

prevent. That doesn't make vaccines any less necessary.

The science is clear. Vaccines are safe, effective, and essential. Every major medical association agrees, yet fringe ideologies are gaining influence inside the very agencies charged with protecting our health.

Mr. Speaker, I fear our children and grandchildren will bear the cost of these reckless decisions.

CHARLIE KIRK'S RELIGIOUS MESSAGE

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, a lot has been said the last few days about the horrible assassination of Charlie Kirk.

I was able to attend two ceremonies over the weekend in which people gathered to memorialize him.

I hear a lot of people talking about Charlie Kirk exercising his right to political free speech, and we have to respect people's ability to engage in political speech.

I think if you look at some of his videos, and certainly if you attended these ceremonies, Charlie Kirk was a much more religious person than a political person. I think that is lost on a lot of people, lost on a lot of political commentators.

I think particularly in this era of declining church attendance, a time when so many young people are raised in families that don't even go to church, I think his speaking about Christianity and his faith and the importance to carry on his mission is more important than his political statements.

ONE BIG, BEAUTIFUL REPEAL

(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, Virginians are already paying the price for the one big, ugly bill.

Two small-town clinics and one regional urgent care center in Virginia just closed as a direct result of the bill. Now, six more rural hospitals around the Commonwealth are at risk of closure. That means mothers, children, and Virginians with urgent healthcare concerns have to drive further to get urgent care or wait months to see a specialist.

Remember, this majority and this President said that this bill wouldn't take away benefits or close rural hospitals. Well, they were wrong. We don't need more broken promises. What we need is a different approach, a one big, beautiful repeal instead.

Let's pass the Protecting Healthcare and Lowering Costs Act, which will restore people's benefits and access to care, ensuring that people in small towns and rural communities will have more access to quality care, not less.

COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION FUNDING

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

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the counselors, outreach workers, and credible messengers who save lives as community violence interrupters in Michigan and across the Nation.

These programs, supported by the Community Violence Intervention funding, deescalate conflicts, mediate retaliation, and connect people to essential services like jobs, housing, and mental health care to break cycles of violence.

The impact is undeniable. From May to July of this year, Detroit's CVI zones saw about a 30 percent drop in homicides and shootings with some neighborhoods faring even better.

Despite this, cuts are taking their toll. This spring, the Department of Justice rescinded over \$800 million in grants, including \$150 million for CVI efforts. Michigan programs lost millions, forcing layoffs and cuts. Worse, the current budget would slash dedicated CVI funding even further, jeopardizing these lifesaving efforts.

Congress must act to restore funding and protect proven prevention strategies.

□ 1920

RECOGNIZING DONNA MINTER ON COMPLETING "GRAMMY CLIMATE RIDE"

(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 recognize Donna Minter from Minneapolis for her extraordinary feat of completing the Grammy Climate Ride. Inspired by her love for her grandchildren and a vision for a healthier, more sustainable planet for future generations, Donna spent 64 days traveling 3,000 miles by bicycle to raise awareness and support for climate justice.

From California to Florida, Donna struck up conversations with those whom she met along the way to raise the alarm on the climate crisis. Through this year's ride, Donna raised \$25,000 for various Minnesota-based climate nonprofits.

Please join me in celebrating the extraordinary achievement and spirit of Donna Minter and her strength and preservation that made this possible.

RECOGNIZING MORE ACTION FOR STUDENTS ORGANIZATION

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

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the privilege of sitting down with a group of dedicated youth, who created

and inspired the More Action for Students organization in northwest Indiana.

I was greatly impressed with their knowledge of many important issues and their sincere advocacy.

We discussed a variety of topics, including the significant cuts to Federal Pell grants, the programs designed to help first-generation college students.

They also shared their concern that Congress is not fulfilling its constitutional responsibilities by allowing this administration to rescind approved Federal funding for minority-serving institutions of higher learning in Indiana's First Congressional District.

Since this administration is also rescinding Federal funds for economic development projects that are approved and signed into law and when the OMB is picking and choosing how appropriations laws are implemented, they are right to be concerned.

This meeting has filled me with a renewed sense of optimism for the days ahead, for it is clear that these young women and men are not waiting for the future to arrive. They are shaping it. They labor to build a society that is more just, more inclusive, and more responsive to the needs of all people.

Let us take the inspiration from their dedication. The strength of our Nation rests in the courage and the vision of its youth.

RESISTING THE TEMPTATION TO DIVIDE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as I returned home to northwest Ohio this weekend, I found soul searching among people who I represent following the tragedies of last week in Colorado and Utah.

Then, in the Point Place neighborhood of Toledo, I saw a church sign that read:

Love Always Heals. Hate Always Harms. All Welcome Sunday.

These are simple words but profound.

Governor Spencer Cox of Utah observed that social media is a cancer on our society right now, and he encouraged people to log off, turn off, touch grass, hug a family member, and go out and do good in their community, and I couldn't agree more.

Today in Toledo, we did exactly that. We celebrated the completion of a \$13.5 million water project to restore the Delaware, Clark, and Horseshoe Islands in Walbridge Park on the Maumee River, the largest river that flows into the Great Lakes.

This restoration means cleaner water, aquatic and wildlife habitats renewed, and a healthier Lake Erie. As co-chair of the Great Lakes Task Force, I am profoundly grateful that our citizens united to restore the heart of our islands along the mighty Maumee by, quite literally, constructing bridges for the future. Our

community keeps delivering progress, and we all must lift our Nation's motto up: "e pluribus unum"; "out of many, one."

Not against one another but working together for the future of America.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUAN LÓPEZ

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

Ms. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Juan López.

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

I rise today to honor the life of Juan López—a Honduran, a Catholic leader, a human rights defender, an environmental activist—a year after his brutal assassination.

Today, I declare we will not forget Juan López. As Juan said, "They can tear me up, they can cut me down. But I'll always come back."

Today, I honor all those who carry on Juan's legacy to live without fear of powerful companies and corrupt officials stealing and polluting their land and murdering courageous leaders for peacefully defending natural resources that are rightfully theirs.

Today, I stand in solidarity with all those who loved Juan López, who continue his struggle, and who will not back down until we realize justice for Juan, for Berta Cáceres and for all those land defenders murdered.

Me levanto hoy para honrar la vida de Juan López—hondureño, líder católico defensor de los derechos humanos y activista ambiental—un año luego de su brutal asesinato.

Hoy, declaro que no olvidaremos a Juan López. Como dijo: "Pueden destrozarme, pueden derribarme. Pero siempre volveré".

Hoy, rindo homenaje a todos aquellos que continúan el legado de Juan, viviendo sin temor a que empresas poderosas y funcionarios corruptos les roben y contaminen sus tierras y asesinen a líderes valientes por defender pacíficamente los recursos naturales que les pertenecen por derecho.

Hoy, me solidarizo con todos aquellos que amaron a Juan López, que continúan su lucha y que no cederán hasta que se haga justicia para Juan, para Berta Cáceres y para todos los defensores de la tierra asesinados.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman will provide a translation.

HONORING VICTIMS OF 16TH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH BOMBING

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Ms. McCLELLAN of Virginia was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order hour.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to anchor this CBC Special Order hour. For the next 60 minutes, members of the CBC will have an opportunity to speak directly to the American people.

Today, the Congressional Black Caucus is remembering an anniversary. It was a terrible anniversary that happened 62 years ago today in Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, to begin our commemoration, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. FIGURES).

Mr. FIGURES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, this is one of those speeches that I wish we did not have to give and one of those moments in our history that I wish we did not have to acknowledge in the first place. By acknowledging it, we are reminded of its occurrence.

This is one of the more tragic acts in American history: the bombing of four little girls, made worse by the fact that it happened in a place of worship, that it happened in a church, and that it happened in an African-American church.

When you grow up Black in Alabama, this is one of the seminal events that you hear about in our State's history that you cannot ever forget. It is important to me that we sit here in this Chamber today to acknowledge this disastrous event and to remember the names of the little girls who were killed and one who was injured.

As a son of Alabama and a Representative of the birthplace of the civil rights movement today, which is the city of Montgomery, I know the names of Carole Robertson, Denise McNair, Addie Mae Collins, and Cynthia Wesley. These are names that you have to know. They are names that all of America should know, and they are names that all of us should recognize and appreciate and honor here in this House.

They are names that must be said. They are names that must be said repetitively. They are names that must be ingrained into the fabric of this Nation: Carole Robertson; Denise McNair; Addie Mae Collins; Cynthia Wesley; and Sarah Collins Rudolph, who took from that day not only the loss of her friends and family member but also injuries that she still carries with her to this day as she advocates for justice.

Let us not forget that this was merely one example of tragic violence that was used as a means to suppress the greatest movement that this world and that this Nation has ever seen, which is the civil rights movement.

Though these are names that we know and names that we speak of in one of the more noteworthy or notable or well-known events that happened, there were several others who were the victims of such violence, and we also cannot forget them as we sit here today and honor the four little girls in Birmingham.

These are names, some of which you know and some of which you don't.

These are names like Medgar Evers, who was assassinated in his fight for equal access to the ballot box; and Rev. James Reeb, who was a minister who was beaten to death while standing with the marchers in Selma.

These are names like Viola Liuzzo. These are names like Jimmie Lee Jackson and Jonathan Daniels. These are people who put it all on the line and whose deaths are the reason that I am able to stand here today.

Whenever we have the opportunity, we should always sit here in this Chamber and recognize these individuals.

□ 1930

I cannot close without quoting the speech that Martin Luther King gave in his eulogy of these four little girls. Speaking at a time when racial tensions in the country were enormously, enormously high and never did anyone think that those tensions would result in such a cowardly act as a bomb being placed in a church and set to detonate on a Sunday morning as four little girls were down there getting ready for Sunday school, but he took to the pulpit and he gave these powerful words that I will quote, in part.

He said: "These children—unoffending, innocent, and beautiful—were the victims of one of the most vicious and tragic crimes ever perpetrated against humanity.

"And yet they died nobly. They are the martyred heroines of a holy crusade for freedom and human dignity. And so this afternoon in a real sense, they have something to say to each of us in their death.

"They say to each of us, Black and White alike, that we must substitute courage for caution. They say to us that we must be concerned not merely about who murdered them but about the system, the way of life, the philosophy which produced the murderers. Their death says to us that we must work passionately and unrelentingly for the realization of the American Dream.

"And so my friends, they did not die in vain.

"God still has a way of wringing good out of evil. And history has proven over and over again that unmerited suffering is redemptive. The innocent blood of these little girls may well serve as a redemptive force that will bring new light to this dark city."

Those are the words of Martin Luther King as he eulogized these four little girls. I think a lot of what he references is still true to this day, that we have to, by all means, continue to be unrelenting in our pursuit of the realization of the American Dream for everyone.

These four beautiful little girls, who unknowingly became one of the galvanizing symbols of the civil rights movement, these are names that we must know. These are names that we must continue to say: Carole Robertson, Denise McNair, Addie Mae Collins, and Cynthia Wesley.