

Founded by Jeff and Samantha Dorman after their daughter was diagnosed with leukemia at just 2 years old, this Connecticut nonprofit was born out of lived experience.

During their long stays at Yale New Haven Children's Hospital, Jeff and Sam discovered something too many families learn the hard way: While hospitalized, children receive meals as part of their care. Their caregivers do not. The parents who never leave the bedside, who pour every ounce of strength into their child's recovery, are left to fend for themselves.

They decided to change that.

The idea was simple but profound: deliver free, nourishing meals directly to the hospital room so parents can stay where they belong by their child's side.

They built partnerships, raised funds, and launched what became the Parent Plate Program at Yale New Haven Children's Hospital.

Soon after, they met Michael Pollack, who turned his artistic energy toward this mission. Together, with a growing network of collaborators, they built bridges between hospitals and local restaurants, bringing comfort food from the community straight to the people who needed it the most, and wouldn't you know, it started with pizza.

Pollack introduced the Dormans to Billy Pustari, owner of Modern Apizza, voted the number one pizzeria in Connecticut by the people. Every Friday, Billy and his team make boxes of hot pies for the pediatric cancer floor at Yale. Those pizzas, those humble slices, bring comfort, warmth, normalcy, and a taste of home into the hardest days a family can face.

From there, other restaurants have joined in, lifting the mission even higher. Together, they have transformed our State's pizza pride into something much larger: a movement that feeds families when they need it the most.

Through these efforts, the Feeding Families Foundation has delivered thousands of meals to parents at both children's hospitals in Connecticut, Yale New Haven Children's Hospital, and Connecticut Children's Hospital. That small idea born in New Haven has now spread across the country.

Today, the foundation's programs are in six hospitals across five States providing tens of thousands of meals to parents and caregivers staying with their critically ill child in the hospital. They are just getting started as more and more children's hospitals across the country reach out to them.

The Dormans know firsthand what these families endure: the fear, the waiting, the prayers whispered over hospital beds. They know that a warm meal, even something as simple as New Haven apizza, can make a parent feel seen, cared for, and just a little less alone.

This is about more than pizza. It is about food insecurity in America, a problem that affects millions of families not just in hospitals but in every community of this Nation.

When a parent sits beside their sick child, hungry and exhausted, wondering if they can afford their next meal, it is not just a personal hardship. It is a moral issue.

The Feeding Families Foundation reminds us that food is love. It is dignity. It is what holds families together when everything else feels like it is falling apart, and this is what Connecticut does best.

We lead with compassion. We turn local pride into national purpose. We show that even something as simple as a pizza can spark a movement, one that feeds bodies, lift spirits, and strengthens communities from coast to coast.

Today, I invite my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to celebrate this homegrown idea and honor all those who have made the Feeding Families Foundation a symbol of what is best in America because what started in New Haven, Connecticut, is no longer just local. It is national. It is spreading one meal, one family, one hospital at a time. That is something worth believing in, something worth supporting, and something worth building upon together.

□ 1045

AMERICA NEEDS UNITY

(Mr. LATIMER of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, in today's edition of Politico, there is a story about Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman setting up systems on the border between Nassau County and neighboring New York City, ostensibly to protect Nassau residents from the criminal element coming from their city neighbors.

That is one way for a suburb to act toward the city next door, although it may make it more difficult for the Long Island Mets fans to get to Citi Field or the Queens fans of the New York Islanders to get to UBS Arena. There is another way.

North of New York City, Westchester County and its border communities—Yonkers, Mt. Vernon, Pelham, and New Rochelle—work cooperatively and in harmony with the Bronx. New York City Bronx residents routinely visit New Roc City and Cross-County Shopping Center, and Westchester residents visit and work in Bay Plaza in the Bronx. The Woodlawn neighborhood, with associations and clubs, spans the line between the Bronx and Westchester. The Westchester Bee-Line public bus system takes passengers down to Fordham Road in the Bronx and back. The Montefiore Health System has hospitals in the Bronx and in Westchester and serves clients in between both.

State senators Jamaal Bailey and Nathalia Fernandez join me in representing both sides of the city/county border between the Bronx, New York City, and Westchester County. The

brave men and women of the NYPD in the 45th and the 47th precincts work together cooperatively with police from Westchester County and its cities to deter and prevent crime and apprehend criminals when crimes do occur.

Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson and Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins work together to advocate for the Penn Access project that benefits commuters from both counties. We don't need Big Brother intrusive facial recognition checkpoints. We have mutual respect and civic cooperation.

Bruce Blakeman, in his quest for higher office, thinks that turning us into fearful suburbs that resent their urban neighbors is a way to win votes. I grew up in Mt. Vernon in Westchester County a half a block from the border with the Bronx.

My whole life, not just my time in public service, has been about finding and working the common ground that unites us rather than feeding the anger and resentments that divide us. Politicians on the far fringes of each side desire divisions that they believe can lead to elective office, power, and status. It is a false and dangerous path.

The dotted line that divides the city from the suburb is man-made. What we do on the Westchester/Bronx border and at any border anywhere is work together, and that is the prototype for the America that surely needs unity.

Think about how much we are going to need that unity, all Americans working together, when we face the next existential threat to our freedom and democracy, as we did with Nazi Germany and militarized Japan. It is coming, and you know it.

In the Bronx and Westchester, we will be ready. We encourage the Bruce Blakemans of the world to stop pandering and start building the cooperation we will need in the days to come.

CELEBRATING KEVIN HOWELL

(Ms. ROSS of North Carolina was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate North Carolina State University's new chancellor, Kevin Howell, who was recently installed as the university's 15th chancellor.

I have known Chancellor Howell for 30 years. He has served North Carolina State, the UNC system, and a former Governor at the highest levels.

Originally from Shelby, North Carolina, Howell graduated from NC State and was the first Black student body president during his senior year. He went on to earn his law degree from UNC Chapel Hill and served as a law clerk for the North Carolina Court of Appeals.

Howell was born and raised in North Carolina and spent many formative years at NC State, developing a deep appreciation and understanding of this thriving academic community.

In 2015, his NC State family even saved his life. Chancellor Howell's kidneys failed while he was working for

former Chancellor Randy Woodson. One of his NC State coworkers did a historic and honorable thing, donating a kidney and saving his life. This selfless deed demonstrates the strength and unity that have defined NC State since its founding in 1887.

Chancellor Randy Woodson was an extraordinary leader who left his mark on the university forever. I have no doubt that Chancellor Howell will excel and continue leading NC State and its students, staff, and faculty to even higher heights.

Congratulations to Chancellor Howell. I look forward to our continued working relationship on behalf of NC State.

HONORING REVEREND JANET WATROUS

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Reverend Janet Watrous, who sadly passed away in October.

Reverend Watrous was both a spiritual and social justice leader in our community for many years, and she was my neighbor.

She got her start in the ministry when she graduated from the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1977. When the Episcopal Church officially allowed women into the priesthood, she became a priest, going on to serve as the first woman in parishes across the country, including New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and eventually North Carolina.

Janet was often called the Energizer Bunny by her colleagues because of her infectious attitude that made everyone around her want to work hard and do good. She led with love and light, whether it was through her diocesan work in North Carolina or serving as the president of Planned Parenthood.

Our community will always remember her spirit and the lives she changed for the better.

ODE TO DOGE

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

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give an ode, perhaps a eulogy, to the downfall of DOGE and to the people's movement that brought about its demise.

As we say good-bye to the departing, we take solace in knowing that our democracy endures in our people and our communities.

The centralized Department of Government Efficiency, imagined in the insane mind of Elon Musk and empowered by those around him, which wreaked havoc on the vital programs that sustain our communities appears to no longer exist.

In fact, the Director of OPM said just a couple of weeks ago: It doesn't exist. Even Musk himself downplayed his involvement this weekend, calling it merely a very interesting side quest. While the administration claims DOGE is now integrated into the agencies themselves, its existence as a formal priority appears to finally be dead.

Even in Congress, the future of the DOGE Subcommittee, created by once eager and enthusiastic GOP allies on the Oversight Committee, is uncertain. The explosive breakup of Musk and Trump just a few months ago, and now the sudden pending retirement of the subcommittee chairwoman over the Epstein files and GOP threats and lies, leave the DOGE congressional arm uncertain and rudderless, but perhaps with the opportunity to be repurposed.

Services for the departed will not be held. In lieu of flowers, please, America, continue to organize and fight for our democracy.

As we reflect on DOGE's short but destructive life, we remember how it laid waste to vital programs despite its lofty promises of cost-cutting and efficiency. Unfettered by the rule of law and driven by unchecked hubris, DOGE unleashed chaos, illegally dismantled agencies, conducted mass firings, canceled contracts, and mined the sensitive data of millions of American people.

The speed with which DOGE brought destruction to lifesaving agencies was matched only by the ferocity of the public outcry. Americans refused to sit idly by while children went hungry, while services for veterans, families, and elders were slashed without cause. In fact, in unison people across the political spectrum stood up to say: Hands off our data, hands off Social Security, and hands off the vital programs that keep our families alive in this country, and they showed Elon Musk the door.

Millions marched, attended town-halls, wrote letters, made calls, and demanded that Congress stop DOGE's disastrous work. When the hypocrisy of this so-called efficiency agency was exposed in the President's big, ugly bill, even Trump and Musk split up, and ultimately the Chairwoman herself announced her departure from this body in the wake of broken promises and threats by the administration.

The administration, while claiming to pursue savings, was cutting services for the most vulnerable not to reduce the debt, but ultimately, as has been shown, to fund tax breaks and giveaways to billionaires and those with the most.

Even in its final moments, DOGE found comfort in self-dealing and everyday grift. As it dismantled agencies and fired workers, it seized opportunities to privatize public assets and laid the groundwork for billions in private contracts and self-dealing for the ages.

Despite the Trump administration's claims that DOGE is still alive, and even its own X page dismissing the news as fake, we all know the truth: DOGE as the grifting scam it was imagined is dead, and its demise is a victory for the American people.

Not only is its formal office gone, but its downfall demonstrated the strength of our unity. Americans rejected DOGE because they recognize a dirty deal when they see one.

Now, let us be clear: We want to address the national debt, root out waste,

fraud, and abuse, and build a government and programs that can serve everyone, but when the fraudsters themselves claim to have the fix, the American people see right through it.

Yet, DOGE's end does not mark the end of our work. We know that the time to organize is now, that we must stay focused and resist the barrage of distractions designed to sap our resolve, that we must continue to mobilize like our democracy depends on it because it does, and we must continue to do this work every single day.

This is not a time for despair. It is a time for action because the American people are strong. We are resilient, and we are ready for the fight ahead.

HONORING BICENTENNIAL OF AKRON, OHIO

(Mrs. SYKES of Ohio was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. SYKES. Madam Speaker, today I rise with profound pride and gratitude as we honor the bicentennial of my hometown, Akron, Ohio. For 200 years, Akron has stood as a place where ordinary people dare to do extraordinary things. It is a place shaped not only by industry or geography, but by courage, resiliency, and an unshakable belief in what a community can be.

Long before 1825, the land that would become Akron was home to native indigenous peoples who understood its beauty and its promise. Two centuries ago this week, Simon Perkins and Paul Williams laid out a new town on a watershed divide. They named it after the Greek word "akros," which means summit or high point. In that single word, they captured both our geography and our destiny.

Akron quickly grew into a city of builders and innovators. It became known as the Rubber Capital of the World and served as the home of Good-year, Firestone, and Goodrich. Workers in Akron shaped an industry that moved a nation forward. When those workers demanded dignity, fairness, and safety, Akron became the birthplace of the modern sit-down strike and a proving ground for the strength of solidarity.

It is also a city of justice seekers. John Brown once walked our streets and lived in a house on the same street where I grew up, a rabid abolitionist who ultimately died for the freedoms of enslaved people. Sojourner Truth delivered her famous "Ain't I A Woman" speech in Akron as well, spurring the foundation of understanding intersectionality. Generations of Akronites stood together to affirm that equality is not an aspiration, but it is a right, a right we continue to collectively fight for.

Akron is a city of world changers. It has given this country legendary athletes, such as LeBron James, Steph Curry, and Butch Reynolds, earning its title, "The Birthplace of Champions." It has given us musicians who redefined genres, including Devo, The