

owes him our utmost gratitude for his courage and selfless sacrifice to defend our country and our precious freedom. I thank him for his service.

IN MEMORY OF YVONNE JOHNSON

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

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my dear friend and a true pillar of the Greensboro community, Yvonne Johnson.

Few individuals have so completely embodied the spirit of their city as Yvonne did for Greensboro. A proud native, she graduated from Dudley High School and received degrees from both Bennett College and North Carolina A&T State University.

It was during her college years that she became deeply involved in the civil rights movement, marching with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and participating in the historic Woolworth's sit-ins.

Her relentless dedication to justice paved the way for nearly 30 years of service on the Greensboro City Council, where she made history as the first Black person elected to serve. Later, she shattered another barrier as the city's first Black mayor.

Yvonne was a trailblazer, a role model, and a real leader. I will miss her, but I feel privileged to have known and worked with her. Surely her memory will be a blessing for all who knew her, for she made Greensboro a better place for all of us.

REMEMBERING ATHANASIOS "TOMMY" PAPPAS

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

Mr. CAREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Athanasios Pappas, or as he is lovingly known to the people of Columbus as Tommy of Tommy's Diner in Franklinton.

Tommy made a simple meal really feel just like a celebration. Since 1989, his warm hospitality, larger-than-life presence, as you can see from this picture, made Tommy's Diner a neighborhood institution.

Today, we honor Tommy's hard work and service to the city of Columbus and all of central Ohio. Our thoughts are with his wife, Kathy; his sons, Michael and Louie; and the entire Pappas family.

HONORING ALICIA "CHUCKY" HANSEN

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and celebrate

the first Alicia "Chucky" Hansen Day in the United States Virgin Islands, designated by the Virgin Islands Legislature as December 6.

From the moment Senator Hansen stepped into the Virgin Islands Legislature in 1986, she committed herself to being an advocate for Virgin Islanders and individuals from all walks of life.

Our beloved Chucky was truly a force to contend with and a role model and mentor for young girls and women. She continues to hold the record for the longest serving senator from St. Croix.

Senator Hansen committed much of her time to The American Legion, supporting our territory's veterans. She was a lively radio personality, engaging with our community on a weekly basis. Let me tell you, if Chucky was for you, nobody could be against you.

We remember and honor Senator Hansen's memory today.

HONORING ALABAMIANS KILLED AT PEARL HARBOR

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

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, December 7, marks the 83rd anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Dozens of Alabamians were killed on this tragic day, including 32 on the USS *Arizona*, and Julius Ellsberry was believed to be the first Black Alabamian to die in World War II.

I rise today to honor the memory of all these brave Alabamians and Americans, but I would like to specifically focus on Chief Carpenter John Arnold Austin from Warrior, Alabama.

On the morning of December 7, John was aboard the USS *Oklahoma*, which was the first ship to be attacked by the Japanese on Battleship Row. John and many of his shipmates found themselves trapped, but he found an escape route and is credited with saving 15 sailors that day. Unfortunately, he perished in the process.

Chief Carpenter Austin was awarded the Navy Cross posthumously. His citation reads: He gallantly gave his life in service of his country. The USS *Austin*, a destroyer escort, was later named in his honor.

As we honor those lost, let us remember and reflect on their sacrifices and the high cost required to preserve freedom.

□ 1030

ANNIVERSARY OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE 13TH AMENDMENT

(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, today marks 159 years since the ratification of the 13th Amendment on December 6, 1865, which abolished slavery and freed nearly 4 million enslaved persons including some of my ancestors.

When you look at these formerly enslaved, you see the hopes and dreams that were written and promised in our United States Constitution. However, the path to freedom has been unevenly realized across this Nation, and true freedom remains a work in progress.

In fact, it still exists as the legacy of slavery and injustice endures. Mr. Speaker, because the 13th Amendment was incomplete, it allows slavery to exist if a person is convicted of a crime, and this disproportionately affects Black Americans.

In 2023, Black Americans were incarcerated at rates five times higher than White Americans. As of 2022, White households held wealth six times that of Black households.

If we are truly to live up to our creed of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, we must end these disparities as soon as possible. As we honor the progress achieved, let us recommit to building a future of justice and equality for all.

HONORING CHRISTIAN COUNTY WESTERN DISTRICT COMMISSIONER BILL BARNETT

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

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bill Barnett, a remarkable public servant, as he celebrates his 80th birthday.

For over two decades as the Christian County Western District Commissioner, Bill's leadership transformed our community with paving roads, building bridges, and modernizing services that have improved countless lives.

Beyond infrastructure, Bill's faith has guided his life. A devoted member of the Nixa Church of the Nazarene, he and his wife, Glenna, embody compassion and service. Bill also supports boards and causes from senior centers to environmental initiatives, all while running a small business and cherishing his role as a family man. Bill's faith, integrity, and dedication inspire us all.

Happy 80th birthday, Bill. Your legacy is a blessing to us all.

CELEBRATING SYLVANIA TOWN CRIER MICHAEL LIEBER

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, at this holiday season and other auspicious occasions, I rise to celebrate a cherished, inspiring tradition that bridges history, culture, and community. It is the enduring role of the town crier.

In northwest Ohio, Sylvania's town crier, Michael Lieber, embodies this vibrant legacy with distinction and flare. For nearly three decades, Mr. Lieber has been a living emblem of civic pride,

dressed in 19th century regalia, ringing his handbell, and calling out proclamations with unmatched zeal.

His booming voice proclaiming “Oyez, oyez, oyez” has carried the spirit of Sylvania not just across Ohio but across the globe, from Melbourne, Australia, to the airwaves of Good Morning America.

Town criers, once vital in relaying news to an illiterate public, now serve as keepers of history and creators of joy. They infuse modern events with old-world charm. Mr. Lieber’s dedication highlights the best of American ingenuity and community service, connecting us to our past while celebrating the present.

Let us commend town crier Michael Lieber and his fellow criers for preserving this unique, joyful tradition and inspiring us to honor our shared history. Their contributions remind us all that civic pride is a timeless virtue.

We thank Mr. Lieber.

ADDRESSING THE UNEMPLOYMENT SYSTEM IN CALIFORNIA

(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, California’s unemployment system is failing. The State owes \$20 billion to the Federal Government because of mismanagement and rampant fraud. Small businesses are going to be left to pick up the mess.

In order to address the root problem, California should instead help small businesses, not shove the problem onto them. Instead, they are going to see higher unemployment insurance taxes that cover up this debt, higher taxes on already struggling businesses in my home State, on top of the taxes, regulations, and red tape they already face.

These small businesses are key to getting people back to work, but they are being crushed by these policies that prioritize bureaucracy over actual solutions. When a State cannot account for many billions of dollars of unemployment, as well as through the EDD, let alone the billions that are missing now for homeless issues, it needs to get back in focus on what is important for the people of California.

We have crime to solve. We have water we need to store and help with our agricultural community. We have homeless problems that are still not being met. We have housing issues we need to address. Instead, we get more and more of this kind of corruption.

The path to recovery starts with our small businesses in California, not harming them with more taxes.

HIGHLIGHTING THE WORK OF THE MENTAL HEALTH CAUCUS

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

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the work that my colleagues in the Mental Health Caucus and I are doing to address America’s mental health and addiction crises.

When I first took office, my home State of Oregon ranked second to last in the Nation in terms of access to mental health services and dead last for the widespread prevalence of mental illness.

It is why I made this issue a top priority and took on a leadership role as co-chair of the Mental Health Caucus, where our Members have introduced around 200 bills during this Congress alone to address various pieces of the mental health puzzle.

Personally, I have introduced my own bills related to mental health and cosponsored dozens more. I have held listening tours, roundtables, and town-halls to hear directly from community members, to understand the challenges they face, and establish strong relationships with advocates and treatment professionals to ensure our solutions are guided by lived experiences.

These actions have helped raise awareness and reduce the stigma around seeking care, but that is merely just the first step. I know there is still so much more work to be done. I remain committed to reaching across the aisle and working with my colleagues in both parties to continue this work to make strides on this issue in the next Congress.

CONGRATULATING OHIO’S 13TH DISTRICT CHAMPION OF THE WEEK KENDRA SANTIAGO

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Kendra Santiago as Ohio’s 13th Congressional District Champion of the Week.

Last month, while on the job, pizza delivery driver Kendra Santiago saved a man’s life in Fairlawn, Ohio. While she was taking his order over the phone, Kendra became concerned about his speech patterns. As a former nurse’s aide who is also pursuing a career as an EMT, Kendra volunteered to make the delivery.

When she arrived at the man’s house in Fairlawn, his wife told Kendra that he was no longer breathing. Kendra sprang into action and helped stabilize the man until paramedics arrived. Kendra visited the man several times in the hospital during his recovery, extending her care and concern to her neighbor.

She says she hopes that this will inspire others in our community to learn how to identify the common signs of a stroke, seizure, and other potential health risks. Ohio’s 13th Congressional District is home to many champions just like Kendra who work hard every day and don’t hesitate to lend a helping hand to a neighbor in need.

Kendra’s selfless act is a shining example of why our district is known as the birthplace of champions.

We thank Kendra and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors, especially her endeavor in becoming an EMT. I hope she continues to inspire our community just as she has inspired me and the entire country.

HONORING ATHANASIOS “TOMMY” PAPPAS

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend, Tommy Pappas. Tommy’s story is an American Dream. Born in a small village in Greece, he taught himself to cook as a child. For the last 35 years in Columbus, he owned and opened Tommy’s Diner.

Tommy’s wasn’t just a restaurant. It was a community hub. From neighbors, Governors, mayors, to construction workers and judges, everyone was welcome. If your photo made it to Tommy’s wall, you had made it.

Tommy didn’t just celebrate the famous. He remembered every customer’s name and treated everyone the same. Tommy’s was one of my favorite places for breakfast. I held interviews there, and I even held my Presidential inauguration ticket lottery there.

Tommy’s Diner was featured on the Food Network show’s “Diners, Drive-ins, and Dives.” His legacy will live on.

Rest in peace, Tommy. I was lucky to call him my friend.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF STEPHEN FAESSEL

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the remarkable career of my very good friend, Anaheim City Council Member Stephen Faessel.

Stephen has spent his entire life giving back to the city of Anaheim. He was first elected to the city council in 2016 and now serves as a member of the board of directors of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

Stephen is a strong advocate of history, and he is a founding member of the Muzeo Museum and Cultural Center in Anaheim. As board secretary, he has been able to teach history to young people, tourists, and anybody else in Anaheim who wants to listen to the great story and history of the city of Anaheim.

As he leaves the Anaheim City Council, I want to recognize Stephen for his hard work and dedication to our community. We thank him for giving back. I know he is not done, and I know we are going to hang out at more events in the years to come.