

Francis of Assisi tucked in her wallet as a guiding principle: Make me a channel of your peace.

Melissa led us through some of the State's most difficult challenges, often with a divided legislature, and the tributes that have poured in from her former colleagues from both sides of the aisle speak to her character and her leadership style.

She knew how to get things done and she did it with determination, respect, and pragmatism. She built bridges across the aisle and she kept her diverse caucus together to usher through some of the most consequential legislation in our State's history. Her work and legacy undoubtedly improved the lives of Minnesotans for generations to come.

Let us heed the words of Melissa and Mark's children who wrote in their beautiful tribute to their parents, "The best way to honor our parents' memory is to do something, whether big or small, to make our community just a little bit better for someone else."

Let us all honor Melissa and Mark by leading with kindness and compassion, by prioritizing civility and humility in our service, and by always striving to make our communities just a little bit better for someone else.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER).

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of all Minnesotans to honor the lives and legacies of former Minnesota Speaker of the House Melissa Hortman and her husband, Mark, who were viciously murdered in their home on June 14.

We also continue to pray for Minnesota State Senator John Hoffman and his wife, Yvette, as they recover from this heinous attack, as well.

There is no place in our country for politically motivated violence. None. The fact that the Hortman and Hoffman families are being forced to endure the consequences of inexplicable evil is heartbreaking, devastating, and infuriating for us all, but it is through tragedies like this that we are reminded that we are stronger together. There is more that unites us than divides us, and when we turn to our faith in God, we can maintain hope in the midst of absolute turmoil.

We are grateful to local, State, and Federal law enforcement for their swift action in apprehending this evil coward who attacked these dedicated public servants and we look forward to justice being served.

Ms. MORRISON. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of us to join in a moment of silence in honor of Melissa and Mark Hortman.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF NANCY JOHNSON

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

Mrs. FEDORCHAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate

the retirement of Nancy Johnson, the longtime executive director of the North Dakota Soybean Association.

For over two decades, Nancy has been a driving force in advancing North Dakota's soybean industry. Her leadership, strategic insight, and tireless advocacy have strengthened not only our State's agriculture economy but also the national voice of soybean producers.

She brought people together, farmers, researchers, and policymakers, to promote innovation and sustainability in agriculture. Nancy's dedication has left a lasting mark on rural communities across our State.

On behalf of North Dakota, I thank Nancy for her remarkable service. Her legacy will live on in the fields she fought for and the people she empowered. We wish her all the best in her retirement.

TIME TO END THE DAMAGE OF THE DOBBS DECISION

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

Ms. BYNUM. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow marks 3 years since the Supreme Court voted to strip women of their reproductive healthcare rights, overturning 50 years of legal precedent. I am talking about the Dobbs decision.

I rise today because that devastating decision has put the health of women nationwide at risk. Since then, States have issued extreme restrictions on abortion, forcing thousands of women to travel or risk prosecution to access basic healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, this is unacceptable. As a mother to two daughters, hear me when I say it: Decisions regarding reproductive healthcare should not be in the hands of politicians and lawmakers. We must protect and expand reproductive freedom for women everywhere.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to end the damage of the Dobbs decision and restore a woman's right to choose.

HONORING ELIZABETH HARTLEY

(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 Elizabeth Hartley, who has been named a national ambassador for health science education and a finalist for Georgia's top new teacher in technical education. She has led an exceptional career in the Bulloch County School System, receiving a variety of awards within her first 5 years of teaching. As an ambassador for the National Consortium for Health Science Education, she will cohost seminars, webinars, support major events, and boost national engagement in health science education.

Outside of the classroom, Ms. Hartley is not only a registered nurse but also

the Bulloch County Therapeutic Allied Health and Medicine career pathway instructor. The pathway helps more than 130 students annually, serving as a local pipeline for future healthcare professionals.

Today, we express our gratitude to Elizabeth Hartley for her service to Bulloch County students.

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RECOGNIZING LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS LEADERSHIP

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, Westchester County is fortunate to have an active citizens group, the League of Women Voters, who are committed volunteers that advance voter education, discussion of key local, State, and national issues, holding seminars and programs on timely topics, and moderating public candidate debates in a nonpartisan manner.

In my home county, we have a number of local leagues, and their leadership is indispensable to ensuring good civic participation at every level of government.

Let me recognize: New Rochelle, Joan Alexander; Larchmont-Mamaroneck, Louise Perez and Beth Radow; Scarsdale, Beth Cukier; Rivertowns, Susan Maggiotto; White Plains, Alan Cass; Rye-Rye Brook-Port Chester, Liz Rotfeld and Roz Carvin; and the Countywide League of Women Voters of Westchester for the past 5 years under the leadership of Kathy Meany.

In upholding our Nation's values, we salute their voluntary service and recognize them today on the floor of the House of Representatives.

CONGRATULATING THE OKLAHOMA CITY THUNDER

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

Mrs. BICE. Mr. Speaker, a month ago, I spoke on the House floor to congratulate the Oklahoma City Thunder on winning the Western Conference finals. Now, I am thrilled to be able to recognize the Thunder on their first NBA Finals championship.

This team is truly historic. Their season win total is now tied for the third highest ever. Shai Gilgeous-Alexander hit a rare superfecta: Regular season MVP, Finals MVP, NBA champion and scoring champion.

This season is the culmination of the vision of Clay Bennett and the entire ownership team, the team's General Manager Sam Presti, and of course Coach Daigneault.

I know that I speak for the entire State when I say thank you to SGA, Alex Caruso, Chet, Jalen, and the entire Thunder team. They truly have inspired us all, and we are all proud of them.

Although I can't be there tomorrow, it is time to celebrate. Mr. Speaker, Thunder Up.

HONORING DR. SOLANGES VIVENS

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

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Immigrant Heritage Month and Caribbean American Heritage Month, reminders of the courage of those who came to this Nation seeking freedom, safety, and opportunity.

As the proud daughter of Haitian immigrants, I carry the hopes of my parents and the legacy of the people who fought for dignity and justice.

Today, I honor Dr. Vivens, a Haitian American who rose from a non-English speaking factory worker to a nationally recognized healthcare executive and entrepreneur. Dr. Solanges Vivens reshaped the landscape of long-term care, providing that with unwavering faith, even the highest mountains can be moved with determination, persistence, and excellence.

Because of leaders like Dr. Vivens, we are reminded that diversity is our strength and that unity is our power. I am extremely proud to recognize Dr. Solanges Vivens and to have her today in the gallery with her family.

Let's honor the past and ensure everyone has a fair shot at the American Dream to do great things in our country and also to help all Americans achieve greatness. Thank you, Dr. Vivens, for all your service.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DOWNING). The Chair reminds Members that the rules do not allow references to persons in the gallery.

MEDICAID IS A LIFELINE

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

Ms. GILLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise the alarm on Senate Republicans' plan to rip Medicaid from 1.5 million New Yorkers, including children, seniors, and veterans on Long Island.

Mr. Speaker, Medicaid is not a luxury. It is a lifeline. In Nassau County, one in four children depend on Medicaid for their healthcare, and two in three seniors in nursing homes are covered by Medicaid.

Slashing Medicaid means ripping healthcare from the youngest, the oldest, and the special needs communities, the most vulnerable members of our community.

Nonpartisan health policy experts, economists, and medical groups, including Healthcare Association of New York State, have already warned that the impact of gutting this program will be felt by all, including those with private insurance.

Every American can expect higher costs and reduced access to care.

Once again, we have been clearly warned: The Medicaid cuts in the budget bill will have devastating impacts on our healthcare system and on millions of Americans who depend on it.

I am committed to fighting against these dangerous attempts to attack Long Islanders' healthcare.

REMEMBERING KYLE BENJAMIN COLEMAN

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Kyle Benjamin Coleman, a beloved son, brother, and student from Gainesville who tragically passed away this month. Only 19 years old, Kyle graduated from Battlefield High School and had just finished his first year at Morehouse College in Atlanta.

At home, Kyle was the former teen president of our local Jack and Jill chapter. At Morehouse, he participated in campus organizations, including the Morehouse Business Association and the Leadership Education and Development Certificate Program. His friends called him a light and incredibly bright. He certainly was.

I and so many in our community are sending prayers to his family and friends. May he rest in peace.

CONGRESS MUST REASSERT OUR CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise with grave concern for our Republic and the long-term safety of our people, our military, and U.S. assets, both domestically and abroad.

For our Nation's President to launch military force on a foreign nation without Congressional approval—Article I, Section 8—is a clear violation of the most important legal document of our country.

History brutally taught our country what asymmetrical warfare is after enduring 9/11 here at home.

Congress must reassert our constitutional authority before the American people are dragged into a very endless war by those whose radical acts of retribution will not cease.

This is a time to pay attention, to study history a little bit, and to abide by the Constitution of the United States.

HONORING ROBERT SHANAHAN, SR.

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

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Shanahan, Sr., affectionately known as Bob, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, union man, and proud son of Illinois' working class.

Born May 2, 1956, in Chicago and 1 of 13 children raised by an ironworker father, Bob graduated from Lincoln-Way High School and spent the next 40 years serving as a Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen maintainer with Metra. His work was more than a job. It was a calling, keeping trains safe, protecting workers and travelers day in and day out.

Bob stood firmly for workers' rights, from his courageous stand during the 1979 Rock Island strike to his tenure as grievance committee member, trustee, and convention delegate. He believed that unions are essential to the American Dream and that every employee deserves dignity, a living wage, and safe working conditions.

Bob led by example: rising before dawn, always ready to work holidays or weekends, living his commitment to responsibility.

However, his greatest pride was his family: his loving wife, Susan; his children, Rob, Bridget, and Brian; and his fantastic grandchildren, Cameron, Rory, Logan, Morgan, Bernadette, and Susie.

As we honor Robert Shanahan, Sr., we celebrate a life rooted in safety, solidarity, love, and family. His legacy was built on hard work and quiet heroism. He saved lives, mentored workers, and uplifted his community. We continue to pray and thank God for his life. May his story remind us of the dignity of labor and the power of a life lived with purpose.

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STEALING OUR PUBLIC LANDS

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

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, Republicans in the Senate are trying to steal our public lands.

Unsatisfied with stealing our healthcare and food out of the mouths of millions of children, they are now coming for our public lands, lands we fish, hunt, and camp on, lands that have been sacred to our Tribes since time immemorial, lands that are integral to our communities and our land grants, lands that have nurtured us and make us who we are as Americans.

We are here to say "no." This is a fight we can and must win.

To every American out there listening, call your Senator. We must save our public lands.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.