

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.

This July, households in Ohio saw their monthly energy bills increase a minimum of 10 percent. Some more than doubled with AI data centers competing for land. Congress must help local communities develop plans to prevent rising bills for energy and water.

Our constituents in Whitehouse told me that her family already saw their energy bill go from \$230 a month to \$494 in July.

How can any family afford that?

In my part of the country, the Great Lakes, our region's economy is intertwined with our neighbors to the north, Canada, our largest trading partner. If our Great Lakes nation were a country, we would be the third largest economy in the world.

Why is this administration and Congress hurting us?

Punitive tariffs have sent our regional economy spiraling. The cost of lumber is up. The cost of cars is up. The cost of steel is up, and the cost of potash is up. The cost of almost everything is up.

This hurts not only our consumers but also our workers who make Toledo Jeeps or parts for other American automakers like General Motors and Ford. Thousands of autoworkers have been laid off.

Tariffs also really hurt our farmers in the field. They have lost major share of markets in corn and soy abroad because of reckless trade wars. Higher input costs cripple the ability to farm the same fields their families have farmed for generations.

Cattlemen in our region are struggling to feed their herds and also get their beef to market affordably at the same time that President Trump gave \$40 billion—handed over \$40 billion—in American taxpayer money to Argentina whose farmers are trying to undercut the very cattlemen I represent.

One farmer called my office yesterday. He made \$100,000 less this year because of tariffs and rising input costs because of tariffs.

He said: Luckily, Marcy, we saved some money from the Biden years, but our income has been very, very difficult to meet rising costs. We make some money from ethanol and biodiesel. Keep up the work on that, Marcy, he said.

Mr. Speaker, tens of thousands of people across northwestern Ohio, 500,000 Ohioans in total, and 15 million more nationwide are at risk of losing their health insurance, being priced out of the market.

A constituent from Clyde, Ohio, said: Marcy, high insurance prices will allow people to die by making health insurance unaffordable. It was terrible for our family before the ACA. We will band together to try to help feed our neighbors, but we aren't doctors. We need affordable healthcare.

A Toledo resident told me their family cannot afford another crushing expense. He said: "Groceries cost more than twice what they did a few years

ago. Childcare and rent are up for us more than ever. Now, unless Congress acts, our health insurance premiums could double. For a family like mine, that means an extra \$100 per person, per month. It is money we simply don't have. Please, extend the ACA enhanced premium tax credits and protect working families. We need relief, not higher costs."

These pleas aren't aberrations. They come every day. They are the norm. Wherever I go, I hear someone suffering under rising costs.

Our neighbors are struggling to afford their groceries as States nationwide are trying to cut SNAP dollars for those who need them and limit what they can buy.

Meanwhile, food costs across the board are up 3.1 percent. Beef and veal are up 14.7 percent as of the end of September. A pound of beef costs \$6.23 or more. It is simply just unaffordable. That number continues to climb.

For the last year, there has been no action by the majority in this Chamber, by the White House, or anyone else in power to address the affordability crisis.

Hello? Hello?

Reckless and ill-considered tariffs have made it worse. Let me assure you, Mr. Speaker, people in northwest Ohio are paying attention and deciding how to live. We need this Congress and the President, the other end of this avenue, to work together.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 27 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

O, bright morning star, break forth in the darkness of this weary world and shine Your light of hope. You, whose mercies are new every morning, reveal Your promises for today.

Let those who are thirsty come to the waters and drink, for You provide the water of life. And may we who have been sated with the blessings we have received share with those who are still in want.

Let those who have no money come and find sustenance, for You offer the bread of life. And may we who have filled ourselves with the food You provide share in our abundance with those who are in need.

We incline our ears to You. Speak into our lives, as busy as they are, as overwhelmed as we are. Though the noise around us is deafening, may we come to You for You are near. Though the sounds of the times are daunting, may we listen, for Your Word casts out all fear.

For You alone are the light of the world and Your Word a lamp for our feet. Pierce the darkness and guide us each into this day and to the hope of Your salvation.

In Your sovereign name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the Chamber the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

COMMUNISTS HATE CHRISTMAS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as we approach Christmas and families around the world gather to celebrate, it is important that we reflect on those not free to worship. Christmas is a time of joy, faith, and community. Under totalitarian dictatorships, it is a reminder that repression and fear exist.

Across the globe, dictators impose crushing communist and totalitarian systems that deny basic freedoms, including the freedom of religion. Christmas celebrations are banned or subverted by war criminal Putin and the Chinese Communist Party to worship the state.

America was founded that faith should be freely practiced, not state-subverted. We honor the spirit of Christmas and the values of America. Merry Christmas to all countries.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Trump is instituting