

When he began his career, staff typed on automatic typewriters, carbon copies were filed by hand, and all correspondence traveled by mail.

Steve witnessed the first computer arriving at the North Dakota Capitol. It took up nearly an entire wall.

As Steve would tell you himself, he had hair, a mustache, and a full beard when he started.

Over the decades, Steve helped guide the commission through enormous change, modernizing regulation for auctioneers, grain licensing, trucking, and telecom. He helped develop one of the first GIS programs in the country and modernized the commission's permitting processes.

I am a better public servant because of Steve's influence. North Dakota is stronger because of his steady leadership and commitment to getting things right.

I congratulate Steve and thank him for the legacy that he has left behind. Steve should enjoy his retirement. He has earned it.

FREE ENTRANCE TO NATIONAL PARKS

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

Mr. LATIMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the Trump administration's decision to eliminate Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Juneteenth from its list of free entrance days for our national parks.

This is a continuation of this administration's efforts to undermine and erase Black history. Already this year, the administration has ordered several National Park Service sites to remove materials related to slavery.

We must make our national parks more accessible, and there is no better way to do that than increasing free admission days in celebration of national holidays that include and recognize the legacy of Dr. King and to commemorate the story of emancipation.

If eliminating these days was not enough, the President took the unprecedented step to add his own birthday to the list of free admission days to our national parks.

His disrespect for some of the most important stories in American history has no bounds and speaks volumes to the content of his character.

Our country's national parks are commonly referred to as America's best idea, and this is a very bad idea.

ONE YEAR IN OFFICE

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

Mr. SHREVE. Madam Speaker, just a year ago, I was sworn in in this Chamber to represent the good people of Indiana's Sixth District.

Since then, I have traveled the district from Columbus to Rushville, Con-

nersville to Winchester, listening to Hoosiers. They are generous with their time, candid with their opinions, and not shy about telling you when you are wrong.

My office has handled some 50,000 constituent inquiries. We have helped over 450 Hoosiers with the IRS, the VA, and the Postal Service. We have recovered about \$5 million for hardworking families. That was their money. We were just the middlemen.

This year, six of my bills passed the House, including the Build the Wall Act, which was signed into law by President Trump. It repurposes unspent COVID funds to complete construction of our southern border wall, and it didn't cost taxpayers an additional dime.

I have focused on legislation that cuts red tape, unleashes American energy, lowers costs, and brings costs down for Hoosiers. Washington makes this harder than it should be. I will keep working at it.

Next year, I will keep traveling our district, listening first, and doing my level best to bring some Hoosier common sense here to Washington.

□ 1720

HONORING SERVICE DEFENSE FELLOW VIVIANA LOWE

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

Ms. HOULAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of a very special person, our defense fellow, U.S. Marine captain and JAG Viviana Lowe, whose tenure with our office is sadly coming to a close.

Viviana is here with us today. Viviana has been an enormously instrumental member of our office this last year, leading us to more than 35 policy wins in the NDAA that will have lasting impact on the services for decades to come.

Through her leadership of the Servicewomen and Women Veterans Caucus and especially with the WITs, Viviana has ensured that our military is a place where our servicewomen all feel valued and supported.

Her dedication to the academy nomination process and inspiring the next generation of servicemembers has been a gift not only to our office but to our entire community and will pay back in dividends that we don't yet appreciate.

As she leaves our office and heads back to the Pentagon to join the Marine's Judge Advocate Division, we know that our Nation is fortunate to have a fierce warrior and public servant like Viviana at the helm.

We will miss Viviana and her amazing energy and spirit.

PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM UNSCIENTIFIC MEDICAL PROCEDURES

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Do No Harm in Medicaid Act, which protects children from unscientific sex-rejecting procedures.

Dangerous and irreversible sex-change interventions for children should have no place in our medical system. These life-altering procedures, performed on minors who are still developing, carry serious risks, including infertility, sexual dysfunction, psychiatric complications, and long-term regret.

Subjecting healthy, developing children, many of whom may be suffering from mental health issues, to damaging and harmful procedures without a clear, proven medical purpose is simply wrong.

Additionally, comprehensive studies reveal profound uncertainty about the alleged benefits of these interventions. In fact, the Department of Health and Human Services issued a report finding that the so-called gender-affirming model of care for gender-distressed children lacks sufficient scientific and ethical justification.

Prohibiting Federal Medicaid funding of sex-rejecting procedures for minors is essential to protect our Nation's children, not exposing them to unproven and irreversible medical interventions.

We must be guided by sound science, medical ethics, and our responsibility to do no harm, not the radical left's agenda.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

ANTI-SEMITISM

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

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, over the weekend, the world watched in horror as Jews celebrating the start of Hanukkah were murdered on the shores of Sydney, Australia.

It is dizzying, and it is unfathomable. Devastatingly, it has become more common in our world today. It doesn't matter whether it is in Australia, the United States, or Israel, the killing of Jewish people for practicing their faith is unconscionable, and it must stop.

Today we mourn the 15 lives lost at Bondi Beach. We grieve with their families and their loved ones, and we share the pain felt by the entire Jewish community around the world.

Hanukkah is a celebration of light, a proof point that even in dark times, Jewish communities can find the joy. However, these are not easy days. With freedom and lives on the line, we need change, and we need the violence to stop. As co-chair of the anti-Semitism task force, I will always speak out to use my voice to uproot anti-Semitism wherever it festers.

To the Jewish community in Michigan and beyond: I see you, I hear you,

and I will do everything I can to ensure that you can live, worship, and celebrate safely and freely.

CLEMENT FORD

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

Mr. ONDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Raj Clement on the opening of his new state-of-the-art Ford dealership in Wentzville, Missouri.

Raj began selling cars online to help pay for college and went on, through vision and hard work, to build his business into a thriving enterprise with seven locations that now contribute significantly to our region's economy.

This new, 71,000-square-foot Ford 2.0 facility will bring 150 jobs to Wentzville, supporting families, strengthening local businesses, and boosting economic growth. Projects like these are exactly what we hope to see: local entrepreneurs investing in Missouri, expanding opportunity, and helping our region thrive.

Raj's dedication and hard work reflect the very best of the American spirit.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Raj Clement and the entire Clement Auto Group for their commitment to our community and for the positive impact this investment will have for the people of Missouri's Third Congressional District.

CHAMPION OF THE WEEK: AKRON PUBLIC SCHOOLS MASCOT PETER GEORGE

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

Mrs. SYKES. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Peter George as Ohio's 13th Congressional District's Champion of the Week.

For 25 years, Peter George, or as many know him as Gilby, has played the part of the Akron Public Schools' districtwide mascot. In a canine costume that was heavy and hot, Peter showed up lighthearted and energetic to meet the hugs, high-fives, and smiles of Akron children. As Gilby, Peter has danced at pep rallies, walked in parades, posed for photos, and comforted ill or disabled youth.

What mattered most wasn't the costume. It was the care. Peter understood that for some kids, Gilby wasn't just a mascot, but rather a highlight of someone's day or the lightening of someone's load. From school hallways to hospital rooms, Peter met children where they were and made them feel seen.

In fact, although he says he is retiring, he will never turn down an opportunity to put a smile on a child's face who happens to be in the hospital.

Today I honor someone most of us have known not by his face, but by the joy he brought into our lives.

Peter's work reminds us that joy is a form of service. I thank him for his 25 years of love, laughter, kindness, and APS school pride.

RECOGNIZING DR. LISA SAYLES-ADAMS, MINNESOTA SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR

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

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Minneapolis Public Schools superintendent, Dr. Lisa Sayles-Adams, on her achievement of being named the 2026 Minnesota Superintendent of the Year.

Bringing over 30 years of experience as a teacher, principal, and district leader, Dr. Sayles-Adams is the second Minneapolis school superintendent to win the State honor.

Since stepping into this role, Dr. Sayles-Adams has been committed to working alongside families, faculty, and students to improve our public schools, visiting over 50 schools, and hosting seven community listening sessions.

Under her leadership, Minneapolis Public Schools have been marked by positive change, with community trust and academic performance improving districtwide.

I am incredibly grateful for her dedication to ensuring Minneapolis' children receive the support they need to succeed.

□ 1730

PUTTING HEALTH OVER PARTISANSHIP

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today because I believe healthcare is a basic human dignity and right.

Sadly, due to a refusal to extend Affordable Care Act tax credits, millions across this country are at risk of losing their healthcare on January 1, just 2 weeks away.

Now, my colleagues across the aisle are undermining key achievements of the ACA in favor of the ill-conceived policy choices like CHOICE Arrangements and association health plans. Under these proposals, insurers can cut corners and neglect essential services for mental health, substance abuse, and chronic disease management.

Let me be clear: The failure to extend ACA tax credits or present a viable alternative is simply unacceptable.

Without these tax credits, 21,000 families in Maryland's Sixth District will see skyrocketing premiums and nearly 9,000 of my neighbors stand to lose coverage entirely. Moreover, many of our rural hospitals and health providers are at risk of closing or stopping essen-

tial services. Finally, over a quarter of our farmers rely on ACA tax extensions and will be priced out of healthcare.

In sum, together, in community, we must take care of one another. We must protect affordable care and put people's health over partisanship.

HEALTHCARE BILL FAILURES

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today and every day for the working families of northwestern Ohio. This includes rural Americans across this country who are being left behind by the bills not reaching this floor this week.

Right now, Congress is debating healthcare as if it were an abstract policy exercise, but back home, it is very real. It is the factory worker in Defiance choosing between insulin and groceries. It is the farmer in Fulton County driving an hour to see a doctor and then opening a bill he simply cannot pay.

These proposals do nothing to protect them. Let's be clear. A \$1,000 health savings account is not insurance. It is a coupon, one that disappears the moment you walk into an emergency room.

That money helps people who already have savings. It does not help families living paycheck to paycheck. One hospital visit costs more than a month's rent.

Instead of stabilizing premiums, extending ACA subsidies, and protecting coverage, these phony bills gamble with people's lives.

Madam Speaker, healthcare should not depend on your ZIP Code, your job title, or the balance in your bank account. Working Ohioans deserve real coverage, not false, empty promises.

JIMMY LAI VERDICT

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

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise today on a subject that is very timely and important, but before I go into that, I thank my colleagues, the Congresswomen from Maryland and Ohio, for their speaking truth about healthcare and what the negligence of this body is in not bringing up a bill for us to have to extend the subsidies. It is taking a toll on our families. It is really immoral, in my view.

However, I rise today in response to the unjust guilty verdict handed down by China against Jimmy Lai. Jimmy Lai is a publisher and a prisoner of conscience convicted not for committing a crime but for exercising the fundamental freedoms of speech and press.

His work at Apple Daily gave voice to the people of Hong Kong and held power to account. For that, he has been