

In 2015, Brad participated in the arsenal of democracy flyover to mark the 70th anniversary of victory in Europe. He flew a P-51C Mustang "Tuskegee Airmen" over the Capitol in a tribute to our Nation's first Black military pilots.

He once said about his father: "His experience at Tuskegee was a paramount experience for him in terms of directing his life after the military. He would always relate to the discipline and the moral integrity that was part of the esprit de corps that was at Tuskegee. . . . He was motivated to see other people like himself, motivated to aviate and also fight for the country. They all had that common core experience."

Brad and his father, Donald's, story is an American story. It is a story of a father whose dreams were denied and a son who honored his legacy by breaking barriers of his own. It is a story of persistence, pride, and progress. Brad captured it best when he said: "No matter what the circumstances that you are up against, it is possible to rise against adversity, just like the airmen did, and succeed in life."

Their story is a reminder that American progress has also depended on those who persevered in the face of prejudice. Their story shows that diversity is not a threat nor a weakness. It is a competitive advantage. It is a source of national strength. It has driven innovation, expanded opportunity, and is a common theme throughout our shared American story.

In a time of rising division, these stories call upon us to remember who we are at our best: a nation that does not just tolerate differences but draws power from them.

DEMOCRATS' BIG MISTAKE

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, the big, beautiful bill is now the law, so it is no longer a theoretical discussion about what the bill might do. We are about to find out what it will do.

The Democrats have succeeded in frightening Americans into lopsided opposition. On the day it passed the House, one poll registered just 29 percent public support for it compared to 55 percent opposition.

This has encouraged Democrats to double down on their hysterical warnings of societal collapse, warnings they hope will continue to resonate with the public.

What they don't seem to grasp is that you can't spin the economy. Everybody knows in their own lives exactly how the economy is doing and any politician who tries to tell them otherwise just looks foolish.

Remember when the Democrats were telling us for years that Bidenomics was working. The only economic indicator that matters is the answer Americans give to this question: Are you

better off today than you were 2 years ago?

Now, Americans may never realize that this bill protected them from a 22 percent income tax increase that was set to take effect on January 1. A family making \$75,000 a year won't feel its taxes rise \$1,500, so it won't feel relief from this provision. We don't feel what doesn't happen.

Democrats are counting on this fact while stoking class resentments over tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires, but millionaires and billionaires don't work for tips. They don't get paid overtime. They don't rely on Social Security. Working families do, and for the first time, the big, beautiful bill shields these earnings from being taxed. In addition, residents of high tax States will feel a big reduction in their Federal income tax bill.

Further, businesses get relief, too, those awful millionaires and billionaires, mainly in their ability to deduct 100 percent of their expenses for manufacturing purchases. That means that manufacturers of every variety will add equipment to their plants, increasing the productivity and the pay of existing workers, and adding new jobs to make that equipment.

□ 1010

By opening America's vast energy resources, domestic production is about to rev up, a declaration of American energy independence that will echo throughout the entire economy, then add the completion of the border wall and the removal of millions of illegal aliens that the Democrats allowed into our country.

Under Biden, most of the new jobs were snapped up by foreigners, and real wages fell. Under Trump, most jobs are going to Americans, and real wages for Americans are rising again, as employers are forced to pay a market rate for labor.

The Democrats' mantra that millions of destitute Americans will lose their Medicaid coverage is about to be challenged by reality. The fact is that the only groups losing coverage are able-bodied grownups who refuse to get off the couch and look for work, illegal aliens who refuse to go home, and fraudsters.

What happens when millions of legitimate Medicaid recipients who have been terrified by the Democrats realize that their benefits are untouched? Well, we are going to find out.

Will the national debt balloon? Only if you accept the assumption that the economy will grow at an anemic 1.8 percent next year. The average 20th century growth rate, including the Depression, was 3.3 percent. A mere 3 percent growth rate will generate \$4 trillion of new revenues, and that doesn't include hundreds of billions of dollars collected from imports or saved by eliminating waste identified by DOGE.

How will average Americans fare? They will be paying significantly lower taxes than they are today, especially if

they work for tips or overtime, are over 65, have children, or live in high-tax States. Wages, long undercut by cheap illegal labor, are already rising. Factories that make or buy equipment will be making and buying a lot more of it.

No one unable to work will lose their Medicaid benefits. Their neighborhoods will be safer as criminal illegals are deported and not allowed to return. Their energy bills will be lower.

If all this relief creates just average economic growth, the deficit will begin to shrink, which brings us back to the simple question that we will put to people next year: Are you better off today than you were 2 years ago? Obnoxious protests, hysterical rhetoric, and doomsday trolling won't change that simple and self-evident answer.

One party will have been proven undeniably right and the other mendaciously wrong, and I think that is what the Democrats fear the most.

HONORING LADY ZANDRA LEWIS ON HER 75TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th birthday celebration of the first lady and co-pastor of Miracle Missions Full Gospel Church, Zandra Lewis, a remarkable woman of faith, service, and compassion.

For over five decades, she has faithfully ministered alongside her husband, Pastor Dr. James A. Lewis III. Together, they have built a spiritual home grounded in prayer, love, and community, but Lady Zandra's impact goes far beyond the pulpit.

Lady Zandra is a counselor to women and teens in crisis, a tireless advocate for our most vulnerable, and, above all, a selfless spiritual resource for those who need it most. Lady Zandra leads not just with words but through action, meeting people where they are, loving them as they are, and lifting them up with boundless grace and compassion. She lives her life grounded in faith, forgiveness, and a deep sense of joy.

For Lady Zandra, family is everything, and nothing is more important. She is the proud mother of four, grandmother to eight, and great-grandmother to six, but her love doesn't stop there. Over the years, she has opened her heart to so many others who now lovingly call her mom. That says everything about the type of person that she is.

As we celebrate her 75th birthday, we give thanks not only for what she has done but for what she will do in the many years ahead. We look forward, with gratitude, to all that is yet to come.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I thank Lady Zandra Lewis for everything that she does for our community. Happy 75th birthday.

HONORING ARTHUR "DUKE" SEROTTE

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the

memory of Arthur “Duke” Serotte, a legendary coach and mentor whose reach extended far beyond the field. He passed away on April 14, 2025.

For over two decades at Grover Cleveland High School, Coach Serotte led his teams to 160 wins, 12 Harvard Cups, 10 section titles, and 5 Yale Cups, including a 28-game winning streak.

Coach Serotte’s greatest victories were off the field. He wasn’t just focused on winning. He was focused on the well-being of his players. He understood the challenges they faced off the field and made it his mission to create a safe, supportive environment for them.

During football season, Coach Serotte would host game nights at his own home on Fridays, not just for fun, but to keep his players safe, out of trouble, and focused before their big games on Saturday.

Coach Serotte opened his heart and his home to young people who needed more than a coach. They needed a lifeline. Through football, basketball, and track, he instilled discipline, dignity, and hope.

His son Mike said it best. He had a burning passion for helping, coaching, and teaching kids from any part of the country. That passion shaped lives and strengthened our city.

Even after they graduated, former players often came back to visit Coach Serotte. That tells you everything you need to know about the kind of impact he had. His door was always open, and his care didn’t end with the final whistle.

Inducted into the Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame in 2003, Arthur leaves behind not only his sons, Michael and David, and his four beloved grandchildren, but also a generation of men and women whose lives were forever changed by his belief in them.

Western New York is better because of his mentorship. Our Nation is better because of his life and his service to our community. May Coach Serotte rest in peace.

HONORING DR. TED MITCHELL

(Mr. ARRINGTON of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Ted Mitchell, chancellor of the Texas Tech University System for 15 years of dedicated service to Red Raider Nation in the great State of Texas.

I am honored to have worked with Chancellor Mitchell over the years and proud to call him and his wonderful wife, Janet, dear friends. Chancellor Mitchell successfully led Texas Tech University System to new levels of growth, discovery, and educational excellence during his term.

I wish him the very best as he enters a new chapter of his life. We have a great team of regents chaired by my friend Cody Campbell. I am confident they will find the right leader, but they

will have big shoes to fill, no doubt, with Chancellor Mitchell’s departure.

I congratulate Ted. On behalf of the people of west Texas, I thank him for bearing our banner far and wide and modeling what it means to be a true, fearless champion.

God bless west Texas, and long live the Matadors.

HONORING TEXAS FLOOD VICTIMS

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives lost in the catastrophic floods that struck central Texas over the Fourth of July weekend.

At least 134 lives have been taken, including 27 young girls and counselors at Camp Mystic in Kerr County. This is an unimaginable and heartbreaking loss for these families and for our great State.

I also want to remember constituents from my district whose lives were lost. Tanya Burwick was the epitome of a hardworking West Texan. Wife to Robert, with four children and six grandchildren, she did it all while working for the past 10 years at the Walmart Neighborhood Market in San Angelo, Texas, out of commitment to her family and their future.

Holly Frizzell was also a mother and grandmother. She was married for almost 40 years to her husband, Lane, who was diagnosed with dementia and ultimately passed away. You can imagine the hardships for her in the last years of her marriage to Lane, but she turned that tragedy and struggle into service, becoming a tireless advocate for dementia awareness.

That is who she was, reflecting the very best of our country and certainly west Texas, and that is why it is a major loss to our community.

□ 1020

Robert Brake and Joni Brake—two people devoted to service, him an Air Force veteran, her a registered nurse—were celebrating the Fourth of July in a campground next to Hunt, Texas, when the flood overtook them. They leave behind three children, five grandchildren, and several great-grandchildren. They, too, will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, Texans, as well as people throughout the country, are mourning this unimaginable tragedy. We should honor them by striving for the same sacrificial love and service that they so powerfully and beautifully demonstrated in their lives.

I would say that Texans are tough for a lot of reasons, but mostly because we believe in the power of prayer and God’s sovereignty and because we depend on Him for our comfort, confidence, and strength. I know Texans are appealing to the Father of compassion and God of all comfort to do what only He can do—what these words and any words could never do—which is provide the divine comfort, peace, and strength that these families need.

I beseech my fellow Americans and my Members on both sides of the aisle, join us in prayer and asking God to do

what only He can do to lift these families up, to keep them strong and together through this every step of the way.

May God bless our great country. May God comfort these families. Go, west Texas.

TRAGIC STORMS IN TEXAS

(Ms. JOHNSON of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to mourn the loss of so many lives across Texas. We lost the hope of our future, so many children, so many beautiful girls, who just went to camp to have a good time, to bond with their friends, and to have that time that we all cherish from our memories of our own childhood.

Too many lives have been lost. We have the responsibility as members of government to have a look at why, what happened, what could we do better, and how can we make sure that things like this never, ever, ever happen again.

What we know, unfortunately, is that partisan politics had a role. Republicans have historically denied the ongoing effects of climate change and what is happening in our country.

Over the last decade, we have had more and more intense storms, unexpected, throughout the entire country, but surely in Texas. We have had freezes that have killed hundreds of people, and now we had a 1-in-100-year catastrophic rainstorm that produced horrific floods and tragic loss of life.

What happened in this policy is that Republicans at every level of government in our State failed the people of Texas. At the local level, they refused to have support grants from the Biden administration that would have put in place critical sirens and warning equipment that would have warned these kids at this camp to get out, flee, and seek higher ground.

What we know is that communities that accepted these resources, they all survived. The warnings worked. This community didn’t want to accept help from a Democrat, and now we have hundreds of people who are dead.

Requests were made from the State to help, ultimately, and our Governor denied requests three times for over a million dollars each time that they would have, again, tried to provide warning equipment, again failing.

Now what we have in our Federal Government is FEMA. FEMA is designed to be there as a last resort for communities when these unimaginable tragedies strike. FEMA trains and provides our first responders, the first line of defense, the people that go in and risk their lives at a time when it is most dangerous. They can’t do it alone, and FEMA provides critical training, resources, and supplementation.

FEMA is designed to have an immediate response within a minimum of 15