

rate, supplying our country with a surplus of employment. You couldn't leave the house without seeing a "help wanted" sign.

Trump knows how to make businesses successful, and following his lead, we will make America successful again.

We need to support his efforts to de-regulate. We need to use every tool available to level the playing field. We must create an appealing business environment so that our great manufacturing companies can feel confident to grow here rather than looking abroad.

It is time to take pride in our abilities, our people, and the words "made in America."

RECOGNIZING RICK CARDINAL AND WENDI DAMM

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Rick Cardinal and Wendi Damm as Ohio's 13th Congressional District Champions of the Week.

Rick and Wendi are chemistry teachers at Barberton High School, and this year, they each earned the Gene Easter Award, which recognizes science teachers who demonstrate in their classrooms the importance of science and chemistry. They earned this award for their dedication to the Explorers Post, a program designed to inspire students to explore careers in STEM fields.

Ohio's 13th Congressional District has long been known for its scientific innovation, and Rick and Wendi are ensuring this legacy for generations to come.

Congratulations once again to Rick Cardinal and Wendi Damm on this fantastic accomplishment. I thank them for all they do to inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers, and mathematicians.

CELEBRATING AKERS MILL RAMP OPENING

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

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the opening of the Akers Mill ramp project.

During my first months in Congress in 2018, I gathered Federal officials to speak about the importance of the investment in our State's infrastructure. In July of that year, my team was able to announce a \$5 million grant, the final funding needed to complete the project.

I am so proud that, working together, we were finally able to secure the resources for our project that will serve more than 100,000 commuters in my community and benefit all of metropolitan Atlanta.

I thank the Cumberland Community Improvement District, our partners in

Cobb County, the Atlanta Regional Commission, and our State and Federal officials who had a hand in making this project a reality.

I congratulate the entire Cumberland community.

HONORING JUAN PABLO DUARTE

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Juan Pablo Duarte, the founding father of the Dominican Republic, where I was born.

Duarte was an instrumental person in the war for Dominican independence. He fought for the ideals of a liberal democracy after founding the nation.

January 26 marks Duarte's birthday, and it is celebrated by the Dominican Republic as a national holiday.

Each year, I have the pleasure of introducing a resolution that supports the ideals of Juan Pablo Duarte, and I look forward to doing it again. This is one of several bills that I will introduce to mark the beginning of Dominican Heritage Month.

We look forward to the February 11 event here at the Hill, Dominicans on the Hill.

In February, we will remember Juan Pablo Duarte for all of his sacrifices.

"God, Homeland, and Liberty,"
"Dios, Patria, y Libertad."

□ 1615

PREPARE TO BE AMAZED

(Mr. CASTEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, step right up, and prepare to be amazed.

This is an ordinary folder. As you can see, Mr. Speaker, no hidden compartments, and yet inside it is an invisible rabbit.

If you like that trick, Mr. Speaker, then you are going to love Donald Trump's national energy emergency. It is also totally imaginary, but as any good carnival barker will tell you, there is a sucker born every minute who falls for this shtick.

Let's review the numbers. Under the Biden administration, the U.S. created 16 million jobs, had the fastest growing economy in the OECD, held oil demand flat, drastically cut coal use, and embraced cleaner, cheaper renewables and efficiency. We decoupled economic growth from fossil fuel giving American people more heat, more light, more power, and more money.

That put downward pressure on domestic oil and gas prices which caused domestic fossil producers to export into less developed and more remunerative overseas markets.

Now, Mr. Speaker, before you say: There is no emergency here, consider

this from the perspective of our poor oil and gas producers. They are losing market share. They are making less money. However, they have got an ally in Donald Trump. After all, he is the guy who forced the Saudis to curtail production in 2020 to drive up oil prices and oil industry profits. That is right. He made sure U.S. consumers paid more for gasoline.

Ta-da.

Don't be a sucker, but if you are, Mr. Speaker, I am available for parties, and I can solve all your invisible rabbit problems. You can keep hopping, Mr. Speaker.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE ELISEO ALCON

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

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today with a heavy heart as we remember and honor the life and legacy of my dear friend and mentor, State Representative Eliseo Lee Alcon.

Chairman Alcon's legacy and passing leaves a hole in our community, but his legacy will live on.

A veteran, a judge, a State representative, a beloved father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Representative Alcon dedicated his life to public service and was rooted in our community.

A fierce advocate for the people, the economy, the environment, and our government, all New Mexicans across the State will miss him as we grieve his loss. Our prayers are with his family and everyone who loved and learned from Representative Alcon.

We will work to carry his vision forward and continue his fight to lift up our veterans and our military, our children and our elders, and all New Mexicans whom he loved so deeply.

Rest in peace, dear friend. We will miss you.

WILDFIRE CRISIS

(Mr. HARDER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HARDER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because tens of thousands of acres are on fire in my State of California.

More than 10,000 families have no home to go back to. Nearly 30 people have already lost their lives in this disaster, and the numbers keep climbing. Tens of thousands will have long-term health issues from the smoke, all because our government failed California.

These mega-fires could have been prevented if our government had done its job. We have been yelling from the rooftops for years that our communities are in danger. We have a massive firefighter shortage. Bureaucratic red tape holds everything up, and our lands aren't properly maintained.

Today, thankfully, my colleagues joined me in finally taking the first big step in dealing with this crisis. We passed the historic Fix Our Forests Act to finally do what is badly needed: real, comprehensive wildfire protection.

I am happy to say this is a true bipartisan effort. Wildfires don't care if we are Republican or Democratic, and neither should we. This is the first of many reforms needed to get this crisis under control, and time is running out.

VETERANS DESERVE MORE THAN PRESIDENT TRUMP'S DISRUPTIVE EXECUTIVE ORDERS

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

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the detrimental impacts that President Trump's recent flurry of executive orders targeting our workforce are already having.

Despite being in office for less than 3 days, President Trump has already caused major disruptions to the Federal workforce in my district.

The first casualty is the healthcare provided to our veterans. The Richmond VA Medical Center in my district was forced to rescind employment offers to essential hospital staff. Other VA hospitals across the country have done the same, including rescinding employment offers to nurses at a time when we face a nursing shortage.

The new VA medical center set to open in Fredericksburg, Virginia, now has to contend with hiring freezes and the inability to staff up, jeopardizing their opening in February.

Medical school students have been told they can't go to the VA for clinical rotations because of the hiring freeze, impacting the training of a critical workforce provider.

Our veterans deserve much more than this. They put their lives on the line for our Nation and should be able to access the healthcare services they need, but this hiring freeze is putting that in jeopardy.

EMERGENCY DISASTER AID

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the brave firefighters who have stepped into the breach to take on the fires raging across southern California. Their bravery has been on full display these past weeks, including in my own district, where they have valiantly and swiftly responded in Jurupa Valley to the Clay fire.

We all owe them our thanks.

Nevertheless, I am deeply troubled by some in the Republican Conference who are seeking to link emergency disaster aid to my home State with toxic policy goals. This would be a disaster.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass emergency aid without policy riders, just as we did for the people in North Carolina, Florida, Louisiana, and many other States who have faced natural disasters.

Leveraging the losses of thousands establishes a dangerous precedent. It is unacceptable for politicians in Washington to endanger Americans' survival for their own political gain.

EXTREMISTS WHO ATTACKED POLICE OFFICERS

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, Officer Brian Sicknick, Officer Howard Liebengood, Officer Jeffrey Smith, Officer Kyle DeFreytag, and Officer Gunther Hashida.

These are the names of the U.S. Capitol Police and D.C. Metropolitan Police who died in the wake of the January 6 Capitol attack.

Mr. Speaker, 140 police officers were assaulted on January 6, but this week Donald Trump pardoned or commuted the sentences of over 1,500 individuals responsible for this attack.

He has made a mockery of our justice system and the rule of law. These were not hostages, and they were not victims. They were extremists who showed up armed, wore Nazi symbols, and attacked police officers.

They were militants who planned for months to overthrow the election and were convicted of sedition by a jury of their peers.

Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker, the President has put dangerous criminals back on the streets. Today, I echo the National Association of Police Organizations in their condemnation of this act.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF CHRISTIAN JOSE FIDALGO BARROS

(Ms. PRESSLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Christian Jose Fidalgo Barros, who was called to be with his Lord in Heaven far too soon.

After Christian's first birthday, he was diagnosed with a rare form of high-risk neuroblastoma cancer. John and Tchintcia were unrelenting in their prayers and their efforts, as were his doctors, to extend and to save his life.

Christian's weary body is now at rest. His soul was called home on January 13, 2025, just weeks after his second birthday. Despite his short time here on Earth, Christian left an impression on all blessed to meet him and to bear witness to his faithfulness.

Christian means follower of Christ. I know he knew God. It was the only way he could have summoned the strength and kept a smile every day.

So last weekend, it was no surprise, given the masses and the multitudes he inspired, to see thousands of people show up to support Christian, John, Tchintcia, John Junior, Jeremiah, Casey, and Olivia. They braved the New England winter to share their love and support for the Barros family during this time of unspeakable grief.

The Barros family is our chosen family. To many in the city and our Commonwealth, they have put their love into action in public and in private and in big and small ways in public service. They are loved, and Christian belonged to all of us, which is why I am on the House floor eulogizing him because I believe his loss is one for our Nation. I mourn his loss, but I celebrate his life and his light.

Christian, we thank you for the happy memories you leave behind, and we thank you for inspiring us with your courage, your strength, and your joy.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA SPIRIT SQUAD

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

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the University of Minnesota Spirit Squad on their monumental performance at the 2025 UCA and UDA College Cheerleading and Dance Team National Championships this weekend in Orlando, Florida.

The Gopher cheer team made history this weekend, securing the program's first-ever national title, winning the small, co-ed game day division. The Gophers also finished runner-up in small, co-ed cheer.

The University of Minnesota dance team earned their third straight national title in the Pom division on Sunday night, securing the dance program's 23rd title. The team also finished second in the jazz division.

These are tremendous achievements all around from the University of Minnesota Spirit Squad. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of our Gopher athletes for the hard work they have put in to bring home these national championships.

Go Gophers.

HAPPY LUNAR NEW YEAR

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

Mr. TRAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to wish all those who celebrate a happy lunar new year. Lunar new year is observed by many Asian countries around the world, including the incredible east and southeast Asian communities in my district.

As the son of Vietnamese refugees, I represent Little Saigon in Orange County, California. I am especially