature in North Carolina did the exact same thing in 2021. Despite their own statements that they would keep communities of interest together and avoid splitting counties, they drew a map back then that split my former triad district into three pieces and split two counties.

My constituents brought a lawsuit. The North Carolina Supreme Court found that the partisan gerrymandering, which the court found, based on presentations by esteemed statisticians and computer experts and other experts, that extreme gerrymandering was done with surgical precision and that that violated the North Carolina State Constitution.

The court ordered the maps to be redrawn, and eventually they had to appoint a three-judge panel to redraw fair maps. That panel, two Republicans and one Democrat, redrew the maps to keep communities of interest together and to avoid splitting counties. The result? In a truly purple State, where voters have just elected—well, I am going to come back to that. In a truly purple State, the voters elected seven Republicans and seven Democrats to the U.S. House of Representatives. Now, that was in 2021.