

Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine for defending democracy.

BIRD FLU AND COMMUNICATIONS FREEZE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share a rising concern for public health.

My State of Ohio is the second largest egg-producing State in our Nation. Nationwide, over 14 million egg-laying birds have been killed since December of last year due to the growing bird flu outbreak. That is why the cost of eggs is skyrocketing, and this is why we must get this outbreak under control as human infection rates rise.

On January 6, the first American died from this infection. With each new human infection, the virus learns how to mutate and infect more people.

When studying this tragic death, the CDC found the virus had started to mutate, which means split, in two different ways. For the record, we know from just one human infection, the number of infections jumped to 66 human infections last year.

History instructs us that it is only a matter of time until doctors see sustained human-to-human transmission increasing. Despite this reality, the new administration ordered all divisions of our Department of Health and Human Services to halt their external communications. Bad idea. If the FDA wanted to warn Americans about a recalled item, they can't do so. The CDC needs to report what is happening around the country so that the bird flu doesn't continue to kill not just flocks but Americans.

As the bird flu continues to kill flocks and now cattle, impact grocery costs, infect our loved ones, and mutate, it is vital Americans have more access to information, not less.

RECOGNIZING ETA SPACE

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

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible work of Eta Space, a business in my district that is shaping the future of American space exploration.

As we return to the Moon and set our sights on Mars, one challenge remains: the ability to refuel spacecraft in orbit.

This requires storing fuels at temperatures hundreds of degrees below freezing and transferring them while traveling at 17,000 miles per hour in microgravity. That is no easy task.

The dedicated team at Eta Space has been at the forefront of solving this challenge, but like so many small businesses driving innovation, they need support at a critical moment. That support came from a local community

bank that provided essential credit to keep them moving forward.

Thanks to that local support, Eta Space is thriving. Later this year, they will launch their satellite to advance the future of American spaceflight.

Community banks are the cornerstone of our entrepreneurial spirit, and on the Financial Services Committee under Chairman HILL, we are making community banking great again.

FUNDING FREEZE IMPACTS ON DISASTER RECOVERY

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

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, last week, President Trump issued an illegal and unconstitutional order for the Federal Government to halt the flow of Federal funds. Shortly after, FEMA shut down its online portal used to distribute disaster assistance across the country.

As if that wasn't enough, President Trump wants the Federal Government to dissolve FEMA and push disaster response and recovery to the States.

These policies are not just alarming, they are downright terrifying for communities in Maui, Florida, North Carolina, Georgia, and now California, still trying to recover from recent disasters.

Ending FEMA will be catastrophic for small and rural communities and States across the country that do not have the financial and human resources to quickly and effectively respond to major disasters.

In their times of uncertainty and need, Americans deserve to know that the Federal Government will be there for them, no matter where they live.

They look to their government for help. Instead, Trump wants to abandon them. This is wrong, this is cruel, and I demand my colleagues, especially those representing disaster-impacted communities, oppose any funding freeze or delays and any efforts to dissolve FEMA. Americans deserve better.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

HONORING SHERIFF MICHAEL BOUCHARD

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

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an individual whose unwavering dedication, exceptional leadership, and commitment to public safety has made a profound impact on our community.

The epitome of a public servant, Sheriff Michael Bouchard was named 2025 Sheriff of the Year by the Major County Sheriffs of America.

Sheriff Bouchard is no stranger to this title, having received similar

awards from the National Sheriffs' Association and the Michigan Sheriffs' Association.

Serving as sheriff since 1999, Sheriff Bouchard has set a standard that others strive to attain. Whether through community programs, outstanding crisis management, or simply being a resource to his team, Sheriff Bouchard has shown what it means to lead and lead with purpose and heart.

The 1.2 million Michiganders who live in Oakland County have a safer place to call home thanks to Sheriff Bouchard.

On behalf of our communities in Oakland County, we thank him for his service and congratulate him on this well-deserved honor.

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TRUMP ADMINISTRATION IS DISMANTLING VETERANS' PROGRAMS

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

Ms. BROWNLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my disgust over the Trump administration's reckless actions to dismantle DEIA programs across the Federal Government, particularly within the Veterans Administration. These programs have been crucial in ensuring that veterans of all walks of life receive the gender specific and culturally competent care they deserve.

Over 9 million veterans rely on the VA for their care, and the President's directive to end all diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility initiatives jeopardizes the health and well-being of our veterans.

Healthcare providers know that understanding the unique needs of veterans from diverse backgrounds is key to improving their health outcomes. This assault on DEIA programs puts those outcomes at risk and widens healthcare disparities.

These actions are disgraceful and dangerous. I call on the President not to put veterans' lives at risk in order to further extremist ideology and an extremist agenda.

CELEBRATING 22 OAKLAND CALIFORNIA'S BRAVE FIREFIGHTERS

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

Ms. SIMON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 22 brave men and women from the Oakland Fire Department. These men and women responded to the call for help and literally ran into the fire last month in southern California.

While many firefighters from the Oakland Fire Department volunteered, which sums up our department's amazing commitment to service throughout our State, 22 members of our fire department came down from Oakland,

California, to join other men and women from around the country to aid southern California in this horrendous and heartbreaking effort to quench the fire.

As we see historic wildfires across California, the intensity will continue to remain, and our fervor and our commitment to support our first responders will be swift.

As a Representative for Oakland, California, and for California's 12th District, I will continue to ensure that California's 12th Congressional District is prepared and climate resilient. I am committed to making sure that our departments in my district and throughout California have what they need to keep Californians safe.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S RETALIATORY TARIFFS

(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, this institution has a choice: Either to be an independent deliberative body or to be a rubberstamp for foolish policies.

What man desires to punish our neighbors, to insult and intimidate our closest ally Canada, when they have done nothing to warrant this action?

Levying a tariff is an economic tool to be used carefully and strategically to deal with bad actors on the international scene who willfully undercut American fair trade. This 25 percent tariff that is proposed on Canada is counterproductive and mean-spirited. Its application to Mexico is equally devastating to us.

It will raise prices for everyday Americans. When they go to the stores, the prices of over 1,200 goods will rise, with no rise in their paycheck. It will impact goods sold by American companies in Canada and Mexico as they impose retaliatory tariffs to defend themselves.

American families, not foreign leaders, will bear the burden. The President himself acknowledged Americans would face some pain. Wall Street and Main Street alike know that the prices of agricultural products, cars, steel, and gas will rise. All of this is a self-inflicted wound, and it is all unnecessary. This institution needs to listen to Ronald Reagan. Ronald Reagan spoke eloquently and warned American politicians not to do this.

HONORING THERON GOYNES

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

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an amazing activist, educator, organizer, trailblazer, family man, and friend. Mayor Theron Goynes was a pillar of the North Las Vegas community, and Nevadans said goodbye to him last week.

Mayor Goynes began his service in the Air Force and carried on as an educator in the Clark County School District first as a teacher, then counselor, adult education coordinator, assistant principal, and then principal.

He spent 20 years on the North Las Vegas City Council, 12 of them as mayor pro tempore. Before his passing, he witnessed his daughter become the first Black mayor of any city in Nevada, for the same city where he served.

Mayor Goynes' life was dedicated to making things better for others, and a grateful community honors his contributions to this day.

I would like to extend my heartfelt condolences to the family and the Theron H. and Naomi D. Goynes Elementary School located in my congressional district where we celebrate his years of diligent service and commitment to community.

A graduate of Prairie View A&M University and a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated, Mayor Goynes lived a life that inspires so many who knew him and set an example for all to aspire to. The North Las Vegas community will miss his leadership, his commitment to others, and his charming smile.

We are thankful for all Mayor Goynes has given us.

Rest in peace. Rest in power.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUAL TO THE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL CREATION OF A NA- TIONAL MUSEUM OF ASIAN PA- CIFIC AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 2(b)(2) of the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture Act (Public Law 117-140), and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, of the following individual on the part of the House to the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture to fill the existing vacancy thereon:

Ms. Michelle Park Steel, Surfside, California

PALESTINE BELONGS TO THE PALESTINIANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise, a proud, liberated Democrat, unbossed, unbought, and unafraid. I rise as one who is not a sunshine freedom fighter, as one who can stand before the crowds. This is what a sunshine freedom fighter does. He stands before the crowd with plenty of

people to surround him and receives the cheers.

I believe that there are times when one has to stand alone, and on some issues it is better to stand alone, Mr. Speaker, than not stand at all.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I rise to proclaim February 4, 2025, as a day that will live in infamy. It was a day when the leaders of two nuclear powers stood next to each other, and these nuclear power representatives, these persons who had the ability to create a nuclear holocaust, something that not even the mind of Dante can imagine, these two persons made comments about Gaza.

One person said: It would be nice—not in these exact words—to make Gaza a better place for people to live. I am paraphrasing, but this person went on to talk about how this superpower would take over Gaza and how this superpower might, at some point, have the American military have boots on the ground in Gaza. These are not the exact words.

These two superpowers dared to work together. The other said: Well, I think this is an idea worth considering, to have the Palestinians move to another location.

These two superpowers, the United States of America and Israel, were represented by the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Israel. These are two superpowers that are not in the business of saying things without thought, or they shouldn't be if they do.

These two superpowers could operationalize what they say. The United States of America can go into Gaza by and through its military. It can take over Gaza, and it can remove the Palestinians from Gaza. The United States of America has already, with our tax dollars, sent money into Israel and munitions to Israel, and Israel has gone into Gaza.

Yes, I know why. Yes, I believe that what Hamas did was a dastardly deed. Yes, that should have been redressed. However, there is a point in time when your redress becomes an offense as opposed to a defense.

Israel went into Gaza and killed thousands of babies, obliterated schools, and destroyed hospitals and infrastructure. Israel, with our tax dollars, and some of their own and others' perhaps, but our tax dollars, Israel destroyed Gaza. The President himself has said that Gaza is no longer habitable. These are not the exact words. Israel and the United States of America, represented by their various agents, are now indicating that Gaza can be taken over.

I marveled, quite frankly, at something that happened. The President of the United States of America said: I talked to everybody, and everybody I have talked to agrees.

Apparently, the Saudis didn't agree. Apparently, the Jordanians didn't agree. The Egyptians didn't agree. The Europeans didn't agree. There seems to be great disagreement with what the President said he would do in Gaza.