

distributes, how can it possibly be relied upon to effectively regulate our energy industry?

It is time to rein in the out-of-control EPA and hold the EPA accountable to the American people.

#### RECOGNIZING OFFICER KYLE CUNNINGHAM

(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, I rise today to recognize Officer Kyle Cunningham from the Akron Police Department as the champion of the week for Ohio's 13th Congressional District.

Officer Cunningham heroically saved a man's life who was attempting to jump over the side of the bridge. However, Officer Cunningham held on until he and another officer were able to pull the man over the railing.

Officer Cunningham represents the very best of our dedicated law enforcement officers who answer the call to serve and dedicate themselves to protect members in our community.

Through swift action and incredible bravery, Officer Cunningham was able to save a life and give this person a chance to receive the care and resources they need.

We are grateful for Officer Cunningham's act of heroism and his continued service with the Akron Police Department and look to him as a leader in the birthplace of champions.

Once again, on behalf of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, I offer congratulations and thanks to our champion of the week, Officer Kyle Cunningham.

#### HONORING REAR ADMIRAL BRIAN DAVIES

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the life and service of Rear Admiral Brian Davies, a distinguished nuclear submarine warfare officer who succumbed to illness on December 30.

The floor of Congress is a fitting place to remember his dedication to our country and our security, where he served beneath the seas, out of sight, ever vigilant, ensuring America's dominance of the seas.

I honor Admiral Davies' full life and his dutiful service. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Brian commanded our most secret and most decorated submarine, the USS *Jimmy Carter*. Later, he commanded a submarine squadron.

His service took him under the Arctic, the western Pacific, the northern Atlantic, and the Indian Oceans. All other details are hidden, even from his own family.

I ask that our Nation also remember Brian's shipmates who continue to sacrifice so much for our Nation in silence.

I ask that we honor and remember Brian's wife, Kacey, and their daughter, Caitlin, who endured with courage the many hardships of his time in the Navy and who now mourn the loss of his honorable life.

#### OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS

(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, I rise to introduce with Congresswoman ASHLEY HINSON of Iowa, my appropriations colleague, H.R. 6956, the bipartisan Opioid Settlement Accountability Act.

This legislation will ensure that money from opioid settlements related to the ongoing crisis are used for opioid treatment, prevention, and enforcement rather than slush funds for road maintenance or local debts.

The opioid crisis is far from over. In 2022, more than two-thirds of the reported 107,081 drug overdoses in the United States involved opioids.

While opioid settlements have totaled \$55.79 billion, many of these funds are not being used to address the ongoing damage done by the ongoing opioid epidemic.

We must learn our lesson from the tobacco settlements of the 1990s. States used money they received for transportation projects and balancing budgets instead of prevention efforts.

Today's opioid settlement funds must be used to help fight the ongoing opioid epidemic and not as piggy banks for politicians to break open and play around with.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to sign on with us.

#### CUTS TO THE MEDICARE PHYSICIAN FEE SCHEDULE

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

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I am deeply concerned by the impact that recent cuts to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule will have on patient access to healthcare across our great country.

On January 1, 2024, a 3.4 percent Medicare cut took effect, impacting providers all across the United States. This is in addition to previous cuts.

Providers have continued to bear the cost of many challenges that arose during the pandemic and after the pandemic, including staffing shortages, supply chain shortages, and continuing rising inflation—all of these.

As the cost of providing care continues to rise, the reimbursement to physicians who provide the care continues to be cut.

If we do not swiftly act to address these cuts now and in the long term,

patients will suffer the most. The physician shortage will continue to worsen.

Hospitals and independent community-based providers will continue to shutter their doors, and, sadly, America's seniors will be left with no option for high-quality, affordable healthcare.

I urge congressional leadership to put the health of Americans first by stopping the Medicare cuts and ensuring that patients and Medicare beneficiaries have access to the providers who care for them by not cutting them out.

#### KEEPING THE GOVERNMENT OPEN

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

Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of bipartisanship. There are more than 300 of us in this Chamber that will support a bipartisan budget agreement. Yet, there are a few who want to see the government shut down.

A shutdown will lead to any number of awful things with our economy. It will hurt millions of workers and every single American.

There are more of us who are determined to keep this government open, but we need a bill, and that is what we are asking for, a bipartisan budget bill that we can pass.

Mr. Speaker, this is as serious a moment as it gets.

#### RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EXPENSING

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stress the importance that Congress address section 174 of the Tax Cuts and Job Act and continue to allow immediate and full research and development expensing by American small businesses.

Not allowing for full expensing would devastate small businesses across the country, resulting in layoffs, increased debt, and likely forcing thousands of businesses to close their doors for good.

The looming January 15 deadline highlights the growing need for Congressional action to provide continued tax relief to millions of small businesses and hardworking Americans.

As chairman of House Committee on Small Business and owner and operator of a small business in Texas for over 52 years, I am uniquely aware of the relief full expensing has provided to small businesses.

In 2017, Republicans led the way on once-in-a-generation tax reform in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and provided much-needed relief to the American people.

Amid historic inflation and increasing rates, we must continue to build on it. We can start by making the tax cuts

permanent and ensure that pro-growth policies such as full R&D expensing are included.

In God we trust.

#### STOPPING THE FENTANYL CRISIS

(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 with a heavy heart. Across America, countless families have lost loved ones to the fentanyl crisis. In my home State of Oregon, it is now estimated that five people die every week from this dangerous drug.

We are expecting an epidemic of massive proportions, and in order to stop it, we need an all-hands-on-deck approach.

Just last week, I held a roundtable with law enforcement officers, community organizations, and local elected officials to understand how we can confront this crisis head on.

I participated in many other discussions like this one, and I always hear a common theme—more resources and more flexibility.

Congress needs to deliver more funding to help our communities fight back against fentanyl, and I will keep working to ensure our police and local leaders have the tools they need to get these drugs off the streets and more people into treatment.

No more families torn apart by addiction. No more suffering and loss. It is time we put an end to this epidemic once and for all.

□ 1700

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

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

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, there are few people in the world who can say they impacted their community as much as Eddie Bernice Johnson.

She dedicated 50 years of her life to public service. She took care of her patients, veterans, and the people of Texas' 30th Congressional District.

EBJ embodied a no-nonsense approach that you would expect from a woman born in Waco, Texas. She didn't care who you were, where you were from, or what party you represented. Her open arms extended a welcoming embrace to everyone, a trait that I experienced firsthand when I showed up as the junior Member of the United States House in the summer of 2021. As the dean of the Texas delegation, she made it clear that regardless of which side of the aisle I was on, she saw me as a Texan, first and foremost.

Chairwoman Johnson welcomed me to the Texas delegation and her Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. She ran a very tight ship, and

she also guided me through the intricacies of becoming an effective member of her committee.

I will forever be grateful to Congresswoman Johnson for her support for her country, her State, and the Texas congressional delegation. She will be missed.

#### CONGRESS NEEDS TO ADDRESS THE HOUSING CRISIS

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

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, we have a housing crisis in this country. People are struggling to afford rent, and many can't even think of buying a house.

Basic housing is an economic and human right.

Here are five things we must do:

First, we need 7 million new housing units to fill the gap and a \$445 billion investment in the housing trust fund.

Second, we need to pass my Stop Wall Street Landlords Act to help prevent Wall Street from buying up single-family homes.

Third, we need to provide down payment assistance for first-time homebuyers.

Fourth, we need to—as Representative CORI BUSH called for—provide protection for tenants and provide financial assistance before tenants get evicted.

Finally, we need to provide grants for neighborhood stabilization, like the culinary union did, so rent doesn't increase beyond inflation.

We need to address the Housing crisis.

#### RECOGNIZING HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS DAY

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

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Human Trafficking Awareness Day, which is today, January 11.

Last year alone, nearly 28 million individuals were victims of human trafficking worldwide. These inhumane crimes don't just happen in the far nether regions of the world, they are happening right here in communities across this country.

In fact, Horry County, where I grew up, reside in, and represent, is one of the top five counties in South Carolina in reported human trafficking.

Today, and throughout the month of January, which is National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, I aim to raise awareness and support victims of these horrible crimes and their families.

I am firmly committed to working to find solutions to prevent this modern-day form of slavery and to support those who have suffered.

#### CELEBRATING BERNIE SINGER'S 101ST BIRTHDAY

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

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my constituents, Mr. Bernie Singer, who just celebrated his 101st birthday.

Bernie is a living testament to courage and resilience. He fought for democracy in World War II, embodying the values of the Greatest Generation.

During the Battle of the Bulge, he was captured on his birthday and was later held in Stalag 9B in Germany. While in captivity, Bernie displayed unparalleled bravery and sacrifice in serving our Nation.

After serving in the military, Bernie ran his own family business for over 70 years, driven by an entrepreneurial spirit and the promise of the American Dream. He married his beloved wife, Marilyn, whom he has called his spouse for over 70 wonderful years.

In addition to being a devoted husband, Bernie is known as a loving father, grandfather, father-in-law, and uncle. In all these roles, he has enriched the lives of those around him with kindness and wisdom.

On behalf of Florida's 20th Congressional District, I am honored to recognize Bernie for his exceptional life marked by valor and an enduring love for others.

#### QUESTIONING DIVERSITY IN THE MILITARY

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, earlier today we had a subcommittee hearing in the Oversight Committee regarding foreign affairs, the border, and the military. We had an interesting topic that the press ought to follow up on, and that is the progressive march through our military.

It can be kind of summarized as an obsession with race in our military, an obsession with dividing people, and it was also summed up by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Charles Q. Brown, Jr., who believes we ought to cut the number of White officers in the military to 42 percent from where it is now at over 60 percent.

The supposed reason for this is diversity, which I think has an entirely racist connotation itself. We ought to be spending more time wondering what exactly do these people mean by people from different ethnic backgrounds going back generations will add something to a unit if we pick them by where they are from. If I have one of my four grandparents from Mexico, how do I carry a different viewpoint toward being in the military or being at an engineering firm or being at a law firm.

The press has to ask these diversity experts to give us examples of how you