

They remind us that our history is not only told in books or monuments, but also in the lives, hearts, and experiences of those who were there. They embody everything that is great about Guam, and we celebrate the incredible lives they lived.

I extend my warmest congratulations and deepest respect from this Chamber. On behalf of the people of Guam and the United States Congress, I thank Ms. Robeniol, Mr. Manangan, and Ms. Fejeran for their strength, their wisdom, and the example they continue to set for us all.

NOAA CONTRIBUTES TO OUR ECONOMY AND WELL-BEING

(Ms. BONAMICI of Oregon was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, Oregonians at home and colleagues in the House often hear me talk about NOAA, but I want to use this time to explain how this agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, contributes to the economy and to our well-being.

NOAA is not just a four-letter acronym or a Federal building in Maryland, it is the backbone of this Nation's environmental safety and resilience, which support better health and a thriving economy. When the Earth shakes the coastline of my district in the Pacific Northwest, as it inevitably will, it will put the lives and safety of thousands of coastal residents at risk from a devastating tsunami. The first lifesaving alert they will hear is because of NOAA.

As a seismologist at the Alaska Earthquake Center said: NOAA creates the information needed by emergency managers, mariners, and everyday citizens: Where is the safe zone in my town? How long will I have? Where should boats go? How do I stay informed?

When someone fishing in Astoria, Oregon, sets her catch limits for Dungeness crab or pink shrimp and when she checks the marine weather forecast to decide whether to put her crew out on the water or to keep them safe at shore, that is because of the workers at NOAA.

At a recent Oregon fisheries roundtable, one fisherman made the stakes clear: NOAA's forecasts of sea state and weather save lives.

Last year, blooms of toxic algae shut down beaches, contaminated shellfish, and put about 40 Oregonians in the hospital with a paralytic shellfish poisoning. States, hospitals, and families deserve accurate information about what they are exposed to and what they consume. This should not be a luxury. This is a public service and expectation that we should be able to rely on, and we have it because of the hardworking staff at NOAA.

Planes avoid turbulence. School districts decide whether it is safe to have class during a snowstorm. People seek

shelter during a tornado or a hurricane. Weather forecasts are available at our fingertips, and behind every alert, every early warning, every saved life are the people at NOAA.

I have spoken with shrimpers in Newport, Oregon, and scientists at Oregon State University, Tribal leaders along the Columbia River, and teachers in Hillsboro. They have all highlighted how NOAA's work is far-reaching, and this is just in one of 435 congressional districts.

Students in Oregon recently told me that the Sea Grant program, run by NOAA, helped spark their love for marine biology and education. Another student said Sea Grant inspired their interest in ocean technology and set them on the path to study engineering. These students understand how NOAA's science programs can protect their communities and change lives, so it is hard to understand why so many of my colleagues and this administration are throwing NOAA overboard and then hoping a storm won't come.

NOAA has been threatened, and its budget is being slashed by this administration. In past Congresses, we have come together to sustain this funding because its bipartisan work is valued across red, blue, and purple districts and States. We have successfully fought back against attempts to muzzle its experts, and we will continue to fight back and win.

Let me be clear: Defunding NOAA will hurt Oregonians, Americans, and people across this country. It puts the lives of fishers and their crews at risk. It leaves towns without early warning. It undermines economies built on tourism, shipping, and fisheries.

Slashing the budget of NOAA doesn't save money. A 2019 analysis shows NOAA provides \$11 in economic benefit for every dollar we invest. That is not charity, it is infrastructure. NOAA's ocean observation system, for example, drives economies and saves lives.

Captain Dan Jordan, a Columbia River bar pilot, sees this every day. He said: "Ships crossing the Columbia River bar face one of the most dangerous harbor entrances in the world. . . . bar pilots rely on weather forecasts, real-time buoy data along with wave and current models . . ." to safely cross the bar.

I agree with Captain Jordan. Just as we need roads, rails, and broadband, we need buoys, satellites, and tide gauges so our ships can safely transport goods in and out of our ports. This is navigation, weather, safety, commerce, and, yes, climate science.

Proposals to gut NOAA's funding by more than 25 percent, to decimate the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research would, as the former director of that office said, take our scientific footing back to the 1950s. Their mission is to develop the best possible science to save lives and property in a changing climate. To cut it is not fiscally conservative, it is strategically catastrophic.

When did we become so afraid of knowledge? When did we decide that protecting political egos was more important than protecting people's lives? NOAA scientists are not enemies of the State. They are guardians of it.

To the next generation, I know many of you feel disillusioned. You see the ocean becoming more acidic. You see storms getting stronger. You wonder if anyone in power is listening. Let this moment be a promise. I hear you, and the workers of NOAA hear you, as well.

Let's reject the cynical policies of willful ignorance. Let's not stand in opposition to science but in service to it because when the sky darkens, the tide rises, and the wind begins to howl, it is the workers of NOAA who will tell us what comes next.

GOVERNOR NEWSOM BACKS DOWN

(Mr. KILEY of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday California Governor Gavin Newsom finally backed down from his irresponsible, reckless policy of providing full-scope Medicaid, Medi-Cal coverage to every person who is income eligible in our State illegally. Of course, the Governor did not do the right thing on his own but only in response to the pressure that we have brought to bear.

It has been painfully obvious that this policy, which no other State in the country has, was utterly unsustainable and was threatening the solvency of Medicaid in California itself. The cost has ballooned for this year to \$10 billion, over three times what was initially estimated. The Governor has had to take out an emergency loan and then separately go to the legislature in the middle of the year for a bailout.

The Governor has finally acknowledged this, that the policy should never have been enacted, and he has said he is going to freeze any new enrollment by adults who are in our country illegally.

However, the Governor is only partially reversing his policy. Indeed, by the time this freeze goes into effect, we will have already spent \$23 billion that could have gone toward improving access to care for legal California residents.

The partial repeal is not a solution. For one thing, it will continue to cost us enormous sums in State tax dollars. For another, it could lead to the loss of billions and billions of dollars every year in Federal funding.

As I called on the Governor before to repeal this policy, as I have introduced legislation requiring him to do so, I am now calling on Governor Newsom not to go halfway but to completely reverse this reckless, disastrous policy that no other State in the country has.

ABSOLUTE DEFINITION OF INSANITY

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday Governor Newsom introduced his budget proposal in Sacramento and has decided to double

State funding for high-speed rail. This is the absolute definition of insanity. It has been some 16 years, 17 years since the project was approved. They have spent \$17 billion, and there has not been a single passenger.

Even under the most wildly optimistic scenarios, we are going to have a line from Palmdale to Gilroy in 20 years that will require 2 hours of additional travel on each end to get from San Francisco to L.A. In 20 years, riders will be able to get from San Francisco to L.A. in 6 hours, something you can do on a plane in 1 hour today.

This project has been called a project that won't even be built within the next century by even sources like *The New York Times*. I have introduced legislation to eliminate all future Federal funding for high-speed rail. The Governor continues to believe that Federal funding will come. It is not going to come. There is currently an investigation by the Department of Transportation as well, and I have asked for an investigation by FBI Director Kash Patel to look into exactly where all of this money went.

It is time to end this irresponsible failure of a project—the biggest public infrastructure failure in U.S. history—once and for all and put our transportation dollars where they are needed: toward improving our roads, repairing potholes, alleviating traffic, on things that will actually benefit the quality of life for Californians.

THE NAKBA NEVER ENDED

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, Peter Beinart said: "When you tell a people to forget its past, you are not proposing peace, you are proposing extinction."

I introduced a resolution yesterday recognizing the 77 years of the ongoing Nakba against the Palestinian people and the need for refugee rights. We know that thousands of Palestinians were ethnically cleansed in 1948, and nearly 800,000 were violently removed from over 400 villages, completely erased. Many of them carry their keys to this day, Mr. Speaker, hanging them on the wall of their new, temporary homes in hopes that one day they will be able to return to their villages.

We acknowledge their trauma and the painful loss of their connections to their family members, land, the beautiful olive groves, and the 400 Palestinian villages that they all grew up in. We, of course, see that the Israeli Government continues to illegally steal Palestinian land in the occupied West Bank where my family lives. They illegally evict Palestinian families, Mr. Speaker, demolish homes, and deny Palestinians basic human rights.

We honor those all around the world and want them to know that former Congresswoman Cori Bush and I see them. We know the suffering. We know

that there are lasting harms of settler colonialism, as well as ethnic cleansing and apartheid.

There are days that I feel so alone in this Chamber as the only Palestinian American serving in Congress. The dehumanization and the anti-Palestinian racism here is painful, especially when my colleagues remain silent on the starvation of children and vote to send more bombs to the Israeli Government while they commit war crimes with impunity.

Today, we are witnessing a genocide in Gaza. Many human rights organizations, advocacy groups, NGOs, and folks on medical missions have confirmed, the campaign to erase Palestinians from existence is happening right now, live-streamed for all of us to see while the world sits and does nothing.

Palestinians were right. The Nakba never ended. Across Gaza, the medical system has been deliberately destroyed. The Israeli Government is using starvation as a weapon of war, which is a war crime. The thousands of trucks carrying food and lifesaving aid sit blocked at the border while Palestinian families starve.

Instead of agreeing to a cease-fire, war criminal Netanyahu is now preparing a full-scale assault to ethnically cleanse and forcibly expel the entire Palestinian population from Gaza and to flatten and permanently occupy the land. This was always their plan. He said it himself.

Israeli forces have killed more than 52,000 Palestinians, and nearly 70 percent of them were women and children, babies who did not live to see their first birthday. There are thousands more who were dismembered, unrecognizable, burned alive, buried beneath the rubble, and presumed dead.

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Mr. Speaker, nearly 1.9 million Palestinians have been displaced once again. Each year, our country sends billions of dollars to maintain this apartheid state and support the ongoing cleansing of the Palestinian people. Our country is complicit, Mr. Speaker, because our Nation is funding this genocide.

The Israeli Government will not stop until we put in place an arms embargo. The majority of Americans support it. We must save lives. No matter faith or ethnicity, a child is a child.

Mr. Speaker, my "grandma's"; "sity's" only crime in the eyes of the Israeli apartheid government was that she was born Palestinian. It killed me inside that she took her last breath without being truly free. I pray that the ongoing Nakba against the Palestinians will end and one day they will be free.

SNEAKING IN NONPROFIT KILLER BILL

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about something that is happening right here in our backyard in regard to the Congressional Mamas Caucus.

As a mother, I am dismayed. We started Mamas for Medicaid, which is

mothers across the Nation sharing their stories about what it means to cut Medicaid and how cruel it will be for their families, especially those with children with special needs.

What makes me even more angry is this so-called sneaking in of the non-profit killer bill into the budget reconciliation package. We have to worry about that now.

This is dangerous and unconstitutional legislation that would give the Trump administration unchecked power to target any nonprofit organization as a political enemy and shut them down—no evidence, no charge, no trial, no due process.

This legislation is part of a broader assault on civil liberties, aiming to criminalize free speech, Mr. Speaker.

Trust me, it won't just be Palestinian human rights organizations. It will be those who are fighting against the Medicaid cuts. It will be those who are fighting for Black lives and those who are fighting for climate justice. It is wrong, and I hope my colleagues will vote against it.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DEPUTY BRUCE EVANS

(Mr. EZELL of Mississippi was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. EZELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and ultimate sacrifice of Deputy Bruce Evans of the Jackson County Sheriff's Department, who was tragically killed in the line of duty on July 18, 2000.

Deputy Evans lost his life while protecting his community. In his final moments, he stood in harm's way so that others could be safe. That is the kind of man he was. He was a courageous man, selfless and committed to the oath that he took.

Bruce served 7 years in law enforcement, 4 of those with the Jackson County Sheriff's Department. He was a husband, a father of two children, and a hero to all who knew him.

This loss is especially personal to my office. My chief of staff was Bruce's partner at the sheriff's department at that time. I have heard firsthand how deeply Bruce cared for his work, his family, and his community.

Mr. Speaker, we honor his memory today, and we pray for his family and his loved ones. We recommit ourselves to standing behind the brave men and women who wear the badge every day.

HONORING BARBARA MARQUEZ

(Mr. BERA of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Barbara Marquez, who was named the Alzheimer's Impact Movement Advocate of the Month.

Barbara's connection to Alzheimer's is deeply personal. She lost her maternal grandmother and five of her mother's siblings to this devastating disease. When her mother, Florence,