

they will be forced to rely on more expensive, unstable, and dirty fossil fuels.

Local economies will be devastated by shuttered worksites, canceled investments, and families will be uprooted.

Imagine if we could generate our own power right here in America with the safest, most advanced technologies in the world. Now consider that we can deploy cheap, clean energy, but the Republicans won't let us. Are they afraid of offending big oil companies?

These credits are working. They sparked more than \$300 billion in private sector investment. They have launched a manufacturing comeback in communities that have waited decades for it.

Repealing them, that would be economic self-sabotage. Here is the thing: Republicans are pushing this repeal, and they are also backing Donald Trump's declaration of a so-called energy emergency. If we are in an energy emergency, why would we gut the industries that are expanding supplies, cutting costs, and creating stability? We wouldn't. We don't solve a so-called emergency by kneecapping every solution except oil.

It is not about ideology. Many, if not most, of these projects that will lose out are in parts of the country represented by my Republican colleagues. It is about whether we keep building the future or tear it down before it has had a chance.

We should be competing with China. We should be making energy cheaper, not more expensive. We should be backing the American workers who are finally getting the chance to accelerate our energy leadership. Instead, the Republicans' big, ugly bill says to pack it up and go home.

I won't stand for that, and neither should anyone who claims to care about jobs, economic growth, or energy security.

HONORING MARK PETERSON

(Mr. YAKYM of Indiana was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the remarkable career of Mark Peterson, a distinguished journalist who has served my community with unwavering dedication and integrity for decades.

On June 24, 1985, Mark began his tenure at WNDU, embarking on a journey that would see him become one of the most respected reporters in our region.

Throughout his 40-year career at WNDU, Mark has been lauded for his ability to quickly grasp complex issues and report them with great clarity and composure. His commitment to factual reporting and his calm demeanor under pressure have made him a trusted voice in our community.

As someone who grew up in South Bend, I have vivid memories of watching Mark deliver the news with professionalism and poise. His reporting was

not just informative, it was a fixture in our home.

To now have had the privilege of working alongside him during my tenure in public service has been not only an honor but also a full-circle moment.

Mark's dedication extended beyond the newsroom. He viewed his colleagues at WNDU as family and approached his work with both seriousness and a sense of comradery. His passion for journalism and commitment to the community left an indelible mark on our region.

As Mark embarks on his well-deserved retirement, I extend my deepest gratitude for his four decades of service. His contributions have not only informed but inspired countless individuals in my community. I wish Mark and his wife, Sue, all the best in this new chapter of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring Mark Peterson for his outstanding career and his unwavering commitment to journalistic excellence.

RECOGNIZING MILFORD, DELAWARE

(Ms. MCBRIDE of Delaware was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. MCBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the momentum and pride on full display in Milford, Delaware, a small town with a big story to tell.

Delaware is the small town State, and Milford reminds us why that is something to be proud of. I had the pleasure of touring downtown Milford with local leaders recently. Despite a torrential downpour, we met with small business owners, local artists, and community members who are working every day to turn vision into progress.

What I saw in Milford is what is possible when communities believe in themselves. Whether it is the thriving downtown storefronts, the Riverwalk's beauty, or the vibrant art scene, including Gallery 37, Milford is a town that is honoring its history while investing boldly in its future. Make no mistake, that future is being built by and for Milford's residents.

We talked about infrastructure needs, economic development, and the importance of expanding access to housing and opportunity. Over the past decade, Milford has become a model for what small town revitalization should look like, driven by public-private collaboration and a clear focus on inclusive growth.

Milford's motto: Art Town, River Town, Home Town, is more than a slogan. It is a reflection of a community that is rooted in creativity and care for one another.

I am proud to represent Milford in Congress, and I will keep fighting for the investments, partnerships, and policies that empower towns like Milford to thrive. When small towns succeed, our whole State grows stronger.

CELEBRATING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF DELAWARE

Ms. MCBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the anniversary of the liberation of Delaware from the tyrannical yolk of Pennsylvania and the British Crown.

In June of 1776, Delawareans laid the groundwork for the single longest running tradition in our State's history: the Separation Day. Separation Day serves as a reminder of the fierce commitment at the heart of the greatest State in the Union. It marks the moment when Delaware said: "We can govern ourselves. We can shape our own future."

That commitment to dignity, democracy, to self-determination is the essence of who we are as Delawareans.

Each June, my neighbors gather in Old New Castle, one of the most historic towns in America, to honor our legacy with joy and pride.

Separation Day isn't just about the past. It is a reminder that democracy isn't something we inherit. It is something we practice, because that bold act in 1776 wasn't made by kings or generals. It was made by ordinary people who believed that a better future was worth the risk. They understood something we should all remember to this day: There are no kings in a democracy.

This year, as we celebrate our independence from one empire and one governor across the State line, let us also reject any attempt to crown a new monarch, whether with a golden crown or a gilded office, because in this country no one is above the law.

Mr. Speaker, I wish a happy Separation Day to Delaware.

RECOGNIZING GABRIELLA BOURANTAS

Ms. MCBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize two extraordinary young leaders from Delaware, Gabriella Bourantas of Wilmington Christian School and Emily Geldreich of Kendall Academy, who have earned the Congressional Award Gold Medal.

Through over 400 hours of public service, personal development, exploration, and physical rigor, Gabriella and Emily have set and achieved ambitious goals through perseverance and commitment.

Gabriella served the Blackfeet Nation in Montana, honed her field hockey and Greek dance skills, and helped her family explore our national parks.

Meanwhile, Emily taught American Sign Language, distributed food, and became a stronger swimmer and martial artist, all while deepening her understanding of deaf culture and global history.

Their achievements remind us that the Congressional Award isn't just about logging hours. It is about building character. In their dedication and drive, Emily and Gabriella reflect the heart of Delaware, where young people lead with purpose and pride.

Mr. Speaker, Delaware is proud of Gabriella and Emily and their hard work. They represent the best of the

State of Delaware and the future of this Nation.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JULIAN L. McPHILLIPS, JR., OF MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

(Mrs. SEWELL of Alabama was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of Julian L. McPhillips, Jr., the people's lawyer of Alabama, who passed away on April 12, 2025, at the age of 78.

Julian was a compassionate lawyer, a devoted family man, an obedient man of God, a dedicated servant leader in Montgomery, Alabama, and a dear mentor who was instrumental in my personal and professional development.

Julian was born in Birmingham and raised in Cullman, Alabama. He was a gifted athlete and a graduate of Sewanee Military Academy. He became an All-American wrestler at Princeton and graduated cum laude in 1968 with a degree in history. He earned his law degree from Columbia University Law School in 1971 and began his legal career on Wall Street.

Julian returned to Alabama in 1975 and launched his own Montgomery-based law firm in 1978, which became known as McPhillips Shinbaum, LLP.

As a lawyer in Alabama for over five decades, Julian gave a voice to the voiceless, representing the marginalized and disenfranchised. He took a bold stand against discrimination of all kinds and was a champion for civil rights, labor rights, and social justice.

Among his many victories, Julian successfully challenged laws targeting low-income Alabamians and civil rights activists, and he secured acquittals in all five death penalty cases he undertook.

His fearless advocacy for the marginalized earned him the moniker of "The People's Lawyer." He was a brilliant lawyer, fierce advocate, and a generous investor in people and just causes.

Julian's heart was his family: His beloved wife, Leslie; his three children, Rachel, Grace, and David; and his seven grandchildren; as well as his surviving siblings, his two sisters, Sandra and Elizabeth, and his brother, Frank.

On a personal note, my life's journey was paved by many mentors but none more influential than the special relationship I shared with Julian McPhillips.

It was a phone call by Julian when I was a senior at Selma High School inviting me to his home to learn about Princeton that set my life on a different course.

Julian had read a newspaper article about my winning national debate tournaments and got in touch with me through my school guidance counselor. Julian's love for Princeton was infectious, and his insistence that I apply was relentless. He wrote me a glowing

recommendation letter, telling the admission officers that with a Princeton education I would certainly be the Barbara Jordan of Alabama.

There were countless times throughout my life's journey that Julian stood in the gap making sure that I didn't fall through the cracks. It was Julian that gave me a summer job before college at his law offices so I could save money for school. While my parents could not afford to visit Princeton, it was Julian and Leslie that came to campus for athletic and alumni events and always took me and my roommates out to lunch or dinner.

When I graduated from Harvard Law School, it was Julian who suggested that I apply to work at his old New York law firm, Davis, Polk & Wardwell, and made the call. When I moved back to Alabama 7 years later, after my father's massive stroke, it was Julian who suggested that I give his brother, Frank, a call to learn about his Birmingham law firm, Maynard Cooper & Gail.

When I decided to run for Congress, yes, it was the McPhillips brothers, Julian and Frank, that gave me my first checks.

When Julian believed in something or someone, he was relentless. Julian's faith in me was unwavering, and his kindness knew no bounds. His belief was so powerful that he made me believe in me too.

When his prediction came true, it was Julian and Leslie that stood with my parents as I placed my hand on our family Bible to be sworn in as Alabama's first Black Congresswoman.

There are times in a person's life that change the trajectory of one's life. Some may call it serendipity, but I call it divine intervention.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Leslie and the entire McPhillips family for sharing Julian with me and my family. I thank Julian for being one of the angels in my life. I am so proud to call him a lifelong mentor and friend, and I am forever grateful for the profound impact that Julian had on my life.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Alabama's Seventh Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the extraordinary life and legacy of "The People's Lawyer," Julian L. McPhillips, Jr. May his legacy live on in the many lives that he touched and may my dear friend rest in power and peace.

ELECTION PROMISES MADE, PROMISES KEPT

(Mr. HARIDOPOLOS of Florida was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I bring good news today talking about what is happening right here in our great House.

First and foremost, what I am most pleased about is, isn't it refreshing that when politicians talk during election time, they actually for a change

keep the promises that they made to the public. The President promised the idea that we would get America back on track, secure our border, and reduce taxes for those hardest hit over the last 4 years.

When people look at the tax bill they are working on, what is called the big, beautiful bill, the great thing about it is that who gets helped most. Those folks who earn overtime, who earn tips, who have earned Social Security, those are the folks being helped by this tax package we are putting together.

One of the myths that is out there, over and over I hear on this floor every day, is that somehow this is a big tax cut for the rich.

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Mr. Speaker, let me inform the public very clearly: The current tax rate for the rich is 37 percent. Under this bill, the tax rate will be 37 percent.

When you look at the actual tax cut package to those folks who are hardest hit with high food prices, rent prices, and gas prices and are now, finally, getting relief, let alone families who are enjoying the largest tax cut in American history with this package, it is smart policy to reward those families that make America work every single day and to recognize that sometimes the government has left them behind and that we need to step up and help those folks most in need.

The second issue that a lot of people talk about—in fact, in my campaign the most—was the issue of the border. They talk about almost 10 million people coming here, not just illegally, but we don't even know who the heck they are. They could be all kinds of vicious. We want to make sure that we let people into this country who are the right people who assist and contribute to society as opposed to taking from it, let alone commit violent actions against society.

The good news to report is that the number of people coming across the border is down 99 percent. It didn't take a new law. It simply meant enforcing the law. Those people who are enforcing the law are actually men and women in the military, including my own son, who is in the United States Air Force.

The great news is that because America's spirit is back, the enlistment numbers are at record levels. A year ago, they were at record lows. Now, they are at record highs.

That is the kind of enthusiasm that people have, once again, for America. The chants of "USA, USA" will permeate not just, of course, at the baseball stadium tonight but across America because we believe that America is back. The respect is back, especially after the failures of what happened in Afghanistan.

With this in mind, how do we move forward? One of the things that has really disappointed me is this debate we have had about Medicaid. I happen to know a lot about Medicaid because I