

giving birth to a son she named “God is with us.”

It is not just cholera. Look at the KFF report on PEPFAR. PEPFAR is not a partisan project. It was created by President George W. Bush in 2003. It is perhaps the single greatest humanitarian achievement in modern history, credited with saving 26 million lives.

The report shows that the current administration’s stop work order has frozen payments and services. They have canceled 86 percent of all awards for this assistance. The result: We are losing thousands of HIV health workers in Kenya, Malawi, and South Africa. The KFF report warns that ending this funding could result in 565,000 new HIV infections over the next 10 years in sub-Saharan Africa alone. We are undoing decades of progress. We are actively allowing a plague to return.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, doctors are reporting that without USAID, they cannot even release Mpox vaccines that are currently locked in storage rooms. In Uganda, babies are being born HIV positive again after years of near elimination of mother-to-child transmission.

Some might ask: Is this our problem?

To that I answer with the words of my faith: We are our brother’s keeper.

To my colleagues who prefer a strategic argument, I say this: These diseases don’t respect borders. The legal brief explicitly warns that infectious disease knows no borders. When we stop treating tuberculosis or cholera abroad, we allow outbreaks to grow until they threaten us here at home. Our American global health surveillance was the reason the 2004 Ebola outbreak was contained, with only eleven cases ever reaching U.S. soil. We are dismantling the very fire alarm system that protects our own house.

Mr. Speaker, we are losing twice. We are losing our moral standing, and we are losing our physical security. Taxpayers will pay once for the dismantled programs, and then they will pay again, much more dearly, when these preventable crises reach our shores.

We cannot be the nation that celebrates savings with cake while mothers die in canoes for lack of a 62-cent IV bag.

I urge this body to reverse course. We must reestablish funding for PEPFAR. We must restore our lifesaving public health support for poor countries. Let us do it because it is the smart thing to do for our safety. But more importantly let us do it because it is the right thing to do. Let us not be the generation that walked away when we had the power to save millions of lives.

CONGRATULATING HEISMAN TROPHY WINNER FERNANDO MENDOZA

(Mr. GIMENEZ of Florida was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate my fellow Colum-

bus Explorer, Fernando Mendoza, winner of the 2025 Heisman Trophy.

Fernando’s remarkable journey began in Miami, Florida, and at Christopher Columbus High School, an institution known not only for producing elite athletes but for installing faith, discipline, leadership, and character.

Miami has long been a cradle of football excellence, and Fernando Mendoza now joins that proud legacy. His achievement reflects the values of perseverance, sacrifice, and opportunity that define our community.

As the first Cuban American to win the Heisman Trophy, Fernando’s victory carries special meaning. His story reminds us that in America, deep faith, hard work, and determination know no limits.

Miami is proud. The Columbus Explorers are proud. Today, the United States Congress proudly recognizes Fernando Mendoza for this historic achievement.

Congratulations to Fernando on a moment that will inspire generations to come. “Forward,” “adelante.”

LEGACY IMMIGRATION

(Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, President Trump ran on a promise to the American people that ICE would go after the worst of the worst.

Well, we are now coming up on a year of this Presidency, and I want to talk to the folks at home who feel disillusioned by what ICE is doing in our country.

What we have seen is that ICE is not overwhelmingly going after criminals. In fact, over 70 percent of people currently detained in detention facilities do not have a criminal record.

Who are they going after? They are going after 6-year-olds in my district. They are going after students and permanent residents for their political views. They are going after Americans born and raised in the United States. Time and time again, Trump has floated taking away citizenship from U.S. citizens based on their ethnicity.

At every point, this administration has lied to us about ICE in America while some of the wealthiest actors in our country have tried to sell us a myth to defend it, including private prison contractors. That myth, that ideology, is that our immigrant neighbors are our enemies and more dangerous than us. They sustain that myth because if everybody believes it, they can get away with robbing all of us.

I want to remind you where the real crime is. It is in the oligarchs taking \$170 billion of our money from healthcare and food assistance and public programs and taking that and funneling it into a secret police program.

It is the authoritarians trying to create a black box, because once it is es-

tablished they can put political dissidents inside of it.

But their hatred is a story, a myth, and we can choose to reject it. Donald Trump and Stephen Miller want you to believe that this is who we are as a country. We are here to say that it is not.

We are a country that has fought and defeated the Confederacy, that has defeated a history of civil rights violations, of secret police, and of fascism. We are a country guided by a monument to freedom on the waters of New York City who shines brightly and welcomes the “huddled masses yearning to breathe free” to our shores.

Right now, I ask everyone in our country to fight for that ideal, to fight for this legacy.

HONORING THOMAS BERNABEI

(Mrs. SYKES of Ohio was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise with a heavy heart to honor the life of the former mayor of Canton, Ohio, Thomas Bernabei.

As a focused and committed public servant, Mayor Bernabei served the city of Canton and Stark County for more than 50 years in various capacities, but with the same dedication that drew praise and admiration from across the region.

As a lifelong Stark County resident, Mayor Bernabei graduated from Lehman High before attending Brown University and later serving his country with the United States Army in Vietnam.

Mr. Bernabei later attended The Ohio State University College of Law before beginning his long career in public service.

Tom Bernabei got his start as an assistant prosecutor at the Massillon Municipal Court and then served as a Canton’s assistant law director, law director, and as a Stark County commissioner and interim director of the Stark Area Regional Transit Authority.

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Canton voters first chose Mayor Bernabei for mayor in 2015 where he served for two terms as a compassionate listener and problem solver.

When he first took the job, the city of Canton faced significant budget deficits, but by the time he left office, the city had a roughly \$12-million surplus.

Mayor Bernabei championed the cause of affordable housing, helping working families across Canton realize their own American Dream while calling Canton, Ohio, their home.

Before serving as mayor, Bernabei sat on the Stark County Board of Commissioners from 2010 to 2015.

In every role, he brought fairness, humility, and a true commitment to helping his community. As mayor, Mr. Bernabei worked tirelessly to make Canton better.

He oversaw the construction of Centennial Plaza and supported workforce

development, after-school programs, and essential social services. His work made a real difference in people's lives, and the city is stronger because of him.

I want to say personally: It was a privilege to work with him. He cared deeply about Canton, and he never stopped fighting for its future.

When I saw him at the swearing-in of his successor, I asked him if he was really going to retire or if he was going to pretend retire.

He said: Don't worry. You will still see me around doing the work of the people.

As a Renaissance man, Mayor Bernabei repeatedly displayed his love and support for the arts, especially in 2016 as he and his wife, Bebe, appeared as dinner party guests in a Canton Ballet production of "The Nutcracker."

Mr. Bernabei also loved supporting the Cleveland Guardians and the Ohio State Buckeyes and spending time with his dog, Rosie.

Mayor Bernabei passed away on December 11 at the age of 89, just one day before his wife, Bebe, and he would have celebrated their 39th wedding anniversary. His loss is deeply felt by everyone who knew him.

Following his passing, Governor Mike DeWine ordered that flags be flown at half-staff at all public buildings and grounds to honor his memory. This past weekend, the city of Canton had the opportunity to pay our respects to a giant, a leader, a father, a grandfather, a husband, and a public servant.

Today, on behalf of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, I send my sincere condolences to his wife, Bebe; his daughters; grandchildren; and all who knew and loved him. May the memory of Tom Bernabei inspire us all to continue the work that he believed in and believed in so strongly in the city of Canton.

PROMISES MADE, PROMISES KEPT

(Mr. MANN of Kansas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

MR. MANN. Mr. Speaker, the first time I spoke on this floor this year, I highlighted the vision the Nation and our constituents charged us to usher in when they elected this Republican majority 1 year ago. The 77 million Americans had given this Congress a mandate to restore commonsense solutions and get our country back on track.

The country was overwhelmingly frustrated with the open border, the Green New Deal, the heavy-handed regulatory policies from the Biden-Harris administration, and we all wanted the madness to stop.

This Republican majority has been laser focused on keeping our promise to America, and I am proud of all that we have accomplished in a little under 1 year.

For years, the Nation watched as radical activists targeted the right to life, the right to bear arms, and even the freedom of speech. These rights are

fundamental to who we are as Americans. On September 10, 2025, the country saw the unimaginable happen when Charlie Kirk was senselessly assassinated for practicing his right to free speech and open debate. That is not who we are as Americans.

Rather than allowing this evil to silence patriotic Americans, this majority recommitted ourselves to our founding values and the fact that we are endowed by our creator with inalienable rights and that the government exists to secure those rights, regardless of what way the political winds are blowing.

As we move into 2026 and look forward to celebrating the 250th anniversary of our great Nation, it is important that we recommit ourselves to faith, family, and freedom and continue fighting to ensure that leadership in our Nation's Capital supports and affirms our God-given rights.

As I talk with Kansans about the challenges here in Washington, we all agreed: We need more Kansas values and commonsense solutions. While there is still a lot of work to do, we had a strong start to restoring this commonsense leadership. Over the course of the first 3 months of our Republican majorities in the House and Senate and President Trump's Presidency, we repealed Green New Deal policies that hindered small businesses, stifled innovation, and drove up costs for everyday families.

President Trump's policies delivered the safest border in our Nation's history with Customs and Border Protection showing a 95 percent decline in daily encounters under President Trump compared to President Biden's policies within the first 100 days. President Trump and congressional Republicans' policies enforced the law and worked tirelessly to remove bad actors from the country. Month after month, the data has shown and continues to show that our country is more secure now than ever.

Our national debt continues to be a concern, standing today at \$38 trillion. It is obvious that Congress needs to continue cleaning up our fiscal house, and, for once, we have leadership willing to rein in wasteful spending.

President Trump was the first President in our Nation's history to do what is necessary: pause Federal spending, go line by line through the Federal budget, and seriously evaluate how our Federal dollars are being spent. For many leaders of the Nation's Capital, this was heartburn, but for fiscal conservatives like me, it was welcomed fiscal sanity.

Majorities in the House and Senate supported this rollback of wasteful spending, rescinding \$9 billion spending for voter ID initiatives overseas, electric buses in Africa, and millions of dollars in LGBT movements around the world. This wasn't just fiscal irresponsibility. It is highway robbery.

All of Washington should be working with Republicans to rein in our govern-

ment spending, but as far-left activists demanded free healthcare for illegal immigrants, Federal spending lapsed, and the government shut down for 43 days, putting some of our most vulnerable and brave Americans at risk. House Republicans remained united, and we did not cave to the radical left. We stood firm and continued to urge our colleagues across the aisle to come to the table, return to regular order, and get our fiscal house back in order.

Together, this majority has enacted policies that restore the American Dream. As a fifth-generation Kansan, I take that American Dream very seriously. For five generations, my family has farmed, raised cattle, and been involved in our western Kansas community. I want my children and future grandchildren to be able to do the same.

The working families tax cuts passed by Congress help restore the American Dream by making the Trump tax cuts permanent and ushering in a new era of economic prosperity and growth for the country. Our legislation prevented Kansans from seeing a tax hike of more than \$2,000 this upcoming January, made long-overdue investments in strengthening the farm safety net, and restored American energy dominance while ensuring affordable, reliable energy access for families across the country.

This is the future Kansas families voted for as they have waited for years to get a degree of relief from the historic inflation levels caused by President Biden.

Serving in the Big First District in the U.S. House of Representatives is a tremendous honor. I look forward to all that we are going to accomplish next term as we celebrate all the victories of this year.

AFFORDABILITY

(Ms. KAPTUR of Ohio was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

MS. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, let's talk about a topic of vital importance: the rising cost of living in America and the rising unemployment rates. Mr. Speaker, 700,000, more workers got pink-slipped.

Throughout the last year, the President of the free world made numerous golden promises that prices would come down under a Trump administration. Unfortunately, to date, that promise hasn't been kept.

Everywhere I go in my district, from Bryan to Defiance, from Sandusky to Toledo, I hear the same plea over and over: Life isn't affordable, and it is getting worse, Marcy.

My constituents in northwestern Ohio are struggling to afford the cost of their groceries at the checkout counter. They are struggling to afford their cost of rent, of buying a home, and property taxes are on the rise.

In Ohio health insurance costs, too, are set to skyrocket for over 500,000 families due to inaction to extend the Affordable Care Act tax credits.