

Drawing on nearly two decades of combined Active-Duty and Air National Guard service, he elevated the CRTC's role in preparing warfighters for great power competition.

Under his leadership, the center continued hosting quarterly large force exercises, training specialists in theater-deployable communications, and delivering exclusive cross-demand training from Charleston to Orlando.

His vision has solidified the CRTC as a vital national asset for the Air Force, Air National Guard, Reserves, and other partners.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Colonel Thomas for ensuring global air readiness and dominance. We wish him and his family a fulfilling retirement.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF GEORGE  
WHITTENBURG

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of George Whittenburg, a bright young man taken from us far too soon following a tragic car accident on January 30.

George was a 21-year-old student at the University of Georgia from Austin, Texas. He was a beloved son, brother, cousin, and friend whose infectious spirit touched countless lives.

Through his involvement in Sigma Phi Epsilon and Cru, a religious organization at the University of Georgia, George exemplified faith, leadership, and kindness. His friends would describe him as smart, confident, and a source of comedic relief, a Christlike man who overcame personal struggles to inspire others toward ministry and service.

George's personal growth and friendship have left a lasting impact on the Athens community, with thousands praying for him following the accident.

Mr. Speaker, our hearts ache for this loss. I pray for the Whittenburg family and all who knew him. May God's perfect plan bring them comfort.

FUNDING FOR LOS ANGELES

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

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to deliver over \$2 million in Federal funding to the city of Los Angeles' Crisis and Incident Response through Community-Led Engagement program, or CIRCLE.

CIRCLE is a 24/7 unarmed response program that sends a team of mental health professionals and individuals to address nonurgent LAPD calls relating to the homeless population.

Through the use of this Federal funding, CIRCLE will now expand to more communities in my district, including North Hollywood and Sun Valley.

By meeting people where they are, CIRCLE helps prevent crises from escalating and connects individuals with the service and long-term support that they need.

The safety and prosperity of communities in the San Fernando Valley are

among my most critical priorities. I am working with stakeholders and leaders across my district to ensure that all people feel safe and welcome in my district.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to bring these resources that will improve mental health and address substance abuse within the homeless population.

FUNDING FOR AUTODESK TECHNOLOGY  
ENGAGEMENT CENTER

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to secure over \$1 million in Federal funding for the CSUN's Autodesk Technology Engagement Center.

This center will be a tech hub where students and our community will be able to explore their curiosities in STEM through hands-on learning opportunities.

These funds will allow the center to purchase cutting-edge tools and equipment for their discovery lab, Student Success Center, and other state-of-the-art technology.

As challenges continue to plague our country, including climate disasters and health-related threats, it is important that we understand how STEM can be used to solve these issues. As an engineer and former STEM educator, I have seen firsthand what can be done when we provide accessible STEM education resources to communities with diverse backgrounds.

For over 65 years, CSUN has provided students across the San Fernando Valley with the educational opportunities that they need to succeed in our world.

With the funding I was able to help secure for the Autodesk Technology Engagement Center, CSUN will be able to continue preparing students for the workforce.

I am confident that with this support, students will feel encouraged to pursue careers in STEM and create innovative solutions to solve the demands of our ever-changing world.

FUNDING FOR LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE  
CYBERSECURITY CENTER

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to deliver \$1 million in Federal funding to Los Angeles Valley College for a new cybersecurity center.

This funding will provide the latest software and training for our current and future cybersecurity professionals to engage with.

Cybersecurity is one of the fastest growing career fields in California and across the country. In fact, California has promoted a statewide initiative to train 50,000 entry-level cybersecurity professionals by 2030. The expansion of STEM education in my district will help close equity gaps and barriers that traditionally exist.

Meeting the demand for careers in cybersecurity not only boosts our workforce but also ensures that the United States remains a global leader.

Cybersecurity education needs to be accessible, and this center will foster those opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds to gain experience from those who are in the cybersecurity field. It also ensures that our

workforce is better equipped to prevent cybersecurity threats to our key infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with LA Valley College to continue paving pathways for students to access high-paying, in-demand careers.

CONGRATULATING ELLEN  
LAMPTON

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

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ellen Lampton of Perham on her National Service Honor award. This prestigious award, presented by Helper Helper, is reserved for individuals who embody the very best of civic responsibility.

Since 2022 alone, Ellen has dedicated over 1,000 hours of service across nearly 300 separate volunteer commitments.

Whether she is volunteering at the Perham Living gift shop, assisting with local bake sales, or spending countless hours calling bingo games for residents, Ellen's presence is a constant source of joy and stability.

Ellen's service goes far beyond mere numbers. It is defined by what her neighbors describe as a spirit of generosity, leadership, and deep compassion.

Mr. Speaker, as her colleagues at Perham Health and Perham Living can attest, volunteers like Ellen are the heartbeat of our rural communities. Her dedication reminds us all of the difference one person can make when they lead with heart and faith.

HONORING DAVE BLANCHARD

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding educator and mentor, Dave Blanchard, who was recently honored by the Prairie Conference for 27 years of dedicated service to the Long Prairie-Grey Eagle School community.

For nearly three decades, Dave has been the definition of stepping up whenever needed. In addition to being a cornerstone of LPGE's English department, he has served as a coach for football, volleyball, and baseball, and as the National Honor Society and One Act Play adviser.

As the LPGE director recently noted, Dave's positive presence and willingness to serve have made a lasting impact on generations of students and staff. He is a reminder that the success of our school depends not just on what happens in the classroom but on the selfless dedication of those who support our students in every area of their lives.

CONGRATULATING BROCK NELSON

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brock Nelson from Warroad, Minnesota, on his selection to the 2026 U.S. Olympic men's ice hockey team.

Throughout his career, Brock has defined himself through quiet leadership

and an unwavering work ethic. Whether on the ice for the Avalanche or representing the Stars and Stripes, he carries the spirit of the state of hockey with him.

Mr. Speaker, the Nation, and especially the folks back home in Warroad, are rooting for him. We look forward to watching him lead Team USA to victory.

#### PRICES ARE TOO HIGH

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

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, prices are too high. Under Trump's economy, Americans are paying more. Just the other day, Trump said he is very proud of this economy. Americans cannot afford this Trump economy.

The nonpartisan Tax Foundation has said that under the watch of Trump and Republicans, the U.S. has had the largest tax increase as a percent of GDP since 1993 because of tariffs.

These tariffs are a tax on the U.S. and Americans. They are estimating that U.S. households are paying a thousand dollars more in 2025, and it is going to go up in 2026.

Let's talk about electricity prices. Families across the country are opening their electric bills and asking: Why is my bill so high, and is anyone doing anything to bring down these prices?

The Trump administration promised Americans they would cut costs, including energy costs. They promised cheaper power. Instead, families are paying more right now. While fossil fuel companies take in record profits, families are afraid to use the air-conditioner during dangerous heat waves because their electricity costs will spike. Seniors are turning off the heat on frigid winter days. Prices jumped sharply last year, far faster than paychecks.

Last year, there were 43 different electricity rate hikes across the country, totaling over \$11 billion in new costs for ratepayers. Millions of households are saying they cannot afford this. They are already behind on their utility bills, and more and more households have had their electricity shut off by utilities.

This is not an accident. This is a choice by Trump and Republicans. Clean energy, like wind and solar paired with battery storage, is the cheapest power we can build. If we build more of it, we can lower electricity prices, which means American families will be able to turn the heat on in the winter or the AC on during dangerous heat waves, but the Trump administration and Republicans in Congress are doing everything they can to stop clean energy that will help lower costs for the American taxpayer.

They are rolling back programs that help build low-cost power. They are making it harder to build new wind, solar, and transmission projects. Projects that were already planned, fi-

nanced, and under construction to deliver cheaper electricity are now stalled or scrapped. The result: higher prices for working families.

House Democrats are fighting for affordable clean energy. We believe energy policies should make life easier, not harder.

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Mr. Speaker, we believe the way to lower prices is to build more clean, affordable power, not less.

We believe that no senior should have to choose between heat and medicine and no family should have their power shut off, while fossil fuel companies make more money than they have ever seen in the past.

Americans deserve better than broken promises and rising bills. We must deliver lower costs including lower energy costs for American families.

#### CELEBRATING REECE JENKIN

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

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the beloved Colfax boys' basketball coach, Reece Jenkin.

Coach Jenkin is battling stage IV pancreatic cancer with the same courage and determination he has inspired in his players for years.

Just this week, for the first time in over a month, he returned to Colfax High School not to coach but to cheer on his son, Adrik, on Senior Night.

Despite the toll of his treatments, Coach Jenkin's trademark positivity and radiant smile lit up the gym as he hugged his seniors and encouraged his team from the sidelines.

That night, Adrik delivered an incredible 38-point performance, leading the Bulldogs to victory and completing a perfect 20-0 season. Yet, the true victory was seeing Coach Jenkin there, living proof of the strength that love, faith, and community provide.

The entire Colfax community, including the entire eastern Washington community, stands behind Coach Jenkin as he continues this fight. His perseverance, humility, and devotion remind us all of what real leadership looks like both on and off the court.

#### WORLD PULSES DAY

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, today is World Pulses Day, and I rise to celebrate eastern Washington's pulse growers.

What is a pulse, you say? One of the reasons I am standing on the House floor is to give rise to the new branding of the hardworking farmers who produce lentils, chickpeas, dried beans, and peas that feed our Nation and the world.

Pulses are a powerhouse crop, rich in protein, packed with nutrients, and a cornerstone of healthy diets across the globe. They are also a win for our soil and our climate. By fixing nitrogen naturally, they reduce the need for fer-

tilizers that help sustain productive farmland for future generations.

In communities on the Palouse like Pullman, Colton, and Moscow, chickpeas and lentils aren't just an agricultural success story. They are a symbol of innovation, stewardship, and community pride.

As we mark World Pulses Day, let's recognize these growers and the vital role they play in strengthening both our food system and our rural economies.

#### CELEBRATING PAT TULLY

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Pat Tully, one of the few remaining D-day veterans, as he marks his 105th birthday.

Sprague's own Joseph Patrick "Pat" Tully stands as a shining example of dedication, resilience, and character through every chapter of his remarkable life.

After graduating from high school in 1940, Pat answered his country's call, enlisting in the U.S. Army Signal Corps and helping maintain vital communications during the buildup to D-day.

Serving with the 980th Signal Corps Service Company, he crossed the icy North Atlantic in convoy to Liverpool before supporting the Allied Forces during and after the Normandy invasion.

When asked for the secret to 105 years of his remarkable life and his sound mind and body, Pat replied simply: two glasses of red wine, daily exercise, and a life of service.

Eastern Washington and, indeed, our entire Nation salute him for his remarkable example. Happy 105th birthday to Pat Tully. We thank him for his incredible life of service to our Nation.

#### HOLDING ICE ACCOUNTABLE

(Ms. DEGETTE of Colorado was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, Federal immigration agents are out of control.

President Trump and Secretary Noem have turned ICE and border patrol into masked paramilitary forces that are terrorizing our neighborhoods. They are operating outside the law, terrorizing our communities, violating court orders, and shooting and killing immigrants and American citizens alike.

I cosponsored Articles of Impeachment against Kristi Noem, and I voted against funding the Department of Homeland Security to hold this administration accountable.

ICE must be defunded and dismantled. I am working to take the \$75 billion that Republicans gave to ICE in the big, bad bill and invest the money where it belongs, which is in expanded healthcare and affordable housing. Every taxpayer dollar is better spent doing virtually anything other than funding this brutality.

Mr. Speaker, I won't stop fighting until the families in Denver and across the country are safe from these thugs.