

the envy of the world. Under socialism, bureaucrats dictate, ration, and restrict.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution. Let's send a clear message that the United States will always stand for freedom over government coercion, markets over mandates, and prosperity over poverty.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HELEN RUCKER

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

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, although my heart hangs low, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Ms. Helen Rucker. This week, she passed at the young age of 93.

Now, despite the challenges that Helen faced throughout her life, Helen Rucker worked very hard to become the somebody who was a sustainer of Seaside, California, the educator of our community, and the epitome of our democracy.

Helen faced blatant racial discrimination in her formative years. As a child in Louisiana, she was turned away from the local public library to being a college graduate and experiencing some of the same type of bigotry when she applied for her first job as a librarian.

Rather than being despondent, she was driven to make a difference with education not just in her life, but in our lives.

She worked for decades as a teacher and a librarian. She served as a Seaside city councilmember, a school board member, and a trustee with our local school district.

Outside of her job, she delved deeper into our community by volunteering on such important and challenging issues as civil rights, prison education, HIV prevention, police reform, affordable housing, and so much more.

Helen Rucker was an influencer well before the internet was around. She wasn't about clicks or likes. Instead, she was about organizing and galvanizing people. She wasn't about dividing people, but Helen Rucker was all about bridging our divides.

Even with all of that service and all of that activism, what she came to realize early on was that the key to change was our democratic process. She realized that it wasn't about yelling and screaming. She understood that it is all about working, sweating, and ensuring everybody has the opportunity to do what every American should do, and that is vote and get out the vote.

Rather than agonize, she organized—voting, voter education, voter registration—and she founded Seaside's Voter Education Center. Just like we saw in our recent elections, Helen understood that voting is how we make change. That is how we protect our community, and that is how we move our country forward.

No doubt that Helen Rucker faced so many challenges throughout her life, but rather than capitulate, she campaigned. Rather than demonize or disparage her opponents, she always chose civility and upheld the values of our democracy.

As we enter into this next election year, let us be reminded, let us reflect, and let us be reinvigorated by the impactful life of Helen Rucker. More importantly, though, let her rest peacefully as all of us strive to live up to her legacy by always voting in our democracy.

TIFFANI JASEPH NAMED 2026 ARIZONA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

(Mr. CISCOMANI of Arizona was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Tiffani Jaseph, who was honorably named the 2026 Arizona Teacher of the Year. Tiffani serves as a special education teacher at Copper View Elementary School in the Sahuarita Unified School District.

Tiffani received her bachelor of arts and masters from the University of Arizona and began her career in general education, later finding that her true passion resides in special education. Fifteen years later, Tiffani has now taught in three Arizona school districts, providing specially designed instruction in her classroom while also supporting students' needs in general education.

She emphasizes inclusive, strengths-based instruction tailored to a variety of learning styles. Before this honor, Tiffani was named the school's Teacher of the Year and has also been a finalist for District Teacher of the Year.

The Arizona Teacher of the Year award is the highest State-level recognition for public school educators. Now, Tiffani will join other State Teachers of the Year from across the entire country in a year of professional learning and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Congratulations to Tiffani. I thank her for all she has done to earn this prestigious award. Arizona's Sixth Congressional District is very lucky to have her.

COCHISE COLLEGE RANKED NUMBER ONE IN ARIZONA

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Cochise College being ranked the number one community college in Arizona, an honor that faculty, students, alumni, and all Arizonans should be very proud of.

Cochise Community College has two campuses and four centers in Cochise County and is known for its affordable tuition, small class size, and programs that lead to real-world success. Cochise College embraces what all colleges should strive to be in this amazing country.

A product of community college myself, I know firsthand that Cochise College remains committed to helping stu-

dents create bright futures. Cochise College provides both university transfer programs for those wanting to continue education and also offers workforce-ready certificates designed to prepare graduates for immediate employment in southern Arizona's growing job market.

I am honored to represent Cochise College in Arizona's Sixth Congressional District, and I am incredibly proud of their hard work and commitment to excellence.

Congratulations to President James Perey, the board, the faculty, the staff, and all the students that make Cochise College what it is today.

CELEBRATING PINAL COUNTY'S 150TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Pinal County's 150th birthday. Older than the State of Arizona, Pinal County was formed from portions of Maricopa and Pima Counties on February 1, 1875.

While mining in the county was the most dominant force back then, Pinal County's economy has exponentially grown and expanded over time, but agriculture remains a significant part of the county's economy, while large-scale farming operations and ag research also prevail.

Pinal County has experienced significant population growth in recent decades, becoming one of the fastest-growing counties in the entire country. The county's location, infrastructure, and pro-business environment are key factors in its expedited growth and in its development.

The beauty of Pinal County is diverse. With a landscape including both mountains and desert valleys, Pinal County is home to the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, Picacho Peak, and way, way more.

It is an honor to represent Pinal County in Congress. Happy 150th birthday to Pinal County.

CELEBRATING GREATER LOVE TABERNACLE

(Ms. PRESSLEY of Massachusetts was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bishop William E. Dickerson II and Lady Luella Dickerson, who are role models in love and service, on their 36 years of selfless service and spiritual stewardship as founding pastor and lady of the Greater Love Tabernacle in Dorchester.

Across the city of Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the names Bishop Dickerson and Lady Luella have been synonymous with truth, justice, and love. Their love of community and love for all God's children is evident in their spiritual guidance every Sunday and made manifest in their good deeds in the community Monday through Saturday.

From the pulpit to the classroom, from city hall to behind the incarcerated walls, Bishop Dickerson and Lady Luella have saved generations of souls;

changed and saved lives. They have lived a life dedicated to God, their ministry, their city, their marriage, and their family.

It is only fitting that Greater Love Tabernacle's 36 years of service are now an indelible part of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to serve as a permanent inspiration to us all.

HONORING LIFE OF JUDGE LESLIE HARRIS

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of the Honorable Judge Leslie Harris, a father, husband, grandfather, mentor, and champion for justice in Massachusetts.

Raised in Chicago, he journeyed to Boston, where he earned advanced degrees, planted roots, and dedicated his life to public service. In the courtroom, first as a probation officer, then as a public defender, then as the chief of the juvenile division of the Suffolk County DA's Office, Judge Harris inspired generations.

He possessed a fine legal mind and an altruistic heart. He saw every person as worthy of dignity, opportunity, and compassion. He will forever be remembered as a kind titan of a man who showed up for everyone, for his beloved members of the Eliot Church of Roxbury, and for students at Roxbury Community College.

He was there for young children experiencing abuse and neglect. He was there defending Black men viciously targeted and criminalized in the Charles Stuart case. He was there supporting marriage equality to facilitate the first-ever adoption by a gay couple in Massachusetts. He was there for people from all walks of life.

I can feel that he is here with us today. His spirit straightens our back and lifts our chin to motivate us in the pursuit of justice. May he rest in peace and power.

REMEMBERING SETTI WARREN

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend and brother, former Newton Mayor Setti Warren, a trailblazer, the first popularly elected Black mayor in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Setti was a loving son, brother, husband, and father whom I had the privilege of working alongside closely when we were both aides to United States Senator John Kerry. He was always ready with thoughtful counsel, an easy and deep laugh, and kind eyes that twinkled. He radiated life and optimism.

Setti accomplished so much in his short 55 years here with us. He was a dedicated mayor, veteran, and public servant from the White House to Capitol Hill to city hall. As the director of the Harvard Institute of Politics, he led pivotal conversations that stoked our consciousness and reminded us of our shared humanity, all the while inspiring a new generation of public service leaders.

Setti had so much life left to live, milestones to experience, hearts to

touch and lives to change. My heart goes out to his wife, Tassy; and their children, Abigail and John. Know that your Kerry family, your Boston College family, the city of Newton, and your Harvard family mourn alongside you. What a tremendous loss for our country, our Commonwealth, and for humanity. Rest in power, my friend.

RECOGNIZING KEN STEWART

(Mr. TAYLOR of Ohio was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ken Stewart.

Ken is a proud resident of Ohio's Second Congressional District and a former firefighter with the Batavia Fire Department. Ken spent over four decades with the department, working his way up from lieutenant to chief.

This past summer, at the age of 85, Ken participated in the 2025 World Police and Fire Games, an Olympic competition specifically for first responders that draws competitors from around the world. Ken excelled in javelin throwing, high jump, and many other track events, ultimately contributing 9 medals to the total of 1,362 brought home by Team USA. Of his nine medals, three were gold and six were silver.

Not only is Ken an accomplished athlete and public servant, but he was my science teacher at Amelia Middle School. I loved having him as a teacher. It is wonderful to see him continue to achieve greatly and inspire others around him.

Ken worked tirelessly to prepare for the games by exercising at his local YMCA every day and allowing the thrill of competition to drive his desire to win. Ken reminds us all how important it is to keep moving and take care of ourselves so we can make the most of life at any age.

Ken has centered his life around athletics, having been a high school track and field official for 47 years and track coach for 60 years in Clermont County. Ken even had the amazing opportunity to officiate the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia. His dedication to improving the lives of young people is admirable.

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Mr. Speaker, coaches and officials play a key role in shaping the attitudes and beliefs of our Nation's youth, and my district is lucky to have many people like Ken to look out for our athletes.

Madam Speaker, after a long and successful career, Ken plans to retire from athletic events. To celebrate his achievements and his dedication to his community, the Village of Batavia is naming July 14 "Ken Stewart Day." I look forward to being in Batavia next year to celebrate. We congratulate Ken. All of southern Ohio is very proud of him.

RECOGNIZING BILLY RAY "DADDY-O" MIDKIFF

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Billy Ray "Daddy-

O" Midkiff and his extraordinary service to southern Ohio. Ray began serving as a volunteer firefighter in 1977 with the Wilkesville Volunteer Fire Department, and he became a charter member of the Salem Township Volunteer Fire Department. He has over 50 years of service including several years as fire chief for Salem Township.

Ray's roots in the community run deep, as he has also worked as a dairy farmer and coal miner for the Southern Ohio Coal Company. Ray has received numerous awards such as the National Grange Volunteer Firefighter of the Year and was deemed a Hometown Hero by Modern Woodmen. To this day he is an active fire chief and continues to give back to southern Ohio.

Madam Speaker, America is forever grateful for people like him and the millions of other first responders who put their lives on the line for us every day. All of southern Ohio thanks Ray for his service.

CHACO CANYON IS NOT FOR SALE

(Ms. STANSBURY of New Mexico was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. STANSBURY. Madam Speaker, Chaco Canyon is sacred ground. It is the ancestral homeland and living landscape to both Pueblo and Dine people. It is a World Heritage Site, a place of ancient ruins, kivas, and sacred lands as far as the eye can see. It is a place that is a mere 50 miles south of the San Juan River where I was born.

I rise today in solidarity with Tribal leaders from across New Mexico to say that it is time to protect Chaco Canyon and these sacred lands. Before our very eyes, the Trump administration is trying to open these sacred lands to oil and gas drilling that would irrevocably destroy them.

Can my colleagues imagine? This is one of the most sacred sites, not just in New Mexico but in North America. It is a place that Secretary Deb Haaland worked to set aside in 2023 and a place which the New Mexico delegation is seeking to permanently protect.

As Pueblo leaders tell us, Chaco holds the footprints of our ancestors. Countless generations have carried forward their teachings and traditions. As Navajo leaders have said, it is a landscape deeply embedded in our way of life and which protects the living community, youth, elders, and our culture.

Even as Tribal leaders are saying no, this administration is forging ahead to open these lands to desecration of sites that could never be recovered.

Madam Speaker, we call on this administration to stop. These sites are sacred. We call on the American people to join us in this fight. We must protect Chaco Canyon, and Chaco Canyon is not for sale.

IRREFUTABLE EVIDENCE

(Mr. COMER of Kentucky was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)