

The birth of the Scottish Rite dates back to 1801 when the Supreme Court of the 33rd Degree for the United States of America and the first Supreme Council in the world was established.

The Scottish Rite of Freemasonry seeks to better its members and strengthen their communities by teaching and promoting brotherly love, tolerance, and truth. The Rite embraces strong social, moral, and spiritual values that include compassion and dedication to God, family, and country.

These monuments serve as symbols of all the values the Scottish Rite stands for.

I thank the generous donors: Illustrious Brother Albert Nelson, Jr., and Lady Nellie; Dr. and Sir Knight James Arnold and Lady Barbara; Illustrious Brother Charles White and Lady Nordene; and Brother Morgan Derst and Lady Pam for their kind contributions.

#### HONORING SCIENCE TEACHER BILL ESWINE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize science teacher Bill Eswine, who has decided to retire at the end of the school year after 54 years of service to Savannah Country Day School.

Mr. Eswine was originally hired in 1972, and through his enthusiasm, adaptability, and love for teaching has taught science to generations of children. His impact is visible across the school's campus in the Savannah community, serving as director of the Coastal Ecology Camp and caretaker to various campus educational gardens.

Beyond Country Day, Mr. Eswine has been recognized as Teacher of the Year and honored by organizations such as Garden Club of America, the Georgia Independent School Association, and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. His commitment to education and fondness for learning has made a lasting difference in Savannah.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mr. Eswine on a well-earned retirement.

#### HONORING EXCEPTIONAL WORK OF STAFF

(Mr. DESAULNIER of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the dedicated work of the staff that I get to work with and who work for me.

Mr. Speaker, I have served my community in the Bay Area as a city council member, a mayor, a county supervisor, State assembly member, a State senator, and now as a Member of the House of Representatives. In all of those years, one of the keys to our success and our engagement has been the dedicated public servants who have worked for me in all of those capacities. They are the people I will talk about today.

At community centers, healthcare clinics, schools, small businesses,

townhalls, and more, our staff and I have encountered tens of thousands of Californians.

At these stops, I heard from families across California 10 about the urgent need to lower the cost of living and make everyday essentials more affordable. I heard from healthcare providers and patients about the looming harm of cuts from the big, ugly bill to Medicaid, called Medi-Cal in California, and the Affordable Care Act. I heard from students and teachers about the growing need for Federal support for education and specifically for special education.

I heard from seniors worried about threats to their Social Security and Medicare. Overwhelmingly, I heard from constituents about the deep concerns of the actions of the current administration, both here in our communities, in our country, and abroad.

Day in and day out, our team and I answered phones and read constituent emails and letters. Over the past year, we registered and responded to more than 170,000 constituent opinions in our district. When constituents call our offices here in Washington, in Walnut Creek, California, and Antioch, California, they speak to real people. We answer the phone. Sometimes that person is even me, which has led to some interesting conversations. Every single constituent receives a written response quickly.

One of the statistics that I am most proud of this year is that we hosted 23 townhalls. Under the lawlessness and the chaos of the current administration, townhalls and community meetings are more crucial than ever. Since coming to Congress, I have hosted almost 300 community townhalls. In 2025, we hosted more townhalls than in any prior year and connected with thousands of constituents across our community at these events.

Outside of townhalls, our team is still crisscrossing our district. They attended more than 370 community events in 2025 alone.

Sometimes, the only time people ever interact with their congressional Member's offices is because they need help desperately with a Federal agency. We are the last people they call desperately for help. Thanks to our case-work team's compassion and persistence, we helped nearly 1,500 constituents in 2025, assisting with everything from immigration to Social Security.

Here in Washington, D.C., our legislative team was also hard at work. Last year, I authored 11 pieces of legislation and sponsored more than 200 bills. We used all of the tools at our disposal to hold the administration accountable in sending a voice for our constituents from 3,000 miles away here to this Chamber, sending dozens of oversight inquiries, joining amicus briefs, and more to protect our constituents.

Mr. Speaker, Tip O'Neill famously once said: "All politics is local." I thank my staff for living that admonition from Speaker O'Neill.

Altogether, I hope this work helps people back home see that this House, Congress, even in the minority with this administration, can work hard for you. I look forward to continuing to serve you this coming year.

#### ICE'S TERRORIZATION ACROSS AMERICA

(Mrs. McCLAIN DELANEY of Maryland was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. McCLAIN DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as tensions across this country and in this very Chamber have reached a boiling point.

Yesterday, many of us, freshmen Members like myself and those Members with decades in this Chamber, faced one of the hardest votes any of us will ever take. We were forced to decide on a vote on a bill that bundled funding for ICE and DHS with the remainder of our government appropriations.

This is because we all know, Republicans and Democrats alike, that this administration is using ICE as a taxpayer-funded paramilitary force that is holding itself above the law with no transparency, accountability, or guardrails.

We see the carnage every day and the consequences everywhere. Federal immigration agents are terrorizing our communities, including last month in Minnesota, where two 37-year-olds, both Renee Good and Alex Pretti, were killed in separate shootings during the 9-week siege and occupation of Minnesota.

□ 1145

Now, 2 weeks ago, I traveled with 27 other House Members to Minnesota to a field hearing to hear firsthand the accounts from the victims and the advocates about ICE's abuses. I was jarred, and I am still troubled by their testimonies, including vans set up to stop all passersby for their papers; the dragging of a pregnant woman through the streets; the seizure of an elderly grandmother with asylum, pulled from her car and leaving two grandchildren in a running car, in ice cold temperatures, in the back seat; the shackling and detention of observers who merely honked their horn or blew whistles or took pictures; and detention holding pens of up to 50 people without adequate food, water, or bathroom breaks.

Now, I stand with Minnesota because what is happening in Minnesota has cruel consequences everywhere, including in my home State of Maryland. In my district, Maryland's Sixth, the administration covertly just acquired a \$2 million warehouse in Williamsport to build a 1,500-bed processing center with no public or congressional input.

ICE Acting Director Todd Lyons likens these warehouses in Williamsport and nationwide to Amazon Prime facilities but for living human beings.

Let me be clear: People are not packages. Let me say it again. People are

not packages. I stand with Governor Moore and Maryland's Democratic delegation to fight these plans, and I laud community leaders and those across the U.S. who are mobilizing to block these warehouses and other detention centers which are really private prisons.

A viral video surfaced showing ungodly conditions within ICE's Baltimore field office, a facility where my Sixth District constituents and other Marylanders are being detained.

For over 2 months, I sought to gain access to this facility to conduct a congressional oversight tour to see my constituents. Last Friday, after multiple unexplained cancellations by ICE, I finally gained access. What I found was truly disturbing. My team and I are still processing the horrendous conditions we saw in a holding site for temporary detention of 12 hours but which stretched for multiple days.

Detainees had precious little due process. They were forced to sleep on thin mats with foil blankets. They had a communal sink and toilet. I saw individuals behind thick walls signaling, rubbing their bellies, because they were hungry.

After pressing ICE, I also confirmed that the viral video was true. I asked to also speak with these detainees, but they would not allow me.

But I refuse to stay silent. In this Chamber, we have to unite around a shared principle. We all want our laws and immigration laws to be enforced but transparently, fairly, humanely, and in accordance with our values.

I want to make clear where I stand. I did not and will not vote on any bill that funds ICE until the American people and Congress have clear answers and meaningful change.

What we need is transparency and accountability, starting with the impeachment of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem. Time and again, she has proved her incompetency.

I am also joining with my colleagues to cosponsor legislation, including banning ICE agents from wearing masks, requiring body cams for law enforcement agencies, and not deporting American citizens, as well as respecting constitutional laws and due process. These are commonsense measures we all should and must support.

In closing, this is not about values but who we are as a country. On my exit from the ICE Baltimore facility, a career DHS employee said: This is not who I am but what I do. I retorted: What we do is who we are.

Our country deserves transparency, humanity, and a respect for our constitutional laws and individual rights. I hope my Republican colleagues have the courage to stand up. Enough is enough.

#### TRUMP TAX CUTS FOR FAMILIES

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as the April tax deadline approaches, I am grateful that millions of Americans will keep larger tax cuts thanks to President Donald Trump signing the Working Families Tax Cut Act into law.

Based on the great law, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, average tax refunds are projected to rise \$1,000 this year in tax savings, with families keeping their own money.

These savings come from no tax on tips, no tax on overtime, no tax on Social Security for most recipients, and a deduction for made-in-America auto loan interest.

With the leadership of President Donald Trump and with the leadership of Speaker MIKE JOHNSON and Senate Majority Leader JOHN THUNE, Republicans allow families, workers, and seniors to keep their own earnings.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Trump is reinstating peace through strength, revealing war criminal Putin lies insulting Trump and mocking Trump as this is Ukraine Week across America and around the world, supporting Ukrainian patriots successfully succeeding as they keep and defend a sovereign Ukraine, defeating war criminal Putin from resurrecting the failed Soviet Union, as we also support the adoption and promotion of fair and free elections in the Republic of Georgia.

We rejoice for the people of Syria that the Assad dictatorship has been removed, and we thank President Donald Trump for his leadership to remove the dictatorship in Venezuela of Maduro. The people of Venezuela now have an opportunity for freedom and liberty. The people of Syria, because of Donald Trump, have been given a chance.

It is an exciting time in world history, as we have a President who stands up for freedom and democracy, for peace through strength.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EDWARDS). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 50 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

In all things, O Lord, we rejoice, for our joy is not found in anything we do

or any good fortune that comes our way. Our joy is found in Your abiding presence, which remains with us through both good times and bad, the successes and the challenges we face. We rejoice always, for the joy we find in You, O Lord, is our strength.

May our prayers prove as constant as Your promises. Not just in these sacred moments of devotion or during the all-too-occasional seasons of distress, but may we pray continually, acknowledging that You are the source of even the smallest blessings, the hope to be found in every moment.

In this certainty, may we have reason to give thanks in all circumstances, in every situation we encounter this day, in every opportunity we enjoy, and in every disappointment we endure, acknowledging that it is Your will, Your divine desire that we trust in Your provision for us and in Your presence with us in our everyday lives.

Believing in Your power and claiming the assurance that is ours when we call on Your name, we pray.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. MORELLE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MORELLE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### RECOGNIZING AMERICAN HEART MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize American Heart Month, observed every February, to raise awareness about cardiovascular health.

The first CPR training occurred in the early 1960s. In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson proclaimed February American Heart Month to make heart disease and cardiac arrest prevention a national priority.

Since its formation, the American Heart Association has been helping