

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart to join Buffalo's LGBTQ+ and arts communities in mourning the tragic and senseless deaths of Michael "Mickey" Harmon and Jordan Celotto.

We remember these two extraordinary artists, activists, and partners for the impact they made on the lives of countless people. Mickey Harmon's art captured the heart and soul of Buffalo: its beauty, its grit, its history, and its potential.

Mickey's vision and skill, in partnership with his fellow artist and activist Ari Moore, told the story of Buffalo's LGBTQ+ heroes on a mural in the heart of Buffalo's gay nightlife neighborhood. Mickey showcased his art at The Good Stuff, his store on beloved Allen Street, selling everything from prints of Buffalo's architectural beauty to his famous Metallica-inspired Cheektowaga T-shirt.

His talent can be seen in murals across Buffalo, including most recently the beautiful work he completed at the Friends of Night People.

Mickey thrived as a leader in Buffalo's LGBTQ+ and arts communities. For 7 years, he organized Allentown's First Fridays, leading to the galleries and shops on Allen Street to stay open late on the first Friday of every month to promote small businesses.

He organized innumerable festivals, celebrations, and other programming such as Exist and Intersect that celebrated and showcased the work of queer artists.

Just the weekend after his tragic and untimely death, he was scheduled to debut his newest event featuring performance art, music, and dancing. That event instead became a celebration of life for Mickey and Jordan, a heart-breaking yet fitting tribute to their legacies.

Jordan, too, was a fixture on the arts scene, working with Mickey to pull off event after event, selflessly giving back to the community. He found his professional home at Remedy House, a unique cafe on Buffalo's west side, where he was known for his warm smile, his can-do attitude, and his commitment to his colleagues.

Jordan came to Buffalo from Canada about 5 years ago, after meeting Mickey. The two of them truly completed each other, building a home filled with love, complete with their beloved cats, Beef and Chicken.

Mr. Speaker, I will close with some of Mickey's own words to the city he loved which he released in a series of postcards at the height of the pandemic: "Let us be reminded of our community's past and present so we can all look forward to a more positive future." "It is your Buffalo. It is my Buffalo. We are all neighbors."

Mr. Speaker, may the families and friends of Mickey Harmon and Jordan Celotto be comforted by the joyful memories they each leave behind, and may we all do more to build a world they would be proud of. May they rest in peace.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO THEODORE W. "TED" LINA

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Theodore W. "Ted" Lina on receiving the 2025 St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute Man of the Year award.

Ted is an educator, mentor, and institution in the St. Joe's community, striving for excellence and inspiring generations of students, including myself.

Mr. Lina has dedicated his career to instilling a deep respect for history, a nuanced understanding of government, and a reverence for civic engagement in his students.

Since 1983, Mr. Lina has brought his passion and expertise to his AP government class, however, his impact extends far beyond the classroom.

In 1984, Mr. Lina hosted the very first St. Joe's political debate. The event stemmed from Mr. Lina's passion for local politics and American Government.

For more than 40 years, the SJCI Political Debate has grown into one of the seminal, annual public forums for political discourse in the entire region.

Through his leadership in the SJCI Political Debate, Mr. Lina has helped cultivate a generation of informed, engaged citizens.

During the debates, students serve as panelists, fact checkers, and time-keepers, but learn lessons that are applied later in life as many go on to serve in public life, law, business, and beyond.

Mr. Lina embodies the Lasallian spirit of faith, service, and community. His commitment to St. Joe's and its mission is evident in the countless students he has inspired over so many years.

At a time when our political discourse has deteriorated such that finding common ground seems impossible, this work is more important than ever.

On behalf of western New York and a proud Marauder, and student of his myself, I extend my deepest gratitude and congratulations to Mr. Lina. This honor is well deserved.

Mr. Speaker, I thank him for his unwavering dedication to our alma mater and for shaping the future leaders of our community. Enjoy the celebration, and as always, let's go St. Joe's.

#### RECOGNIZING BRAIN AWARENESS WEEK

(Mr. LUTTRELL of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LUTTRELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize March 10 through March 16 as Brain Awareness Week.

During Brain Awareness Week, neuroscientists around the world educate young students and the public on the wonders of the human brain. These activities will contribute to a public understanding of brain function, scientific research, and bring awareness to the brain disorders and diseases that

directly affect the lives of nearly 100 million Americans.

Groups such as the Society for Neuroscience meet with legislators across Capitol Hill to educate us on the biggest issues facing scientists today, including the importance of robust funding for research agencies and programs such as the NIH and the BRAIN Initiative.

Researchers across the country rely on this funding to be able to conduct their groundbreaking work into a variety of neurological diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, traumatic brain injuries, and mental health disorders.

It is our responsibility to ensure funding continues because the potential to find a cure isn't a matter of if, but absolutely when.

One of the leading programs in advancing our understanding of the brain has been the Brain Research Through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies, the BRAIN Initiative.

The BRAIN Initiative has been instrumental in developing tools and technologies revolutionizing the field of neuroscience. For more than a decade, research supported by the BRAIN Initiative has led to major breakthroughs. For example, researchers have gained new knowledge on how the brain encodes, stores, and retrieves information. Basic research such as this is critically important to find cures and treatments for disease and brain disorders.

The BRAIN Initiative has resulted in numerous key accomplishments that have fundamentally changed our understanding of the brain's neural circuits. The BRAIN Initiative Cell Census Network revealed the genetic, cellular, and structural makeup of the human brain and nonhuman primate brain, paving the way for a new generation of precision treatments for people with brain disorders.

Researchers have been able to develop the first complete cell atlas of a whole mouse brain through the BRAIN Initiative which characterizes more than 32 million cells across the mouse's brain and provides critical information that extends to the study of neural circuits and how they underpin behavior in health and disease.

The impact of BRAIN Initiative is far-reaching. Through separate research projects, BRAIN-funding cells census tools are being used to actively investigate disorders of the brain such as Alzheimer's disease and opioid use disorder.

The BRAIN Initiative has also transformed the way we do science, fostering collaborations among large teams of researchers. This collaborative approach has enabled researchers to tackle large problems and deliver knowledge and resources on a scale not previously possible in neurosciences. These accomplishments are expanding our fundamental knowledge of brain function and paving the way

for novel approaches to diagnose, treat, and ultimately prevent neurological disorders.

BRAIN is lifting all boats, ranging from basic science to disease-focused research in a complex neuroscience research ecosystem involving government, industry, philanthropy, and healthcare systems.

Building on a remarkable decade of innovation and discovery, the BRAIN Initiative is now setting its sights high with large-scale projects aiming to break current barriers in knowledge and technology related to human brain science, and it is critical we continue to support and invest in this initiative moving forward.

In addition to all the amazing work being done in brain disease and disorders, we should also, as a forward-thinking, innovative country, become citizen scientists curious about how to sustain brain health, even in the absence of disease or disorder.

Viewing the brain from more than a medical perspective to include thinking proactively about optimizing its daily performance is what Brain Awareness Week can inspire.

Imagine a world where information and tools that can benefit the brain of every American, regardless of age or stage, were accessible to all. The impact on education, industry, and military would be profound. It is vital that we inspire the next generation of scientists to continue brain research. The discoveries made by these future scientists will shape the next frontier of medicine, unlocking new treatments, therapies, and ultimately cures for conditions that affect millions of families across our Nation.

Madam Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Neuroscience Caucus, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Brain Awareness Week and the contributions that thousands of dedicated scientists are making to unlock these mysteries behind the human brain.

#### BUDGET AND DEBT

(Mr. KHANNA of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. KHANNA. Madam Speaker, last week, President Trump came in this Chamber and said he was going to balance the budget immediately. I will just go over some facts, not politically speaking, just facts.

We have got a \$36 trillion debt. That is where we stand.

Currently, we are running a \$1.8 trillion deficit. If you were to balance the budget, that would be zero and we should stay at a \$36 trillion debt.

What does President Trump do with the Republicans? What is their budget? Their budget actually is going to add \$28 trillion of debt over the next 10 years.

Here is the kicker. It is not just that they aren't balancing it to keep it at \$36 trillion; it is that they are adding

more debt by adding to the deficits more than the current deficits.

The current deficit projection would add \$23.9 trillion of debt, but the Republicans want to add \$28.5 trillion of debt, \$4.6 trillion more of debt spending than the current deficit spending.

I just ask for some math. You want to deficit spend to have tax breaks for the wealthy because you think that will help the economy, fine, but every American should look at this chart because the Republican budget is making the deficit and the debt worse. It is not balancing the budget.

Now I will speak about my second chart.

Madam Speaker, many of us want to cut waste, fraud, and abuse from government, so where should we look first? Well, how about the Pentagon, which has 13 percent of the Federal budget.

Mr. Musk, who I have known for 15 years, is firing all these veterans. Is he saving money? Let's look at this chart. All of the DOGE firings, 0.004 percent of the budget, is where Mr. Musk's cuts have come. That is 455 times less than the Republican tax breaks, which are 1.82 percent of the budget.

I don't understand it.

Elon, you are an engineer. You are cutting 0.004 percent, while the Republicans are providing 455 times that in a tax break and you are not touching the main budget of 13 percent of the Pentagon.

I have a proposal for you. You can either come to Congress to explain this chart while you are going after 0.004 percent or USAID, which is 0.7 percent, as opposed to going to the 13 percent of the Pentagon budget while you are allowing tax breaks of 455 times more than the savings you are finding at DOGE—YOU can either come to Congress or you can go to Jon Stewart.

Jon Stewart called you out and said: Why not, if you want to cut waste, cut the Pentagon defense contract budget? Why not cut the fossil fuel subsidies? Why not cut the drug manufacturers who are ripping off the government?

Let's talk math about how you get actual cuts because right now you are cutting 0.004 percent while not going after any of the real "holy cows" in our government.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DE LA CRUZ). Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

□ 1030

#### REMEMBERING JOHN BILLINGSLEY

(Mr. ARRINGTON of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life of a west Texas giant, a proud Texas Tech Red Raider, a loving husband and father, and my dear friend, John Billingsley.

From humble beginnings in O'Donnell, Texas, John's entrepreneurial spirit and west Texas work ethic propelled him to a series of successful ventures, becoming one of the most accomplished business leaders in the entire country.

A common man with uncommon character, endless vision, and a love for God and people as big as the west Texas horizon, John was the epitome of the American Dream. His life was proof that greatness is often found in the most obscure places and within the most unassuming people.

John was a true gentleman whose uncanny business acumen was matched only by his humility, integrity, and authenticity.

John's story reminds us that with big dreams, hard work, and determination, the opportunities in this great country of ours are endless.

We grieve this great loss with his loving wife, Harriett, and the entire Billingsley family. We pray God's comfort for them, but we celebrate alongside them, as well. We celebrate John's amazing life and legacy and all the tremendous contributions he made to his friends, family, community, and our beloved country.

God bless the Billingsley family, and go west Texas.

HONORING JONATHAN NICHOLAS WILLIAMS

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of Jonathan Nicholas Williams, beloved husband, father, true west Texan, and dear friend of mine.

When I first met Jon at a Farm Bureau meeting in Terry County, he was brutally honest, direct, and plainspoken, like a lot of ag producers. While the meeting was tension filled, we became fast friends.

Jon was the epitome of a west Texas farmer, no doubt: hardworking, God-fearing, and humble, a man who was totally dedicated to his family, community, and friends.

Anyone who knew Jon would tell you that his greatest source of joy was his family, his beautiful children, Paisley, Lexi, Owen, and Willow, whom he raised with the love and support of his wife, Melissa. A proud and committed father, he instilled in his children the values of personal responsibility, perseverance, and, of course, a love of the land.

I know I speak for the entire community of west Texas when I say that the Williams family is in our prayers, and our entire community stands ready to care for them in the same way that Jon cared for us, his community, and his friends.

May God comfort the Williams family, and may He give all of us the courage and character that Jon had to live up to his legacy of truth-telling, servant leadership, and fighting for all we believe is good and right in this world.

May God bless my friend, Jon, and may he rest in peace. Blessings on his family. Go west Texas.