

Luong. Mr. Le is a peaceful activist and a prisoner of conscience.

In 2018, he was persecuted for campaigning for compensation for Vietnamese fishermen affected by the Formosa environmental disaster. Mr. Le is not the first Vietnamese individual to be persecuted by the Vietnamese Government for speaking in support of the victims of the Formosa environmental disaster.

I am committed, Mr. Speaker, to working with the State Department to work with the Vietnamese Government for an end to Mr. Le's solitary confinement, to allow him to practice his religion in prison, to allow him to receive appropriate medical care, and, finally, to consider his early release.

#### REMEMBERING ZACH SCHEIMAN

(Mr. MANN of Kansas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, Zach Scheiman was a true patriot. Born and raised in Garden City, Kansas, Zach was a deep lover of freedom who embodied courage and service over self. Zach lived by these principles, and they guided him through his lifetime.

Tragically, Zach passed away doing what he loved most, serving others. He gave up his life while fighting alongside the Ukrainian Special Forces, defending the principles he so greatly believed in.

As a young boy, Zach fell in love with aviation. He could often be found helping with events at the Garden City Regional Airport or excitedly watching his father, Mike, in the air traffic control tower. Those countless hours at the airport made a lasting impact on him, and as a young adult, Zach answered the call to serving in the United States Air Force.

Throughout his Air Force career, Zach served at Altus Air Force Base in Oklahoma, Eglin Air Force Base in Florida, and completed international stints in Iraq and Qatar. Zach also served with the Royal Air Force in Mildenhall in the United Kingdom.

For the last 11 years, Zach served in his hometown once more as an air traffic controller at the same place where his love for aviation began, the Garden City Regional Airport.

Zach did not keep that love of aviation to himself. He couldn't. He found joy in sharing that passion for aviation with student groups who visited the air traffic control tower, as well as with visitors and student pilots learning the field that he loved so much.

Zach poured into Garden City's youth by serving on the local arts boards in Garden City and actively participating in community career fairs. He left his community better than he found it, creating gains for students and helping organize local festivals, recitals, and shows.

Zach was a man of honor, and Audrey and I are deeply grateful for his service to our Nation and our community. We pray for his loved ones and the Garden

City community as they come to terms with his untimely passing. May his soul rest in peace.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Zach for his duty and service.

#### CELEBRATING KANSAS FOOTBALL

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize four remarkable high school football programs in the Big First District that brought home State championships this season.

In Kansas, high school football is more than a sport. It teaches discipline, teamwork, perseverance, and the importance of community. More importantly, it connects us all through a common good while making memories that will last a lifetime.

As a kid from western Kansas, I grew up listening to K-State football on the radio. Like so many young people across our State, those Saturday broadcasts shaped my love of the game. I later had the privilege of playing on a State championship team myself at Quinter High School, and I remember the feeling of being part of something bigger than myself. That is what these young men experienced this season.

This year, four schools from the Big First reached the top of their divisions.

In 6A, Manhattan High School claimed the title with a decisive 27-0 win over Olathe Northwest. Their players, coaches, and staff worked hard all season to earn an achievement that will be remembered in the Manhattan community forever.

In 5A, my hometown of Salina is celebrating a very special moment. The Salina Central Mustangs brought home the State championship with a 51-34 victory over Basehor-Linwood. For the students, families, and alumni who have longed for another State championship for the last 20 years, I congratulate them on bringing their title home. They all deserve it, and we are all so proud.

In the 1A Division, Sterling football defeated Rossville 35-34 in one of the closest and most competitive games of the season. Games like this reflect the best of high school athletics: determination, sportsmanship, and communities rallying behind their teams.

In an eight-man Division II, Hanover earned a 28-20 victory over Victoria to secure another championship for their school. Eight-man football has deep roots in rural Kansas, and Hanover's success highlights the strength of programs that represent some of our smallest but proudest communities.

Mr. Speaker, four State championships in 1 year from schools in the Big First District is quite an accomplishment. I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the strong communities, dedicated coaches, supportive families, and student-athletes who put the work in day after day to bring these championships home.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these young men, their schools, and their hometowns. They have represented Kansas with pride, and they have very bright futures ahead.

#### INTERVENING IN GOP'S RELATIONSHIP WITH PRESIDENT TRUMP

(Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I want to just say that Republicans have endured a rather lopsided relationship with Donald Trump this year—dare I say, abusive. I hope you will consider this a Republican intervention. For the record, these are not attacks. They are just facts.

Healthcare: Republicans cut \$1 trillion from Medicaid with their big, ugly bill, threatening their own vulnerable constituents, when three-quarters of Medicaid enrollees are in red States, and rural hospitals across this country are struggling to stay open.

Republicans then shut down the government to avoid a vote on extending ACA subsidies, only for Trump to later come out in support of extending these subsidies.

A recent Navigator poll shows that Americans blame Trump and congressional Republicans for rising healthcare premiums by a 26-point margin. Surprise: Americans also overwhelmingly blame Republicans for the shutdown. I see tread marks everywhere.

Redistricting: The drama started when Trump called Greg Abbott and demanded five more Republican seats in Texas, triggering California's redistricting efforts that could cost California Republicans five seats. It is funny how my Republican colleagues were, are, and remain silent when Texas, Ohio, Missouri, and North Carolina gerrymander, but throw a tantrum when California punches back.

Chip deal: I don't mean nachos or potatoes. I mean the AI, computing, and national security kind. For years, my China-hawk Republicans warned about the competition with the CCP, only for Trump to ignore them and green-light Nvidia H200 chip sales to China in exchange for a 25 percent fee. What happened to tough on China?

Boat strikes: Republicans have abdicated their constitutional war powers authority, allowing the Trump administration to carry out extrajudicial killings off the coast of Venezuela under the guise of stopping drug trafficking. Meanwhile, Trump just pardoned the President of Honduras, who was convicted of helping to move 400 tons of cocaine into the United States. My colleagues need to square the circle for me. Please do it.

Deficit: Republicans who call themselves fiscal hawks stayed true to President Trump and got rewarded with \$2 trillion added to the national debt, bringing us to a whopping \$38 trillion. How many zeroes are in that number? Far too many for Americans to afford.

Then, there was the mighty whiplash of the Epstein files. Trump and Republicans spent an entire year trying to block the release of the Epstein files, only for Trump to reverse course at the

last minute when he realized the release was inevitable.

Tariffs and affordability: For a full year, Republicans said nothing while Trump rolled out illegal, arbitrary, and chaotic tariffs that raised prices across the board. In just 8 months of Trump 2.0, the average American household spends \$700 more on basic necessities. This season's most popular holiday gifts are up 26 percent since last year. During the affordability crisis, Trump banned the word "affordability" from Republicans' vocabulary, but "affordability" is still in the dictionary and still on people's minds. The economy is an A-plus-plus-hot mess.

Farmers: Earlier this year, Republicans watched quietly as Trump destroyed USAID, an agency that bought crops from American farmers, many of whom backed Trump and the Republicans in 2024. When beef costs reached record highs in October, they watched again as Trump proposed buying beef from Argentina rather than American farmers. Last month, Republicans forced a vote denouncing the horrors of socialism. This week, they are applauding Trump for using it to bail out the farmers that his administration failed.

Please consider this an intervention and get out of this lopsided relationship now.

#### UNFAIR ENFORCEMENT OF ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

(Mr. BENTZ of Oregon was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call out the injury and injustice being inflicted on my State and my constituents by the inappropriate and unfair enforcement of the Endangered Species Act as it has been and is being applied to the reintroduction of the gray wolf.

This injustice is apparent in the Federal Government's inability to manage and control the killing and maiming of livestock and in the failure of the government to properly pay the costs of its decision to reintroduce the wolf.

I will address the lack of management first. Let me begin my discussion of failed management by showing several pictures, which are graphic illustrations of the reality that my ranching families face all too often.

Mr. Speaker, as you can see, there is nothing refined about how a wolf goes about feeding itself. You can imagine the feelings of the rancher when he or she finds livestock torn apart and dying.

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Mr. Speaker, these animals may have been part of the herd for a decade or more.

We can try to imagine the incredible anger they feel, knowing they are legally prevented from stopping the wolf that caused this pain and horror to their cattle and calves from doing this again and again.

I have held meeting after meeting across my district, listening over and

over to stories about wolves attacking herds, scattering cattle, and ignoring the ineffective hazing efforts that owners of these cattle are allowed to use under the law to try to protect their livelihoods. The anger and intense frustration they feel is totally understandable. It is why I am on the floor today, sharing as best I can their pain with my colleagues.

If we are to protect those who are trying their best to feed this country, to make a living, to keep their small and often remote communities viable, to put out range fires, to pay their taxes, and to continue to be productive parts of this Nation, we need to delist the wolf and move the management of these animals back to the States.

Let me turn to the actual cost of the reintroduction of the wolf and the need for those who have created this cost to be responsible for paying it.

The actual annual cost of the wolf, imposed upon the cattle businesses across this Nation, as of a few years ago is estimated to be \$128 million a year. This number is higher now that cattle prices are higher. Many think the only cost of the wolf is the killing of livestock, but the impact of primal fear that cattle understandably feel when a wolf is near has dramatic and serious impacts on weight gain and on pregnancy rates.

These losses are real, and they are serious. At a time when even the President is concerned about beef prices, these losses affect everyone by reducing the size of the cattle herds and their productivity.

There has been legislation enacted, both in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act and at the State level, to try to bring some reimbursement equity into play by providing at least some payment for the death of cattle caused by wolves. These programs, although welcome, come nowhere near to making those damaged by wolves whole.

In addition, I can assure everyone that the rancher would absolutely be happier if he or she could completely avoid the losses that lead to asking for justice under these programs.

If we are properly, fairly, and logically to manage the wolf, we must pass Representatives BOEBERT and TOM TIFANY's bill, H.R. 845, the Pet and Livestock Protection Act. This would delist the wolf and allow States to manage these populations.

If we are to properly allocate responsibility for the monetary costs of the wolf, those millions of dollars each year unjustly imposed on ranchers and farmers damaged by the reintroduction, we must appropriate the money needed to make these good people whole.

#### HONORING ELISA MCKAY

(Ms. PLASKETT of the Virgin Islands was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express condolences on the

passing of Elisa McKay. I want to share that the Virgin Islands has lost one of its great creative and cultural visionaries with the passing of Ms. McKay.

Her creative spirit and generous heart touched countless lives across the island of St. Croix and throughout our territory and, indeed, not just the Caribbean but other places.

As a self-taught artist, she channeled what she described as divine expression, creating work that reflected her deep love for our islands, our culture, and our people. Her art was an extension of her soul. It was vibrant, authentic, and deeply rooted in her Crucian roots.

Beyond her artistic talent, Elisa dedicated herself to uplifting our community in so many ways. She served as an educator, taught yoga for four decades, worked tirelessly with our seniors through the Interfaith Coalition, and gave her time and wisdom to numerous organizations, including Unity of St. Croix, the St. Croix Environmental Association, and the Women's Coalition of St. Croix.

Her compassion, spiritual leadership, and commitment to service made our Virgin Islands a better place. Ms. McKay lived with purpose and love, seeing the divine in everyone she encountered.

My heartfelt condolences go out to her daughter, Ayanna, who she considered her greatest accomplishment. To all who knew and loved her, may her memory be a blessing and may her artistic legacy continue to inspire us for generations to come.

#### HONORING GERVILLE RENE LARSEN

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, the Virgin Islands has lost one of its great creative and cultural visionaries with the passing of Gerville Rene Larson.

Everyone knows Gerville was more than an architect. He was a steward of our history and an artist of our identity. His work captured the spirit of these islands, ensuring that the stories of our people and the beauty of our heritage were preserved for generations to come.

After earning his degree in architecture from Cornell, Gerville returned home to his beloved St. Croix, choosing to live in his grandparents' home in the heart of Times Square, in downtown Christiansted. From there, he poured his heart into our community, using his immense talent to collaborate with both public and private sectors on projects dedicated to historic architectural preservation. Through his firm, Taller Larjas, LLC, he designed with reverence for our past and vision for our future.

I was blessed to know Gerville, not only as a respected colleague on boards and an admired fellow Hillsideer descendant, but as my neighbor and my friend. Our best talks were as we were cleaning the respective streets we lived on, meeting up, hailing each other as neighbors, and then going into a deep discussion about the beauty of Christiansted and the history of the free