

choice can shatter lives. What should have been a peaceful end to a day playing at 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.

□ 1020

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.

A few days later, I heard back from her. She said: You were right. It is in the bill. My son will still be protected.

That was a really happy day for me because people were seeing the true story. They were moving beyond some of the bogus headlines and to the truth. We owe it to those folks who are vulnerable to take care of them. We are a just and civil society that shows compassion, especially for folks who are in need.

When you read the bill closely on pages 630 to 633, it outlines: If you are a senior in a nursing home, you are protected; if you are a child of low-income parents, you are protected; if you are a pregnant woman, you are protected. Those are important items. We made those promises to our most vulnerable.

We also sent a very clear message that if you are able-bodied, get out there and work, be a part of the American Dream, the American experience, and make sure that we are all playing on a level playing field.

We were recently at a hotel. Can you imagine if you walked into a place, you had to pay the full freight for that hotel room, and someone else who made the exact same amount of money didn't have to pay a dime because they either lied on the application or maybe they no longer did a check to verify what their income was? That is not fair.

However, the good news is that with this new bill, there are incentives to get back into the workplace. The latest numbers that came out indicate 10 million Americans are going to be going back to work. The odds are they will actually get health insurance paid for by their employer or, because they are earning more money, they can afford to do so.

That is the American Dream. It is not to be a ward of the State. It is to live the American Dream. It is to be on this Earth because God wanted us to be active members in our community, not a ward of the State. These are commonsense ideas in which jobs matter and dignity matters. That is what we did in this bill.

The other overwhelming rhetoric I kept hearing over and over is, this is somehow a big tax cut for the rich. Again, for those people who don't know, the tax rate for the wealthiest Americans did not change. I want to make sure that it echoes through the next few years, that they recognize the folks who are working and happen to be earning the most money will stay at the same exact tax rate.

What we did do is help out folks who were hardest hit the last 4 years by higher prices: grocery stores, restaurants, their rent, and of course gasoline. Those were all up 20 and 30 percent, and people were hurting. There was no tax relief in 2021 or 2022. Now, they are saying suddenly they want to give tax relief to the middle class.

They had the trifecta back in 2021 and 2022. They chose to do nothing. We

stepped up and said: If you earn tips, if you earn overtime, especially if you work for a lifetime and you earn Social Security, we are going to give you a tax cut. Some of those, in fact, are retroactive. That is real money in people's pockets. We are moving this country forward.

I am happy to be a part of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act to back up what we talked about on the campaign trail and to have a leader in our President who is willing to put it all on the line for people who are in an unfortunate situation. That is the American Dream, and that is why I am proud to support this bill.

I can't wait until a year from now when they see some of the mistruths that were stated on this floor come to reality, that we protected the most vulnerable, stimulated and grew this economy, and really took on the status quo in Washington, D.C.

CONGRATULATING LARRY HASKELL ON HIS RETIREMENT

(Mr. BAUMGARTNER of Washington was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Larry Haskell, Spokane County Prosecuting Attorney, who recently announced his retirement after more than a decade of dedicated service.

Larry's career is a testament to true public service. Before serving as a prosecutor, he was a B-1 and B-52 pilot in the U.S. Air Force and a lieutenant colonel who answered the call to duty after 9/11, serving bravely in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

After retiring from the military in 2005, Larry returned to Spokane to continue his work in the prosecuting attorney's office, where he was elected in 2014 and has since dedicated himself to justice in our community.

Over the years, Larry has tackled some of the toughest cases—murder, assaults, gun crimes, gangs, witness intimidation—always with integrity and unwavering commitment to public service.

Larry once said that being elected to his office was one of the greatest honors of his life, and it is clear he poured his heart and soul into this work. He also showed wisdom and humility, knowing when it is time to pass the torch.

As Larry steps into retirement, I thank him for his courage, dedication, and service, both in uniform and in the courtroom. Spokane County and our entire region owe Larry Haskell a debt of gratitude.

I congratulate Larry on a job well done and wish him all the best in his next chapter.

FIREFIGHTERS RUN TOWARD DANGER

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart not just to speak but to mourn, to honor, and to demand that we never grow numb to the unimaginable loss suffered by those

who dedicate their lives to protecting ours.

Every day, nearly 1 million volunteer and career firefighters across our country suit up, knowing they may not return home. They run toward danger when many others run away.

They give up holidays, time with their children, and nights of sleep so we can live safely.

Today, I rise to honor three of them, three men from the Coeur d'Alene Fire Department and Kootenai County Fire & Rescue who answered the call of duty and paid the price for their courage in an act of senseless and evil violence.

□ 1030

Mr. Speaker, Battalion Chiefs John Morrison and Frank Harwood were not only respected leaders in the fire service, they were pillars of the Coeur d'Alene community. They were proud husbands, fathers, and friends. They were the kind of men who showed up before anyone asked, who did the work no one saw, and who led not with titles but with strength and humility.

Gabe Eckert, president of Local 710, recalled his last memory with John Morrison. They were just two men on the patio, quietly drinking beers and talking about their dads.

That is who these men were, constantly striving to serve the public and the people closest to them. We lost more than firefighters. We lost role models.

Engineer David Tysdal was also critically injured in the attack. He has now endured three major surgeries. By God's grace, he is steadily recovering. If he is listening today, we encourage David to stay strong. He carries the prayers of gratitude of a nation with him.

Mr. Speaker, this violence was not just a tragedy. It was an outrage. An attack on these men was an attack on the very fabric of our community. That anyone would target them with such brutality should chill us to the bone.

The deaths of John Morrison and Frank Harwood and the injury of David Tysdal are a devastating reminder of the cost of service.

To the loved ones mourning these brave men, no words will ever be enough. May they find comfort in knowing their courage echoes far beyond Coeur d'Alene.

CONGRATULATING MILITARY ACADEMY APPOINTEES

(Mr. SUBRAMANYAM of Virginia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate 37 outstanding students in my district who accepted appointments to the Nation's military academies. They just reported last week, and these are incredibly impressive young men and women.

My district, Virginia's 10th, has an incredibly competitive process and nominates the most number of people