

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

Black Keys, Chrissie Hynde, and Howard Hewett. It has given us actors and storytellers who brought our experience to big and small screens. It has also given us Judith Resnik, the first Jewish woman astronaut who reached for the stars and inspired the Nation. It has also given us Rita Dove, a Pulitzer Prize award winner and the first African-American Poet Laureate of the United States.

The Birthplace of Champions isn't just a tagline or a motto, it is who we are. It is the people whose names you won't ever see in lights but built an industry, led innovation, and continued to fight for fairness and opportunity.

Perhaps Akron's greatest legacy is its people. Families come from every corner of the world to work hard, build homes, raise children, start businesses, and lift up one another. Akron is filled with people who don't quit when times are tough, and its residents understand that a community rises by lifting others.

□ 1100

Madam Speaker, as someone who grew up in Akron and was shaped by its values, I stand here because of that community.

Akron taught me compassion and resilience. It taught me that public service means fighting for working people, fairness, and opportunity. These are values that Akron has carried for two centuries, and I carry these same values with me in the Halls of Congress.

H. Res. 918 honors our past, but it also looks ahead to our future. Akron continues to lead in sustainable polymers, research, entrepreneurship, healthcare, the arts, and innovation. It continues to stand up to injustice. It continues to carry forward the spirit of the people who built this city.

Madam Speaker, I am deeply humbled to introduce H. Res. 918, celebrating 200 years of the city of Akron. I encourage its swift passage. May the next 200 years of the city of Akron be even brighter.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 3 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. STRONG) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, can we, in these precarious times, trust You enough to cast

all of our anxieties on You? The earth around us gives way. Things that we have depended on, staked our lives on, are now uncertain. How can we not be afraid?

The mountains fall into the heart of the sea. Pillars of strength we have counted on are overcome by the waves of tumult and change. You have the power to bring down the powerful from their thrones. Can we even hope that You will show favor to the humble?

Yes, God, for You alone are our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble. You alone will be exalted. Your mercy extends to those who fear You from generation to generation, and You have promised to fill the hungry with good things.

We lay before You all our cares and believe that You care for us. Let us be still and know that You are God, today and always.

In Your sovereign name we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. HINSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. HINSON 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

RECOGNIZING DR. WENDY WINTERSTEEN

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

Mrs. HINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Wendy Wintersteen, president of Iowa State University, on her retirement next month after more than 40 years of distinguished service.

Dr. Wintersteen has been a remarkable leader whose commitment to her students and to the State of Iowa has left a lasting impact on the institution. She brought the "Innovate at Iowa State" vision to life, solidifying the school's role as a national leader in research and entrepreneurship.

Under her leadership, Iowa State University has advanced cutting-edge research to strengthen Iowa agriculture. She supported world-class faculty and helped prepare the next generation of leaders and innovators to solve challenges and better our State and our Nation.

My husband, Matt, an Iowa State alum, and I, of course, look forward to many more Cyclone games and know that Dr. Wintersteen will be cheering on the Clones for many more years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. Wintersteen and congratulate her on her retirement.

HONORING MAUREEN ANN FITZSIMONS

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Maureen Ann FitzSimons, born and raised in Larchmont, who passed away the day before Thanksgiving.

Maureen, a bright and engaging young woman, leaves behind her mother, two brothers, and adoring nieces and nephews after a 15-year battle with cancer that began at age 30.

Maureen attended Saints John and Paul School and the Ursuline School, continued on to earn her undergraduate degree from Georgetown University, and went on to earn her J.D. from St. John's Law School. During her school years, she was an athlete, as well, on the tennis and track teams.

Maureen's optimism and warmth shone through the many years, despite her health concerns. Whether at work or sailing at the Larchmont Yacht Club, she lived her life to the fullest as best she could.

Last night, her friends and family gathered to pay her final homage before today's funeral mass at St. Augustine's Roman Catholic Church in Larchmont.

Maureen deserved a better fate, a longer life, but she made her mark, nonetheless. Mr. Speaker, I salute that life and mourn her passing.

C-SPAN GOES STREAMING

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

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud YouTube TV and Hulu + Live TV for expanding public access to Congress by carrying C-SPAN, C-SPAN2, and C-SPAN3 beginning next week.

For 46 years, C-SPAN's respected nonprofit service has offered Americans unfiltered, gavel-to-gavel coverage of their government in action. However, millions of streaming households were left without this vital window into the debates and decisions which shape our Nation.