

My district office in Raleigh, North Carolina, has received panicked calls from seniors whose checks didn't arrive on time for the first time ever.

Seniors' benefits are under attack, and Donald Trump is to blame. We will not be silent while Trump and his cronies try to slash the benefits that our seniors have earned over a lifetime of hard work.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF ESTELLE WILLIAMS MCKISSICK

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from nursery rhymes to classroom wisdom, Mother Goose told stories that shaped childhood, while Mother McKissick shaped minds that built futures.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the remarkable life of Estelle Williams McKissick, affectionately known to everybody as "Mother McKissick," a devoted educator, church leader, and pillar in the Jacksonville, Florida, community.

For 50 years, Mother McKissick poured her heart into the Duval County public school system as a teacher and principal, where she touched the lives of thousands of kids with her passion for learning.

Mother McKissick was a faithful servant of the Bethel Baptist Church where for 47 years she led along with her husband Bishop Rudolph McKissick, Sr.

Together they launched the B.E.S.T. Academy to help struggling students.

Although we mourn her passing, Mr. Speaker, let us carry forward her mission to educate with passion and to serve with love.

Godspeed, Mother McKissick.

#### HONORING OFFICER MATTHEW BOWEN OF THE VACAVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Officer Matthew Bowen of the Vacaville Police Department.

Officer Bowen joined the Vacaville Police Department in 2023 and was celebrated by his friends, family, and colleagues for his kindness, humor, work ethic, and unwavering calm under pressure.

On Thursday, July 11, 2024, Officer Bowen was initiating a traffic stop when he was struck by a vehicle, tragically losing his life in the line of duty.

His selfless dedication to protecting others, even in the face of danger, is a testament to his courage and commitment to public service.

Officer Bowen is survived by his wife, Elizabeth; and their two young sons,

Mason and Everett. It was my privilege to name him my district's Public Safety Hero of the Year for Solano County in 2025.

Mr. Speaker, this Police Week, I am honored to recognize Officer Matthew Bowen's legacy of courage and sacrifice. May he rest in peace.

#### UNIVERSAL SCHOOL CHOICE

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

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, The Nation's Report Card recently showed that our education system is in a state of crisis. There has been a steady and alarming decline. However, right now, we have an opportunity to turn the tide by catalyzing a revolution in school choice across the country.

One-half of the equation is the Educational Choice for Children Act which will expand private school choice to 2 million kids and has been included in the text of the reconciliation bill.

However, the other one-half, the High-Quality Charter School Act, and a tax provision contained therein, would triple the number of kids in charter schools across the country remains missing still.

I am encouraging my colleagues to ensure that we provide support for charter school families in equal measure in a way that will expand opportunity across the country. Together with universal school choice, we will be able to begin a new era of educational excellence in this country.

#### MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING MELVIN LEE "KIP" HOLDEN

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

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of former Mayor Melvin Lee "Kip" Holden of East Baton Rouge Parish.

Kip was a remarkable leader who committed his career to the people of Baton Rouge, serving as their city councilman from 1984 to 1988, and then their State representative from 1988 to 2004. He then served as mayor for three terms from 2005 to 2016.

As the first African American to lead the city-parish, he broke barriers and built bridges, always putting the people first. Mayor Holden was a trailblazer, a history maker, and a dedicated public servant.

His contributions have left a lasting mark on Baton Rouge and beyond. My prayers are with his family, friends, and all those whom he touched with his leadership.

Mr. Speaker at this time, I request a moment of silence.

#### CALIFORNIA'S CAP-AND-TRADE SCHEME

(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, in California, they are going at it again. Gavin Newsom and the legislature want to extend California's cap-and-trade tax for another 15 years.

This is a tax that was created by really creating a fake currency of selling the right to make CO<sub>2</sub> for manufacturing plants and power plants in California.

All this does is jack up the price for fuel, electricity, et cetera, and pass it along to families who have to pay for these things.

What will this go for?

A portion will go for at least a guaranteed \$1 billion per year for the boondoggle in California known as the high-speed rail. I call it the high-cost fail because it has been failing for many, many years and is projected to be probably 25 or 30 years late if it ever gets completed. It has wasted many billions of dollars so far with nothing to show for it.

He wants to lock in this cap-and-trade funding through 2045, all while Californians are paying more and more to keep their lights on and keep gas in their car. It is projected by some of these actions to be as much as \$8.43 per gallon according to a USC report.

Get that, Mr. Speaker, \$8.50 per gallon for these schemes. We need to fix roads and do a lot of other things besides high-speed rail and sticking taxes on more people.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF CARL BALLTON

(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 honor the life of my friend and a beloved champion for south Los Angeles, the late Carl Ballton.

I met Carl through my work at Crystal Stairs where he served on the board for over 20 years, including a decade as chair. Under his leadership, Crystal Stairs grew into a respected institution serving thousands of children and families.

Carl cared deeply about social justice and the Los Angeles community. That passion guided his service beyond Crystal Stairs. He led the Union Bank Foundation and served on the boards of the LA Urban League, United Negro College Fund, Habitat for Humanity, and many other organizations.

Carl and his beloved wife, Lula, used their power for good, especially within the Black community.

His passing is a deep loss for us all, but his legacy lives on in the countless lives he has touched and the institutions he helped build.

He will be deeply missed.

#### NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

(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 during National Police Week to honor the brave men and women in law enforcement who served across eastern North Carolina and our Nation.

From Granville County to Currituck County, Northampton County to Lenoir County and everywhere in between, our officers protect our families and communities daily.

They are there during natural disasters. They are taking a bite out of crime. They keep us safe at our favorite local festivals and parades.

Mr. Speaker, I acknowledge the Elizabeth City State University Police Department for working so hard to keep our students safe. I recognize our K-9s.

We must also pause to remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Their courage reminds us of the true cost of public safety, and their memories live on in the communities they serve so faithfully.

We are forever grateful to every officer and their families for their service, sacrifice, and strength.

May God watch over them as they stand guard watching over us.

#### CHAMPION OF THE WEEK: UNIVERSITY OF AKRON WOMEN'S LACROSSE TEAMS

(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 recognize the University of Akron Zips Women's Lacrosse team and their coach, Elaine Jones, as Ohio's 13th Congressional District Champions of the Week.

For the first time ever, this lacrosse team won the Mid-American Conference Lacrosse Championship when they took down Robert Morris University in an overtime thriller to secure their first ever championship.

With just 14 seconds left during overtime, a golden goal from Jaelyn Clinkscales propelled the Akron Zips Women's lacrosse team to victory.

The odds were stacked against this team as they were picked to finish last this season in the MAC Preseason Coaches Poll, but they persevered and beat the odds coming in as the champions.

This historic season was led by Coach Elaine Jones, who also won the MAC Coach of the Year Award.

Congratulations again to the Akron Zips Women's lacrosse team for this outstanding victory. This team is a shining example of why this community is known as the birthplace of

champions. I look forward to cheering them on next season.

Go Zips.

#### MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

(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, May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and there are so many groups in Virginia that do incredible work for our community in this space.

One I want to recognize today is Loudoun Serenity House which champions affordable, peer-based services for people living with mental health conditions or who are on the road to recovery from substance abuse.

Serenity House started as a shared dream of two sisters, Melissa and Rachel Hinton, and they established their first recovery house in October of 2020. It has since expanded to serve so many people in our community.

This past weekend, I had the honor of joining them for their annual 5K race. I didn't run, but I did shoot the starting gun. Most importantly, we raised a lot of money, and it was a beautiful day.

We must remember that nearly one in four American adults live with mental health conditions, yet the majority do not receive the care they need. Peer-based programs have been really successful. They are a very affordable way of getting that care.

Happy Mental Health Awareness Month to everyone, and I am grateful for groups like Loudoun Serenity House.

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#### ATTACKS ON LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

(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, President Trump fired the Librarian of Congress just 1 year shy of completing her 10-year term. He also fired the head of the U.S. Copyright Office, replacing them with his former lawyers and current DOJ appointees. While the President may get to appoint the Librarian, these offices are under the jurisdiction of Congress, and we should be consulted.

I have raised concerns about troubling patterns that we have seen emerging in our country, patterns that echo tactics of regimes in Hungary, North Korea, and Venezuela. These are not governments we admire. Yet, this latest move fits that mold.

The Library of Congress is the world's largest library and a symbol of our commitment to free thought. We have seen growing attacks on libraries and books nationwide. Now it seems

even the Library of Congress is not off limits.

While personnel were fired, this is about power, who controls what Americans read, learn, and dream. When you limit access to knowledge, you limit freedom. You send a clear message that questioning authority is no longer welcome.

The slide away from democracy continues.

#### EDESIA

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

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the ninth time to call on the Trump administration to restore funding for lifesaving food aid for malnourished children.

Mr. Speaker, 11 seconds, every 11 seconds a child dies because of malnutrition. By the time I finish this speech, five more children will have lost their lives.

Their lives could be saved with access to this, Plumpy'Nut, a nutritional supplement manufactured in North Kingstown, Rhode Island, at Edesia Nutrition.

Prior to the Trump administration, Edesia received USAID funding to ship Plumpy'Nut to more than 64 countries. They have the capacity to produce 800 metric tons per week, which would serve 100,000 children.

The Trump administration had said that they plan to continue this funding. They just haven't done so yet. I am calling them once again, for the ninth time, to honor their word to restore funding for emergency food aid so that no child's lives are unnecessarily cut short.

#### RIISING COSTS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

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

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, as a former small business owner, I would like to spend a moment talking about the consequences of the administration's policies, both tariffs and the erratic behavior, that have an impact on people like myself, people who owned restaurants for decades, and the thin margins they operate under.

Mr. Speaker, recent surveys have said, 42 percent of small businesses reported increased costs due to the administration's policies, both tariffs and otherwise. I don't think they realized or thought through the effect of these policies on Main Street America.

Over 45 percent of Americans are employed by small business. They are the backbone of Main Street and our economy.

The administration and my colleagues on the other side have to think through the consequences of this erratic behavior on Main Street America.