

time to send me a text message that read:

Shomari, as you take your seat, congratulations. Your dad would be looking down on you proudly. Happy New Year.

Mr. Speaker, as I stand here today as a Member of Congress, someone who has followed in her footsteps, it is not only my father who I seek to make proud in this moment, but it is Alexis Herman. I can stand here today because of people like her.

RECOGNIZING BLACK APRIL

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

Mr. TRAN. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to mark the most solemn time of the year for the people of the Vietnamese diaspora. "Black April," "Thang Tu Den," is not just a solemn day in history, but it is a reminder of the day when we lost everything: our homes, our livelihoods, and our beloved country.

It was 50 years ago, on April 30, 1975, that South Vietnam fell to the Communist regime. American troops airlifted 6,000 American and Vietnamese people to safety. Hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese refugees would follow, most of them boarding boats on uncharted waters, not knowing what awaited them on the other side of the journey.

In Vietnam, the conditions under the Communist regime grew more brutal. Many were imprisoned in concentration camps, losing not just their homes but their freedom, their dignity, and, in too many cases, their lives.

This is a painful day, a day for reflection, for remembrance, and for mourning. Over 58,000 United States soldiers and more than 250,000 South Vietnamese soldiers gave their lives in service. These brave men and women made the ultimate sacrifice, and they deserve our continued and unwavering gratitude.

We mourn not only those who fought for freedom but the countless innocent lives lost during the war, those who perished at the hands of the Communist regime and the aftermath and the brave souls who were lost fleeing repression on boats. We have no choice but to honor those precious souls who were lost by giving the most we can to this life that we have been blessed with.

I share my own story with hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese Americans born to parents who fled our homeland with nothing. Boat people did not let the hardship of the journey define the life that they built in America. We have built communities that are unparalleled in strength, prosperity, and commitment to preserving our history.

Mr. Speaker, as we reflect on the past 50 years since the fall of Saigon, we do so in solemn remembrance but in celebration of what we have built together. From the ashes of war, we have risen.

We celebrate today the trailblazers who have risen from this legacy: generals and admirals in the U.S. military, award-winning scientists, titans of business, educators, doctors, and artists. Our community has nurtured leaders in all walks of life, turning adversity into opportunity in just five short decades.

Many of these people are children of refugees or refugees themselves, and they represent just a few of the countless contributions that Vietnamese Americans continue to make across every sector of society. Our journey from tragedy to triumph has only just begun, and the story of our people will continue to inspire generations to come.

As the first Vietnamese American to represent Orange County's Little Saigon community in Congress, I am humbled by the responsibility to carry this history forward. Little Saigon, home to the largest Vietnamese diaspora in the world, is a beacon of hope and a reminder of the resilience that has defined our community.

I stand on the shoulders of the Vietnamese leaders in California and across the country who have paved the way for future generations to succeed. I am proud to be the third Vietnamese American ever elected to Congress, following Congressman Joseph Cao of Louisiana and Congresswoman Stephanie Murphy of Florida.

I am reminded every day of our strength, our determination, and our unyielding commitment to preserving our history and to ensuring that no Communist regime can rewrite our history.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in not only remembering the hardships we face, but also in celebrating the incredible resilience of the Vietnamese people. Let us honor the lives of those who sacrificed everything for freedom: The United States Army veterans and the veterans of the former Republic of Vietnam. As we commemorate this solemn milestone, let us reaffirm our commitment to the values that matter most: democracy, human rights, and our unshakeable will to be free.

IN RECOGNITION OF VAISAKHI

(Mr. SUBRAMANYAM of Virginia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, to Sikhs both in America and around the world, I wish everyone a happy Vaisakhi.

For those who don't know, Vaisakhi marks the beginning of the harvest season. It is a momentous occasion in the Sikh community.

Over the weekend, I had the privilege of joining the Sikh Center of Virginia to celebrate in Manassas, Virginia. The event brought together community leaders, local leaders, and elected officials, signifying the strength of our growing Sikh community in northern Virginia and across the country.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to continuing to partner with our Sikh Americans here in Virginia and all across the country as we celebrate Vaisakhi this year.

DUE PROCESS FOR FANNIE MAE EMPLOYEES

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise out of concern today over the recent firings at Fannie Mae, firings that have impacted many of my constituents, especially in the Indian-American community, constituents who have been dedicated employees for years with exemplary performance reviews.

Without any advance notice, these employees received word of their termination over alleged fraud and ethics violations. I spoke to many of them, and they said that they were fired for contributing to Indian-American-run charities. Yet, some of them didn't even contribute to those charities at all or were encouraged to donate to those charities.

There was no investigation, no due process, and no chance to correct the record or provide their side of the story. Employees simply received a we-will-get-back-to-you message when they contacted HR. Without a proper and official investigation, I am concerned that these firings are another pretext for making indiscriminate cuts to our workforce in northern Virginia.

If these employees were targeted because they are Indian American, national origin being a legally protected class, then that might have been illegal and unconstitutional, as well.

Mr. Speaker, I demand answers to understand why these terminations really took place, and we are going to continue to put pressure until we get those answers.

SHARING OF CLASSIFIED AND SENSITIVE INFORMATION

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today out of grave concern over our leadership at the Pentagon right now. In just a few short months, the Department of Defense has been overtaken by chaos because of Secretary Hegseth's leadership.

Mr. Speaker, classified and sensitive information is being shared over Signal. The Secretary has a nonsecure internet line in his office. Seemingly every day, there is a new story about firings, backstabbing, and so-called shake-ups in the highest levels of leadership.

This leadership is not making our country or our troops safer, but don't take it from me. I have had many veterans and military families reach out to me. One military parent is so scared that the sharing of classified information over nonsecure channels will put their son at risk.

She wrote to me:

That our Nation's top Defense officials shared sensitive troop movements over a commercial social media platform, without verifying who was on the other end, is not only reckless, it is terrifying. Our servicemembers and their families deserve leaders who treat their safety with the gravity it demands. This breach not only endangers lives

but erodes the trust of those who serve and support our military. My son has sworn to defend this country. I expect the same level of responsibility and integrity from those in charge.

Another constituent pointed out the hypocrisy of the administration claiming that they did nothing wrong in using Signal for these discussions.

That person said:

For 18 years, I have lived a life most people will never understand. My promise to defend this Nation does not stop when I clock out. It permeates every single aspect of my life. It affects who I marry, who I live with, who I date, who I am friends with, and who I speak to. I would be sitting in jail right now if I had done something as brazen, thoughtless, and dangerous as what Secretary Hegseth, among others, did.

That is from military families and military people serving today.

Not only is this a failure of our national security, but it is an embarrassment for the United States. Our allies will be less willing to share intelligence with us if Secretary Hegseth might share it with his family, his poker buddies, or whoever else he thinks it would be neat to loop in.

Our servicemembers deserve better, and the American people deserve better. That is why I reiterate my demand to make sure we have change at the Secretary of Defense level and in the Pentagon.

RECOGNIZING APRIL AS THE MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize April as the Month of the Military Child. While we rightly honor the service and sacrifice of the men and women in our military, April reminds us that service comes in many forms.

We are celebrating the more than 1.6 million children whose parents serve in the Active Duty, Guard, and Reserve Components of the United States military.

Our troops answer the call to defend our Nation. Yet, when they do, their children are quietly called to service, too.

These young people grow up in a world defined by constant change, showing remarkable resilience, patriotism, and adaptability. They move from base to base, often starting over time and time again. They say good-bye to friends more times than they can remember.

□ 1045

They celebrate birthdays and holidays with one parent thousands of miles away. They carry worry, pride, hope, and responsibility, sometimes all at once.

This month, we pause to recognize that while our servicemembers protect our freedoms, their children carry the emotional weight of that commitment. They sacrifice stability, time with

their parents, and the comfort of staying in one place, and they do it all with a resilience that is nothing short of remarkable.

This month is a special time to recognize and uplift a group of young people whose strength and sacrifice often go unnoticed.

This is personal for me, not only as an American who deeply respects our Armed Forces but also as a parent of a servicemember.

I have watched firsthand what it means to serve, not just for the person in uniform but for the entire family. I have seen how military children shoulder more than many adults will ever have to.

As a parent, I know how hard it is to be away from your child, but I also know the pride that comes with seeing them live with purpose, discipline, and honor.

Our military families, especially the children, live those values every single day. That is why we celebrate them throughout April. During this month, one of the most meaningful days we observe is Purple Up! Day. On Purple Up! Day, people are encouraged to wear purple as a visible show of support for military-connected youth.

Why purple? Because purple is the combined color of all the military branches. It blends each branch's colors: the Air Force, Navy, Space Force, and Coast Guard's blues, the Army's green, and the Marines' red. Together, they create purple, symbolizing the unity and strength of our military families.

Military children may not enlist, but they endure the impact of service. Through it all, they develop strength, compassion, and character that make them leaders in their own right.

Mr. Speaker, let's honor not just the men and women who serve but the families behind them, especially the children who carry this unique burden with incredible grace. They, too, are part of what keeps this Nation strong.

I thank every military child—past, present, and future—for their strength, sacrifice, and spirit.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CLOUD). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 47 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Holy God, You look down from Your Heaven and ask us to ask ourselves: Who is wise and understanding among us? Perhaps we ourselves look around these Chambers and in the body politic and quarrel over what wisdom should look like.

Forgive us when our actions do not reflect an understanding of Your desire for righteousness. Be merciful to us when our comportment is far from the model of wisdom You Yourself offer us.

For wisdom that comes from Heaven is first pure, and, Lord, You know we have each run afoul of Your perfect truth. You have told us that wisdom is peace-loving and considerate. But in harboring bitterness and envy, we have put our own selves and our ambition ahead of others too often.

You look to see if our hearts are full of mercy, bearing good fruit, impartial and sincere in our feelings for other people, but You have too often seen us treating each other with disdain and bias.

Call us again to live right lives, holy lives, doing the hard work of getting along, treating each other with dignity and honor. Enable us to live as those who follow Your wise counsel, that we would reap the rewards of Your mercy on our service to You on this day.

In Your righteous name we work and pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. LATIMER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LATIMER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

100 DAYS OF TRUMP'S PROMISES KEPT

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, since President Donald Trump was overwhelmingly reelected by mandate, he has been winning on behalf of American families.