

### HONORING THE LIFE OF DAN WHEELER

(Mr. ROSE of Tennessee was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a true public servant. Daniel Clyde Wheeler passed away just over 2 months ago.

Dan Wheeler, as most people referred to him, grew up in the Crab Orchard community in Cumberland County, an area I am proud to represent here in Congress.

Like myself, Mr. Wheeler grew up on a family farm. That experience led him to become a staunch advocate for our State's growers and producers.

In 1965, he started a long career working for the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation where he served as an agent for Marion County and Sequatchie County. In no time, he was representing an entire region encompassing the Cumberland Plateau and the Chattanooga area of Tennessee.

In 1973, Mr. Wheeler became assistant to the president and director of organization for Tennessee Farm Bureau. By 1980, he took on the role of lobbyist for the Farm Bureau Federation, a role he saw as an opportunity to advocate for his fellow farmers across Tennessee and across the Nation. He later was named chief administrative officer of Tennessee Farm Bureau. His dedication led him to become Tennessee's 32nd Commissioner of Agriculture in January of 1995.

I was blessed to succeed Commissioner Wheeler, who I considered to be a man of great knowledge, as well as a personal mentor.

He formed the first-ever Governor's Council on Agriculture and Forestry in Tennessee, an important step that brought key stakeholders to the table. That, I suspect, will be his enduring legacy, bringing growers and producers into the same room as policymakers. That collaboration continues to have a major impact on our State's leading industry, agriculture. Commissioner Wheeler also served as the Southern United States Trade Association president, where he represented 17 States and Territories.

In 2000, he was named Man of the Year in Service to Tennessee Agriculture by Progressive Farmer magazine.

Commissioner Wheeler helped neighbors outside the agriculture industry, as well. He served the Maury County United Way, the Columbia Kiwanis Club, the Maury Regional Hospital Foundation, and the First Farmers and Merchants National Bank of Columbia, Tennessee, on their board of directors.

He leaves behind a wife of 59 years, Carol; two sons, Jim and David; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

I thank Commissioner Dan Wheeler and honor him for his many contributions to our great State of Tennessee.

### HONORING THE LIFE OF JOE MOORE

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible life of Joe

Moore, who passed away in late March at the age of 90. Mr. Moore lived a life dedicated to agriculture. I, along with many other current and former Tennessee FFA members, consider him to be a mentor, a role model, and indeed a hero.

The Time magazine cover next to me was published after he was named the FFA Star Farmer of America in 1955. Appearing in the October 24, 1955, issue, it shows a 21-year-old Joe Moore, the only active FFA member to make Time's cover.

At the FFA convention that year, judges were impressed at his farming operation conducted in Jackson County, Tennessee, which I am honored to represent today. He had a net worth at that point of \$37,000, at the time, a great deal for someone of his age in the mid-1950s. At that time he was farming 505 acres, 85 of which he owned personally.

I often say farmers are our Nation's original conservationists. Joe Moore is a shining example of why I believe that to be true. The Time article noted how he incorporated modern farming techniques to combat erosion and improve soil health. He carefully monitored the diet of his livestock to keep them healthy. He showed great attention to detail and inspected his animals closely, which enabled him to detect any health issues early.

Mr. Moore found his success off the farm, as well. He was the owner and operator of the Upper Cumberland Oil Company in Cookeville, which sold and distributed Texaco petroleum products for over 30 years.

He also believed in giving back. He is the original founding board member of the Granville Museum in his home community, served as an elder of the Liberty Church of Christ, and was a longtime supporter of FFA in Tennessee.

He lived a long life alongside his wife, Ann, of more than 68 years. He leaves behind a son, a daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I will end with a quote from Moore from 1955: "Farming is the closest thing to the Lord you can do." I could not agree with him more.

### WILDFIRES IN OREGON

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to a crisis in the American West and across the country. Extreme wildfires now ravage my home State of Oregon every summer, and the threat is growing. I am here today to speak out against cuts to programs that support wildland firefighters and their frontline crews.

For years now, American families in the Pacific Northwest have lived on the edge, wondering if this will be the year they are forced to flee their homes at night with only their children, their pets, and whatever few mementos they

can frantically grab in the moments after the evacuation alert.

I have spoken with Oregonians who lost everything in the blink of an eye; homes, family heirlooms, beloved pets, and, tragically, family members.

□ 1030

I have spoken with people who demonstrate extraordinary bravery and step into the line of duty as wildland firefighters, sacrificing their safety to protect their neighbors and their communities.

The 2020 Labor Day fires were the most destructive in our State's history. Mr. Speaker, 1.4 million acres burned. More than 4,000 homes were destroyed, and at least nine people died. Smoke filled the air for days throughout the region.

Last year, Oregon saw 1.9 million acres burn, setting a new record.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to set aside political differences on this issue because the danger is spreading. Wildfire season now stretches for much of the year. That threat has reached States that never expected to see megafires. From the scorched hills of Hawaii to smoke-filled skies in New York, this is no longer just a Western States problem. It is a national emergency.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please listen to the American West when we say that this is a crisis that will kill thousands more until we act. Let's work together on real solutions, like investing in wildfire preparedness and providing better pay and benefits for wildland firefighters.

The administration's current plan of slashing volunteer wildfire crews is a disingenuous attempt to cut costs. It is shortsighted and will cause more loss of property and lives.

I stand ready to work with anyone who is willing to take this threat seriously.

### FUNDING CITIZENSHIP AND ASSIMILATION GRANT PROGRAM

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the weaponization of our Federal Government and the Trump administration's actions to distort agency missions and cancel valuable grant programs.

In March and again in April, I wrote to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, USCIS, at the Department of Homeland Security regarding a decision they made to abruptly cut funding for the Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program.

The Immigration and Nationality Act established USCIS to administer immigration benefits and citizenship programs. USCIS oversees lawful immigration into the United States and provides services, including determining eligibility for citizenship, verifying employment eligibility, administering humanitarian programs, and promoting instruction and training on citizenship rights and responsibilities.

As I wrote in my letter to the USCIS, the Citizenship and Assimilation Grant

Program furthers this mission by providing grant funding to organizations that support eligible, lawful permanent residents with the U.S. citizenship application process, civics instruction, and other services to help prepare for naturalization.

If my colleagues haven't been to a naturalization ceremony, I encourage everyone to do this. These are the types of people we want to be U.S. citizens.

In response to my letter, USCIS Acting Deputy Director Kika Scott tried to justify the decision to cancel this program by stating that it no longer effectuates the agency's priorities. That is unacceptable and a frustrating explanation.

First, we frequently hear from our colleagues across the aisle who say that people need to come here legally. As I said, this is a program that helps eligible, legal permanent residents with the U.S. citizenship process.

Second, Congress already appropriated this funding, so it is illegal and unconstitutional for the administration to block the grant funding just because a President doesn't like immigrants and is doing everything in his power to vilify them.

The United States was built by people who came to this country to seek a better life for themselves and their families. This thoughtless decision is an abuse of power and just one more example of how the Trump administration is scapegoating immigrants.

Today, during Immigrant Heritage Month, I am, once again, calling on USCIS to reinstate the remainder of the canceled grant awards that helped refugees and other aspiring Americans who came to the United States through legal pathways to assimilate and contribute positively to our vibrant communities and the economy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

#### RESCISSIONS PACKAGE IS FIRST STEP

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

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that Congress has a spending problem. We continue to spend taxpayer funds despite our \$36 trillion debt. This level of debt is massive, equaling over \$323,000 per taxpayer when split up among the taxpayers of this country.

If that wasn't bad enough, when we look at this spending, billions of taxpayer dollars are wasted on frivolous efforts to support programs that have no benefit to taxpayers themselves.

I was excited to see President Trump taking an unprecedented approach to curb excessive spending by our Federal agencies by establishing the Department of Government Efficiency. Since established, DOGE has illuminated the

billions of dollars being drained on pointless projects that do nothing to help the American people.

For example, DOGE has exposed million-dollar contracts, including \$3 million to support "Sesame Street" in Iraq and \$6 million for net-zero cities in Mexico. Funding for USAID programs is also frequently going to NGOs that work to promote their liberal agenda in the most conservative parts of the world.

Just imagine \$1 million going to one of the cities in our congressional districts and the impact that it could have there. It is a disgrace that Americans' hard-earned tax dollars are being used to support these programs and organizations under the guise of necessary foreign aid.

In addition to this, Congress continues to prop up the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to promote public media stations like PBS and NPR. Taxpayer dollars should not be used to promote a narrative that demonizes one side of the aisle or another. Yet, that is exactly what these media stations continue to do. NPR and PBS have continued to have an ideological bias, promoting things like critical race theory and the LGBTQ agenda.

From foreign aid to NPR, massive amounts of taxpayer dollars are wasted every day with little to no government oversight. Congress cannot continue to let blank checks go out the door without revisiting the way that these funds are used to help the American people.

This is why I am proud to support the rescissions package sent to Congress by President Trump. This package will claw back \$9.4 billion of wasteful government spending, including \$8.3 billion allocated to dozens of wasteful programs at USAID and \$1.1 billion to prop up the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

This rescissions package is the first step in ensuring that taxpayer dollars are used to promote everyday Americans in very real ways.

I look forward to passing this first rescission package and look forward to continuing to support the work of President Trump and the DOGE team to identify and eliminate wasteful government spending.

#### END MISUSE OF EMERGENCY SPENDING

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, speaking of spending, outside of wasteful spending on international aid and public media, Congress has another problem contributing to the national debt: emergency spending.

Over one-third of our current national debt, about \$12 trillion, can be attributed to emergency spending. This is an addiction that needs to be remedied. Shockingly, money used on emergency spending is rarely paid back and most is never used for actual emergencies.

For example, emergency spending during the COVID-19 pandemic spent \$70 million on tourism marketing campaigns in Puerto Rico and another \$6 million to replace irrigation systems

at two golf courses. Other emergency spending bills have dished out \$140 million for infrastructure improvements for Gulf Coast shipyards and \$9.7 million for an assistance program to compensate eligible orchard tree losses.

We cannot continue to use emergency spending to fill gaps in funding that weren't properly appropriated to begin with. This spending not only contributes to the national debt but furthers a spiral of spending for the next fiscal year.

I am proud to have introduced my bill, the Emergency Spending Accountability Act, to correct this gross misuse of emergency spending.

My bill will ensure that every taxpayer dollar spent on emergency spending is fully paid back and accounted for over the following 5 years once the bill passes. Additionally, my bill would restore integrity to the term "emergency spending" by requiring committees to justify why these funds qualify as necessary, sudden, urgent, and unforeseen and are not permanent.

These provisions will help to put Congress back on track toward fiscal responsibility and prevent further abuses of this funding mechanism.

I thank all Members who support this legislation, and I am looking forward to seeing its progress through this body.

#### ICE, SURVEILLANCE, AND TRUMP

(Ms. OMAR of Minnesota was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to denounce the Trump administration's police state tactics in Minneapolis, Los Angeles, New York City, and so many other cities across the country.

We should speak clearly about what is happening.

Masked agents of the state in unmarked vehicles are terrorizing communities. They are disappearing people. They are targeting political opponents of the President.

They are using militarized force to silence, intimidate, and brutalize not just Americans who are exercising their First Amendment rights but also members of the press.

They are partnering with Trump's donors, Silicon Valley oligarchs, for a sinister and deeply un-American agenda of surveillance and criminalization based on people's political views or, in some cases, just based on where they live.

There was a story that Trump told during the campaign about the need to restore law and order, about the need to target criminals. Within moments of assuming the Presidency for the second time, though, his true agenda became clear.

The administration has no interest whatsoever in targeting criminals. What they want is to fulfill Stephen Miller's white nationalist fantasy. They are targeting law-abiding people.