

Ms. GILLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart on the 24th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, one of the darkest days in our Nation's history.

Nearly 3,000 Americans, mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, husbands and wives, friends and neighbors, were taken from us in an act of unspeakable evil on the morning of September 11.

In the years since, we have lost thousands more to fatal health conditions caused by the toxic aftermath of that day, as first responders and survivors who simply went to work or lived near the towers were stricken by cancer and respiratory illnesses that were tied to Ground Zero.

Many Long Islanders who bravely rushed to the towers that day are still paying the price with their health and with their lives.

It is time for Congress to come together and pass a permanent funding fix to the World Trade Center Health Program that will ensure that it is fully staffed and able to meet the needs of our 9/11 community.

We will never forget the horror of that day, but we can choose to honor it by how we care for our brave first responders and survivors.

□ 1120

DELIVERING FOR HARDWORKING MICHIGANDERS

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, last month I traveled across Michigan's Fifth District to visit hardworking Michiganders who are excited about the benefits of the bill that will include working family tax cuts.

I heard from a farmer in Horton who is relieved that it will be easier to pass his family farm to the next generation because this historic legislation doubles the death tax exemption.

I spoke to a small business owner in Monroe who will now be able to invest more in his operations and grow his family business due to the progrowth policies.

I talked to a waitress in Cassopolis who called this legislation life-changing because she will be able to pocket more of her hard-earned money thanks to no tax on tips and overtime.

As I travel across my district, it is clear that we are delivering for hardworking Michiganders and ushering in a new era of prosperity, and that is great.

REMEMBER 9/11

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, today, on the 24th anniversary of 9/11, we remember the thousands of inno-

cent people whose lives were lost, as well as the courage of servicemembers and first responders who responded that day, many of whom called Virginia home.

The emotional and physical scars of those attacks persist today. We have a duty to care for those who were affected by the devastation. That includes the servicemembers who returned to work at the Pentagon the next day and were exposed to asbestos and other toxins, causing lifelong negative health effects.

That is why I am introducing the Susan E. Lukas 9/11 Servicemember Fairness Act today. This legislation will close the gap in coverage and ensure that these servicemembers receive the care and benefits they deserve.

This bill is named after retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Susan Lukas, a constituent from Gainesville, who returned to work in the Pentagon the day after 9/11 and still suffers to this day chronic health issues as a result.

These brave servicemembers, like Susan, sacrifice so much to keep our country safe. They deserve our support.

MISSOURIANS' SERIOUS CONCERNS

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

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, I come from Missouri, and the people I represent have serious concerns. They are worried about paying for healthcare. They are worried about the cost of food and affordable housing or raising families with some measure of security. What they are not worried about is a mid-decade power grab in Jefferson City, but that is exactly what is happening.

This isn't about fair representation. It is about politicians trying to lock in their power by carving up Kansas City and silencing voices they do not want to hear. These include voices like Congressman CLEAVER, a man of integrity, who has served this Chamber, our State, and our country with dignity and distinction for decades.

No one asked for this, not the stakeholders, not the business community, and, most importantly, not the people of Missouri.

Let's not mince words. This is cheating. It is cowardice. If we allow it, we are telling Missourians that their voices don't matter. Our democracy doesn't belong to partisan mapmakers. It belongs to the people.

HONORING MAY CHEN AND MARY ANN FREEDMAN

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor May Chen and Mary Ann Freedman for their induction into the Ohio Department of Aging Senior Citi-

zens Hall of Fame and for being named Ohio's 13th Congressional District's Champions of the Week.

As a native of Hong Kong, May Chen developed profound empathy for immigrants after witnessing the struggles of Chinese refugees in her home country. After emigrating herself to the United States in 1995, May helped found Asia Services in Action, also known as ASIA Inc., an organization dedicated to serving the needs of immigrant communities. She turned obstacles into opportunities.

Today, with about 80 full-time staffers, ASIA, Inc., provides family and adult health services, legal services, small business assistance, and so much more to the over 58,000 people who are looking to build a life in northeast Ohio communities.

I am also proud to recognize Mary Ann Freedman. Mary Ann lives her life mission based on the Hebrew phrase "repair of the world"; "tikkun olam." She chose to use her life and her talents to found Adult Guardianship Services. She worked to expand and transform this program into Adult Guardianship Services of Summit County.

As executive director, Mary Ann worked with guardians and caregivers to ensure the most vulnerable members of our communities are cared for and respected and not forgotten as they age.

Mr. Speaker, both of these women dedicated their years to serving the most underserved. Both demonstrate the incredible power of concerned citizens, serving their communities. I extend to them my sincere gratitude and appreciation and recognize that people of any age can continue to make meaningful contributions to their communities.

RECOGNIZING MILWAUKEE'S SEVERE FLOODING

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

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in agony about the severe flooding that recently struck southeastern Wisconsin, hitting my district and my constituents hard.

On August 9, the so-called 1000-year flood dumped record rainfall across Wisconsin, bringing flooding and sewage backup that cost millions of dollars in damage, left thousands without power, and forced many from their homes.

Recent reports indicate that this flooding has been responsible for a loss of life. I have no doubt that many more lives would have been lost were it not for the tireless work of our brave first responders.

The fire department from Milwaukee, for example, responded to over 600 calls, rescuing people from their cars who were trapped by the surging floodwaters.

At Governor Tony Evers' request, FEMA teams have worked alongside

State and county authorities to fully assess the damage wrought by this flooding. With that work largely done now, the Governor has requested a major disaster declaration that would unlock Federal assistance for many households, businesses, and the public.

We are still trying to put this all together and figure out how to pay for this. I urge our President to immediately approve Governor Evers' request for a Federal disaster declaration, a request supported by the entire delegation on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, this just shows us the irreplaceable role of the Federal Government in helping to put victims' lives back together.

RECOMMITTING TO CIVILITY AND UNITY

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, 24 years ago today, our Nation was changed forever. I remember that day as a high school student. Standing along the Hudson River, a cloud of smoke and destruction hung over the New York skyline. There was palpable fear and terror in the air. I witnessed a stream of people covered in ashes, trying to get home. It is impossible to forget.

What I remember most is how we came together as a country after that fateful day and how we bridged our divide and joined together as one Nation in grief and mourning but also in resolve and patriotism.

Today, 24 years later, we are once again reminded of how easily those divisions can take hold of us and how they can divide us if we allow them to. We owe it to ourselves and, even more so, to the bravest Americans who answered the call that day and laid down their lives to recommit ourselves to civility and unity.

We must never forget 9/11. We must never forget the victims, the survivors, and their families. I believe with every fiber of my being that we can heal our Nation and mend our wounds. We can truly be the United States of America and "out of many, one."

Mr. Speaker, that is the best way to honor their memory today and every day hereafter.

HONORING JOEL KAWAHARA

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

Ms. RANDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joel Kawahara, a 70-year-old commercial fisherman who represented the very best of our maritime community.

In August, Joel was lost at sea while doing what he loved the most, which was fishing for salmon in the Pacific.

Joel wasn't just a fisherman. He was the 2009 National Fisherman's

Highliner of the Year, known up and down the West Coast for the exceptional quality of his catch.

What truly set Joel apart was his unwavering commitment to conservation. For over 30 years, he served on the Save Our Wild Salmon coalition. He would cut his own fishing trips short to attend policy meetings. The last time I saw him, while walking through the boatyard in Port Townsend, he stopped working on the *Karolee* to talk to me about NOAA and how important it was to protect.

Friends remember his infectious laugh at beach parties and his generous spirit. He put his family's 80-acre property in a conservation easement. He understood that caring for the land means caring for the fish and caring for the fish means caring for future generations of fishermen.

Mr. Speaker, Joel showed us that a well-lived life is one spent fighting for what we believe in while lifting up our community along the way. We honor Joel's memory and his legacy of service to our waters and our way of life.

□ 1130

RESTORE LIFESAVING 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. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, for the 39th time, to call on the Trump administration to restore lifesaving food aid for children around the world.

We are grieving today. We are grieving the lives lost on September 11, 2001. We are grieving the lives of Charlie Kirk and others who have been victims of political violence and mass shootings.

We don't always have the power in this Chamber to save every life, but we do have the power to save many lives, including the lives of children suffering from starvation, lives that are valuable and that deserve a chance.

The Trump administration cut off this program in January, and they have been promising to restore it, going so far as to issue RFPs and to make promises that the program will be restored, but they have not yet done it.

All it takes is for them to take the simple action of restoring the Food for Peace program so that kids like this can have a chance.

RECOGNIZING SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

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

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of September being Suicide Prevention Month.

More than 35 years ago, my father took his own life by firearm. Unfortu-

nately, this kind of tragedy is too common in America.

There were 1.4 million suicide attempts in 2019, making suicide one of the most pressing public health crises in America. In 2023, over 49,000 Americans died by suicide. Of those deaths, nearly 6 out of 10 involved a firearm.

Firearms also account for just 5 percent of American suicide attempts, but unfortunately, firearms account for over 50 percent of the deaths.

This points to a disturbing trend that those who attempt suicide by other means often regret their attempt. They don't do it again, and they seek help. That option, unfortunately, is rarely available to those people like my dad who had a weapon available.

Too many people don't seek help when they need it. Whether they are held back by fear, stigma, or lack of access, we need to do more as a society to remove all the barriers and encourage open and supportive communities.

Please, if you are having issues around depression or suicidal thoughts, seek help and call 988.

HONORING BOB HALLMARK, SIGNING OFF FROM KLTV

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. MORAN of Texas was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bob Hallmark. After nearly three decades of reporting, storytelling, and shining a light on east Texas, Bob Hallmark is signing off from KLTV.

I couldn't let this moment go without thanking him for his service.

Over the years what has always stood out is the way he approached every story with fairness, professionalism, and genuine heart for our community. He had a way of making people feel seen, respected, and understood.

Whether he was covering a serious issue or adding a little humor to the day, Bob was always thoughtful and brought his full self to the job.

Bob never lost sight of the people behind the headlines. He knew every story mattered to someone, and he treated those stories with care. That is rare, and it is why so many trusted him not just as a journalist but as a friend and neighbor.

Mr. Speaker, we will miss hearing "Bob Hallmark, KLTV News" at the end of every story, but we are grateful for the many years that we did hear those words.

May Bob enjoy the well-earned next chapter of his life.

I congratulate Bob. I thank him for telling the story of east Texas so well for so long.

HONORING HERB BUIE OF JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF THE GREATER TYLER AREA

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Herb Buie. The Junior Achievement of the Greater Tyler Area announced Mr. Buie will be their 2026 Business Hall of Fame Laureate.