

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

proud to don my ao dai today, which is traditional garb that is worn to celebrate special occasions such as Tet, the Vietnamese lunar new year. The ao dai represents our cultural identity and heritage.

Tet is a time to reflect on the past, to embrace new beginnings, and to eat a lot of really good food. It is a vibrant celebration brimming with parades, festivals, and firecrackers.

What is more, it is a celebration of family, tradition, and the enduring spirit of hope. It is a time to express kindness and well-wishes to each other.

So as the Vietnamese saying goes: "Chúc mừng năm mới. An khang thịnh vượng và an lạc.""

(English translation of Vietnamese is as follows:

"Happy new year, wishing you peace and prosperity, and may all your wishes come true.")

□ 1630

ELECTED WITH A MANDATE

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

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, President Trump was elected with a mandate to improve the daily lives of hardworking Americans, a mandate to lower housing costs, make groceries more affordable, and help families get ahead and stay ahead.

Let's take a moment to highlight what the President has done for the people during his first week in office: ended birthright citizenship, a guaranteed right under the 14th Amendment; terminated diversity, equity, and inclusion programs; withdrew the United States from the Paris agreement; renamed the Gulf of Mexico; raised the cost of prescription drugs for seniors on Medicare and Medicaid; pardoned 1,500 convicted felons who stormed our Capitol and violently assaulted our police officers on January 6, 2021; and created a special fake department for shadow president Elon Musk.

Wait. None of those executive orders lowered costs, let alone meaningfully improved the lives of the American people.

I urge the President to stop treating the White House like his Twitter account and get to work fixing the problems he was elected to solve.

RECOGNIZING UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS CHEER TEAM

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

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an incredible achievement by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas cheerleading team, who once again won the All Girl Division 1A Game Day Championship title last week.

This isn't the first time these amazing women have taken the top spot in

one of the most prestigious championships for cheerleading. With this year's performance, an iconic Elvis-inspired homage to our city, they have reaffirmed themselves as not just national champions, but a national powerhouse for years to come.

I congratulate every cheerleader, coach, and family member who made this success possible.

Go Rebels.

CELEBRATING ROGER DESJARDINS ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. AMO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a happy 100th birthday to my constituent, Mr. Roger Desjardins.

Originally from Cumberland, Rhode Island, Mr. Desjardins served in the 43rd Infantry and saw combat during World War II as a machine gunner.

Honorably discharged in 1946, he worked as a pipefitter and a plumber in North Providence before retiring nearly four decades ago.

That doesn't mean age has slowed him down. At his centennial celebration last week, he showed off some karate moves, walking cane and all, that he practices to stay in shape.

Mr. Speaker, Roger is a quintessential Rhode Islander: feisty, selfless, and full of hope and good cheer. When asked what his birthday wish is, he simply said: to live another year or two.

It is my honor to recognize him today on the floor of the people's House so that his story and his dedicated service to our Nation may be remembered for all time.

A DIRECT ATTACK

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

Mr. TURNER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on September 24, 1965, President Lyndon Baines Johnson signed an executive order which ensures equal opportunity for people of color and women; prohibits Federal contractors from engaging in discriminatory practices in recruitment, hiring, training, and discriminating based on race, sex, religion, or national origin.

This executive order was signed during the period of transformative progress, 1 year after the Civil Rights Act of 1964, a few months after the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and 2 years after Dr. Martin Luther King's iconic "I Have a Dream" speech.

Yet, just 2 days after we honored the legacy of Dr. King this week, President Trump, with the mere stroke of a pen, seeks to undo what has been in place for nearly 60 years. His actions aim to undermine the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and threaten the livelihood of thousands of Federal workers and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I could not sleep last night, and these executive orders by the President are a direct attack. We must stand up and speak.

IN HONOR OF GUS WILLIAMS

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Gus Williams, a basketball great and New York 16th Congressional District native from Mt. Vernon, New York. Gus was born October 10, 1953, in Mt. Vernon, and his basketball talent made him one of the greatest players to ever hail from my hometown.

On the basketball court, Gus got the nickname "The Wizard" for his acrobatic style, speed, and incredibly accurate midrange jump shots—none of which I have.

He led the Mt. Vernon Knights high school basketball team to a 22-1 season, winning State championship and State Player of the Year in 1971.

He went to the University of South California, where he was Most Valuable Player in 1975, went onto an NBA career with the Golden State Warriors, and then signed with the Seattle SuperSonics. In 1979, Gus led the NBA SuperSonics to their NBA title, averaging 28 points in their final games. The Sonics retired Gus' No. 1 jersey in 2004.

I am grateful that I got to go to high school with Gus Williams, to have seen his magic and his skill in person before the rest of the world had the opportunity.

He will be deeply missed in the Mt. Vernon community, but his memory will live on.

HONORING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

This past Monday, our Nation celebrated MLK Day, a powerful reminder of the ongoing effort for equality and justice and the profound impact an individual can make.

It is also a day spent volunteering and a day of action. I am so deeply proud of the schools across Oakland County, Michigan, who engaged in volunteer activities.

I also would like to share some of Dr. King's powerful words that resonate not only with me, but I believe speak to the moments that we find ourselves in today:

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

"The arc of the moral universe is long but it bends toward justice."