

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.

Today marks 100 days since the President took back the White House, and along with the Republican-led House with the leadership of Speaker MIKE JOHNSON and the Senate, immediately began promises made, promises kept, delivering for American families.

In just 100 days, the Trump administration has secured the borders, restored energy independence, begun peace through strength, and brought massive investments and jobs, making America competitive again.

President Trump is keeping his promises to families, making the country strong, safe, and secure.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Open borders for dictators puts all Americans at risk of more 9/11 attacks imminent, as warned by the FBI. Trump is reinstituting existing laws to protect American families with peace through strength, revealing war criminal Putin's lies with the fake cease-fire of May 8-10 for a military parade, insulting President Trump's good faith efforts for a real cease-fire.

CUTS TO VA BENEFITS

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I recently visited the Bronx VA Medical Center in the Bronx, New York. This center serves many in my district, and I am grateful for the quality care they provide and for the groundbreaking research happening at this facility.

When a young person signs up to join the military, Americans make them a promise that we will take care of them for the rest of their lives because they have put on the uniform of this country and risked their lives for all of us.

That is why it is perplexing and unconscionable that this administration has proposed devastating cuts to VA healthcare and benefits, eliminating 80,000 staff who provide healthcare and benefits to veterans who have earned them.

More than a quarter of VA staff are veterans themselves. Cuts to the programs that provide home loan assistance to veterans, even cutting staff of the suicide crisis line that saves lives—for what? This message does not say: Thank you for your service. This is a slap in the face for those who have served.

My Democratic colleagues do not support these cuts, and this is an ideal moment for bipartisanship, where our Republican colleagues can join us in pushing back.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF SAMANTHA "SAMMY" SCHERBA

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

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of

Samantha "Sammy" Scherba. Sammy was just 28 when we lost her, a vibrant, artistic soul whose light touched every life that she encountered.

She had a massive heart, big enough to embrace the entire world. Whether it was people, animals, or even the tiniest of insects, Sammy believed that every living thing deserved love and compassion. She brought life back into withering plants and turned simple stones into stunning works of art.

In the end, she gave the ultimate gift: life to others through organ donation. At her honor walk at the Cleveland Clinic, more than 150 people lined the halls, a testament to her impact.

Sammy was a daughter, a sister, an aunt, and a friend. She loved deeply, and she was loved deeply.

I honor her family who are here today, who flew in from my district, Ohio 7.

May God bless her memory.

DEMOCRATS ARE FIGHTING BACK

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

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this week marks 100 days since Donald Trump's return to power, 100 days of destruction, chaos, and heartbreak, all rubber-stamped by congressional Republicans.

Trump promised to lower costs. Instead, extreme tariffs have driven up prices and tanked the stock market, gutting retirement savings.

Trump promised to protect Social Security. Instead, he is closing offices, firing workers, and making it harder for seniors to get the benefits that they earned.

Trump promised to fight for hard-working Americans. Instead, he is pushing a cruel budget that rips food and healthcare from children, from seniors, and from veterans, all to hand massive tax breaks to billionaires.

While families struggle, Trump plays golf, and his buddy, Elon Musk, is chainsawing the American Dream.

It has been 100 days of chaos, destruction, and heartbreak, and Democrats are fighting back.

FENTANYL AWARENESS DAY

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

Mr. McDOWELL. Mr. Speaker, today is Fentanyl Awareness Day, a day meant to spread awareness of a ruthless poison that has stolen the lives of too many of our sons, daughters, sisters, and brothers.

My family and I know this pain personally. My brother Luke was taken from us by a single pill laced with illegal fentanyl.

Mr. Speaker, so many families across our country have experienced this same pain. It is a tragedy, but we can-

not let heartache keep us down. Our family and this country, we do not weep in the wake. We rise, we fight, and we prevail.

When America enforces her laws, we win. Fentanyl trafficking is down 54 percent. Border encounters are down 93 percent. Thousands of MS-13 thugs have been thrown out.

This is no accident. It is the result of strong leadership, of resolve, and of putting America first.

I will continue to do my part and fight for families against this poison.

RECOGNIZING VIRGIN ISLANDS YOUTH

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize another example of the fierce brilliance of Virgin Islands youth.

This week, the champions of the U.S. Virgin Islands Regional Science Bowl, the St. Croix Educational High School and Church of God Holiness Academy, stand in Washington, D.C., not just as competitors but as symbols of excellence, Caribbean intellect, and Virgin Islands pride. They represent not just their school. They represent the potential and promise of our home.

As always, the small geographic space called the Virgin Islands does big "tings." These students are an example of the potential of the Virgin Islands. These are the future scientists, engineers, and innovators of America.

I thank the coaches and families for supporting our youth. I congratulate the students. I know they will represent us well in this week's competition and will remember to stay VI Strong.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 60, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RELATING TO "GLEN CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA: MOTOR VEHICLES"; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 78, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RELATING TO "ENDANGERED AND THREATENED WILDLIFE AND PLANTS; ENDANGERED SPECIES STATUS FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY-DELTA DISTINCT POPULATION SEGMENT OF THE LONGFIN SMELT"; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 87, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY RELATING TO "CALIFORNIA STATE MOTOR VEHICLE AND ENGINE POLLUTION CONTROL STANDARDS; HEAVY-