

sign the United States Constitution, one of the most significant documents in history.

For 238 years, this document has laid the groundwork for our Nation's principles and has served as a beacon of freedom worldwide.

Our Constitution guarantees our freedoms, from the right to free speech to the right to practice our faith. The Constitution is a promise that we the people are at the forefront of our government.

Today, the Constitution remains as relevant as ever. As we face new challenges, we must remember that our Constitution has provided us the framework to debate, disagree, and, most importantly, unite.

I am proud to join my colleagues in supporting a resolution recognizing today, September 17, as Constitution Day, highlighting our Nation's beginnings as we approach our 250th anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, let us celebrate the principles that make our Nation great on this Constitution Day.

FIRST AMENDMENT IS KEYSTONE OF OUR LIBERTIES

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, a few minutes ago, four Republicans saved this House from disgrace. We almost passed a resolution to remove a Member from committees for the sin of exercising free speech.

Charlie Kirk was a prominent figure, beloved by many, disliked heartily by others.

If the First Amendment means anything, it means the ability to say anything we want, short of actionable libel, with respect to any subject. It even means, according to the Supreme Court in the Brandenburg decision in 1969, the ability to advocate violence except in a manner calculated to induce immediate violence.

We forget the First Amendment at our peril. It is the keystone of our liberties, and we almost disgraced ourselves by traducing it a few minutes ago. I am glad we did not.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MIKE VAINI

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

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a dear family friend, Mike Vaini.

Mike was like an uncle to me. He was my father's best friend. He was the best man at my parents' wedding.

For nearly eight decades, Mike was the go-to man for our church, the Springfield First Church of the Nazarene.

In addition to his distinguished 35 years at Kraft Foods, he dedicated himself to his faith, family, and church.

Mike did everything. He served as a Sunday school teacher and a church board member. He even served as the bus driver and, yes, the lawn mower for our church. Mike was simply Mr. Reliable.

When the church needed someone to entertain, he would dress up as Mickey Mouse or Tiny Tim. While his voice probably didn't win any choir competitions, that never stopped him from singing just to light up the room.

Mike loved music. From southern gospel concerts to the great hits of the 1950s and 1960s, he knew all the bands and all the songs.

Mike was a huge sports fanatic. He was a huge fan of the St. Louis Cardinals and the Springfield Cardinals, and he loved playing golf and pinball and watching the Olympics.

I will never forget moments, like going to basketball games with Mike. He would always bring licorice for my brother and me.

Mike and his wife, Linda, were known for hosting parties and bringing people together. He lived 78 amazing years with faith, humor, and generosity. He poured himself into others, especially his family, including Linda.

So many of us thank God for his life. May he rest in peace.

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REMEMBERING PORTER MCNEIL

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

Mr. SORENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a friend and a public servant in the Quad Cities, Porter McNeil.

Porter served as a leader in Rock Island County for decades, most recently on our county board, but also as a leader and lover of democratic values.

Porter was an incredible communicator, family man, and friend to all of us. He was in a class all his own. He was a steadfast Democrat, but just this week, a GOP member back home called him "a good man, with class."

Porter loved the Quad Cities and believed in making our home a better place.

In his passing, I am thinking of his wife, Mary, the McNeil family, and his friends. To have so many people remember you so fondly is a testimony of being a great man.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Porter McNeil for being there for us. We will miss him.

RECOGNIZING TRINITY LOVE HOBLIT FOUNDATION

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, did you know that 1 in 50 Americans is living with an unruptured brain aneu-

rysm? It is a silent killer hiding in plain sight. Most won't know it is there until it is too late.

Today, I rise in recognition of Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month and to highlight the lifesaving work of the Trinity Love Hoblit Foundation, based in Fernandina Beach, Florida.

Founded by Olivia and Phil Hoblit in honor of their daughter, pictured here, a vibrant 14-year-old who tragically passed away from a ruptured aneurysm, the foundation is turning grief into action. Their mission is research, training, and treatment for brain aneurysms and strokes, and raising awareness about warning signs.

One of their most important initiatives is the Florida Familial Brain Aneurysm Research Project, a program dedicated to understanding the genetic links and safeguarding future generations.

Mr. Speaker, this month, let us all honor Trinity's legacy by raising awareness and championing early detection because lives truly depend on it.

BILLIONAIRES DON'T PAY THEIR FAIR SHARE OF TAXES

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today Representative BEYER, Senator WHITEHOUSE, Senator WYDEN, and I introduced a billionaires tax bill.

Billionaires don't pay their fair share of taxes, and with the Trump tax program starting in 2017, they have increased their wealth tremendously.

Not paying taxes on real estate and stocks and all that they don't trade or sell, just accumulating that wealth over and over again while hardworking people, firemen, nurses, you name it, pay on their wages is wrong.

We need to have a tax system that collects from people who can afford it, as well. Pope Leo said in an interview recently: "CEOs that 60 years ago might have been making four to six times more than what the workers are receiving," now, it is "600 times more than what average workers are receiving."

To the news that Elon Musk is going to be the first trillionaire in the world, Pope Leo said: "What does that mean, and what is that about? If that is the only thing that has value anymore, then we are in big trouble."

We are in big trouble because that seems to be what is valued all the way to the White House, where they are using cryptocurrency to make money out of their position, and it is wrong.

HONORING HIS ALL-HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome to America His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. He is the spiritual head of the second-largest Christian church in the world and leads over a million Greek Orthodox in the U.S. He is here this month to meet with government leaders and to receive the distinguished Templeton Prize.

Throughout His All-Holiness' decades as Ecumenical Patriarch, he has sought to bring together people of all faiths to combat religious intolerance and enhance understanding. He convened an interfaith international conference on Peace and Religious Tolerance in Istanbul. The conference brought together Christians, Jews, and Muslims to find ways to encourage understanding and peaceful coexistence among followers of the three faiths.

The Patriarch has been honored also by the United Nations, the European Union, and dozens of governments, universities, and institutions. In 1997, he was honored with the Congressional Gold Medal.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome His All-Holiness to the United States.

IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE JIM EDGAR

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

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible life of former Illinois Governor Jim Edgar.

Governor Edgar was a mentor and a true public servant, but most of all, he was a dear friend.

As a graduate of the University of Illinois' Edgar Fellows Program, I had the privilege of seeing firsthand how Governor Edgar brought people together. He had a rare gift for bridging divides, encouraging voices from all perspectives, and helping us discover common ground on even the most difficult issues.

Governor Edgar led Illinois with integrity, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to the people of our State.

Governor Edgar was a voice of reason, a champion of civility, and an unwavering advocate for collaboration.

In today's era of division and political turmoil, his example of steady leadership and his voice of wisdom will be profoundly missed. His passing is a loss felt across the political spectrum and throughout Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, my thoughts are with his wonderful family, especially Brenda, Brad, and Elizabeth, along with our entire State, as we mourn his passing and celebrate his extraordinary life.

CELEBRATING CONSTITUTION DAY

(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, today, we celebrate Constitution Day.

Constitution Day is observed on September 17 each year. It was originally passed as a law in 2004 for citizens to remember the founding document, our Constitution, and the hard work they did in Independence Hall back in 1787 to give us the pieces that are really important to our American citizenship.

This law requires educational institutions and Federal agencies to commemorate and teach about it in schools. It is very important that schools emphasize the Constitution, how we got here, and how it is the core of our existence as a free nation.

We have to know about the Constitution as it protects our rights, but it can only do so if we protect the Constitution.

I commemorate each day a person whose rights weren't protected. Iryna Zarutska was a refugee from Ukraine killed needlessly on a train in North Carolina by a guy who had been released 14 times for other crimes.

Mr. Speaker, I wish we could have protected her more. We have a lot to do.

RECOGNIZING JENNIFER DENSON

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

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a member of our community doing incredible work to combat hunger in Eugene: Jennifer Denton.

Since 2015, she has led as executive director of Burrito Brigade, a volunteer-driven nonprofit that has hand-delivered hundreds of thousands of warm, nutritious meals to hungry people across Eugene and Springfield. She also created Free Little Pantries, giving neighbors a way to share food directly with those in need.

During COVID, she launched Waste to Taste, a free, no-questions-asked grocery store that now serves more than a thousand families each month.

Time and time again, Ms. Denson has stepped up to serve our most vulnerable neighbors. Her grassroots work has touched thousands of Oregonians and should serve as an inspiration to all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Jennifer for her contributions and am grateful to have her in our community.

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SUPPORTING FARMERS

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

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, when the cost of farming rises, it is not just a challenge for our farmers, but it is a challenge to our Nation's security because agriculture is the foundation of America's strength and stability.

During the district work period, I visited the Herr Farm, a fifth-genera-

tion farm, and visited with the northwest Indiana farmers and members of the Indiana Soybean Alliance and Indiana Corn Growers Association.

At that time, they shared with me during harvest time their grave concern for skyrocketing input costs, such as insecticides, fertilizers, and nitrates. These rising costs of goods and services driven by tariffs and the simultaneous loss of export markets caused by those same tariffs are threatening our economic livelihood.

On top of this, challenges with access to workers through the H-2A program leave them uncertain if they can sustain their operations at all. These men and women feed our Nation and power our economy. Yet today many do not know if they will be able to sustain their business for tomorrow.

As we take up fiscal year 2026 appropriations and agriculture legislation, I am committed to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to ensure all of our farmers get the support they need to continue their essential work.

DEVASTATING HARM CAUSED BY TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, today what a privilege it is to join with a dear dozen Members from across the Congressional Labor Caucus and Congressional Steel Caucus to address the devastating harm the Trump administration and DOGE have exacted on people, our communities, the cost of living, and job losses across our Nation.

Job loss and the withholding of funding by the Trump administration of awarded contracts, Federal contracts, withdrawing those from investment across our country, has caused real ruptures in district after district after district. We are going to summarize just some of those tonight.

Today, the Federal Reserve lowered interest rates by a quarter percent. Why did they do that? It was to soften the ongoing damage of an unsteady economy.

From our region of northwest Ohio all the way to Illinois, New Jersey, New York, Louisiana, New Mexico, Maryland, Michigan, Hawaii—the list is long—please listen to the stories of real U.S. companies, workers, and communities that are being devastated by job losses and broken promises. Meanwhile, inflation and prices are steadily on the rise due to the GOP's reckless tariffs.

First, we must ask why the Trump administration is stopping the investment of billions upon billions of dollars in projects that were awarded to make America great again. The answer is the Trump trade war. Well, but then on top of that, this tariff regime is raising prices on everything for American households. The American people are