

fire science, conservation biology, water resource management, and more.

Together, this multidisciplinary team has transformed Lake County's approach to environmental stewardship. At its core, CLERC's work is collaborative. They have partnered with government agencies, academic institutions, conservation coalitions, and community groups to develop and implement projects rooted in science, sustainability, and equity.

One of CLERC's most significant contributions to our community has been its leadership in wildfire prevention and climate resilience. Through the strategic execution of projects outlined in our Lake County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, CLERC has completed thousands of acres of fuel reduction and fire mitigation work. These efforts have not only reduced the risk of catastrophic wildfires but have directly prevented at least four potential fire disasters in just the past year alone, safeguarding homes, businesses, and vital natural landscapes in our county.

In addition to wildfire mitigation, CLERC has expanded its reach through the creation of Lake County's only California-certified environmental laboratory, enabling water quality monitoring and scientific research to support ecosystem restoration in our area. Their projects have protected native species, preserved biodiversity, and restored degraded habitats, all while creating job opportunities and workforce development programs in environmental restoration for our local community.

CLERC has also taken an active role in public policy and regional leadership. The organization serves as a member of the Lake County Community Risk Reduction Authority, participates in state and federal environmental policy advisory groups, and contributes to conservation strategy through regional coalitions. Through this, CLERC has become a leading advocate for sustainable land and water management in our community.

Mr. Speaker, CLERC exemplifies the best of what community-driven, science-based environmental action can achieve. Their innovation, collaboration, and commitment to environmental resilience have earned them well-deserved recognition in California and beyond. Therefore, it is fitting that we honor them here today as Lake County's 2025 Climate Crisis Champion.

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COMMEMORATING CAMBODIAN  
GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE DAY

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**HON. LORI TRAHAN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 17, 2025*

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solemn remembrance of one of the darkest chapters in modern history—the Cambodian genocide. On this day, April 17th, we mark the 50th anniversary of the Khmer Rouge's rise to power, a tragic turning point that ushered in a period of unimaginable suffering for the Cambodian people from 1975 to 1979. We remember this anniversary not only to mourn the innocent lives lost, but to honor the strength of those who survived, and to reaffirm our collective commitment to ensuring that such atrocities are never repeated.

Under the brutal regime of the Khmer Rouge, led by Pol Pot, Cambodia was trans-

formed into a nation-sized prison camp. The regime waged war on its own people, targeting those deemed enemies of the state—intellectuals, religious leaders, ethnic minorities, and anyone who dared to dissent. Families were torn apart. The vulnerable—the young, the elderly, the sick—were left to perish in what came to be known as the Killing Fields, whose soil still bears witness to the horrors inflicted there.

In just four years, more than 1.7 million lives, nearly a quarter of Cambodia's population, perished through mass executions, forced labor, starvation, and disease. The Khmer Rouge didn't just seek to kill individuals. They sought to erase a culture, a history, a sense of self. What was left behind was a shattered society struggling to pick up the pieces.

Yet, amid such overwhelming grief and loss, there is a story of extraordinary resilience. The survivors of the genocide embody a strength and resolve that defy comprehension. Despite enduring horrors beyond words, they rebuilt their lives and committed themselves to preserving the memory of those who were lost. Many have bravely shared their stories—passing them down to future generations so that the full weight of this tragedy is never forgotten, and its lessons are never ignored.

Today, on Cambodian Genocide Remembrance Day, we not only mourn the millions of lives taken, but we stand in solidarity with the families who were shattered and the culture that was nearly destroyed. We recognize the unwavering courage of the survivors, whose voices compel us to remember that remembrance is not merely an act of reflection—it is a solemn pledge to ensure that such atrocities never happen again.

May we never forget the lessons of this dark history. And may we stand united in our commitment to peace, to justice, and to the protection of human rights everywhere. It is on all of us to ensure that the pain of the Cambodian people is never erased, and that the memory of the victims continues to guide us toward a world where such horror is never repeated.

We mourn not only for what was taken, but for the indomitable spirit of the Cambodian people—who faced unspeakable cruelty with unimaginable resilience. And we stand in awe of the courage of those who survived to bear witness—because remembrance is not just a tribute to the past, but a vow to safeguard the future.

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PRESIDENT TRUMP'S PROPOSED  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
SHUTDOWN

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**HON. JOYCE BEATTY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 17, 2025*

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud member of the Congressional Black Caucus because our children are our future—and the Department of Education is one of the strongest tools we have to prepare them for that future.

In 1954, *Brown v. Board of Education* affirmed what Black America had long known: separate is not equal. That landmark decision was more than a legal ruling—it was a promise. A promise that every child, no matter their

ZIP code, deserves a fair and quality education.

Since then, the Department of Education has helped to keep that promise. It protects students from racial and gender discrimination and enforces critical civil rights laws. It supports Pell Grants and other forms of student aid, strengthens our Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), and ensures that students with disabilities receive the services they need to succeed.

But now, President Trump wants to destroy all of that. Eliminating the Department of Education is not about policy—it is about punishment. And I want to go on the record: we will fight back—against President Trump, against you, Speaker JOHNSON, and against every Republican who remains silent in the face of this attack.

This is punishment for being poor. For being Black. For attending public schools.

A report from UCLA's Civil Rights Project reveals that 40 percent of Black students attend schools where 90 percent or more of their classmates are also students of color. These schools too often have fewer counselors, overcrowded classrooms, and outdated materials. When you cut the Department of Education, you don't just cut red tape—you cut protections. You cut resources. You cut off opportunities.

And while this assault affects communities across the country, it hits especially hard in my district—Ohio's Third. We stand to lose \$109 million per year in basic public school funding that keeps students learning and teachers employed. We also stand to lose \$21 million in special education support, and \$19 million for school meals—because no child should be too hungry to learn. More than 1,300 teaching jobs are on the line.

All of this—to make billionaires richer? Mr. Speaker, we are not going backward. Not to Jim Crow classrooms. Not to separate and unequal.

The Congressional Black Caucus stands united. We will fight for our students. For our schools. And for the future every child deserves.

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RECOGNIZING THE HEROIC AC-  
TIONS OF MR. DANNY WELLS OF  
PECULIAR, MO

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**HON. MARK ALFORD**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 17, 2025*

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a heroic resident of Missouri's Fourth Congressional District, Mr. Danny Wells.

Mr. Wells is a team leader for the public works department in the city of Peculiar. Earlier this year, middle Missouri was in the grips of a historic cold front with temperatures well below freezing and wind chills regularly hovering in the single digits.

On January 24th, with the temperature in the twenties, Danny was driving down State Highway YY. Out of the corner of his eye, he spotted a young child in a ditch—barely clothed and shivering in the cold. Mr. Wells jumped into action. After searching for any adults nearby, he pulled over and literally gave the boy the coat off his back and the hat off

his head. Danny then put the boy in the truck, cranked up the heat, and began rubbing his feet to warm them.

Danny immediately radioed the proper authorities to get this boy the medical care he desperately needed. With temperatures so low, the risk of catastrophe was imminent. Peculiar Police Chief Don Shepard, who was on the scene, said the boy "was near hypothermic and might well have died had Danny not found him."

Danny is an Army Veteran and having served in Iraq and Afghanistan, he is no stranger to perilous situations. And this specific situation was personal to him. "I've got grandkids about the same age, so it just hit pretty close to home. Serving the public is what we're here for; it is what we do. I hope anybody in that situation would have done the same thing," Mr. Wells said.

On behalf of the Fourth District, we thank Mr. Wells for his service to our Nation and the community of Peculiar. His actions make clear he has a servant's heart and takes his work seriously. We applaud his heroic actions to prevent a disaster on that January afternoon.

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HONORING CHAIRMAN ANTHONY ROBERTS

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 17, 2025*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Anthony Roberts, Chairman of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, as the California 4th District's 2025 Climate Crisis Champion of the Year for Yolo County. Chairman Roberts' unwavering commitment to sustainability, environmental stewardship, and community resilience has set a benchmark for climate initiatives within our district.

Chairman Roberts has been a part of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation's leadership since 2000, serving on the Tribal Council and as Treasurer from 2006 to 2018. His extensive service to the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation includes roles such as Chair of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Academy Board of Trustees, Vice Chair of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation Fire Commission, and membership on various committees, including the Young Adult Assistant Program, Facilities and Infrastructure, Health and Wellness, and Community Fund. In January 2018, he was elected Tribal Chairman, a role in which he has demonstrated exceptional dedication to both his Tribe and our broader community. Beyond his professional and community commitments, Chairman Roberts is also a devoted husband to his wife, Melissa, and a proud father to their children, Briana and Brayen.

Under Chairman Roberts' guidance, the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation has undertaken numerous environmental initiatives. Notably, he oversaw the development of an onsite microgrid to support critical Tribal services and enhance emergency response capabilities. Chairman Roberts also led the Tribe in instituting water conservation efforts, including implementing drip irrigation systems and wastewater recycling for both irrigation and plumbing purposes. Chairman Roberts has also championed wildfire mitigation strategies, such as cultural burnings, which reduces excess

vegetation, restores soil nutrients, and supports fire-resistant native plants. These efforts, along with fuel reduction projects, have helped lower wildfire risks. Chairman Roberts has also guided habitat restoration efforts, including the revitalization of oak woodlands and the establishment of native plant hedgerows on Tribal land.

Furthermore, Chairman Roberts has taken action to protect and manage the sacred lands of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. He championed the creation of the Patwino Worrtla Kodoi Dihi Open Space Park, a 1,500-acre park featuring strains of blue and live oak trees, chaparral landscapes, and ridge views. The park's name, meaning "Southern Rock Home of the Patwin People," honors the significance of the land to the Patwin people native to this region. In 2024, Chairman Roberts also played a pivotal role in signing a co-stewardship agreement with the Bureau of Land Management, facilitating the inclusion of Molok Luyuk into the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument.

Beyond these initiatives, Chairman Roberts has supported youth and community education through the Student and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship (SLEW) Program and events at Yocha Dehe Wintun Academy. He has also led the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation to increase its philanthropic giving towards regional environmental and educational organizations, with the Tribe contributing to the Cache Creek Conservancy, Yolo Creek and Community Partnership, the Center for Land-Based Learning, and Robinson Rancheria Environmental Center. Chairman Roberts also actively contributes to the wider Yolo County community as a member of the Yolo County Fair Board, a position to which he was appointed in 2012 by Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.

Mr. Speaker, Chairman Anthony Roberts has led the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation to become a regional and national model for climate action and environmental justice, balancing tradition with innovation for the benefit of future generations. It is both fitting and proper that we honor him today as Yolo County's 2025 Climate Crisis Champion of the Year.

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HONORING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF WASHTENAW COUNTY'S PROJECT RED

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 17, 2025*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Washtenaw County's Rural Education Days (Project RED) on the occasion of its 35th year educating Washtenaw County's youth. In its 35 years, Project RED has taught 80,522 students, teachers, and chaperones about the importance of agriculture and natural resources.

In 1990, an enthusiastic group of members of the Washtenaw County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee saw a need to educate the county's children about the value of farming and the protection of Michigan's natural resources. Since its inaugural year, Project RED has grown to a 3-day annual event held in April for students, teachers,

and chaperones. The event is sponsored and coordinated by passionate volunteers at Washtenaw County Farm Bureau, Michigan State University Extension, the Washtenaw County Conservation District, and the Washtenaw Farm Council.

Project RED provides fun, interactive opportunities for students to develop a better understanding of and appreciation for the many ways that farmers grow and produce safe food, care for their animals, and protect the environment. Students have the opportunity to engage with informative displays and hands-on learning stations that highlight Michigan's agrarian diversity.

Washtenaw County's Project RED has become a model for similar programs and events across the state of Michigan as a way to educate youth about agriculture and celebrate the contribution of local farmers and agribusiness.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Washtenaw County Rural Education Days for providing over 3 decades of invaluable agricultural education. I sincerely thank the project's sponsors and organizers for their many years of service to this community.

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HONORING THE PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

**HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 17, 2025*

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional work of the officers of the Prince William County Police Department in the recent arrest of a top MS-13 leader in Virginia's Seventh District.

Their relentless dedication to public safety and professionalism in the face of danger has not only made our communities safer but has also set a shining example of the effectiveness of law enforcement in confronting the serious threat posed by violent criminal organizations.

MS-13 is known for its brutal crimes, including drug trafficking, extortion, human trafficking, and violence that threatens communities in the Seventh District and across our country. Their reach and impact are deeply concerning, and the work of our law enforcement agencies to dismantle their operations is of utmost importance.

This particular arrest was the result of months of careful investigation, intelligence gathering, and coordination between local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. The operation carried out by the Prince William County Police Department and their partners is a testament to the hard work, expertise, and unwavering commitment of law enforcement professionals who put their lives on the line every day to protect our families. Today's success is not only a victory for law enforcement but a significant win for public safety across Virginia's Seventh District and beyond.

As a former prosecutor, I know how critical it is to support law enforcement in their efforts to combat violent crime and ensure the safety of our communities. This is why I have consistently advocated for bipartisan legislation that equips law enforcement with the necessary tools and resources to do their jobs effectively. The urgency to get violent criminals