

fair elections, Congress needs to act and act now.

The SAVE Act helps to protect our democracy—which isn't really a democracy; it is a republic—enforce our laws, and make sure that American citizens, not foreign nationals, decide our future. It is common sense. Let's get it done.

RECKLESS INCOMPETENCE OF SIGNAL CHAT PUT SERVICEMEMBERS AT RISK

(Ms. ANSARI of Arizona was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. ANSARI. Mr. Speaker, I rise with deep shock, concern, and outrage at the carelessness of the Trump administration in disclosing highly sensitive operational military plans on a commercial chat platform that included a reporter.

Without a doubt, this reckless incompetence put our servicewomen and men in danger.

Last week, I received a call from a constituent whose son is deployed abroad in the region. His son's mission was personally put at risk by the very same people charged with safeguarding our Armed Forces who put their lives on the line for us.

This Arizona father and his son sacrifice for our country, and we should all be ashamed that this is how their service is repaid.

The Trump administration officials who set up and participated in this Signal chat debacle should have taken responsibility for their egregious mistake and instantly offered their resignation for having violated the law, contravened common sense, and put American troops in harm's way.

Let me put it this way: Not only did the National Security Advisor set up an illegal, unsecured chat with the Secretary of Defense, the CIA Director, the Vice President, and others to discuss highly, highly sensitive and imminent attack plans, but they also bungled their way into adding a random person into the chat.

We should not be surprised in the slightest that the Trump administration treats our Nation's secrets this way. This is the same man, after all, who had our nuclear codes sitting in his bathroom in Mar-a-Lago. The way that the administration has handled this entire calamity has been equally as dangerous.

Secretary of Defense Hegseth straight-up lied. He said there was no classified information on the chat, that he didn't share attack plans, and that no troops were put in harm's way.

Then, there is our Director of National Intelligence, who is supposedly our Nation's most trusted, meticulous secretkeeper, who went before the Senate to mislead, evade, and perjure herself. What a truly disgraceful episode.

This is not a partisan issue. In fact, both the chair and ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee,

in a bipartisan manner, requested that the Pentagon investigate the use of the Signal app to share classified information.

We can all agree that no government employee, let alone a Cabinet member, should be sharing classified information in a Signal chat and be careless enough to add a reporter to it, as well. There should be a serious after action review to prevent this from ever happening again and one that considers the criminality involved.

Yet another Trump lackey, our Attorney General, who is officially supposed to be the people's lawyer, is ruling out a criminal investigation into this scheme altogether.

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Mr. Speaker, these are the same people that spent the better part of a decade looking into Hillary's emails. They evidently do not care to even pretend to investigate how our Nation's most secret information is being shared.

The ramifications of this unmitigated disaster will be felt for years, even decades, to come. Why would any of our allies share sensitive information with us if the Secretary of Defense is just going to pop it into a group chat and share it with the editor in chief of a national publication?

In conjunction with all of the other actions the Trump administration has taken to dismiss or turn our backs on our allies, I am deeply concerned about how Signal-gate will make us much, much less safe in the long term. Our Nation deserves better. Our servicewomen and servicemen deserve better. We deserve better.

CELEBRATING 100TH BIRTHDAY OF LEONARD MESSINEO

(Mr. BEAN of Florida was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to take you back 100 years to the year 1925. "The Great Gatsby" had just been published. In this very Chamber, the House voted to authorize the construction of Mount Rushmore. Entertainment legend Dick Van Dyke was born.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 100th birthday of someone else born that same year, 1925, an American hero named Leonard Messineo of Amelia Island, Florida. Born on April 30, 1925, Len served bravely in World War II with the Army's 20th Armored Division. In April 1945, just days before the war in Europe ended, his unit fought through heavy resistance, helped liberate the Dachau concentration camp, and patrolled Hitler's vacated Eagle's Nest.

Hitler took his own life on Len's 20th birthday; and Len proudly marks his birthday each year, saying that he celebrates April 30 for Hitler's demise.

After the war, Len earned an engineering degree on the GI Bill and built a successful career in manufacturing, including for the U.S. Army. He later

became an award-winning nature photographer.

Len's greatest legacy is his family which includes two daughters, Deb and Lynn, four grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and even a grand-dog named Charlie.

We wish Len a happy 100th birthday. We thank him for his service, his life, and his enduring example. May God continue to bless him.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF DON FANN

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, when you are lost, you need to find the way. In Clay County, Florida, when you need medical care and don't know where to turn, you need to find The Way Free Medical Clinic.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the retirement of Mr. Don Fann who served as executive director of The Way Free Medical Clinic from 2017 to 2024.

When Don first joined The Way Clinic in 2017 as interim director, his task was clear. It was to stabilize a struggling organization and ensure its continued service to those most in need. Not only, Mr. Speaker, did he meet that challenge but he also exceeded every expectation.

Through his tireless efforts to secure funding, forge partnerships, and implement sustainable programs, Don guided the clinic through a time of transformation. Today, the brand new Way Free Medical Clinic building offers both medical and dental services to countless individuals who otherwise would go without.

Don's professional success is only matched by his personal dedication. Don consistently placed the needs of others above his own. His empathy, resilience, and quiet determination inspired those around him to become hallmarks of the clinic's culture. His values of service, compassion, and hope are now woven into the very identity of The Way Free Medical Clinic.

As Don Fann retires, I join many in thanking him for his years of outstanding service and leadership. May the next chapter of his life be filled with the same purpose, joy, and generosity that defined him and his time at The Way Free Medical Clinic. We are proud of him.

HONORING SHANNON GOODRICH

(Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we close Women's History Month, I rise to honor a few great women in my district, women like Shannon Goodrich, a leader of the Elmhurst chapter of Moms Demand Action.

Shannon joined the group after attending a fireside chat about school safety in her community. Like all parents, she was concerned about what local leaders were doing to keep children safe from the tragic epidemic of school shootings. Shannon saw that she could play an important role as a mom and as a member of her community.

Over the past 6 years, Shannon has written thousands of postcards, knocked on thousands of doors, made thousands of phone calls, and sent thousands of texts all in the name of gun violence prevention.

Shannon's passion for this work has only grown as she has met and become friends with local survivors of gun violence. Shannon works in their name and hopes to inspire many others to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Shannon for her dedication and commitment to keeping all children safe.

HONORING DAFNE HENRIQUEZ

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Dafne Henriquez is a great example of what happens when we invest and encourage young women to pursue STEM careers.

Dafne was born in Mexico and is a proud graduate of Triton College and the University of Illinois Chicago, where she received a bachelor of science in civil engineering.

While at Triton College, Dafne demonstrated strong leadership as president of the Triton College Student Association and was elected student trustee, serving alongside the Triton Board of Trustees from 2017 to 2018.

Dafne was interested in merging her passions for public service and infrastructure. After a decade of serving in State and local government, she now serves as the assistant village engineer for the village of Franklin Park. As a civil engineer, Dafne's work ensures that the roadways and other infrastructure projects built in Franklin Park keep communities safe and connected.

Dafne is committed to giving back to her community by leveraging her engineering expertise to develop infrastructure that enhances safety, efficiency, and quality of life. Beyond her professional career, she has also managed to mentor and build a strong coalition of young women in the northwest suburbs committed to improving their communities.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Dafne for the work that she does for our district and for her partnership.

RECOGNIZING IOANA FERNANDEZ

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Ioana Fernandez, a relentless activist for kids, gun safety, inclusion, and public education.

Ioana immigrated to the U.S. from her native Romania as a young woman and settled in Chicago where she has developed a successful career in public relations and communications and where she is raising her family.

As a community activist, she actively participates in organizing and advocating for a future in which children don't have to fear for their lives when they go to school.

As a communicator, her work is inclusive and reflective of the diversity of our country.

As an advocate, Ioana is committed to uplifting working families and en-

suring that elected officials are accountable to the people they represent.

Ioana is an organizer and a change-maker. Ioana's impact can be felt across DuPage County.

Thanks to her efforts, more people are engaged, informed, and ready to stand up for what is right.

Mr. Speaker, she leads with her heart and never backs down, and we thank her for all the work that she does.

SUPPORTING AMERICAN ELECTIONS

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS of Iowa was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the SAVE Act because American elections should only be decided by American citizens. That is not controversial. It is common sense.

Think about it. Democrats have no problem requiring ID to board a plane, buy a six-pack, drive a car, or even adopt a pet. Just a few years ago, they demanded proof of vaccination just to eat at a restaurant or pick up food.

When it comes to the most sacred act in our Republic, voting, they fight tooth and nail against requiring proof of citizenship. Why? It is blatant hypocrisy, and the American people see right through it.

The SAVE Act ensures that only American citizens can register to vote and vote in Federal elections. It protects the integrity of our system and restores faith in democracy. In fact, in Iowa, every single time we have passed election integrity laws, the percentage of people voting has increased.

With President Trump back in the White House, it is time to secure our elections and put American citizens first. Let's pass the SAVE Act now.

SUPPORTING THE CONGRESSIONAL AGRICULTURAL TRADE CAUCUS

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, today I am happy to announce that I have officially joined the bipartisan Congressional Agricultural Trade Caucus.

The State of Iowa leads the Nation in corn, pork, and soybean production. Expanding access to international markets is essential for our rural communities to succeed.

In the past, bad trade deals and over-regulations from Washington have held our producers back. By joining the Agricultural Trade Caucus, alongside Representatives ADRIAN SMITH, JIM COSTA, DUSTY JOHNSON, and JIMMY PANETTA, I will continue to fight to remove unfair trade barriers, open new markets for Iowa products, and promote policies that keep our local family farms strong and competitive.

Yesterday, when Secretary Rollins was in our State of Iowa, she remarked upon our productive farmers and ranchers and added she will be going on six trade trips internationally over the next 6 months.

For Iowans, agriculture isn't just a way of life. It is the backbone of our

economy, and I am deeply committed to supporting Iowa's hardworking farmers and producers.

PROTECTING THE LEGAL COMMUNITY

(Mr. ESPAILLAT of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, the legal community has a longstanding tradition of representing historically underrepresented communities in important constitutional and historic landmark cases. Right now, the President and his cronies are shaking down the legal world in an unprecedented manner. These law firms have provided services to our underrepresented communities in a pro bono manner for decades.

In the past few weeks, the President has targeted law firms that he has deemed a threat against his goals to impose an illegal agenda. Through his executive orders, he has threatened the revocation of government security clearances and prohibitions on entering Federal buildings to these law firms.

Two of the law firms—Skadden; and Paul, Weiss—immediately settled to avoid sanctions and committed a collective \$140 million in pro bono work to support the Trump administration's agenda.

Other targeted law firms—WilmerHale; Jenner & Block; and Perkins Coie—continue to challenge these orders in court. These law firms have been responsible for providing free pro bono work in support of disenfranchised communities for decades.

Mr. Speaker, Trump is doing this to stop them from successfully arguing against his executive orders and the harms and effects they may have on America.

In addition, many of our colleagues across the aisle have introduced at least seven bills to impeach Federal judges who have ruled against the Trump agenda.

□ 1045

They attempt to cripple our judicial branch of government which guarantees a delicate balance in our democracy and in our Republic. Many of these judges have been instrumental in pausing Trump's attack on birthright citizenship, and preventing ICE from going into sensitive locations such as churches, synagogues, funeral homes, schools, and emergency rooms.

This is what they are trying to do. They are trying to impose this very aggressive agenda against protections from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and, of course, they are attempting to dismantle the one system that has given us all the ability to rise together, the public education system.

House Republicans are carrying out Trump's attack by insisting that we take up legislation that would severely limit the judicial system's ability to