

children he gifted an education to, the patients he helped to receive care, and the families who will never know his impact.

Roberta and I continue to think about Janet; his son, Jon; and all the family and wish them the best during these challenging times. Jim Ayers will be remembered for a long time in Tennessee for all of the good that he did for so many people.

#### RECOGNIZING JESSICA SUAREZ NIETO DURING TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, during Teacher Appreciation Week, I rise to honor Jessica Suarez Nieto, a middle school teacher at Telpochcalli School, a dual language school, recently named Bilingual Teacher of the Year by the Illinois State Board of Education.

As a young immigrant child who didn't speak English when I arrived in the U.S., I knew firsthand the impact that teachers like Ms. Suarez can have on their students.

Ms. Suarez is a champion of dual language education. She uses language as a bridge to connect with families, affirm cultural identities, and empower students. She helps them feel seen, heard, and confident in classrooms where they are often told to shrink or stay silent. She teaches her students more than just math. She teaches them that they matter. She gives them a voice.

I thank Ms. Suarez for being an incredible teacher and for her work and deep commitment to her students.

#### CELEBRATING CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF LEYDEN HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a century of excellence in public education, the 100-year anniversary of Leyden High School District No. 212, proudly serving the western suburbs of Chicago.

What began as a 2-year school in a portable building has grown into a thriving, two-campus district. East Leyden and West Leyden, now serving more than 3,300 students with over 200 dedicated teachers.

Rooted in blue and gold and soaring under the banner of the eagle, Leyden's commitment to academic and artistic excellence has inspired pride, unity, and spirit across the district's communities.

True to its mission to educate, enrich, and empower, Leyden does more than reach; it uplifts. It lives by one simple, powerful motto: Do What's Best for the Kids.

I congratulate the students, teachers, alumni, and school leaders of this century of service. Here is to the next 100.

#### MIGRANT ABDUCTION

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to sound the alarm on a crisis threatening our democracy.

President Trump has defied a unanimous Supreme Court order blocking the return of Kilmar Abrego Garcia and, instead, vanishing him to a prison in El Salvador without a trial, without a hearing, and without a shred of justice.

This isn't just cruelty, but it is lawlessness. It is a direct assault on our values and the rule of law. He was abducted from his home and sent to a foreign prison infamously known for human rights violations. When the President defies the courts, he crosses the line into tyranny. He is even arresting judges whom he sees as standing in his way.

When tyranny takes root, no one is safe. Today, it is immigrants with tattoos, 2-year-olds, and even children with cancer. Tomorrow, it could be anyone who falls out of favor, even Republicans who don't clap long enough or make the pilgrimage to Mar-a-Lago to kiss the ring.

We have to stand up for our rights and for the rule of law not just for Kilmar but for the future of our Republic.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

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#### HONORING BORDER PATROL AGENT HECTOR MORENO, JR.

(Ms. DE LA CRUZ of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Border Patrol Agent Hector Moreno, Jr., for his 27 years of service.

Born and raised in McAllen, Texas, Mr. Hector Moreno, Jr., pursued a career of selfless service to our community. He joined the Border Patrol in 1997 and, for nearly three decades, set a high standard for his fellow agents by upholding their core values: service to country, integrity, and vigilance.

During Mr. Moreno's tenure, he successfully led specialized operations in the Rio Grande Valley to combat transnational crime and tackle illicit drug trafficking at our southern border.

I had the opportunity to join Mr. Moreno in south Texas to participate in a ride-along, hear from Border Patrol agents, and experience their day-to-day assignments to protect our communities.

Last summer, Mr. Moreno retired as the division chief for the Rio Grande Valley Sector. We are grateful for his honorable service and exemplary leadership to his fellow agents and our community. In his retirement, he continues to serve others as a criminal justice teacher at Nikki Rowe High School and leads the student criminal justice club in McAllen.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I thank Mr. Moreno for his selfless service, and I

congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement.

#### HONORING SMALL BUSINESS OF THE MONTH MATT'S BUILDING MATERIALS

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Matt's Building Materials as Texas' 15th District's Small Business of the Month.

In the wake of Hurricane Beulah in 1967, Matt's Building Materials, then known as Valley Cash & Carry Building Materials, was founded to help the community rebuild from the severe damage the hurricane caused in the Rio Grande Valley.

Several years later, Ira Matt took over the company and brought Danny Smith on board to manage their various locations. At the time, Matt's was the only lumberyard and building material store to cater to the Hispanic community.

Challenges were brought on throughout the decades, but the team at Matt's always stayed true to their values and dedication to faith, family, and service.

Four generations of Matt's have operated the business, and today, the business is run by Danny's son, Jeremy, alongside his brothers.

Their team goes above and beyond to help south Texans across our communities build and rebuild homes. By providing high-quality service and building materials, the family-owned small business has become an integral part of our south Texas community.

In 2022, disaster struck when their flagship location in Pharr caught fire. Their physical store was lost, but their commitment to community was strong. Through unwavering faith and teamwork, their service to the community was able to resume as the team rebuilt their Pharr location.

Today, their commitment to community lives on. Following the devastating flooding in south Texas earlier this year, the team immediately launched a flood relief program to help those who are rebuilding from the flood damage, just like they did over 50 years ago.

Through faith and hard work, no challenge is impossible to overcome, and we are so grateful to have businesses like theirs in south Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the team at Matt's for all they do for our community, for south Texas, and for our State.

#### CELEBRATING MOTHER'S DAY

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, as the chair of the Congressional Mamas Caucus and a mother of two incredible boys, I rise today to celebrate Mother's Day.

I recognize the strength and love that mothers bring to our families and our neighborhoods, yet too often mothers are left behind in this Chamber.

In the richest country in the world, Mr. Speaker, no mother should worry about feeding her children or affording

basic care. Ending child poverty is a policy choice. I introduced the End Child Poverty Act to provide a universal child benefit for every child in our country and cut child poverty by 60 percent.

Paid leave, affordable childcare, and universal school meals should be a guarantee, not a privilege.

I also introduced and helped cosponsor the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act to ensure that all mothers are safe, respected, and supported. We know that Black women are three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes.

This week, I am proud that the Congressional Mamas Caucus is launching Mamas for Medicaid, as we see, again, many folks in this Chamber cutting a lifeline for so many mothers and families across our country.

An \$880 billion cut to Medicaid would be devastating, so this Mother's Day, I am asking all of my colleagues to not only thank our mothers but do it with action as we recommit to fighting for the dignity and health of every mother in our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all the amazing mothers of the 12th Congressional District and wish a happy Mother's Day to all of our mamas. We see and honor them, and we must, again, be able to celebrate them with action.

#### STARVATION IN GAZA

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, using starvation as a weapon is a war crime.

For over 2 months, the Israeli Government has completely and deliberately blocked food, water, medical supplies, and fuel from entering Gaza and targeting local aid convoys.

At least 57 Palestinians, including children, have already starved to death. Over 9,000 children are already experiencing malnutrition.

Palestinians have been forced to eat grass, dirty flour, and animal feed just to survive, while thousands of trucks carrying food and lifesaving aid have sat blocked at the border because of the Israeli Government.

Palestinians deserve to live. Instead of agreeing to an offered cease-fire and the release of all hostages, war criminal Netanyahu announced his plans to forcibly expel and ethnically cleanse the entire Palestinian population and to flatten and annex Gaza.

This was always the plan, and I am waiting for my colleagues in this Chamber to call it out. Our country is an accomplice in this genocide, and the world is letting it happen. The only path to make it stop is an arms embargo. Americans overwhelmingly support it. We should listen to our residents and save lives now.

Silence here on starvation is supporting this war crime.

#### UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN STUDENT RIGHTS

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, from the university president to its board of regents, from the State attorney general to the White House, University of Michigan students and faculty exercising their rights to speak out against

genocide have been under attack from all sides.

From selective prosecutions to eight faculty members being fired for attending protests, the university has damaged its reputation while putting its full weight into suppressing speech and First Amendment rights.

Their courageous solidarity movement has been undaunted, and this past week has offered a ray of hope that the Constitution still applies on campus, Mr. Speaker. It doesn't end when you enter a campus.

First, the university president responsible for suppressing student rights, gutting DEI, and rolling over for the Trump administration resigned and fled to another State. Then, the attorney general in Michigan was forced to drop felony charges against campus protesters before a judge could rule on whether to remove her from the cases due to bias.

This coordinated smear campaign is especially outrageous and egregious as Michigan prides itself on being an incubator for protests and social justice movements, where students are inspired to hold the powerful accountable and make the world a better place, but there is an exception for Palestinians.

All across campus, historic divestment campaigns, from apartheid in South Africa to fossil fuels, are celebrated. Yet, there is an exception for Palestine when it comes to free speech, and it remains strong.

Whether intentionally or not, Mr. Speaker, its proponents are playing directly into the Trump administration's hands as they seek to destroy universities as we know them.

These governmental overreaches and power grabs are test cases, and their impacts won't be confined to college campuses. Mr. Speaker, you don't have to agree with their speech to understand what is at stake when their rights are being threatened.

#### CELEBRATING NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

(Mr. MOYLAN of Guam was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate national teachers week and to express my deepest gratitude to the dedicated and hardworking educators who shape the minds and futures of our next generation.

Teachers are the heart of our schools and the soul of our communities. In Guam, like every other corner of America, we see that every day. Our educators in the Guam Department of Education wear many hats. They are not only teachers but mentors, counselors, coaches, and role models.

This past year, our teachers have faced enormous challenges such as recovering from the effects of typhoons and teaching in aging and damaged infrastructure. Despite this, our teachers have remained committed to our students and to the mission of education.

As a member of the Education and Workforce Committee, I am committed

to ensuring our teachers get the support and resources to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, I thank every teacher in Guam and across the country for going to work with dedication and love. I thank them for investing in the next generation of leaders, thinkers, and changemakers.

#### CELEBRATING ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

This month, we honor the cultures, histories, and contributions of AAPI communities across the United States, and especially in places like my district of Guam.

In Guam, we are surrounded by the heritage of Asian and Pacific Islander cultures every day. From our Chamoru traditions to our rich multicultural identity, many cultural aspects are woven into every part of island life. From language and family to service and resilience, Guam's people have answered our Nation's call in times of war and peace, contributed to our economy, enriched our culture, and stood as a strategic cornerstone in the Pacific.

As I stand here today representing the island of Guam, I am committed to ensuring that our voice on the national stage is seen, heard, and respected.

This AAPI Heritage Month, let us celebrate the differences that strengthen us and reaffirm our commitment to creating communities that bring people together here, across the Pacific, and in Guam.

#### OPPOSING ILLEGAL POWER GRABS

(Mr. ESPAILLAT of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Trump administration's illegal power grabs.

Through executive orders, the Trump administration continues to circumvent Congress and violate the checks and balances of our three branches of government. He also continues to ignore court orders, including from the highest Court in the land, the U.S. Supreme Court, inching every day closer and closer to a constitutional crisis.

□ 1030

Mr. Speaker, in addition, Senate and House Republicans have made it clear time and time again that they have no interest in holding the President accountable to the American people and the Constitution of the United States of America, leaving the judicial branches of government as our strongest tool, leaving the courts as our only hope.

Within hours of taking office, President Trump issued an executive order that would have unlawfully denied birthright citizenship, which is guaranteed to everyone born in America by the 14th Amendment. He did this although this principle has been affirmed