

## RECOGNIZING LOUDOUN WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy as it celebrates 30 years of service to our community.

An organization initially founded by 3 individuals has now grown to over 600 volunteers. The conservancy has led the charge on habitat conservation, environmental education, and advocacy in Loudoun County, everything from stream monitoring to bird and animal counting.

The Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy reminds us that conservation isn't just about nature. It is about community, resilience, and quality of life. I know my wife and I are big fans and supporters of them.

I congratulate Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy on all its years of service to the community, and I thank all the volunteers.

## CONGRATULATING HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES FROM WISCONSIN'S SEVENTH DISTRICT

(Mr. TIFFANY of Wisconsin was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the high school athletes from Wisconsin's Seventh District who competed in the State championships during the 2025 spring sports season.

During the individual State boys' golf tournament, Drake Card of Hudson and Tucker Johnson of Neillsville took home the Division One and Division Three State titles, respectively.

For girls' track and field, Maci Heise, Ciara Hartman, Elletta Uddin, Kelly Fern, and Iszy Sonnentag took home titles in their individual events, while the Cameron and Bloomer girls' relay teams won first place in their respective relays.

On the same day, the Marathon High School boys' track team took first overall, going against 50 teams.

Additionally, boys' track and field athletes Samuel Hebert, Lucas Hansen, Gage Mika, Brady Thompson, Taylor Karcz, Ashton Clark, Kyle Schreiner, and Chris Marcell won titles in their individual events, while the Marathon boys' relay team took home first place in the 4-by-400 relay.

I congratulate each of these State champions and their coaches. Keep up the hard work, and enjoy your summer.

## INVESTING IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

(Mr. DESAULNIER of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our Nation's investments in biomedical research through the National Institutes of Health and the National Cancer Institute.

The research that is conducted through NIH and NCI improves health

outcomes, creates jobs, and furthers our global leadership in biomedical research and innovation.

I am proud to have been a consistent supporter of funding for these institutions, having visited both institutions in Bethesda and around this country.

NIH is the largest public funding source of biomedical research worldwide, with a current budget of \$47.7 billion. Similarly, NCI is the largest public funder of cancer research in the world, with a current budget of \$7.22 billion.

NCI was created by a Republican President, Richard Nixon, as his war on cancer, which has been phenomenally successful.

NIH funding attracts top talent from across the country and, indeed, the globe to help make our biomedical research industry the best by far in the world, an accomplishment Americans should be incredibly proud of.

As a survivor of chronic lymphocytic leukemia, stage IV, the work that goes on at the National Cancer Institute is of personal importance to me and approximately 20 million American cancer survivors. We are alive today because of innovations in medicine funded by taxpayers and the private sector in a wonderful public-private partnership.

Research funded through NCI has undoubtedly helped improve health outcomes. A study published by the American Cancer Society notes that the cancer mortality rate has declined 33 percent since 1991. Those are all Americans who are living today, like myself.

When I was diagnosed, my oncologist said: You are lucky. Ten years ago, with the same diagnosis, I would have had to say all we could do was tell you to enjoy whatever time you have left.

Now, because of these investments, I am able to live a full life expectancy, like many of the other survivors.

From developing the first chemotherapy drug to treat metastatic cancer in 1956 to promising new research on immunotherapy, NCI-funded research has developed numerous new drugs and therapies for cancer.

While these investments and research are good for health outcomes, they are also tremendously good for our economy. In fiscal year 2023, NIH funding generated approximately \$92.9 billion in economic activity. That is a great return on investment, Mr. Speaker.

NIH awards over 80 percent of its annual budget in the form of research grants to 2,500 research institutions across the country, in red States and blue. These grants support the jobs of more than 300,000 researchers at institutions in all 50 States and provide immeasurable benefits to our local communities, especially local community economies.

I am proud that the area that I represent, the San Francisco Bay Area in northern California, is home to 2 of the top 10 recipients of NIH grants, the University of California San Francisco and Stanford University. UCSF is the

top public university recipient of NIH grants, making the region a leader in biomedical research, which benefits the economy and individuals like myself.

The economic benefits are further compounded by private investment. In 2020, private industry as a whole invested \$161.8 billion in biomedical research in the U.S. This was allowed because of the basic research done at NIH and NCI.

Despite these numerous benefits, the current administration and many of my Republican colleagues are proposing to cut the NIH's budget by 40 percent and NCI's budget by 37 percent. That would be a grave mistake for individual Americans who will die and their families and for our economy.

While some claim that private industry alone can replace Federal investment in biomedical research, this just isn't the case. It has been proven over decades. The private sector needs this public-sector investment for them to do many of the drugs and treatments that we currently have. This has been the case for decades. While some claim that this is easily done, there is no way.

Mr. Speaker, the Chinese are investing billions of dollars to catch up to us in this field. We should not lose American leadership.

## AMERICAN ECONOMY GAINING MOMENTUM

(Mr. MEUSER of Pennsylvania was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, the American economy is gaining momentum, but the independent Federal Reserve is, regrettably, not adding the energy needed to abet this growth potential.

After 4 years of inflation caused by excessive government spending and an all-out assault on U.S. energy, our private-sector economy is now in significant recovery, and it truly is only the beginning.

Tariffs are realigning supply chains here at home. By supply meeting and exceeding demand, this will continue to lower inflation.

Additionally, the OBBB makes bonus depreciation, the small-business deduction, and the R&D tax credits permanent, sharpening our competitive edge and incentivizing capital investment.

The table is set for growth. However, nearly \$1 trillion in annual interest payments hang over our heads.

Here is where the Fed's actions can make an enormous difference. Due to the Biden administration's highly inflationary policies, we saw inflation soar to over 9 percent, 20 percent over the 4-year period. Those policies and inflationary rates that came from them forced the higher interest rates by the Fed to as high as 5.5 percent.

The recent CPI report, however, has inflation at 2.4 percent, and PCE, personal consumption expenditures, the Fed's favorite indicator, at only 2.1

percent. Yet, the Fed has not moved much and has left interest rates as high as where they currently are, 4.5 percent.

Mr. Speaker, a 1 percent reduction of interest rates to 3.5 percent would add \$290 billion in GDP growth while also delivering \$200 billion of savings in the service we pay on our debt. That is an improvement of \$490 billion to boost our economy.

Lower rates today will advance housing, an industry with a 3-to-1 multiplier, spur capital investment, and unlock durable good purchases, including cars and household appliances. Unfortunately, fear-mongering by the media drove consumer sentiment down despite, in fact, the lower inflationary data.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon the Fed to choose growth over apprehension, as the President is urging.

CONTINUE BUILDING WORLD'S STRONGEST  
MILITARY

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we are voting on the fiscal 2026 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, an essential bill that demonstrates our unwavering commitment to our veterans, military families, and national security.

This is a major piece of legislation, totaling \$453 billion, that ensures we support those who have worn the uniform and continue building the strongest military in the world. This bill fully funds veterans' medical care, backing up the words we often say on this floor and throughout our districts that we support our veterans and thank them for their service.

Let me quickly walk through what is in this bill: \$453 billion in total funding, \$150 billion in discretionary funding, \$300 billion for mandatory programs, \$131 billion to fully fund veterans' medical care, \$2 billion for military family housing, and over \$1.2 billion for Guard and Reserve construction facilities.

This supports President Trump's initiative to end veteran homelessness through the Bridging Rental Assistance for Veteran Empowerment program, protects veterans' Second Amendment rights, and invests heavily in general military construction.

I proudly represent more than 45,000 veterans in Pennsylvania's Ninth Congressional District. When I include their families, many of whom have served or are preparing to serve, well over 100,000 Pennsylvanians just in my district alone will be directly impacted by what we do today. We also have 800,000 veterans throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

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Mr. Speaker, our Lebanon VA in my district was ranked among the top VAs in the Nation for many years in a row. That is something we certainly take pride in and something this bill supports.

I am also proud to represent Fort Indiantown Gap, the second largest

Army helicopter training facility in the U.S. In total, the Gap trains more than 130,000 military personnel each year.

This bill not only honors our past military heroes, but it also helps inspire the next generation to serve. We are seeing that patriotism grow. Recruitment is way up, thanks in part to the new culture of strength and support for our military under President Trump's leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this critical appropriations bill. It reflects our values, strengthens our defense, and ensures we never waver in our duty to those who have sacrificed for our freedom.

HONORING FIREFIGHTERS AND  
FIRST RESPONDERS

(Ms. GOODLANDER of New Hampshire was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. GOODLANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor America's firefighters and first responders. These are American heroes who put their lives on the line every single day to keep our communities safe. These are heroes who give their lives to saving lives.

Firefighters run into fire for us. They are on the front lines of fighting our Nation's opioid epidemic. In their service to all of us, firefighters are exposed to toxic chemicals and cancer-causing chemicals every single day. That is why cancer is the leading cause of death for America's firefighters.

They do all this work for us, knowing the hazards of the important job that they do. That is what makes them the best of America. They are heroes with families and loved ones who deserve our support.

Today, the families of fallen American heroes who died from cancers they developed in their service to all of us aren't getting the Federal benefits they have earned because of a gap in existing law. Let me repeat that. American heroes who have died from cancer in service to our country aren't getting the benefits that they have earned because of fixable gaps in Federal law. That is not right, and Congress can do something about this.

I am here today because we must close this gap for New Hampshire heroes who are standing beside me today and who are with us today in this Chamber. They are New Hampshire heroes Lieutenant Jessica Wyman of Nashua Fire Rescue and Lieutenant Aaron Cooper of Keene Fire Department, both of whom lost their lives to lung cancer that they developed in the line of duty.

These two brave heroes gave their lives to keep our communities safe. Their families and loved ones deserve to get the benefits they have earned.

That is why today, Mr. Speaker, I call on Members of Congress from across America to support bipartisan, bicameral legislation, the Honoring Our Fallen Heroes Act, H.R. 1269. This

is commonsense, long overdue legislation that I am proud to cosponsor. It will deliver for our first responders and their families.

I say today I am forever grateful to Lieutenant Chris Wyman, a hero in his own right, who is here with us in this Chamber today. He has come to Congress to do what we all should hope every American will do, which is to advocate for this legislation that we have to get done.

In this Chamber, there are words behind me, words of New Hampshire's own Daniel Webster, who called on us to do something, to do something worthy to be remembered. These heroes, including this hero standing before us today, have done so much that is worthy to be remembered and worthy to be honored.

As eloquent as Daniel Webster was, I want to say that Lieutenant Jessica Wyman lived by a motto that is even more powerful to me. It resonates even more deeply with me. She lived by the motto: Tell me and I forget. Show me and I remember. Involve me and I understand.

I thank Lieutenant Wyman from the bottom of my heart for involving me in this cause. It is a cause that I am going to fight for because it is a cause that we should all be on board with. It is honoring American heroes who are the best of our country.

By making the Honoring Our Fallen Heroes Act law, the United States Congress will do something worthy to be remembered. I want to get all of my colleagues involved. With that, I say let's get this done this Congress. It is long overdue, and I thank Lieutenant Wyman for her service.

HONORING ALZHEIMER'S AND  
BRAIN AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize June as Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month, a time to bring attention to a disease that impacts nearly every family in America in some way.

This month serves as a solemn reminder of the devastating toll Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia continue to take on our loved ones, our caregivers, and our communities.

More than 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's today. Around the world, nearly 50 million people are facing daily struggles with this disease or related dementias.

Alzheimer's is not just a health issue. It is a national crisis. It is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States and remains the only one in the top 10 with no known cure. There is no way to prevent it and no effective means to slow its progression.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, deaths related to Alzheimer's increased by 16 percent, further underscoring the urgency for action. Behind these statistics are real people.