

Madam Speaker, Sweet Tee's life was like her name, a steady sweetness that brightened every day, and her legacy will continue to inspire. Sweet Tee will be missed.

RECOGNIZING ANNIE MALONE AND FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE CARE COALITION IN ST. LOUIS

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

Mr. BELL. Madam Speaker, as the holidays roll around, I want to say this to folks across the St. Louis region: This season isn't just about what is under the tree. It is about who we show up for.

There is a lot happening in the world right now. Some of it is heavy. At home, I see a community that still believes in looking out for one another, especially our children. Not every child has the stability they deserve, through no fault of their own. When families can't carry that load alone, the rest of us have to help.

That is what organizations like the Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition do every day, and it is what Annie Malone has done for generations, helping young people aging out of the system find their footing.

As we celebrate with the people we love, I hope we also think about how we can help others. That is how we make this season matter.

Madam Speaker, I wish St. Louis happy holidays.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ERNEST L. "ERNE" STEVENS, JR.

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

Mr. WIED. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Ernest Stevens, Jr., a proud citizen of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin, who sadly passed away recently.

For more than two decades, Ernie Stevens served as chairman of the Indian Gaming Association, where he was elected to 13 consecutive terms. Under his leadership, Tribal government gaming grew into the largest segment of the U.S. gaming industry, generating more than \$43 billion annually and supporting healthcare, housing, education, and jobs in Native communities.

He also served his own Nation as a member of the Oneida Business Committee and was a steadfast advocate for Tribal sovereignty, always reminding us that Tribal gaming was about building nations, not just business.

Beyond his professional achievements, he was a mentor, a family man, and a source of inspiration to countless young leaders. He leaves behind his wife, Cheryl; their five children; and 20 grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, the people of Green Bay, the Oneida Reservation, and all of

Indian Country mourn the loss of this remarkable leader. May his memory continue to inspire generations to come.

SCHOOL SHOOTINGS ARE NOT INEVITABLE

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

Ms. ANSARI. Madam Speaker, only in the United States of America do we now have college students who have survived not one but two school shootings.

That is the reality for students at Brown University right now, students like Zoe Weissman, who was a middle schooler at the school next to Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School during the Parkland massacre. Years later, she found herself again facing an active shooter on a college campus. Mia Tretta was shot as a teenager at Saugus High School and survived, and now, she has lived through yet another school shooting at Brown.

Let that sink in: Two shootings in one lifetime, all before graduating college.

We cannot allow ourselves to become numb to this. This level of trauma is not normal. It is not inevitable. It is not acceptable.

If we are serious about protecting young people in America, Congress must act now. That means universal background checks, a ban on assault weapons designed for mass killing, cracking down on ghost guns, and investing in mental health and safe storage policies grounded in data.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. Fedorchak). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. ANSARI. I will say it again. This is not inevitable.

□ 1900

HONORING LOWNDES COUNTY, GEORGIA, ON ITS BICENTENNIAL

(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 to honor the bicentennial celebration of Lowndes County, Georgia.

Two hundred years ago, the Georgia State legislature established Lowndes County, named after a prominent lawyer and Congressman from South Carolina.

The area quickly became a haven for settlers seeking opportunity and prosperity, evolving with the times while never losing its sense of community.

From moving entire towns to meet the railroad's arrival in the 1850s to developing thriving industries like textiles, timber, and turpentine, the county spirit of adaptability is evident throughout its history.

Today, the county and the city of Valdosta are still thriving, being a critical hub for Georgia with Valdosta State University and having nicknames like Winnersville and Title Town.

Not only does it have culture, but it offers thousands of acres of beautiful wetlands from the Grand Bay swamp.

These traditions, these values, and achievements make Lowndes County a shining example of Georgia's enduring spirit and a model community to be honored and emulated.

I congratulate Lowndes County on 200 years. Here is to 200 more.

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S TARIFF POLICIES

(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, any day now, the Supreme Court will issue a ruling on whether the President can impose tariffs under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act.

President Trump's tariff policies have hurt America's small businesses, who often cannot absorb the cost of higher duties. Now, the economy is showing warning signs. Unemployment has risen to 4.6 percent, and small businesses shed 120,000 jobs in November alone.

That is why I recently joined 20 of my colleagues in sending a letter to Treasury Secretary Bessent and Homeland Security Secretary Noem urging both Departments to dedicate resources to planning for the Supreme Court's decision. Proper planning is needed around an information campaign for small businesses on how to navigate the tariff protest process, ensuring that eligible tariff refunds are provided on an expedited basis. Without a plan, the complexity and time needed to pursue a refund will further burden small businesses.

I urge the Trump administration to work quickly to guarantee that small businesses, the lifeline of our economy, are not left behind because of this erratic policy.

HONORING EARL LACKEY

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

Mr. BEGICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of Earl Lackey, a pioneer of Alaska's motorsports community and the driving force behind Alaska Raceway Park.

Earl's commitment to racing spans more than half a century. In the early 1960s, while stationed in Germany as an Army helicopter mechanic, he worked on a pit crew at the legendary Nurburgring.

Those early days sparked a lifelong devotion to motorsports. He raced

sports cars in Wisconsin before moving to Alaska in 1983, and in 1994, he helped purchase a small drag strip. By 1998, he became its sole owner.

With his family, Earl built, literally by hand, the foundation of what would become the northernmost NASCAR-sanctioned track in the world. Anyone who has ridden in Earl's pace car knows the magic that he helped create in Alaska.

Earl shaped a track that NASCAR calls a model for community racing. The raceway is a family endeavor: Karen, his wife, at the ticket booth; his son Jim on the ground; and his daughter Michelle managing operations. Together, they built a gathering place where generations of racers, families, and visitors find excitement and camaraderie.

Madam Speaker, we honor Earl Lackey for his vision, his perseverance, and the community he forged at Alaska Raceway Park. His legacy, in the view of Alaska's Pioneer Peak, will endure for generations to come.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES AND CONGRATULATIONS

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to express condolences to Illinois Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton and her family on the passing of her father, Dr. Henry Wiggins, a renowned physician, military veteran, and health activist.

I also express and convey condolences to the family of my good friend Reverend Charles Bowers, who recently passed away last week at the age of 95.

On a happier note, I extend congratulations to my dear cousin and high school classmate, Cora Henderson, and her husband Floyd, on the occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary. Sixty-five years is a long time.

CELEBRATING 100TH BIRTHDAY OF CARLOS MANUEL HALLEY

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

Mr. GIMENEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th birthday of Mr. Carlos Manuel Halley, an extraordinary member of our south Florida community who embodies perseverance, family, and the pursuit of freedom.

Born November 4, 1925, in Santiago de Cuba, Mr. Halley married Marcilia Mancebo de Halley and built a beautiful family.

Following the Cuban revolution, as a man of deep conviction who believed in liberty and democracy, Mr. Halley made the difficult decision to leave his homeland.

Mr. and Mrs. Halley and their five children settled in Miami, determined

to rebuild. Through his faith and perseverance, all of his children became professionals, and his legacy now extends to 56 family members.

Surrounded by his family and loved ones, he celebrates this remarkable milestone. Mr. Halley remains full of life. He enjoys spending time with friends, charming everybody with his humor, and he still proudly considers Burger King as his favorite restaurant.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Mr. Carlos Manuel Halley and recognizing the strength of his faith, the love of his freedom, and deep devotion to family.

GUN VIOLENCE TRAGEDIES

(Mr. CASTEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CASTEN. Madam Speaker, over the weekend, two different countries experienced gun violence tragedies. In one they targeted a Hanukkah celebration, and at another they targeted students in an engineering classroom.

Both of these countries were founded by Europeans who landed on a large land mass, took control from the Natives with their superior arms, and developed a cowboy culture at the heart of their national ethos.

One of those countries responded by acting like an adult. Having initiated gun buyback programs after their last tragedy, they are now working to further tighten gun regulations.

The other one of these countries acted like a child. Our FBI Director and President shared misinformation. The Vice President suggested that the politics of one of the victims was the real tragedy. The Republican Party remained committed to defending the rights of people who think it is fun to play with things that go bang, bang.

Gun violence is still the number one cause of death among actual American children. They are dead because Members of this Chamber, who claim to be adults, keep acting like children.

I would point out that the Brown University shooting was the 389th mass shooting in America this year.

GRAY WOLVES IN CALIFORNIA

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, in my district, the wolf problem is not just some abstract issue. They are on the ground. They are creating real problems for a lot of people and a lot of wildlife.

This past weekend in my district, gray wolves were seen dangerously close to Little Shasta Elementary School right here in Siskiyou County.

As a precaution, law enforcement was contacted, a local emergency was declared, and students were kept indoors for the entire school day, including recess and PE. That is an elemen-

tary school that changed its daily operations because of predators in the area. This is exactly what I have been warning about.

Federal policy has made wolves untouchable, even when they show up near homes, schools, and working lands. Local officials are left to try to manage the consequences of this threat while Washington bureaucracy tells them to wait.

We have a bill, H.R. 845, the Pet and Livestock Protection Act, which is a giant step toward fixing this. It gives States and locals more authority to deal with problem wolves before someone gets hurt.

Ignoring this doesn't make it go away. It makes it worse. Devouring wildlife and livestock with no compensation is not something just to be ignored. What are we going to do, kids next?

IN SUPPORT OF MARAD

(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, it has been only 7 months since billionaire Elon Musk fled town and barely 1 month since his heartless DOGE machine collapsed, yet the damage keeps spreading.

Now, the target is the U.S. Maritime Administration, MARAD, at the Department of Transportation. MARAD strengthens our maritime industry, and it protects our economic and national security. In the Great Lakes, our Nation's third and longest coast, we rely on a strong, capable American shipping fleet. Our economy depends on it.

MARAD supports 13 public and 50 commercial ports across the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Seaway.

In my district in northwestern Ohio, the Port of Toledo and Sandusky Harbor connect us to global markets for energy, metal, farm commodities, and more.

In 2024, South Bass Island and the Put-in-Bay Port Authority received \$10.3 million from MARAD to improve infrastructure, and they needed it.

Our ports generate real dollars for families and jobs, nearly \$900 million in annual economic activity and 8,000 jobs by the latest count.

Apparently, this does not matter to the President and his administration. Unemployment has been rising.

Let's be honest. DRP does not mean Deferred Resignation Program. It means destroy, ruin, and punish.

Madam Speaker, stop this madness. Protect MARAD. Protect our ports. Protect our workers. Protect and grow jobs in America.

□ 1910

NATIONS AREN'T NATIONS WITHOUT BORDERS

(Mr. GROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House