

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Many visitors associate the temple with Utah's capital city. The temple is built of native granite and took 40 years to complete, with the goal to construct it so it would last throughout time.

Come experience the spirit of this event with me.

RECOGNIZING JEWISH BUSINESS NETWORK AWARDEES

(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, the Jewish Business Network, JBM, will be recognizing a group of outstanding business leaders at their breakfast in Tarrytown tomorrow, Tuesday, December 16.

The individuals saluted have made a positive impact on the business community in the region of Westchester County and surrounding counties.

Those to be honored include:

The Gabelli Leadership Awards will be given to Paul Adler, chief strategy officer of Rand Commercial; Adam Hammerman, vice president and CEO of New York Medical College; and Brad Schwartz, a partner at Zarin & Steinmetz law firm.

The Friedland Young Leadership Awards will be given to Samuel Adler of Rand Commercial and Lee Lefkowitz, partner for Zarin & Steinmetz.

Mr. Speaker, I salute these talented and committed professionals.

RECOGNIZING SIMONA ELVIN

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

Mrs. BICE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate my incredible Marine Corps fellow, Captain Simona Elvin, for her tremendous work this past year in my office.

Simona has been instrumental in helping prepare for legislation, meetings, and defense events. Her expertise has been crucial in crafting legislation that directly benefits our servicemembers in Oklahoma's Fifth Congressional District. Her hard work in my office and service to our Nation are applaudable.

Mr. Speaker, I will miss Simona, not only for what she has brought to us legislatively but also for who she is as a person. From day one, it was obvious that she would fit well with Team Bice. Her attitude, spirit, and wit will be truly missed, especially at Monday morning coffee.

This past weekend was the 126th Army-Navy game. As a member of the Board of Visitors at West Point, this is not easy to say, but for Simona, I will: Congrats. Go Navy.

Mr. Speaker, she will be truly missed.

□ 1910

NORTHWEST OHIO BIOFUELS SUMMIT

(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 say thank you so very much to Ohio's corn and soy farmers for their excellent agricultural summit in which I participated about a week ago in Defiance, Ohio. We discussed the importance of biofuels as a reliable source of income for northwest Ohio farmers, in fact, 44 percent of their income and rising.

This is a great victory for our country over the last three decades. Let me thank our region's farmers, processors, and growers for bringing together leaders from the biofuels industry, ag commodity groups, Ohio Farm Bureau, and refineries to hear directly about the increase in demand and production for biofuels as a new initiative every day to increase income for farmers as they lose export markets due to tariffs. Biofuels now comprise over 44 percent of their bottom line.

In the early days, I worked with Senators on both sides of the aisle and led the effort here in the House to make sure people had access to E85 ethanol at the fuel pumps. It has been a great gift of my career to have served long enough to see that we have been successful.

We also flew the first fighter jet F-16 out of our base 20 years ago using biofuels, and it worked. We are very proud of this industry as it grows. My hat is off to Ohio farmers and Midwest farmers who are making this reality in our lifetime. What America makes and grows makes and grows America.

CONGRATULATING USA MEN'S DEAF BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mr. WIED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the outstanding USA Men's Deaf Basketball team that recently earned the gold medal while competing at the 2025 Deaflympics in Tokyo.

The team bested every other competing country, culminating in an electrifying 69-59 victory over Ukraine in the finals.

I give special recognition to one of my constituents, Patrick Danen of De Pere, who was a key member of this team and brought the gold medal home to Wisconsin's Eighth District.

Patrick, who attended my alma mater, St. Norbert College, had to learn to adapt to basketball after becoming deaf as a result of contracting meningitis at 6 months old. Despite this, he never let this stop him from excelling as a standout player in high school, college, and now the international level.

Patrick Danen and the rest of his teammates showed incredible skill, determination, and fortitude, and their victory was well deserved.

I also recognize the USA Women's Deaf Basketball team, who earned the silver medal in Tokyo, further demonstrating the strength of American athletes on the world stage.

While these games may not have gotten the attention from the media they rightfully deserve, it is my honor to stand here today on the House floor to recognize their achievement and ensure that they know just how proud they have made our country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me once again in congratulating the USA Men's Deaf Basketball team for their outstanding gold medal victory at the Deaflympics, and I look forward to their future success.

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S OFFENSIVE POST

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

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, in light of the President's offensive and cruel post about the tragic murders of director Rob Reiner and his wife, producer and actress, Michele Reiner, I think it is important to speak out.

Mr. Speaker, may this be the last time America elects a President devoid of sympathy and compassion.

May this be the last time that we choose someone so heartless and cruel, who denies the basic dignity of honoring someone's life when they have been murdered.

May this be the last time we choose someone who divides us instead of unites us.

May this be the last time we elevate and celebrate a man unwilling to offer condolence or consolation or comfort.

May this be the last time we choose a leader wrapped up in spite and vindictiveness.

May this be the last time that we lose ourselves in our collective cruelty.

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

HONORING FRED W. GRETSCH

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fred Gretsch, who celebrates 60 years leading Gretsch Drums and shaping one of the most respected names in percussion.

Mr. Gretsch joined the family business in 1965 and devoted his career to preserving his heritage while pushing forward thoughtful innovation. His leadership helped define the distinct Gretsch sound that musicians across generations continue to recognize.

Rather than chase trends, he prioritized tone and careful craftsmanship. That commitment helped the company remain a standard for artists who value instruments built with care and character.

Gretsch Drums has reached stages large and small and remains a trusted choice for professionals and young musicians beginning their journey.

This milestone reflects decades of determination and stewardship for Mr. Gretsch and those who have worked beside him.

Today, we recognize Fred Gretsch for his influence on American music and for protecting the legacy that continues to inspire.

HONORING CLARA LEE PHILLIPS

(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 life and legacy of Clara Lee Phillips, a cherished member of the Albany community and a woman whose dedication and service strengthened the very heart of New York's 20th Congressional District.

Born in Langsdale, Mississippi, Clara made Albany her home in 1964 and devoted 36 years of faithful service to Albany Medical Center.

Even after retirement, she continued giving back, volunteering, cooking, and supporting the youth of the South End with unwavering dedication.

Miss Clara, as she was affectionately known, was the founder of Mississippi Day in Albany, a celebration now in its 13th year. What began as her way of sharing a piece of home grew into a cherished community tradition, uniting neighbors through food, music, culture, and, yes, storytelling.

On behalf of the 20th Congressional District, I extend our deepest condolences to Miss Clara's family, her church community, and the countless friends and neighbors whose lives she touched. Her legacy of service, unity, and love will endure in Albany for years to come.

We honor her today with gratitude and commit to carrying forward that great spirit that she brought to our district every single day.

We thank Miss Clara.

DRILLING DOWN ON ENERGY COSTS

(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 a buzzword these days. Let's drill down, so to speak, on energy costs.

My home State of California is the producer of a great amount of our awesome ag products, our fruits, vegetables, tree, and nut crops.

What we are about to see in California is two different refineries are

slated to close: Phillips 66 in the south and Valero up north. Those two refineries are approximately 20 percent of the fuel supply for the State. Also, California's refinery capacity affects Nevada and Arizona as they are right next door, and part of the shipment of our oil products goes there.

We are on schedule to see these closed down because they can't afford to do business in my home State anymore. The rest of the country, under the awesome energy policy we have had for about the last 11 months, have seen prices come down. I have seen in Colorado two different times the \$1.85 range. California is still about \$4.50, and it is going to continue to go up when there is less capacity and when the pipeline shuts down.

We need energy affordability.

□ 1920

ACA PREMIUM TAX CREDIT EXPIRATION

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Congress has the opportunity to save Christmas.

As millions across the country face the uncertainty and anxiety about their health coverage, without congressional action, the enhanced premium tax credits under the Affordable Care Act will soon expire, leading to higher costs and risking healthcare coverage for some altogether.

It will force families off health plans and add to the burden on our rural health centers with unpaid care that they are already experiencing at the time that Members of Congress prepare to go home for Christmas to their families with the certainty of their own coverage. It is just not right.

There are bipartisan proposals to address this crisis, and I thank my colleagues who have been working around the clock to find a solution and who have not lost sight of why our constituents have sent us here: to work for them, to work for solutions.

One of the greatest gifts Congress can give to families back home is accountability and coverage.

HEALTHCARE AFFORDABILITY CRISIS

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Ms. McCLELLAN of Virginia was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, we have 4 legislative days left in 2025, 17 days total.

This is our last chance to prevent 22 million people from seeing their insurance premiums double or even triple and for some to see their health insurance premium spike beyond their ability to pay when the enhanced premium tax credits expire on December 31.

An estimated 5 million people will find that they can no longer afford those premiums and will lose their coverage altogether.

For the past month, the Congressional Black Caucus has told stories on this floor of our constituents who will be impacted by this body's failure to act. These include restaurant owners, beauticians, barbers, landscapers, florists, mediators, chiropractors, funeral directors, farmers, small business owners and their employees, gig workers, the self-employed, and more.

We have told stories of people worried about how they are going to pay that unexpected bill if they get sick or injured or if they lose their health insurance. We have 4 days to prevent that from happening.

Last week the Senate failed to act. The administration doesn't even seem to have a concept of a plan, so it is up to the House. Leader JEFFRIES has the discharge petition open right now to extend the credits, and we need just four Republicans to sign on.

Last week Punchbowl News reported that Speaker JOHNSON is planning a long process to fix healthcare, saying he anticipates working on healthcare through the second quarter of next year. However, open enrollment ends on January 15, 1 month from today, and those new premiums will take effect on January 1, in 17 days.

Mr. Speaker, do you know who can't wait for the Speaker's process?

It is my constituent Lester Johnson, co-owner, with his wife, of Mama J's Restaurant. They and their daughter rely on the Affordable Care Act paying about \$700 a month for their premiums in 2025. However, without the enhanced premium tax credits, their bill is going to go up to more than \$1,400 a month, and many of his roughly 40 employees are going to see their premiums spike, as well.

It is a lot of money for people, Lester said, and not knowing what the price is going to be because of a stalemate in Congress adds uncertainty. Everybody is feeling the anxiety.

Lester is not sure what he is going to do. I have told stories of constituents in Virginia who found a plan they could afford but with higher deductibles. They are worried. They say they are just going to wrap themselves in bubble wrap and hold their breath.

Bubble wrap doesn't help you, Mr. Speaker, if you are in a car accident. Bubble wrap doesn't help you, Mr. Speaker, when you get sick. Bubble wrap doesn't help you, Mr. Speaker, if