

UND continues to raise the standard for how universities can support members of our military.

I congratulate President Armacost, Director Angie Carpenter, and the entire UND community for their dedication to those who defend our freedoms.

NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH MONTH

(Ms. McCLELLAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Rural Health Day and National Rural Health Month.

Due to a lack of infrastructure and support, rural communities suffer from the worst health outcomes nationwide. Pharmacy deserts, maternal health deserts, mental health deserts, worker shortages, and more limit people's access to care, sometimes forcing residents to travel 1 hour or longer for primary and emergency care.

These communities that already need help accessing affordable, quality care now face a growing crisis due to draconian cuts to Medicaid and the big, ugly law signed in July, which will make it harder for rural communities to access the care that they need.

Mr. Speaker, 338 rural hospitals from across the country have been identified as at risk, 6 in Virginia, 1 in my district.

I traveled around rural areas during our recesses talking to these providers about their concerns. I was accused by my Republican colleagues of fear-mongering. Yet, I was amplifying the fears that they had. Lo and behold, weeks after visiting some of these providers, three rural providers closed their doors citing the big, ugly law's Medicaid cuts.

A Farmville hospital announced the closure of its labor and delivery unit, citing a reduction in Federal care. We need to do more for our rural communities in providing care, not less.

Mr. Speaker, it's not too late to address this health care crisis of Republicans' making. We can start by permanently extending the enhanced premium tax credits under the Affordable Care Act to prevent millions more from seeing their premiums skyrocket.

This Rural Health Day, I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to recognize this issue for what it is, and to act now.

LEGISLATION TO STRENGTHEN SAFETY AND COMMUNICATION IN AMERICA'S AIRSPACE

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

Mr. ONDER. Mr. Speaker, I introduced today the House companion to Senator TED CRUZ' ROTOR Act, legislation that I believe, as a pilot, is essential to strengthening safety and communication in America's airspace.

Earlier this year, the devastating collision between an American Airlines

flight and an Army Black Hawk helicopter claimed 67 innocent lives. Among those on board was Asra Hussain, a neighbor of mine from the St. Louis region.

Asra was a newlywed and a brilliant young professional whose life was ended far too soon.

That disaster exposed troubling gaps in how Federal aircraft operate in complex airspace.

The families who lost loved ones deserve answers, and the American people deserve swift action to rebuild trust in the safety of our skies.

The ROTOR Act closes loopholes that allow military aircraft to disable location sharing during routine flights and requires aircraft in high-traffic airspace to use modern tracking and location-sharing technologies. This reform is backed by ATCs, pilots and, most importantly, the families forever changed.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the ROTOR Act's timely safety reforms.

HONORING MINNEAPOLIS AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

(Ms. OMAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Minneapolis American Indian Center and to celebrate their 50th anniversary. The Minneapolis American Indian Center has carried out its mission of celebrating and uplifting Native culture through a wide range of programs and services that preserve important traditions.

The center creates pathways for opportunity for over 35,000 tribally diverse American Indians living in the metro area.

I am proud that my office was able to secure \$3 million in Federal funding to support their renovation and expansion. The center stands as a powerful example of resilience and the enduring strength of the Native community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the Minneapolis American Indian Center's 50 years of service.

HONORING SHERIFF JUD SMITH, GEORGIA'S 2025 SHERIFF OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sheriff Jud Smith of Barrow County, who has been named Georgia's 2025 Sheriff of the Year.

Throughout his career, Sheriff Smith has led with integrity, professionalism, and an unwavering commitment to the people who he serves. His steady leadership during times of crisis, including the tragic events at Apalachee High

School, brought comfort and stability to a grieving community and reminded us of the vital role that law enforcement plays in keeping our neighborhoods safe.

A lifelong resident of Barrow County, Sheriff Smith has dedicated his life to public service. He has earned the trust of his community through compassion, humility, and an unrelenting dedication to justice. The people of Georgia are grateful for his courage, his faith, and his service.

Today, we honor Sheriff Smith for exemplifying what it means to lead with heart and to serve with honor.

□ 1800

REQUEST TO NAME U.S. VESSEL AFTER REAR ADMIRAL DUERK

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce bipartisan legislation, alongside my northwest Ohio colleague, Representative BOB LATTA.

Our purpose is to honor a legendary Ohioan and pioneer of American military history, Rear Admiral Alene B. Duerk.

Admiral Duerk was the first woman in the United States Navy to achieve the rank of Rear Admiral. Our legislation would require the Navy to rename a naval vessel in her honor.

Admiral Duerk was born in Defiance, Ohio, raised in Holgate, and graduated from the Toledo Hospital School of Nursing in 1941. Over her long career, she treated wounded servicemembers during World War II and the Korean war. In 1972, she became the first woman in naval history to attain flag rank.

In August, I also joined Representative Tim Kennedy in sending a letter to the Secretary of Defense asking to rename a vessel in her honor and in September sponsored a separate amendment to this year's National Defense Authorization Act.

Our added legislation continues our effort to properly honor Rear Admiral Duerk. I look forward to working with colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, to ensure Rear Admiral Duerk's legacy of service, sacrifice, and excellence is properly honored and commemorated by the people of the United States of America.

Go Navy.

CHAMPION OF THE WEEK: REESE GALLAGHER

(Mrs. SYKES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Reese Gallagher as the champion of the week for Ohio's 13th Congressional District.

Reese is a senior at Archbishop Hoban High School, and she was named

the Girls' Division III Player of the Year by the Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association.

Reese has been described as an aggressive and ferocious player and is heralded as the most prolific goal scorer in the Akron area.

This season, Reese scored an impressive 44 goals and 15 assists, leading the Hoban Knights to the State semifinals.

This is Reese's fourth year on the varsity team, and over her impressive soccer career, she has been recognized as a Division II all-Ohioan and an all-American. Not only is she a first-class athlete, she is also a stellar and star student, carrying a 4.1 GPA.

Next year, she will represent us proudly on the women's soccer team at the University of Dayton.

Go Flyers.

Mr. Speaker, Reese is a shining example of why Ohio's 13th Congressional District is known as the birthplace of champions. I look forward to seeing all that Reese accomplishes in her future.

REMEMBERING JAMAL KHASHOGGI

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

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, Mohammed bin Salman's visit to Washington this week has been a disgrace to American democracy.

The President of the United States scolded a reporter as insubordinate and then tried to explain away bin Salman's central role in the grisly murder of Jamal Khashoggi. The Washington Post journalist, who was ambushed in Istanbul, strangled, drawn and quartered, and dismembered by bin Salman's 15-member security detail, according to U.S. intelligence.

Mr. Speaker, our Constitution overthrew kings. It opposes cruel and unusual punishment. It bans titles of nobility, and yet the President's foolish actions will embolden vicious monarchs, autocrats, and theocrats all over the world.

This warm welcome dishonors the Constitution and the American people. We must be doing a lot better than this.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RUMBLE PONIES

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

Mr. RILEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, in Binghamton, we call our baseball team the Rumble Ponies, and you probably want to know why.

Rumble Pony is another name for a carousel horse, and the Triple Cities is the carousel capital of the world. We have more carousels per capita than any place in the entire world. It is true.

When the Endicott-Johnson Shoe Factory built the Triple Cities, it em-

ployed tens of thousands of people, built homes and parks, and the parks had carousels. The carousels are free to ride. They always have been. They always will be. It is part of the Square Deal.

We are very proud of our Rumble Ponies, and these days we call them something else, too: Eastern League champions.

Trailing 2-1 on the road in the bottom of the sixth in an elimination game, the Ponies did what we do in upstate New York: They picked themselves up, they fought back, and they won.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Manager Reid Brignac; Jett Williams; Pitcher of the Year Jonah Tong; Ryan Clifford; KJ and David Sobatka; and, of course, Rowdy and Ruby on a 90-win season and an Eastern League championship.

Go Ponies.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF BISHOP KENNETH BERNARD SPEARS

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Bishop Kenneth Spears, pastor of First St. John Missionary in Fort Worth, who passed away suddenly on November 17.

Bishop Spears was a proud son of Fort Worth and devoted more than four decades of his life to the ministry and service and spiritual uplift of our community.

Bishop Spears answered his calling at just 17 years old, and from that moment forward, he dedicated himself to learning, teaching, and leading. He pursued theology study at Bishop College, which he was very proud of, and the United Theological Seminary College there.

In 1995, he faithfully shepherded First Saint John Cathedral, guiding its growth to a vibrant multicampus ministry with much outreach. His "Be Restored" broadcast reached thousands each week, offering hope, healing, and encouraging words.

Within the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship, he rose to the district overseer to state bishop of north Texas and was always committed to expanding the Fellowship's reach and strengthening its mission.

Bishop Spears was not only a spiritual leader but he also was the author of several books. He served alongside his wife, Angela, and his sons, Kenneth and Kyle, who were the joy of his life.

Mr. Speaker, Bishop Spears' ministry transformed lives in Fort Worth and north Texas, and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his extraordinary service, his enduring faith, and the powerful legacy that he leaves behind.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Ferrari, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills and joint resolutions of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 970. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to periodically review the automatic maximum coverage under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program and the Veterans' Group Life Insurance program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 983. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to disapprove courses of education offered by a public institution of higher learning that does not charge the in-State tuition rate to a veteran using certain educational assistance under title 10 of such Code, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1912. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the repayment by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of benefits misused by a fiduciary, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 130. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to "Buffalo Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment".

H.J. Res. 133. Joint resolution requesting the Secretary of the Interior to authorize unique and one-time arrangements for displays on the National Mall and the Washington Monument during the period beginning on December 31, 2025, and ending on January 5, 2026.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 222. An act to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to allow schools that participate in the school lunch program to serve whole milk, and for other purposes.

S. 351. An act to establish a pilot grant program to improve recycling accessibility to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to carry out certain activities to collect and disseminate data on recycling and composting programs in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1318. An act to direct the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish a program to identify American-Jewish servicemembers buried in United States military cemeteries overseas under markers that incorrectly represent their religion and heritage, and for other purposes.

S. 2110. An act to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to prepare a report on reuse and refill systems, and for other purposes.

S. 2379. An act to amend the State Justice Institute Act of 1984 to authorize the State Justice Institute to provide awards to certain organizations to establish a State judicial threat intelligence and resource center.

NO MANDATE TO CUT MEDICAID

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. GREEN of Texas was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise, and still I rise, a proud, unbought, unbossed, liberated Democrat.