

During this time, I have come to rely on her sharp instincts, her keen attention to detail, and her unwavering commitment to keeping my constituents back home informed of the day-to-day effort here in Washington.

It is often said in Congress that if we do not communicate what we are doing, then folks back home will assume that we are doing nothing. With relentless consistency, every bill, letter, hearing, and townhall meeting has been communicated with my constituents with professionalism, clarity, and, if I may say, refinement. Ms. Hall is meticulously organized, with tasks completed weeks ahead of schedule. Nothing is left to the last minute.

She is the heart and soul of our team. No birthday is forgotten without a card, cake, and celebration.

Over these last 5 years, her leadership and thoughtfulness have helped in the effort to make our team feel like a family. For that, Emma will always remain a member of Team Owens.

Mr. Speaker, our entire team will miss Emma. We wish her the very best in her new endeavor.

IMMIGRATION

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

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today out of deep concern for the direction of our Nation. Immigration policies restricting green card holders, banning asylum seekers from 19 Third World countries, cutting their worker visas, and terminating TPS will have dire economic consequences.

Immigrants have sustained America's economy for generations, and in my home State of Florida, they make up over 30 percent of our workforce and contribute more than \$170 billion in spending power.

Many industries, such as construction, agriculture, hospital, and healthcare, are already suffering severe worker shortages.

Ending TPS for nearly one-half million Haitians and Venezuelans will devastate these sectors, and the blanket ban on 19 countries will block the students, nurses, entrepreneurs, and scientists and drive American innovation to a stagnation. It blocks the next Einstein and the next Carnegie.

We need strategic policies that are workforce-driven, create merit-based pathways, and expanded skills training for Americans to meet this moment.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this Chamber to support an immigration system that strengthens American families, businesses, and economy.

HONORING LIEUTENANT SARAH MCCARTHY

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

Mr. ONDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Sarah McCarthy, who recently passed in the line of duty while serving the St. Charles County Ambulance District. As a former physician, I know firsthand the dedication and compassion required of those who answer the call in our emergency medical services, and Sarah lived that calling for 23 years.

Her final act of generosity as an organ donor reminds us, once again, of her deep commitment to saving lives, even in her final moments. Throughout her service, she cared for thousands of patients, contributed proudly to the St. Charles County Honor Guard, and played an important role in the STARS program supporting children with special medical needs.

Her colleagues remember her as someone who never hesitated to step forward for those in need. Lieutenant McCarthy embodied the very best of her profession, and she will be deeply missed.

IMPEACHING SECRETARY PETE HEGSETH

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

Mr. THANEDAR. Mr. Speaker, this week, I introduced articles to impeach Secretary Pete Hegseth for murder and conspiracy to murder and reckless and unlawful mishandling of classified information.

From issuing orders to kill everybody onboard a small boat with no evidence of any wrongdoing to launching a follow-up strike to finish off survivors barely clinging onto life, his actions are not just reprehensible but illegal as well.

He also put the lives of our own troops in danger by leaking classified war plans in an unauthorized Signal chat. Former military attorneys have come out and asserted that his actions have risen to the level of war crimes.

Mr. Hegseth must resign from his position or be impeached by this House.

HONORING RETIRED SCHUYLER COUNTY SHERIFF WILLIAM E. YESSMAN, JR.

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

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and extraordinary service of retired Schuyler County Sheriff William E. Yessman, Jr., whose passing on November 29 is deeply felt across the community that he faithfully served for more than three decades.

Sheriff Yessman began his service to our Nation in the United States Coast Guard, demonstrating the duty, discipline, and integrity that would define his long career in law enforcement.

He joined the Schuyler County Sheriff's Office in 1985. Over 36 years, he

rose through the ranks to ultimately serve as the elected sheriff.

More than the top law enforcement officer, he was a mentor who shaped the careers of countless officers and strengthened the department that he loved so much. His steady guidance, professionalism, and deep commitment to public safety have left an indelible mark on the entire community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House join me in honoring Sheriff Yessman for his lifetime of exemplary service and in extending our deepest condolences to his wife, Anne; his son, Sergeant Andrew Yessman; and the entire Yessman family.

MINNEAPOLIS FIRST ALL-NATIVE FIRE CREW

(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 the Minneapolis Fire Department for the historic assembly of their first all-Native fire crew.

Manned by Captain Michael Graves, fire motor operator Jessie Strong, and firefighters Johnny Crow and Bobby Headbird, the new crew operates Engine 10 out of Fire House Number 6 in Minneapolis.

The four firefighters share one goal: to build trust between the department and the communities it serves.

Beyond responding to fire and emergency medical calls across south Minneapolis, the crew makes a diligent effort to attend community events and ensure young kids see their identities represented in public service.

I am incredibly grateful for the work they do to keep our city safe and inspire future generations to give back to their communities.

□ 1100

MANDATES MAKE HEALTHCARE UNAFFORDABLE

(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, affordability is the buzzword of late. It is also the keyword in the Affordable Care Act, which kicked in well over a decade ago.

Where are we at now? We are about to run into a cliff here at the end of this month because it isn't affordable, and it can't be paid for by conventional means. Instead, we have to pay for it with borrowed money.

What makes things unaffordable to begin with in the medical industry? Mandates make things unaffordable, whether it is mandates on hospitals, mandates on doctors, or mandates on any aspect of the cost of equipment. Again, energy is a big part of everything just to run our buildings, just to run offices, just to run clinics.

Mandates are saddled upon our hospitals. For example, in my home State of California, earthquake mandates go back three decades, where hospitals that are in perfectly good shape that are in non-earthquake zones have to be replaced. Millions and millions need to be spent for them to be brought up to code.

They change the rules in the middle of the game. You are building or remodeling a hospital, and they approve a plan. At the end of the plan, at the end of the construction, they make you change the plan and request you to replace brand-new equipment. They are making it unaffordable with mandates and rules that are not conducive toward delivering healthcare.

HONORING MAYOR KATHY SHEEHAN

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional service of Mayor Kathy Sheehan as she prepares to retire at the end of this year after three impactful terms leading the city of Albany.

Since taking office as Albany's 75th and first female mayor, Mayor Sheehan has been a tireless advocate for equity, opportunity, and responsive government, giving every neighborhood and every resident a chance to shape the city's future.

Mayor Sheehan's steadfast leadership has ensured that key Federal and local investments were put to work effectively, lifting up families, strengthening local businesses, improving transportation, and preserving the vibrancy and character that make Albany such a special place.

It has been one of the greatest honors of my service in Congress to support her passionate efforts to build a stronger, fairer, and, yes, more resilient city.

On behalf of the entire 20th Congressional District, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Mayor Sheehan on a well-earned retirement. While she may be stepping away from city hall, I know her leadership, her principles, and her example will continue to guide and inspire Albany for many years to come.

A'JA WILSON NAMED TIME'S 2025 ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, just check out this picture. This fabulous woman is A'ja Wilson, who was named Time's 2025 Athlete of the Year.

A'ja became the first player in either the WNBA or the NBA to win a championship, claim the scoring title, and be named Finals MVP, league MVP, and Defensive Player of the Year all in one season.

A'ja's impact was pivotal as the Las Vegas Aces won a record 16 straight games at the end of the regular season and then swept the finals to capture their third championship in 4 years.

Beyond those statistics, A'ja continues to elevate the sport. She inspires young girls, and she uses her platform to advance equity and empowerment across women's basketball.

We all want to be like A'ja: beautiful, smart, talented, and kind. I congratulate A'ja. We are so, so proud of her in Las Vegas District One.

FUNDING MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP OFFICES

(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 sound the alarm across Ohio. The Trump administration has recklessly frozen all of Ohio's Manufacturing Extension Partnership offices—I repeat, Manufacturing Extension Partnership offices.

Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle have worked hard to grow manufacturing jobs in America, in the places we represent, to recover from the four decades of outsourcing of U.S. production.

I am really shocked at what they have done. This impulsive decision is a direct blow to family-owned businesses and American entrepreneurs competing against Communist China, Mexico, and every other low-wage haven in the world.

This decision delays critical upgrades, injects uncertainty into local production lines, undermines new jobs being created, and undermines every worker this Nation depends upon.

The Department of Commerce should release and restore these job-creating dollars immediately. Congress voted for them. They should be expended.

If the Trump administration can send \$40 billion off to Argentina to buy foreign beef that hurts Ohio cattlemen, they ought to restore this support to boost U.S. factories, companies, and new jobs here at home.

This is simply unbelievable.

By the way, the U.S. Commerce Department Secretary is a Wall Street magnate. He doesn't understand what it takes to create manufacturing jobs in this country.

DISMANTLING DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IS NOT REFORM

(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 would like to remind us what this Nation used to do to its children.

Before 1975, this country locked up 200,000 disabled children in institutions. We shut the schoolhouse door on children who were deaf, blind, or dif-

ferent in any way that we deemed inconvenient.

Then, parents, advocates, and attorneys fought, and they won. We passed laws on this floor that said every child in this Nation belongs, and we created the Office of Civil Rights in the Department of Education to enforce those promises in real time and to investigate complaints.

Earlier this year, employees in this office were fired. They were dismissed. Now, over 25,000 families are waiting for justice on their complaints.

The Trump administration just requested that some of these attorneys temporarily come back to work this week to clean up the mess that the administration caused, but students and their families have already paid the price.

The dismantling of the Department of Education is not reform. This is the resurrection of abandonment. Children deserve protection, not pathology.

PROTECTING CHILDREN ONLINE

(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 address an issue which unites all of us: protecting our youth and protecting almost every-one online.

This week, Australia implemented a social media ban for kids under 16. While I don't suggest the U.S. mirror Australia or EU regs exactly, it demonstrates global pushback on Big Tech's unregulated impact on our privacy, safety, and well-being, particularly for our children.

For too long, these companies have operated powerful systems with little oversight and no guardrails, with an aim to prioritize profits over our health and safety.

Before I came to Congress, I worked as a comms attorney and nonprofit advocate for Common Sense Media, advocating on these issues.

It is this lifework that compelled me to join Representative KENNEDY of Utah in introducing the bipartisan Algorithm Accountability Act. Platforms must begin to be held accountable for designing, testing, and operating platforms safely and to be responsible for foreseeable injuries or harm to its users, particularly to children.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan and much-needed legislation.

□ 1110

LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. GREEN of Texas was 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, unbought, unbossed, and unafraid.