

every house of worship, every first responder who has made a difference during this crisis.

Mr. Rogers once said when bad things happen, to always “Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.” We have a lot of helpers in north Texas and across our State who have gone above and beyond to help with their neighbors, and we are damn proud of them.

CELEBRATING HENRY JOSEPH KOLINEK, JR.

(Ms. DE LA CRUZ of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. De La CRUZ. Madam Speaker, today I rise to celebrate Mr. Henry Joseph Kolinek, Jr.’s 100th birthday on July 28.

Born in 1925 in Gruene, Texas, Mr. Kolinek graduated from Kenedy High School before attending Texas A&M.

After arriving to A&M, he was drafted into the Army Air Corps and served as a staff sergeant during World War II. He flew 35 combat missions as a tail gunner and courageously protected his fellow soldiers.

After his service, Mr. Kolinek returned to Texas A&M and earned a degree in agricultural economics. He worked 15 years at Union Carbide before returning to his hometown to join First-Nichols National Bank.

His dedication to the bank for over 37 years carried him from vice president to president, and finally, to chairman of the board. He retired at the young age of 80.

Today, Mr. Kolinek remains active in his community and church, serving as a Rotarian and a member of the city council, member of the chamber of commerce, and sits on the Karnes County Airport board, as well.

On his leisure time he is often found driving the tractor on his ranch. He is a very proud father, grandfather, and a great-grandfather, as well.

Happy 100th birthday to Mr. Kolinek. I thank him for his service to our great Nation and to his beautiful community. May God bless him and his family. Happy birthday.

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HONORING JOHN SPEARS

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

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of John Spears, the director of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library system.

Although John only became director of the Buffalo & Erie County Library in April 2022, his brief tenure, backed by 25 years of experience, left an indelible mark on western New York.

John was an inspiring leader who worked tirelessly to expand access and make libraries in western New York

more inclusive, from eliminating fines for overdue books to redesigning the Central Library to be safer and more welcoming for everyone.

John was a champion for diversity, equity, and inclusion. He was honored by the New York Library Association for innovative leadership and fostering relationships across every community.

In 2022, I had the privilege of working alongside John on a project to digitize the William A. Miles collection at the Merriweather Library, the largest resource center in western New York for information on African-American history.

From the moment the effort began, John was all in. This was just one of the countless examples of John’s commitment to making our public institutions more just, representative, and responsive to the people we serve.

John saw libraries as a way of connecting people to their potential—a place where anyone, regardless of their background, could go, sit down, and learn.

On July 20, after a courageous battle with cancer, John passed away. Yet, his legacy lives on. He created a stronger, more inclusive library system that he helped to build. His legacy will last forever.

John is survived by his partner, Brian Dimit; his father, Robert; his brother, Evans; and his sister, Katherine. He leaves behind countless friends and colleagues across western New York and beyond.

I thank John for his service, compassion, and unwavering belief in the power of community. He will be deeply missed.

May John Spears rest in peace.

CELEBRATING JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF GREATER BUFFALO ON 80TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of an incredible milestone, the 80th anniversary of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo.

Since its founding in 1945, the JCC has stood as a pillar of strength, compassion, and community in western New York. For eight decades, it has served as a cornerstone of our region that reflects the diversity, resilience, and generosity of western New York. With two vibrant campuses, one in Amherst and one in the heart of Buffalo, the JCC opens its doors to over 1,000 individuals each and every day.

Whether it is early childhood education, enriching after-school programs, fitness classes, summer day camps, or arts and cultural events, and much more, the JCC is a space for everyone at every stage of life.

At its core, it is a place that brings people together. It is where families grow, friendships form, traditions are celebrated, and community is built.

The JCC’s mission is rooted in inclusion. Regardless of background, faith, or ability, everyone is welcome.

The 80th anniversary of the JCC is more than a celebration. It is about the legacy that continues to shape the present and inspire the future.

I thank the leadership, staff, volunteers, and generations of families who have walked through the JCC’s doors for creating a home where values endure, culture thrives, and people belong.

On behalf of a grateful western New York, I congratulate them on a remarkable 80 years. Here is to many, many more.

AMERICA’S BORDERS ARE SAFER

(Mr. MANN of Kansas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, America’s borders are the safest they have been in decades. Simply put, President Trump is the border security President, and no narrative from the national media or leftwing talking heads can change that.

Border security was the number one issue on the campaign trail and is one of the main reasons that 77 million Americans elected him as President—promises made, promises kept.

It is hard to believe that, in just 6 short months, President Trump has reversed 4 years of disastrous open-border failures from the previous administration. For 4 years, President Biden and Vice President HARRIS told the country over and over again that they simply did not have the authority or the ability to secure the border. The reality is that this could not have been further from the truth.

President Trump has shown that the only thing we needed all along was a President who was not afraid to actually enforce the law.

The facts speak for themselves. During the month of June, U.S. Customs and Border Protection saw the lowest number of encounters ever on our borders nationwide. Apprehensions along the border reached a new historic low on June 28, when CBP had the lowest number of apprehensions in a single day in agency history.

Under the previous administration, 27,766 illegal migrants were paroled and released into the country in June alone. Madam Speaker, 1 year later, zero migrants were paroled into the country—again, promises made, promises kept.

This leadership is exactly what Americans voted for this past November, and House Republicans are united in equipping the President to continue securing our borders for good.

In our One Big Beautiful Bill Act, we gave our law enforcement agencies the tools and resources they need to help secure the border. We allocated more than \$46 billion to finish President Trump’s border wall and ensure that our borders have a physical barrier to keep bad actors out. We invested in the CBP workforce, equipping the agency to hire more personnel to keep our borders secure and enforce the law.

House Republicans invested in state-of-the-art border technology to stop the trafficking of drugs and humans across our border and to finally bring

the fentanyl crisis to an end. This deadly drug has taken the lives of thousands of innocent Americans and made every State a border State—no more.

America remains the land of opportunity that attracts millions of individuals around the world each year. A few months ago, I had the privilege of speaking at a naturalization ceremony for brand-new American citizens who took their oath to the United States and officially became fellow citizens. I was inspired by each of their journeys in becoming Americans and couldn't help but feel blessed to have been born in a land that so many people seek to call their home. At the same time, my heart felt for them.

Of the 168 people who became Americans that day, some of them underwent a multiyear-long process to come here legally. Instead of rewarding their efforts, they watched for 4 years as a President and an administration that were asleep at the wheel allowed our immigration laws to be abused and taken advantage of month after month as millions jumped the line by coming here illegally. I am so glad that America overwhelmingly rejected that nonsense.

Today, our country is more secure and safe than it has been in nearly half a decade. It turns out that common sense works after all, and I am grateful for an administration that chooses common sense over caving to radical, far-left activists.

I thank President Trump for upholding his commitment to making America safe again and securing our border—promises made, promises kept.

HONORING GULLERMINA HEREDIA

(Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent and dear friend, Gullermina Heredia, known lovingly as “Mina,” who passed away on July 2.

A proud Mexican American, Mina's family moved to Chicago from Texas in search of better opportunities. As a student at Northeastern Illinois University, she joined the Organization of Latin American Students, where she met her husband, Carlos. She later served as president of the organization, inspiring a new generation of Latino students in Chicago.

After graduation, Mina became a social worker, uplifting countless lives with her warmth and strength. She had a unique ability to make people, especially Latinos and Latinas, feel seen and cared for.

Mina had a gift for bringing people together, and her karaoke nights with Carlos, her husband, were legendary.

Mina was deeply loved and will be remembered for her service and spirit.

My thoughts are with her sons and grandchildren, friends, and all those who were fortunate to know her. We

will miss Mina, and we will carry forward the compassion and strength that she showed all of us.

CELEBRATING 79TH BIRTHDAY OF CARLOS ARANGO

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a giant in our community, Carlos Arango, as he approaches his 79th birthday.

For over two decades, Carlos has been a pillar of Chicago's immigrant rights movement, organizing marches, building institutions, and mentoring generations of activists, often behind the scenes, always with purpose.

Carlos stood on the front lines when it wasn't popular, and he stayed when others moved on. He was instrumental in the strength behind Casa Aztlán, not just a building but a beacon of self-determination, cultural pride, and community defense. Through it, he helped countless immigrants find power, purpose, and a place to belong.

□ 1100

Throughout every political storm, Carlos has remained unapologetically proud of his roots, his people, and, yes, of Los Pumas at the University of Mexico, whose jersey he wears like armor. He is more than an organizer. He is a keeper of memory, a fighter for justice, and a dear friend.

Madam Speaker, I thank Carlos for never backing down and for showing us what commitment is all about. I wish him a happy birthday, and may his struggle live on.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL JORGE FONSECA

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Brigadier General Jorge Fonseca, a decorated veteran and proud son of Little Village, on his recent promotion as director of the Joint Staff of the Illinois National Guard.

Born in Guadalajara, Mexico, Jorge came to Chicago with his family and has dedicated over 30 years to public service, beginning as an enlisted combat medic and later commissioned as a Medical Service Corps officer.

He served multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. His path was not easy, but his tenacity carried him through the toughest moments of his career.

Today, his success inspires a new generation of Latinos and Latinas to serve. His journey is a reminder that patriotism isn't defined by birthplace, but by service, sacrifice, and a love of country.

Madam Speaker, I salute General Fonseca. He has made his family, his city, and his country proud.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT EFRAIN MATA

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Efrain Mata, a proud son of 18th Street in Chicago who will be retiring from the Cook County Sheriff's Department after nearly 30 years of distinguished and transformative service.

Sergeant Mata is not only respected for his honor, loyalty, and sharp instincts but also for his vision. He helped pioneer behavioral health and

emergency response strategies now being implemented across Cook County, proving that compassion and safety can go hand in hand.

From Chicago to broader assignments across Federal agencies, Sergeant Mata has served with honor, courage, and an unwavering commitment to justice.

However, what sets him apart is that he never lost sight of where he came from. He has always made it a point to give back, supporting families and standing up for his neighbors. He is a father, a supportive husband, a mentor, and the kind of person you always want on your team.

Madam Speaker, we thank Sergeant Mata for his service and wish him Godspeed.

RECOGNIZING THE CONGRESSIONAL SCOUTING CAUCUS

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join the bipartisan Congressional Scouting Caucus.

Scouting has been an essential part of my life. I am an Eagle Scout and was a Scoutmaster for more than 30 years.

The lessons I learned through Scouting: leadership, service, self-reliance, and integrity remain deeply imbedded in my daily life and guide my work here in Congress.

My decisions are guided by the principles of the Scout oath: my duty to God, duty to country, duty to others, and to myself. That is the kind of clarity and compass that Scouting instills. It is a moral benchmark, one that teaches young people to serve their communities, respect others, and become engaged, responsible citizens.

That is why I am proud of the work we are doing with the bipartisan Congressional Scouting Caucus. This group exists to strengthen and support Scouting programs across the country and to highlight the incredible impact Scouts have in each of our districts.

Madam Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join our caucus whether you were a Scout yourself, have Scouts in your family, or simply believe in the power of mentorship and youth leadership. There is no better time to get involved than now.

Today, we are hosting Camp Capitol Hill, an event that will bring the spirit of Scouting right to the heart of our Nation's Capital. This unique showcase will feature Scouts demonstrating outdoor and leadership skills right here on the Capitol grounds in the Rayburn foyer. Displays will include camping equipment, a canoe, a rocket, robotics, knot tying, and Pinewood Derby car racing, alongside educational tables sharing the story and scope of modern Scouting.

There will also be a dynamic panel discussion moderated by Scouting leaders and alumni, highlighting the diverse ways this program shapes the