

Noem grin and call this place—I am actually not even going to use the name that they are calling it and dignify it. Mr. Speaker, they sell merch. They make jokes. They print hats with cartoon alligators dressed up as ICE agents, and they laugh as people and families are suffering.

I can't tell you the amount of constituents I have heard from, for example, that their dad is in this facility and haven't heard from them for weeks. No one with eyes and a conscience can ignore what this really is. It is an internment camp. It is a place full of people who look like me, Latinos, Haitian men, subjugated to inhumane conditions under the guise of immigration enforcement. It is disgusting. It is un-American. It demands oversight.

Members of Congress have a legally protected right to conduct oversight of immigrant detention centers. That means that we have the power to show up unannounced, as I have on other occasions, and see what is going on with our own eyes.

That was my plan and the plan of my fellow Florida congressional Democrats last week. We were ready to do our jobs. Somehow word got out to the DeSantis administration that we were showing up, and so they decided to invite us at the same date and time we were going to show up anyway.

We took them up on that. We went in the facility. I am here to talk a little bit about my experiences there.

The State of Florida and DHS got wind of our visit. They got scared. They invited us. Of course, what we got was a sanitized version of the way things usually are. Even that sanitized version to me was abhorrent conditions.

I also heard reports that the night before we showed up, magically the detainees got their first shower they had in a while. Also magically, they got one of their first actually good meals. It just shows why the unannounced visits are so important. It is to see how things really are. Mr. Speaker, I have to tell you, a clean cage is still a cage.

At the end of the day, in this facility we have 32 men being crammed in each cage, about 4 to 6 cages in each tent. We brought a thermometer in there and each tent was about 84, 85 degrees, of course, in the hot Florida sun.

□ 1120

I will always remember walking in that front door and looking at these gentlemen in there, everyone screaming for help, one guy asking me to call his family. He was screaming out a phone number. I couldn't hear him. I couldn't get all the digits down.

Only three sources of water per cage, the spigots connected to the toilets, much like the jail units we have seen. Usually in those jails, it is one of those units for 2 to 4 people, not three for 32 people.

I have to tell you, one of the most emotional parts for me was when we

looked at the cages from afar. We weren't let in the tent but stood at the doorway, hearing those chants: "Freedom, freedom"; "libertad, libertad." People were yelling.

This isn't security. It is cruelty. It is not immigration policy. It is dehumanizing people.

Trump said this was about keeping people safe. He said it was about going after criminals, but we all know it was one big lie. Hundreds of the people being held in this internment camp have no criminal charges.

I won't stay silent while our government turns the Everglades land—protecting it used to be a bipartisan thing. The State is spending \$450 million from our Division of Emergency Management to run this internment camp, and we are in hurricane season.

I don't care if you are a Democrat or Republican. I don't care what you are. The Division of Emergency Management has the ability to spend up to \$500 million without going to the legislature for emergency money. They are going up to \$450 million.

We are about to go into hurricane season, which means that when a hurricane is barreling toward our State, they are not going to do what they need to do immediately to save lives. Every minute matters, and they will have to go back to the legislature and beg for more money because they spent \$450 million of our money on a damn internment camp in the middle of the Everglades.

Along with partners, we are going to do something about it. Of course, litigation has been filed.

I think what is important for people to know is that this is a Federal facility—we were told that ICE is calling the shots here—a Federal facility run and operated by the State.

CELEBRATING OAA PROGRAMS

(Ms. BONAMICI of Oregon was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Older Americans Act, which President Johnson signed into law on July 14, 1965.

Older Americans Act programs serve about 11 million older adults across the country, including 212,000 people in my home State of Oregon.

The act provides vital services, including meal delivery, transportation, caregiver support, job training, and protection from elder abuse. These programs help older Americans maintain dignity, health, and independence as they age.

President Trump recently began dismantling the Administration for Community Living, which implements OAA programs and disburses funds. It is the only government entity that advocates for older adults. Almost half the staff in this office has already been laid off, jeopardizing the vital programs that support so many aging Americans and their families every single day.

The Older Americans Act is a long-time bipartisan commitment. We must fight every effort to strip these services from the 11 million Americans who benefit from these programs in every congressional district in every State in this country.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to reverse those cuts and to strongly support the Older Americans Act.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 24 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BAUMGARTNER) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Sovereign Lord, our creator, in Your infinite wisdom and steadfast love, You have made us and given us the privilege and the freedom to choose to participate in Your grace plan.

In Your omniscience, however, You knew that we would time and again exercise that freedom and go on our own way, pursuing our own desires and not Your own.

The consequences of the decisions made since the beginning of time have only been compounded by our own choices and have brought trouble and challenges, sadness, and grief.

Nevertheless, despite our inclination toward sin, You speak into these moments Your powerful word of consolation. We need not fear, for You remain with us. We need not be dismayed, for You are our God. It is You who strengthens us. You provide the help we need. You uphold us with Your righteous right hand.

Sure of Your promises, we turn this day over to Your keeping. You are the God in whom we trust. We offer ourselves to Your guidance and to Your direction.

In Your eternal and merciful name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. FULCHER)

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FULCHER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Lasky, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1815. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take certain actions in the case of a default on a home loan guaranteed by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING "THE BUSHWHACKERS"

(Mr. RUTHERFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the U.S. Army Special Combat Engineers 59th Land Clearing Company, also known as "The Bushwhackers," for their immense sacrifice to our Nation during the Vietnam war.

The company was tasked with clearing the Vietnam jungle, which was heavily infested with deadly mines, booby traps, and enemy personnel. It was a daunting task.

They were met with sniper fire, fire-fights, rockets, and mortars, which led to countless injuries, meriting many members with Purple Hearts and the death of 13 of our Bushwhackers.

The longest serving officer of the company, Mr. Ronald Evans, currently resides in my district in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

Today, I rise to honor Mr. Evans' service to our country along with that of his entire company. Their bravery and service are what has made America the greatest country in the world.

LAYOFFS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, the Supreme Court's ridiculous decision this week to allow the President to proceed with mass layoffs at the Department of Education is a grave blow to the rule of law and defies congressional authority.

Justice Sotomayor's dissent warns that the Court is enabling the execu-

tive branch to undermine Congress' power of the purse, and she is absolutely right.

Perhaps the Republicans in the House and in the Senate and the White House do not understand that nothing brings more money to the U.S. Treasury than the education of the American people, early childhood education, K-12, higher education, post grad, and lifetime learning for our workers. They are cutting education to give tax breaks to the richest people at the expense of America's future, the education of the American people.

The Court's disregard for the authority of the legislative branch empowers executive overreach at the expense of accountability and democracy. My colleagues should take pride in being a Member of the House, support this institution and our constitutional right of the power of the purse.

HONORING FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS IN IDAHO

(Mr. FULCHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life, service, and sacrifice of two of Idaho's bravest we have lost way too soon during an appalling ambush attack in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

On Sunday, June 29, 2025, Battalion Chiefs Frank Harwood and John Morrison answered the call, as always, to reports of a fire on Canfield Mountain.

Upon arriving at the scene, they were cruelly ambushed by gunfire from a disturbed, cowardly individual.

As a result of shots fired, Chiefs Harwood and Morrison tragically succumbed to their injuries, and their colleague, David Tysdal, an engineer with the Coeur d'Alene Fire Department, was severely wounded, but thankfully is now recovering.

This evil act against our firefighters does not represent the Idaho way. I ask all Idahoans and Americans to pray for full recovery for Mr. Tysdal and for comfort for all families involved. These men represent the very best of Idaho. Their courage, heroism, and dedication will never be forgotten.

RESTORE FUNDING FOR LIFESAVING FOOD AID

(Mr. MAGAZINER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the 28th time to call on the Trump administration to restore lifesaving food aid for malnourished children.

This program began 70 years ago, an idea from a Kansas farmer, and it was launched by President Eisenhower. They called it Food for Peace, and it sent American-grown grain to hungry people around the world. It has enjoyed bipartisan support from Democrat and Republican Presidents for 70 years.

This Republican Congress passed a funding bill to continue to fund the program, but the Trump administration continues to hold up funding. Every day they do, children are starving and American farmers are not getting paid.

The crazy part is that the administration has said over and over that they intend to relaunch the program, but it has been 6 months. What are they waiting for?

They should do what they say they are going to do, stop delaying, and stop gaslighting. They should just do it. Every day counts.

I will continue to speak on this floor until they do.

□ 1210

TRUMP SUPPORTS SYRIAN PEOPLE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Syria Caucus, I am grateful to co-lead bipartisan legislation to repeal the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019.

Even with the support of war criminal Putin and the terrorist Tehran regime, the murderous Syrian dictator Assad was forced out of the country by the Syrian people. The Syrian people deserve an opportunity for the reconstruction of Syria, assisted by Turkiye, Saudi Arabia, and Israel.

By issuing an executive order, Donald Trump temporarily waived the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act, which imposed sanctions on Syria. Now is the opportunity to make it permanent.

Special Envoy to Syria Tom Barrack is doing an incredible job for freedom.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Trump is reinstituting peace through strength. He is revealing war criminal Putin's lies, insulting Trump and mocking Trump with lovely talk while murdering civilians in Ukraine.

Today, we celebrate Guam Liberation Day with Delegates Madeleine Bordallo and Jim Moylan, appreciating the courage of 1,200 Navy and Marine servicemembers who died for the liberation of Guam.

CLEAN AIR AND HEALTHY PARKS GO HAND IN HAND

(Ms. DEXTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEXTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as someone who cherishes both the breathtaking beauty of our national parks and the fundamental right to clean air.

When one asks what sets the United States apart, our national parks top the list, yet, increasingly, so does our