

Vietnam to meet his newborn child and embracing his wife again, a moment he wasn't sure he would ever see.

Today, Dale and his wife, Patty, enjoy time with their grandchildren and working on projects together. He reminds us of three things we must always honor: God, family, and country.

Dale's got some health challenges right now, and I had the opportunity of visiting him at our VA Hospital in Kansas City a few weeks ago. Although, he is going through these challenges, he has a big smile on his face.

I will tell Dale that we are praying for him. We are going to make sure he gets through this and that he gets the best healthcare possible through the VA system.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Mr. Dale Karst, a true American hero, for his courage, his sacrifice, and his enduring love for the United States of America. I want Dale to know we love him.

#### GENOCIDE IN GAZA

(Ms. TLAIB of Michigan was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, as some of my colleagues continue to try to attempt to bully and silence me, I will remind all of them that I grew up in Detroit. The more you try to shut us up, the louder we get.

Mr. Speaker, as we speak right now, the Israeli Government is moving to exterminate Palestinians. The U.S.-backed and funded genocide in Gaza is reaching new levels of horror every single day that we do not take action to stop it.

There is no more denying it, Mr. Speaker. The International Association of Genocide Scholars, hundreds of the world's leading experts on genocide, has determined that the Israeli Government is committing genocide.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a link to the International Association of Genocide Scholars Resolution on Gaza. <https://genocidescholars.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/IAGS-Resolution-on-Gaza-FINAL.pdf>.

Mr. Speaker, this week, the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry has concluded that the Government of Israel is committing genocide in Gaza.

It calls on all countries to take immediate concrete actions to prevent and punish genocide, to stop sending weapons to the Israeli Government, and to bring individuals forward, again, to hold them accountable and to seek justice for the genocide.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a link to the U.N.'s Independent International Commission of Inquiry report on the crime of genocide in Gaza if my colleagues would like to read it. <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/sessions-regular/session60/advance-version/a-hrc-60-crp-3.pdf>.

Mr. Speaker, these new determinations only confirm what Palestinians,

eyewitnesses, journalists, and researchers have been saying for nearly 2 years: This is a genocide.

Journalists have been murdered in unprecedented numbers in human history, so there is no one left to show the world what is being done. There is forced starvation, Mr. Speaker, and destruction of entire cities. They are luring starving and desperate people to fake food distribution sites in order to kill them. They call them the killing fields. Multiple generations of families, entire blood lines, are wiped out. Newborns are left decomposing in the NICU as hospitals, doctors, and ambulances are systematically targeted and destroyed.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a link to the official report of the names and ages of Palestinians confirmed and killed in Gaza. <https://data.techforpalestine.org/list/>.

Mr. Speaker, look at this. I want the American people to see this. The first 21 pages are all infants who did not live long enough to see their first birthday.

There have been over 60,000 human lives confirmed dead so far. Children's smiles are extinguished every single day by bombs that say "Made in the United States of America."

Experts say, and we all know this, that the death toll is likely tens of thousands higher with countless bodies still trapped under the rubble.

This must end.

As we speak, the Israeli military is moving to wipe what remains of Gaza city off the map. Gaza is the largest city in Palestine, a vibrant city of 1 million people that has existed for thousands of years, and it is being erased before our eyes.

□ 1040

Mr. Speaker, this is not only the Israeli Government's genocide. This is our government's genocide. Our government provides the bombs, the diplomatic cover, and the complete and total impunity to kill, bulldoze, and exterminate.

Some of my colleagues cruelly cheer these war crimes on, while others quietly express their concerns while voting to send more bombs anyway, but the American people know the truth about this genocide. They know what their own eyes are seeing, and they are rising up to say: No more. No more bombs, no more weapons, no more genocide.

This will not stop until we act in this body. It is not too late to save lives. For humanity's sake, we must act now.

WELCOMING DETROIT TO CBC WEEK

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I take a moment to welcome all of my Black neighbors throughout the 12th Congressional District to the people's House for Congressional Black Caucus' Annual Legislative Conference Week.

Our city, the city of Detroit, the most beautiful, Blackest city, where I was born and raised, has strong roots with the Congressional Black Caucus. For me, it is no coincidence that the

very first chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Representative Charles Diggs, was born and raised also in Detroit, carrying forward our city's legacy of resilience and movements and so much, again, fights against oppression here and across the world.

It was also another son of Detroit, my predecessor and founder of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congressman John Conyers, who stood with Dr. King and later became the driving force behind making Dr. King's birthday a national holiday.

I am so incredibly proud to welcome all of my neighbors, residents, and elected officials to the Nation's Capital. Welcome to Congressional Black Caucus Week.

#### CONGRATULATING LIEUTENANT GENERAL ROBERT A. RASCH, JR.

(Mr. STRONG of Alabama was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. STRONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lieutenant General Robert A. Rasch, Jr., as he concludes 36 years of exceptional and faithful service to the United States of America.

Throughout his tenure, General Rasch has embodied the spirit of a soldier, inspiring those who have served with and under his leadership.

Born in Germany, where his father was stationed with Army Special Forces, General Rasch's connection to the military began early in life. He graduated from the University of Georgia and followed his father's footsteps, joining the Army as a second lieutenant in 1989.

His military journey also led him to his wife, Shawndell Mann, a fellow soldier he met while in Alaska. Together, they have two accomplished children: Darby, an emergency physician, and Michael, who continues the family legacy as an infantry captain. Their family continues to grow with the expected arrival of their first grandchild in October.

Throughout his career, General Rasch served in various capacities, including key roles within the acquisition and systems automation corps. He led as the project manager for the Army's Integrated Battle Command System and later as the military deputy to the commanding general of the Army Aviation and Missile Command.

In 2017, he earned his first star as a deputy program executive officer at PEO Missiles and Space. His second star came in 2019 when he took over the PEO role. He is credited as a primary driver for the modernization and integration of fires within the Army.

He earned his third and final star in 2022, becoming the director of the Army's Rapid Capability and Critical Technologies Office, more affectionately known as RCCTO.

In this role, he has overseen the rapid prototyping and fielding of several key

programs, including the mid-range capability program, Army directed energy systems, and the long-range hypersonic weapon as a first-of-its-kind capability.

General Rasch served in both Desert Storm and the global war on terrorism. Over his 36 years of service, he has earned numerous awards, including the Army's Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the Combat Infantryman Badge. He is also a Ranger-qualified soldier, holding the prestigious Ranger Tab.

General Rasch's leadership and mentorship will be missed by many, especially those at Redstone Arsenal in Alabama's Fifth Congressional District. Those who served with him describe him as exactly the kind of leader that soldiers trust and are willing to follow into battle. This Nation is grateful for his service and is better because of it. We salute General Robert A. Rasch, Jr.

#### U.S. SPACE COMMAND HEADQUARTERS

Mr. STRONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on an issue of historic importance for our Nation's security and for the people of north Alabama: the decision to base the United States Space Command headquarters at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama.

For more than 60 years, our community has been at the heart of the American space story. North Alabama has been at the forefront of innovation, from the rockets that carried our astronauts to the Moon, to the systems that now protect our homeland and our warfighters. We have earned the nickname "The Rocket City" because innovation and national defense are in our DNA.

Space Command is charged with ensuring America's superiority in the most demanding, contested domain of the future. To protect the United States, we need a headquarters located where talent, research, and mission readiness intersect. With the support of President Trump, it has been decided that Huntsville is that place.

Redstone Arsenal is a hub for missile defense, with unmatched infrastructure and mission synergy. Our workforce brings together military expertise, leading civilian aerospace professionals, and a pipeline of scientists and engineers. This is not just about geography. It is about capability, efficiency, and effectiveness.

This decision is not about partisan politics. It is about national security. It is about ensuring that our brave men and women in uniform have every advantage. We must be the most lethal force this world has ever seen.

Huntsville offers facilities and partnerships needed for immediate mission success and long-term capability to grow and sustain the Command well into the future. North Alabama demonstrates that patriotism, technical excellence, and innovation exist together. North Alabama is ready. America will be stronger because of it. Our time is now.

#### HONORING IAN KALVINSKAS

(Mr. COSTA of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart but also with a sense of hope. I want to tell you about a remarkable young man named Ian Kalvinskaskas.

Ian was one of my interns this summer. A Pasadena native, he loved soccer and carried a curiosity about the world that was as boundless as his spirit.

As a UCLA student with a deep passion for public service, he dreamed of pursuing a career in foreign policy and one day working for the United Nations.

At just 15, though, Ian was diagnosed with liver cancer. He underwent a transplant at UCLA, and for more than 4 years, it seemed that he had beaten the disease, but in November 2024, his cancer returned. Ian knew his time was short, yet he refused to let that define him. Instead, he came to Capitol Hill because he told us: "I want to make a difference."

Even while battling illness, Ian focused on helping pediatric patients get fair consideration on the transplant waiting list.

Sadly, Ian's internship was cut short. He passed away in June at the age of 20, surrounded by his family in the shadow of the Capitol he so admired.

His doctor, Sue McDiarmid, one of the premier transplant physicians in the world, told me his personal courage was remarkable and an inspiration to her and all who knew him.

His final days were not defined by his illness. They were defined by his courage and idealism, by his determination to use the time he had left to help others.

In honor of Ian's life, I am proud to introduce the Ian Kalvinskaskas Pediatric Liver Cancer Early Detection and Screening Act. This bill would advance the very work that Ian hoped to pursue. It would direct the Department of Health and Human Services, with input from the CDC, Centers for Disease Control, to strengthen education so parents and providers can spot the early signs of liver disease in children.

□ 1050

It would require the Government Accountability Office to report on what we are doing now, how many children are lost each year while waiting for a liver transplant, and whether adding a simple newborn test could save lives.

Mr. Speaker, Ian's story is not an isolated one. Over 100,000 Americans every day are waiting for an organ transplant.

Back home in the San Joaquin Valley, Austin Salinas, a young boy, has spent his life battling hydronephrosis, a serious kidney condition that has meant countless surgeries and now the use of an ostomy bag. For more than 11 years, he has defied the odds with remarkable resilience.

Like Ian's, Austin's journey is more than endurance. It is about survival and the hope of a lifesaving transplant. It is about inspiration. It is about courage. These young people really want to live and have a full life.

Families like Ian's and Austin's shouldn't have to fight alone. They deserve a system that works for them and gives them every chance to live a full and healthy life.

This legislation, therefore, is about the gift of life and giving better opportunities for over 100,000 Americans awaiting an organ transplant every day.

I encourage my colleagues and their staff to take the time to read this bill and consider joining me.

By supporting this legislation, we ensure that Ian's fight and legacy will live on for the lives of children and their families that will be saved in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ian Kalvinskaskas and his son—a student and, now, through this legislation, a catalyst for change.

God bless Ian. May his memory continue to light a path forward for all of us.

#### HONORING VERONICA PITTS

(Ms. SEWELL of Alabama was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate an extraordinary educator from my hometown of Selma, Alabama, Ms. Veronica Pitts, of Selma High School, for being named the National Civics Teacher of the Year by the Bill of Rights Institute.

Each year, only one teacher in the Nation is selected to receive this prestigious honor, and I am thrilled that, this year, the teacher hails from Alabama's Seventh Congressional District.

Ms. Pitts exemplifies the very best of what it means to be an educator and a public servant. With a deep passion for education and tireless commitment to her students, she has dedicated her career to teaching not just government and economics but the importance of civic engagement and community leadership.

Through her engaging lessons, Ms. Pitts has helped her students understand that democracy is not a spectator sport. It requires informed, empowered, and active participants. Her classroom is a place where students don't just learn about the government. They learn about their role in shaping it.

As the daughter of two lifelong educators who worked at Selma High School for over 36 years, I know firsthand the transformational power of good education, especially good education in Selma. I have seen what our students can do and achieve with the help of amazing teachers and wonderful role models.

Teachers like Ms. Pitts do more than prepare young people for tests. They