

far. Yet, are they really willing to stand up for their constituents and vote “no” if the Senate sends over these deep cuts? I am not going to hold my breath because Republicans have already caved last month and voted to kick millions of people off Medicaid. House Democrats and Senate Democrats are united to stop this big, ugly bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Republicans in Congress to join us to do the right thing and oppose this bill. Republicans should stand up for hospitals, stand up for patients, and stand up for the millions of Americans who count on Medicaid every day.

RECOGNIZING PALMHURST POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

(Ms. DE LA CRUZ of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Palmhurst Police Department for 20 years of service and dedication to public safety.

Since 2005, the department's officers and telecommunicators have gone above and beyond the call of duty. They have received recognition for their Mothers Against Drunk Driving efforts, completed advanced rapid response and active-shooter training, and worked hand in hand with local, State, and Federal agencies.

Their services extend beyond law enforcement and public safety. The Palmhurst Police Department is also dedicated to giving back to the community by hosting Coffee with a Cop and other events, such as organizing toy drives in partnership with the local schools and bringing neighborhoods together through their annual National Night Out.

Mr. Speaker, for 20 years, they have not only protected the safety of Palmhurst but they have also brought Texans together. I thank them for their tireless work and dedication and congratulate them on 20 years of exceptional service to the people of Palmhurst and the great State of Texas.

EMANCIPATION DAY

(Ms. PLASKETT of the Virgin Islands was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, as Americans celebrate this Independence Day, July Fourth, the day the Founders declared their intention to be free from England, the day before in the Virgin Islands, July 3, we celebrate one of the most historic and spectacular days for those of us who have ancestral ties or call the Virgin Islands our home.

It is the commemoration of our emancipation because on that day, July 3, 1848, the Virgin Islands became one of only two places in the Western Hemisphere for individuals to gain

their freedom from enslavement by organized violent overthrow.

On that day in 1848, after months of organization and planning, thousands of enslaved people, including my ancestors, left plantations throughout the island of St. Croix and converged at Fort Frederik in what was the Danish West Indies and demanded their freedom.

Unfortunately, while the Governor of the time, Peter Von Scholten, declared all formerly enslaved in the Danish West Indies free, we now know that freedom is not easily free, and a declaration without full rights and privileges is a hollow declaration.

Even today, anyone who decides to live in the Virgin Islands must give up a portion of their freedom: the right to vote for President, the right to have full voting representation in both Chambers of this body, and the right to receive SSI. The list goes on and on.

How often when asking for equal treatment, even tax law, I have to remind people that we are not foreign. We are, in fact, a possession of the United States, drafted into wars, loving this country with no path to full inclusion. Imagine if Wyoming or Iowa or Vermont were indefinitely to remain territories with no path to full citizenship.

In the 116th and 117th Congress, language was added into H.R. 1 which created a Congressional Task Force to not only create a recommendation to a pathway for greater inclusion for the territories and voting participation in this body but also to examine what has been the cost to the people economically, socially, politically, for hundreds of years not having those rights, including Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

I will be introducing this legislation this term, and I ask my colleagues to join.

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Mr. Speaker, let me say to my fellow Virgin Islanders: We, as well, have work to do in our own freedom. As the prayer and chant says, “We must free our minds from mental slavery,” the chains that bound us in a psychological and cultural legacy that persist long after the physical chains are broken. Liberation involves more than legal freedom. We Virgin Islanders have had our legal freedom for almost two centuries, and yet we still struggle with violent crime against one another, crumbling sociopolitical infrastructure, and blaming others for the state of our community instead of assigning ourselves work to make it better.

True emancipation and liberation require breaking free from internalized oppression, self-limiting beliefs, and our own social systems that continue to marginalize ourselves and our children.

Our ancestors made the brave, bold decision to take a history of bloodshed, pain, and inhumanity—a history of

being stolen and trafficked from Africa to the West, and exposed to some of the most inhumane and grueling conditions—and transformed it into achievement of their freedom.

The environment of self-hatred and hatred of others that persists on our islands must stop. That is not the sacrifices our ancestors made. Our ancestors could not have accomplished the incredible feat of defeating the Danish Army with every odd stacked against them without being unified. Unity and love are inseparable.

Let this Emancipation Day serve as both a commemoration and a call to action for us to honor our ancestors who resisted and survived as we do the work of full liberation. Let this day remind us that freedom is both a historical achievement and an ongoing process of our individual and collective self-determination, progress, and development.

Blessed Emancipation Day.

HONORING MELINDA WOODHURST

(Mr. NORMAN of South Carolina was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize an extraordinary public servant, Ms. Melinda Woodhurst, whose unwavering dedication to our Nation's veterans has left a lasting mark on York County, South Carolina. Her strong advocacy and innovative thinking has transformed the landscape of veteran services and has created meaningful change for our servicemembers and their families. She is a prime example of servant leadership.

Since 2017, Ms. Woodhurst has served as the York County veterans service officer. Month after month, she attends meetings with numerous Veteran Service Organizations and the York County Veterans Advisory Council to stay closely connected with the needs of her community. Her involvement also extends to partnerships with the hospice network of York County and other vital support institutions.

Ms. Woodhurst's service to our community has been far-reaching, particularly through her work with the Disabled American Veterans. The chapter's aging transportation van, affectionately known as the bag of bolts, finally gave out during a trip to Dorn Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Even when fundraising progress stagnated, Melinda stepped forward on her own time to raise over \$30,000, enabling the purchase of a new van. She also worked to submit an application for a Disabled American Veterans Trust Fund grant, bringing the potential total funding to nearly \$60,000.

Ms. Woodhurst's leadership goes much further than fundraising. Understanding that the certification process for volunteer drivers through the Dorn VA could take up to 9 months, she collaborated with VA representatives and identified a solution. Thanks to her coordination, Melinda streamlined the

entire certification process, condensing it into a single trip to Dorn. As of January 10, 2025, this process has resulted in 14 certified drivers, which was a dramatic improvement that is now being considered for statewide implementation.

Her vision extends beyond boundaries, as she prepares to transition the management of the Veterans Transportation Program to the newly opening VA community-based outpatient clinic this summer. This will ensure that the impact of her work continues long after her tireless efforts.

Melinda Woodhurst is not only a dedicated public servant but also a compassionate leader and an unwavering advocate for our veterans. Her work is a shining example of what true civic responsibilities look like that I know will shape generations to come. Her efforts have cut red tape, saved time and money and, most importantly, provided critical services to those who have sacrificed for our Nation.

We recently found out that Ms. Woodhurst, due to family reasons, is going to retire as of this week, and I just want to extend to her a slogan that Winston Churchill said years ago when Great Britain was under attack. He said: There will be a time when doing your best isn't good enough. You have got to do what is required.

Melinda Woodhurst has done what is required to serve her community, her State, her country, and more importantly, her God.

On behalf of the Fifth Congressional District of South Carolina, I extend my deepest appreciation for her tireless efforts and exemplary service for those who serve our Nation. I thank her and wish her Godspeed in her retirement.

SURVEILLANCE PRICING IN GROCERY STORES

(Ms. TLAIB of Michigan was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, families in our community are already struggling with rising grocery prices. It is shameful that companies like Kroger are price-gouging our residents with surveillance pricing.

As you can see here, companies are already collecting a tremendous amount of data and private information about our residents to create custom profiles about them. Now, with electronic labels and facial recognition technology, this information is being used in real time to charge us more at the grocery store.

Imagine if you were at the grocery store right now, and they charged you a higher price for an item because it used technology to determine that you were willing to pay more than the next person. Maybe it is hard to believe, but it is true. You look at this, and you can see that they are being very clear about the fact that they want to instantly change the price if it is hot

outside, if it is something that you, again, have been looking at online.

Now they are even adding the use of facial technology in grocery stores that not only raises serious concerns of privacy but also racial bias. We know that facial recognition technology discriminates against our Black and Brown neighbors. This is not just about discriminatory technology, Mr. Speaker. It is about corporate greed, and the CEOs are getting rich while working people struggle.

It is essential that we work together in this body to protect our communities and ban these practices. I ask my colleagues to please support my legislation to ban surveillance pricing, digital pricing in grocery stores. Come and see me. You need to stand with your residents, not these corporations.

Look at Walmart. Look at this: "If it's hot outside, we can raise the prices of water and ice cream." That is what we are talking about. We need to protect our residents. Please, again, support my legislation.

KEEPING FIREARMS SAFE

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, firearms are now the leading cause of death for children and teens in our country. I have talked to pediatricians. They are telling me every day that gun violence is just increasing. Every day, over 125 Americans are killed from gun violence and more than 200 people are shot and wounded.

These aren't just statistics, Mr. Speaker. These are human beings with lives and futures. They are our babies, our friends, our neighbors, our loved ones. Many of these deaths involve accidental discharge of a firearm, often by a child, including several tragic incidents in southeast Michigan.

Just last month, Mr. Speaker, in Oakland County, a 9-year-old was seriously injured after he was accidentally shot. First responders found the boy bleeding from the head and transported him to the local hospital.

This Gun Violence Awareness Month, let's do something to save lives. I am introducing the Safe Storage Saves Lives Act with Representatives DELAURO, FROST, and KELLY to reduce firearm deaths among our children.

This legislation mandates every firearm seller to include a gun lock or gun safety device every single time a gun is sold in the United States. Far too often, irresponsible gun owners fail to properly secure their weapons with tragic consequences, leading to accidental deaths, preventable suicides, school shootings, and other mass violence.

When used correctly, a gun lock makes it impossible for a gun to be fired. Look at this. This is \$4. This legislation is a commonsense solution that every Member of this body should support, every single one. Keeping firearms out of the hands of our children should not be a partisan issue, Mr. Speaker.

We must honor those who have already been killed with a lack of action

in this Chamber. Our communities deserve better. Our children deserve better.

HONORING MATTHEW FISHER

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor one of our dear neighbors in the 12th Congressional District. We worked over 3 years to present Matthew Fisher, a remarkable resident of my district, with the Purple Heart for his dedication and service to our country.

Matthew Fisher was born in Livonia and is a proud graduate of Stevenson High School. In 2004, Matthew answered the call to serve others by becoming a firefighter in one of our counties. In 2007, he made the decision to serve our Nation by joining the U.S. Army. He was deployed to Kuwait and Iraq from December 2007 to 2009. Unfortunately, he was there when a horrific bomb changed his life forever. It took us 3 years as a country to recognize his sacrifice.

Since his return, Mr. Fisher has continued to give back to our community. He currently serves as a mentor at the veterans court system in Redford Township, helping fellow veterans navigate their own paths and helping them heal.

He is a devoted husband to Kathryn and a proud father to stepson, Bankston, and also Sophia.

Please, Mr. Speaker, let's honor Matthew Fisher for his extraordinary service, again, as we honor him with the Purple Heart.

FLETC CELEBRATES 55 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 55th anniversary of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, FLETC.

On July 1, FLETC will celebrate this monumental milestone at their headquarters in Brunswick, Georgia. FLETC's mission is to facilitate the training of Federal, State, local, and Tribal law enforcement officers, as well as international partners that are entrusted to enforce the laws, treaties, and regulations within the United States and abroad.

In the 1960s, studies revealed an urgent need for Federal law enforcement training by professional instructors using modern facilities and standardized course content.

For 55 years, FLETC has molded Federal law enforcement through high-quality, cost-effective, and standardized training programs.

Their programs have trained over 95 agencies and over 1 million graduates for our country. The academy's professional instruction and emphasis on practical applications provides students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed as Federal law enforcement officers.

Today, we celebrate FLETC's continued excellence and the achievements of its graduates.