

Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize West Virginia Supreme Court Justice Tim Armstead.

Tim was born to James and Myrtle Armstead on February 26, 1965, and passed away on Tuesday, August 26 of this year.

His life was one of dedicated service to our State of West Virginia. Beginning as an intern in the Governor's office after graduating from West Virginia College of Law, he rose to work as an executive assistant to the Governor's chief of staff and served on the Governor's Cabinet for Children and Families.

Tim's passion for public service led him to be elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates in 1998, later serve as the minority leader, and rise to become speaker of the house of delegates in 2015.

He was appointed and later elected to the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia in 2018 and would retain his position until his passing.

Tim's life was guided by his Christian faith and dedicated to our State and its people, especially children suffering from neglect and abuse. He worked tirelessly to defend those children on the court of appeals and worked to retain and recruit attorneys to provide services for these children's cases.

West Virginia is a better place thanks to the life of Tim Armstead, and the lives that he touched will miss his positive influence. I was proud to call him a dear friend and cherish the special time we spent together.

I send my sincerest condolences and love to Anna, Katie, Aaron, Benedum, and Ann.

HONORING 9/11 CIVILIANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

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

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of the brave civilians and first responders who answered the call 24 years ago on September 11 and the servicemembers who died in the ensuing wars that followed.

On that morning, ordinary individuals displayed extraordinary courage, not only through their service but also through their sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, 24 years ago, I watched in horror as the events of September 11 unfolded. 9/11 changed my life and the entire country. Less than 30 days later, I was activated as a reserve soldier, training soldiers to deploy to Afghanistan to defend our Nation abroad.

I went on to continue my service in Active Duty, forever changed by 9/11. Two decades later, my thoughts remain with the families of those who lost their lives that tragic day and the wars that came after 9/11.

We will always honor and remember the mothers, fathers, children, first responders, and all those senselessly

slain in that devastating attack on our Nation.

September 11 changed the course of history, but in our sorrow we found unity. In crisis, we found resilience. We will never forget that terrible day 24 years ago.

REMEMBERING AND HONORING 9/11 HEROES

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

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on September 11, 2001, our Nation endured an unspeakable tragedy, and New Jersey carried a deep share of that loss. Thousands of our neighbors left home for work that morning and never returned.

Today, 24 years later, we honor those we lost, the first responders, the everyday citizens who became heroes, and the families who continue to carry this grief.

We also recognize the tens of thousands who still suffer from cancer and other illnesses caused by that day's attacks and its aftermath. Their sacrifice and their strength remind us of the very best of America—our resilience, our compassion, and our unity.

We remember each and every one of them, and each generation will ensure that they are never forgotten. May God bless their memory, their families, and may God bless the United States of America.

CELEBRATING AMERICA'S DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS

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

Mr. AMO. Mr. Speaker, this week we are celebrating America's direct support professionals, the dedicated workers who support Rhode Islanders with disabilities, workers like Amy from Woonsocket, who said: The best part of being a DSP is that every day is never the same. I get to celebrate the victories and milestones of the people that I support. It is so rewarding to see how proud they are of themselves.

However, workers like Amy who do such great work are at risk. Republican Medicaid costs in Trump's big, ugly law pose a threat to direct support professionals and the Rhode Islanders with disabilities they serve. Medicaid funds 77 percent of the essential services, including in-home and community-based supports, group homes, and intermediate care facilities that serve the most vulnerable Rhode Islanders.

During this Direct Support Professionals Week, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle need to step up and restore the Medicaid funding they cut that disproportionately impacts Americans with disabilities and the workers who support them.

To Amy and all those doing this hard work: Keep it up and know that I have their back in Congress.

NEVER FORGET SEPTEMBER 11

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

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, on this solemn anniversary, we reaffirm our vow to never forget September 11. That morning began like any other. I had just dropped my daughter off at school on a clear, beautiful day across the northeast.

Within hours, our lives were forever changed as we watched in horror as planes struck the Twin Towers, learned of the attack on the Pentagon, and witnessed the extraordinary heroism in Shanksville, where ordinary Americans made the ultimate sacrifice to prevent another attack.

In the days that followed, I traveled to Ground Zero, delivering mobility equipment requested by the NYPD—not for the injured, but for those first responders who had been on their feet for days.

Yet even in that moment of national grief, I will always remember the New York streets lined with Americans cheering for first responders and standing together in renewed patriotism.

In President Lincoln's timeless words: "We . . . resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom . . ."

May our Nation always endure, producing patriots like the late Charlie Kirk whose legacy reminds us that America will thrive and never perish from the Earth.

HONORING JOHN BROMSTEAD

(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, I rise today to celebrate and honor the achievements of Glendora letter carrier John Bromstead.

John recently retired after a 40-year career in the U.S. Postal Service. Throughout this time, he drove 1 million accident-free miles, delivering letters, packages, and smiles across our community.

John was honored as a member of the National Safety Council Million Mile Club, and he received the Million Mile Award, a truly remarkable achievement.

Too often the stellar work of letter carriers like John goes unnoticed, but they play an essential role in ensuring our society, commerce, and community functions effectively.

I thank John for all the years of connecting our community through mail and spreading cheer around our neighborhoods. Now it is time for him to put his feet up and enjoy his well-earned retirement.

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HONORING CHARLIE KIRK AND
CONDEMNING EVIL

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

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is hard to put into words how I am feeling.

On one hand, I feel the heaviness and sadness that hundreds of thousands of students like my sons are feeling because they know that Charlie Kirk, an inspiring American, was assassinated for standing for his faith, exercising his First Amendment rights, and engaging in open and honest debate.

On the other hand, I feel enraged because some Americans celebrated at the news of Charlie's murder. If that was you, shame on you.

I am sick and tired of this evil.

Today is 9/11. Instead of remembering the evil attack on our country that day 24 years ago, we are now talking about another tragedy fueled by the same kind of hate. It is the same hate that assassinated Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Like Dr. King, Charlie was shot because he passionately and courageously spoke truth and invoked generational change in our Nation. They both dreamed of a better America for all, no matter their politics or skin color.

Charlie loved his Savior, Jesus Christ, loved his family, loved his country, and loved his fellow Americans. He believed that through honest conversation, the best ideas could win.

Charlie's vision for America inspired millions. Evil has killed him as a human, but watch out. Thousands of Charlies are already ready to stand for their faith, raise their families, and face down evil that has raised its head again in our country.

Mr. Speaker, may our Lord comfort the Kirk family and use Charlie's legacy to heal our land.

VENEZUELA, FTOS, AND WAR
POWERS

(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 denounce the Trump administration's reckless and illegal escalation in the Caribbean.

More than a week after the attack, we have not gotten any clarity whatsoever on the legal authority they relied on to conduct the strike.

Let me be clear: There is no conceivable legal justification. It was not self-defense, and it was not authorized by Congress.

That is why I am introducing a resolution to terminate hostilities against Venezuela and against the transnational criminal organizations that the administration has designated as terrorists this year.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues, regardless of their party or ideology, to join me in this effort. All of us should agree that the separation of powers is crucial to our democracy and that Congress has to fight for its own power.

RECOGNIZING PLEASANT GROVE,
UTAH

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

Mr. KENNEDY of Utah. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate 175 years since the establishment of Pleasant Grove, Utah.

Established on September 13, 1850, by pioneers, Pleasant Grove is located in an idyllic location, nestled at the base of the majestic snowcapped mountains of the Wasatch Front.

Its rich history is highlighted by the iconic Strawberry Days celebration, which began in 1921 and remains the longest-running city celebration in Utah. Each year, families gather to celebrate the city's agricultural heritage with strawberries and cream, parades, concerts, and rodeos.

Pleasant Grove also offers outstanding recreation and cultural treasures, from the scenic trails of Battle Creek Falls and the wooden castles at Discovery Park, to the family traditions of Hee Haw Farms and the Christa McAuliffe Space Center.

Though the city has grown, it continues to be a family-oriented town where residents can learn, explore, and thrive together.

At the heart of Pleasant Grove is its tight-knit community, people dedicated to service, education, and preserving the city's rich history.

I want to recognize the service of Mayor Guy Fugal and the members of the Pleasant Grove City Council, whose leadership reflects the values of this remarkable community.

I am proud to represent Pleasant Grove in Utah's Third District and look forward to celebrating this momentous achievement with them.

MENTAL HEALTH OF FARMERS

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

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, September is National Suicide Prevention Month. That is why I rise today to highlight the urgent need to support the mental well-being of our rural communities.

The suicide rates among farmers, ranchers, and agricultural managers stand at nearly 44 deaths per 100,000 people, which is significantly higher than the national average.

Despite this crisis, my Republican colleagues recently passed their big, ugly bill, which guts Medicaid. Medicaid provides access to the care many

in our rural communities need. Because of these cruel cuts, Oregonians will lose out on lifesaving mental and behavioral health care, and the mental health crisis will only get worse.

As a founding member of the Bipartisan Rural Health Caucus, I know that our rural neighbors often travel long distances to access care.

I have a bill, the Home-Based Telemental Health Care Act, that would expand access to remote mental health and substance use services in rural America, specifically for individuals working in the farming, fishing, and forestry industries.

Mr. Speaker, it is time we come together to pass legislation that will address our Nation's growing mental health crisis and provide farmers and people in rural communities the care they deserve.

REMEMBERING IRYNA ZARUTSKA,
9/11 VICTIMS, AND CHARLIE KIRK

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, this is the last opportunity to speak on the floor this week, and today is like a confluence of a lot of really horrific things in recent or longer history.

We should not forget the very recent vicious taking of the life of Iryna Zarutska, a Ukrainian refugee who made it to this country and was victimized on a train in North Carolina by a 14-time released criminal. Let's not forget her.

Today, we mark the 24th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on our country. We never should forget that, although it seems our society is doing that with what we are allowing to happen. Remember those 3,000-plus folks who died on this day.

I can't let this week go without also acknowledging Charlie Kirk, a modern-day civil rights leader, so to speak, who stood for truth, who stood for the people. Even though he might have been arguing with them in a friendly way at these events, he wanted them to know the truth. He wanted to lead them from the darkness, from the deception of this modern-day society of people who are deceiving people and their really bad choices. He was doing it with God's love, with Christ's love. He has been taken.

I hope his image, his memory, is made even stronger somehow, as sometimes is God's will, with his loss.

Today, we pray for his beautiful family, for the support they are going to need.

Mr. Speaker, Charlie Kirk was a leader. He was leading people from the darkness, and may God bless him.

REMEMBERING 9/11

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