

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I join my colleagues in commemorating a somber moment, the 50th anniversary of the Fall of Saigon and Black April.

Today is a moment to recognize and reflect on the courage of the Vietnamese people and their fight against a Communist dictatorship.

As a refugee whose family fled Soviet Ukraine with under 800 bucks, I connect deeply with that experience.

My family came to America in search of an opportunity to succeed, to achieve the American Dream. We worked hard, we served our country in the military, and now I serve my constituents in Congress. I will fight to keep the American Dream alive for anyone who wants to work for it.

Mr. Speaker, today, my thoughts are with my Vietnamese neighbors commemorating Black April.

As a 25-year Army veteran, I reaffirm my commitment to upholding the ideals that the Vietnamese refugee community risked everything to find: liberty, freedom, and opportunity.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF DEPUTY BRANDON SIKES AND PRAYING FOR SWIFT RECOVERY FOR DEPUTY GAVIN WHITE

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart this evening. On Saturday, April 26, Columbia County in my district experienced an unimaginable tragedy as one of our beloved law enforcement officers, Deputy Brandon Sikes, lost his life and Deputy Gavin White was severely injured while serving a temporary protective order.

This heartbreaking event serves as a profound reminder of their commitment to selfless service. As they often do, these officers choose to prioritize the safety of others above themselves, even in a life-threatening situation.

While our community grieves this tragic loss, I am reminded of John 15:13, "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."

Mr. Speaker, please join me in praying for Deputy Sikes' wife, Amber, their daughter, Lyndsey, and all of Brandon's loved ones as they continue to mourn this fallen hero.

Please also join me in praying for a swift recovery for Deputy White, as well as Sheriff Whittle and the entire Columbia County Sheriff's Department.

May God's grace be with our entire community as we continue to heal from this tragedy.

IMMIGRANTS ARE BEING TREATED WITHOUT BASIC DIGNITY AND BEING DENIED MEDICAL CARE

(Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, this administration's deportation process has been sloppy and reckless since day one. No due process and no transparency, just families being illegally ripped apart and left to fend for themselves.

In severe instances, innocent people have actually died, like Marie Blaise. She was a 44-year-old Haitian woman who was in ICE custody in Pompano Beach. Marie had been complaining about chest pain for hours. They gave her some pills and told her to go lie down. Unfortunately, Marie never woke up.

Her loved ones deserve answers. They deserve accountability, like so many immigrant families who have their loved ones missing and who are hurt. These conditions at the ICE facilities are inhumane and unsanitary.

Immigrants are being treated without basic dignity and being denied medical care. I am calling for a full and transparent investigation into Marie's death, and I will be visiting the Broward Transitional Center very shortly. It is this neglect and cruelty that is really hurting our American families who are being deported even at this moment.

Mr. Speaker, we must have transparency. We must have justice.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JACK EDWARD ERICKSON

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and legacy of the late Jack Edward Erickson, a beloved leader of our Newtown, Pennsylvania, community, and someone whose absence will be deeply felt.

For 96 extraordinary years, Jack Erickson lived a life of purpose and principle, defined by devotion to his family, service to country, and a deep commitment to his community.

A veteran of the United States Army, nationally recognized photographer, successful businessman, and a champion golfer, Jack excelled in literally every single role because he gave each one of them his full heart and his full measure of devotion, but it is how he gave back that truly defined Jack.

He dedicated decades of his life to his local Rotary club in Bucks County, proudly serving twice as president. He led the Pennsbury Scholarship Foundation with purpose and spent 31 years on the Upper Makefield HARB Board, helping shape and preserve our community's rich history.

Mr. Speaker, Jack had a way of lifting others up just by being himself. Whether supporting our students, mentoring our young leaders, or simply showing up for his friends and neighbors, he led with quiet strength and genuine care.

Mr. Speaker, we extend our deepest condolences to his children, his grand-

children, his great-grandchildren, and his loving partner, Mary Ann, and all who loved him.

Jack was a constant, someone who made our community stronger just by being a part of it. His legacy will live on in the lives he touched and the example he set.

Mr. Speaker, may his memory be a blessing and may he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING THE EXTRAORDINARY BRAVERY OF TESFAYE DEYASSO

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

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and recognize the extraordinary bravery of Tesfaye Deyasso, who was named the 2025 National Hero of the Year by the National Association of Letter Carriers.

On April 18, 2024, Mr. Deyasso witnessed a car drive off the highway and crash into a barrier, erupting into flames. Without hesitation, he rushed to the scene. Joined by a group of Good Samaritans, Mr. Deyasso worked tirelessly to pry the car door open, fighting against intense heat and smoke from the burning car to save the driver trapped inside.

Mr. Deyasso has been a proud member of the Minneapolis Branch 9 of the National Association of Letter Carriers for over 4 years. His heroism is a testament to the strength and compassion found in our community. I am proud to have Mr. Deyasso as a constituent, and I am honored to commend his bravery.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Tesfaye Deyasso on his remarkable and well-earned honor.

REPUBLICANS ARE PROTECTING AND PRESERVING MEDICAID FOR THE TRULY NEEDY

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

Mr. HARRIS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, you just heard right here on the floor that those mean Republicans are cutting Medicaid.

Let's set the record straight. As this graph shows, the Republican instructions don't cut Medicaid, they increase Medicaid by 25 percent over the next 10 years.

Even with common core math—I know it is popular on that side of the aisle—you can see that Medicaid expenditures of the Federal Government go up over the next 10 years with the Republican plan, even after eliminating fraud, waste, and abuse, which a clear majority of Americans agree we should eliminate across the Federal Government. We spend \$656 billion in fiscal year 2025 and, again, it goes up by 25 percent over the next 10 years. It is not only that, but Medicaid payments in some States' providers could

be two to three times the payment for Medicare to healthy, able-bodied young adults. That should scare each and every senior that we are spending more for medical care for healthy, able-bodied young adults than for our seniors. If you repeat a lie long enough, it becomes a truth, but this is a fact.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans are protecting and preserving Medicaid for the truly needy.

REOPENING OF SCOTLAND AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

(Mrs. McCLAIN DELANEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. McCLAIN DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a powerful moment of resilience and healing, the opening of Scotland African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

Scotland AME Church has been a beacon of faith, hope, and history for the predominantly African-American Scotland community in Montgomery County for over 100 years. Sadly in 2019, the community was devastated as floods literally wiped the church off the map.

Scotland refused to abandon their work and their legacy. After more than 5 years of hard work, and thanks to an extraordinary showing of support from the local community, I was honored this morning to join this Scotland congregation as they reopened the newly rebuilt church.

Mr. Speaker, local leaders and officials from across Maryland came to participate in the celebration because AME truly represents a story of struggle and triumph that defines the community, a perfect antidote of faith, love, hope, and community for our country during these turbulent times.

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ISLE OF EIGHT FLAGS SHRIMP FESTIVAL

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, according to Bubba from "Forrest Gump," there are 21 ways to prepare shrimp, but there is only one place you can experience all that and more: Fernandina Beach, Florida's Isle of Eight Flags Shrimp Festival. Can you believe, Mr. Speaker, this is the 60th year.

As Fernandina Beach's congressman and former mayor, I love to attend this event, which started out as shrimp boat races, but has grown into a massive festival celebrating delectable crustaceans.

From the thrill of the pirate invasion—arrgh—to the crowning of Miss Shrimp Festival to the irresistible aroma of wild-caught shrimp sizzling

across the waterfront, every corner of this festival reminds us of why we come together to celebrate our heritage as the birthplace of the modern shrimping industry.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to festival, this one is shrimply the best. I invite my colleagues and you, Mr. Speaker, to come shell-e-brate with us. It is always the first weekend in May.

LIVING UP TO THE PROMISE OF AMERICA

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

Mr. LICCARDO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Black April.

As Pulitzer Prize-winning author and one of San Jose's favorite sons, Viet Nguyen, has written: "All wars are fought twice; once on the battlefield and a second time in memory."

On this day, 50 years ago, fathers, mothers, sisters, and brothers looked out across a vast ocean as Saigon was falling behind them. Among them was Helen, my constituent, who watched as her aunt boarded a boat, and days later she would also follow the path of Vietnamese refugees on to San Jose in my district, which proudly boasts the largest population of ethnically Vietnamese people of any city in the world outside of Vietnam.

Helen's journey was filled with horror and hardship, but rooted in hope, hope for a life with freedom and opportunity. We must honor her hope by living up to the promise of America, by fulfilling our democratic values, and by embracing those who come to America from around the world earnestly seeking freedom, as she did.

CONGRATULATING BILL MCINNISH

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

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bill McInnish for his outstanding contributions to education and workforce development at Eau Gallie High School in Melbourne, Florida, where he teaches aviation fabrication and assembly technology.

His 27 years of technology and CTE teaching experience are best defined by his passion and dedication to helping students succeed in the aerospace industry. As a veteran of the Coast Guard, where he performed search and rescue missions, he established the first-ever aviation fabrication and assembly program in an economically disadvantaged high school.

Under his leadership, this program became the first in the Nation to award high school students with the National Aerospace/Aircraft Assembly certification.

It is with great pride that I recognize his exceptional achievements in build-

ing the local talent pipeline, with graduates securing positions at companies like SpaceX, Blue Origin, United Launch Alliance, and others.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Bill for his incredible contribution to our district.

EMPTY SHELVES AT FOOD BANKS

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening on behalf of the people I am privileged to represent in northwest Ohio: workers, family, farmers, and urban and rural communities where neighbors try to look out for one another.

However, too many families are struggling to put food on the table. They are being priced out of their own grocery store. Food prices have shot up—meat, milk, bread, eggs—basics that every family depends on. Households are getting buried under the weight of their grocery bill.

Now, to make matters worse, the Trump administration has unilaterally paused Federal food assistance and canceled shipments to food banks. We are feeling it. By withholding food and funds, the new administration has turned its back on the American people.

They feel the rising prices, and they feel the harm. Food banks in Ohio and across our Nation are seeing shelves go bare, school meal programs, senior nutrition, and food pantry lifelines short. The boxes going out to seniors don't have protein.

When Federal food dollars are cut off, it doesn't just hurt the hungry, it hurts the producers. Congress must restore these funds to feed our people, support the farmers, producers, and growers who make and grow what makes and grows America.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Apprenticeship Day and highlight the vital role apprenticeships play in shaping our workforce and expanding opportunity.

For thousands of years, apprenticeships have helped people learn valuable skills and secure meaningful careers, from blacksmiths of the past to today's electricians, software developers, and healthcare technicians.

Today, too many good-paying jobs go unfilled because workers lack the proper training. Apprenticeships help close that gap by combining classroom instruction with hands-on experience while participants earn a paycheck. They offer a debt-free, practical alternative to college that leads directly to stable, in-demand careers.