

His 9 years at Epworth stand out as a testament to his devotion, during which he touched countless lives and expanded God's kingdom.

As he retires to spend more time with his family and friends, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for his remarkable service. While he steps away from his former roles, his legacy will endure as an ambassador of faith and compassion.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievement of the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force which has been named best museum in Georgia Business Journal's 2024 Best of Georgia awards.

The museum exists to educate visitors about the courage, character, valor, and patriotism of the brave individuals who fought in the largest air armada in history, the Eighth Air Force.

The museum preserves the stories of these individuals using exhibits, archival material, and artifacts including a fully restored B-17 Flying Fortress and an immersive simulated bombing experience.

The Georgia Business Journal conducts the Best of Georgia awards every year, allowing the public to vote for their favorite organizations across a variety of industries in the State.

In 2024, the people of Georgia selected the Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force to be awarded this prestigious honor to celebrate its excellence and recognize its dedication to preserving the history and legacy of the Eighth Air Force.

Selected out of over 30 contenders, the award recognizes the museum's significant role in education, preservation, and community engagement.

Congratulations to the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air on this honorable achievement.

DELIVERING AMERICA'S MANDATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, with the inauguration of Donald J. Trump, it is a new day in America. On November 5, 2024, 77 million Kansans and Americans gave Washington, D.C., a mandate to restore commonsense solutions to the Nation's Capital and to get our country back on track. We heard America loud and clear and look forward to delivering on that mandate.

Our constitutional rights are not up for grabs. Sadly, our rights are under relentless attack from the ever-growing Federal Government. The right to life, to bear arms, and even the freedom of speech have become top targets for radical activists. Americans are not interested in sacrificing our freedoms, and I will never stop fighting to uphold and defend these rights.

With President Trump back in the White House and Republican majorities in the House and Senate, Americans' rights are safe and protected. I will bring more Kansas values and commonsense solutions to our Nation's Capital.

Gone are the days of the Biden administration's burdensome regulations that handcuffed Kansans across the Big First District. From their Green New Deal regulatory agenda to their refusal to work with congressional Republicans to pass commonsense legislation, it seemed that Washington Democrats were more interested in scoring political points than actually helping Americans.

The Biden administration's failed policies ushered 16 million illegal immigrants into the country with no proper vetting or background checks. They spent billions of hard-earned taxpayer dollars trying to implement an electric vehicle mandate that the majority of Americans are not interested in. They oversaw the catastrophic withdrawal from Afghanistan with no remorse for its failures.

There is a reason that President Trump and a Republican Congress are trusted more on issues like border security, the economy, and lowering crime. I will work day in and day out to advance President Trump's agenda and commonsense solutions which reflect our Kansas values in the Nation's Capital, not an out-of-touch agenda that picks winners and losers.

I hear and agree with Kansans when they say Congress needs to get our fiscal House in order and make this government efficient again. Today, our national debt exceeds \$36 trillion. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to realize that our current rate of Federal spending is unsustainable.

If the entire country decided to pitch in and tackle our debt today, every American household would need to contribute almost \$273,000 to bring our balance to zero. Compare that price tag with the average mortgage in the United States, which is about \$245,000. This level of spending is not normal. We must get serious about reducing Federal spending and putting taxpayer dollars in places where we can see a return.

As a Member of the Congressional Delivering Outstanding Government Efficiency Caucus, or DOGE, I will work with President Trump to eliminate wasteful spending and roll back burdensome, overreaching regulations that have made life harder for everyday Americans. The Federal Government should make life easier for Americans or get out of the way, period.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, we need to restore the American Dream. As a fifth-generation Kansan, I take the American Dream seriously. For five generations, my family has farmed, fed cattle, and been involved in our western Kansas community.

Today, the American Dream feels more out of reach than it ever has. By making the Trump tax cuts permanent,

though, Congress has an opportunity to usher in a new era of economic prosperity and growth for the country.

If Congress fails to extend those tax cuts, Kansans could see a tax hike of \$2,000 next January. That is the last thing we need after navigating 4 years of record levels of inflation.

Congress must return to helping Americans thrive and stop playing political games with their livelihoods. Our government of, by, and for the people has a duty to help Americans succeed, not make life harder.

The agriculture community alone faces so much uncertainty as it works to feed, fuel, and clothe the world. They, too, had a mandate and told us to stop holding them hostage to political games and deliver a 5-year farm bill that provides certainty.

I will work with anyone to pass a fiscally conservative 5-year farm bill that gives our farmers, ranchers, and agriculture producers the certainty they deserve.

I look forward to working with President Trump to delivering on this mandate in the 119th Congress. I do not serve in Congress to be a caretaker in the slow demise of America. I serve to fight to make it a country that we can all be proud of, while ensuring that our brightest days are yet to come.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 39 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Teach us to know that, You, O Lord, are our God. You are faithful to us, keeping covenant with us. Your mercy and loving kindness rests on those who love You and who keep Your commandments from one generation to the next.

On this day, may we, in our generation, be faithful to this covenant. While it seems an easy task to love You, Your commandment demands that we love You with all our heart, soul, and mind.

Open our hearts that we would show our loyalty to You by loving others with Your great love. Plumb the depths of our souls and attend to all that we fear and desire so that we, in response and faith, will commit ourselves to work with others to eliminate hatred and to grow together in compassion.

Search our minds that we would know what is of You and what is of our own deception by bringing every thought into obedience with Your will. Receive the best and the worst in us, the weakness and the strength in us, the despair and the hope in us, and show Your compassion that we may reveal Your steadfast love that You give to all of us.

In Your eternal name, we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCGOVERN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today ahead of International Holocaust Remembrance Day to honor the memory of those who were murdered during the Holocaust.

In 2005, the United Nations designated January 27, the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, as the International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The systematic government-sponsored persecution and murder of 6 million Jews by the Nazi regime and its collaborators is one of the darkest chapters in history and will always be a scar on humanity.

We honor the resilience of survivors, and we rededicate ourselves to uphold the sacred promise of: Never again.

We promise to always remember those who lost their lives and those who saved them, those who stood in the face of such evil and refused to turn a blind eye.

Mr. Speaker, may we always remember and always pledge: Never again.

END HUNGER NOW—TRUMP AGENDA

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, President Trump took the oath of office flanked by the richest people in the world. His inauguration guests are reported to be worth over \$1.3 trillion.

At the same time, the Republican let-them-eat-cake agenda is pushing to take money out of the pockets of hard-working Americans. These proposals—and you can't make this stuff up—that Republicans have been floating at Mar-a-Lago would slash the food budgets of 40 million hungry families by a third.

These are the people who claim that they care about food prices, the ones who want to make it harder for low-income school districts to serve free meals to kids, all so they can give tax breaks to the billionaire ruling class.

News flash for the President and Republicans in Congress: You cannot make America healthier if you take away people's healthcare and make it impossible to buy nutritious food.

Billionaires do not need help, Mr. Speaker. I beg you, drop these proposals. Work with Democrats to improve programs that help regular people get by, and stop making hunger worse in this country.

CONGRATULATING SPOTSWOOD HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding achievement of the Spotswood High School girls' cross country team, who won the VHSL Class 3 State championship in Blacksburg last November.

This incredible accomplishment caps years of hard work. In the last three seasons, the Blazers placed fourth, third, and finally runners-up. They took home the trophy this year with three athletes finishing in the top 10: Marika Dickel, Ashland Dickel, and Hayley Mancini. These all-star honorees were joined by their teammates: Carla Argueta-Romero, Reyna Dickel, Peyton Joyner, Anna Lowe, Marykate Miller, and Lillian Myers.

The team combined scored a total of 49 points for first place. They were led by assistant coach, Margene Dobbins, and head coach, Sue Rinker. Coach Rinker's expertise and consistent leadership earned her the well-deserved Coach of the Year Award from MileStat.

I congratulate the Spotswood Blazers girls' cross country State champions. The victory reflects not only the talent and determination of each runner, but the dedication and support of their coaches, families, and the entire community.

HONORING ROSE MARIE SICKLER

(Mr. KENNEDY of New York asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Rose Marie Sickler of Clarence Center, New York, who passed away on December 3, 2024.

Born on July 19, 1948, to Joseph and Lillian LaBuda, Rose grew up in the town of Tonawanda, attended Cardinal O'Hara High School, Medaille College and earned her master's in elementary education from Buffalo State College.

For 30 years, Rose served as a beloved kindergarten teacher in the Depew Central School District. She dedicated her career to shaping the lives of hundreds of students with her joyful heart, innovative programs like the annual Penguin Hop, and her deep commitment to nurturing young minds.

A devoted wife to Charles for over 50 years, a loving mother to Dr. James Sickler and Dr. Thomas Sickler, and a steadfast supporter of numerous charitable causes, Rose's kindness and selflessness knew no bounds. Rose faced her final battle with cancer with grace and courage, leaving behind a legacy of love, compassion, and inspiration for all who knew her.

May she rest in peace, and may her family find comfort in the memories of her life.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ANDREW

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to wish my best bud and my nephew a happy 15th birthday. Today is the actual day. Happy birthday, Andrew. I hope you have a wonderful day.

NATIONAL MENTORSHIP MONTH

(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, January is National Mentorship Month. It is the perfect time to highlight the transformative work of the Epsilon Sigma Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, with their Alpha Academy Leadership Development Program, which serves male students from Edgecombe, Nash, Halifax, and Wilson Counties.

They are empowering middle and high school students in eastern North Carolina through three core pillars: leadership, mentorship, and scholarship.

Since its inception, the Alpha Academy has impacted over 200 young men, continuously shifting life narratives and opening doors to a brighter future. These young men have engaged in impactful local and global service projects from turkey drives and