

I have heard from many Michiganders who are thrilled about the economic relief that House Republicans are providing.

Earlier this year, we passed the working families tax cut legislation, which is profamily, proworker, and pro-Michigan.

This historic legislation empowers families by preventing residents of Michigan's Fifth District from facing a 27 percent tax hike and increasing take-home pay by up to \$11,700.

In addition, the legislation increases the child tax credit, strengthens paid family leave, and establishes savings accounts for newborns, allowing families to invest in their child's future from birth.

House Republicans have accomplished so much this year, but we are only just getting started.

□ 1520

#### RECOGNIZING A CENTURY OF EXCELLENCE FOR CHI OMEGA CHAPTER OF AKA

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a century of excellence by the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Chi Omega Chapter located in Rocky Mount, North Carolina.

The Chi Omega Chapter was chartered under the leadership of Anna Easter Brown, one of the original 16 founders of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

The chapter is home to Ruth Anderson Smith, who has served as a member for over 75 years and is 103 years old. She is a Chi Omega Diamond. There are three Chi Omega Pearls who served for over 65 years in membership, with 12 over 50 years who are Golden Members.

That is 100 years of membership, educational support, health advocacy, and steadfast commitment to our HBCUs and transforming lives and strengthening eastern North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate everyone who came to celebrate this amazing celebration of 100 years.

#### HONORING TENSE FRANKLIN BANKS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart to pay tribute to the life of Tense Franklin Banks, who passed away this week at 75.

Tense was a gifted writer and recognized for contributions to preserving the history of Linville Falls and Avery County of the North Carolina Society of Historians.

Tense is remembered by many as someone who had an impeccable memory and who believed that the preserva-

tion of local history was critical to pass on to future generations.

Tense was a friend and someone I admired greatly for her talents and warmth. She, along with the entire Banks family, has a special place in my heart.

Mr. Speaker, may God continue to provide comfort and care to the Banks family during this difficult time.

#### CELEBRATING NORMA CYNTHIA SIMON'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Norma Cynthia Simon on her 100th birthday. Her life exemplifies the power of education, family, and service.

Ms. Simon was born on December 15, 1925, in South America, in Guyana's capital, Georgetown.

Ms. Simon devoted 35 years to learning and teaching as an educator. She taught her children that education is a pathway to opportunity. She is the mother of 5, grandmother of 10, and great-grandmother of 14.

I am very fortunate to have her great-granddaughter, Maxe Samiko Hinds, in my office, continuing her great-grandmother's legacy of public service.

Today, I wish Ms. Simon a happy birthday and thank her for leaving us a great legacy. I commend Ms. Simon on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

#### REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF DONALD E. OLSOMMER, SR.

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

Mr. BRESNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Donald E. Olsommer, Sr., of Sterling, Pennsylvania.

Born and raised in Scranton, Don devoted his life to serving his country, community, and family. He was a U.S. Army veteran and served for 30 years in the Pennsylvania National Guard. He rose to the rank of major, leading the National Guard units in Carbondale, Honesdale, and Scranton, and the Tobyhanna Reserve Unit as a company commander.

Don was elected to public service twice as a Wayne County commissioner, served as township supervisor, and was deeply involved in civic and charitable efforts throughout his community.

Don owned and operated a local Christmas tree farm, founded a small insurance company, and was the co-founder of the Sterling Little League. Most of all, he cherished the time he spent with his family.

It was an honor to know Don, and I know everyone who had the pleasure of meeting him feels the same way. My thoughts and prayers go to Don's fam-

ily and friends, including his son, Pennsylvania State Representative Jeff Olsommer, as they grieve their loss and remember Don. He will be greatly missed.

#### REVIEWING SOCIAL MEDIA BEFORE APPROVING VISAS

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, happy holidays to everyone.

I rise because we have to do something about the nonimmigrant visa process right now. I have several constituents who want to see their families for the holidays, but, unfortunately, this administration has put in place a new social media policy for anyone applying for a nonimmigrant visa.

Essentially, they are scrubbing your social media to see if you agree with the President or not. That is essentially what is happening. It is not about dangers to our country. If it were, it would go a lot faster than the many months that it is taking right now.

I have one constituent, for instance, who traveled abroad for a consular appointment. When she tried to come back, she was notified that, because of this policy, they need 4 months to review her social media, including accounts that they had already deleted. As a result, she faces the possibility of losing her job. Her daughter, who is a U.S. citizen, is going to fall behind in school.

These are serious consequences for so many families across the country. We need to make sure we change this policy and make it better. Most importantly, we need to get these visas approved.

#### RECOGNIZING WILLIAM "BILL" LONG

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

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate William "Bill" Long on his retirement from MEMA, The Vehicle Suppliers Association.

As the Representative for Michigan's Fourth Congressional District, home to many of those hardworking MEMA members, I can attest to the lasting impact of Bill's leadership as president and CEO.

Bill Long has spent more than 40 years in the automotive and parts industry. Prior to joining MEMA in 2012, he held executive roles at Echlin Inc., Dana Incorporated, and Proliance International.

Appointed CEO in 2019, Bill helped redefine MEMA's mission: uniting vehicle aftermarket and original equipment suppliers, and positioning the association as a strong, unified voice during a period of major industrial transformation.

Bill's commitment and collaboration are evident in the partnerships he has built with automakers, technology leaders, research institutions, and government agencies and representatives.

Over the years, Bill has served on numerous boards and earned widespread recognition. He remains a respected figure in motorsports, including leadership roles with NASCAR and IndyCar. He currently serves on the boards of the Automotive Hall of Fame and the Center for Automotive Research in Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring his distinguished career. I wish him the very best in his well-deserved retirement.

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#### 'TIS THE WEEK BEFORE CHRISTMAS ON THE HILL

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

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, 'tis the week before Christmas, and here on the Hill, to keep health insurance premiums from skyrocketing, we have just the bill.

A majority of the House is ready to vote "yes," but the Speaker is sending us home. Why? It is anyone's guess.

ACA enhanced premium tax credits expire at the end of the year. Without them, millions will not afford healthcare, I fear.

Small business owners and employees, gig workers, farmers, and the self-employed, too, without those tax credits, they don't know what they will do.

The Speaker shrugged, saying our work for the year is done, but there is one bill we should pass before heading home—just one.

Two hundred eighteen House Members signed a petition to bring a 3-year tax credit extension to the floor. We should vote on it now before we head for the door.

We will vote in January, so don't give up the fight. In the meantime, may your holiday season be merry and bright.

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□ 1530

#### RECOGNIZING BILOXI CHIEF OF POLICE JOHN MILLER

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

Mr. EZELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding career and well-earned retirement of the chief of police for the Biloxi Police Department, John Miller.

A coast native, Chief Miller dedicated more than three decades of his life to protecting the people of Biloxi, Mississippi. He joined the department in 1990 as a patrol officer and quickly distinguished himself through hard work and leadership. Just 5 years later, he was selected for the Special Crimes Unit, where he rose through the ranks

of sergeant and lieutenant serving in both the narcotics and criminal investigative units.

In December of 2009, John Miller was named chief of police, a role he carried with integrity, humility, and an unwavering commitment to his officers and to the community. His compassion, dedication, and steady leadership were especially evident during one of the most challenging times in the history of the department and the city of Biloxi: Hurricane Katrina.

Chief Miller set a tone for professionalism, resilience, and service that truly exemplifies what it means to be south Mississippi strong.

On behalf of a grateful community, I thank him for his service and wish him and his family the very best in his retirement.

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#### REMEMBERING MICHAEL L. FRIEDMAN

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Michael L. Friedman of Toledo, Ohio, a devoted public servant, proud veteran of the 180th Fighter Wing, and indefatigable community leader whose half century of impact on northwest Ohio will long endure. Mike Friedman embodied service.

From his honorable duty in the United States Air Force and the Ohio Air National Guard's 180th Fighter Wing to his tireless advocacy for working families through the American Federation of Government Employees, he lived by the values of responsibility, loyalty, and fairness. He believed deeply in democracy.

Serving for decades as an Ohio Democratic Party State central committeeman and executive committee member, a national delegate, and even a Presidential elector, he carried out all these roles with conviction, heart, and perseverance.

Mike was also a storyteller. His unmistakable voice brought people together across neighborhoods, union halls, veteran posts, and dinner tables. Guided by his faith, Mike was grounded in love for his beautiful family and unwavering in his beliefs. He gave generously of himself to others.

America is stronger and more just because of citizens like Mike Friedman. He lived, served, and cared so deeply.

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#### RENAMING THE KENNEDY CENTER

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today, I learned that the Kennedy Center board asked or said that the Kennedy Center would be renamed the Trump-Kennedy Center.

That is a sacrilege to a martyred, heroic, historic American President

whose name was attached to the Kennedy Center for his support for cultural excellence in America and because he was an assassinated President who we all mourned on November 22 through November 25 and thereafter because he gave his life for our country.

The idea that Donald Trump would want his name to go before Kennedy's or even with Kennedy's is a sacrilege. It should not be changed ever, and it should go through this Congress, who named it the Kennedy Center, on a bill in this House and signed by President Lyndon Johnson.

Stop this, Mr. Trump. If you have any sense of dignity and honor, you will renounce this. Don't say that you are honored. You should renounce it. John Kennedy's name stands before all others, and the Kennedy Center should not be renamed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

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#### REPUBLICAN HEALTHCARE LEGISLATION

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the new Republican healthcare legislation.

Instead of extending Affordable Care Act tax credits and keeping premiums from skyrocketing, House Republicans are pushing a plan that would force more than 20 million Americans to pay, on average, twice as much for the same coverage they have today. As a result, 4 million Americans will lose their insurance while others are going to be forced to pay far more for far worse coverage.

Americans are already facing an affordability crisis. The House Republican solution is to cut a trillion dollars from healthcare, pass the largest cut to SNAP in history, and do nothing while Trump's tariffs raise costs across the board.

When families are struggling every day to keep their heads above water, House Republicans are cutting all lifelines and throwing them a bag of bricks.

This is not how government is meant to work. We need to uplift the American people and give them a fair shot at a good life that rewards hard work.

That is what House Democrats will always fight for, a government that works for you, the American people. That is why we are forcing a vote to extend the ACA subsidies. We should not leave D.C. until we have that vote.

Regardless of what the Republicans do, the American people need to know that House Democrats, when we are back in the majority, will fight for a healthcare system that works for all Americans.