

hard march of civil rights in this country. It was built to ensure that children in every part of this country could have a real chance. It was not to standardize curriculum but to standardize the worth of children. It was to guarantee that, no matter your background, your race, your ability, your identity, where you lived, or who you prayed to, the Federal Government would have the backs of every student in this country.

If this decision stands, the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights will be shattered and gutted, which means that, within this office, which was created and implemented to investigate when students in this country were not treated respectfully or with dignity, that schools would potentially not be required to provide accommodations for students with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, for every mother fighting for their child with autism, for every parent fighting for their child with a visual or intellectual disability, and for every child who rolls in with their wheelchair every single day, mighty with pride and glory that they, too, can learn and be integrated, there may not be any Federal protections to make sure that they are respected.

Rapes and sexual assaults on college campuses may no longer be investigated. When the cities don't investigate those sexual assaults, the Federal Government—particularly the Office for Civil Rights under the Department of Education—took on that role. Shame on us.

National standards for protecting LGBTQ students, because they are students and are children, will go away. Native students, Black students, Latino students, students navigating poverty, and students who have disabilities may no longer have the Federal support that they so deserve. This is a betrayal. It is cruel, and it is a deep attack on our children.

How will the United States of America compete academically, economically, or morally if the Federal Government walks away from its most sacred responsibility to guarantee basic fairness in education?

We cannot meet the demands of the future by returning to a past—returning to a past—where only the privileged are protected. The work of the Department of Education was never about charity. It has always been about justice.

As bell hooks taught us in "Teaching to Transgress," teaching is about liberation. Education is about more than information. It is a practice of freedom.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL JOHN PEYTON SWAIN

(Ms. TENNEY of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel John Pey-

ton Swain of the Civil Air Patrol, the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary. He is an inspiration in the world of public service, whose legacy spans more than 60 years of volunteerism and defense of our Nation's airspace, development of youth, and civic readiness.

As Civil Air Patrol's first director of government relations, Colonel Swain reestablished its presence in Washington after a 50-year absence. His legislative strategy more than doubled its Federal funding, built trusted bipartisan relationships on the Hill, and led the successful effort to award Civil Air Patrol the Congressional Gold Medal in honor of its World War II service.

Colonel Swain's lifelong commitment from cadet to congressional liaison made Civil Air Patrol stronger, more visible, and better equipped to serve the Nation.

I have been proud to work with Colonel Swain to fight for Civil Air Patrol funding throughout my time in Congress and thank him for his service.

I am also thankful that my son, Trey, who now serves as a major in the United States Marine Corps, was inspired to answer the call to serve after his experience as a cadet in the Civil Air Patrol.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Colonel Swain for his service and congratulate him on his retirement. Without his strategic vision and leadership, Civil Air Patrol would not be the venerable organization that it is today.

HONORING LATE U.S. AIR FORCE VETERAN RICK N. PARSONS

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late United States Air Force veteran Rick N. Parsons for his remarkable service to our country.

Rick grew up in Lyndonville, New York, a small town in Orleans County. After graduating from Lyndonville High School in 1962, he proceeded to enroll in the United States Air Force Academy.

After graduating from the Academy and marrying his high school sweetheart, Nancy, he went on to serve 26 years in the United States Air Force.

During his tenure, Rick would become the commander of the 32nd Tactical Fighter Squadron Wolfhounds, later the 33rd Tactical Fighter Wing. However, his most notable accomplishment came on February 7, 1991, when he downed an SU-7/17, becoming the only wing commander to record an aerial victory during Operation Desert Storm.

His life of service included two tours in Vietnam, one tour in Saudi Arabia, and he logged over 5,000 hours of flight time. Rick earned the rank of colonel in the United States Air Force.

Rick went on to lead another successful career as a financial adviser in Monument, Colorado. He often enjoyed spending time with his fellow 1966 Academy graduates and cheering on his grandchildren, whether they were performing in a play or competing in sports.

Sadly, in 2021, Rick passed away with his wife, Nancy, by his side. On the Fourth of July, the town of Lyndonville recognized Rick at its annual Independence Day parade, expressing gratitude for its native son for his legacy of service, valor, and leadership.

It is an honor and wholly appropriate to recognize Rick's exceptional service and devotion to our great Nation.

RECOGNIZING NEW YORK STATE SENATOR TARKY LOMBARDI, JR.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of my dear friend Senator Tarky Lombardi, Jr., who passed away on November 24, 2024.

Tarky Lombardi leaves behind five children; eight grandchildren; and his wife, Marianne, whom he happily was married to for over 66 years; as well as a profound legacy in service to the State of New York and our country.

His wonderful grandson, Mark Fogelson, also served as an intern in my office.

After earning a law degree from Syracuse University and serving in the United States Army, Tarky returned to New York, dedicating his life to public service, including 27 years in the New York State Senate, where he represented the 49th District.

Senator Lombardi earned a national reputation for his accomplishments in the health field, including spearheading the Nursing Home Without Walls Program, a first-of-its-kind program that was so transformative that it was replicated in so many other States.

Lombardi was also devoted to his alma mater, Syracuse University, and was pivotal in working with the Governor of New York to facilitate the construction of the Carrier Dome. Tarky was so tenacious. Without his advocacy, the dome would never have been built.

Tarky was a one-of-a-kind member of the Greatest Generation. He loved our State and our country. He was a unifying force in the State legislature, always bringing together members of both sides of the aisle for dinners in the legacy of Reagan and O'Neill in that wonderful tradition.

I congratulate Tarky's family and so many who have done so much to help our region, upstate New York, and Syracuse University, and all of the wonderful legacies of everyone who lives in the region and everyone from the State of New York.

Tarky was a dear friend, and he is so missed by many of us, including me. We love his family, and we are grateful to him.

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO TREY TENNEY

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish a happy birthday to my son, Trey, today, and congratulate him for being a major in the Marine Corps.

WEAPONIZATION OF ICE

(Mr. IVEY of Maryland was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with deep concern over the weaponization of ICE by the Trump administration.

Just this weekend, I had a chance to see Trump Border Czar Tom Homan talking about how the administration is conducting the sweeps on the streets and that they are doing it to prioritize public safety and national security. Yet, the facts tell a different story.

According to CBS, only 8 percent of those detained have been convicted of violent crimes. The conservative Cato Institute found that only 7 percent of detainees were violent criminals.

In fact, most detainees aren't even criminals at all. Of the people in detention, about half of them have criminal records. That is 300,000 people who are detained and who do not have criminal records at all.

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This administration is not actually prioritizing the most dangerous people, even though President Trump promised on the campaign trail that that is exactly what he would do.

Mr. Homan also said that this administration always follows the law. However, last week, a Federal judge ordered ICE to stop conducting roving patrols, stop the sweeping arrests without reasonable suspicion, and stop denying access to lawyers.

Mr. Speaker, the findings in this case are shocking. This is some of the worst examples of racial profiling I have seen even during my 12 years as a prosecutor.

For example, some people were waiting at bus stops and having coffee when they were then surrounded by ICE agents in unmarked vehicles that sped up in their direction. They leapt out with masks on and their guns drawn and ran immediately toward these individuals. They then handcuffed these individuals and forced them into vehicles and drove them away. All of this was done before they had even asked them for identification.

The men thought they were being kidnapped. Some of them had their feet, hands, and wrists shackled, and another man even had a gun pointed at him.

The court who was reviewing these cases questioned what it was about the bus stop that caused these ICE agents to believe they had reasonable suspicion to detain these men. Reasonable suspicion means that there is evidence at the time that each of these men had committed a crime or were in the process of committing a crime.

What was the basis of the ICE agents' reasonable suspicion? The court reviewed it and found that the government said: It was based on their past experiences that have demonstrated that illegal aliens utilize and seek to work at certain places, like getting their car washed or waiting for the bus.

Nothing about these men suggested that they were in the country illegally or about to commit a crime at the time that they were stopped.

They didn't even ask for ID before they were gun-faced and then handcuffed and taken away. The bottom line is that these men were taken into custody simply because they were Latino.

Clearly, these tactics are unconstitutional. The use of race as the basis for grabbing people on the street the courts have long ago ruled are across the line and illegal.

These tactics threaten some of the most basic and important principles that serve as the backbone for our Nation: the rule of law. Like the unlawful deportation of Kilmar Abrego Garcia and the willful defiance of a unanimous Supreme Court decision to bring him back, the Trump administration is unapologetic in its efforts to target immigrants, the Constitution, and the law be damned.

Now, in addition to being unconstitutional, this wastes a great deal of tax dollars because they are detaining masses of people in these large sweeps, only to have to release them when proof of their legal status is shown. It also horrifies the citizens who have to go through this experience.

We now have Latino citizens who are afraid to leave their house to go to work or even to go to court. Remember the so-called Venezuelan violent gang members deported to the gulag in El Salvador. As it turns out, according to the Cato Institute, 50 of those men were not criminals. Their paperwork was in order. They were in the United States legally, and they hadn't committed any kind of crimes in El Salvador or Venezuela.

Instead of focusing on criminals, they are grabbing people like the 64-year-old mother who was gardening in New Orleans, the father of three marines who had been working in the United States for decades, or yesterday when ICE raided a baseball summer camp. This is not the best use of our Federal law enforcement agents.

I am a former Federal and State prosecutor. I deeply respect the rule of law and understand the responsibility elected officials have to protect it. We have got to do better than this. Let's focus on getting violent criminals off the street. There are more than 100,000 open warrants in the United States on any given day. Let's focus on those, and let's move forward in a way that respects the Constitution.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF MARIO AUGELLO

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

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, today, I recognize our Chief of Police in Palm Bay, Florida, Chief Mario Augello, who has been serving for 25 years in our community.

Throughout his career, the chief has exemplified amazing dedication, leadership, and deep commitment to public safety.

In addition to his service, he founded the Palm Bay Blue Foundation, a non-profit that supports well-being of the department's employees and their families.

On behalf of a grateful community, I thank Chief Augello for his outstanding service and the commitment to the people of Palm Bay.

CONGRATULATING BREVARD, INDIAN RIVER, AND ORANGE COUNTIES IN FLORIDA

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate three amazing school districts in my community. Brevard, Indian River, and Orange County have each earned the distinguished A rating from the education standards in Florida.

It is a true honor to represent these school districts for their hard work, and, most importantly, the hard work of the students in the classroom, as well as the teachers that lead them.

As a former teacher myself at the college level, we all understand the commitment and importance of education. It is the ultimate civil right. It unlocks so much potential, and it makes sure that America stays number one in the world in intellectual capacity.

These A ratings are proof that Florida's educational system works. We are a State that believes in school choice where the parents, not the bureaucrats, have the final say in where their child goes to school each and every day.

I am immensely proud of the Brevard, Indian River, and Orange County School Districts for doing the right thing and making education a priority and leading the way so that Florida can truly be the future of not only space but of all intellectual abilities.

Mr. Speaker, I thank each of these counties, the teachers, the administrators, and the team that makes Brevard, Indian River, and Orange County schools true A school districts.

INTERNMENT CAMP IN THE FLORIDA EVERGLADES

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

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to shine light on a moral atrocity going on in my home State of Florida, an immigrant internment camp that Donald Trump, Ron DeSantis, and his administration have propped up in the middle of an abandoned airfield deep in the Florida Everglades.

It is a place where nearly 1,000 humans are being forced to live in a tent city in the middle of the hot Florida summer, hot sun, where folks are not getting enough food. Detainees are exposed to the heat, and wildlife, and mosquitoes that can potentially carry disease. They are being stripped of their civil rights, and as of this past Saturday, they have been cut off from legal counsel.

While this humanitarian nightmare unfolds, soulless politicians like Ron DeSantis, Donald Trump, and Kristi