

people. If this can happen to Vicente Ventura Aguilar, it can happen to anyone who calls this Nation home.

I demand answers on Vicente's disappearance, and I will not stop until I get them.

#### HONORING GOVERNOR TERRY E. BRANSTAD

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

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a lifetime of service and leadership of Terry E. Branstad, Iowa's longest serving Governor and America's Ambassador to China.

Terry was born and raised on a family farm near Leland, Iowa, where Governor Branstad lived the values that define the State of Iowa: hard work, faith, and service before self.

He carried those values from the fields of northern Iowa to the halls of government, where he helped shape a legacy that touched every corner of our State. In every corner of our State, he knows a story about an Iowa family and how he helped them.

When Terry first entered public service, he brought boundless energy and a deep sense of purpose. As a young candidate for Governor, he was known for literally running to the stage. His predecessor said that is not very Governor-like, but it was very Terry Branstad-like. It is something we have all tried to live in our lives going forward.

He went on to become the longest serving Governor in history, with 22 years of steady leadership. He served as U.S. Ambassador to China, advancing trade, advocating for human rights, and strengthening America's agriculture.

I had the honor of a lifetime of interning for Governor Branstad in 1995. His example of integrity, discipline, and humility is shaping who I am today. We are both Drake grads, military members, veterans, and committed to serving Iowa.

Governor Branstad and his wonderful wife, Chris, are more than just mentors. They are friends to every Iowan. He is a leader who helped build our State, and we are proud to call it home.

I congratulate Ambassador and Governor Branstad on receiving this year's Iowa Award. He more than earned it.

#### REMEMBERING JORDAN BALL

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

Mr. SORENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to honor the life of Jordan Ball, a Galesburg seventh grade history teacher and basketball coach, a former Monmouth-Roseville High School teacher, and a proud graduate of Monmouth College.

On Monday, he was involved in a bad car accident, and he lost his life at just 26 years old. Jordan leaves a loving wife, Alex, and young son, Atticus. His wife is also pregnant with their next child, who will be born with a guardian angel for a father.

I know how hard this has been for everyone in the tight-knit communities of Wataga, Galesburg, and Monmouth. His students revered him as a leader, and we should all move forward today with his legacy of working together as a team to achieve great things.

Western Illinois is better off today because Jordan Ball was there. May his memory live on with his students, his family, his community, and our Nation.

□ 1050

#### RECOGNIZING MENOMINEE MAROONS

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

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Menominee Maroons football team.

The Maroons proudly represented Michigan's First Congressional District and the Upper Peninsula by winning the Michigan Division 7 State championship, capping off a 14-0 season.

This wasn't luck. This was discipline, toughness, and outright superiority.

What makes this championship even more special is how the U.P. made it possible. With just days to prepare for the long trip to Ford Field, the Maroons suddenly needed tens of thousands of dollars for buses, lodging, and meals. Our Yoopers stepped up, raising nearly \$30,000 in a matter of days with the entire community pulling together because they believed in this team.

Coach Brandt restored U.P. Power to Michigan high school football, bringing home the first State title to the Upper Peninsula since 2015. As Coach Brandt said: "We couldn't be here without our town and community."

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize the Menominee Maroons for bringing the State championship back to the U.P. The undefeated State champions are a true source of pride for our Yooper community. I congratulate the Maroons. Well done.

#### BRINGING ATTENTION TO ANTI-EDUCATION AGENDA

(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 bring attention to the anti-education agenda of the Trump administration.

The Department of Education's RISE Committee is offering a proposal to downgrade the professional status of various careers that they think, after

many years, don't deserve academic stature and access to vital funding. These include nursing, physical therapy, audiology, architecture, and social work.

This assessment comes from the leader of the Department of Education, who has no advanced degree in education but does know a lot about pro wrestling.

I was the chief executive officer of a government for over 1 million people, with a budget of \$2.5 billion and 4,200 employees. These Secretaries and committees can theorize all they want. I needed professional, well-trained, and certified nurses, social workers, and the like to deliver real-world services to real people in the day-to-day management of a large county.

Let's stop the ideological foolishness. Place this proposal to downgrade careers where it belongs: in the department of garbage and sanitation. Let's get back to grownup, serious government that understands the problems in America and addresses those problems.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF KATHLEEN ATENCIO

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

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and the legacy of Kathleen Atencio, a beloved wife and mother who passed away peacefully at her home after her courageous fight with brain cancer.

Born and raised in Ridley Park, Pennsylvania, Kathy lived a life defined by her service and dedication to her faith, family, and friends. Her family knew her as someone who was extraordinarily accomplished, humble, and intelligent. She lived her life by the quote often attributed to Maya Angelou: "People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Everybody who was part of Kathy's life—family and friends—was made a better person by her. Kathy had a gift for making others feel seen, supported, and loved. Whether offering a prayer, a home-cooked meal, or a steady voice of encouragement, she made people better simply by being in their lives.

A rich life and a storied legacy, Kathy leaves behind her husband, Joe, and her children, Audrey and August. May she rest in peace.

#### HOLDING WAR CRIMINALS ACCOUNTABLE

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

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, the Uniform Code of Military Justice is clear. It requires servicemembers to obey lawful orders and to refuse illegal orders.

We can't order a servicemember to commit a crime. It is that simple. If someone is a servicemember, he can't follow an order that requires him to commit a crime.

Recently, my Democratic colleagues merely reminded our servicemembers of their lawful duty. The President's reaction was that these Democratic Members of Congress were traitors and should be hanged.

Fast-forward to last week, when we learned that Secretary Pete Hegseth ordered the illegal killing of defenseless survivors of an attack on a boat in the Caribbean. This is what our colleagues were warning about.

Mr. Speaker, Secretary Hegseth and anyone else who commits war crimes must be held accountable. Secretary Hegseth has to go.

#### HONORING NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE

(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 the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force, in Pooler, Georgia, which was named Best Museum in Georgia in the 2025 Best of Georgia Awards.

This honor reflects the museum's significance as a leading institution for historical education in our State. The museum preserves the legacy of the Mighty Eighth Air Force and teaches the history of World War II aviation through exhibits, artifacts, and educational programming.

Visitors can explore restored aircraft and walk through immersive spaces that allow them to connect with the people who served. Many leave with a deeper appreciation for sacrifice, duty, and the responsibility we all share to remember their stories.

I am proud of Pooler for keeping this history alive and accessible. I congratulate the museum, which holds a special place for me, as it was established during my time as mayor. In fact, it was the first speech I gave as mayor of the city of Pooler.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the staff, veterans, and volunteers for their important work.

#### RECOGNIZING CHIEF BRIAN LAYTON

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

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Chief Brian Layton on his retirement from the Fredericksburg Police Department after three decades of service.

Chief Layton has served in the department since 1994 and as chief since January 2020. He has strengthened department recruitment and retention, modernized their operations, and is ex-

pected to soon achieve national accreditation for the city's emergency 911 center.

The role that Chief Layton has played in regional public safety is invaluable. On behalf of the city of Fredericksburg and its residents, I extend our deepest gratitude to Chief Layton for his unwavering service and dedication. His impact on our community will be felt for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate Chief Layton on this well-earned moment and recognize him as this week's constituent of the week. I wish him a restful retirement.

#### CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARY OF NORAD'S SANTA TRACKER

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

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the upcoming 70th annual tracking of Santa Claus by the North American Aerospace Defense Command at Peterson Space Force Base in my district in Colorado Springs.

Originally tracked by the Continental Air Defense Command, which is now known as NORAD, the command tracks Santa on his sleigh, pulled by nine reindeer, including their leader, Rudolph, as he travels around the world to give gifts to all the children on Santa's nice list.

I encourage every family to track Santa on the NORAD Tracks Santa website this upcoming Christmas Eve and to keep a watchful eye on the skies for Santa as he passes overhead, bearing gifts for all those good kids.

Mr. Speaker, to all the children, even some who may serve in Congress, I would say it is an exciting time of the year. Look up in the sky on Christmas Eve and track Santa on the NORAD Tracks Santa website.

□ 1100

#### RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF RHODE ISLAND MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DAVID CHENEVERT

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

Mr. AMO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Rhode Island Manufacturers Association Executive Director David Chenevert.

David is retiring after more than a decade, leaving our State's leading manufacturing organization. For more than 40 years, David has worked tirelessly to strengthen Rhode Island's manufacturing sector. He hasn't just been the president. He has been a member. David built a successful company providing precision components for multiple markets.

During his tenure at RIMA, he championed workforce development through the expansion of career and technical education for our students and helped countless small businesses transition to the future.

At the height of COVID, he helped the Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation create the pledge program to deliver personal protective equipment to manufacturers so that they could remain open and operate safely.

David's hard work and strategic vision leave a legacy of growth for an essential part of Rhode Island's economy, our manufacturing strength.

Mr. Speaker, we thank David for his efforts.

#### RECOGNIZING ALBERT EINSTEIN DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR FELLOW VEENA BLACK

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

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Veena Black, an Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellow, a dedicated elementary schoolteacher for over 20 years, and a personal friend who has served our office with exceptional commitment this past year.

Veena was selected amongst a highly competitive group of peers to come to Washington to better understand the legislative process and to improve STEM education in the United States.

For 1 year, she has not only stepped away from the classroom and her beloved students, but, as a devoted wife and exceptional mother, she also left behind her husband, Gabe, and their two children: Aidan and Sydney.

Veena's passion for STEM education and her students was unmistakable and contagious. Her kindness and the time she gave to everyone who stepped into our office enriched our team. She was the dependable, welcoming smile that greeted us each day.

Her time in our office was impactful and memorable, and it permanently deepened my understanding of what it means to teach in America today. I came to rely on her invaluable insight as an award-winning educator. Her hard-earned classroom experience directly shaped our education policy work, giving us a clearer understanding of how Federal decisions truly affect teachers and students.

While we dearly miss Mrs. Black in our Cannon office, I am grateful that she returned to the place where her impact is greatest and most needed which is in the classroom.

#### HOUSE REPUBLICAN RETIREMENTS

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