

and across the country, and I say to our Vietnamese veterans: Welcome home.

## CUTS TO CASA PROGRAMS

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, we have heard how the recent DOGE cuts are impacting Federal employees, seniors, and veterans, but these cuts are also impacting our children, particularly vulnerable children.

Recently, the Department of Justice announced the termination of Federal grants to support court-appointed special advocates, known as CASA programs.

CASA programs cultivate trained and appointed volunteers who advocate for abused and neglected children in the courtroom and beyond.

The children they serve often need to be removed from unsafe homes and placed in foster care. At a time when they need it most, the volunteers provide a voice for these children.

Fairfax County's CASA program, for instance, has served over 8,500 kids in our region, including 376 in this fiscal year. They do incredible work to help place children in permanent homes and set them on a path for a brighter future.

The funding CASA receives from the Victims of Crime Act is now on the chopping block. These cuts will put a strain on already stretched thin court-appointed special advocate teams in Virginia and around the country. The result? More vulnerable children with less support.

We must stop these cuts and fight to protect the children that these programs serve.

## OPPOSING CUTS TO PUBLIC MEDIA SYSTEM

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, finally, I rise today to address the administration's efforts to dismantle a cornerstone of American speech, our public media system.

The administration is calling on Congress to rescind appropriations for PBS and NPR, two public media institutions that have served Americans for nearly 60 years.

Each month, 36 million people watch their local PBS stations. PBS KIDS averages 15.5 million monthly users, including my kids. More broadly, PBS and NPR tell the American story through arts, culture, and history programs.

Let's be clear: This is not about budget cuts or making government efficient. This is a gutting of an institution that many people, especially those living in rural areas, rely on for information and trusted programming. In regions with limited or no broadcast access, PBS and NPR are among the few sources of media that people have to stay informed.

The administration argues that this move is necessary to prevent America's culture from being reengineered. Make no mistake: Cutting public media doesn't preserve our culture. It silences local voices, weakens civic engagement and education, and strips away the resources that help children learn.

Mr. Speaker, we must oppose these cuts.

## CONGRATULATING MCCUTCHEON HIGH SCHOOL'S MAVERICKS ROBOTICS TEAM

(Mr. BAIRD of Indiana was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor McCutcheon High School's Mavericks Robotics team, which won the 2025 FIRST Robotics Competition World Championship.

The Mavericks Robotics team competed against 3,700 teams from around the world just to clinch a spot in the world championship. Only 600 of those teams made the cut, and this robotics team won it all.

These talented students from McCutcheon High School dedicated 17 to 20 hours a week designing, building, and marketing their robot. Each of the students on the Mavericks Robotics team played a vital role in their global victory, from designing aspects of the robot, computer programming, crafting the physical build of the robot, or helping raise money for the project. These brilliant students should be proud of this truly outstanding accomplishment.

I congratulate the world champion McCutcheon Mavericks Robotics team.

## RECOGNIZING SERGEANT RODNEY JENKINS

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Sergeant Rodney Jenkins, a dedicated public servant who devoted over two decades to law enforcement in Montgomery County, Indiana.

At 19, Rodney became one of the first full-time male dispatchers at the Montgomery County Communications Center, and his career only flourished from there.

In 1998, Rodney Jenkins was hired as a jail officer and reserve deputy with Montgomery County Sheriff's office.

In 2000, he was hired as a road deputy, and 9 years later, he was promoted to sergeant.

His leadership, coupled with his dedication to both administrative and field duties, showcases his true passion for law enforcement and community service.

We are grateful for Sergeant Jenkins' exceptional service to our community, and I am proud to congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement.

## RETIREMENT OF DR. KAREN PLAUT

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Karen Plaut, the executive vice president for research at Purdue University who recently announced she will retire on June 30 of this year.

Dr. Plaut has a truly impressive career. Dr. Plaut attended the University of Vermont, received her master's from Pennsylvania State University, and received her Ph.D. in animal science from Cornell University. She held a fellowship at the National Cancer Institute at NIH and led breast cancer research at the University of Vermont.

Dr. Plaut then joined NASA and served as the lead scientist for the International Space Station Biological Research Project, working with engineers to build life science habitats for zero gravity.

Dr. Plaut joined Purdue University in 2010 and became executive vice president in 2023.

I wish Dr. Plaut the best of luck and congratulate her on her well-earned retirement.

## RECOGNIZING DR. JOHN SCAMAHORN

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor fellow Boilermaker Dr. John Scamahorn.

Dr. Scamahorn earned his degree in veterinary medicine from Purdue University in 1972 and has spent his career supporting veterinarians at the local, State, and national levels.

Dr. Scamahorn runs the Animal Medical Clinic in Greencastle, Indiana. He also helped found the Indiana Animal Health Foundation, which helps fund scholarships and service animals. He also has contributed significant time to 4-H members.

He received the Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine's Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2001 and the American Veterinary Medical Association Meritorious Service Award in 2022, which recognizes a veterinarian who has brought honor and distinction to the veterinary profession.

Indiana is proud to be the home for Dr. Scamahorn, and I thank him for his exceptional service to veterinarians and our communities.

## RECOGNIZING JINSIE BINGHAM

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Jinsie Bingham, a trailblazing broadcaster and lifelong Greencastle, Indiana, resident. She even graduated from DePauw University, located in Greencastle, in 1956. Her broadcasting career started when she joined the local radio station WJNZ, formerly known as WXTA, as the sales manager in 1969.

In 1977, Jinsie Bingham became the first woman in Indiana to own and operate a commercial radio station. She ran WJNZ, which is now known as WREB and serves Greencastle to this day. In 1996, she received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Indiana Chapter of American Women in Radio and Television.

Jinsie Bingham retired from broadcasting in 1994 but continues to be active in the Greencastle community to this day. She is also known as the unofficial historian for the area.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to know Jinsie Bingham, and I thank her for her decades of service to Greencastle.

## NIH CUTS AFFECTING CANCER PATIENTS

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

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, I got a call from a constituent whose 46-year-old son had just

been diagnosed with stage IV colon cancer back in December, and the whole family is now wondering whether he is going to live long enough to see his kids graduate from high school.

It is sad. We sort of shared the pain of fathers who lost kids, worried about losing kids. There is no need to tell anybody here that cancer sucks.

That wasn't why he called. He called because his son's doctors told him that as you go through the course of this treatment, typically, chemo stops working after about 6 months. You see some tumor reduction, and then it stops working. At that point, you really need to start looking for alternatives.

Typically, those alternatives mean you start getting into experimental trials. Those are no longer available because Trump and Elon Musk's cuts to NIH are forcing the local hospitals, the local universities, and the drug companies that would have done these clinical trials, to shut them down.

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As he put it to me: As a father, I have to balance hope with reality, but it seems like all I have right now is reality.

Then he said to me: Do the Republicans you work with know that they can get cancer, too? Are any of them going to stand up? Don't they get these calls from their constituents? Why don't they care?

I see them all looking away. How would you have me answer that question?

I tried. I did my best to explain the psychology of folks I work with who fear Trump more than they fear cancer. Mostly I just got sad because this is a guy who said I want hope; all I have is reality. What I want for hope is medicine, and all I could give him was political science to give him some reality.

These stories are in all of our districts. All of our constituents want hope. It is the least we can give them, and we are failing.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my Republican colleagues to just please grow a spine. Stand up. Give us some reason to hope. Give me a better answer to the next constituent who calls my office, or indeed yours, with those same questions.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF THOMAS BURTON MERRITT

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Thomas Burton Merritt, a veteran, a physician, and beloved member of his community.

Born on May 11, 1934, Thomas Merritt was a proud graduate of Auburn University, where he was a strong contributor to the Naval ROTC program and track team.

After graduating, he joined the Navy, completed his medical degree and

served with distinction as both a naval aviator and a psychiatrist.

With over 20 years of military service, he was awarded the National Defense Medal, the Naval Aviator Medal, and the Expert Medal for a .45-caliber pistol.

In 2008, he met the love of his life, Robbie "Honey" Merritt. Together they traveled the world from England to France, always finding time to cheer on their beloved Tigers.

His love for animals, especially the geese and ducks at Emerald Lake, earned him the nickname "Father Goose."

Dr. Merritt's warm smile, great sense of humor, and adventuresome spirit touched everyone who was fortunate enough to know him.

Mr. Speaker, his legacy of purpose, compassion, and courage will continue to be an inspiration. My thoughts and prayers are with Dr. Merritt's loved ones during this most difficult time.

#### RECOGNIZING THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thomasville, Georgia, which was named one of the best small towns in the South.

Thomasville is a charming town located in south Georgia, celebrated for its quaint, timeless charm, vibrant downtown, and diverse food scene.

The town boasts a rich history, characterized by Victorian architecture and brick-paved streets that line specialty shops and local restaurants.

Thomasville's culinary scene is praised as one of the best, specializing in southern classics and comfort foods. The Main Street program has been instrumental in revitalizing the downtown area, rehabilitating numerous buildings, and establishing over 350 new businesses since its inception.

Thomasville was honored with the Great American Main Street Award, highlighting its commitment to preserving its historic character while fostering economic growth.

Thomasville is the official Rose City of Georgia, hosting annual shows and festivals, attracting visitors worldwide. The warm community spirit and welcoming atmosphere make it a standout destination in the South.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the city of Thomasville on this recognition.

#### RECOGNIZING EFFINGHAM COUNTY COMMISSION CHAIRMAN WESLEY CORBITT

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Effingham County Commission Chairman Wesley Corbitt, who was recently honored for his 8 years of service.

During his two-term tenure as chairman, Mr. Corbitt embodied Effingham County's mission to provide through integrity, accountability, and transparency.

His exceptional dedication to public service promoted safety, health, and a high-quality of life for his customers and his constituents.

Mr. Corbitt's focus on disciplined zoning and master planning for industrial growth resulted in significant

achievements for Effingham County. These achievements include setting the stage for major upgrades in recreation, contributions to transportation challenges, and commonsense solutions to resolve water and sewer debt.

Mr. Corbitt's leadership and character were integral to the Effingham County Board. He encouraged the board to disagree without being disagreeable, creating an environment that promotes honesty, selfless service, and dedication to doing things the right way.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Corbitt for his years of selfless public service to the people of Effingham County.

#### HONORING THE LEADERSHIP OF CEO SUE ELSE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Sue Else, an extraordinary leader who is retiring as CEO of the Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia.

Under Ms. Else's leadership, the Girl Scouts continue to thrive, expanding opportunities, deepening community impact, and building the next generation of women leaders.

The Legacy of Leadership event that will be held in Savannah is not only a celebration of Girl Scouts' values, but a tribute to Sue's lasting impact on thousands of lives.

Ms. Else's passion, integrity, and vision has steered this organization through change and growth, always placing the girls at the center of her work.

As the birthplace of Girl Scouts founder Juliette Gordon Low, Savannah is the perfect setting to honor Ms. Else's legacy, which is marked by courage, commitment, and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I join the Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia, the Savannah community, and grateful families across the State in thanking her for her service. We wish her the very best in her well-earned retirement. Her legacy will continue to inspire young girls for years to come.

#### DTE RATE INCREASE

(Ms. TLAIB of Michigan was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, here we go again. DTE wants another rate hike, 11 percent this time. Our families can't afford more power outages in Michigan that wipe out groceries, spoil medicine, and leave our neighbors without critical medical devices, all because DTE would rather pad the pockets of their shareholders and executives than invest in reliability for our families.

We know that DTE charges some of the highest rates, Mr. Speaker, in the Nation, while they have some of the most unreliable service and they perform hundreds of thousands of utility shutoffs per year.

The company made \$1.4 billion last year alone. Their CEO made \$12.5 million last year. Investor-owned utilities like DTE will always put profits over the people they are supposed to serve.