

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.

HONORING ELLA BAKER

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

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Black History Month to honor a giant in the civil rights movement, Ella Baker.

She grew up in North Carolina and studied at Shaw University, an outstanding and historic HBCU in Raleigh.

After attending Shaw, she moved to New York City and fought for economic justice for Black Americans.

She went on to work with Dr. King to organize the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Following nationwide sit-ins led by Black college students, Ms. Baker was an instrumental figure in forming the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee at Shaw University at a conference in 1960.

From fighting for voting rights for Black Americans to mentoring the next generation of civil rights leaders, Ella Baker paved the way for future generations.

North Carolina and our country are better because of Ella Baker.

RECOGNIZING DR. MATT HANLEY

(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 Dr. Matt Hanley on his well-deserved recognition as one of Georgia Trend Magazine's 100 Most Influential Georgians for 2026.

In just under a year since assuming the role of president and CEO of Northeast Georgia Health System, Dr. Hanley has demonstrated exceptional vision and a relentless pursuit of excellence.

Dr. Hanley's seamless transition to leadership continues Northeast Georgia Health System's remarkable growth, including five hospitals, advanced medical programs, and an economic impact exceeding \$7.5 billion.

Named alongside leading business and academic figures like Delta Airlines Ed Bastian and University of Georgia President Jerry Morehead, Dr. Hanley is in great company.

He credits all recognition to the dedicated staff and workforce at Northeast Georgia Health System for their shared commitment to keeping communities healthy, expanding access to care, and meeting everyday needs.

Dr. Hanley has proven his leadership from the emergency room to the board room and now among Georgia's most influential voices.

Through his service, Dr. Hanley is helping build a healthier, stronger Georgia for all.

HONORING LAILA EDWARDS

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

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about Ohio's own Laila Edwards. Laila is a native of Cleveland Heights and currently represents the United States in the Winter Olympics, my favorite.

Laila became the first Black woman to play for the United States in the Olympic women's ice hockey at this year's Milano Cortina Games. At 22, she didn't just make the roster, she contributed, recording her first Olympic point in a 5-1 win over Czechia.

We have been saying it for years. Ohioans are awesome, and Laila truly proves it. She grew up skating on our lakes and ponds, working hard and believing in herself. She kept going even when she was the only girl on the ice, even when few people who looked like her had been given that chance.

During Black History Month, her story reminds us that progress doesn't happen by accident. It happens because purposeful people show up, work hard, and refuse to be told they don't belong.

I congratulate Laila Edwards. Laila has made northwest Ohio and all of Ohio extremely proud. I am proud of our country. Go Laila. Go team U.S.A.

HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY
ALBERT AND SARAH STUTZMAN

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

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my parents, Albert and Sarah Stutzman.

They are celebrating their 50th anniversary this Saturday, one day after Valentine's Day. I just want to acknowledge them in all that they have done for me and for my siblings.

They have really been an example of what hard work and what faith can do in a great country like America.

My dad dropped out of high school. They were married when they were very young, and they worked tremendously hard. They went through a lot of challenges in their own lives as they worked to build a better future for not only themselves but for my siblings and myself and others.

They were foster parents. They went on mission trips. They helped people in the community. They would take people into our home whenever they needed help. They were always willing to help those who were in need. They were always active in church. They were active in our schools.

I just can't say enough about how proud I am of my parents, Albert and Sarah. I just want to wish them a happy anniversary this weekend.

I love you, and I am looking forward to years ahead together.

□ 1120

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

(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, February is Black History Month, when we take special note of the historic achievements of African Americans who have helped shape today's America. Black history is American history and for decades has been ignored by racism. Now, as we identify and remember both those famous and some unfamiliar names from decades past, there is today a movement to white-wash history and to minimize those names.

However, there are efforts to ensure we never forget the role played by our Black sisters and brothers. Bronx Councilman Kevin Riley is sponsoring one such effort, the fifth annual Black History Month Living Legends Luncheon honoring our neighbors on Wednesday, February 25, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The Mall at Bay Plaza food court.

It will highlight Black leaders from Co-op City, Edenwald, Wakefield, and other parts of the north Bronx who have helped the community and thereby made history.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Councilman Riley for making Black history come alive for today's generations in the Bronx.

WAR CRIMINAL PUTIN SHOULD
APOLOGIZE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, war criminal Putin should apologize for his January 29 phone call pledge to President Donald Trump to avoid destroying utilities in Ukraine, while Putin accelerates attacks to freeze Ukrainians as Stalin starved Ukrainians.

Putin should apologize to courageous First Lady Melania Trump for keeping kidnapped Ukrainian children to "Putinize" them, as Hitler kidnapped Polish children to Germany.

Putin should apologize to Trump's envoy, Steve Witkoff, and Jared Kushner for endless meetings in Moscow, Doha, Abu Dhabi, Miami, Paris, Vienna, and New York as Putin restocks Iranian drones, Chinese Communist Party missiles, and North Korean troops.

The war continues as dictators with rule of gun invade democracies with rule of law: February 24, 2022, into Ukraine and October 7, 2023, into Israel.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Trump is reinstating peace through strength, revealing war criminal Putin lies and insulting Trump and mocking Trump with murderous attacks this week in Ukraine, freezing civilians with no electricity, no heat, and no water.