

hours. However, under President Trump and his canceling of FEMA, defunding FEMA, firing FEMA employees, terminating hundreds of FEMA employees, it was over 72 hours before critical resources were brought into Texas. Mr. Speaker, 72 hours is critical when you are floating in a river and you need help. In these situations, 72 hours make the difference between life and death, and Trump and our Federal Government failed.

After Katrina, we saw how inadequate FEMA can be sometimes. We saw the disaster of government when it didn't work. Congress put in place some measures to repeal and increase FEMA. One of those was you have to hire an experienced administrator of FEMA, somebody who knows what they are doing, because this isn't a time to play around. This administration hired as the director of FEMA somebody who never even knew whether or not a hurricane season existed, somebody who has no experience in this area.

Homeland Security Secretary Noem put in place measures, cost-cutting measures, that catastrophically impacted what the response was in this situation. Phone calls were never answered. The day after this flood happened, she canceled the contracts of the people who answer the phone when you call for help. That is not the response that this government needs, and we have to do better.

I am calling upon my Republican colleagues, I am calling upon everyone in this Congress to have us come together because these tragedies don't just affect Texas. They can affect all of us. Weather is violent, fierce, and deadly, and it is indiscriminate about where it strikes, but we have the ability to fix it. I call on my colleagues to come together. Let's make it better and let's make sure that these tragedies don't happen again.

HONORING ISMAEL GARCIA'S BRAVE SERVICE

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

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the brave service of McAllen Police Officer Ismael Garcia during the horrific attack on the McAllen Border Patrol facility last week.

When an active shooter opened fire, Officer Garcia did not hesitate to jump into action. He willingly put himself in harm's way to protect his brothers and sisters in blue and green. In the face of danger, he displayed valor, sacrifice, and selflessness.

When I visited him in recovery, he expressed pride in taking the bullet to protect others. Officer Garcia served our Nation for 4 years in the Marine Corps, earning the Combat Action Ribbon for his bravery. For nearly a decade since, he has continued to answer the call of duty as a McAllen police of-

ficer, and we wish him a speedy recovery.

May God bless Officer Garcia, our law enforcement, first responders, and the Border Patrol. I thank Officer Garcia for his bravery and courage.

THANKING DR. JAMES C. LEE

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Dr. James C. Lee of Seguin for his lifetime of service and dedication to the well-being of his fellow Texans.

Originally born in Houston, Dr. Lee made Seguin his home in the late 1970s. For nearly three decades, he cared for patients of all ages and served as a founding member, treasurer, and finance chair of the Guadalupe Regional Medical Foundation.

□ 1030

Mr. Speaker, he served on the medical center's governing board as chairman and on the MHMR board, helping those with disabilities and mental health needs access support.

Beloved by both patients and staff, Dr. Lee's presence will be dearly missed. His work to help community members access their healthcare will live on.

Outside of his work in the medical field, he was a devout Catholic, president of the Seguin Area Chamber of Commerce, a 50-year member of the Knights of Columbus, and a 30-year member of the Rotary Club of Seguin.

Dr. Lee's legacy is remembered by his wife, Janice; his 4 daughters, Crystal, Cynthia, Catherine, and Carol; and his 10 grandchildren.

CELEBRATING CENTRALIA'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

(Ms. PEREZ of Washington was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the city of Centralia's 150th anniversary.

My grandpa still talks with a glint in his eye about saving up milk bottle caps during the war to go watch movies at the Centralia Fox Theatre.

Centralia is what we all dream of as the center of the country. Though not perfect, it is honest, vibrant, and furiously proud of its heritage. There is a correct ordering of pride based on real skill and deep neighborliness. We have a relationship to our land and water of stewardship and necessity, not just exploitation or recreation.

If my colleagues haven't made it, there is an excellent shop class and State-winning athletics. Their community college is one of the longest in existence in our State with some of the brightest and kindest students I have met. The Mexican food at La Tarasca is unrivaled.

We stand in gratitude to all the folks who have put their life's work into stewarding this incredible community and town, ensuring and modeling for the country what is worth fighting for and fighting over.

HONORING SKILLSUSA

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, many of us mourn the cultural shift in our country toward an identity that is oriented around what we can buy and flash on social media.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with deep pride in the 90 students representing 15 high schools in my district who placed in the statewide SkillsUSA competition. These are young people who believe and manifest deep cultural regard for making things, doing things, and being captains of their own ship.

My husband actually placed in auto tech for SkillsUSA in high school in Oregon. It is still one of his proudest life accomplishments, and I know it will be for many of these students, too.

I believe that every child who works hard should have the opportunity to be the smartest kid in their school at some point in the day. I applaud SkillsUSA for ensuring that kids who are gifted in the trades, whether it is carpentry, baking, robotics, or my favorite, auto tech, have the chance to be proud of who they are and have their skills recognized and honored.

We congratulate everyone who placed in Washington State's SkillsUSA competition. I am so proud of them. I know the community is, too. Their work is central to the reinvigoration of economic self-determination and agency in America.

CELEBRATING CENTRALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT'S CHIEF FOR A DAY ROMAN WAGNER

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Roman Wagner, a 6-year-old from Adina with leukemia, who became Centralia Police Department's Chief for a Day.

There are 18 law enforcement agencies who take part in Chief for a Day, which honors the bravery, resilience, and spirit of kids who are living with chronic diseases and illnesses.

I know that good kids don't come from nowhere and that it is long work to raise a fighter who believes in public service. I thank law enforcement agencies who have advanced the long work of building safe and strong communities.

To Roman, I hope the power doesn't go to his head. I hope he doesn't actually go to the playground and arrest his big brother at school.

Whether he chooses to pursue a career as a zookeeper or a police officer, I want him to know he is valued and that some of our bravest civil servants stand with him wherever life leads him.

HONORING NATIONAL JUNIOR HIGH FINALS RODEO PARTICIPANTS BROOKLYNN BELL AND JACE HARRIS

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two teens from southwest Washington who recently competed in the National Junior High Finals Rodeo.

Brooklynn Bell, a 14-year-old from Rainier, finished in second place for breakaway roping. Bell, along with her horse, Shirley, became the first roper from Washington State to place in the top two in the last 10 years.

Jace Harris, from Tenino, also competed in the tie-down roping, team roping, and goat tying. The two of them teamed up for ribbon roping.

If Jace and Brooklynn need to rope a goat, there are plenty of them here in D.C. to practice on. We welcome them anytime.

We are so proud of them for their relationship to their animals, for their pride and pursuit of durable skills, for their tenacity, and for keeping our heritage and relationship to land and animals one of intimacy and necessity and not purely recreation.

We are so proud of them and applaud them for their work. We look forward to seeing what is next for both of them.

HONORING AVERY LOW, JR.

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize veteran Avery Low, Jr., a resident of Georgia's First District who served in the Second World War.

At 103 years young, Mr. Low traveled back to France to be awarded the Legion of Honor. This medal is granted only to French citizens or foreign nationals who have either served France or upheld its democratic ideals.

The President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron, nominated Mr. Low for this honor because he risked his life to defend French territory during World War II. This recognition is France's highest and most prestigious National Order of Merit.

Mr. Low joined the Army on June 9, 1942, where he was assigned to the 537th Ordnance HMFA Company, Heavy Maintenance Field Army, as an automotive officer in Oklahoma. There, he met and married his wife in August of 1943. Only 4 months after his wedding, Mr. Low received deployment orders abroad.

On June 30, 2025, Mr. Low attended a ceremony surrounded by his friends and family. While standing among his loved ones, Mr. Low held up a photograph of him in a Jeep under the Eiffel Tower with his bride's name, Jenny, written on the windshield. He wished for nothing more than for his late wife to be in attendance. She passed away 5 years ago.

We thank Mr. Low for his courageous service in World War II and congratulate him on receiving the prestigious Legion of Honor.

HONORING LANI YEARICKS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Lani Yearicks on her retirement from the United States Army.

Mrs. Yearicks served in the U.S. Army for a total of 26 years. She has served in a variety of positions throughout her career in our Nation's military.

Most notably, she was senior HR NCO and first sergeant. In these roles, she specialized in personnel management,

onboarding, compliance, and team leadership.

In addition to her professional accomplishments, Mrs. Yearicks served for over a decade, playing the trombone in the United States Army band where she acted in multiple leadership roles.

From mentoring soldiers as a first sergeant and senior HR NCO to now gaining hands-on experience in human resources at Fuji Vegetable Oil, Mrs. Yearicks has consistently led with discipline, empathy, and excellence.

It is my district's honor to be home to an American patriot like Lani Yearicks. We are beyond grateful for her service and dedication to the safety of the American people.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL CHRISTOPHER NORRIE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Major General Christopher Norrie on his departure from Fort Stewart.

Before arriving at Fort Stewart, General Norrie served as the director of the People First Task Force in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff at the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia.

General Norrie assumed command of the 3rd Infantry Division on June 1, 2023, leading approximately 16,500 soldiers.

For the past 3 years, General Norrie has led with distinction, integrity, and unwavering commitment to our soldiers, their families, and the entire southeast Georgia community.

Whether he was overseeing critical infrastructure modernization, advocating for mental health resources, or supporting first responders after national disasters, General Norrie's dedication never faltered. It is undeniable that his efforts have strengthened the backbone of our Nation's defense.

Today, we honor General Norrie, not only for his leadership at Fort Stewart, but for a lifetime of service dedicated to protecting the liberties of our Nation.

HONORING STAN COTTRELL

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 28-year-old Stan Cottrell for his run of 1,048 miles across the State of Georgia.

Mr. Cottrell runs for causes. This time he is running for Vet22, an organization that works to prevent veteran suicide. The organization provides therapy and counseling, and they soon hope to bring housing to their homeless vets.

Mr. Cottrell's devotion to the military and to veterans is rooted in his own service. He served in the Marine Corps.

On his trek across Georgia, he will touch the Florida and Alabama borders before turning back north for a finish at the State capitol.

Over the past 47 years, Cottrell's feet have carried him across 43 countries. No matter where he goes, he always makes sure to bring his American flag with him.

Today, we honor Stan Cottrell for his valiant patriotism and dedication to the United States' military veterans.

□ 1040

CRYPTO USED BY CRIMINALS AND CORRUPT POLITICIANS

(Mr. CASTEN of Illinois was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, this week, we will vote on bills to defund the police, sow the seeds for our next financial crisis, and remove any remaining fig leaf that we might hide behind when we insist that Congress is a coequal branch of government.

I am, of course, referring to the highly misnamed GENIUS and CLARITY Acts. Let's dive in.

The way a tool is used is the purpose of the tool. If you watch a carpenter use a screwdriver, Mr. Speaker, you can ignore someone who says that those tools are for hammering nails.

Crypto has been around since 2009. Watch how people used crypto over the last 16 years, Mr. Speaker. You can ignore anyone who says that this is a tool for legitimate finance. That is because the tool is overwhelmingly used for crime.

The Russians use crypto to evade sanctions and fund their war in Ukraine. The North Koreans use it to fund their nuclear program. Hamas used it to fund their October 7 attack. Fentanyl traffickers use it to get paid. All, 100 percent, of ransomware attacks get paid in crypto.

That is a really good argument for legislation, and if the crypto industry did not want to hang out with criminals, then they would have welcomed good legislation. These bills are not that.

The CLARITY Act would exempt any platform that is the network for crypto transfers from any regulation at all. That might be attractive to my Republican colleagues because Donald Trump's World Liberty Financial is one of those platforms.

The CLARITY Act would defund white-collar police by shifting most of these coins from the well-staffed, well-funded SEC to the much smaller CFTC. It would exempt whole classes of crypto, the so-called memecoins, from any regulatory supervision.

Do you know the Trump coin, Mr. Speaker? That is a memecoin.

It would allow normal, healthy public companies to evade all SEC regulation by tokenizing their stock so they can raise more money from less informed, less sophisticated, and dumber investors.

Finally, it would allow anyone to create a self-hosted wallet, which is basically an online account where they can transfer assets between anonymous users with absolutely no regulation. If the goal is to make money laundering easier, then I have no idea how to make the CLARITY Act better.

Yet somehow, the GENIUS Act manages to be even worse because it connects the fraud of crypto to the real financial system. The GENIUS Act is for so-called stablecoins. I say so-called