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RECOGNIZING MARY KRINKIE

(Mrs. FISCHBACH of Minnesota was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the distinguished career of Mary Krinkie.

For 25 years, Mary has served as the vice president of government relations at the Minnesota Hospital Association. She is widely regarded as one of the most persuasive voices for Minnesota's healthcare systems and patient care.

I have had the honor to work with her on various issues, both here in Congress and in the Minnesota State Senate. Her dedication to the healthcare community has left a permanent mark on Minnesota.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mary for her decades of service, and I wish her a long, happy, and well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING RICHARD "DICK" PESEK

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a distinguished member of the Minnesota agricultural community.

I congratulate Dick Pesek of Taunton, Minnesota, who has been named the Minnesota 2025 Cattleman of the Year. This honor is well-deserved recognition for his decades of hard work, dedication to the livestock industry, and deep commitment to his community.

We commend Mr. Pesek for upholding the best traditions of American agriculture.

RECOGNIZING JILIAN SCHOENFELD AND BRAYDEN VANDYKE

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jilian Schoenfeld and Brayden VanDyke from Russell-Tyler-Ruthon High School for their first-place finishes at the FFA Winter Leadership Summit.

Jilian placed first in the employment skills competition, and Brayden placed first in the English creed speaking event. Their hard work and commitment are a credit to their school and community.

I congratulate Jilian and Brayden on their victories.

IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT AND SCHOOLS

(Ms. BONAMICI of Oregon was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my profound opposition to this administration's aggressive and cruel immigration enforcement actions, especially targeting students and parents near schools.

Throughout the last year, the Trump administration's hard-line immigration enforcement campaign has terrorized communities and created an environment where many students don't even feel safe going to school.

Children can't learn when they are living in constant fear.

At a townhall meeting last year, a fourth grade student, a 10-year-old, gave me a handwritten letter saying that she was afraid that ICE was going to come into her school and take her friends.

Children may not understand the complexities of the immigration system, but they know that masked people indiscriminately kidnapping people off the street is wrong and terrifying.

In July, a Beaverton, Oregon, father was dropping off his child at preschool. With his child in the car, ICE surrounded him, traumatizing the child, other parents, and preschool teachers. ICE then arrested the father within sight of the school.

In October, two Oregon high school students were at a drive-through coffee shop near their school. They were surrounded by multiple ICE agents who were pointing guns at them. That is terrifying, outrageous, and obviously dangerous.

At a recent city council meeting, an Oregon high school student bravely shared his concerns and the concerns of his peers, especially those who cannot speak up for themselves because they are too afraid. This compassionate student has been raising money to help people in his community whose lives are being torn apart by this administration's immigration enforcement tactics.

Mr. Speaker, hundreds of students across northwest Oregon have bravely protested the ongoing immigration enforcement that is happening in their communities, and I am grateful for their acts of peaceful protest that are calling attention to these injustices.

The reality is that too many students are afraid to leave their homes, even to go to school. At a time when chronic absenteeism is at a record high, more students are switching to attending school online if they can because they don't feel safe, or they stop going altogether.

A small school district in northwest Oregon told me that more than 150 students have withdrawn this year, an increase of 120 since this time last year. It is likely that most of them left school because they are afraid of ICE. Statewide, it is estimated that more than 10,000 students are now unaccounted for.

Recently, the Department of Homeland Security claimed that the media is force-feeding the public stories about parents and children being afraid to return to school. This is categorically untrue. Despite what the Department of Homeland Security wants people to believe, ICE is creating significant levels of fear, including around schools.

Mr. Speaker, this is not about targeting criminals. It is about targeting, arresting, and detaining people because of their national origin or the color of their skin. This ought to send chills down the spines of everyone in this body and this country.

As someone who has dedicated years of my career to education and striving

to create a better future for children, I am appalled but, sadly, not surprised that this administration continues to terrorize children, using the same playbook as when they separated families at the border.

Let me be clear: According to the United States Supreme Court, all children, regardless of their immigration status, have the right to attend public schools. The ICE tactics that we are seeing of targeting students and families will have lasting effects on children and families, and they will cause generational trauma.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to show some empathy and kindness. Work with us to protect sensitive locations. Work with us on humane immigration reform. We cannot allow these abuses of power and these lawless actions to continue.

Let's put an end to this ugly chapter in our country's history and do better for our Nation and our children.

TAX RELIEF FOR WORKING FAMILIES

(Mr. BAUMGARTNER of Washington was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate \$181 million in rural healthcare funding for the State of Washington.

Not long ago, right here in this Chamber, I joined my House Republican colleagues to pass the Working Families Tax Cut Act, the largest tax cut in American history.

When we voted for this, we also voted for a new rural healthcare fund, and \$181 million of this rural healthcare fund will go to transforming Washington State. This is just the first round of funding, part of a 5-year, \$50 billion commitment to rural health transformation.

This is \$181 million to keep our rural hospitals' doors open, upgrade critical infrastructure, expand access to emergency care, protect maternal health, and strengthen Tribal health services.

Rural Washington is one of the best places in America to live, work, and raise a family, and this investment means more doctors, nurses, stable hospitals, and peace of mind for the people who grow our food, power our grid, and keep our communities strong.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support this historic tax relief and this transformational funding.

BABY JAY SETS WASHINGTON STATE'S PECKING ORDER

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a special tradition of the congressional delegation of Washington State.

Just 1 year ago, I was sworn in to the 119th Congress and welcomed as one of the two new members of the Washington congressional delegation. If you are wondering why I have an oil painting of a baby chick next to me right now, I will tell you that it is about one of the most charming traditions of our Washington delegation.

“The Chick” was bought at a charity fundraiser and presented to then-Congressman Joel Pritchard as a gift to his office in the early 1970s.

Congressman Pritchard, as the story goes, wasn’t too fond of the painting. In true Washington fashion, he decided that the honorable way to handle it was to regift the baby chick to the next new member of the Washington delegation.

As such, he passed it on to Congressman Norman Dicks in 1976, and it then went to Congressman Mike Lowry in 1979. It has been passed down ever since, with each new Member from Washington State signing the back before giving it to the next new, proud owner.

The only Congressman who didn’t sign it was then-Congressman Jay Inslee, and Congressman Inslee then lost his election.

Mr. Speaker, when I was gifted “The Chick,” I decided to give it a proper name: “Baby Jay.” As I prepare to part ways with “Baby Jay” to my Washington State colleague EMILY RANDALL, I share this lighthearted piece of Washington delegation history and the spirit of continuity and camaraderie that it represents with the House today.

RECOGNIZING KIRBY MOORE

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the new football coach of Washington State University, Coach Kirby Moore.

Just before the holidays, WSU hired Kirby Moore, a Washington native, as our new head coach. Kirby Moore is young, hungry, and armed with an impressive coaching resume. Coach Moore is ready to lead the Cougs to new heights in his first head coaching role.

Kirby grew up going to Cougar football games. Kirby said: “For me, this is home. We’ve got grandparents in Palouse. We’ve got aunts in Pullman, aunts in Spokane. My parents just built a house in the Tri-Cities, so there’s some incredible memories for my kids.” They are the same memories that he grew up with.

Mr. Speaker, as such, I welcome Coach Kirby Moore back to the Palouse, back home, and I look forward to his leadership of our crimson and gray. Go Cougs.

RECOGNIZING SISTER MARY JESUS OCHOA ON HER CENTENNIAL BIRTHDAY

(Ms. RIVAS of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sister Mary Jesus Ochoa of the Order of St. Francis in San Fernando. This week, she celebrated her 100th birthday.

Sister Mary Jesus is a member of the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, who entered religious life in the 1940s. She has spent decades supporting our most vulnerable across the San Fernando Valley and in Mexico.

During her service, she worked with children and families in need, empha-

sizing care, stability, and long-term support.

Sister Mary Jesus played a key leadership role at the Poverello of Assisi Retreat House in San Fernando. There, she helped provide retreat services, community support, and housing for young women and children.

When earthquakes caused major damage to the retreat house and the surrounding buildings, Sister Mary Jesus led the rebuilding efforts to make sure that services were not interrupted for those who need it the most.

Sister Mary Jesus’ work reflects steady leadership, resilience in times of crisis, and a clear commitment to serving others with dignity and purpose.

I wish Sister Mary Jesus a happy 100th birthday. The San Fernando Valley is grateful for her dedication to helping our community.

FUNDING TO REBUILD AFTER WILDFIRES

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, here we are in the first voting week of 2026, and Republicans are bringing up bills on showerheads. They are not doing anything to address the affordability crisis, ICE terrorizing our communities, Trump’s illegal and unconstitutional actions in Venezuela, or other states of emergency. They have not done so during this Congress, even during the Los Angeles wildfires, which broke out 1 year ago today.

These fires destroyed 16,000 structures, displaced over 200,000 residents, and took 31 lives. The bravery of firefighters from across the country, who worked tirelessly to put out the fires and minimize damage, will not be forgotten.

While the fires caused great destruction and devastation, the strength and resilience of our neighbors coming together for our communities were on full display.

Mr. Speaker, 1 year later, communities across Los Angeles County are continuing to work toward rebuilding their lives and livelihoods. As communities work toward a return to normal times, we need to minimize the long-term health consequences that wildfire debris may have on communities, especially in communities like mine in the San Fernando Valley.

My district is housing several disposal sites for wildfire debris. As debris is being transported and stored throughout the valley, I have been adamant about making sure that my constituents are not subjected to the long-term health effects that they have traditionally been forced to bear.

Recovery from these wildfires asks us to look ahead to make sure that when natural disasters strike, everyone can be prepared to recover equally. This is a core tenet of environmental justice. We must invest in resources that allow communities and families to recover and rebuild their lives after disasters. This includes advocating for solutions that are informed by the voices of those who are most affected by climate disasters.

Los Angeles has made progress in recovery, but we still have a long way to go. This is why my California Democratic Caucus colleagues and I are urging the Trump administration to deliver nearly \$34 billion in disaster funding to help Californians recover. This includes funding that supports rebuilding homes and schools, restoring critical road and water systems, reopening small businesses, and helping communities achieve lasting wildfire resilience.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue to push to make sure that residents in my district and across Los Angeles County have every Federal resource available to them to rebuild their lives. Let us continue to rebuild with equity, care, and courage so that our communities are safer, healthier, and more resilient for everyone.

□ 1030

HONORING THE SERVICE OF COLONEL PATRICK FLOOD

(Mr. BACON of Nebraska was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Patrick Flood, United States Air Force retired, who recently departed the House of Representatives as our deputy chief of staff and national security advisor after more than 39 years of Federal service.

Colonel Flood comes from a family with a distinguished record of Federal and military service dating back to the American Civil War.

Born in Baltimore, Colonel Flood was raised in Ohio and entered military service at the age of 18. He was nominated in 1986 to attend the United States Air Force Academy by Representative Ralph Regula of Ohio’s 16th Congressional District.

A distinguished graduate of the Academy, Pat established an early reputation for excellence in military leadership, academics, and athletics.

In his senior year at the Academy, Flood commanded Cadet Squadron 33 and was honored as one of the top squadron commanders in the cadet wing.

As a commissioned officer, Colonel Flood’s remarkable career spanned more than 26 years in the combat air forces and special operations communities. Serving in nearly every major U.S. military operation since 1991, Colonel Flood deployed for operations Southern Watch, Provide Comfort II, Deny Flight/Provide Promise, Uphold Democracy, Enduring Freedom, and Odyssey Dawn.

His distinguished record also includes two tours of duty in Korea with service as a corridor patrol officer for the eastern demilitarized zone, service as a continuity of operations officer for the Air Force Chief of Staff during the 9/11 attacks on the Pentagon, and aviation duty as an RC-135 crewmember flying long-range combat operations over Afghanistan.