

J.R. Stewart, Albuquerque Police Officer Bianca Quintana, Alamogordo Police Officer Anthony “Tony” Ferguson, Alamogordo Patrolman James M. Sides, New Mexico State Police Officer Darian Jarrott, and Curry County Sheriff Michael Reeves.

To their friends, families, and colleagues: Know that your loved ones are not forgotten. We grieve with you.

As we reflect on their sacrifice, we must also recommit ourselves to doing more for those who wear the badge today. That means investing in officer safety, mental health, and wellness. It means supporting their families, and it means ensuring they have the tools and resources to serve our communities with dignity and professionalism. Choosing a life of service and law enforcement is not easy. It comes with risks that most of us will never know, but because of officers like Roberto, Jonah, and Justin, our communities are safer, and our values of justice and service endure.

On behalf of all New Mexicans, I offer my deepest gratitude. May their memories be a blessing, and may we continue to honor them with action, compassion, and resolve.

#### RECOGNIZING CHIEF JEREMY STORY

Mr. VASQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional public servant from my district, Chief Jeremy Story.

Chief Story is from the Las Cruces Police Department, my hometown, and he is someone I was proud to serve with in local government. Chief Story has spent over 18 years in service to Las Cruces, rising through the ranks from cadet to chief of police. He is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, a graduate of New Mexico State University, and a man deeply rooted in the values of duty, accountability, and community.

Earlier this year, our community faced a horrific mass shooting, an act of senseless violence that shook Las Cruces to its core. In the face of this tragedy, Chief Story responded swiftly and with compassion. His leadership was grounded in facts, calm under pressure, and, most importantly, rooted in empathy for the victims, their families, and all of those affected.

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At a time when our community needed strength and clarity, Chief Story was there, not only with answers, but with presence. He brought together law enforcement, emergency responders, and community leaders, not just to respond, but to begin the healing of our community.

In May of this year, he was named Citizen of the Year by the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce. That recognition was well-earned. Today, I want to make sure that his dedication is honored here on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all New Mexicans, I thank Chief Jeremy Story for his continued leadership and unwavering commitment to the people of Las Cruces.

#### NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

(Mr. CISCOMANI of Arizona was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during National Police Week to honor the men and women in law enforcement for their invaluable service to our Nation.

I especially thank all of the police officers in my district who work tirelessly to ensure that southeastern Arizona is safe, secure, and the best place to live and to carry out our own American Dream.

During times of crisis, when others run away, our brave police officers run toward danger, putting themselves at risk to protect life and property.

Their courage, selflessness, and dedication deserve our deepest respect, not just this week, but every single day.

Let us also remember, honor, and mourn the officers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Their legacy lives on in the lives they protected, the officers they mentored, and the communities they kept safe.

Mr. Speaker, I thank every single officer across this great Nation for their service. We are a stronger, safer, and more prosperous Nation because of them.

#### RECOGNITION OF SHANEQUA MATTHIAS

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today full of pride to congratulate Cochise County Teacher of the Year and Carmichael Elementary School's fifth grade teacher Shanequa Matthias.

Mr. Speaker, I thank her for her tireless efforts on behalf of our students.

I firmly believe that education is the pillar of the American Dream, and it is our teachers who care for our students, pass on the knowledge and skills that they need to succeed, and inspire them to dream big and embrace all of the opportunities our great Nation has to offer.

As a teacher, she embraced a non-traditional, engaging classroom style, where learning is less about memorization and more about creativity, play, and hands-on experience.

Her dedication, compassion, and unwavering belief in the potential of every single one of her students is deeply inspiring and has left a permanent mark on all who learn from her.

Her work is directly contributing to a bigger, better, and brighter future for Cochise County.

Mr. Speaker, I thank her for always uplifting her students. May she enjoy this well-deserved recognition. Once again, congratulations to Shanequa Matthias.

#### CONGRATULATING CANYON DEL ORO HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate CDO High School in Oro Valley for receiving an A+ School of Excellence Award by the Arizona Educational Foundation, the highest level recognition given to a public school. Go Dorados.

#### CONGRATULATING INNOVATION ACADEMY IN ORO VALLEY

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Innovation Academy in Oro Valley for receiving an A+ School of Excellence Award by the Arizona Educational Foundation, the highest State-level recognition given to a public school. Go Scorpions.

#### CONGRATULATING LAWRENCE W. CROSS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lawrence W. Cross Middle School in Tucson for receiving an A+ School of Excellence Award by the Arizona Educational Foundation, the highest State-level recognition given to a public school. Go Rams.

#### CONGRATULATING MICA MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mica Mountain High School in Tucson for receiving an A+ School of Excellence Award by the Arizona Educational Foundation, the highest State-level recognition given to a public school. Go Thunderbolts.

#### CONGRATULATING RATTLESNAKE RIDGE ELEMENTARY

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rattlesnake Ridge Elementary in Marana for receiving an A+ School of Excellence Award by the Arizona Educational Foundation, the highest State-level recognition given to a public school. Go Rattlesnakes.

#### CONGRATULATING SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY EAST

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sonoran Science Academy East in Tucson for receiving A+ School of Excellence Award by the Arizona Educational Foundation, the highest State-Level recognition given to a public school. Go Eagles.

#### CONGRATULATING VILLAGE MEADOWS ELEMENTARY

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Village Meadows Elementary in Sierra Vista for receiving an A+ School of Excellence Award by the Arizona Educational Foundation, the highest State-level recognition given to a public school. Go Wolves.

#### CONGRATULATING WRIGHTSON RIDGE SCHOOL

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Wrightson Ridge School in Sahuarita for receiving an A+ School of Excellence Award by the Arizona Educational Foundation, the highest State-level recognition given to a public school. Go Road Runners.

#### PUERTO RICO'S ENERGY CRISIS

(Mr. HERNÁNDEZ of Puerto Rico was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Speaker, in March, I stood on this floor and sounded the alarm that Puerto Rico's energy crisis was about to get a lot worse starting in May due to selective power outages as a result of a lack of generation capacity.

I acknowledged then that the Government of Puerto Rico had a plan A to bring in barges with temporary generation capacity and to repair all generation plants. I offered to support those goals and put my office at the local government's disposition to help accomplish them.

I also said we needed a plan B in case plan A failed. I proposed three immediate steps: to demand transparency from the utility companies about outages; to promote energy conservation through education and incentives; and to provide backup power for the most vulnerable in the island.

Here we are. Last week, the government announced that the generation barges are no longer viable. One of the repaired units failed. This week, over 100,000 customers lost power in a selective outage announced by LUMA, the utility company, that very same day, leaving them unprepared.

Where is plan B? It doesn't exist.

Worse yet, the government is walking away from over \$300 million in Federal appropriated funds for solar panels, and it is walking away from a \$1 billion lawsuit against oil companies, a lawsuit that sought to compensate our people for environmental harms.

Yesterday, DHS Secretary Noem did not assure the people of Puerto Rico that the tens of billions of dollars that have been assigned for its reconstruction will be honored.

As I said in March, this administration, both the Puerto Rico administration and the Federal administration, did not create the energy crisis, but they are responsible if it worsens. They are responsible for fixing it, and right now they are failing.

I will not stop working. This month I led 14 of my colleagues in urging the Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water to increase funding for the Department of Energy to support the resiliency and the modernization of Puerto Rico's grid. I also requested language to expedite delivery of generation assets to the island.

I sincerely hope that the Government of Puerto Rico and the Government of the United States corrects the course. No matter what, I will keep fighting for the people of Puerto Rico and for its energy future.

Mr. Speaker, I will briefly speak in Spanish, for the benefit of my constituents:

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

I sincerely hope that the governments of Puerto Rico and the United States correct the course they are on regarding the energy crisis facing the island. But no matter what, I will continue working for the well-being and the future of the people of Puerto Rico and for a solution to their energy crisis.

Yo sinceramente espero que los gobiernos de Puerto Rico y Estados Unidos corrijan el curso que llevan en torno la crisis energética que enfrenta la isla. Pero no importa qué, yo seguiré

trabajando por el bienestar y el futuro del pueblo de Puerto Rico y la solución a su problema energético.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Puerto Rico will provide a translation to the Chair.

#### POCCA

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

Mr. LICCARDO. Mr. Speaker, you remember this friendly and famous fellow, Bill, as in: I am just a bill here on Capitol Hill.

I go back to "Schoolhouse Rock!" because I think the President needs a civics lesson that the rest of us received as kids watching Saturday morning cartoons with our mouths full of Corn Flakes.

Today, I am proud to join Representatives DAVE MIN and EUGENE VINDMAN and 30 cosponsors in introducing the Protect Our Constitution and Communities Act. It is just a bill on Capitol Hill, but it offers an opportunity to Congress to restore the rule of law against President Trump's unconstitutional highjacking of Federal spending.

As we all learned in school, two separate provisions of Article I of our Constitution allocate what is known as the power of the purse to Congress. As articulated by James Madison and Alexander Hamilton in the Federalist Papers, our Founders made the spending power the bedrock of the Constitution's allocation of powers in our government. They sought to ensure that the expenditure of the people's money would remain in that body that is closest to the people.

No longer. Under the dodgy dictatorship of DOGE, we have seen the unconstitutional and haphazard seizure of billions of Federal dollars critically needed in communities throughout our country for everything from food safety inspections to healthcare for veterans. Although DOGE has failed to meet any of Elon Musk's overblown claims for saving taxpayer dollars, DOGE has done a superb job of creating chaos.

With cuts of thousands of employees in the SSA, for example, the website that millions of Social Security recipients depend upon for services and information has crashed four times in only 10 days. We have seen shutdowns of critical health research. Tens of thousands of renters will be unable to pay their summer utility bills, and thousands more parents will be stranded without Head Start childcare.

All of this is in violation of our Federal appropriations laws, laws that this Congress passed and the President signed, a far cry from the constitutional imperative that the President "shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed," so says Article II.

If the President wants to spend differently than the law dictates, the Constitution provides him with a couple of options.

First, he can introduce a bill, and he can ask Congress to change its spending priorities. It shouldn't be hard to persuade this Congress because our Republican majorities in both Houses have been unable to muster the courage to oppose other Trumpian blunders, whether they are tariffs that burden families with higher grocery bills or the deprivation of millions of Americans without healthcare coverage or the kleptocratic meme coin schemes to enrich the Trump family by more than \$200 million. President Trump can simply ask Congress to pass a bill here on Capitol Hill.

Another option is provided through a 1974 law, the Impoundment Control Act, or ICA. Under the ICA, the President can notify Congress when he intends to withhold or impound funds through either deferral or rescission. The law requires the President to provide Congress and the public with the reason for the impoundment, along with the estimated impacts on our communities.

The Presidents, throughout the history since the passage of the ICA in 1974, have followed the law providing notice to Congress on 243 occasions since it was enacted; that is, until President Trump took office this January. Instead, Donald Trump and DOGE have haphazardly frozen, blocked, and unlawfully impounded funds.

Now, President Trump may have told a reporter 2 weeks ago that he does not know if he has an obligation to follow the Constitution. He actually took an oath to do just that only 115 days ago.

POCCA, Protect Our Constitution and Communities Act, will hold him accountable for doing so. It will empower American States, cities, and individuals to fight back when they are harmed by the executive branch's unlawful impoundment of funds. By giving Americans a right of action to seek injunctions or damages, POCCA gives the ICA and Article I of our Constitution real teeth. By waiving qualified immunity, it would make Elon Musk and any other administration officials who willfully break the law personally liable.

Mr. Speaker, our Constitution is not negotiable.

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#### MAKE REFUGEE POLICY SAME FOR ALL

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, this week, a group of Afrikans arrived in the United States. They were greeted with open arms and American flags. Every single one of them skipped to the front of the line thanks to the expedited pathway that the administration handed them.

Although they are not facing any imminent threat, nor any persecution, according to this administration, these farmers were victims who were being brutally killed as a part of a genocide. These claims are absolutely false.