

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.

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#### NATIONS AREN'T NATIONS WITHOUT BORDERS

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

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to interject a little bit of common sense in the deportation debate we have had going on here.

No one knows exactly how many people are in this country illegally. I think it is safe to say that under President Biden that number went up by about 8 million, which means almost certainly it is over 15 million.

There are some muddled up people here who claim that all we should do is remove the illegal immigrants if they are breaking the law. That, obviously, makes no sense.

I applaud President Trump and Kristi Noem for trying to remove all people who are here illegally, otherwise we have no immigration law in the first place. If someone comes here illegally and all they have to do is avoid committing a serious crime, then we have no country.

Our next President will wind up getting another eight to ten million people crossing here, together with the increased welfare costs, housing costs, and government services it applies, together with the change in culture in the United States away from the culture that we have had that has allowed America to go so long.

I thank Donald Trump and Kristi Noem.

#### CALL A VOTE ON HEALTHCARE NOW

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

Ms. STANSBURY. Madam Speaker, imagine being so ideologically committed to destroying an imperfect healthcare bill that has helped millions of Americans access care over the last 15 years that you would block a vote—just a vote—to extend the lifesaving credits that help keep millions of Americans on their healthcare.

Madam Speaker, imagine that you would block members of your own party from bringing an amendment to extend those credits and that those members would be forced to join all 214 Democrats to force a vote on the floor. Also imagine that you would kill a motion to vote on that one day before you plan to send everyone home for the holiday.

Welcome to Donald Trump's America and the Republican Congress where the leadership would rather let children, seniors, veterans, and small businesses lose their healthcare than even take a vote.

Thankfully, we have filed a discharge petition that will ripen in 7 legislative days, but we know that is not enough. We are calling on the leadership to call a vote now.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF COLONEL VU VAN LOC

(Mr. LICCARDO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LICCARDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary life of Colonel Vu Van Loc, a South Vietnamese Army veteran and beloved community member and leader in San Jose, for his selfless dedication to Vietnamese refugees and to cultural preservation.

Born in 1933 in northern Vietnam, Loc Vu and his family fled their homeland during the fall of Saigon, ultimately finding refuge in San Jose, California, the largest community of ethnic Vietnamese of any city outside of Vietnam.

Soon after arriving, Loc Vu founded the Immigrant Resettlement and Cultural Center to aid fellow refugees in rebuilding their lives. Over the next four decades, the IRCC became a lifeline to Vietnamese, Cambodian, and Laotian families throughout our region.

He also founded, funded, and passionately led the creation of the Museum of the Boat People and the Republic of Vietnam to ensure future generations understand the tremendous sacrifice, courage, and resilience of the thousands who came to our shores after the Vietnam war.

Loc Vu passed away peacefully this November at the age of 92. I was fortunate to have known Loc Vu for two decades, and I will miss our community's friend, mentor, and leader. His legacy lives on in the hearts of the more than 20,000 neighbors he has helped to support and uplift.

#### REMEMBERING CONGRESSMAN DONALD PAYNE ON HIS BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, today would have been Congressman Don Payne, Jr.'s, 67th birthday.

Don was more than a colleague to me. He was family. He called me Uncle Frank, and that meant a lot to me. In the House, our names often appeared right next to each other on the voting board, Pallone, P-A, and Payne, P-A-Y.

Many times, when we were voting on civil rights, housing, or issues affecting urban communities, I would look to see how Don voted because to me he was the conscience of our delegation. He was someone who grounded big national decisions in live reality.

Don dedicated his life to public service, from the Newark City Council to county freeholder to Congress, and always it was trying to improve peoples' lives on healthcare, the environment, or public safety.

Happy birthday, Don. Your legacy continues, and we are carrying the work forward.

WISHING A HAPPY HEAVENLY BIRTHDAY TO THE HONORABLE DONALD PAYNE, JR.

(Mrs. McIVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. McIVER. Madam Speaker, I rise to wish a happy heavenly birthday to my predecessor in representing New Jersey's 10th Congressional District, the Honorable Donald Payne, Jr.

He served as Newark City Council president and went on to succeed his father in this body.

Donald M. Payne, Sr., was the first African American elected to New Jersey's congressional delegation, and his son carried that legacy while blazing his own path.

A leader on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Mr. Payne secured critical investments that made rail travel in New Jersey safer and more affordable.

In honor of his legacy that inspires my leadership and shapes my home district, today I introduced a bill to rename Newark Penn Station in his honor: The Donald M. Payne, Jr. Transit Center at Newark Penn Station.

Newark Penn Station is where so many workers start their mornings, where families reunite, where students, seniors, and commuters pass through every single day.

When people walk into that station, they should know the name of the man whose name helped keep it moving.

Happy birthday, Congressman Payne. We miss you.

#### HONORING CONGRESSMAN DONALD PAYNE

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend and colleague, the late Congressman Donald Payne, Jr., as we commemorate what would have been his 67th birthday.

Donald and I were good friends and neighbors both representing the cities of Newark and Jersey City together. A proud son of Newark, Congressman Payne dedicated his life to fighting for his neighbors, ensuring no one was left behind.

In his decades of public service, Congressman Payne was among the most progressive voices in our country fighting for every single American.

What I admired most about my colleague was the courage and bravery he displayed in making his battle with diabetes public so he could advocate for better treatments and solutions for the horrible disease that ultimately took him from us.

Until the very end, Congressman Payne continued to fight for his constituents, introducing legislation to protect people with disabilities within our healthcare system.

I miss my friend. I miss his style. I miss his flair, and I miss his laugh, but