

The city hall in Colstrip was packed as the people of Rosebud County came together to honor one of their own. Montana is among the top States in veterans per capita of people with patriotism and service coursing through our veins.

I know that I speak for all of us when I say that I am proud to have a man like Colonel Ankney representing our State in uniform. I thank him for his service to our great Nation. He made us proud, bringing honor to himself, his family, his community, our State, and to our country.

PROTECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

(Mr. NEGUSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, recent reports suggest that President Trump may attempt to dismantle the Department of Education unilaterally. An executive order of this nature would be catastrophic for the tens of millions of students and teachers in schools across our Nation, including in the great State of Colorado.

It would undercut support for children learning to read and write. It would, in my view, scrap key programs for high school students looking to get their college degree and abandon hardworking educators, schools, and students in rural and low-income communities.

Mr. Speaker, any effort to unilaterally dismantle this department would be clearly unconstitutional and unlawful. House Democrats will use every tool available to us to stop it.

RECOGNIZING DAVE ALEXANDER AND SERVE THE BORDER

(Mr. LUTTRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LUTTRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dave Alexander, the founding director of Serve the Border, a man and organization that has made it their mission to care for those who protect us along the southern border.

Serve the Border has provided meals, entertainment, and better living conditions for thousands of Border Patrol agents, Texas State troopers, and National Guardsmen stationed in some of the most challenging environments in our Nation.

This work is not glorious. It requires countless hours of preparation, logistical planning, and often personal financial sacrifice. Yet, Mr. Alexander has done it all with joy motivated by a belief in the importance of honoring those who serve.

For example, 2 weeks ago while many Texans faced an unusually cold winter, Mr. Alexander and his team on Serve the Border drove over 6 hours to Eagle Pass, Texas, from the Texas Eighth Congressional District to support the agents, the troopers, the soldiers, and

the marines stationed in the Del Rio and Laredo sectors to make sure they had hot meals and a place to refocus for their next mission.

On behalf of the district, I thank Mr. Alexander and all those who serve in Serve the Border for their extraordinary contributions. Fair winds and following seas.

RECOGNIZING SAKA NAKODAR DAY

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

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize February 4 as Saka Nakodar Day. On that day in 1986, in the Punjab region of India, four unarmed Sikh students were shot and killed while peacefully protesting the desecration of the sacred scripture of the Sikhs.

The killing was abhorrent, but the investigation was deplorable. The victims' bodies were disposed of in secret. No perpetrator was ever brought to justice, and reports, commissions, and other inquiries on the massacre received absolutely no action.

February 4 remains a dark day for the Sikhs in Punjab, but also for Sikhs here in America. For 39 years, they have fought for truth, justice, and accountability. As United States Representatives, it is our responsibility to fight for our values at home and abroad and call out these tragedies for our partners around the globe.

That is why I recognize Saka Nakodar Day and that justice is still waiting to be served for Ravinder Singh, Balbir Singh, Jhilman Singh, and Harminder Singh.

AMERICAN ENERGY PRODUCTION

(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, for years, America led the world in energy production, thanks in large part to the miracle of hydraulic fracturing. This innovation not only created jobs and boosted our economy but also made the U.S. the top producer of oil and gas.

The last administration has given us dangerous policies that drive up these costs, threaten the jobs, and make us much more dependent on foreign adversaries for our energy.

Instead of supporting domestic production, those policies have prioritized extreme climate agendas that weaken our energy security and raise costs for American families, which is one of the main drivers of inflation.

I am pleased to see the Protecting Energy Production Act come to the House floor this week. This bill ensures no President can unilaterally ban fracking and keep States in control of their own energy production.

Democratic administrations and radical activists have long pushed policies

that would cripple domestic production, send our jobs overseas, and make life much more expensive for Americans and our allies. We cannot afford to let that happen.

Protecting domestic energy production means lower costs, stronger national security, and a future where America remains an energy powerhouse. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation later and stand for energy American independence.

MINNEAPOLIS JAMES BEARD AWARD FINALISTS

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

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate three downtown Minneapolis restaurants on their achievement of being named semifinalists for the 2025 James Beard Award. Minneapolis has one of the best food scenes in the country, and that is exemplified by these recognitions from the James Beard Foundation.

Spoon and Stable is nominated for outstanding restaurant. They have a been a hallmark of the North Loop for over a decade, extending a fusion of French and local cultures through cuisine.

Vinai and Bucheron, both established in 2024, are nominated for the best new restaurant. Vinai features Hmong culture, stories, and ritual through food. Bucheron presents French-American fusion, while pulling inspiration from rural Minnesotan culture.

All of these restaurants are doing incredible work expanding Minneapolis' culture and food scene, and we are very proud of the work they have done to achieve this honor.

A STRONGER AMERICA

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

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, across this Nation, men and women rise before dawn, lace up their boots, and power America forward. They drill, refine, transport, and innovate, fueling homes, factories, and cities.

Yet, time and again, Democrats in Washington try to strangle their livelihoods with bans, red tape, and radical restrictions.

Just last month, Democrats pushed policies to lock away 670 million acres of land and water from energy production. While they push their anti-energy agenda, hardworking Americans pay the price at the pump, on their utility bills, and on their paychecks.

Congressman AUGUST PFLUGER's Protecting Energy Production Act stops this sabotage. It blocks any President from banning fracking, unlocks leasing on public lands, slashes red tape, and restores energy independence. More energy means lower costs, better jobs, and a stronger America.

We must pass the Protecting American Energy Production Act.

ELON MUSK TAKEOVER

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

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, this week, my office was flooded with calls from constituents who are angry and frustrated about Elon Musk and his takeover of our government.

I am just as outraged as they are. This billionaire was neither elected by the American people nor Senate confirmed. Yet, he is sitting in our Nation's highest office, openly seizing power, making consequential decisions about Americans' personal data, and gutting the services and programs that working families in the San Fernando Valley rely on.

Why does Elon Musk have access to your personal information without any oversight or accountability? House Democrats and I are taking action. We are legislating. We are supporting litigation, and we are mobilizing.

I also ask why our Republican colleagues are sitting in silence while Elon Musk takes control our government and harms Americans' lives. I urge my Republican colleagues to join us in the fight against Elon's takeover.

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INCREASING DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION BENEFITS

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

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, in 1993, the VA established the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, or DIC, benefits which are paid to the survivors of servicemembers who died in the line of duty or to veterans who died from service-related injuries or conditions. Unfortunately, the DIC benefits have fallen drastically behind the cost of living, causing a financial hardship on veterans and military families.

That is why I have led the introduction of the bipartisan Caring for Survivors Act, which would increase the DIC benefits from 43 percent to 55 percent, amounting to an increase of approximately \$454 per month for surviving family members. The legislation also fast-tracks DIC benefits to family members who currently have to wait a decade before receiving benefits.

Honoring the sacrifices our servicemembers make on behalf of our Nation means caring for the loved ones they leave behind.

REDUCING THE COST OF LIVING TO AMERICANS

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

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, President Trump said he was going to lower food prices on day one, end the war in Ukraine on day one, bring down housing costs, make the government more efficient, and bring peace to the Middle East. All those things sound great, don't they?

Instead of reducing the price of eggs, his administration is kneecapping the CDC's efforts to report on the avian flu outbreak. Instead of making housing more affordable, he is pushing tariffs on Canada and Mexico that would make construction significantly more expensive. Instead of making government more efficient, he is paralyzing agencies like the IRS which under the Biden administration recovered over a billion dollars in taxes owed by wealthy Americans who weren't paying their fair share.

Frankly, my constituents are terrified this administration will ruin their lives. On Tuesday alone, my staff answered and spoke with more than 700 constituents specifically concerned about Elon Musk running roughshod over the payment systems. We have received thousands of emails.

Mr. Speaker, in Trump's view, making America great again comes at the expense of hardworking Americans who already make our country great. He also seems to think that Elon Musk is going to do it for him.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MYTRON LISBY

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

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of a great man who just so happened to be my high school principal, Mr. Mytron Lisby.

As a kid, I was a bit of a troublemaker. One day I played a prank at school that landed me in Mr. Lisby's office. Honestly, I should have been expelled that day, but he told me: Maxwell, I am not expelling you. I think you can be great, and I see something in you.

He believed in me, and he gave me a second chance. Honestly, I think that second chance is one of the reasons I am here today. He came to know Jesus Christ as his Savior at a young age and served him faithfully. He served as a teacher and an administrator for 43 years.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the tens of thousands of students across this Nation he has inspired, I thank Mr. Lisby. I have to think that at the gates of Heaven, God is going to greet him with that administrator school radio because maybe even Heaven sometimes needs help keeping things on track just like a great principal does.

May Mr. Lisby rest in peace.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KENNEDY of Utah). Under the Speaker's

announced policy of January 3, 2025, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HARIDOPOLOS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, lives destroyed, trust violated, and hearts broken, this is the story of illegal immigration.

Young girls and boys have been sold into sexual slavery. Hundreds of thousands have been killed by fentanyl. Hundreds of known terrorists have entered our Nation. Schools, hospitals, and towns have been overrun by numbers of illegal aliens and the high cost of taxpayers. Criminals entered and preyed on our citizens. Sadly, many committed murder and rape.

Yet, we learned just over 2 weeks ago that this is a problem that could be quickly solved, and that is what is happening today with the election and actions of our new President. This crisis can be quickly solved with common sense and decisive action.

Today, I am joined by other freshmen Members of this Congress who are problem-solvers, people who have made it work at the local level at businesses across our country, and they understand how to get things done just like our President has been doing for the last 2½ weeks.

The first of our speakers today comes from the experienced Missouri Legislature, serving in both the house and senate. He has great accomplishments as both an attorney and a doctor. He represents a central part of Missouri just west of St. Louis, and he is a person who back in 2008 knew this problem was coming to a head. He sponsored and passed legislation to make sure we did not have sanctuary cities.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ONDER), the Congressman from the Third District.

Mr. ONDER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Florida for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an issue important to all Americans, not just Americans living on our border. Illegal immigration directly impacts our society, our safety, our security, and the future of our Nation. Dangers posed by illegal immigration are many. The consequences of policies from the Biden administration are many and severe.

Deaths from murder, poisonings from fentanyl, and victimization of the innocent by human traffickers could all have been solved if only the Biden-Harris administration and the Democrat Congress were willing to secure our borders.