

fear, confusion, and uncertainty swept our Nation, she chose service, once again, joining the Air Force Reserve and recommitting herself to the defense of our Nation. She flew for another decade while raising two daughters, earning a master's degree, and mentoring countless young women.

In 2013, she made Air Force history as the first female commander of the 73rd Airlift Squadron, directing VIP airlift operations and leading her airmen with precision, professionalism, and resolve that marked every single stage of her service.

By the time she retired in 2020, Colonel Parker had logged over 4,800 flight hours, including nearly 700 hours in combat and combat support missions and earned the Legion of Merit, among numerous other commendations.

She continued flying as a Boeing 777 first officer for United Airlines until 2024, an aviator until the end.

Marlena's service extended far beyond the cockpit. For more than 15 years, she shaped the next generation of Air Force leaders as an academy liaison officer. She strengthened our community through the Plumstead Township Veterans' Affairs Committee and VFW Post 175, and she guided veterans in Bucks County's veterans' court program with the same steadiness and compassion she brought to every single mission she flew.

She served because service was woven into who she was as a human being; a leader who lifted others up every step of the way.

Colonel Marlena Parker was not only a trailblazer. She was a wife, a mother, a daughter, and a friend. She and her husband, Boyd, shared 34 years together and raised two remarkable daughters, Isabel and Olivia, who now carry forward their mother's legacy of courage, service, and enduring strength.

Madam Speaker, in Colonel Marlena Parker, America saw the very best of who we are: devotion to family, duty to country, and a faith in something greater than ourselves. She was a true hometown hero and a true patriot. May her courage inspire us, may her service guide us, and may we honor her life by the way we choose to live our own.

May God bless Marlena. We will dearly miss her. All Bucks County will miss her. Well done, good and faithful servant.

SALUTING THE LIFE OF JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY

(Mr. LARSON of Connecticut was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, this Saturday, November 22, will mark 62 years since we lost a President of the United States, a person who gave so much to his Nation, an individual who was taken from us in the summer of his years.

His daughter, Caroline, back in 2017 gave us these buttons, pins, that I

proudly wear. It is an image of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

President Kennedy epitomized placing service above self. He was a national hero and a leader who had the grace, the dignity, the wit, the intelligence, and the love of his Nation and mankind.

That past year we also lost someone by the name of Connie Francis who sang a song at the time called "In the Summer of His Years."

□ 1145

In that song, she wrote:

A young man rode with his head held high
Under the Texas sun
And no one guessed that a man so blessed
Would perish by the gun
Lord, would perish by the gun
A shot rang out like a sudden shout
And Heaven held its breath
For the dreams of a multitude of men
Rode with him to his death
Lord, rode with him to his death
Yes, the heart of the world weighs heavy
With the helplessness of tears
For the man cut down in a Texas town
In the summer of his years
The summer of his years.

It is we who carry on from this very person who served in this Chamber and the United States Senate and went on to become the President of the United States and, as important, a leader not only for this Nation but the world.

I note, especially in these times, Madam Speaker, that it is service above self that matters. It is service to your Nation, service to your family, service to your community, and service to your State that matters most.

I rise to salute the life of John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

MARKING A NATIONAL MILESTONE

(Mr. JAMES of Michigan was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. JAMES. Madam Speaker, this week, on November 29, our Nation marks a milestone, the 50th anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

In 1975, President Gerald Ford, Michigan's only and greatest President, signed the Education for All Handicapped Children Act into law, making a simple but powerful promise that every child, no matter their disability, deserves a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive setting possible.

That promise changed America.

Before 1975, more than a million children with disabilities were shut out of public schools. Too many were pushed into charity-run facilities or psychiatric institutions. Far too many were left without any education at all.

We turned that injustice around. IDEA opened doors that had been closed for generations. Since its inception, it has empowered families, equipped teachers, and given children the opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed.

Today, IDEA protects nearly 8 million students, roughly 15 percent of all

public school children in this country. It requires our schools to identify and support students who need services, including children experiencing homelessness and those attending private schools.

For 50 years, IDEA has been the backbone of special education, ensuring access, accountability, and equality for millions.

As we honor IDEA's 50th anniversary, I am proud to introduce the IDEAL Act, a bill that fully funds and strengthens the original IDEA program. This legislation keeps faith with families, teachers, and students by giving them the resources and support they were promised over half a century ago.

It modernizes services, reinforces accountability, and ensures that every child, regardless of circumstance, can reach their God-given potential.

Madam Speaker, 50 years ago, only one in five children with disabilities had access to public education. Today, millions succeed because of IDEA.

With the IDEAL Act, we reaffirm our commitment. We finish the job. We keep moving forward, not backward.

I urge my colleagues to support the IDEAL Act.

HONORING MARISOL VELEZ

(Mrs. RAMIREZ of Illinois was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Marisol Velez, known as Pinqy Ring. She is a rooted, revolutionary Puerto Rican emcee from Chicago, decolonizing minds as a rapper, educator, mentor, and speaker.

As a cultural worker and disruptor, Pinqy's music ignites our imaginations and sustains our struggle against displacement and erasure.

As an educator and mentor, she shapes the next generation of creative changemakers through culturally rooted programming and radical care.

Pinqy is a GRAMMY U mentor. She sits on the National Advisory Board for Music Will and serves as a U.S. Hip Hop Cultural Ambassador to facilitate cultural diplomacy programming and conflict transformation through music. In her roles, she is shaping the first-ever K-12 hip-hop guidelines with the Hip-Hop Education Center.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, I commend her.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BICE). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 50 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Eamon Kelly, Magdala Center, Migdal, Israel, offered the following prayer:

Lord, loving creator and redeemer, bless the Members of this House with Your peace.

Give these elected Representatives of Your people true fidelity to their duties in their service of the common welfare.

Protect them from the temptations of self-seeking, corrupting influence and destructive divisiveness.

Grant them resilience in the face of brutal scrutiny and unfair and even vicious criticism.

Accompany their proceedings today as they advance the good of this vast country while contributing to the oneness of the entire human family, over 8 billion people, each one made in Your image and likeness.

For this great enterprise, we ask Your guidance to follow the wisdom imprinted on our currency. To You, God, we entrust this day's proceedings.

As blessings have flowed from the Sea of Galilee to every corner of the globe, so may blessings also flow from America to every people on Earth.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. QUIGLEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND EAMON KELLY

The SPEAKER. Without objection, Mr. EMMER of Minnesota was recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional leader and someone who I can now call a good friend, Father Eamon Kelly.

This past August, my colleague from California, PETE AGUILAR, and I had the privilege of leading a bipartisan

delegation of freshmen Members to Israel, where Father Kelly baptized several of our Members in the Sea of Galilee.

It was a transformational experience that we will keep with us for the rest of our lives, and it was, in large part, thanks to Father Kelly's leadership, faith, and commitment to helping others experience the power and the history of the Holy Land.

When I first met Father Kelly, I asked him where he is from because he has an interesting accent, or brogue. He told me: "I am from the Holy Land, and I live in the Promised Land."

Having served at the Notre Dame of Jerusalem Center for more than a decade and now serving as the vice director of the Magdala Center, Father Kelly's work in the Holy Land has impacted people from all walks of life from all over the globe. The fruits of his labor will undoubtedly have a lasting impact for generations to come.

As we honor him on the House floor today, we also pray that many more people will encounter God and grow in their relationship with Christ as a result of his ministry.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROGERS of Alabama). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MATTHEW BURNS

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

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to unfortunately, once again, highlight the scourge of veteran suicide.

Matthew Burns was in my platoon when I was his Navy SEAL chief. Unfortunately and for a reason only known between him and God, he decided to end his life a few months ago.

With Matthew's passing, that makes 22 of my Navy SEAL friends who have committed suicide.

I will be exiting the House floor. I will miss votes today, and I will miss them tomorrow because I will be interring Matthew's earthly remains in San Diego, California, with his family.

Mr. Speaker, I will just ask one thing: If you are a veteran and you think that there is no hope, there is. You have to know that you are loved and cherished and that you have value.

So if you are thinking of doing what Matthew did, don't. Please call 988, option 1. That is the Veterans Suicide Prevention Line.

May God grant Matthew's family peace and have his soul rest in gentle repose.

SNAP CUTS

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, last weekend, I visited Saint Sabina Church in Chicago for emergency food distribution.

There, I talked to a single mother with a young child with disabilities. She showed up in the cold 4 hours early for a food distribution of a single box of food. Without her November SNAP payment, she said that she would have to skip meals to make ends meet.

I also talked to seniors who were deciding whether to purchase their groceries or their medicine for the month.

For these Chicagoans, the administration's delay in SNAP benefits made for a brutal month. For the 360,000 Illinoisans who will be cut off of SNAP because of the big, ugly bill, they will be weighing these tradeoffs for years to come. Veterans, older Americans, and kids aging out of foster care will lose benefits.

They deserve better. We must keep fighting for them.

CELEBRATING BERNIE ADAMS ON HIS 102ND BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Bernie Adams, a World War II veteran from Coudersport, Pennsylvania, who will turn 102 years old on Saturday.

Bernie served in the U.S. Navy and was a seaman third class gunner on a supply tanker ship at Normandy. He also saw service in the Philippines.

Bernie was born in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania. He married the former Barbara Fetzer in 1946, and they had a beautiful union of 75 years before her passing in 2020.

Bernie and Barbara settled in Shinglehouse, Pennsylvania, where they raised five children: Pamela, Larry, Bernie Jr., Amy, and Jeffrey.

Family was important to them, and the family has grown over the years. Bernie has 9 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren, and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

Bernie worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad and was later employed as a pipe fitter in Olean, New York. He enjoyed hunting and fishing, and he loves watching baseball, especially the Chicago Cubs.

Bernie now resides at Sweden Valley Manor in Coudersport, Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District, where he will have a birthday celebration on Saturday.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Bernie Adams the very best as he turns 102, and I thank him for his service to this great Nation.