

Boutique, located in the historic district of Fayette, Missouri, as Missouri's Fourth Congressional District March Small Business of the Month.

Owned by Cana Conrow, Gold Apple Boutique is a shining example of entrepreneurial spirit and community dedication. Cana's passion for business and her desire to build a future for her growing family led her to open this unique shop on Fayette's historic square. I was just in it last week. It is a great store.

They are offering fashionable clothing, accessories, and personalized items. Gold Apple Boutique provides a welcoming space where customers find both style and confidence.

Cana's success is a testament to the impact of small businesses on local economies. Her engagement in our U.S. Chamber of Commerce roundtable last week highlighted her commitment to strengthening the business community. As spring approaches, Gold Apple Boutique's latest arrivals are already drawing in excited customers there on the square, proving that small businesses like hers keep our towns vibrant and keep them thriving.

We congratulate Cana Conrow and Gold Apple Boutique on this well-earned recognition, our Small Business of the Month. We thank them for their dedication to Fayette and to making Missouri's small business community thrive.

RECOGNIZING SEASIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT CHIEF NICK BORGES

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

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Seaside Police Department Chief Nick Borges and many others for their dedication and doggedness to solve the case called the "American Nightmare."

Aptly named, this case started back in 2015 in Vallejo, California, when Matthew Muller broke into the home of Denise and Aaron Quinn, drugged and bound them, and kidnapped Denise. Muller then took Denise to a cabin near Lake Tahoe where he sexually assaulted her and released her 3 days later down in southern California.

Of course, Aaron immediately called the authorities, but the Vallejo Police Department was unable to solve the crime. This is after they interrogated Aaron for hours upon hours, brushing aside his explanation, trying to get him to confess to killing Denise.

Ultimately, after Aaron wouldn't confess to something he didn't do, the detectives accused both Aaron and Denise of faking and lying about the whole thing. The detectives even went as far as putting out a formal statement, calling the whole thing a hoax and that, given the facts that had been presented thus far, this event appeared to be an orchestrated event, not a crime.

Madam Speaker, get this. Around the same time period, Muller committed

several more home invasions. He eventually got caught and convicted for those similar crimes. The Vallejo detectives never connected Muller to the kidnapping of Denise.

It was such a sensational story about how the detectives acted and about how Aaron and Denise allegedly concocted a kidnapping that even Netflix came out with a documentary called the "American Nightmare." Madam Speaker, it became one of the most watched docuseries on Netflix.

Fortunately, one of the people who watched that Netflix series was Seaside Police Chief Nick Borges. Chief Borges didn't have anything to do with that case, but after watching the documentary in 2024, he literally reached out to Denise and Aaron. He let them know that even he was disgusted with the way the Vallejo detectives conducted the interviews and that Denise and Aaron had the backing of law enforcement, despite how they were treated.

Chief Borges then decided to meet with the couple, along with Alameda County Detective Misty Carausu and El Dorado County DA Vern Pierson, all of whom felt that the investigation was mishandled. The group then started their own investigation and quickly found that Muller was in custody for similar crimes in the same areas.

Chief Borges then simply and literally reached out to Muller who was in custody on his other similar crimes, and he asked Muller if he would want to talk about the crimes against Aaron and Denise. Madam Speaker, if you can imagine this, Muller responded, and he admitted what he did do to Denise.

Further investigation by the group and getting the FBI involved led authorities to the Lake Tahoe cabin where they found further evidence to corroborate the crimes that Muller committed against Denise and Aaron. Eventually, Muller ended up pleading guilty to those crimes, as well as others that he had committed in the area.

Madam Speaker, as DA Pierson said: This was a very unusual, crazy set of facts. It unfortunately had detectives who didn't believe Aaron and Denise from the start, as well as those who used some outdated investigation and interrogation techniques, that led them down the wrong path.

Fortunately, though, police officers with common sense got involved to help solve this case. Moreover, Denise, Aaron, Chief Borges, and others are now working with law enforcement to change how interrogations are conducted and to ensure that what Aaron and Denise experienced never happens again.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Denise and Aaron for their fortitude, for their resilience, and for their belief in law enforcement. I recognize Seaside Police Chief Borges and the other law enforcement officers who used common sense and their humanity to not only solve this case with a sense of justice but to do what is right in our society.

HONORING WISCONSIN'S WINTER SPORTS SEASON

(Mr. TIFFANY of Wisconsin was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. TIFFANY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the high school athletes from Wisconsin's Seventh District who competed in the State championships during the winter sports season.

In the individual State wrestling tournament, my district had Liam Neitzel of Hudson, Lane Andersen of Amery, Reegan Roy of Wabeno, Blake Underwood and Cale Quantance of Marathon, Wyatt Unser of Glenwood City, Colton Weiler of Auburndale, and Carter Lueck of Stratford secure the State championship, with the Saint Croix Falls boys' team taking home the first place title at the team State wrestling tournament.

Then the Tomahawk boys' hockey team claimed their first-ever State title at the boys' hockey State tournament. At the gymnastics State meet, Chippewa Falls Co-op won Division 1 team State, Rice Lake High School won Division 2 team State, and Avery Ash of Rice Lake took home first place in the individual balance beam event.

I also congratulate the Osceola High School ice fishing team on taking home the State title, going against 87 schools. Not many States have an ice fishing tournament.

We congratulate each one of these State champions, as well as their coaches. I wish them the best of luck in their future seasons.

HONORING ALFREDA HARRIS

(Ms. PRESSLEY of Massachusetts was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Chair, I rise today to honor Women's History Month. As a practice, I do celebrate Women's History Month every month, but today I take the floor to talk about a living legend, Ms. Alfreda Harris.

Ms. Harris is a champion for everyone who calls Boston home and a mother of movements. She has committed her life to building community and supporting our young people. She is widely known for her dedicated work to the Boston Parks Department, actualizing a vision of beautiful green space, room to play, and fresh air for all of our children.

Ms. Harris was the first Black woman to coach in UMass Boston's history in 1980 when she was hired in that role, becoming UMass Boston's first women's basketball coach. She was also the first female head coach at UMass Boston for any sport. She led her basketball teams at Roxbury Community College and the University of Massachusetts Boston to an outstanding 136-20 career record.

Her tenure on the Boston School Committee is defined by her lasting commitment to strengthening Boston

through decades of transition, grappling with the impact of segregation, and working toward a vision of educational equity for all. When she retired, she did so as the longest serving member of the Boston School Committee.

Madam Speaker, she remains a source of inspiration to many. This Women's History Month, let's give this historymaker her flowers. We love and honor Ms. Harris.

CALLING OUT SIGNALGATE CHAT

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to call out the recklessness of those in this administration entrusted with our national security. I did not think I would see a day where someone with the highest security clearance is using a phone messaging app to treat matters of national security with such blatant disregard, celebrating with emojis in a group chat as they unlawfully authorize military actions.

This administration continues to make history for all the wrong reasons. I struggle to find a reference point because this is beyond the pale: the disregard for human life and national security.

Let me just make this abundantly clear to the American people. Secure channels of communication do exist to discuss classified military action. They sure as hell are not a Signal group chat. It is imperative that information like this be handled with sensitivity.

Under this administration, the United States foreign policy is a failure. Decades of diplomatic efforts to build good will and keep the American people safe have been upended. We have an unelected billionaire gutting life-saving programs like USAID's essential work to feed newborns and to give medicine to war zones.

Meanwhile, we have a cast of characters in these roles, having nothing to do with merit. It is simply their fealty and loyalty to Donald Trump. We have a cast of characters ordering military strikes in a group chat with a random journalist in it.

This is nothing to be cavalier about. This is not a drill. It is not a joke. Every person involved should be investigated by Congress. In particular, Pete Hegseth is proving himself to be unqualified to lead the Department of Defense and should never have been confirmed by the Senate.

Madam Speaker, this national security failure is proof that he cannot serve this country's best interests, and I call for Pete Hegseth to resign.

□ 1045

BORDER COMMON SENSE

(Mr. MANN of Kansas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, since President Trump was sworn in, illegal crossings have plummeted at our southern border.

This past February saw the lowest level of illegal crossings ever recorded

in our Nation's history, down 94 percent from February 2024 and 96 percent from the all-time high under the Biden administration. Along the Del Rio Sector of the border, there was a 98.8 percent decrease in apprehensions compared to the highest day under President Biden.

For 4 years, President Biden and radical progressive activists tried to blame President Trump and congressional Republicans for the crisis at the Nation's border. It turns out the only thing we needed all along was a President who doesn't run from common sense and isn't afraid to enforce the law. Thankfully, President Trump is not afraid.

Just last week, Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem announced that the Department of Homeland Security, DHS, will resume construction of President Trump's border wall. Border Patrol agents have told us again and again that a physical barrier on our southern border is a key deterrent to the trafficking of humans and illicit drugs by the Mexican cartels across our southern border. Yet, on day one of his Presidency, President Biden stopped construction of the border wall. President Trump is gladly reversing this madness and making our border secure.

President Biden's failed leadership continuously put innocent American lives at risk as nearly 400 individuals whose names appeared on the terrorist watch list attempted to enter the country and gang members from MS-13 and Tren de Aragua invaded the interior of the U.S.

Some of these monsters took the lives of innocent Americans, like Laken Riley and Jocelyn Nungaray. While President Biden barely expressed empathy for the lives he put at risk, President Trump took action, deporting these violent criminals and gang members from the start of his Presidency.

On November 5, 2024, 77 million Americans, including myself, voted to restore commonsense border policies to our Nation's Capital. The President is providing that common sense, and I am deeply grateful to have his strong leadership back in the White House.

I thank President Trump for standing for our country and securing our border. Promises made, promises kept.

HONORING CRAIG BEAM

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of an American patriot, Craig Beam. I congratulate Craig on his well-deserved retirement from the U.S. Marshals Service.

When most Americans hear of a fugitive on the run, their natural instinct is to protect their loved ones within and avoid coming across the wanted criminal at all costs. Craig's approach to protecting his family and loved ones is a little different. When danger or bad actors present themselves to our communities, Craig has run toward them and worked swiftly with his fellow marshals to remove these criminals from the streets.

In August 1993, a convicted marijuana grower walked into the Frank Carlson Federal Building in Topeka, Kansas, for his sentencing. What was a normal day in Topeka suddenly turned into gunfire and tragedy as the convict's car and his person were covered with explosives and pipe bombs.

As building staff hid in fear, Craig and his fellow law enforcement agents put their fear aside to get innocent civilians to safety. In all, five Kansans were injured that day, and a court officer, Gene Goldsberry, was tragically killed. Deputy Marshal Beam and three of his fellow marshals were recognized for their heroism with the Director's Distinguished Service Award.

Serving in law enforcement and the U.S. Marshals Service is a selfless calling, and for the last 34 years, Craig Beam has done it effortlessly. Not many people openly run toward danger and put their safety at risk for the sake of their communities, but for Craig, it is second nature.

I thank Craig for his selflessness and for 34 years of dedication to keep Kansas safe. I congratulate Craig on his retirement.

PUERTO RICO'S ENERGY CRISIS

(Mr. HERNÁNDEZ of Puerto Rico was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Madam Speaker, last Friday, I opened my district office in Caguas, Puerto Rico. I had about 10 other colleagues join me, and when I finished my speech and turned to greet my constituents, the power went out.

I won't lie, my immediate reaction was not all that negative. I was sort of glad that it happened while my colleagues were there so that they could see the reality that many Puerto Ricans live with on a daily basis.

Now, I am afraid that that reality is about to get a lot worse. The power companies in charge of generation and distribution of energy in the island have warned us that there will be a severe generation deficit between May and October due to a major generation unit's breakdown. As a result, we might face up to 125 selective power outages during that time. Last year, the average client faced about 10 hours without power due to these selective outages. This year, it is expected to be a lot worse.

Pause and think about that: 125 blackouts over 6 months in the United States of America. That isn't and shouldn't be normal.

The government of Puerto Rico has a plan A. First, demand that Genera PR, the company in charge of generation, fix the broken power plants before May. An alternative is that we get barges and land units to generate temporary electricity to meet the height and demand during the summer.

I will do what I can to support the government's efforts to address this challenge. I have already urged President Trump to declare a Federal emergency to support Puerto Rico's electric