

properly recognize their valor. For decades, their contributions were left out of the mainstream military narrative.

That silence began to break, though, in 2022 when Congress passed and the President signed the Six Triple Eight Congressional Gold Medal Act, affirming that these women's sacrifice and excellence are integral to our national story.

Let the record show, let the record reflect, the Six Triple Eight was not merely a military unit. It was a living testament to discipline, resilience, and the unyielding patriotism of Black women in service to a country that had yet to fully serve them in return.

As we enter this legacy into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, I call upon my colleagues and future generations to honor the Six Triple Eight, not only in commemoration but in our ongoing pursuit of justice, equity, and historical truth.

It is recognized that August 10, 2025, is Six Triple Eight Day in Illinois.

□ 1030

Mr. Speaker, I urge all residents across the Nation to honor the service, sacrifice, and legacy of the women of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion. The women who served in the 6888th battalion from Illinois are listed in this communique.

Mr. Speaker, I thank them for their service and dedication.

PAYING RESPECTS TO SENATOR BRUCE ANDERSON

(Mrs. FISCHBACH of Minnesota was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I am sad to say that I rise today to pay respects to my friend, a colleague, a man I served with for many years in the Minnesota legislature, and a kind and good man, Senator Bruce Anderson.

He passed away unexpectedly leaving Minnesota and his family to mourn the loss of a great man.

A Navy veteran of the Vietnam war, he was an advocate for veterans and for rural communities and a man I was honored to serve with. He will be deeply missed by so many of us, and I send my deepest condolences to his family and all of those who knew him. I will keep them all and him in my prayers.

EXTENDING SYMPATHY TO THE WELU FAMILY OF
MILROY

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to extend my sympathy to the Welu family of Milroy following the tragic loss of Melvin in a farming accident.

Melvin was born and raised in Milroy, a third-generation farmer, a lifelong active member of St. Michael's Catholic Church, and an amateur historian. He loved his Milroy community, reviving the Milroy Fun Fest and following the local sports teams closely.

He loved spending time with his children and taking his grandchildren on tractor rides around the farm. He loved his wife, Bev, and their Saturday night dates.

I send my deepest condolences to the Welu family as they navigate through this difficult time. I will be keeping Melvin, his family, and the community of Milroy in my prayers.

RECOGNIZING ARTHUR COIA OF RHODE ISLAND

(Mr. AMO of Rhode Island was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. AMO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a recently passed giant of the labor movement in Rhode Island and around the country, Arthur Coia.

Labor was the heart and soul of Arthur Armand Coia. He was born into a family of labor leaders. As a member of Local 271 in Providence since his teenage years, he worked in construction while going to Providence College and attending law school. He was always close to his union roots.

A union man through and through, he dedicated his life to expanding workers' organizing rights. He fought for the right to earn a fair paycheck and have dignity and safety on the job.

He started out as the business manager of the Rhode Island Laborers' District Council and rose to become the general president of LIUNA and vice president of the AFL-CIO.

Arthur worked tirelessly to make life better for the working men and women of our country. He helped found the Laborers' Health & Safety Fund of North America, transforming job-site safety, and the Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust, helping union labor train workers and expand market share.

There is no doubt that his work saved lives, prevented accidents, and helped union labor gain new opportunities in the 21st century.

Arthur was not only a labor leader, he was also a dedicated father, grandfather, husband, and friend. My thoughts are with his family at this incredibly difficult time.

I hope they, as I do, take heart in his service to the movement and to others. His contributions will not be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING ALAN HASSENFELD OF RHODE ISLAND

Mr. AMO. Mr. Speaker, Alan Hassenfeld, another titan in Rhode Island, spent his life bettering the lives of countless individuals in our country and around the world.

Born in Providence in 1948, Alan dedicated his professional life to bringing joy to generations of children as the CEO of his family's company, Hasbro Toys.

Alan helped the company acquire quintessential children's brands like Play-Doh, Monopoly, and Nerf, and took their iconic tuber, Mr. Potato Head, to new heights in the Hollywood film "Toy Story."

Growing up in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, I have fond memories of Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head statues popping up across Rhode Island. Under Alan's guidance, Hasbro teamed up with the

State of Rhode Island for a tourism campaign featuring the whimsical statues of the spud made by local artists highlighting the Ocean State's role as the birthplace of fun.

However, it was outside the toy chest that Alan's incredible civic spirit and unmatched generosity shone. His contributions to Rhode Island's civic life were numerous and impactful.

Alan spearheaded a political ethics reform movement, pioneered concepts of social responsibility at the corporate level, and worked to end the use of child labor in toy production supply chains. He invested in generations of public sector leaders. He founded the Hassenfeld Child Health Innovation Institute at Brown University to improve family mental health and created RI For Gun Safety to promote common-sense gun reform.

Perhaps most notably, he provided the vision and the founding donation for Hasbro Children's hospital in Providence.

Thanks to Alan, Rhode Island is home to a world-class pediatric healthcare facility providing for the specialty and emergency needs of the littlest New Englanders.

Alan was a philanthropist, businessman, and reformer, but, most important, he was a dear friend, husband, stepfather, uncle, and granddad.

Before taking this office, and once sworn in, Alan provided me wise counsel sharing pragmatic, solutions-oriented advice on how to be of service and make change.

Alan exemplified community spirit and dedication to others, business acumen, incredible generosity, friendship, and, of course, leadership. He represented the best of Rhode Island, and he will be truly and deeply missed.

JULY 24TH, UTAH'S STATE HOLIDAY

(Mr. KENNEDY of Utah was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. KENNEDY of Utah. Mr. Speaker, on February 25, 1846, beleaguered residents of Nauvoo, Illinois, began leaving their homes and farms behind, crossing the frozen Mississippi River by ferry and wagon to escape persecution. Only the sickest and poorest remained behind, and even they were finally forced out by mob action. All crossed Iowa to Nebraska, just north of Omaha, their winter quarters on the Missouri River.

Why do I bring up these sad memories from long ago?

Utah still celebrates the day when they finally arrived at a place of safety, the valley of the Great Salt Lake, on July 24, 1847. July 24 is a State holiday for Utahns. Those hardy, resilient pioneers, carrying with them the sick and desperately poor from burning Nauvoo, found temporary refuge among the kind members of the Omaha Tribe.

They made an agreement with the Omaha through their Chief, Big Elk, who welcomed the pioneers, understanding the trouble they had recently

escaped. The pioneers would stay in residence, building houses, planting gardens and fields, and then move on after 2 years to ensure all of their number had enough time and resources to make the trip West. Afterwards, the improvements would belong to the Omaha.

This vanguard party of 148 pioneers, who had been on the road for 111 days, followed Brigham Young down Emigration Canyon into the Salt Lake Valley.

They immediately began organizing a community, diverting water for irrigation, plowing fields, and planning their first city, Salt Lake City, our State's capital. Salt Lake was founded that very day. Denver wasn't founded until 1858 and so was Carson City. Phoenix was founded in 1867, Boise in 1863, and Helena in 1864. Of all Western States' capital cities, only New Mexico's, Albuquerque, is older than Salt Lake.

From that small beginning of 148 souls, a city and metro-area population of over 1.2 million and a State population of over 3.5 million have grown. From that small beginning, a mighty State has grown with an annual GDP of over \$234 billion. Utah has three research universities, four regional universities, and other great institutions of higher education. Utahns value education, and we are good at it.

The Salt Lake City metro area has professional sports teams competing at the highest level, with basketball, the Utah Jazz; soccer, Real Salt Lake; and hockey, the Utah Mammoth. They have already hosted the Winter Olympic Games and are set to host another in 2034.

If you travel across the State, Mr. Speaker, you will find communities with baseball fields, football fields, soccer fields, pickleball courts, tennis courts, swimming pools, ski resorts, and golf courses. Utahns value sports, and we are good at them.

Utah is an international center for technology, including space tech. Just south of Salt Lake City is a business park called Silicon Slopes. About 100 miles north of Salt Lake City is the Space Dynamics Laboratory. Utahns value technology and research, and we are good at them.

Utahns may leave Utah, but they take Utah with them wherever they go. The football coach who takes the job in the Big Ten, the medical school graduate who interns at Brigham and Women's, the ROTC grad who learns to fly in Enid, Oklahoma, and the mother of five who gets that promotion and follows her work to Seattle, all of them take a piece of Utah with them.

□ 1040

On July 24, you may just see every one of them pulling kids in a wagon in a neighborhood parade or hear them singing a pioneer song or making the trek downtown to the shelter to drop off bedding and clothing. Each in his own way honors July 24, and I ask you today to honor those long-dead pio-

neers as well as those whose hearts hold Utah close.

This place west of the Great Divide and east of Salt Flats, north of the Grand Canyon and south of the lava flows and potato fields of Idaho is my home. I wasn't born in Utah. In fact, my father wasn't even born in this country. I am a pioneer like my brother and sister Utahns. Just like those 148 brave and desperate souls, I have made this place my home.

I, like Brigham Young and those other 3.5 million souls, came to this place, saw that it was good and said: "This is the right place. Drive on."

SUPPORTING OUR COAST GUARD

(Mr. COURTNEY of Connecticut was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the House of Representatives will be taking up H.R. 4275, the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act of 2025. That is legislation that updates and codifies changes and reforms to America's oldest continuous maritime service, the Coast Guard. It is actually called the first fleet because technically, actually the Coast Guard is older than the U.S. Navy.

This bill contains many good, bipartisan provisions that are addressing many of the challenges that the Coast Guard faces every day, whether it is drug interdiction, obviously doing the work in terms of our coastal, littoral regions of the country, and making sure we have safe passage of commercial and civilian maritime activity.

Included in this bill is a provision to reach out to our great ally Finland to update and modernize our icebreaker fleet. Our *Polar Star* large icebreaker is now 50 years old, and it is long past due, particularly with the challenges in the Arctic with Russia and China, to make sure we update and modernize our Coast Guard and icebreaking fleet.

This bill also contains a long overdue provision to reform the Coast Guard statutes regarding protecting victims of sexual assault and harassment both within the Coast Guard service and also the Coast Guard Academy. I represent New London, Connecticut, which is home to the Coast Guard Academy that is an outstanding institution that builds future leaders for the Coast Guard. It actually has a large international contingent of allies such as Iceland and Pacific Island nations that come to learn at the cutting edge institution in terms of coastal activities that are there.

Like all the military academies, there has been a shadow of, unfortunately, activity regarding female cadets over the years that have had to put up with totally unacceptable conduct and forcing them into almost an impossible position in terms of reporting this activity over the years.

The bill includes a safe-to-report policy, which will protect members reporting sexual assault. Again, some-

times incidents occur where there may be minor misconduct issues where both the victim and the perpetrator are involved, and that risk of being punished for those minor misconduct has really inhibited people to come forward and report sexual assault. This is an issue which was the subject of exhaustive hearings at the Oversight and Government Reform Committee over the last 8 years. Our dear, late Congressman Elijah Cummings conducted many of those hearings. There were brave whistleblowers that came forth, such as Dr. Kim Young-McLear who is now a retired commander from the Coast Guard. She testified before that committee and talked about, again, some of the hard experiences that she went through.

Other military academies, such as West Point and Annapolis, have actually adopted safe-to-report policies, and tomorrow's bill will get the Coast Guard Academy in line with those institutions.

This bill also extends the safe-to-report policy to the entire Coast Guard personnel, the entire service. That was done administratively by the last Commandant of the Coast Guard, Linda Fagan, who, again, I think was very focused in terms of making sure that the safe-to-report policy was going to be in place to eradicate activities that really harm the readiness and effectiveness of the Coast Guard.

Women Coast Guard officers are some of the finest, most talented people who are doing the important work of the Coast Guard, and we need to make sure that there is a statutory structure in place to make sure that with this type of activity, people will be able to report it and get a remedy and a response, in some cases punishment to, again, make sure people are not hindered because of this unacceptable conduct.

Tomorrow when we take up this bill, those brave women who came forward to testify and report their experience—and sometimes watched their dreams and their careers end because of the fact that they were subjected to unacceptable pressure and retaliation for reporting—will see that by law that is now going to be a thing of the past. It is long overdue, and, again, I just want to take a moment to publicly thank Commander Young-McLear and her colleagues for having the courage to step forward and make sure that the Congress is aware of this situation and will end it in the passage of tomorrow's bill.

WITHHELD EDUCATION FUNDS

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to demand answers, answers from the Department of Education and the Office of Management and Budget. Today, it is July 22, and the Trump administration continues to withhold