

to the halls of the Florida State Legislature where John was elected speaker of the Florida House and State senator, John was a born leader.

In 2014, it came as no surprise that John became the 15th President of Florida State University. Beside him in his many accomplishments was his wife, Jean, the heart of his world. Their boundless joy for their children and grandchildren was a true testament to the family they built together.

Mr. Speaker, we honor John as a mentor, a mentor to me, and a man of purpose and integrity. John's work here is done but his legacy will endure. Godspeed, my friend.

HONORING FATHERHOOD

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss fatherhood. We must honor the amazing fathers throughout these buildings and across the Nation.

As a Congresswoman, founder of the 5000 Role Models of Excellence, and chair of the U.S. Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys, I continue to celebrate and uplift fathers.

I proudly join my colleague Representative BURGESS in a bipartisan fashion to promote building stronger families through fatherhood.

Still, too many families are broken due to State and Federal policies resulting in mass incarceration.

We must address the many facets of public policy that hinder Black fatherhood. Organizations like the Jack Brewer Foundation play such a vital role in ensuring fathers and father figures have the tools they need to raise our children.

Today, we proudly recognize the Jack Brewer Foundation of Florida. It is all about prevention, not detention. That starts with all of us.

HONORING FIRE CHIEF JEFF WILLIS

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

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career and honor the retirement of a remarkable public servant, Fire Chief Jeff Willis of the Big Bear Fire Department.

Chief Willis has had a career of over 40 years in providing fire protection services to our community.

I first met Chief Willis early in my own career in public service when I was a chairman of the Big Bear Lake Fire Protection District. Already, Chief Willis was an extraordinary leader. I learned so much from this man, not only about fire protection but about leadership.

Jeff went on to become not only a leader in our community but across the

State of California, commanding multiple fire incidents across the State.

We owe Jeff a debt of gratitude for his long public service to our community. We celebrate his career. We honor his retirement. We wish him the best of luck as he enters this next phase of his career.

RECOGNIZING DR. MARCY CATLETT

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

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the exceptional leadership of Fredericksburg City Public School Superintendent Dr. Marci Catlett.

Dr. Catlett has been a trailblazer in implementing forward-thinking strategies to strengthen her students' well-being.

In the summer of 2024, she launched an initiative to curb cell phone usage in schools by requiring her students to store their phones for the entire school day.

As a lawmaker in Congress, leading the effort to remove phones from schools from bell to bell nationwide, I am grateful for Dr. Catlett's commitment to helping our students unplug.

As a father of two kids, I know the importance of creating a learning environment that nurtures the academic success and mental health of our young folks.

Collaborating with educators like Dr. Catlett has been critical in working to build a stronger future for Virginia's next generation of leaders. I extend my deepest gratitude to her for advancing these critical initiatives.

PROTECTING DEMOCRACY

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Civil Georgia News of Tbilisi reports the corrupt, anti-American Georgian Dream party released a statement against democracy that said: "every single politician . . . who makes anti-Georgian statements . . . is a member of the 'deep state' network." And that: "JOE WILSON is one of the most serious manifestations. . . ."

The Georgia Dream prime minister has condemned Donald Trump with untrue charges. America stands with the Georgian people and the legitimate President Salome Zourabichvili, supporting free actions.

America supported the MEGOBARI Act with a vote of 349–42. That is 90 percent of Congress for the people of Georgia. That provides a choice to abandon the dictator Ivanishvili.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Trump is reinstituting existing laws to protect American families with peace

through strength, revealing war criminal Putin's lies, insulting Trump and defaming Trump, with murderous rocket attacks on Ukrainian civilians again today.

Congratulations to the people of Georgia and all the people of Germany for German Chancellor Merz's success meeting with President Trump this week.

STOP RENAMING SHIPS

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

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, Defense Secretary Hegseth should be one of the busiest people on the planet, defending our country and leading nearly 3 million courageous Americans in our Armed Forces. It is an awesome responsibility.

This week, Pete Hegseth spent his precious time deciding that a naval ship named after a veteran is just too gay for him.

Harvey Milk was an American hero, a civil rights leader, and the first openly gay official in California. He served his country in the Navy. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. He was someone who stood up for the rights and dignity of all, and he was assassinated while serving in public office. His memory is worthy of dignity and respect.

Removing his name from a ship is small and it is petty. It is obviously an attempt to erase the history of anyone who shows resistance to this administration. That is what autocrats and authoritarians do.

Since Secretary Hegseth took the helm, the Department of Defense has been fraught with national security risks and constant drama. I urge him to stop spending his time renaming ships because he wants to pretend that we don't exist. He should do his damn job.

□ 1050

HONORING JOEL WILLIS FOR 45 YEARS OF SERVICE TO GEORGIA

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine, Mr. Joel Willis, for his recent retirement after 45 years of serving his community in St. Simons Island, Georgia.

Mr. Willis epitomized strong leadership and an unwavering work ethic, earning him his position as CEO of Epworth by the Sea.

Through nearly 50 years of hard work at Epworth, Mr. Ellis transformed what was once a humble motel into a state-of-the-art retreat, tourist destination, and host to Christian conferences.

Epworth by the Sea undertook an incredible expansion under Mr. Willis' leadership, adding over 135 rooms and 50 employees, fostering the growth of St. Simons Island. Not only have his efforts strengthened the local economy, but Mr. Willis has made it Epworth's mission to continue giving back, as shown through its history of accommodating church-related and nonprofit groups.

Mr. Willis has exemplified the best of hard work and Southern hospitality, and it is an honor to recognize him and his service to the community of St. Simons Island.

SUPPORTING GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAMS

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

Ms. SIMON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose the administration's cuts to critical gun violence prevention programs, and I rise today in deep solidarity with the innovators of CeaseFire, violence interrupters, and community organizations around this country that spend every day, hour after hour, working on the ground and in our communities to stop gun violence.

I thank them for their work. It is so critical and needed at a time when the Trump administration has announced cuts of \$500 million to community violence intervention organizations and funding opportunities directly from the Department of Justice and over \$1 billion in gun violence prevention funding for schools from the Department of Education. Make it make sense.

Now, organizations like Youth Alive in Oakland, California, will not have the funding that they need that is so critical in this moment to do the work of violence interruption on our streets in conjunction with law enforcement and community members who have lost loved ones to violence.

June is Gun Violence Prevention Month, Mr. Speaker, and we cannot stop this work in decreasing gun violence on our streets and in our communities.

HONORING COLONEL LEN LITTON

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

Mr. HARRIGAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Len Litton, a decorated combat pilot, national security expert, and proud son of North Carolina who has spent his entire life in service to our Nation.

Born in Banner Elk and raised in Shelby, Len joined the Air Force out of The Citadel. Over a 25-year career, he flew the A-10 and B-2, trained the next generation of pilots, and led some of the most complex and high-stakes missions in our arsenal. At every level, he

brought discipline, precision, and an unshakable sense of duty.

When his time in uniform ended, his service didn't. In the White House, the Pentagon, and across the Department of Defense, Colonel Litton became the go-to leader for problems that demanded results.

Most recently, he led the effort to eliminate DEI mandates from the Pentagon's personnel system, refocusing it on what matters: merit, unity, and mission readiness.

Colonel Litton never sought credit. He just did the job quietly, effectively, and always in the best interests of our country.

Mr. Speaker, I thank him for a lifetime of selfless service, and I wish him fair winds and Godspeed.

DEFENDING BLACK HISTORY

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

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the nine Black worshippers murdered at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina. June 17 marks the 10-year anniversary of that horrific act by a white supremacist.

Representative Wendell Gilliard has introduced a hate crime bill. It still hasn't been passed. We must pass it.

Today isn't just about remembering the Emanuel Nine. It is also about confronting the attacks on Black history. President Trump called the African-American history museum oppressive and gave Vice President VANCE the power to erase Black history.

Mr. Speaker, 44 States now are debating laws to limit the teaching of Black history. One Pennsylvania district even banned children's books about Rosa Parks and Dr. King.

As we honor the Emanuel Nine, we must stand up for teaching honest Black history. I think of my friend, Representative JA Moore, who lost his sister, Myra Thompson, today. His call is not just to remove symbols of hate but to dismantle the systems of hate that Dr. King talked about.

Let the Emanuel Nine inspire us today to teach honestly about Black history and confront the systems of hate.

D-DAY AND THE BEACHES OF NORMANDY

(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, 81 years ago today, American troops, along with British and many others, stormed the beaches of Normandy.

They faced intense gunfire, landmines, and the real chance they wouldn't make it home. Actually, over 4,000 didn't, as witnessed by the beautiful cemetery that oversees those beaches in France.

Of course, it took grit, sacrifice, a deep belief, and an incredible assembly of materiel and the ability to keep it secret when all that machinery and materiel was assembled just above the White Cliffs of Dover in England.

If anyone has ever watched the movie "Saving Private Ryan," there are actual soldiers who were there at the time who say that that was one of the most accurate descriptions and depictions one would ever see of how nasty and how bad that was.

Mr. Speaker, can you imagine that front door of that landing craft opening and the hail of gunfire that was put upon those guys? Yet, they went anyway because they were required to, because it was a duty, and because they had to turn back one of the greatest threats that the world had ever seen in what Nazi Germany had been foisting upon the world for 5 years up to that point.

We owe them so much.

As Captain Miller said toward the end of that movie to Private Ryan himself: "Earn this."

We all, as citizens, will remember this day on Memorial Day to be good citizens and to uphold what the Founders gave us with this country. We earned this.

OPPOSING FUNDING FOR MUSEUM

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to defend President Trump in one of his initial requests for next year's budget.

One of the goals of the Biden administration, of course, could destroy the country by having unfettered immigration, but also to divide America by groups. Part of that was when he passed one of his big bills, and he put in there an American Hispanic museum. This is consistent with the Democratic policy of trying to divide America.

Our motto put in place in 1782 was E Pluribus Unum, Out of Many, One. The Democrats are trying to teach people they should always walk around hanging on to where their ancestors came from.

President Trump is right not to fund a national Hispanic museum. The wonderful accomplishments of the Hispanic Americans can be placed in other museums, including the National Museum of American History, without having every group having their own separate museum.

□ 1100

AUTHORITARIANISM

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. GREEN of Texas was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise. Mr. Speaker, and still I