

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.

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#### 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.)

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a happy retirement to so many of our House Republican colleagues who are leaving in a mass exodus, with more departures to come, according to Jake Sherman. That is despite all the accomplishments Republicans have tried to sell to the American people.

Let's recap what they have done this year alone.

They cut \$1 trillion from Medicaid and the ACA, putting affordable healthcare out of reach for millions of Americans.

They passed the largest cut to SNAP in history, leaving families across the country with less access to food.

They have stayed silent while ICE terrorizes our communities, causing irreparable damage, and even detaining U.S. citizens.

So instead of running for reelection on their disastrous record, they are choosing to walk away.

And House Democrats? House Democrats are ready to take on these challenges and fight for all Americans.

We are ready to make our country more affordable, fix our broken immigration system, and deliver a government that works for the people.

That is exactly what we will do when we take back the majority next Congress, if not sooner.

#### NEW BUZZWORD IS AFFORDABILITY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, here it is, the word "affordability." It has become a cute buzzword nowadays because during the last 4 years of the Biden administration and in my home State of California, so many things have caused things to become unaffordable.

So the idea is going to be to paper over with borrowed money in this place when, really, if we attack the core issues that make things unaffordable, cause inflation and an inability to start businesses in my home State and in this country, which is energy costs, electricity and fuel, especially in my home State in northern California. We have the highest electricity everywhere.

As we see in the rest of the country, due to Trump's policies coming in, fuel prices are coming down. We are getting down to about the \$2 level.

In my home State of California, they are going to shut down, I hear, three refineries now and we can't keep a pipeline full. We have a new fuel standard which means more carbon has to be taken out of the fuel. That fuel will be more expensive. We are going to see, according to a USC study, perhaps \$8.50 fuel in California.

Yes, there is affordability for you right there, driven by Democrat policies and by regulation as well; profigate government spending, creating

\$2 trillion in deficits every year. It sucks all the money out of the room of other people needing to borrow and spend when the government is spending all the money handing out \$2,000 checks, \$1,200 checks, and \$600 checks, that is all borrowed money. There is no credit then.

There are also burdensome regulations weaponizing NEPA, weaponizing the Clean Air Act, and weaponizing the Endangered Species Act. These were all well-intentioned when they were passed, but they have been weaponized to stop projects and to stop people from doing things. That is what is causing affordability to be unaffordable is these regulations driven by more government.

#### CONGRESS HAS A DUTY TO SUPPORT COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY NATURAL DISASTERS

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

Mrs. McCLAIN DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to emphasize the duty we have to support our American communities in the face of disaster.

Mountain Maryland in my district was hit by devastating floods last May. In fact, 200 elementary students and teachers were evacuated from their classrooms by boat in heights of water which were over 12 feet.

When this disaster hit Maryland, emergency alerts and warnings were essential to a fast and safe recovery. I commend the effective and exemplary service of our first responders. However, what didn't come quickly was the Federal aid that my constituents needed most.

Today, I am introducing two bills to reinforce strong, reliable disaster response and recovery efforts.

First, the Emergency Alert Grant Fairness Act will ensure that local public broadcasters have the resources they need to reach everyone at risk during a disaster.

Second, a bipartisan Rural Recovery Act would guarantee that USDA Rural Development technical assistance is automatic in order to effectively help communities recover from a disaster.

From Mountain Maryland to every corner throughout America, we should leave no community stranded in an emergency.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in support of these bills.

#### CLEVELAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. MOORE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cleveland Community College on the anniversary of its founding. Since July 1, 1965, when fewer than 40 students

gathered in two rented buildings, Cleveland Community College has grown into a cornerstone of progress and opportunity for Cleveland County and our region.

Cleveland Community College has always risen to meet the needs of our community, training returning veterans in its earliest days, and now preparing students for careers in advanced manufacturing, healthcare, and others.

Thanks to strong leadership from the founding president, Dr. James Petty and the current president, Dr. Jason Hurst—and the presidents in between all those years—the college now boasts state-of-the-art centers for technology, emergency services, allied health, and workforce development, along with strong partnerships with local schools and businesses.

Today, it stands as one of North Carolina's highest performing community colleges. In fact, it is one of the highest performing community colleges in the country.

Mr. Speaker, again, I congratulate Cleveland Community College on its 60th anniversary.

#### CONDEMNING EXCESSIVE VIOLENCE OF FEDERAL AGENTS

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

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to condemn the excessive violence that we are seeing from Federal immigration agents on the streets of Chicago, New York, New Orleans, and all across the country.

Donald Trump's militarized secret ICE agents are creating fear and terror around our country. Their lawless behavior has no place in our democracy, and I am proud to lead Democrats in fighting back.

That is why I introduced the No Secret Police Act to get rid of masks, to require agents to show identification, and to hold ICE accountable.

Soviet-style secret police have no place in the America I know and love.

According to ICE's own data, 70 percent of immigrants arrested have no criminal history whatsoever, and just 5 percent have violent criminal convictions.

Despite the lies that we hear coming out of the White House, ICE is meeting its quotas by targeting hardworking immigrants, many here lawfully, simply trying to pursue the American Dream.

The first and easiest step to correct this problem is to pass my No Secret Police Act.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to do so without delay.

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#### PROTECTING MICHIGAN COMMUNITIES FROM DATA CENTERS

(Ms. TLAIB asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)