

Dr. Olga Karman's legacy today knowing that her spirit lives on through her writings and the lives she touched, including my own.

Dr. Olga Karman will be deeply missed. May she rest in peace.

"Thank you very much, my good friend. We love you";

"Muchas gracias mi buena amiga. Te queremos."

CONGRATULATING JOE JENSEN

(Mrs. FISCHBACH of Minnesota was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Joe Jensen on a successful 50-year career serving as a 911 dispatcher. Joe started his career at the Marshall Police Department as a dispatcher and is wrapping it up with Lyon County.

His calm voice put people at ease, even during one of the scariest times of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Joe for his courage, positivity, and service throughout the years. The community will miss him, but they are grateful to him for making it a better place. May he enjoy his well-deserved retirement and the next chapter of his life. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Joe.

CONGRATULATING OFFICER SARA VANLEEUEWE

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Officer Sara VanLeeuwe on a successful 30-year career at the Marshall Police Force. From the time she was a teenager, Sara knew she wanted to be a police officer, starting her career as a part-time officer.

Over her 30 years, Officer VanLeeuwe has had a huge impact throughout her community and especially loved the work she did in the schools. She taught antidrug classes to hundreds of students and served for 19 years as the Marshall School resource officer.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Sara for her courage, compassion, and service. I know Marshall will miss her presence on the force. May she enjoy her well-deserved retirement.

CONGRATULATING 2025 MEEKER COUNTY FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the 2025 Meeker County Farm Family of the Year: the Ahlgrens. Along with their six children and a few part-time employees, Rick and Sarah Ahlgren run the Ahlgren Dairy. The farm milks 220 cows and raises replacement heifers in Ellsworth Township.

While the farm has been in the family for generations, since Rick and Sarah purchased the operation in 2018, the family has invested in new robotic equipment, cover cropping, and a new heifer barn. The family is also active in their community, participating in educational events and even hosting a live nativity scene for the public each December.

I am proud to have a family so committed to both responsible agriculture

and their community. It is because of family like theirs that our rural communities thrive.

AMERICANS HAVE A RIGHT TO A QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION

(Mrs. MCBATH of Georgia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the attack on every American's right to a quality public education in this country.

Families have been promised the right to send their kids to good public schools, regardless of where they live, how much money they make, or their child's disability. However, the careless actions of Secretary McMahon and the Trump administration continue to threaten that promise.

From canceling programs dedicated to teaching children with dyslexia, autism, and other disabilities in the middle of the school year, to cutting teacher pay and illegally withholding billions of dollars meant for after-school programs, President Trump and Secretary McMahon are choosing to make it more difficult for your child to get the attention and high-quality education that they deserve at school.

□ 1010

They are choosing to miss deadlines and hold your tax dollars hostage, tax dollars meant specifically for our children.

This funding is typically released every year before July 1 to ensure that schools are ready to go for the school year that is about to start the next month. It represents at least 10 percent of Federal K-12 funding in every State and almost 15 percent in my home State of Georgia, almost \$225 million.

These dollars appropriated by Congress are meant to improve student learning and empowerment, as well as their achievement, operate before- and after-school programs, train teachers, and help adult learners go back to finish high school.

A few weeks ago, on the evening of June 30, the Department of Education sent out the following message to States:

"Given the change in administrations, the Department is reviewing [the funding for these programs], and decisions have not yet been made concerning submissions and awards for this upcoming academic year. Accordingly, the Department will not be issuing grant award notifications obligating funds for these programs on July 1."

In their own words, they knew this deadline was coming and missed it anyway. They chose to wait until the last second to notify States and schools that the funding your family relies on to educate your child for the school year that is starting in a few short weeks is not where it is supposed to be.

Instead of being in your child's classroom, your money is sitting in Wash-

ington because the Secretary of Education could not be bothered to meet a deadline that is the difference between a school having an after-school program or not. This is funding that is the difference between a child having a safe place to go while they wait for mom or dad to get off work and come get them or not.

The Trump administration's failure to release this funding on time is disrupting school and district planning, jeopardizing the education of millions of students, and forcing layoffs, program delays, and cancellations for students and their families. It is wrong, and it is completely unnecessary.

Last week, I led a letter to the administration signed by 150 Members of the House demanding that the administration follow the law and release this funding. House Democrats will continue to do everything that we can to make this right for the families who are counting on us every day.

There is no legitimate reason that any child or family in this country should have to personally deal with program closures and larger class sizes. That is what the Secretary and President are demanding of parents every single day that they fail to meet this incredibly basic responsibility.

My son, Jordan, was, unfortunately, killed in a shooting in 2012, and I miss him every single day. While my son may be gone, I will never stop being his mother. I will never stop fighting for every child who isn't getting what they truly deserve from our great country.

When I came to Congress in 2019, I promised I would never stop fighting to ensure that every kid who grows up here in the United States receives the skills necessary and stays alive long enough to live a decent life, a life that my son never got to truly fully explore or enjoy.

Time and time again, Secretary McMahon and President Trump fail to rise to the challenge, and the American people are the ones who continue to pay the price.

No more excuses. Secretary McMahon and this administration must follow the law and immediately release the funding meant for our schools, teachers, and families. It must happen.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GOLDA EISENBACH

(Mr. LAWLER of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of little Golda Eisenbach, who was tragically taken from the Monsey community in June.

Golda was the beloved 4-year-old daughter of Spring Valley Trustee Yisroel Eisenbach, a dedicated public servant from a cherished Rockland County family.

Golda's life was cut short in a tragic accident caused by a drunk driver, a painful reminder of how one reckless

choice can shatter lives. What should have been a peaceful end to a day playing in the park with her family and friends ended in heartbreak.

My thoughts and prayers are with the Eisenbach family as they continue to mourn their precious daughter's life. Golda brought so much light and love to her family.

My prayers are also with the other victims of this senseless accident who are still recovering.

May Golda's memory be a blessing, and may her loved ones find peace in the strength of the community surrounding them.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HERMAN S. GEIST

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Herman S. Geist, a Westchester County legend and a true public servant.

Herman was the first-ever chairman of the Westchester County Board of Legislators, and he helped build the foundation of local government in our region for years to come.

A decorated World War II veteran, Herman came home and spent his life working to strengthen his community, from protecting our parks to supporting healthcare and preserving New York's history.

Herman led with humility, integrity, and purpose, and Westchester is better because of him.

I thank his family for sharing Herman with all of us. Herman's legacy lives on in the institutions he strengthened, the people he mentored, and the county that he helped shape.

HONORING PATRICIA "PATTY" RATHSCHMIDT

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an extraordinary Putnam County resident, Patricia "Patty" Rathschmidt, who passed away this week surrounded by the family she so deeply loved.

A daughter of Yonkers, the proud child of an Irish immigrant mother and a decorated World War II veteran, Patty lived a life rooted in service. As a nurse, as a mother of 8, and as a grandmother of 12, Patty poured her heart into caring for others.

Perhaps her most lasting impact began in 2007 when her son Luke was deployed with the 82nd Airborne. Patty and her husband, Jim, founded United for the Troops, a nonprofit that has sent over 30,000 care packages to our men and women in uniform. Each one is a symbol of love, gratitude, and the warmth of home and is sealed with a kiss.

Patty's strength, compassion, and selfless spirit inspired all who knew her. I considered her a friend and will miss her dedication and commitment to our community.

May her memory always be a blessing, and may she find peace with her son Luke in Heaven.

HONORING RON TOCCI

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true Hudson Valley hero, Ron Tocci, for his lifelong service to our veterans, our State, and our Nation.

A proud son of New Rochelle and a U.S. Army paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne, Ron Tocci brought the same grit and commitment to public service that he brought to the battlefield.

For 20 years, he served in the New York State Assembly, including over a decade as chair of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, where he authored more than 200 bills. Ron secured funding for State veterans' nursing homes, fought for those battling addiction, and never stopped working to uphold the dignity of our flag and those who defend it.

Ron was then commissioner of veterans affairs for the State of New York, and for 11 years, he served as director of the Westchester County Veterans Service Agency, where he fought to combat veteran homelessness and provide our veterans with the services and dignity that they deserve.

On behalf of a grateful community, I thank Ron for his decades of selfless leadership and for reminding all of us what it means to put service above self.

Ron has been a tremendous friend, supporter, and colleague, and I look forward to what the future holds for him.

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THANKING OFFICER ROBERT SCISCO

(Ms. MCBRIDE of Delaware was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. MCBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officer Robert Scisco, a school resource officer at Rehoboth Elementary, who has been named Delaware Mentor of the Month.

For the last 3 years, Officer Scisco has mentored Yanziel Rodriguez, a rising fourth grader, meeting weekly to talk, play checkers, and build a bond grounded in trust and encouragement. Before every move, Officer Scisco reminds Yanziel to stop, take a moment, and think, advice for a game of checkers and for life.

This is what public service looks like: presence, patience, and purpose.

Officer Scisco is helping build a culture of safety and connection in our schools, one relationship at a time. I thank him and the Cape Henlopen School District.

HONORING NORTH SHORES BEACH PATROL

Ms. MCBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary heroism of the North Shores Beach Patrol lifeguards who, while off duty, sprang into action to save a swimmer in distress off the coast of Delaware.

On the evening of July 3, lifeguards received an alert of a distressed swimmer and immediately texted one another, racing back to the beach. Luke McDermott and five others searched beyond their patrol zone and swam over 300 yards in dangerous, choppy water to rescue a woman who had been adrift for 2 hours without a life jacket.

Their swift response, courage, and deep sense of duty saved a life, and Delaware is indebted to them.

DEVASTATING FOOD ASSISTANCE CUTS

Ms. MCBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, last week, I stood alongside Senators COONS and BLUNT ROCHESTER at the Food Bank of Delaware, joined by advocates, providers, and families, to speak out against the devastating food assistance cuts in the Republican budget. The most powerful voice that day was my constituent, Elizabeth Morales.

Elizabeth is a biochemist, a widow, and a mom from Newark. After an unexpected layoff in 2023, SNAP gave her just enough support to keep food on the table for her daughter while she got back on her feet. It wasn't a hand-out. It was a lifeline. Now, that lifeline is being ripped away from families like Elizabeth's.

Under this budget, Delaware will lose tens of millions of dollars in SNAP support, putting more than 37,000 families at risk. These cuts don't just stop at the grocery store. They reach into our classrooms.

Up until this budget, kids were automatically enrolled in school meal programs through SNAP, but this budget breaks that link, creating a mountain of paperwork for families and schools and putting thousands of students at risk of going hungry.

We know that a hungry child cannot learn. Nutrition fuels focus, growth, and lifelong success. These cuts don't just take away meals; they take away potential. As Elizabeth put it: This is theft, plain and simple.

It is cruelty disguised as policy. It punishes families not for failing to work, but for living through a hard season. I will not stop fighting until we restore this funding so that no one in Delaware goes hungry.

READ THE BILL

(Mr. HARIDOPOLOS of Florida was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, it is great to be here in the people's House once again.

Just a week ago, when I was celebrating with friends the July Fourth holiday, watching the fireworks go off and celebrating the freedoms we enjoy, many people actually came up to me in Palm Bay.

In fact, one mom came up to me and said: How can you vote to take away my child's Medicaid? He is disabled. For about 5 minutes, I talked to her at length, talking about what this bill is versus what people are talking about, especially the media, especially those right now on my right.

To her great happiness, I think, I told her that her child would not be left behind, that this bill keeps coverage for the most vulnerable, especially our disabled. I literally pointed it out to her, by looking at pages 630 to 633 in the bill. I even told her to simply read the bill and not believe some of the statements she read in the media or the scary texts that were coming out.