

Dale Walker, Charles B. Walker, Jr., and Chanda Jones, our Nation mourns with you.

May Bishop Bronner's work live on in each of us.

On behalf of a grateful community and nation, may Dr. T. Anthony Bronner rest in eternal peace.

#### RECOGNIZING JIM DECKER

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jim Decker as he retires from the Warren County Chamber of Business and Industry.

Jim's professional life is deeply intertwined with the economic vitality of Warren County, Pennsylvania. Since 1989, he has served in some capacity with the Warren County Chamber of Business and Industry.

Since 1997, he has led the WCCBI as president and CEO. He also serves as executive director of the Warren County Development Association.

Jim is a native son of Warren County and a 1975 graduate of Warren Area High School. He proudly raised his family in Warren. He and his wife, Kathryn, have three adult children and many grandchildren.

Jim's dedication to Warren County is second to none. His community involvement is extensive, and he is a board member of numerous regional and State organizations, including but not limited to the Northwest Commission, the Northwest PA Job Connect, and the Leadership Warren County Steering Committee.

Jim has been a driving force behind major economic and recreational initiatives in the county, including the facilitation of the Warren County Industrial Complex, which is a business incubator that supports a dozen small to large midsized manufacturing tenants and is the financial anchor of the Warren County Chamber of Business and Industry.

Jim also oversaw the development of the 300 2nd Avenue Bank Building project, a key venture that now houses the Northern Pennsylvania Regional College and is a multimillion-dollar economic development rehabilitation project in the heart of downtown Warren.

A strong advocate for expanded outdoor opportunities, Jim has worked to make Warren County a prime destination. He was instrumental in expanding the Trails at Jakes Rocks mountain bike system, which features 35.2 miles of premier hiking and biking trails in the Allegheny National Forest. This is a significant regional asset that has an economic impact of more than \$10 million annually.

Through Jim's efforts, Warren County has hosted major events, including the United States Canoe Association's national championships, Cabela's 3D Archery and Walleye championships,

and the International Bowhunters Organization tournament.

This year, the Pennsylvania Association of Chamber Professionals gave Jim the Keystone Award. Established in 1963, it is the highest honor for the PACP awards. It recognizes outstanding service in and contributions to the profession of Chamber management in Pennsylvania. It is not awarded annually but only when an individual has demonstrated outstanding achievements.

Mr. Speaker, Jim's longstanding dedication and leadership have shaped Warren County for the better. He is the kind of leader who brings his vision to life through hard work but makes it look easy.

Warren County has become a dynamic community and recreational hub thanks to Jim's leadership. Jim is a steadfast pillar of the northwestern Pennsylvania region, and his legacy will be felt for generations.

While it is bittersweet to see Jim retire, I know that we will still see him around Warren, probably on his mountain bike, enjoying the outdoors. I wish him the best as he starts this new chapter of life.

#### GENOCIDE IN GAZA

(Ms. DEXTER of Oregon was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. DEXTER. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, I visited the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum with my daughter. I had been before, but the timing of this visit was very intentional. I went to reflect on the horrific history of dehumanization and ethnic cleansing that ultimately led the world to create a new term to describe such an unfathomable evil. That word is "genocide."

During the Holocaust, 6 million Jewish people, 60 percent of those present in Europe, were brutally targeted, dehumanized, and systematically murdered. It is a crime that people, communities, and nations were aware of yet did little to nothing to stop the atrocities until it was far too late.

After the Holocaust, the international community made a commitment that such evil can never happen again to any people anywhere. "Never again," they said.

That is why I recently signed on to a resolution recognizing Israel's actions in Gaza led by the Netanyahu government as a genocide. I joined this resolution with a heavy heart. I understand the pain and the history of the word, and I signed on with the utmost respect for the Jewish people, especially those in my community who may feel abandoned or deeply harmed by my action.

I will also be crystal clear that my criticizing the policies and actions of the Netanyahu government does not detract from my steadfast opposition to anti-Semitism and my persistent support for our Jewish neighbors.

Many in this body have been reticent to call out the mass suffering, ethnic cleansing, and war crimes taking place in Gaza. I will not willingly continue to be part of that complicity.

As a United States Representative, my job is to stand up against the power and our resources of this country being used in such ways.

I am a physician. I am a mother. I believe in the sanctity, the universal worth, of human life. That belief does not change based on who you are or where you live.

Each of our lives has innate, incalculable value. Our shared humanity must be recognized and preserved, or we run the risk of rationalizing and accepting acts of cruelty.

This principle, that we share an accountability to stand up against dehumanization, cruelty, and marginalization across our communities, should be universal, but it is not.

It is my duty as an elected leader in the most powerful country on Earth to stand up for those most marginalized if I stand for anything at all.

It is foundational to how I chose to represent my community and how I will continue to represent my community in Congress.

History has and will continue to judge this body, not just for what it did but for what it failed to do.

Our children are watching. As parents, we know this to be true. As elected leaders, we cannot look away as they look on. We have an implicit accountability to the children of this Nation, to show them with our actions that we hold ourselves to a standard worthy of their respect.

I want my children to live in a country where our leaders can be relied upon to lead with courage, empathy, and moral clarity.

I urge every Oregonian watching to hold me accountable in a shared, unshakable belief in the sanctity of human life. We are our brother's keeper. I will do all I can to protect and defend each person's right to freedom, safety, and self-determination.

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#### GOVERNMENT IS STILL THE PROBLEM

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, Zohran Mamdani's winning message was affordability, that the necessities of life are increasingly out of reach for most people, and that government is the answer.

He said on election night: "There is no problem too large for government to solve."

Mr. Speaker, he is right about the problem, but he is completely wrong about the solution. As Ronald Reagan often warned: "Government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem."

Housing affordability is a good place to start. When and where a free market is maintained, homebuilders have every incentive to meet the housing needs at every income level. The profit margin might be bigger at the top, but the sheer numbers of lower income families compensate with volume, assuring ample affordable housing for all income levels.

Government sets basic safety standards but otherwise leaves consumers alone to make their own decisions about everything else. As the tax base grows, new revenues are available to expand water systems, electricity generation, highway capacity, schools, police, and fire, all the necessities of a community.

Landlords have every incentive to provide as many rental units as the population needs, while competition keeps rents low and demand keeps units plentiful.

What has happened? Government decided to solve what socialists viewed as problems.

To solve suburban sprawl, the socialists began imposing severe limits and costly fees on construction permits. Builders could no longer profit from building vast numbers of affordable homes, so they focused their limited permits on the pricier models.

To solve climate change, the socialists mandated outrageously expensive add-ons like solar panels and hermetically sealed windows.

To solve their environmental angst, they required pointless studies that were endlessly time-consuming and outrageously costly along with back-breaking, outrageous environmental fees, adding many tens of thousands of dollars to the costs that were all passed on to helpless homebuyers.

As these solutions drove up the price of housing, the socialists began offering subsidies to lower income earners who had been priced out of the market by the socialists' own policies. As taxpayer dollars flooded into the already constricted market, prices and rents rose still further. As socialists solved the rental problem by freezing rents, landlords stopped building new units or maintaining existing ones.

When anything is scarce, it is expensive. When it is plentiful, it is cheap. Socialists have made housing scarce and, therefore, expensive. Nowhere can this be seen more clearly than comparing the socialist utopia of California with the free State of Texas.

Last year, more housing permits were granted in the Houston and Dallas metropolitan areas than in all of Gavin Newsom's California. The median price of a home in Texas is \$345,000. In California, it is \$900,000.

Take healthcare. Americans once paid for their own healthcare. They could choose among policies offered by hundreds of competing providers for the one that best met their needs and circumstances. Most opted for inexpensive catastrophic plans for accidents and illnesses that could have bank-

rupted them, while paying for routine care out of pocket. Competition for their business kept prices low and quality high.

Socialists objected to leaving the poor to an extensive network of charities. They solved our healthcare inequalities with highly subsidized and mandated coverage that leaves consumers powerless to choose their own best options while severing the connection between the patient and the payer.

When somebody else is paying the bill, the patient doesn't care about price, and the payer doesn't care about quality. The result is costs spiraling out of control while patient satisfaction continues to decline.

At the center of socialism is the mistaken belief that profit is waste, and if it can be removed from the equation, everything will be cheaper. That is the fundamental misconception behind Mamdani's government grocery stores. Yet, profit is not waste. Profit is the essential ingredient that spurs competition, drives innovation, demands efficiency, and craves consumer satisfaction. Take profit out of the picture, and you have just learned the difference between FedEx and the post office.

Consumer electronics have steadily declined in cost while quality has steadily improved, precisely because the socialists have not yet decided to solve this market. When they do, you can expect the same high prices and decline in quality that they have already delivered in every field that they have solved, from housing to healthcare.

It comes down to four simple words: Freedom works. Socialism sucks.

#### CONGRATULATING TRACY EUBANKS

(Ms. JOHNSON of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Tracy Eubanks on his extraordinary leadership and decades of experience to Metrocrest Services.

For more than 40 years, Metrocrest has been a lifeline for families across Addison, Coppell, Carrollton, Farmers Branch, and Dallas, providing food security, housing stability, workforce support, and compassionate care in moments of crisis.

For the past 13 years, Tracy has guided this organization with vision, integrity, and a deep commitment to uplifting every member of our community.

Under Tracy's leadership, Metrocrest Services opened its new, state-of-the-art community center, an investment that will serve north Texas families for generations. He has strengthened partnerships, expanded critical programs, and ensured that every person who walked through Metrocrest's doors was met with dignity and hope.

As Tracy prepares for his retirement in 2026, we honor not just his accomplishments, but the countless lives he

has touched. North Texas is stronger, more resilient, and more compassionate because of his service.

I thank Tracy for his leadership, his heart, and his unwavering commitment to the people of our community.

HONORING PAULINE MEDRANO

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor County Treasurer Pauline Medrano for her extraordinary dedication to public service in her newly elected role as president of the County Treasurers' Association of Texas.

Treasurer Medrano has spent more than a decade in elected office, always putting the people of Dallas County first. Her leadership has helped to strengthen public institutions, increase transparency, and build a culture of accountability and service that has positively impacted countless residents.

Her election as president of the County Treasurers' Association of Texas is a testament to the respect she has earned across our State. It reflects her deep experience, her unwavering commitment to excellence, and a belief that government works best when it works for everyone.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Treasurer Medrano for her years of leadership, her community involvement, and her tireless dedication to the people who she serves. Her willingness to answer the call of public service embodies the very, very best of civic leadership.

I wish her the best of luck as she takes on this new role on behalf of our community. I commend Treasurer Medrano for her invaluable contributions to Dallas County and to the State of Texas.

BRAZEN PAYOFF

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the House voted last week on a bill to reopen the government, but tucked away in the fine print of that bill was something very disturbing and troubling: a very brazen payoff of millions of taxpayer dollars that could quietly be transferred to the personal bank accounts of eight Republican Senators. These are Senators who may have had knowledge or even participated in efforts to overturn the 2020 Presidential election.

At a time when Americans are struggling to get ahead, Republicans in both the House and the Senate signed off on a deal that lines the pockets of the very people who wrote it.

In every corner of my district, families are doing everything they can to make ends meet. They are juggling rising grocery costs, higher rents, and healthcare bills that seem to grow every single month. They expect this Congress to meet the moment with integrity, responsibility, and the basic respect for the people who we serve. What Republicans did was an insult to every hardworking taxpayer who plays by the rules and expects honesty from their government.

Republicans could have voted it down. They could have passed an