

West Chatham County, and Effingham County as a pharmacy technician.

Linda began serving patients at Elliott's Drugs and continued her work at Rupert Heller's Prescriptions, at Carter's Pharmacy, and, most recently, at Pooler Pharmacy.

Throughout the years, she provided crucial healthcare services to generations of patients, counseling and aiding patients, and providing for their healthcare needs. Patients depended on her. She took care of them, and she became a trusted resource for their healthcare needs.

Linda recently announced her well-deserved retirement and now will devote her full talents and attention to her family: her husband, Jimmy; her children, Jan and Jared; and her grandchildren, Carly, Abby, and Coleman.

We congratulate Linda on her retirement. A grateful community thanks her for her devotion to providing quality healthcare to generations of our community.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF ELAINE WYNN

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

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the loss of a true caretaker of Las Vegas, my dear friend and mentor, Elaine Wynn.

There are no words and certainly not enough time to express my sadness and share the enormous impact that Elaine had on Las Vegas, on Nevada, and on this country.

Her trailblazing philanthropy touched the lives of millions, whether it was a kid able to play in afterschool sports, a struggling student who was able to graduate high school, or a kid who received food backpacks each weekend. Of course, there was her strong support of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Elaine was an incredible businesswoman because her bottom line started with taking care of her employees first and her customers second.

While my heart is still heavy, I can't be anything but grateful that I was able to know her and to learn so much from such an amazing woman. Her memory and impact will be felt forever.

CELEBRATING NCAA DIVISION II NATIONAL CHAMPION REECE BARNHARDT

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

Mrs. FEDORCHAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an incredible athlete and a historic moment for North Dakota. Reece Barnhardt of Bismarck has made history as the first NCAA Division II national champion in the University of Mary's wrestling program.

With a dominant 10-4 victory, Reece showed the Nation what we in North Dakota have long known. His toughness, work ethic, and determination set him apart. Success like this takes years of discipline, sacrifice, and resilience.

I have had the privilege of watching Reece compete long before he stepped onto the national wrestling stage. He played football with both my sons at St. Mary's Central High School in Bismarck, and I loved watching him fly down the field with reckless abandon. He was fearless then, and he is fearless now.

Reece's journey is an inspiration to young athletes across our State. His hometown, his school, and all of North Dakota are proud of him. We congratulate Reece on this well-earned and well-deserved national title.

PENDING OPM CLAIMS

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I have been hearing from so many constituents in northern Virginia about the Office of Personnel Management. That is because there are 16,000 retirement claims pending at OPM, and a lot of them are my constituents.

We were making progress towards reducing that backlog. Then what happened? DOGE and this administration came in and started indiscriminately firing OPM employees. This even included the congressional liaisons who help our offices resolve retirement issues for Federal retirees.

I have heard directly from my constituents who spent their careers serving this country. These folks are now waiting months or even years for their retirement benefits that they earned. This backlog directly impacts their ability to pay their bills, remain financially stable, and live with dignity.

Our constituents are paying the price, and we are hearing about it. Let's inject some common sense and fix this process instead of firing key staff for short-term savings.

UNLEASHING AMERICAN ENERGY AND BUILDING A STRONGER ECONOMY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, the House Natural Resources Committee is doing exactly what we said and what President Trump has called for. We are unleashing American energy and using our own resources to build a stronger economy.

Through budget reconciliation, we are generating over \$18.5 billion in savings and new revenue by getting Washington out of the way and letting

Americans do what we do best, which is work and produce.

We are expanding clean, safe energy production here at home and ramping up mining for critical minerals so we are not relying on China. We are cutting the red tape that blocks progress.

We are also protecting taxpayers by managing our forests and public lands better, so we are not paying out billions later in disaster response, wildfire costs, and cleanup. We are reversing the Biden policies that locked up land, killed jobs, and handed too much power to Federal bureaucrats.

Mr. Speaker, the plan is really about energy, jobs, and putting America first. It is long overdue.

OPPOSING REPUBLICAN BUDGET PLAN

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

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Republican's budget plan that would gut funding for Medicaid. In 2023, my home State of North Carolina achieved a historic victory by finally implementing Medicaid expansion after a decade of political gridlock.

Medicaid expansion has helped new moms and their babies during a critical phase of life. It has supported older Americans living in nursing homes. It has ensured that individuals with disabilities get the care that they need.

Republicans want to roll back this progress to pay for tax cuts for billionaires. Their current budget would immediately terminate Medicaid expansion, ripping away healthcare from more than 600,000 North Carolinians and shuttering rural hospitals that may never be able to open their doors again.

Mr. Speaker, don't be fooled. The Republican budget is cruel, and it will cost the lives of North Carolinians.

CLEANING UP MEDICAID ROLLS

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, evidently, this is what gutting Medicaid looks like. You see it goes up 25 percent over 10 years. This only happens in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, the difference between the last administration and the current one is the last administration restricted the States from cleaning up the Medicaid rolls and verifying eligibility. I don't know what coalition in the House of Representatives is for that. Apparently, it is the same one that is for over \$100 billion lost annually to improper payments.

There is a coalition here, Mr. Speaker, that wants to take tax dollars and pay \$100 billion, losing it annually to improper payments. What we are asking the States to do is verify eligibility

and issue payments to protect people in poverty, pregnant women, the disabled, and children.

Mr. Speaker, what the Republican plan is doing is saving Medicare for the people it was intended to be there for.

HONORING GEORGE TORRES AND URSULA CRUZ-GREENE

(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, today, I honor George Torres and Ursula Cruz-Greene from Bronx Community Board 12 which serves the north Bronx neighborhoods including Wakefield and Edenwald in the 16th Congressional District. My friend, RITCHIE TORRES, represents other neighborhoods in this area.

George Torres is the district manager of Community Board 12. Born and raised in the Bronx, his parents still live in the Parkchester home that he grew up in.

After serving in several roles in the Bronx for city and State officials, including Jose Serrano and Mayor Bloomberg, George joined Community Board 12 in 2015. His experience makes him a tremendous liaison for public officials and community leaders in the Bronx.

Ursula Cruz-Greene is the community coordinator and has been with Community Board 12 since 1995. She started as a temporary employee, and her hard work paid off. She became a permanent employee 6 months later. Ursula's dedication to the community is clear to anyone who knows her.

Mr. Speaker, our community is lucky to have such dedicated public servants like Ursula and George.

INCREASING MEDICAID FUNDING

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

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, the original Medicaid program was designed to help the disabled, pregnant women, seniors, and children.

Then there was this expansion that came along, and it is filled with able-bodied adults of working age who could be working. That is the fastest growing program in the United States today. They pay out about \$100 billion a year in lost payments.

The Republicans want to deal with that. How we deal with it is an increase in funding over the next 10 years of 25 percent. We just heard somebody say we are going to gut it. Only in Washington, D.C., would someone say an increase in spending is a cut. That is the weirdness of this place, but this is the reality. These are the facts right here.

□ 1800

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

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

Mr. MIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tracy Havens, a second grade teacher at Hicks Canyon Elementary School in my district. Tracy has taught our kids in Irvine for the past 20 years and had the honor recently of being 1 of 6 educators out of 20,000 across Orange County to be selected as Orange County Teacher of the Year.

Tracy is known for her outstanding ability to build a positive classroom culture and to find creative ways to engage her students. Tracy goes above and beyond outside of the classroom, as well. She mentors teacher candidates and serves as a lead math model for her district while also helping her students leave their mark through community initiatives.

Teachers like Tracy inspire us all and are the foundation of the American Dream.

As a product of California public schools myself, the father of three young kids in California public schools, and a former educator, I know how important public education is for economic advancement.

Dedicated teachers like Tracy who go the extra mile for their students are the key to a good public education.

I congratulate Tracy on earning Teacher of the Year, and I thank the thousands of teachers across Orange County for their tireless work for lifting up future generations.

MEDICAID

(Mr. BRECHEEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BRECHEEN. Mr. Speaker, Medicaid was created to provide health insurance for the poor, blind, disabled, pregnant, and elderly. Mr. Speaker, as you can see from this Paragon chart, Medicaid is no longer for the poor and now serves more people living above the poverty line than below it.

Additionally, since 2012, the Medicaid population has grown 60 percent, while the U.S. population has only grown about 6 percent according to the Foundation for Government Accountability.

Following ObamaCare's Medicaid expansion, able-bodied adults now make up its largest subgroup according to FGA. Democrats claim these able-bodied adults are working, but these claims are derived from self-reported data relying on sample sizes as small as a few dozen.

In reality, FGA has records for 21 million beneficiaries among 23 States showing that 6 in 10 of these able-bodied beneficiaries do not work at all.

As more able-bodied individuals are added to Medicaid, truly needy and disabled Americans are being displaced from priority services. 700,000 disabled

Americans are stuck on Medicaid wait lists while able-bodied adults above the poverty line have access to taxpayer-funded healthcare.

The goal of social programs should never be to gain able-bodied enrollees, but to decrease government dependency and help them escape poverty as shown during this chart's depiction of the Contract With America and the first Trump administration time period.

RECOGNIZING TED POULIOT

(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 today to recognize Ted Pouliot for a lifetime of service supporting our Minneapolis community.

As a senior at DeLaSalle High School in Minneapolis in 1952, Ted first started volunteering at House of Charity's dining hall to help feed Minnesotans going hungry. This was just the start of his decades of service.

Later in life, Ted founded the Minneapolis affordable housing nonprofit, Project for Pride in Living, helping folks find stable housing.

Now, at 91, Ted paints to raise funds for nonprofits throughout Minneapolis. This past weekend, he raised \$12,000 at his art sale to benefit nonprofits working to end homelessness and address hunger for Agate Housing and Services, Groveland Emergency Food Shelf, and Sabathani Food Shelf.

Ted truly embodies what it means to live a life of service. It is truly an honor to recognize him here today.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF EDWARD "CHIP" CHIDESTER

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

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, it is very important that we here in the Chamber discuss the truths behind Medicaid and how we are working to save it.

However, today, right now, Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart to honor the life and service of a local hero from my district, Assistant Fire Chief Chip Chidester of the Harford Volunteer Fire Company in Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania.

Sadly, Chip passed away on April 27 from complications stemming from injuries he sustained in an early March fight against a fire in his community.

Chip grew up in the firehouse, volunteering from a young age, alongside his father who had served as assistant chief. His early calling turned into a lifetime of service; 40 years with the department, Mr. Speaker, including 29 years as assistant chief.

Chip was a mentor to younger members, served on several truck teams, and was a trusted, steady presence in the firehouse and in the community.