

## 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.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF MELISSA HORTMAN

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

Ms. MORRISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and service of Minnesota State House Speaker Emerita Melissa Hortman and her husband Mark, whom we lost to an unspeakable act of political violence last year.

The Minnesota House of Representatives will convene next week for the first time in more than 20 years without Melissa's presence. She was the single longest serving female speaker in Minnesota State history.

She always led with a calm and steady demeanor, emphasizing the importance of conversation and listening to one another. She rejected the idea that our political differences should prevent us from working together, and she always encouraged us to focus on our shared desire to make our State and our country a better place for the next generation.

Melissa was a giant among Minnesota lawmakers and modeled leadership qualities that we all should emulate.

She recognized that true leaders do not bully and coerce. They listen and sacrifice, and they compromise while remaining true to their convictions. They lead with humility above all else.

I think of her mentorship and her example every day and call on my colleagues to honor her legacy by prioritizing civility and humility in our service and always striving to make our communities just a little bit better for someone else.

HONORING LAW ENFORCEMENT

(Mr. CRANE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate and honor Robert Skankey and Hunter Bennett who tragically lost their lives in a helicopter crash last Wednesday.

After responding to a domestic violence call in Flagstaff, law enforcement officers engaged in a nearly 2-hour gunfight with a dangerous criminal. During the pursuit, the Arizona Department of Public Safety provided air support with a Ranger 56 helicopter crew.

Shortly after the suspect was apprehended, the helicopter crashed, taking the lives of marine veteran Robert Skankey and trooper paramedic Hunter Bennett.

On behalf of all Arizonans, we mourn the loss of these two heroes who dedicated their lives to public service. Words cannot fully express our gratitude for their selflessness, courage, and commitment to keeping our communities safe.

May the Lord bless their families, friends, and colleagues during this dif-

ficult time and grant them everlasting peace.

ST. LOUIS ALL-STAR FRANKIE  
MUSE FREEMAN

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

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, each month I recognize a St. Louis all-star, someone who represents the very best of our city. During Black History Month, I have been highlighting Black leaders who helped shape St. Louis and expand opportunity for everyone.

However, this week is bigger than one name. That is because long before the great Bill Clay was elected to Congress, Black Missourians were fighting through poll taxes, literacy tests, and intimidation just to cast a ballot. They were told their voices didn't matter. They organized anyway.

Countless leaders pushed from the streets, as well as leaders like our beloved Frankie Muse Freeman, who fought in the courts.

When I see new efforts to make voting more restrictive, more complicated, and more conditional, I am reminded why their work matters. Black History Month isn't just about remembrance. It is about vigilance.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here because they fought to open the door, and I won't let anyone quietly close it.

ICE AND DEPARTMENT OF  
HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

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

Mr. Speaker, Trump unleashed chaos and cruelty on our cities. His ICE and Border Patrol agents are out of control. Masked Federal agents are terrorizing our communities. They have killed two Americans exercising their First Amendment rights, and they have killed others.

They are targeting people based on their skin color. Instead of demanding accountability, the Republicans are rushing to give more money to ICE and the CBP. This is reckless, it is dangerous, and it must stop.

Not another taxpayer penny should go to CBP or ICE until guardrails are in place to protect civil liberties, prevent abuse, and hold officers accountable for breaking the law. Americans do not want these agents roaming their streets, and they are done paying for government-sanctioned terror masquerading as public safety. It is not immigration enforcement.

Mr. Speaker, this failure starts at the top. Kristi Noem must go. She must be removed. I am demanding accountability and moral leadership. Our democracy depends on it.

□ 1130

RECOGNIZING RYAN COOGLER

(Ms. SIMON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SIMON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a son of Oakland, California, my constituent, Ryan Coogler, whose film "Sinners" has earned 16 Academy Award nominations, the most of any film in Oscar history.

Ryan Coogler was born in Oakland, California, raised in Richmond, and educated at Saint Mary's in Berkeley.

He first came to national attention by putting a human face on the murder of Oscar Grant. He is the youngest director to helm a billion-dollar film. Now, with "Sinners," he has given the world the work of prophetic cinema.

"Sinners" deploys the imagery of Southern Gothic horror to excavate the truths this Republic has long preferred to bury.

Vampirism became a metaphor in the film to uplift systems that fed on Black life, body, and spirit since the founding of this country.

It is the full humanity that he lifts up in this movie, the humanity of Black folks building community and clamoring and claiming joy under apartheid conditions.

Alongside Ryan Coogler, our district celebrates Oaklanders Delroy Lindo and Raphael Saadiq for their nominations. They are three Oakland artists, and one extraordinary film.

Mr. Speaker, we are so very proud of Ryan Coogler.

SAFETY IN AMERICA

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I have said for months that no one is safe in Trump's America. From New Jersey to Minnesota, mothers, fathers, children—no one is safe. We have seen people like Greg Bovino and his masked paramilitaries come into our communities and cause an immense amount of harm. We have seen 5-year-olds come home from school only to be detained and then sent to Dilley, Texas, then be returned and see the administration try to end their asylum claim. This is what people are experiencing across the country. We need everyone to speak out against it, not just in Minnesota, not just in New Jersey, and not just Democrats but Republicans as well. This is not who we are as a country, and we cannot be silent in this moment.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. GROTHMAN of Wisconsin was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I will assure the Chair that I will not be speaking for 60 minutes. I will be kind of amazed if I get to 25.