

understand the world of the vulnerable, ensuring they would serve with empathy and awareness.

Aside from teaching our young people, Bill also taught seniors at the Polish Community Center how to protect themselves from fraud and other harm.

Outside of the classroom, Bill was an accomplished athlete and a star pitcher at Bishop Timon-St. Jude High School. He earned respect and accolades on every field and court he played on.

Later in life, he shared his love of sports by coaching young athletes, earning the 2000 Coach of the Year award for his dedication. He would go on to be recognized in the Western New York Baseball Hall of Fame.

A devoted husband to Denise, father to his three sons, Brendan, Matthew, and Ryan, and his daughter, Lauren, and grandfather of 14, Bill cherished his time with family and brought joy and humor to all those around him.

Bill's legacy goes beyond the classrooms where he taught or where he coached. He inspired his three sons to pursue careers in law enforcement, continuing his mission of service. His daughter is following in her own career of service to the public as a family doctor.

Bill Dunford, Jr., was a pillar of our community and a dear friend. He will be deeply missed. May his example continue to inspire all of us to serve with love, dedication, and compassion.

May Bill Dunford, Jr., rest in peace.

DECLARING KANSAS CITY CHIEFS THE GREATEST NFL TEAM OF ALL TIME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ALFORD. Madam Speaker, today, I rise with an extremely important declaration about the Kansas City Chiefs.

I am honored today to be wearing the red blazer that I made for the late, great Tony DiPardo, the bandleader for the Kansas City Chiefs for many years.

In case my colleagues haven't heard, we have a big game on Sunday that is going to make some noise, spark some joy, and make the entire Chiefs Kingdom proud.

I stand before the House today to declare, to decree, and make it official that the Kansas City Chiefs are the greatest NFL team of all time.

From the sea of red at Arrowhead to the chants of "Chiefs Kingdom" echoing across our great Nation, this team has captured the hearts of America. It started from a legacy of folks like Lenny Dawson, Deron Cherry, Bobby Bell, Derrick Thomas, and Will Shields, and it grew thanks to the modern-day miracle magic of Patrick Mahomes, Travis Kelce, and Harrison Butker.

This dynasty has put the entire NFL in the Chiefs era, giving the haters cruel summers for 3 years in a row.

To the naysayers, we say they need to calm down. They thought this year

would be different, but, once again, they were having *deja vu*. They forgot Patrick Mahomes does nothing better than revenge. They thought Travis would be too distracted by his love story to perform in the big games. They wrongly thought that delicate Josh Allen would be tired of only winning paper rings.

Madam Speaker, we know all too well how this season turned out with the Chiefs winning the Lamar Hunt Trophy again. Now, they have turned their attention to their third consecutive trip to the Super Bowl.

When the Chiefs arrived in New Orleans, there were teardrops on the Eagles' guitars.

Get ready, America, because the 2025 Lombardi Trophy has a blank space, and the Chiefs are about to write their name in that blank space once again.

To put it quite simply, the Chiefs are unbeatable. They will be champions not once, not twice, but three times in a row.

Madam Speaker, the great Mitch Holthus is fond of saying that you can doubt the Chiefs, you can dislike the Chiefs, you can disrespect the Chiefs, but you are going to have to deal with the Chiefs.

To all the Chiefs watching, Missouri is rooting for you. The Fourth Congressional District is rooting for you.

Go Chiefs.

SELF-DETERMINATION AND VIRGIN ISLANDS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to acknowledge and congratulate the newly elected members of the Sixth Constitutional Convention in the Virgin Islands.

The willingness of each one of them to help us move forward to achieve civil rights and self-determination as a collective people is commendable. The work that they do in this legislative session will uplift generations of Virgin Islanders to come.

The legacy of the Virgin Islands—Saint Croix, Saint Thomas, Saint John, and Water Island—continues to be defined by the collective greatness of all Virgin Islanders who have resisted exploitation in the name of freedom and independence.

We first exercised our right of self-determination in 1493 when a Carib party on the island of Saint Croix fiercely resisted Christopher Columbus' expedition, preventing his men from establishing a foothold on the island.

□ 1030

Over the next 200 years, the Caribs fought colonization until they were completely eradicated in 1590. Their enduring resistance is our ancestral legacy. The island of Ay Ay, Saint Croix, from which I come, is proud to

see this legacy continue in this Sixth Constitutional Convention.

It continues. In 1733, the Akwamu, enslaved individuals from Ghana, fought against their enslavement on the island of Saint John and became the first organized armed resistance in the Western Hemisphere against enslavement. They held that island for almost a year until the Danes working with the Spaniards, the French, and the British were able to overthrow them.

The organizers of that rebellion chose collective suicide rather than go back to slavery.

In 1848, on the island of Saint Croix, those enslaved organized themselves, rose up, and took their freedom. Our freedom was not given to us by any individual or any government. We took it for ourselves. That is the legacy from which I come, and as a daughter of the Virgin Islands, I will continue that fight.

The Virgin Islands has held five Constitutional Conventions since its acquisition by the United States in 1917, yet no constitutional drafts have been approved since 1977. Personally, I believe some of the issues that we have put in our constitution are issues that were never resolved by Denmark when we became part of the United States.

As of 2025, the Virgin Islands have governed under the Revised Organic Act of 1954, which acts as the *de facto* local constitution after being passed by Congress in 1936.

As not only the Representative of the Virgin Islands here in Congress but as a daughter of those islands, my family on both sides go back in records to the 1700s, maybe earlier. And it is for them that I continue to fight for the fundamental and constitutional rights for which all Americans, including Virgin Islanders, are entitled.

When we became a part of the United States, my grandfather's generation came to Washington and insisted that we be a part of the draft. We wanted the responsibility along with the privileges of being part of the American experience. We are part of the draft. We fight in every war in numbers per capita greater than any other State, and yet, no Virgin Islander can vote for their Commander in Chief.

I have built upon the work of my predecessor, Congresswoman Donna Christensen and numerous Governors of the Virgin Islands to challenge the United States' reliance on the Insular Cases as it relates to the territories. The Insular Cases were decided at the turn of the 20th century by the Supreme Court to justify a racist and colonial legal framework for the territories.

Now, you may ask, oh, why are you saying it is racist? When the Supreme Court Justice in his opinion says that the people who inhabit these islands are savages who cannot understand constitutional law, that is *prima facie* racism to me, particularly when a Virgin Islander who came to the United

States in the 1700s, Alexander Hamilton, helped to write that Constitution under which we stand.

However, through hard work, we have worked together over the years to overturn the Insular Cases, advance equality, and challenge the status quo. In both the 116th and 117th Congress, I am grateful that under Democratic leadership the For the People Act of 2019 and the For the People Act of 2021 included a path for voting rights and self-determination for U.S. territories. Both pieces of legislation included a congressional task force to review the issues and make recommendations on providing equitable voting representation in Congress, voting rights in the Presidential election, and fair inclusion in Federal voter protection and election integrity laws.

In this 119th Congress, I will continue to advocate for the equitable treatment of all Americans, including my fellow brothers and sisters in the territories. Self-determination, voting rights, and equitable treatment under Federal assistance programs must be the cornerstone of our work. If we work together, we can all achieve meaningful change.

THANKING PRESIDENT TRUMP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ALFORD). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank President Trump for his efforts to reverse the harmful immigration policies of the last administration.

On his first day in office, President Trump declared a national emergency at the southern border and reinstated policies to stop the flood of illegal immigrants into the United States.

Under the Biden administration, migrant encounters at the U.S.-Mexico border reached an all-time high. Open-border policies made it easier for military-aged men to enter our country and allow drug and human traffickers to take control of our borders.

In 2024 alone, Customs and Border Protection seized over 21,000 pounds of fentanyl at the U.S.-Mexico border. Fentanyl overdoses during this time remained to be the leading cause of death for Americans aged 18 to 45.

I applaud President Trump for taking border security seriously, including his threat to impose tariffs on Mexico, which led their President to deploy 10,000 members of the Mexican National Guard to strengthen border security.

It is time the rest of the world sees again we have a President willing to put America first.

PROTECTING SENSITIVE LOCATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, recently an Oregonian told me that his young daughter and her friends, especially her Hispanic friends, are scared at school. They are kids that are at school to learn. Then I learned why they are scared.

I rise today to strongly condemn the Trump administration's unconscionable decision to rescind guidance that restricted immigration arrests near sensitive locations, including hospitals, places of worship, and schools.

For several years, ICE operated under a policy that designated certain areas as safe from immigration enforcement raids. Now, Donald Trump has reversed that. This decision to no longer protect schools from immigration enforcement is harmful, and it makes our schools less safe.

We should all be working together to keep students safe at school. Instead of criminalizing undocumented children and children who look like they might be undocumented, we should be protecting all children from the horrors of mass shootings, which unfortunately, are far too frequent in this country.

I want to be clear. Immigrant children are not hiding in American schools as the current administration wants you to believe. They are there to learn, and taking them from their schools will cause immense suffering and chaos for families and communities. These are children who may go on some day to find the next cure for cancer or write a great American novel. They have tremendous potential.

Now, I ask my colleagues to show some humanity. Please join Representative ADRIANO ESPAILLAT from New York and me in supporting the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.

Show some humanity for children. Help keep our schools and other sensitive locations to be safe from harmful immigration enforcement actions.

PARSLEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Illinois). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POCAN. Madam Speaker, if you have ever had a steak dinner, you have likely seen a little sprig of parsley on the plate. Yes, it is food, but clearly it is meaningless to your dinner. It is simply a splash of color, likely left on your plate when you are done that will get washed off or thrown away in the garbage because ultimately it is meaningless, which is how the Republican majority in Congress is acting during this moment in our Nation.

As Donald Trump bends and breaks the Constitution and congressional authority, almost every Republican lawmaker is sitting back and playing the part of parsley. They are silent, maybe a little colorful, but ultimately useless. That is too bad.

As a coequal branch of government to the executive branch, Congress has

an obligation to steer our country's direction. The current majority doesn't even have a steering wheel, much less a car. They are sitting on the sidelines cheering on the takeover of our constitutionally given powers acting like pieces of parsley.

Well, House Democrats won't stand by. We may not be in the majority but we are going to call out every illegal action and improper use of power that the executive branch is taking that is hurting our country. We are going to encourage, and where we can, participate in lawsuits, and we are going to expose those who sit quietly by and allow a want-to-be authoritarian and his billionaire benefactor to attempt to destroy our democracy.

We will fight Republicans' enabling agenda in Congress. We won't be washed off the plate. Too much is at stake.

ELON MUSK

Mr. POCAN. Madam Speaker, Elon Musk is the 47th President's financial benefactor. He has invested \$277 million of his own money into electing Donald Trump and other Republicans, and now apparently, he thinks he owns them.

Elon Musk is destroying our Federal Government. He doesn't understand how things work, and he is breaking it agency by agency every single day while Republicans sit idly by.

I think the worst part is that Elon Musk profits mightily from contracts with the Federal Government. His company's contracts total over \$20 billion, more than \$3 billion in the last year alone. Now, he has the new title of special government employee, for all practical purposes, a Federal employee himself.

Now, if you follow the law, Federal employees can't also profit from the Federal Government via a Federal contract because they can use their position to swing contracts their way. USAID doesn't offer much profit for Musk, so he wants it dismantled, but NASA does, and his contract likely won't get touched. Maybe it will even grow.

That is why we have laws that prevent Federal employees or other officials, including Members of Congress, from profiting off the Federal Government. It is grifting from the taxpayers, and it is against the law, except apparently, if you are Elon Musk.

Enough is enough. I am introducing legislation to ensure that special government employees like Musk cannot profit off of government contracts. Elon Musk can't be both the beneficiary and decider of where Federal funds are spent simply because he feels he bought himself a President.

It is unconscionable that Elon can collect \$20 billion from American taxpayers with one hand while slashing funds for childcare and healthcare, nutrition assistance, and public education with the other.

The Eliminating Looting of Our Nation by Mitigating Unethical State