

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, this week we are going to be taking up legislation on H.R. 672, an act to establish new ZIP Codes for certain communities.

This measure is aimed at fixing problems in about eight communities all across the country where the post office's ZIP Code allocation system has just completely fragmented these towns and cities because of the proliferation of ZIP Codes that have occurred and been implemented in some of these towns.

It is a bipartisan bill. I am one of the bipartisan cosponsors. I represent one of those towns, which is Scotland, Connecticut, in eastern Connecticut.

Scotland, Connecticut, is a community that was established back in the 1700s. It was incorporated in the 1800s. It is a small town. The last census was 1,576 people. There are 625 residents in the town.

Mr. Speaker, it is almost hard for people to believe me when I tell them this, but it has six ZIP Codes in a community with 1,500 people. It creates havoc in terms of people doing their ordinary business through the post office.

First Selectman Dana Barrow of the town of Scotland described in a letter to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform:

"Due to the town's ZIP Code configuration, Scotland residents face daily frustration with packages being misdelivered, service providers being unable to find their properties, and digital ordering or registration systems refusing to accept their address information. But the issue goes beyond inconvenience. People have paid taxes to the wrong town and sent their children to the wrong schools. Town party committees and voluntary associations cannot effectively reach residents by mail. Public health statistics seriously understate the burden of disease in our town, and other survey data also misrepresent us. A high percentage of absentee ballot applications that we were required by law to send out . . . were returned—not because the people weren't in town, but because the USPS computer scanning system rejected their addresses. The situation is clearly damaging to us individually and as a community."

What this bill does is it just simply says for Scotland and a number of other communities that have been identified by the community that basically we are going to unify a ZIP Code for those communities so they don't have to, again, experience what Scotland First Selectman Dana Barrow described.

Last night, the post office actually sent out a letter of opposition to the bill to all Members of the House Chamber. They actually had the nerve to say that passage of this bill would significantly degrade mail service in the affected communities.

Mr. Speaker, it is hard to imagine how the mail service for the people of the town of Scotland could be any

worse than the situation that exists today where they have six ZIP Codes for a population of 1,500 people.

Luckily, we have Members of Congress like the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) who chairs the committee and who is bringing the bill out later this week. He has the common sense to understand that the post office needs to get their act together and go into a very finite and manageable number of communities and aggregate the ZIP Codes so that people, again, can get the services they rely on.

I am a strong supporter of the post office. It is in the Constitution. It is mandated we have a Postal Service in this country. People depend on it to get their medications, to get important documents, and to receive their monthly Social Security payments.

To have a dysfunctional system that is completely self-inflicted and man-made because of the organization of the post office is just unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, again, despite the post office's somewhat hysterical, out-of-touch opposition that they announced last night, I am here on the floor to publicly call on all my colleagues to join Mr. DIAZ-BALART from the Republican side, myself from the Democratic side, and a host of other cosponsors to get this modest and obviously commonsense bill passed and sent to the Senate and then to the President's desk.

□ 1220

#### SUPPORTING PAWS IN MOTION

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, when danger strikes, it is not just about boots on the ground. It is about paws in motion.

Today, I rise in defense of those who cannot speak for themselves but serve our Nation with unmatched loyalty, discipline, and courage. I am talking about canines and horses that serve our law enforcement officers on the front line every single day.

From narcotics detection to crowd control, search and rescue to border patrol, these animals are more than sidekicks. They are trusted teammates, and just like their human handlers, they face real threats, danger, and consequences.

That is why, today, I am introducing the Leo K9 Protection Act, a straightforward bill to strengthen the penalties for those who assault or injure these animals in the line of duty.

I am proud to champion the Leo K9 Protection Act alongside the dedicated team at K9s United, whose tireless advocacy ensures that our service animals are treated not just as tools but as heroes.

Under my legislation, the Federal penalty will be up to 15 years when someone uses a deadly weapon to harm a Federal police animal. In addition, this legislation will expand the Federal

statute to apply to any State, county, or local police animal assisting a Federal agency.

The effort is not just symbolic. It is timely and necessary. Last year, 21 police canines made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty, including K9 Leo of Marion County, Florida, who the bill is named after and who is pictured right beside me.

Mr. Speaker, these animals run toward danger, not away from it. We owe them far more than a belly rub or a scratch behind the ears. Mr. Speaker, they fight for us. Now, it is our turn to fight for them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this critical legislation.

#### TAKING ON WNBA

(Ms. CRAIG of Minnesota was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, soon, the Minnesota Lynx will play the New York Liberty at home in Minneapolis.

As some Minnesotans may remember, I made a friendly wager with a New York Member of Congress last year at the beginning of the Minnesota Lynx-New York Liberty WNBA final series. That bet included that I would don a Liberty jersey and give a speech congratulating them from here on the House floor if they won the series. I would have, but I won't. Why won't I? Because the truth is that Minnesota didn't lose game five.

I was there in New York. The Liberty didn't win. The WNBA gave it to them.

Let's stop pretending that what happened in game five of the WNBA finals was just a bad call. It wasn't.

The Minnesota Lynx clawed their way through the playoffs. They defied the odds. They outworked every team and every narrative. In the final seconds of a championship game, on the biggest stage, they didn't get outplayed. They got erased.

Even from the House floor, right here in the Chamber, I can hear the New York fans protesting, but I know them well enough from Madison Square Garden that night to know that if this had happened to them, their outrage would be the same with much more colorful language.

A phantom foul, five seconds left, Alanna Smith playing legal defense on Breanna Stewart, who, let's be honest, is the league's marketing golden girl. The contact? It was embellished, marginal at worst, but the whistle blew. The game and the title were handed to New York on a silver platter.

When the Lynx challenged the call, the officials reviewed themselves. The same people who made the call decided to stand by it.

That is not accountability. That is the system protecting itself. That is the fix being called in.

Meanwhile, Napheesa Collier, the heart of the Lynx, an All-Star, a force in the paint, didn't shoot a single free throw the entire game. Now, tell me,

how does a player so dominant in the lane never draw contact? Because she was erased from the whistle.

Let me just say it out loud right here from the House Chamber: The WNBA wanted the Liberty to win—a big market team, superstar faces, a tidy storyline for the league office and the league commissioner, who literally wore the New York skyline on her dress that night.

Minnesota? We were the wrong script—too gritty, too real, too inconvenient.

The league talks about fairness. The league talks about lifting women up. Pay them what they deserve if you want to lift women up in the WNBA.

They talk about growing the game with integrity, but when the stakes were high, the WNBA didn't protect the game. They manipulated it. They chose a winner.

Here is the truth: Minnesota didn't lose game five. The WNBA took it from them, and I will be damned if I ever put on a New York Liberty jersey.

#### DENOUNCING CUTS TO K-12 SCHOOLS

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell an inconvenient truth about what happened to educational funding that Congress appropriated that was to go to our schools.

On June 30, just 1 day before \$7 billion of educational funding was supposed to be delivered to our State budgets, the Trump administration pulled the rug out from under the schools—no warning, no explanation.

Let me explain something about California. We are a donor State. That means that the citizens of California, the taxpayers, send more money to Washington than we get back every year.

In California, we were supposed to receive, as I said, \$928 million. This was a big blow to school districts across the country, including those that I represent in the San Joaquin Valley in California. Fresno Unified, which I represent, was to lose \$7.1 million. Visalia Unified would have lost \$2 million.

Across the San Joaquin Valley, districts were preparing for these devastating cuts in mental health services, after-school programs, and support for English learners and migrant students.

□ 1230

While the Republicans stayed silent, my colleagues and I stepped up. We wrote to the Trump administration, demanded answers, and put pressure on them to act.

They finally listened. Let's be clear: This didn't happen on its own. It happened because we put pressure on them.

Now the money is flowing, and I hope it is the entire \$7 billion that goes to

our schools throughout the country. Let's make sure that we know where it first happened. It happened when the flood of phone lines started going to my colleagues here in Washington.

I am going to, and my colleagues will continue to, fight for every student, every family, and every school in America, including those in the San Joaquin Valley that I represent.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN HARRIS

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today sadly to pay tribute to John Harris, a good friend and a giant of California agriculture and the San Joaquin Valley.

Born on July 14, 1943, in Fresno County, John was a proud graduate of the University of California-Davis and a United States Army veteran.

For over 40 years, he was not only a pioneer in agriculture, but a good friend of mine. He was a leader who was well respected throughout the country. John shaped the Harris Ranch and turned it into one of the Nation's largest beef producers in America.

In addition, his passion was as a leader in the horseracing industry in which his horses were successful and won on numerous occasions.

John always understood the importance of education and gave back generously. Not only was it to Fresno State's Maddy Institute but he also mentored the next generation of agricultural leaders.

We miss John. His impact will stretch far beyond his ranch. He helped shape the agriculture of our region, and his legacy of innovation, integrity, and service will benefit generations to come.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF JOEL NELSON

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Joel Nelson, a proud son of the San Joaquin Valley who served 37 years as the head of California Citrus Mutual.

Mr. Speaker, you should understand that California produces 80 percent of all the citrus consumed in the United States: navels, Valencias, mandarins, and lemons.

Joel was the leader for the voice of our citrus growers and a fierce advocate for valley agriculture.

From the orchards of Tulare, Fresno, and Kern Counties to the packing sheds, he always fought every day to protect our farmers, our water, and our way of life.

He dedicated his life to uplifting others always with energy, passion, and a deep love for the valley we shared. His excitement for the work was contagious, and his leadership helped shape the citrus industry for generations to come.

We will miss his voice, but his legacy will live on in every grove in California.

#### RECOGNIZING THE REMARKABLE WORK OF SEWA INTERNATIONAL

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable work of Sewa International, both in Virginia and around the world.

Founded less than 25 years ago, Sewa International is a global humanitarian organization committed to serving those in need.

Their mission focuses on several things, including disaster relief, rehabilitation, family services, women's empowerment, health, and education.

In Virginia, Sewa works hand in hand with local organizations to strengthen our communities. They support the big September 11 National Day of Service which will be happening again this year.

They offer after-school programming, provide meal service at local shelters, and help the next generation get involved, engaging high school students and volunteer work.

I am thankful for all Sewa International does for our communities.

#### SUPREME COURT OF VIRGINIA PREVENTED A TOLL HIKE ON DULLES GREENWAY

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, last week our community got a major win. The Supreme Court of Virginia upheld a bill that I had passed, one that prevented a 40 percent toll hike on the Dulles Greenway, maybe more. Without this bill tolls would have jumped from at least \$5.80 to \$8.10 each way.

For regular commuters like me, that is \$1,150 back in their pockets at least. This is a reminder of what we can achieve when we work together to take on tough fights, including for families facing high costs. This was a bipartisan initiative because across Virginia and across the country families are feeling the squeeze.

Housing costs are up, childcare is expensive, and utility bills are rising. In Loudoun County, tolls add an extra burden to the cost of getting to work.

This win is a step toward lowering costs for all families and a step towards addressing the broader affordability crisis.

I am committed to continuing this work in Congress and fighting to lower tolls even further and pushing for policies that put more money back in the pockets of working families.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF SUPERVISOR BOB WEIR

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I also rise today with profound sadness to honor the life and memory of Supervisor Bob Weir, who served the Gainesville District on the Prince William County Board of Supervisors starting in 2023.

A husband and a father of three, Bob dedicated the past two decades to serving his community. He served terms on the Haymarket Town Council and Planning Commission and over 2 years on the County Board of Supervisors, all focused on empowering his constituents in Prince William County to demand the best from their elected officials.

Bob cared deeply about his constituents and serving them. He was known