

with us here today, Mr. Speaker, I see them. My heart aches with them, and our prayers will be with them as they face the coming days and weeks ahead. Please know that Tarver will never be forgotten, and today, we celebrate his legacy.

I pray his loved ones find comfort in knowing that Tarver's life will have a ripple effect for years to come.

As those who loved Tarver experience the pain of losing him, it is my prayer that the Lord will bless you and keep you, make His face to shine upon you, be gracious unto you, turn His countenance towards you, and give you peace.

HONORING ED SMITH

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

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a tireless champion for working people, a mentor, a dear friend, and a wonderful human being, Ed Smith, a native of southern Illinois and a lifelong supporter of workers.

Ed Smith made a difference and inspired so many, including myself. When I needed a place to stay during the Kerry-Edwards campaign in 2004, Ed and his wife, Betty, took me in. I will always remember Ed waiting up most evenings to have a beer and talk about the latest happenings on the campaign trail.

He loved politics, and he had the best instincts of anyone I have met. I have leaned on him for advice in every step of my career since.

When I got to Congress and before deciding to run, Ed was one of the very first people to be on board. You never forget the people that believe in you, especially when you have your own doubts.

Ed was special to so many people because he himself was a special person—always generous, smart, kind, dedicated, and full of wisdom.

Ed was like a father to me, and I will miss him so much.

Rest in power, my dear friend.

RECOGNITION OF CHARLETTE DAVIS

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

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Charlette Davis, a seventh grader from Sonoran Science Academy East.

Charlette is the winner of the Congressional App Challenge from Arizona's Sixth Congressional District for the app titled, "The Best Pets App." This app is used to assist people in selecting the most suitable pet for their preferences while providing insight into the most popular pets.

Charlette told me she designed this app with the intention of guiding peo-

ple towards a pet that aligns with their personality and lifestyle. As a dog owner myself of Louie, our Corgi, I know that having a well-suited pet is undeniably beneficial, offering companionship that can bring great joy to the whole family.

The Congressional App Challenge was established in 2013 and involves middle and high school students from all over the country. Charlette and her fellow winners from other districts have been featured on the House of Representatives website. I am impressed every day by the students in my district and the potential of our young people across the State.

Once again, congratulations, Charlette.

OPPOSITION TO THE SUPREME COURT RULING ON IDAHO ABORTION BAN

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

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Supreme Court's recent decision allowing Idaho's extreme abortion ban to go into effect.

The Idaho law will prevent women from accessing abortion even when the health of the mother is at risk. This dangerous decision rejects medical science, ignores established precedent, and imperils the rights and safety of women. I am terrified that women will die, and doctors will be treated like criminals.

Unfortunately, this isn't the only case before the High Court with grave implications for our reproductive healthcare. As the Supreme Court reviews the disastrous decision from the Fifth Circuit, restricting the availability of mifepristone, the future of abortion access nationwide now hangs in the balance.

Mr. Speaker, women across America will not accept this assault on our basic rights. We won't do it without a fight, and we will make our voices heard this year.

OPPOSITION TO IMMIGRATION POLICIES ON THE SOUTHERN BORDER

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

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last week, I joined Speaker JOHNSON and a group of my House Republican colleagues in Eagle Pass, Texas, where we witnessed firsthand the catastrophe that is ensuing at our southern border. Illegal immigrant encounters have reached an all-time high, and human trafficking and fentanyl smuggling are destroying our communities.

We heard from local law enforcement, ranchers, and community members about the catastrophic effects of this lawlessness happening in their

backyard, and we spoke with Customs and Border Patrol personnel, who shared the profound physical and emotional burden of working every day on the front lines of this crisis.

These agents are ready, willing, and able to secure our border, but are being prevented from doing so by the reckless immigration policies of this administration.

It is past time for us to secure our border, restore accountability, and bring back law and order in America.

FUND THE AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

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

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, as we are all aware, we are living in a digital age, where access to high-speed, reliable internet is a necessity. It is no longer a luxury. I have heard from so many constituents in urban and rural communities about the detrimental effect that slow, spotty, or a nonexistent internet connection has on them, whether it is trouble logging on for virtual school days, telehealth appointments, a job interview, or anything else.

The Affordable Connectivity Program has allowed millions of Americans, including one in seven households in my district, to access broadband internet and, with it, expand educational and economic opportunities, more easily access telehealth, and connect with loved ones.

With 22.5 million Americans depending on this program, you would think that Congress would be acting to protect the funding for the ACP, but you would be wrong, because extremists in the GOP leadership have refused to bring a bill forward to extend the funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program, which runs out at the end of April.

We must get this funding done. It is far too important to every American.

SUPPORTING AMERICA'S CREDIT UNIONS

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

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank over 4,700 credit unions across the Nation, including 111 in my home State of Wisconsin, who are improving the financial well-being of Americans and their communities.

Starting this month, these credit unions are represented by a newly launched America's Credit Unions, which will serve 3.8 million Wisconsinites who are members of a credit union now. This new organization will be headquartered in the great State of Wisconsin. I congratulate them on this new endeavor.

I have recently introduced legislation to allow credit unions to provide

their members with an expanded offer of loan products. My bill, the Expanding Access to Lending Options Act, will increase the cap on the maturity of a loan from 15 to 20 years, allowing the flexibility to offer longer terms with lower monthly payments for consumers, while offering greater competition for lending products, including products for small business, student, and agricultural loans.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on this bipartisan bill to support Wisconsin credit unions and their members.

HONORING THE KING KAMEHAMEHA III ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REBUILDING CREWS

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

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, among the cherished symbols of our Lahaina community burned and lost last August was the former King Kamehameha III Elementary School.

If the historic banyan tree represents the proud roots and history of this community, then King Kamehameha III, right next to it, represents its future. Since the 1880s, generations of Lahaina residents went to school here. Our commitment and promise to Lahaina keiki are that they and their children will one day go to King Kamehameha III Elementary again.

Last month, while many of us took off for the holidays, I visited construction crews on Maui working around the clock to build a temporary school that will give some stability to the 600 students and staff displaced by the fires.

This project is personal for every single person involved. Some went to school there. Others have family currently enrolled. Each person on the build site has a strong sense of “kuleana,” “responsibility” to get this done right. So committed to their mission, crews worked even on Christmas and New Year’s Day to keep on track.

To the Army Corps and the crew of Pono Aina Management who worked so hard over the holidays and continue to do so, mahalo, and I cannot wait to walk through the new school again.

HONORING ALAN C. YOVICH

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Alan Yovich, who passed on September 14, 2023, at the age of 77.

Alan was born in Union City, Pennsylvania, and later on moved to Savannah, Georgia, with his wife. Promptly after his high school graduation, he joined the Marine Corps and proudly served our country as an E5 sergeant in Vietnam.

Alan then became a pharmacist, receiving his degree from the University

of Pittsburgh. Alan always enjoyed cars, boating, and travel. In his retirement, Alan was active with the Marine Corps League and served on the board of the Savannah Navy League Council of the United States. He was a role model for so many of the enlisted men and women.

He will be remembered by many, including his family; his patients; his friends; his best buddy, Dexter; and his community and Nation, which he served well.

□ 1230

HONORING THE LIFE OF DONA ADELA OBREGON

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dona Adela Obregon who passed away on December 14.

Adela was born in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, where she met her husband and started a family. Eventually they made their way north in search of a better life for their children. Like many Mexican immigrants in my district, Adela was undocumented for several years. After two of her sons served in the U.S. Army, she applied for residency, and years later she became a citizen.

Whether it was fighting for better healthcare for seniors in our State capital, or as president of the Harrison Park Seniors Club where she organized folkloric dance groups, or legendary games of loteria and much more, Adela became a pillar of our community.

Throughout her life, Adela won many awards. Indeed, the list is far too long to mention in 1 minute, but they confirm what many in our community already know.

Adela was the definition of service and activism. We are grateful for her life, and my heart is with her family as they mourn her passing.

REFORMING THE SECOND AMENDMENT

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

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, Americans bought nearly 60 million guns between 2020 and 2022. It is not hard to understand why. People are scared. Each day brings news of another gun violence tragedy, and most don’t even make the headlines.

It is natural to think that we need guns to feel safe, but the way to stop gun violence is not with more guns. The risk of homicide is three times higher when there are guns in a home. Women who own handguns are 35 times more likely to commit suicide than those who don’t; men are eight times more likely.

To be clear, this isn’t about taking away guns from responsible gun own-

ers. We can live in a country with a healthy Second Amendment but where we don’t have multiple mass shootings or 68 gun suicides a day.

Democrats want reasonable solutions to get us there, and we stand ready to work with Republicans and gun owners on policies that will save lives.

A few commonsense steps are to ban high-capacity weapons of war, to expand background checks and red flag laws, to increase access to mental health care, and to hold gun manufacturers accountable.

This is the number one cause of death for American children, so let’s stop the denial. This crisis won’t end until we take decisive action. We can’t just shoot our way out of it.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken later.

NO RUSSIAN AGRICULTURE ACT

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4768) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to instruct the United States Executive Directors at the international financial institutions to advocate for investment in projects that decrease reliance on Russia for agricultural commodities, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4768

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “No Russian Agriculture Act”.

SEC. 2. UNITED STATES ADVOCACY FOR INVESTMENT IN PROJECTS THAT DECREASE RELIANCE ON RUSSIA FOR AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Title XIV of the International Financial Institutions Act (22 U.S.C. 262n–262n–3) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 1405. ADVOCACY FOR INVESTMENT IN PROJECTS THAT DECREASE RELIANCE ON RUSSIA FOR AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES.

“(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary of the Treasury shall instruct the United States Executive Director at each international financial institution (as defined in section 1701(c)(2)) to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States, to the maximum extent practicable, to encourage the respective institution to—

“(1) support projects that decrease the reliance of countries on Russia for agricultural commodities, particularly fertilizer and grain;

“(2) ensure the resilience of global grain supplies; and

“(3) stimulate private investment in the projects.

“(b) *WAIVER AUTHORITY.*—The Secretary of the Treasury may waive subsection (a) with respect to a project upon notifying Congress that