

of thousands of people across our northwest Ohio district, over half a million Ohioans, and 15 million Americans.

Please let me share some examples. A constituent from Clyde, Ohio, said it clearly: High insurance prices will allow people to die by making healthcare unaffordable. It was terrible before the ACA. We need affordable health insurance.

Another citizen from Edon in Williams County shared how their medications had become so costly that they now have to seek out patient assistance programs. Their prescription insurance has increased by \$119 a month, which is unmanageable on a fixed income.

A Toledo resident told me that everything is going up. Groceries cost more as well as childcare and rent. Unless Congress acts, health insurance premiums for us will double. Our family cannot make it. We don't have an extra \$100 per month.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you are listening to these pleas because unless we address the cost of health insurance in this country, too many people are going to die.

MILLIONS OF AMERICANS RELY ON RURAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Rural Health Day to honor the millions of Americans who rely on rural healthcare systems and to shine a light on the unique challenges faced by our rural and territory communities.

In places like Guam, distance is not measured in miles but in oceans. When a family needs specialty care, when a child requires emergency service, and when one of our manamko seeks follow-up treatment, the nearest option may be thousands of miles away.

Hospitals and healthcare facilities across our Nation, including Guam Memorial Hospital, bear tremendous responsibility with limited resources. It is the doctors, the nurses, and allied health professionals at Guam who meet the responsibility every day. They provide lifesaving care despite higher costs, workforce shortages, and outdated reimbursement formulas.

Financial sustainability for these institutions is not just about healthcare. It is about equality, economic stability, and national security. That is why I am working on policies to strengthen reimbursement, modernize Federal support programs, and expand workforce pipelines so every community, no matter how remote, can count on its providers and hospitals for quality care.

PRESERVING RURAL HEALTHCARE ACCESS IS LITERALLY LIFE AND DEATH

(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, as the Representative of a district full of forests, mountains, and rugged coastlines that are beautiful but often mean a long drive to the hospital, I know that preserving rural healthcare access is literally life and death in our communities.

Tribal health clinics, federally qualified health centers, rural hospitals, and independent providers are facing challenge upon challenge upon challenge. At Grays Harbor Community Hospital, I saw firsthand how tariffs are driving up costs for medical devices and supplies, adding financial strain to already stretched rural facilities.

The hospital recently invested in a new MRI machine, a critical upgrade that offers faster scans and higher resolution images, but because of tariffs, they had to pay significantly more money to purchase this machine. That is money they now can't use for other things.

Advanced medical equipment like this is increasingly expensive under the Trump administration. Add to that the Medicaid cuts in the big, ugly bill and the end of the ACA tax credits, the strain and uncertainty is challenging.

On National Rural Health Day, we should be working together to expand care, not making it more difficult for rural communities.

SERVING 35 YEARS AGO AS A PAGE ON THE HOUSE FLOOR

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

Mr. FINE. Mr. Speaker, every time I come on to this floor, I marvel at the fact that I get the opportunity to serve here, but today it means a lot more because 35 years ago as a page in this institution, my mom used to come and watch me every day.

She would come and sit in the gallery over there never knowing that 35 years later, her son would ultimately serve in Congress. Frankly, had you asked me 1 year ago today, I would have told you that I would not expect to be serving here.

However, it was 1 year ago today that my mom died. It was 5 days after that that President Trump asked me to run. Today, as I mourn my mother on the 1-year anniversary of her death, I think of all of the things that I can do to make sure that I make her proud in how I served her every day because as I often say to my constituents, I won't let you down because I am not going to let her down.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF POLICE OFFICER WALLIE HOWARD, JR.

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

Mr. MANNION. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Syracuse Police Officer Wallie Howard, Jr.

Officer Howard was a son of Syracuse, a Henninger graduate, a Syracuse University student, and a respected member of the Syracuse Police Department.

He dedicated his life to protecting our community, serving with distinction on the Central New York DEA Task Force.

On October 30, 1990, during an undercover narcotics investigation, Officer Howard was ambushed and killed in the line of duty. His death marked the first line-of-duty death for a Syracuse officer since 1929.

For decades, his legacy has guided law enforcement training across the country, and awards in his name continue to honor excellence, bravery, and service.

It is time to bestow another lasting honor on this Syracuse hero. That is why I have introduced bipartisan legislation to rename the post office at 2200 South Salina Street in Syracuse as the Officer Wallie Howard, Jr. Post Office Building.

This designation ensures that in the everyday life of the city he protected, Syracuse, New York, Officer Howard's name, sacrifice, and example will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the overwhelming majority of the New York delegation that are cosponsoring this bill, and I urge all my colleagues to support it and to help a great American city honor a great American hero who gave everything for his community.

□ 2140

REMEMBERING IRYNA ZARUTSKA

(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, I rise tonight to remember and make sure we don't forget the name and the likeness of Iryna Zarutska, a Ukrainian refugee who successfully made it safely to this country, to North Carolina, where she innocently one evening was riding a transit train and had her life brutally taken away from her by a 13- or 14-time arrested criminal for no reason other than a thrill kill.

We need not forget, as it doesn't seem to be playing very far into the news, this tragic loss. Remember the name, the face of Iryna Zarutska, and hope that she gets justice from the prosecution of this animal currently in court.

HONORING FORMER ARLINGTON MAYOR ELZIE ODOM

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a legend in Arlington, Texas, who passed away, the former mayor of Arlington, Elzie Odom. He was 96 years old. Mayor Odom was a trailblazer in every sense of the word. Born in east Texas, he moved to Arlington and made his mark in the city very quickly.

His journey was a testament to a determination of dignity and faith. He was an elected official in Arlington for 14 years and very active in the Mount Olive Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas, where he and his wife, Ruby, of 78 years spent most of their time worshipping.

He was very instrumental in making sure that we kept General Motors in Arlington. We almost lost the plant back in the 1990s, and it was Elzie's leadership that helped us keep the plant. He kept the Texas Rangers baseball club there as well. He talked about bringing the Olympics to Arlington, and people didn't believe it would happen, but then it got serious consideration, and we were on the short list.

This was an incredible man.

His daughter, who is on the city council, Barbara Odom-Wesley, said that he taught others that "service is the price you pay for the space you occupy."

I have to tell you there are so many things that I can say great about Mayor Odom, but this man absolutely loved his family. His grandkids called him Grandee, and he and his wife of 78 years had one of the most beautiful relationships in all of the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington area.

REMEMBERING CHARLIE KIRK

(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, it is hard to believe that not even 7 weeks have gone by since Charlie Kirk was savagely murdered in Utah.

I am, quite frankly, a little bit disappointed at the degree to which I do not feel that this body is doing enough to memorialize this great man's short life. I, myself, am reading books by Charlie Kirk to familiarize myself with what drove him to be such an active force in American civil life.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the rest of this body familiarize themselves with the books and familiarize themselves with why so many Members on the left could not contain themselves, apparently even horrifically with glee, that Charlie Kirk was shot.

I ask particularly my Republican colleagues to familiarize themselves with his writings and let his writings inspire us for the next 13½ months of this term

so that we can begin to accomplish all of the wonderful things he wanted us to accomplish, which he so eloquently pointed out where we were failing to accomplish them.

RURAL MENTAL HEALTHCARE

(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, I rise today to highlight the growing mental health care crisis in rural America.

Nearly one in five adults live with a mental illness, yet rural communities lack the providers, facilities, and resources to meet their needs. In my own district, an entire county has only one child and adolescent psychiatrist. For families seeking timely specialized care, that is not just an inconvenience. It is a barrier that can mean the difference between preventative help and a crisis.

Communities across the country face the same impossible math: too many needs and too few providers.

That is why I have introduced legislation to support clinicians who commit to practicing in rural areas and to expand telemental health services tailored to farmers, fishers, and foresters, the people who power our rural economies.

Access to quality care should not depend on your ZIP Code. I urge my colleagues to join me in ensuring rural Americans are no longer overlooked or underserved.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Ms. TOKUDA of Hawaii was recognized until 10 p.m. as the designee of the minority leader.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. TOKUDA. 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 in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HURD of Colorado). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Hawaii?

There was no objection.

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate National Rural Health Day here on the House floor, standing shoulder to shoulder with our colleagues in the Bipartisan Rural Health Caucus. I am very humbled and honored to be here with my friend and fellow co-chair, Representative DIANA HARSHBARGER.

A big mahalo, as we have just heard from Members on both sides of the aisle, who took to the floor to raise up the needs, the challenges, the hopes, and the dreams for healthcare in rural America.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. HARSHBARGER).

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor National Rural Health Month and to honor the men and women who keep healthcare alive in America's small towns and rural communities.

As co-chair of the Congressional Bipartisan Rural Health Caucus, I am proud to join my colleagues in leading an effort to ensure the millions of Americans who live in rural areas, including the hardworking people of Tennessee's First District, receive the same quality of care as anyone else in the Nation.

In northeast Tennessee, rural healthcare is a lifeline to people, especially those who live in remote areas and are limited or have no mode of transportation. They depend on a nurse to drive during the night and before dawn to check on a patient or the pharmacist who knows every family by name and stretches every dollar to keep medicine affordable. It is the doctor who stays late to see one more patient because there is no one else to take the next shift.

These are the people who form the backbone of our rural healthcare communities, and they deserve a system that works as hard for them as they do for us.

The truth is, rural healthcare has always faced an uphill battle. When a rural hospital shuts down, it just doesn't take away healthcare. It takes away jobs, stability, and peace of mind.

It means longer drives for emergency care, fewer options for expectant mothers, and limited access for seniors and veterans who depend on those services the most.

The systems that are supposed to support them is too often buried in bureaucracies.

Pharmacy benefit managers are manipulating drug prices, restricting choices, and squeezing out small-town pharmacies that are fighting just to survive.

These PBMs never see a patient, but they control what medicines people can get and at what cost.

That is wrong, and I have been proud to lead bipartisan legislation to bring transparency, accountability, and fairness to that system because patients and pharmacists alike deserve better.

□ 2150

I have made it my mission to champion these policies that put people, not politics, first. Under President Trump's leadership, we signed the Working Families Tax Cuts Act into law this year. This critical legislation included the single largest investment in rural healthcare in history. That is \$50 billion for a Rural Health Transformation Fund to reinvest Federal savings directly into the communities that need it most, expanding telehealth, and recruiting and retaining rural healthcare workers.