

both legs in severe injuries sustained in a roadside bomb attack.

Despite all that he endured, he easily could have given up in despair. However, instead, he chose a path of hope, determination, and exemplary service. He has since become a beacon of hope as a motivational speaker, actor, author, and living testament to the strength of the human spirit.

Colonel Gadson's words: Be present in your life, be your best, resonate deeply.

Let us carry his message forward, ensuring every veteran receives the honor, support, and opportunities they deserve. I deeply respect Colonel Gadson for his unwavering dedication to our Nation. Let us all thank him for inspiring our next generation of leaders to take on any challenges and obstacles that come in their path. Colonel Gadson is truly an American hero and inspiration for us all.

#### HONORING JESUS JESSE VARGAS

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

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, my Texas colleagues and I rise today to honor a hero, Brazoria County Sheriff's Deputy Jesus Jesse Vargas.

Deputy Vargas was a proud husband and father of three school-age children. Deputy Vargas was shot and killed in the line of duty while working as a member of the U.S. Marshals' Gulf Coast Violent Offenders Task Force, serving a warrant on a repeat offender. He was a dedicated public servant who was with the Brazoria County Sheriff's Office for 17 years.

As a former law enforcement officer and sheriff of Fort Bend County, Texas, I know all too well the sacrifices our Nation's law enforcement officers make.

Deputy Vargas was a hero to Brazoria County, the great State of Texas, and our Nation.

My prayers are with the Vargas family, Brazoria County Sheriff Bo Stallman, and the Brazoria County Sheriff's Office, the community, and every man and woman in blue.

The war on our law enforcement must end.

I ask everyone in the Chamber to bow their heads in a moment of silence.

□ 1115

#### SERVING IN THE LINE OF DUTY

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise. I rise today with a very heavy heart, Mr. Speaker, because while we hear the words "in the line of duty," we have a wife and three children who will understand the true meaning of "in the line of duty."

They have lost a husband. A father has made a transition. They will have

to suffer and, unfortunately, live with this for the rest of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I beg that all would understand that our officers are out there trying to do the very best that they can, and when this happens, let's make sure that we let the world know that we appreciate the job that they do.

This was a 17-year veteran, 17 years of work, and he is no longer with us.

I, too, ask for a moment of silence in recognition of his service and in respect of his wife and children.

#### HONORING MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY BOBCAT RODEO TEAM

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

Mr. DOWNING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Montana State University Bobcat rodeo team as they prepare to participate in the 2025 Presidential inaugural parade.

The inclusion of a collegiate rodeo team in the inaugural parade is a historic first and a unique representation of our culture and the way of life as Montanans.

I am thrilled that these talented ropers and riders will get the chance to experience all that our Nation's Capital has to offer during such an exciting time for our country.

This effort would not have been possible without the collective support of the State, the MSU community, university leadership, namely Bobcat Rodeo Coaches Kyle Whitaker and Savannah Bolich, and MSU President Waded Cruzado.

I highlight the advocacy of my colleague, First District Congressman RYAN ZINKE, whose support helped get this initiative across the finish line.

Heather and I cannot wait to join our fellow Montanans cheering the team on as they take to Pennsylvania Avenue on Monday and make their way toward the White House.

Go Cats. I know they will make Montana proud.

#### CELEBRATING GOODYEAR BLIMP CENTENNIAL

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate the birthday of a very important fixture of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, the country, and the world: the Goodyear Blimp. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the inaugural flight of the first Goodyear blimp, known as *Pilgrim*.

The Goodyear Blimp is a cultural icon, creating a memorable and recognizable connection between Akron, Ohio, the United States, and the entire world, bringing smiles to many people, including those here in this Chamber.

Over the last 100 years, the blimp has helped fight in World War II, assisted

first responders with disaster relief, and, perhaps its most well-known role, covering important sporting events. This includes this year's Rose Bowl game, which marked the 70th year of aerial coverage from the Goodyear Blimp, and I might add, it was a win by The Ohio State University.

I congratulate Goodyear on this historic milestone and, most importantly, for lighting the skies with the hope and wonder of American ingenuity.

We look forward to the skies being graced by the Goodyear Blimp for years to come, bringing pride to Ohio's 13th Congressional District.

Godspeed, Goodyear.

#### CONGRATULATING GANADO HIGH SCHOOL INDIANS

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

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Ganado High School Indians' football team on their incredible victory in the 2024 Texas Class 2A, Division 1 championship.

With a 30-28 win that happened in triple overtime, the Indians capped off a remarkable 15-1 season. Under the guidance of Head Coach Josh Ervin, the team showed unparalleled resilience and unity. From the first snap of the season to the thrilling final play, they demonstrated the power of teamwork and perseverance.

This championship is not just a testament to their athletic talent but to the unwavering support of the Ganado community. It is a moment that will inspire future generations to strive for excellence, both on and off the field.

I congratulate the Ganado Indians on this well-deserved championship, and may God continue to bless the players, coaches, families, and the entire community. God bless them.

#### CONDITIONING DISASTER AID IS UN-AMERICAN

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

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say: Los Angeles, we are with you.

Our hearts are with every single family who has lost a loved one, a livelihood, or some part of their community.

We give thanks to the heroic first responders working to contain these fires.

I also rise to ask, Mr. Speaker, are these families not American? What makes these families different from families we have helped after hurricanes, tornadoes, or floods in other States?

To suggest that we should hold hostage the aid we give to these American families, families who have lost everything, is wrong and un-American. Just look at what has been approved over the past decade, especially for so-called red States, I might add.

Have we ever said that those families should be punished for their State's political choices? Absolutely not. I am appalled and, frankly, sickened at the calls for conditioning aid for these families, these American families. They are crying out for help.

Congress should respond immediately without hesitation or delay. Here is the map. Look at where the money has gone in the past decade.

#### THANKING TEXAS' EIGHTH DISTRICT FIREFIGHTERS

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

Mr. LUTTRELL. Mr. Speaker, sadly, wildfires are devastating our neighbors in California. In the face of this tragedy, first responders from across the country have answered the call to help.

I will take a moment to recognize the brave firefighters from District Eight of Texas who have traveled from far east Texas all the way to California. This includes the firefighters from the Houston Fire Department as well as the Needham, Porter, Conroe, and North Montgomery Fire Departments.

The City of Conroe Fire Department proudly deployed its newly commissioned Type 3 brush truck to assist in battling the California wildfires. This wildland fire truck is specifically engineered to fight fires in rough and challenging terrain.

Our firemen expect to deploy for the remaining weeks. Their selflessness and commitment to protecting fellow Americans is inspiring. I thank these firefighters and every first responder stepping into harm's way.

Guardians of their communities, firefighters are always willing to run into danger and share their brave hearts and strong hands. We pray for their safety, their quick return, and for all those who have been devastated by this tragedy in California.

#### MAKING PROGRESS FOR AMERICA

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

Ms. DEXTER. Mr. Speaker, we find ourselves at a make-or-break moment in America. The people from East and North Portland, Sandy, Gresham, Estacada, and Hood River have spoken with a united voice.

It is time to make bold progress on the issues that matter most: addressing our homelessness and addiction crises, ensuring access to affordable healthcare for all, building an economy that works for our working families, and, as wildfires ravage our coast, tackling the climate crisis head-on.

As a critical care physician, I have spent the past two decades caring for the sickest Oregonians. Each day that I walk through these doors, I carry their stories with me. For those pa-

tients and every family who calls Oregon home, I am committed to doing the hard work of bringing people together to deliver results for our community.

My job is to be your voice in Congress. I am here to listen, to learn, and to do what is required to ensure that every Oregon child has the opportunity to grow up in a healthy, thriving community.

#### RETURNING TO THE HALLS OF CONGRESS

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

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, it has been nearly a decade since I had the opportunity to address this body.

In the time I have been gone, Washington has seen a lot of changes. Donald Trump was elected two times. Over 200 congressional districts have seen new Members take hold. Staffers no longer use BlackBerrys.

As the old adage goes: The more things change, the more they stay the same. Washington's fiscal house is still out of order. Democrats are still out of touch with reality, just as we saw on our last vote 20 minutes ago on the Preventing Violence Against Women by Illegal Aliens Act. Conservatism is still in short supply, but Americans recognize Washington is broken, which is why they gave our party an irrefutable mandate to fix it.

We must follow the lead of President Trump and Speaker JOHNSON in reducing government overreach and making this country great, healthy, and prosperous again.

The old way of business has doubled our national debt since I was last in these Halls and has gradually substituted million-dollar spending packages with billion-dollar ones.

The people have been clear: The Washington of old is out, and government for and by the people is in.

#### CELEBRATING 105 YEARS OF ZETA PHI BETA

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

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate 105 years of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, a legacy of "Scholarship, Service, Sisterhood, and Finer Womanhood" that began on January 16, 1920, right here in Washington, D.C.

Founded by the Five Pearls, Arizona Cleaver Stemons, Pearl Anna Neal, Myrtle Tyler Faithful, Viola Tyler Goings, and Fannie Pettie Watts, these visionary women didn't just build a sisterhood. They built an organization that rejected elitism and frivolity.

From being the first to charter a chapter in Africa to fostering community-conscious, action-oriented leader-

ship, this sorority has set the gold standard.

Today, with over 100,000 members across 870 chapters worldwide, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, has remained unwavering in its mission, whether it is promoting social justice, providing service, or showing the world what it truly means to be a finer woman.

What is sisterhood? Sisterhood is not just about wearing matching colors and strolling. True sisterhood means extending respect and support, encouraging each other, and committing to a lifetime of friendship. When a sister forgets what that means, you let her know with love.

As a proud member, I am thrilled to wish my sorors a happy Founders Day.

□ 1130

#### CONGRATULATING COCOA HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

(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 with great pride to congratulate the remarkable Cocoa High School football team for their third consecutive State championship.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend them and celebrate the exceptional leadership of their head coach, Ryan Schneider, whose dedication to excellence has been instrumental in guiding these young athletes to achieve great success on and off the field.

Furthermore, I would like to express my gratitude to Cocoa Mayor Mike Blake for his support of the team and his efforts to promote athletics within our community.

To the many seniors who will continue their athletic career at exceptional universities across the country, I wish them the best of luck. I hope they will continue to make Brevard County proud.

#### THANKING OREGON FIREFIGHTERS FOR THEIR HEROIC SERVICE

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

Ms. BYNUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the heroic firefighters from Oregon who are on the front lines fighting wildfires in California.

Firefighters from Clackamas, Linn, and Multnomah Counties have traveled hundreds of miles to help save lives and homes. The fires have been devastating. Unfortunately, we, too, have experienced this in Oregon.

As a mother that has had to evacuate her family, and as a businessowner that has had to close our doors due to dangerous smoke conditions, I am praying for all of the families impacted and for the safety of our first responders, but that is not enough.