

against Russia's brutal assault. For 3 years, America has supported the Ukrainian people in their brave fight for freedom.

Mr. Speaker, Trump is halting military aid, blocking intelligence sharing, and betraying a democratic ally. This risks our national security and emboldens dictators around the globe.

History will judge us for abandoning a democracy under attack and for leaving innocent people to defend themselves against an aggressive authoritarian regime.

Mr. Speaker, there is still time for my Republican friends to speak up.

There is still time for Republicans to reaffirm to the world that America does not bow to our foreign adversaries.

There is still time for Republicans to join with Democrats and remind Donald Trump that America does not abandon our friends.

For our future and theirs, we cannot—we must not—betray the courageous people of Ukraine.

RECOGNIZING ARCADIO SANTIAGO-RODRIGUEZ

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

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary service of Master Sergeant Arcadio Santiago-Rodriguez, a proud member of the Army's 65th Infantry Regiment, known as the Borinqueneers.

During the Korean war, then-Private First Class Santiago-Rodriguez displayed extraordinary heroism in the face of danger. When his squad leader was gravely wounded, he swiftly took command, rallying his fellow soldiers and leading them safely with unwavering courage and determination.

Later, while evacuating a wounded comrade, he singlehandedly engaged five enemy soldiers, killing four and capturing a fifth, forcing that captured soldier to carry the wounded soldier to safety. For his heroism, he was awarded the Silver Star.

At 101 years old, Master Sergeant Santiago-Rodriguez continues to inspire us.

I join my predecessor, the Honorable Bill Posey, in honoring Mr. Rodriguez, and I hope that he will be recognized for his unwavering service to our Nation.

STAYING ON UKRAINE'S SIDE

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I applaud and support the remarks of the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ROSS). We must be on Ukraine's side and against dictators, despots, and war criminals.

HONORING BEVERLY BYRON

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great Marylander, a dedicated champion of our men and women in uniform, and a former Member of this body, Beverly Byron, a dear friend of mine for over 60 years.

Beverly passed away at the age of 92 on February 9.

When Beverly succeeded her husband, Representative Goodloe Byron, in Congress after his sudden passing in 1978, many people underestimated her. Throughout her 14 years in Congress, however, she proved to be a gifted leader in her own right.

Beverly became the first woman to chair a House Armed Services subcommittee. Her commitment to her constituents and to her principles earned her respect on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress needs more leaders like Beverly Byron today. Her passing is a great loss to Maryland, to America, and to this institution.

I ask my colleagues to join me in praying for Beverly and her family.

HIGHLIGHT OF TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I will discuss the biggest highlight of the Trump administration so far, and that is what he has done at the border. We have gone from having over 300,000 people a month trying to get into this country to under 8,000 in February.

That shows that, with a little bit of determination, we can enforce our immigration laws.

Mr. Speaker, there was an important hearing that was not covered enough in this Congress this week. In the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, we brought in four Democratic mayors who refused to say that our immigration laws should be enforced.

It is very difficult for President Trump to protect our country when we have elected officials, mayors and Governors from around the country, in essence saying: We are going to stand in the way of enforcing our immigration laws.

It is time for the American people to stand up and tell their local officials that we want our immigration laws enforced. It is very difficult to enforce them if local law enforcement or social services are not on board.

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HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FRANK TURNER

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

Ms. ELFRETH. Mr. Speaker, as a proud gentlewoman from Maryland, I

rise today to honor the life and legacy of Frank Turner, a distinguished educator and public servant whom we lost earlier this year.

In 1990, Frank made history by becoming the first Black judge in Howard County, Maryland. Then in 1994, he became the first African American elected to the general assembly from Howard County where he served with distinction for 24 years.

After his time in the legislature, he served his community further as a trustee of Howard Community College.

Frank will forever be remembered for his generosity and kindness, his thoughtfulness and his skill, but above all, for his unwavering commitment to his community, Howard County, which stays with me and so many Marylanders.

He led a life of unparalleled service, and for that we will ever be grateful.

Mr. Speaker, I am personally keeping his family, his friends, and every life that he ever touched through his good works in my prayers.

AMERICA IS WORTH CHEERING FOR

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

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, during the joint session Tuesday night, Republicans cheered for the vision, plan, and great future of America. We cheered for secure borders, wiping out fentanyl and human trafficking, and an energy policy that lowers fuel cost and inflation.

We cheered for our military, increased recruitment of young patriots, and readiness. We cheered for peace, world stability, and an America first economy, bringing a renaissance to U.S. technology, manufacturing, great-paying jobs, and the Made in the USA logo.

We cheered for the President's leadership in fighting waste, abuse, fraud, and corruption. We cheered for the vision of a new Golden Age, and Americans cheered with us.

We saw in the polls over 75 percent, nearly 80 percent, appreciated the optimistic, yet realistic outlook for our great country. We cheered for a child who overcame cancer, a family who suffered loss, and the brave who were knocked down but got back up, truly an American thing.

Unfortunately, not everyone cheered. Rather, there was seemingly opposition without a cause. That is not productive. It is counterproductive. America is an idea about hope; always will be; always was.

Mr. Speaker, America is worth cheering for.

MICHIGAN HAS 2.6 MILLION PEOPLE ON MEDICAID

(Ms. TLAIB asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I remind many of my constituents in the 12th Congressional District that I hear you and I understand the pain and the fear that you all are going through as you continue to hear about the \$880 billion in Medicaid cuts.

The budget proposal, that overwhelmingly on party lines Republicans supported, cuts the very health coverage for those that only use it for long-term care. Families and parents that have a child with disabilities and special needs rely heavily on this.

I remind you all, the Trump administration continues to really attack the values that we have in regard to taking care of our most vulnerable. However, shredding the Constitution—that is what I kept really seeing as I continued to watch the joint address. He is illegally dismantling—I say illegally, not me, but the judges continue to say that it is illegal—dismantling Federal agencies that we have authorized to provide services for our families.

Mr. Speaker, I remind folks that 60 percent of Americans live paycheck to paycheck. In Michigan, 2.6 million residents have Medicaid. We have got to stick with the people, not the billionaires.

WE NEED THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

(Ms. BONAMICI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, it is all over the news this morning.

In just a few hours, it is expected that Donald Trump will sign an executive order to shut down the Department of Education. I condemn that in the strongest possible terms.

This will slash support for students with disabilities, undermine schools in rural communities, and also eliminate the civil rights protections that people fought and died for.

This executive order will be an illegal and unconstitutional abuse of power. An act of Congress created the Department of Education and only an act of Congress can dismantle it, and we will fight that.

Last month, I introduced H. Res. 94 in defense of public education. We have more than 80 colleagues on that resolution. I want everyone to join us in signing that. Do not let them bulldoze our public education system.

They are going to try to justify it by saying we have to return authority to States and local school boards, but they already have the authority. The Department of Education and the Federal Government don't set curriculum. They don't decide how many kids are in each class. What the Department of Education does is it protects civil rights, gives support to students who are low income and students with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, we will fight the efforts to defund this important work. If we can't legislate, we will litigate, but we will not back down.

HONORING SYLVESTER TURNER: A FRIEND, A COLLEAGUE, AND A CONFIDANT

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

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart in honor of my friend, my colleague, and my confidant, Sylvester Turner.

It is not often one gets the opportunity to serve alongside of a person like Sylvester Turner, one of the finest public servants this Nation has ever known.

Each and every day, we worked in this Chamber and sat side by side, center aisle, row five, seat one and two. I called him Mr. Mayor.

Sylvester's brilliance was in crafting policy that served the underrepresented and became an inspiration to me. After storms devastated his region, we stood shoulder to shoulder, fighting for disaster relief funds, building recovery plans that now protect millions.

As mayor, he transformed Houston's infrastructure, expanded economic opportunity, and navigated the city through unprecedented challenges with grace and determination.

In our private moments, Sylvester would say things like: Cleo, let me just tell you, we are not here for titles. We are here for the people who will never walk these Halls. That was the measure of an extraordinary man.

As I remember my friend, he was not only just an accomplished legislator and mayor, but a man whose friendship and dedication made America a better place for all of us.

RECOGNIZING PAUL TAZEWELL

(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 Mr. Paul Tazewell as Ohio's 13th Congressional District Champion of the Week for winning an Academy Award for his costume design work in the movie "Wicked."

Paul's first Academy Award will join a crowded trophy case that contains an American Cinematheque Award and a British Academy Film Award, both for his costume design in "Wicked." He also won Critics Choice and Costume Designers Guild Awards for his work on the film.

While this is Paul's first win at the Oscars, he was also nominated for costume design in the 2022 film adaptation of the "West Side Story."

Paul, a 1982 Buchtel High School graduate, proudly acknowledged during his acceptance speech that he is the first Black man to win an Oscar for costume design, to a resounding crowd and a standing ovation. I don't know if he could hear us while he was up on stage, but our entire community in Akron was standing up and cheering him on when we heard his name called.

He later shared, "I have evolved into that inspiring figure that I had been longing to emulate as a developing designer. I receive this beautiful recognition with immense pride and I dedicate it to everyone who has the dream to fly."

Mr. Speaker, I, again, congratulate Paul Tazewell on this amazing accomplishment. He has certainly made our community proud, and he is a shining example of why Ohio's 13th Congressional District is the birthplace of champions.

FIGHTING FOR OUR VETERANS

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

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, my Pennsylvania district is home to more than 32,000 veterans, many of whom rely on physical and mental health care from three VA medical centers: Lebanon in Berks County, Coatesville in West Norriton, and Philadelphia for Montgomery County.

Yet, because of President Trump, the VA, which cares for more than 9 million veterans nationwide, has been gravely weakened. Already in Coatesville and Philadelphia, they were forced to rescind job offers to physicians and to lay off administrative and clerical staff.

The Trump administration has jeopardized care, putting lives and health at risk. Many of the brave men and women who serve in our Armed Forces continue to serve our Nation in the civilian workforce, including in the VA.

So far, 1,400 employees have been dismissed and an internal memo shows 80,000 more to come—the firing of 80,000 VA workers.

DOGE and this incompetent, chaotic administration are breaking our most sacred promise to our veterans. They fought for us; we must fight for them.

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS ARE YOUR HARD-EARNED BENEFITS

(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, my message today is an alert for Social Security recipients. Pay attention to what billionaire Elon Musk is doing with your hard-earned Social Security benefits.

Musk is coming after your Social Security. The top administrator of the Social Security administration says that Musk's DOGE boys are trying to break the system entirely. That will stop your hard-earned benefits from reaching seniors and eligible recipients.

Social Security benefits are your hard-earned benefits. They don't belong to billionaire Elon Musk. Americans work hard to earn their Social Security retirement and be secure as they