

### RECOGNIZING GLADYS AND NELSON GONZALEZ

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

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak for my constituents, Gladys and Nelson Gonzalez.

Thirty-five years ago, they came to the United States from Colombia in search of a better life. They tried to file for asylum but received bad legal advice from a now-disbarred attorney.

Nelson and Gladys Gonzalez raised three daughters in Laguna Niguel, California, worked hard, paid taxes, and never got so much as a traffic ticket.

For decades, they checked in with ICE voluntarily and were allowed to stay in the country, but this past February, while at their ICE appointment, they were detained, separated, and deported.

Why was a family with no criminal history, no gang affiliation, three children, and a new grandchild a priority for deportation? We should be using our resources to remove dangerous individuals, not those contributing positively to our society and to our economy, not people like Nelson and Gladys Gonzalez.

I am all for a secure border, but what we are seeing today is not the America that I know.

□ 1115

### FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the MIL-FMLA act, legislation that honors the sacrifices of our military families and veterans by ensuring they receive the family and medical leave protections they deserve. I am honored to co-lead this bipartisan legislation with Congresswoman MCCLAIN DELANEY.

Too often, the loved ones of our servicemembers are left behind without adequate support when duty calls. The MIL-FMLA act fixes this by extending the Family and Medical Leave Act benefits to family members of the National Guard and Reserve troops, recognizing the unique burdens they bear when their loved ones are deployed.

This act also extends these same protections to our veterans and their families, ensuring they can take the time they need to care for their health without fear of losing their jobs. This is not just about fairness, it is about readiness. When families are supported at home, our servicemembers can focus on the mission.

As the proud Representative of Guam, where service to our Nation runs deep, I urge my colleagues to stand with our military families and pass this bill without delay.

### MEDICAL DEBTS OF TRIBAL MEMBERS

(Ms. SCHRIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHRIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to encourage the House to take up and pass my bill, the Purchased and Referred Care Improvement Act.

This bill works to correct an all-too-common occurrence, which is that Tribal members are referred to collection agencies because the Indian Health Service failed to pay its bills.

Sometimes Tribal members utilizing the Indian Health Service will be referred to an outside specialist or another provider, and this is what is known as purchased and referred care. IHS is still responsible for the payment of this care but all too often fails to follow through on that obligation. These unpaid bills often lead to Tribal members paying those themselves and being saddled with medical debt that they should never have incurred in the first place.

Chairman Jarred Erickson and members of the Colville Tribe came and visited my office. We talked about this, and they brought it to my attention. Colville Tribal members have been hounded by debt collection agencies for bills that the Indian Health Service failed to pay.

This bill would ensure that this never happens again and that Tribal members will not be burdened with IHS' debts or saddled with medical debt. I thank Chairman Erickson and the Colville Tribe for their advocacy, and I encourage the House to pass this bill.

### HIGH-COST RAIL IN CALIFORNIA

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, in California, we have this high-speed rail project. I call it high-cost rail because it has become a symbol of runaway spending and is, indeed, a complete boondoggle.

Back when the original bond was passed in 2008 by a narrow margin by the voters of California, it was about a \$9 billion bond. The rail was supposed to be a total cost of \$33 billion from San Francisco to L.A. It has ballooned up to \$130 billion in projected costs, and that was 17 years ago. So far there is hardly any infrastructure that has been built.

What do you have? Over 17 years they have managed to raise about \$17 billion from cap-and-trade tax in California and two different disbursements from Democratic Presidencies. In 17 years—check this—they have raised \$17 billion. They are short \$110 billion to complete the project. Not only that, they are at least 25 years behind. It was supposed to have been done by 2020, and now they project, maybe we will have the first segment from Merced to a

town called Shafter, somewhere near Bakersfield, done by maybe 2035 or 2040.

They are going to come back to D.C. for more money. Not a chance. This thing needs to be stopped and put it into infrastructure that people need, like freeways and stuff like that.

### CONGRATULATING MATRIX M3 INDOOR PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

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

Mrs. SYKES. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Matrix M3 indoor percussion ensemble as Ohio's 13th Congressional District Champions of the Week.

Last month, the M3 percussion ensemble performed at the WGI World Championships. After their preliminary performance left them just two points in the lead, M3 gave it their all in the finals, securing the first place prize. They are now world champions in the Scholastic Independent division after earning a final and near-perfect score.

The WGI Championship was the final competition in the Matrix M3 percussion ensemble's busy season, after competing in seven different contests across the Midwest. The group is a perfect example of why Ohio's 13th Congressional District is known as the birthplace of champions. I look forward to seeing all that they accomplish in the future.

Once again, I congratulate the Matrix M3 indoor percussion ensemble for bringing home this gold medal. Our community is so very proud of their hard work and incredible talent.

### THANKING W. KAMAU BELL FOR HIS GENEROUS DONATION TO OAKLAND SCHOOLS

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

Ms. SIMON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to address the House to celebrate my constituent, W. Kamau Bell, who won "Celebrity Jeopardy!" It is a pretty cool thing. Not only did he win "Celebrity Jeopardy!" but as a constituent who has lived in my district in Oakland, California, since the 1990s, he has consistently given back philanthropically to young people and underserved communities, again for almost 30 years.

After winning "Celebrity Jeopardy!" just recently, he gave a million dollars—the full winnings—back to the community, specifically to the school district in Oakland, California. His donation has supported over 200 projects in Oakland schools, including Castlemont High School.

Just recently, I visited Castlemont High School and met with these amazing students, who are full of potential. These students are not only the future,

they are the now. Many teachers across our school districts, in my district and throughout the country, are going in their own pockets to buy support services for students and their own supplies. Kamau's philanthropic spirit will reduce that reality for our teachers.

I am so proud to call him not only my constituent but a leading voice in the United States. I thank Kamau so much.

#### NATIONAL AMERICAN BIRDING WEEK

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight a bipartisan resolution introduced alongside my northwest Ohio colleague, BOB LATTA. It proclaims May 9 to May 18, 2025, as National American Birding Week.

Each spring, 3.5 billion birds from over 350 species migrate through the United States to their breeding grounds. They stop along the shores of our Great Lakes flyway before continuing their journey to Canada and beyond. They don't have to pay any tariffs.

Birding in our abundant freshwater kingdom draws environmental stewards from around the globe. Nationwide, 95 million birders generate over \$90 billion annually for our economy.

The biggest week in American birding is sponsored by the Black Swamp Bird Observatory in Oak Harbor, Ohio. This event leverages public-private partnerships to promote conservation of migratory bird populations and promote millions of dollars of economic development through nature tourism, research, education, and outreach.

Ohio is proud to host our guests from near and far. We welcome everyone during America's Birding Week. Let this continue for generations to come.

#### A FREE PRESS IS VITAL TO DEMOCRACY

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

Ms. STANSBURY. Madam Speaker, in Donald Trump's America, not even Elmo is safe because over the last 100 days, we have seen an unprecedented attack on the media, and especially our public media.

Let me say this: The freedom of the press and freedom of speech are not a privilege. They are enshrined in the United States Constitution, vital to our democracy and to accountability.

However, we have seen attack after attack, threats on the media and communications companies, outlets replaced in the Pentagon, an order attacking PBS and NPR just this very week, and an attempt to throw the AP out of the White House for daring to tell the truth.

These attacks are not just an outrage, they are an attack on our freedom, our democracy, and our rights as Americans, which is why I rise today to stand for and fight for a free and fair press, because it is vital to our democracy.

#### PROTECTIONS FOR FIREFIGHTERS

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

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Madam Speaker, 2 days ago I got a text from a firefighter in my district saying: Get a rare blood cancer and find out there is no firefighter cancer registry. The cancer registry is hosted by NIOSH, and on April 1 and last week, the agency was gutted.

In Gresham, Oregon, there was an investigation because we had a firefighter who spent months in the hospital after surviving a flash fire, and the investigators were fired in the middle of the investigation.

I come from a family of firefighters, one of whom just got diagnosed with Parkinson's after spending months at the World Trade Center.

The fact of the matter is, on 9/11 my Republican colleagues will fall all over themselves to thank firefighters and say how they will never forget. I will tell you something, we are going to never forget the deafening silence and the inaction as these investigators and protections for firefighters who put their lives on the line, they did nothing and let them die. We will never forget.

#### CONGRESS MUST PROVIDE CHECKS AND BALANCES

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

Mr. LATIMER. Madam Speaker, allow me to paint a picture of a country: threats to the media to control the flow of information to the citizenry; cutting funds to childhood education, higher education, and the arts to limit free and independent thought; telling families it is time to tighten their wallets for the greater good; a focus on investing in prisons; members of the judiciary jailed for following the law; military parades that celebrate the leader.

When Americans hear this, we associate them with the likes of Lukashenko of Belarus or Kim Jong-Un of North Korea, but these are all examples of our country, the United States of America, in the last 3 months and what is planned.

Fear is the ultimate goal of leaders like this. We need to stand up for freedom and democracy or we may lose them forever. This Congress must stop being a rubberstamp for this President and perform its constitutional duty as a check and a balance.

□ 1130

#### SUPPORTING CASA

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

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the Court-Appointed Special Advocates program, also known as the CASA program, through the Department of Justice.

As a prior township trustee in northwest Indiana, I was involved in a program that went into the schools to assist children who experienced abuse and sexual harm. For survivors, having someone with CASA in their corner became their lifeline through that painful experience.

A family friend became a survivor at just 4 years old. Today, as a college student, she volunteers for CASA, driven by the advocates who once stood by her. She is proof that hope creates change. She asked me to fight.

It is a painful truth that the administration has moved to eliminate funding for this critical program. As a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee that funds the Department of Justice, I believe that our Nation's values and policies are shown by how we direct funds. Turning our backs on children survivors in order to justify massive tax cuts for the wealthy is both shameful and bad policy.

Madam Speaker, I stand ready to work with all of my colleagues to ensure that children and survivors in northwest Indiana and across our Nation have access to resources and trusted advocates they need to lead their best lives.

#### SUPPORTING VETERANS AND CAREGIVERS

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

Mrs. McCLAIN DELANEY. Madam Speaker, 14.3 million Americans serve as caregivers for our Nation's injured servicemembers and veterans. Unfortunately, the Family and Medical Leave Act does not meet the challenges faced by today's servicemembers, vets, and their families.

The FMLA excludes military caregiver benefits for domestic partners and extended family members. The FMLA does not have a defined benefit for veterans who need to leave to address severe injuries related to their service. In fact, many of our Nation's heroes and their loved ones cannot access basic benefits without risking their job.

During Military Caregiver Month, I am proud to introduce the MIL-FMLA act with Congressman MOYLAN. This bipartisan legislation removes arbitrary restrictions on who can be a military caregiver. It covers domestic deployments when National Guard members respond to natural disasters.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the MIL-FMLA act.