

Mrs. FEDORCHAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Minot, North Dakota, my husband's hometown, named one of the 2025 Great American Defense Communities.

Only three cities across the Nation received this honor, reflecting the remarkable commitment the people of Minot have shown to the men and women stationed at the Minot Air Force Base.

Through events like the Prairie Warrior Auction and efforts by local leaders and initiatives led by the Minot Area Chamber, this community goes above and beyond to welcome airmen and support their families.

Whether it is raising funds to send airmen home for the holidays or educating the Nation on nuclear deterrence, Minot leads with pride and purpose. Their motto sums it up best: Only the Best Come North.

Again, congratulations to the city of Minot on this well-earned recognition, and thanks to this amazing community for standing behind our military every day.

WINGS OVER WAYNE AIR SHOW

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Wings Over Wayne Air Show, hosted at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, North Carolina.

It was an incredible event that showcased the pride, professionalism, and precision of our Air Force, which brought our community together on Military Appreciation Day.

Seymour Johnson is a pillar in our community that drives our local economy and brings us pride and joy. The base reflects the deep bond between servicemembers and the people of eastern North Carolina.

With the roaring of the Thunderbirds, Wings Over Wayne celebrated freedom, patriotism, and community. I thank the men and women who continue to serve our country. They make us extremely proud.

FLOWER MOUND, TEXAS, NAMED BEST PLACE TO LIVE IN AMERICA

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

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a tremendous honor for the heart of Texas' 26th Congressional District, Flower Mound, Texas, named the best place to live in America. My family and I are blessed to call it home.

The distinction didn't come from luck. It came from leadership, vision, and a community where hometown charm meets national excellence.

In Flower Mound, top-tier schools set the standard, green spaces stretch for

miles, and small businesses like Flurry's Market + Provisions bring neighbors together. It is a town where families plant roots, where freedom is felt, and where opportunity isn't just a promise; it is a way of life.

At the heart of Texas-26, Flower Mound shows what happens when faith, family, and hard work form the foundation of a community.

I congratulate the local leaders whose dedication made this recognition possible. Flower Mound isn't just the best place to live in America, it is proof that the American Dream lives right here in north Texas.

IMPROVING BENEFIT AWARENESS FOR SERVICEMEMBERS

(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 urge my colleagues to support my bipartisan, bicameral legislation, H.R. 3159, the Improving SCRA Benefit Utilization Act.

The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act includes a specific benefit that caps interest rates on preservice debts like mortgages, credit cards, and auto loans, at 6 percent. Unfortunately, too few Active-Duty servicemembers even know about this hard-earned benefit, let alone use it.

My bill would address this knowledge gap by expanding military financial literacy programs. It would also require details of existing SCRA benefits on military activation orders.

Under H.R. 3159, creditors would be required to automatically apply the 6 percent cap to all accounts on active servicemember holds instead of requiring military members to request the cap account by account as they prepare to enter duty service.

My bipartisan legislation identifies commonsense opportunities to improve benefit awareness and utility. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to cosponsor this bill.

RECOVERING FROM NORTH CAROLINA FLOODS

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, many parts of Kentucky are just now recovering from a devastating flood that we saw a few weeks ago. I thank the first responders who were first on the scene, and thank our utility crews who worked day and night to restore utilities.

I want to let the families who lost everything know that if there is anything my office can do to be of any assistance, don't hesitate to reach out. President Trump has signed a declaration for individual assistance. FEMA should be on the ground, working with families to try to help identify any

type of assistance that the families in need can qualify for, and I encourage FEMA to continue to work with the local governments to ensure that the heavy burden of debris removal is reimbursed by the Federal Government. That is something that my office will continue to ensure to see that it happens.

We have had devastating floods. The government's responsibility is to help those in need, and that is what we expect to do. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to make that point loud and clear and hope that we can continue to work through the recovery phase.

HOLDING THIS ADMINISTRATION TO ACCOUNT

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

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, Donald Trump says that he isn't sure if he needs to uphold the Constitution. It is clear to all of us from his attacks on the courts, the rule of law, our democratic institutions, our civil and legal rights, an open and free press, the dismantling of Federal agencies, and attacks on our communities that, indeed, he does not know what his constitutional duties are.

I have to say, Mr. Speaker, we are a nation of laws, a nation governed by a Constitution of the people and by the people. Donald Trump and his administration are not above the law. We will hold them to account, and that is why we are here every day fighting back, pushing back, and defending our democracy and the rights of the American people.

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

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

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tireless dedication of our public servants.

Michigan is seeing the real-time impact of President Trump's and Elon Musk's mass firings. I have heard and seen people's fears firsthand at my townhalls because civil servants are the quiet force behind the services that hold our communities together.

When a farmer in west Michigan loses a season's worth of crops, it is the USDA employee who helps them adjudicate a crop insurance claim, making sure they can recover and keep food on our tables.

Public servants are the problem-solvers, neighbors, and first responders in times of crisis. They protect our food supply, ensure veterans receive their benefits, and respond when disaster strikes. These are the people who have devoted their careers to making our country better.

We must continue to honor and support our public servants, not only during Public Service Recognition Week,

but every week. Let us do right by them and the American people they serve.

REPUBLICANS ARE NOT CUTTING MEDICAID

(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, a lot of times on this floor and in the press you hear about how the Republicans somehow are cutting Medicaid or slashing Medicaid, but the facts are that in the Republican budget resolution, we increase Medicaid expenditures by at least 25 percent over the next 10 years.

Yes, we will fight fraud, waste, and abuse. We think the American people agree that fraud, waste, and abuse robs the Medicaid system from covering the people like the disabled, the elderly, pregnant women, and children. It robs money from those programs and wastes it.

Even after we eliminate fraud, waste, and abuse, we have enough to increase Medicaid expenditures by at least 25 percent over the next 10 years. Those are the facts. There is no cutting going on. There is no slashing. There is elimination of fraud, waste, and abuse, and it is about time that happened to the U.S. Government bureaucracy, not only in Medicaid, but across the government.

OUTRAGEOUS GOVERNMENT-FUNDED INCENTIVES

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. KNOTT of North Carolina was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KNOTT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARIDOPOLOS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. KNOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today alongside four of my esteemed colleagues to both highlight and condemn the misuse of taxpayer dollars funneled to illegal immigrants.

An outrageous pattern of perverse and intentional incentives reveal deliberate efforts to worsen the border crisis and to allow tens of millions of illegal aliens to invade our Nation at direct cost to the American taxpayer.

The Biden-Harris administration cycled through repeated falsehoods: claiming the border was secure, claiming they did not have what was needed to stop this invasion, claiming that they were helpless and needed Congress

to take the lead. Meanwhile, that same administration lined the pockets of leftwing NGOs to shower illegal immigrants with incentives in the form of open-ended access to your tax dollars.

Earlier this year, reports surfaced from the watchdog group, Open The Books, exposing Biden's Department of Health and Human Services for awarding shockingly large amounts of grants and dollars to nonprofits focused on aiding illegal immigrants, amounting to as high as 20 million people who illegally crossed into our country during Biden's term in office.

Taxpayer-funded awards paid for illegal aliens' housing, healthcare, education, even music lessons, therapy. You name it, the taxpayer covered it.

Using NGOs as a proxy, the Biden administration sent a clear message that our laws were not to be taken seriously, and living off of the American taxpayer was both acceptable and encouraged. The same people fueling this elaborate scheme also pushed a false narrative that supporting illegal activity somehow gives them a moral high ground. This, of course, is false.

Mr. Speaker, I am here to tell the American people that they are right to expect secure borders. They are right to demand law and order. They are right to be outraged that hundreds of billions of their dollars have gone to illegal aliens and politically connected NGOs who facilitated this recent invasion.

President Trump's swift actions to halt illegal crossings and to deport illegal aliens in his first 100 days has made one thing painfully clear: The Biden-Harris administration was never working to fix our immigration system. They actively and deliberately worked to undermine it.

The Center for Immigration Studies found illegal immigrants annually take—and this is a conservative estimate—nearly \$120 billion directly from public services, to include public schools, public welfare, and healthcare. Every American across the country should expect more from their government.

Joining me today are a few of my colleagues. I yield first to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MOORE), my fellow North Carolinian and a fierce border security advocate. Congressman MOORE has been a leading voice in the fight to reform FEMA and to ensure its funds go toward helping American citizens rather than to illegal immigrants, especially those recovering from Hurricane Helene.

Mr. MOORE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, just a couple things about Congressman KNOTT, for folks who don't know, before he was a Member of Congress here, he was actually a very well-esteemed prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's office. Congressman KNOTT has shared many stories where he was personally having to prosecute a lot of these violent gang members, these MS-13 gang members. For some reason, some of our colleagues want to go down

and hug a thug or something and see these folks down in Central America.

Mr. KNOTT was helping prosecute these folks, and I know the prosecutors were very frustrated at the time with what they were seeing with these open borders. I appreciate, one, what he did before he came to Congress; two, what he is doing now; and, three, hosting this opportunity today to bring attention of this to the American people.

□ 1430

Mr. Speaker, today, I rise on behalf of the people of North Carolina, particularly western North Carolina. I represent hardworking Americans playing by the rules, doing everything they can right—paying their taxes, raising their kids, and taking care of their neighbors whose lives were impacted substantially by Hurricane Helene that hit last year. It tore through our region. It destroyed roads. It destroyed homes. It took lives. It changed so many things.

I will say the good news is the resilience of North Carolinians, not only in government, not only in local government, but also in volunteers and the faith community. I see my good friend, Congressman HARRIS, over there. The churches stepped up in such a tremendous way to help folks out in a serious time of need to do what they needed to do.

We also saw where the Federal Government, in a lot of ways, failed to do the job. Under the past administration, we saw where FEMA wasn't doing the job. I am proud to say that under this new administration, FEMA is getting the job done. Many folks who didn't live there saw pictures of the mass destruction that was in western North Carolina and the lack of response in so many ways.

Just to kind of put some points on that with some numbers, according to the Department of Homeland Security's inspector general, FEMA could not account for \$7.4 million out of an audit sample of \$12.9 million. These sound like small numbers, but that is an audit sample. Think about that. That is 58 percent of those funds were either unsupported or not properly documented.

There was an example where one contractor billed \$9 million for labor and could only support or back up \$1.5 million of it. Another was reimbursed twice for the same \$40,000. Some grantees couldn't even prove they delivered services. FEMA had approved it all.

Then you compare things, Mr. Speaker, where folks were needing help, and they were getting the runaround and getting the delay. Again, I stress to folks that that has changed since January of this year. We are seeing FEMA getting the job done in a lot of ways. I will talk about what FEMA did with some of this other money in just a moment.

Here is another example of some mismanagement by the previous administration. Remember the so-called American Rescue Plan. Democrats passed a