

kids' futures brighter, and our government hasn't done the same. Millions of young Americans have done exactly what has been asked of them, but our country isn't returning the favor.

Fewer children than ever outearn their parents. The average age of a first-time home buyer is 40 years old, which is at an all-time high, and things feel too costly. Opportunity feels too scarce.

I think Americans need to start believing in young people, and that is exactly why I introduced my K-30 agenda. The legislation takes key common-sense steps to make a difference, from investing in rural schools and supporting our teachers to cutting red tape for small businesses and revitalizing rural economies.

Mr. Speaker, this isn't about politics. It is about building a foundation to empower America's next generation and showing them that we have their backs.

MARKING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF COASTAL AREA DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Coastal Area District Development Authority, CADDA, as it proudly marks its 50th anniversary.

CADDA was founded in 1976 with a modest grant from the Economic Development Administration, immediately saving critical seafood processing plants and jobs in coastal Georgia.

From those humble beginnings, CADDA has grown into a powerhouse of economic opportunity, heavily contributing to Georgia's status as the best State to do business for 12 consecutive years.

Over five decades, this nonprofit has delivered more than 1,340 small business loans, investing \$526 million in coastal communities. These efforts have created and preserved more than 9,300 jobs across coastal Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina.

I thank CADDA for their steady commitment to expanding access to capital and building stronger communities.

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP FOR YONKERS MAYOR MIKE SPANO

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano as he continues into the 15th year of his leadership as chief executive of Westchester's largest city and the third largest city in the State of New York, Yonkers.

Mayor Spano is the longest currently serving mayor of a major city in New

York State, guiding a municipality of over 200,000 residents and running the largest police department, fire department, sanitation department, parks and recreation programs, senior citizen centers, every area of municipal services, and more.

Mike and I served side by side in the Westchester County Board of Legislators, and we worked together in the New York State Assembly.

As mayor of the largest local government, we worked closely together during my tenure as Westchester County Executive on a myriad of programs, from reducing crime to improving green spaces for all to enjoy.

Mayor Spano has shepherded the improvement of Yonkers' public education programs with higher graduation rates and new school construction. He has shepherded an economic development boom in the city, including, among other things, an expansion of the film industry, giving Yonkers the nickname of Hollywood on the Hudson. Mayor Spano has overseen the expansion of housing, both affordable and market rate, attracting new residents.

From the floor of the House of Representatives, I salute a leader who proves that government can still work and achieve for everyone when led by a true leader.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mike Spano for his service.

HONORING LIFE AND SERVICE OF GRANT WARD

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

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and service of my dear friend, Sergeant Grant Ward, a respected leader within the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

Grant passed away on February 1 following a long and extremely courageous battle with cancer.

Grant was also the longtime president of the San Bernardino County Safety Employees Benefit Association. In that role, he was a tireless advocate for strengthening the relationship between our county's leaders and the first responders whom he represented.

I can unequivocally say that Grant was one of the finest public servants whom I have ever had the privilege to know. He was a true servant-leader, always putting the wants and needs of the people whom he represented above his own.

Grant was also a tireless advocate for the public service officers whom he represented. He strengthened collective bargaining within the county. He improved legal protections for officers, expanded member services, and ensured that the voices of law enforcement were heard at every level of our government.

Godspeed to my friend, Grant, who I will dearly miss.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF TERRY WOOLARD

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

Mrs. McIVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Principal Terry Woolard, a dedicated leader in Essex County education for 34 years.

Terry served for decades as an educator in New Jersey. In the South Orange-Maplewood School District, he was first the director of information technology, then acting principal of the Alternative School at Montrose, and later an assistant principal at Columbia High School.

Terry was also the president of the American School Counselor Association for many years. In his most recent position, he was the principal of Hillside High School.

When he passed away in December, Mr. Woolard left a lasting legacy in each school community and organization where he served. Mr. Woolard believed deeply in the potential of every student and was known for his unwavering care for others.

We are also grateful for his contributions to the district and the impact left on the lives of New Jersey students.

□ 1920

CELEBRATING SPARKY'S DINER

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

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a true Hudson Valley institution, Sparky's in Garnerville, New York, as it marks its 50th anniversary on February 13, 2026.

Since 1976, Sparky's has become more than a place to grab breakfast or lunch. It is a gathering place for generations of families, friends, and neighbors across Haverstraw and Rockland County. Opened by Louie and Jeannie Nicolakis, Sparky's was built on hard, long hours, and a simple but powerful idea: to create a place where everyone feels welcome. Louie and Jeannie invested everything they had into this vision, and the community has been better for it ever since.

After Louie's passing, Jeannie carried that legacy forward, devoting her life to serving her customers and giving back to the community, eventually being recognized with New York State's Empire Award in 2019 for her community contributions, one of the highest honors for a small business.

For 50 years, Sparky's has been a place where everyone is treated like family, where stories are shared over coffee, and kindness is always on the menu.

I congratulate Jeannie and everyone at Sparky's Diner on this incredible milestone and wish them many more years of success serving the Hudson Valley, and I look forward to coming

back for another coffee, eggs, bacon, and toast.

CELEBRATING TARTA'S 55TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, let me celebrate a hometown institution that keeps northwest Ohio moving: the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority proudly marking 55 years of service, half a century plus 5.

Voters approved creation of the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority on January 19, 1971, to connect opportunity and dignity for neighbors who depend on reliable transportation.

TARTA has linked workers to jobs, seniors to medical care, students to education, families to first ball games, family and class reunions, and everyday life. TARTA truly moves people where they need to go affordably.

TARTA has led with innovation, launching paratransit service, on-demand microtransit, Ohio's only Certified Autism Center designation, and deploying electric vehicles.

New Federal investments enabled by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law allow TARTA to modernize its fleet, add zero-emission buses and charging infrastructure, strengthen safety, training, and create good-paying, local jobs.

This year, we honor the drivers, mechanics, planners, and riders who make the system thrive. May the next generation yield more affordable, safer, accessible, and better connected transportation for northwest Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, I salute TARTA at 55.

RECOGNIZING LEHIGH VALLEY HOSPITAL-DICKSON CITY

(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 recognize the incredible response to the fire at Lehigh Hospital-Dickson City last Wednesday night.

Thanks to the quick action of hospital staff and first responders, every patient and staff member was safely evacuated and relocated, many to nearby hospitals, including Regional Hospital of Scranton, Wilkes-Barre General, Geisinger CMC, and Geisinger Wyoming Valley.

What could have been a devastating crisis instead showed the best of northeastern Pennsylvania. First responders and hospital teams from across the region stayed calm, worked together, and made sure every patient was safe.

Our team monitored the situation from the district and our congressional office throughout the night, staying in constant contact with the White House, CMS, hospital leadership, State officials, and local responders to make

sure that everyone had the support they needed.

As Lehigh Valley-Dickson City begins to recover, my office will continue working alongside hospital leadership and local partners, providing any help needed to get the facility back on its feet.

This is what NEPA does. We look out for our neighbors, and we take care of one another.

AFFORDABILITY CRISIS

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, eastern North Carolinians deserve a thriving economy where hard work is truly rewarded. Sadly, too many residents face rising costs, housing, healthcare, and everyday essentials.

However, I believe we can change this situation. By investing in local businesses, we can create good-paying jobs. Picture, if you would, a future where no one has to choose between paying their rent or mortgage and buying groceries. Imagine a future where healthcare is accessible and where our seniors can live with dignity.

No matter our political affiliations, we must come together to strengthen eastern North Carolina's economy. We must advocate for policies that support sustainable jobs and growth. It is time to reclaim our future.

FREEDOM 250 GRAND PRIX

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

Mr. SHREVE. Mr. Speaker, this August, Washington will hear a sound we know well in Indiana, the roar of IndyCar engines.

The Freedom 250 Grand Prix will bring IndyCar to our Nation's Capital as we mark 250 years of American ingenuity.

IndyCar was born in my hometown of Indianapolis. It is rooted in a tradition that goes back more than a century, built by American workers, American engineers, and American manufacturers.

IndyCar reflects who we Hoosiers are: competitive, inventive, always pushing forward. I will be honest, Washington could use a little less gridlock and a little more green flag.

This event isn't simply a race. It is a statement. America leads. America builds. America innovates.

This August, we will put that on display at 200 miles an hour right here in our Nation's Capital.

Mr. Speaker and ladies and gentlemen of the House, let's prepare to start our engines.

WHO SHOULD BE DEPORTED

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

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, if you were paying attention since we last met, more and more politicians or officials are weighing in on who should be deported to our southern border.

I want to emphasize that the American people have to stand up and say that if you are coming here illegally, you should be deported. There are some people I think are apparently for limited amnesty or no immigration laws at all and say we should only be deporting people who have broken the law. Obviously, that would mean that if the only law you have broken is coming here in the first place, probably 98 or 99 percent of the 8 million people who entered under Joe Biden would be able to stay.

I implore ICE to deport people who are here illegally. If they want to single out somebody in addition to the worst of the worst on criminal behavior, they can go after people getting public benefits, which is also illegal, and they should be removed immediately.

Mr. Speaker, in any event, we should enforce our laws.

□ 1930

PAYING HOMAGE TO THE BLACK MEN AND WOMEN OF THE ARMED FORCES

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. CLYBURN of South Carolina was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VAN EPPS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina? There was no objection.

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to join with my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus to pay homage to the Black men and women of our Armed Forces whose service and sacrifices have far too often gone unrecognized and underappreciated. To make matters worse, they have often been denied their proper and well-deserved benefits as veterans who proudly served our Nation.

There has been no war or conflict in which this country has been involved that Blacks did not participate. The men and women we are honoring tonight, as we commemorate the 100th year of celebrating Black history, made memorable and consequential contributions to the greatness of this country. It should not be insulting to any red-blooded American to hear about them, read about them, and learn about them in the same manner that we learn about others whose contributions were similar, but their skin color made them more worthy.