

come and work with us in our office. I am so grateful to our team, and I wish them the very best for their futures.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF REPRESENTATIVE JACK CERA

(Mrs. SYKES of Ohio was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise with a heavy heart but with extreme honor to recognize the life of a colleague, a mentor, and a dear friend, former Ohio State Representative Jack Cera, who passed away on July 13 after a courageous 2½-year battle with cancer. My sincere and deepest sympathy goes out to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him.

Jack was a proud son of Bellaire, Ohio, a man who never forgot where he came from and who fought every day to serve the people of eastern Ohio.

Jack was a true statesman, someone who listened more than he spoke, sought common ground without compromising his values, and worked tirelessly to deliver for the communities he loved. Jack served in the Ohio House of Representatives across three decades, from 1983 to 1996, and again from 2011 to 2020.

He represented families in Belmont, Monroe, Noble, Jefferson, and Washington Counties with distinction.

His colleagues across the political spectrum respected him. His constituents trusted him, and those of us who had the privilege of working alongside him admired him deeply.

I had the honor of working alongside Jack in the Ohio House where I witnessed firsthand his commitment to the people of eastern Ohio. Jack and I served in leadership together, and when I was elected as the minority leader, I tapped him to serve as the ranking member of the Ohio House Finance and Appropriations Committee.

Whether it was fighting for infrastructure investment, preserving the local government fund, or advocating for economic development in Appalachia, Jack never wavered in his commitment to public service.

Jack was a Brown University graduate, and he was sent to Rhode Island on a football scholarship. He would often joke that he was in the first class of football players to ever wear helmets, leather helmets at that.

Although, he was an Ivy Leaguer, he didn't have an ounce of superiority nor was there anything pretentious about him. He was just Jack, and that is what made him so special and so nice to work with.

He didn't take himself seriously, but he certainly took the work of the people very seriously. I would argue that you didn't really know Jack if he didn't teach you how to properly pronounce Bellaire, share some music, or advocate for the people of eastern Ohio.

Most importantly, Jack was smart, dedicated, and a trusted legislator who exemplified the very best of public service. He was sought after for advice

and leadership on difficult issues as he was always committed to the purpose of representing his hometown and the people of Ohio with integrity.

Without a doubt, Jack left a mark on the State of Ohio, and his legacy of service will not soon be forgotten.

Jack will be remembered by his wife, Becky; his beloved daughters, Jaclyn and Bethany; granddaughters, Scarlett, Lena, and Finley; and the countless people whose lives he made better.

This past weekend, my husband, Kevin, and I joined the Bellaire community, former legislators, colleagues, friends, and family to pay our final respects to Jack.

It was clear that the community loved and cared about him as was evidenced by the Jack Cera for Ohio House signs in yards leading the way to the church and the many people who were gathered at the church.

The eulogist and the pastor asked those present to think about the dash in between the dates that Jack was born and the date that he was returned home to the Lord.

As people stood up to share their experiences and to expand upon the dash, I wanted to be able to add my tribute to him but here on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

The eulogists also reminded us that Jack had a motto of ensuring that he left things better than he found them. I encourage and call upon all of my colleagues here in Congress to leave a place better than you found it in honor and memory of Jack Cera.

Though his presence will be missed, I am confident his memory will live on through the people he influenced and the family he deeply loved. For a moment, I will just acknowledge his daughters, again, Jaclyn and Bethany, and his wife of over 40 years, Becky, and say thank you for sharing Jack with us. I know it was hard to see him leave for Columbus many times over the 30 years, but we are so grateful for your sacrifice. We will keep you lifted up in our prayers.

Thus with deepest sympathy, I mourn the loss and pay tribute to a truly phenomenal individual. May his memory be a blessing.

□ 1110

#### DON'T CALL IT BEAUTIFUL

(Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of every senior citizen in Texas and across America. Unfortunately, it is not with celebration, but with outrage and disgust.

I am here to shed continued light to the damage this institution has caused seniors by the recent passage of this big, beautiful bill, which was anything but. It is the most significant betrayal of our senior citizens yet, a betrayal of our values and our Nation's promise.

Let's not be fooled by the branding. This bill wasn't beautiful. It was brutal. It slashed Medicare funding under the guise of reform. It wrapped its cruelty in buzz words like "efficiency," "modernization," and "fiscal responsibility." However, beneath the surface, it is a cold and calculated attempt to strip millions of Americans of the dignity they have earned over a lifetime of work.

This bill tells our parents and grandparents: Thank you for building this country, now go fend for yourself. It says to the most vulnerable: Healthcare is a luxury in this country, not a right. They dare to call that beautiful.

Let's be clear: Medicare is not a handout. It is a sacred promise paid for by workers every day of their entire lives, and it is a lifeline for seniors choosing between food and prescriptions, for families relying on home healthcare, for Americans who believe that aging should not come with abandonment. Cutting Medicare was not fiscally responsible. It was a moral failure.

All of this was done at the behest of their master, their master who wants tax breaks for the ultra-wealthy billionaires and multinational corporations, with empty slogans for the rest of Americans. It sacrificed the well-being of American retirees on the altar of political theater.

In fact, they were so diabolical about it that they purposely set a start date for these policies, December 2026, right after midterm elections, trying to poke seniors' eyes. They want to fool voting senior citizens by making these painful policies kick in right after the November elections. They are not fooling anyone. Americans are smarter than this.

We need healthcare policies that uplift older Americans, not undermine them; that care for them, not cast them aside; that honor our social contract to American senior citizens.

To those who voted for this bill, don't call it beautiful. Own what it is: a betrayal to older Americans who helped build this country.

To every senior who is watching today, to every caregiver, to every grandchild and child caring for an older American, to every worker in Texas and across this great Nation who hopes to retire with peace and dignity: We see you. We hear you, and we will not stop fighting.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 13 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 (Ms. FOXX) at noon.

## PRAYER

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

Holy God, may the words of our mouths—those we speak, those we write, the ones we use to influence, and those we wield to disagree—and the meditations of our hearts—the thoughts we have toward others, the ideas we conjure, the self-reflection within our own souls, and the intentions we pursue—may all of these be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord.

From the same mouths that we use to praise You, may nothing come that disparages those with whom we serve, for each is made in Your image.

Within our hearts are our deepest desires and our truest opinions. Stand watch over the innermost corners of our souls and guard us from allowing animosity to take the place of generosity, malice over mercy, and grudges over grace.

You, O Lord, are our rock and our redeemer. Speak through our words and reside in our hearts this day, that in all that we think, that we do, and that we say, we would bring glory to You.

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 California (Mr. CISNEROS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CISNEROS 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.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN  
STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. HERN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 600

*Resolved*, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the fol-

lowing standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Mr. Fine.  
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY: Mr. Garbarino, Chair.

Mr. HERN of Oklahoma (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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.

RECOGNIZING USCG PETTY  
OFFICER SCOTT RUSKAN

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

Mr. KEAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer Scott Ruskan, a native of Oxford, New Jersey, who displayed extraordinary bravery during the devastating flooding in Kerr County, Texas.

On his very first rescue mission, Petty Officer Ruskan saved 165 people, many of them children, including campers and staff from Camp Mystic. Serving as the only triage coordinator on the scene, he played a critical role in one of the largest rescue efforts in recent Coast Guard history.

Scott grew up in Warren County, attended Rider University, and answered the call to serve by enlisting in the U.S. Coast Guard, where he trained as a rescue swimmer before deploying into action with courage far beyond his experience.

I am grateful to the first responders and to volunteers, especially heroes like Petty Officer Ruskan, who risk their lives to protect others in need. I thank them for their service and for their sacrifice.

INCINERATING 500 TONS OF  
EMERGENCY 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. Madam Speaker, I rise for the 32nd time to call on the Trump administration to restore lifesaving food aid for malnourished children.

Last week, it was reported that the Trump administration is incinerating 500 tons of emergency food aid because it expired while sitting in a warehouse. This is food that had already been paid

for, had already been produced, and was just waiting to be shipped to starving people who needed it to survive. Instead, it is being incinerated.

In my district in Rhode Island, 87,000 boxes of lifesaving nutrition are sitting in Edesia Nutrition's warehouse. It is already paid for, already produced, and waiting to be shipped. This is food aid that is designed to treat starving children whose organs have shut down to the point where they cannot process normal food.

Madam Speaker, what are we doing here? This is food that is already paid for, already produced, and sitting in warehouses while kids starve.

I am going to stand on this floor every day until the administration honors its word and restores lifesaving food aid.

RECOGNIZING TRUMP ADMINIS-  
TRATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

(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. Madam Speaker, 6 months have passed since Donald Trump received the mandate of the people to fulfill his promises with extraordinary accomplishments.

Among the accomplishments by President Donald Trump are the following:

Illegal alien border crossings are at historic lows, and border wall construction has resumed.

Costs for everyday goods are near their lowest in 4 years, and wage growth has seen the largest increase in 60 years.

Oil and natural gas production have surged, and gas prices are at their lowest level in 4 years.

Trump tax cuts have been extended, creating jobs.

The President is promoting peace through strength and modernizing American military forces with cutting-edge technology, ensuring that our troops are the best equipped in history.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Trump is reinstituting existing laws to protect American families with peace through strength, revealing that war criminal Putin lies, insulting Trump, mocking Trump, and murdering Ukrainian civilians with rocket attacks as he conducts lovely conversations.

Madam Speaker, I wish a happy birthday to Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman David Wright.

## RECOGNIZING EMILY GREEN

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

Ms. MCBRIDE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary work of Ms. Emily Green, a