

I grew up as a child of Vietnamese refugees. My family gave up everything to rebuild their lives in America after fleeing communist oppression. They worked tirelessly to achieve the freedom and prosperity that the American Dream offers us. I couldn't be prouder to honor my heritage from the floor of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my warmest wishes to everyone in our community for a joyful and prosperous Year of the Horse.

"Happy New Year"; "Chuc Mung Nam Moi."

#### RECOGNIZING MATT REED

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my outgoing communications director, Mr. Matt Reed.

Matt has been on my staff for 2½ years. During that time, he has been a crucial member of my team.

Matt has tremendous work ethic, an infectious sense of humor, and is a friend to everyone in the office. From late hours in the D.C. office to road trips throughout central Washington, Matt has been my megaphone across three Congresses, and we have enjoyed every minute of it.

As Matt departs from the House for, I am sorry to say, the upper Chamber, I am confident that he will succeed in his new role and that he will have a bright future ahead of him.

#### PENNIE ENROLLMENT

(Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on January 1, Republicans in Congress allowed the Affordable Care Act credits to expire.

Instead of celebrating a new year, millions of Americans confronted healthcare premiums skyrocketing overnight. Many had to make an impossible choice. Just look at my home State of Pennsylvania, where 85,000 people who receive their health insurance through Pennie, our health insurance marketplace, were forced to drop coverage.

That is one in five Pennsylvanians, and it is not surprising who is bearing the brunt of this crisis: older Pennsylvanians and rural communities, some of the most vulnerable among us; 85,000 people who can't access preventative screenings for cancer or visit a pediatrician when their child is sick; and people who may or will delay lifesaving care because they simply cannot afford it.

These tax credits save lives. That is why the House voted last month to extend them for 3 years. It was overwhelmingly supported. It was bipartisan. It is humane.

My message to my Senate colleagues is this: Bring this bill to the floor today. We cannot waste another moment.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DENIS TROY

(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 honor the life of my good friend and a dedicated public servant, Denis Troy, who passed away at the age of 78 from a courageous battle with cancer.

A proud Bronx native and Manhattan College alumnus, Denis and his wife, Bea, lived in Pearl River for over 34 years, raising their four children and constantly giving back to their community.

Denis was one of those people who did not just serve his community. He lived for it. From his years on the Orangetown Board and in the county legislature, to the countless nights and weekends he gave to youth sports; veterans; and local organizations, including his beloved AOH Division III, Denis showed us what real public service looked like by always putting his community first.

Beyond the titles and accomplishments, Denis was simply a good man. He was generous with his time, steady in his values, and always supportive and encouraging, especially to those of us who were lucky enough to call him a friend. Orangetown and Pearl River are better places because of Denis, and his legacy will never be forgotten.

My heartfelt condolences go out to his family and all who had the pleasure of knowing him. I thank Denis for his many years of mentorship and friendship.

Denis, I will miss you. You are loved.

□ 1100

#### RECOGNIZING FRANK SCOTT, YOUNG FARMER OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Frank Scott, a ninth-generation farmer, was proudly honored as our State's Young Farmer of the Year. His family takes great pride in producing tobacco, sweet potatoes, cotton, soybeans, and sweet onions.

Together with his dedicated wife, Rebecca, and two children, Elijah and Lizzie, Frank tirelessly manages their family farm, exemplifying resilience and unwavering dedication.

Recently, Frank shared with me the enormous weight on his shoulders of holding on to his family's farm and one day turning it over to his children, our next generation.

I had the pleasure of speaking with his lively son, Elijah. He can hardly

wait to assist his dad on the farm, and I am prayerful that, one day, I am able to call him a 10th-generation farmer.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Frank and his entire family on this well-deserved recognition. Their story not only uplifts their family, but also is an inspiration for all people across America.

#### CELEBRATING GRANNY'S 80TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for a very important reason.

Today is my mom's birthday, and I want to wish my mom a happy 80th birthday. Her name is Carolyn, but if you are in the Ninth District, you probably know her as Granny.

Let me tell you a little bit about Granny. She is tougher than any whip count, and she is more disciplined than running the House floor. I will tell you that is saying something up here.

Let me tell you what you really need to know about my mom. She is the life of every party at 80 years young, and she lives every day to its fullest. She taught me how to work hard, to listen more than I should speak, to never ever back down, and to believe in myself. She is the very reason that, today, I am standing where I am standing.

She is the heart of our family, a role model for our grandkids, and the woman who reminds me every single day of why I came up here: to fight for the people of my district, the Ninth District.

Mr. Speaker, I wish my mom a happy birthday. I love her more than words can say, and I can't wait to get home and celebrate with her.

#### RECOGNIZING SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN FIRE DISTRICT

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

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District, which recently celebrated its 25th anniversary, serving communities in Sacramento and Placer Counties.

On December 1, 2000, the American River Fire District and the Sacramento County Fire Protection District reorganized to form what we now know as Metro Fire, uniting 16 fire agencies into one force dedicated to protecting our communities.

Today, Metro Fire serves more than 720,000 people across 359 square miles. With 41 fire stations and more than 700 dedicated members, they stand ready around the clock to respond to fires, rescues, medical emergencies, and more to save lives and protect property.

Their mission says it best: "professional and compassionate protection,

education, and service to the community.” That commitment isn’t just words. It is how they show up every day, often on the hardest day of someone else’s life.

That teamwork and pride show up in every setting. Last year, Station 26 took first place in the inaugural HERO Act Chili Cookoff that my office hosted at the California State Fair. I was proud to visit the station to present ribbons to Captain Adam Huckaby and Firefighter Taylor Edwards.

As we celebrate this milestone, we also have a responsibility to support the men and women who support all of us, especially when it comes to their mental health. That is why I am continuing to push for passage of my bipartisan HERO Act to extend access to mental health and support for our brave first responders.

#### HYPERBARIC OXYGEN THERAPY FOR VETERANS

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

Mr. MCGUIRE. Mr. Speaker, Charlottesville Hyperbarics has become a frontline in the fight for veterans suffering from the invisible wounds of war.

They recently launched the Hyperbaric Wellness Foundation and have partnered with the HOW Foundation to provide hyperbaric oxygen therapy to veterans battling PTSD or other traumatic brain injury.

Additionally, generous grants from the Department of Veterans Affairs have allowed them to successfully treat over 59 veterans so far this year.

As a Navy SEAL veteran, I have friends who have battled wounds that go deeper than emotion. Advanced imaging now confirms that PTSD is a neurological brain injury. Hyperbaric oxygen therapy, using pure oxygen under pressure, heals these injuries directly and restores brain health.

When I visited the clinic last May, I saw the healing in action. Two of the staff members leading the veterans program are veterans who suffer from PTSD. They went through the program themselves. HBOT changed their lives so completely that they have now dedicated themselves to helping others do the same.

We are still losing over 20 veterans a day to suicide, despite exhaustive and costly efforts to stop it. That is not just a tragedy. It is a call to action.

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy is saving lives and helping veterans rejoin their families, their communities, and the workforce. With sufficient funding and support, we can expand this model across Virginia and across our country. Our veterans deserve a program that can help them.

#### CHILDREN DETAINED AT DILLEY ICE FACILITY

(Ms. SALINAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share an excerpt of a letter from a child who was detained at the Dilley ICE facility: “My name is Ariana . . . I am 14 years old, and I am from Honduras. I’ve been detained for 45 days. Since I got to this center, all you will feel is sadness and mostly depression. I’ve been in this country for almost 7 years, and in those 7 years, my mom and I found a home and made a bigger family. I have never been separated from my siblings, and it’s honestly sad because they are little, and they need their mom and sister.”

She goes on to say: “I haven’t been getting any school time. There are various viruses. People are always sick. Serious situations happen, and the officers can’t take them seriously enough. There are no consequences. They don’t care.”

Mr. Speaker, children are being traumatized by what this administration is doing to them. We must ask ourselves: Is this right? Is this moral? Is this the Nation we want to be?

□ 1110

#### CELEBRATING GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Grace Baptist Church and Pastor Matt Miller for 50 years of Gospel service in Colorado’s Fifth Congressional District.

Founded by Dr. Dean Miller’s family in 1976 as Cornerstone Baptist Church, for 50 years this congregation has ministered the hope of the Gospel.

They have provided Christian education, and they have equipped Christians for ministry. They have also trained the next generation of Bible preachers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in congratulating Pastor Miller and all who have been there as congregants. Well done to all of the faithful servants at Grace Baptist Church.

#### CELEBRATING SHIRLEY ANITA CHISHOLM

(Ms. CLARKE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, in the centennial year of Black History Month, I rise today as just one voice in the continuous and collective effort to celebrate the incomparable Congresswoman Shirley Anita Chisholm to the degree that she deserves.

For her legacy of justice and equality in Brooklyn, New York, and America, for the possibilities her very being opened to millions of Black women and

girls, for never failing to live her American Dream out loud, I am proud to introduce my resolution that would result in a tribute worthy of her character and accomplishments: the permanent placement of her statue in the United States Capitol.

In this time of unprecedented attacks on the true story of our country, honoring Shirley Chisholm with a statue in the Halls of Congress would signal to the American people that this body is still committed to recognizing the defining figures of our history. We must show future generations that the progress of today did not appear by accident.

It took unrelenting passion, integrity, and dedication. It took leaders like Congresswoman Chisholm, who from her first day to the last remained unbought and unbosomed.

I believe we have a moral mandate and a real opportunity here not just to examine racial inequalities that permeate every sector and segment of our society but the responsibility to reflect on how we got here, right here in these Halls.

Looking toward the faces in this room with me now, I can say with certainty that Shirley Chisholm’s legacy is reflected in myself and the many colleagues of today.

#### TAX POLICY SHOULD REWARD A LIFETIME OF HARD WORK

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, as tax filing season begins, important improvements to our tax code are already making a real difference for older Americans. For too long seniors were treated unfairly, Mr. Speaker, taxed on their Social Security benefits and left struggling to cover rising costs.

That is finally starting to change. This year, a new \$6,000 tax exemption for taxpayers age 65 and older takes effect.

Last week, I visited a tax preparation site in Pasco County, Florida, and my constituents confirmed that this provision is helping them.

Enacted as part of the Working Families Tax Cut Act, this deduction applies through 2028 and is available whether seniors take the standard deduction or itemize. It will benefit millions of Americans on fixed incomes, providing meaningful relief as costs for housing, healthcare, prescriptions, and groceries continue to rise.

But our work is not done, Mr. Speaker. To many seniors, they still see their Social Security benefits taxed. That is why I support legislation to fully exempt Social Security income from Federal taxation.

Tax policy should reward a lifetime of hard work, Mr. Speaker, not penalize retirement.