

reckless actions in the interest of the safety and security of every American.

HONORING RANDALL E. WATSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor our February Veteran of the Month, Randall E. Watson. Randall is a retired Army Chief Warrant Officer 4, or CW4, and human resources officer with more than 24 years of service. Randall got his bachelor's degree from the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg and his master's from the American Military University in West Virginia.

In April of 1990, Randall deployed to Panama with the 135th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital as a patient administration specialist to provide medical and dental service to the indigenous persons of Kuna on the San Blas Islands.

Randall Watson retired from the Army National Guard in 2014 and from the State of Missouri as the director of its veterans service programs in 2020.

In 2016, Randall received the Meritorious Service Medal from the Governor of Missouri for outstanding meritorious military service to Missouri and the United States of America.

We thank Randall for his truly admirable dedication to Missouri, America, and to veterans. Randall has left the Missouri National Guard and the Missouri veterans service programs poised for continued greatness.

We congratulate Randall on being Missouri's Fourth Congressional District's Veteran of the Month.

HONORING THAI HOUSE

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our February Small Business of the Month, Thai House, in Lebanon, Missouri.

In 2009, Chutiwan Kingnak Tracy met her husband, Michael Tracy, and left her home in Thailand to begin her journey to live out the American Dream. The Tracys worked hard to open a small business, working in different restaurants until opening up their own.

Saving her pennies, Chuti saved just enough to buy a food truck and trailer in Oklahoma. She filed for an LLC in July of 2024, and then they opened the Thai House for the first time at Lebanon Farmers Market.

Through ups and downs and after a decade of hard work, they were finally able to become American small business owners. Thai House continues to grow, despite the recent economic turmoil caused by the previous administration. They look forward to being open this spring after being closed during the winter.

Missouri's Fourth Congressional District is excited for their Thai food. I can't wait to taste it myself. We congratulate Thai House. We love to see their hard work come to fruition, and we look forward to their future success.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO CAROLYN SUE ADAMS ALFORD

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say happy birthday to my mother, Carolyn Sue Adams Alford. It is her 86th birthday today.

My mother was a schoolbus driver, an executive assistant at Exxon USA, a mother of four boys, and a Sweet Adeline with always a song in her heart and great advice for her four boys. I love my mother very much. Happy birthday to my mother.

PROTECTING NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. HERNÁNDEZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Speaker, the administration recently announced sharp cuts to Federal grant funding for universities, medical centers, and other research institutions. These cuts will devastate our students, our professors, and our seniors.

What concerns me the most is these cuts will devastate Puerto Rico. Why?

The NIH, the target of these cuts, funds critical medical research. During the past year, the NIH has supported 73 projects and provided up to \$53 million for Puerto Rico's universities, hospitals, and research centers like Centro Medico in San Juan.

These cuts threaten local programs studying diseases that disproportionately affect Puerto Ricans, like diabetes, Alzheimer's, cancer, and other rare diseases. These cuts will hinder scientific research and progress. These cuts will hinder people's access to healthcare. These cuts will set us back vis-a-vis China and our geopolitical rivals.

The government cannot treat people like numbers on a spreadsheet. We can't cut corners on healthcare and education. We can't fall behind our global rivals. We must protect the NIH.

Now, for the benefit of my constituents, I will repeat my remarks in Spanish.

(Spanish translation of the statement made in English is as follows:)

Señor presidente:

La Administración anunció recientemente recortes drásticos en la financiación de subvenciones federales para universidades, centros médicos y otras instituciones de investigación.

Estos recortes devastarán a nuestros estudiantes, nuestros profesores y nuestros adultos mayores.

Lo que más me preocupa: estos recortes devastarán a Puerto Rico.

¿Por qué?

Los NIH, el objetivo de estos recortes, financian investigaciones médicas cruciales.

Durante el último año, los NIH han apoyado 73 proyectos y proporcionado hasta \$53 millones a universidades, hospitales y centros de investigación en Puerto Rico como el Centro Médico en San Juan.

Estos recortes amenazan programas locales que estudian enfermedades que afectan

desproporcionadamente a los puertorriqueños, como el cáncer, la diabetes, el Alzheimer y otras enfermedades raras.

Estos recortes nos harán retroceder la investigación y el progreso científico.

Estos recortes dificultarán el acceso del pueblo a la atención médica.

Estos recortes nos harán retroceder frente a China y nuestros rivales geopolíticos.

El gobierno no puede tratar a las personas como cifras en una hoja de cálculo.

No podemos recortar en salud y educación.

No podemos quedarnos atrás frente a nuestros rivales globales.

Debemos proteger a los NIH.

HONORING STATEN ISLAND'S BLACK ANGELS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, as our Nation celebrates Black History Month, I rise to honor Staten Island's own Black Angels.

Seventy years ago, tuberculosis plagued our Nation, killing over 1 billion worldwide and accounting for nearly 18 percent of all deaths in New York City alone. Fear of this unknown, highly contagious, and deadly disease led many nurses who were treating tuberculosis patients to quit.

In search of staff, New York City turned to African-American nurses from the Jim Crow south who could not find jobs due to segregation, and 300 women bravely accepted New York City's request to help to serve sick patients, taking advantage of the opportunity for employment in a career field often withheld from them. They became known as the Black Angels.

These nurses selflessly cared for 2,000 patients in my district at Staten Island's Sea View Hospital. They played a significant role in the first ever human trials and the first drug to cure tuberculosis.

Since its discovery in 1952, tens of millions of lives have been saved, and these women all did it at a time when they didn't even have equal rights in our country.

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I am proud to represent the last remaining Black Angel who worked during the trial. Staten Island's Virginia Allen began as a 16-year-old pediatric nurse's aide and worked in the ward for 10 years.

She was there during the clinical trials and is one of the two Black Angels who are still alive today. She continues to selflessly serve our community as president of the North Shore, Staten Island Section of the National Council of Negro Women.

Last year, I honored Virginia, along with Curlene Jennings Bennett, who had later on come to serve at Seaview in 1957 in the adult pavilion.

They, along with their fellow Black Angels, were recognized for their heroic achievements in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in an article that I submitted so they will be applauded and recognized for years to come.

I also hosted them and their families and descendants in my Staten Island office to properly acknowledge the contributions they made to our community.

Also, I am very happy to have worked with our local city councilman, David Carr, to get legislation passed through the council to rename a street outside of Seaview Hospital in their honor. That will soon happen. I thank Councilman David Carr for getting this done so we can unveil it this spring.

Their riveting story is beautifully laid out in the book "The Black Angels: The Untold Story of the Nurses Who Helped Cure Tuberculosis" by Maria Smilios, which I had the opportunity to read last month. I encourage everyone to read this powerful book to learn about this inspiring piece of our Nation's history.

The Black Angels heard the call to arms and boldly, proudly stepped into the hallowed halls of Seaview Hospital with their mission to care for the infirm, knowing they were putting their lives at great risk.

Their story is finally being shared with the world, and it is fitting that we bestow upon them all the accolades that they were deserving then during this Black History Month and each and every day moving forward.

I thank them for their service to Staten Island, to our city, to our Nation, and to the world.

HARMS OF FREEZING FOOD AID

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the administration's decision to pause or end—or as the unelected billionaire Elon Musk said: "Feed into the wood chipper"—government payments for food aid.

The thoughtless plan to shut down or pause the work of the U.S. Agency for International Development, USAID, is wrong for many reasons. It is especially harmful to people around the globe who can starve without this food aid, and it is harmful to the U.S. businesses and American farmers who sell their agricultural products to the U.S. Government.

In 2020, the U.S. Government bought more than \$2 billion in food aid from American farmers, but right now, because of this wrong decision by the administration, there is about 500,000 tons of food, including rice, wheat, and soybeans, at risk of spoiling. Much of it is stockpiled in ports across the country, including about 31,000 tons of food at the port in Houston, Texas, alone. What a truly senseless waste and shameful considering how many people around the globe are food insecure.

My home State of Oregon has a robust agricultural sector. We produce wheat, potatoes, and amazing specialty crops. We export more than 80 percent of our wheat production from Oregon.

The administration's egregious decision has been really harmful, and it is also harmful to national security. This is a national security issue.

The bags of food and the vials of medicine that USAID distributes are labeled "from the American people." That improves our standing in the world, and it keeps us safer because it is common sense to understand that people are much less likely to turn against the United States if we are saving their lives and their families' lives in their country.

This decision also goes beyond USAID because the Trump administration has also paused funding for several programs at the Department of Agriculture that support farmers, food producers, food banks, and people struggling to afford food.

At a time when food prices remain high, something I know our constituents care about, stopping these programs is inhumane and shortsighted.

On behalf of our Oregonian and American farmers, on behalf of those in America who want to retain what is left of our global leadership, I urge the administration to reverse this heartless and harmful decision.

STOPPING BUREAUCRATIC OVER-REACH AND RESTORING LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, what we are dealing with once again is a power grab tracing back to the last administration.

President Biden's administration, before leaving office, put through a whole wave of last-minute regulations knowing they wouldn't have to deal with the consequences themselves.

The EPA led the charge, rolling out extreme rules targeting the production of fuel and electricity, driving up our energy costs even more, hitting American industry and families hard.

The White House also used NEPA, the National Environmental Policy Act, to slow down critical infrastructure and energy projects with excessive red tape, putting politics over progress.

NEPA was also weaponized to stop important timber harvests, which would help prevent wildfire and would help prevent fires like we saw in southern California, if more brush and such was removed and power lines could be moved and upgraded. They ran into one problem after another with NEPA, the Endangered Species Act, et cetera, especially last-minute ones. All through the West, there were last-minute additions to national monuments or wilderness areas. This means pretty much hands off by people going in and being

able to use those areas, whether it is for recreation, for hunting, or for important things like timber management so that we don't have such horrific fires zones that come from Federal lands like that.

Also, there are other important objectives, like being able to find more energy in our vast national reserves and the ability to continue with agriculture—new opportunities to store water for agriculture, as we see pictured here.

With Shasta Dam, in my district in northern California, we have an opportunity to add to that dam and bring another 600,000 acre-feet, which is desperately needed. We keep running into more and more environmental problems brought up by that with the weaponization of NEPA and, again, these last-minute rules done basically at the midnight hour at the last of the Biden administration.

The courts indeed are finding that these are overstepping. A judge recently ruled that the White House Council on Environmental Quality overstepped its authority with its NEPA regulations proving what we already knew. Biden bureaucrats had no problem rewriting the rules to fit their agenda.

Congress, we, the people,—and this is the people's House—need to fight back. We have the ability to do that with one tool known as the Congressional Review Act, which would slow down the efforts of bureaucracies that seem to be more and more unaccountable, by Congress being able to push back and say: No, these rules that you made are out of line.

My colleague ANDY BIGGS from Arizona has brought forth the Midnight Rules Relief Act legislation to the floor so Congress can block multiple last-minute regulations instead of having to do them one at a time. When an outgoing administration uses a scattergun approach with all sorts of bad rules and things that are harmful to the economy and harmful to our water supply, then we need to be able to have that ability to move more quickly in Congress, as well. That is why the Midnight Rules Relief Act is going to be important.

For example, what does this mean for individuals? We have one example here that my colleague HARRIET HAGEMAN from Wyoming is helping DUSTY JOHNSON in South Dakota with. There is a 75-year-old fence dispute there on ranchland that the Forest Service is adjacent to.

Instead of just resolving it, the Forest Service and the Department of Justice are coming in and threatening giant, 10-year sentences in prison and \$250,000 fines, when the solution would be just getting a land survey done and solving the dispute on where the fence line is supposed to be. They are trying to intimidate people into giving up their rights on their property.

We see time and again people with stock ponds and watering holes that