

are wearing white today to honor the suffragettes and to say that we are not giving up on this struggle for women's rights and women's voices.

Nancy was a beloved Pacific Northwest philanthropist, a giant among giants, who used her resources and her time to make change that supported and lifted up the voices and the needs of those too often left behind.

Throughout her lifetime, she generously founded and supported groundbreaking nonprofits and her local community. Everywhere she turned, she made people's lives better, not only in Washington State but across the United States and across the world.

A proud graduate of Mount Holyoke College, Nancy's feminism, charitable giving, and activism were the foundation of her life's work: seeing a need, coming up with a solution, and taking action to make people's lives better.

In 1988, Nancy founded Hedgebrook, a world-renowned nonprofit on Whidbey Island that supports female-identified writers with residencies and radical hospitality, on land that allowed for rest, rejuvenation, creativity, and a reconnection to nature.

Nancy believed that it is women's voices that make the world better and that those voices have been silenced for far too long and that we need to be actually intentional about nurturing and lifting up those voices.

Hedgebrook has established hundreds of new and known writers who came to bravely define their own lives, communities, and creative and political paths. It wasn't just a place. It was Nancy herself who never stepped away from the work. She was there, meeting writers, listening to their ideas, educating herself, and often becoming the wind behind their sails.

For over 38 years, Hedgebrook has supported a growing and influential alumnae community of women authoring change. Now over 2,000 writers strong, it has reached millions of people of all ages. Hedgebrook's ripple effect is truly remarkable.

I was fortunate to meet Nancy decades ago through my own residency there and then later to serve on the board as Hedgebrook grew and then on the Creative Advisory Council with luminaries and friends like Gloria Steinem.

Nancy's philanthropy and environmental advocacy also profoundly shaped her local community's physical and civic landscape. She founded Goosefoot Community Fund to support essential needs, help local businesses grow, preserve historic places and rural landscapes, and connect neighbors. She was instrumental in supporting the Whidbey Camano Land Trust acquisitions, restoring salmon habitats and protecting wetlands.

Many organizations benefited from Nancy's hands-on support and largess. She literally loved getting her hands dirty every day, in the dirt, in the gardens. She was always the last to fold

up tables at the end of countless social justice and book events that she made happen. Her humility, her grace, and her compassion were just some of the many qualities that set her apart and made her so beloved.

She was also known to support families and individuals in times of need. She mentored many women in non-profit leadership and philanthropy, while championing their creative projects and careers. I was one of those very fortunate ones to have called Nancy a true friend. She was such a remarkable and constant presence in my life and a supporter in every endeavor that I undertook from my early work on immigrant rights to my transition into politics.

Nancy never wanted acknowledgment, even though she received numerous honors and awards for her life's work, including being designated a Women's History Month honoree by the National Women's History Project and a National Philanthropy Day Outstanding Philanthropist.

Madam Speaker, it is not an exaggeration to say that millions of people who will never know her name have and will continue to benefit from her extraordinary life and legacy.

Nancy is survived by her wife, Lynn Hays; her children, Grace Nordhoff, Charles "Chuck" Nordhoff, Carolyn Nordhoff Reid, and their spouses; and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

We extend our tremendous gratitude to them for sharing her with the world. Her legacy of generosity and kindness will live on for generations to come.

□ 1045

JUSTICE FOR EPSTEIN VICTIMS

(Mr. MASSIE of Kentucky was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MASSIE. Madam Speaker, Congress created the Department of Justice. Congress funds the Department of Justice. Congress is responsible for the oversight of the Department of Justice.

When will we see justice? I will tell you what I have not seen. I have not seen any arrests from the revelations in the Epstein files, over 3 million documents describing horrible things, describing unspeakable things, much of it redacted.

Over two dozen people have resigned, including CEOs and members of government worldwide, but I haven't seen any arrests or investigations here in the United States from this Department of Justice.

Prince Andrew, Duke of York, who has since been stripped of his royal titles due to his affiliation with Jeffrey Epstein, has been arrested.

Peter Mandelson, who previously served as the U.K. Ambassador to the United States, resigned in disgrace from the United Kingdom's House of Lords and the Labour Party, and he has been arrested.

Former Prime Minister of Norway Thorbjorn Jagland has been charged.

Yet, we don't see any charges, arrests, or investigations in the United States. What do we see? We see our FBI Director celebrating in the locker room at the Olympics overseas.

It is fine to be proud of this country, but we should be proud of this country because we have a system of justice that works. Yet, we do not.

Who are the men who should be investigated? I will name them right here:

Leon Black: You don't even have to see past the redactions to see that this man needs to be investigated.

Jes Staley: Accused of terrible things. It is right there in the files. Why is he not being investigated?

Leslie Wexner: Why did the FBI list him as a co-conspirator in their own documents in a child sex trafficking case and then tell him, according to him, that they had no questions for him? Why is that?

The Epstein Files Transparency Act requires the DOJ and FBI to disclose to us their internal memos and emails about how they made those decisions, whether to prosecute or not prosecute. Yet, they have not delivered those memos.

We still don't have the memos, documents, and emails from 2008 to explain why Jeffrey Epstein was given such a light sentence in what would have been an open-and-shut case of child sex trafficking, which allowed him to go back and recommit these terrible crimes, create hundreds more victims, and ensnare so many other people in his conspiracy. Where are those documents that describe those decisions?

We need justice. We want the Department of Justice to get to work. That is what they need to do, and now.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT UNDER SIEGE

Mr. MASSIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to let the American people know that this government is under siege.

All three branches of this government are under siege by lobbyists and lawyers from a German company named Bayer. They spent over \$9 million lobbying the executive branch and the legislative branch so that they don't have to be liable for any damages that their herbicide causes, otherwise known as Roundup.

They are having some success. They haven't had any success yet in this Chamber to get that immunity. They have had some success in the State legislatures, which are also under siege, to get this immunity from liability.

Madam Speaker, the Constitution guarantees people a trial if they have been harmed. Why are we contemplating going against the Constitution?

The Attorney General has opined favorably for this German company in front of the Supreme Court, about getting rid of any liability that they should have for any damages.

The most recent thing that we have seen is within the executive branch. By the way, the President's Chief of Staff

and the President's Attorney General worked for one of the biggest lobbying firms, which has received hundreds of thousands and millions of dollars from Bayer.

Maybe that is why we have seen an executive order that says that the production of this chemical from this German company is a national defense priority. We know why they are doing that. It is to keep them from having any liability.

Everybody in this country deserves their day in court. This is wrong. We shouldn't succumb to the lobbyists—not in the executive branch, not in the judicial branch, certainly not here in Congress, and not in the State legislatures—but there is a lot of money at play. I implore my colleagues to resist it and to not give them immunity.

HONORING THE LIVES OF THE HORTMAN FAMILY

(Ms. MORRISON of Minnesota was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. MORRISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a resolution honoring the lives of Minnesota State House Speaker Emerita Melissa Hortman and her husband, Mark Hortman, who we lost to an unspeakable act of political violence last year.

Last week, the Minnesota House of Representatives convened for the first time in more than 20 years without Melissa's presence. This resolution is a celebration of Melissa's and Mark's lives and a commemoration of the legacy that they left behind.

Whereas, Melissa Hortman served her community and the State of Minnesota with humility, compassion, and perseverance;

Whereas, Mark Hortman was outgoing, caring, and genuine; a skilled professional; and deeply devoted to his family;

Whereas, when a politically motivated gunman took the life of Melissa Hortman, Minnesota lost a tireless public servant whose accomplishments distinguished her as one of the most consequential speakers in the history of the Minnesota House of Representatives;

Whereas, Hortman was a mother of two children, Colin and Sophie, and wife to husband Mark Hortman, who was killed alongside her;

Whereas, Melissa Hortman was a lifelong Minnesotan who was born, raised, and lived most of her life in the northern suburbs of Minneapolis;

Whereas, Mark Hortman was born and raised in North Carolina, graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and lived in Minnesota for over 30 years;

Whereas, Melissa and Mark Hortman met while applying to be mentors in the Big Brothers Big Sisters of America program and were brought together through their shared devotion to serving others;

Whereas, Melissa Hortman was a lifelong learner who graduated from

Blaine High School, Boston University, and the University of Minnesota Law School, then returned to school later in life to receive a master's in public administration from the Harvard Kennedy School;

Whereas, Hortman was a devoted public servant who spent her life helping others, teaching Sunday school, serving as a Girl Scout leader, and training service dogs for veterans;

Whereas, one of Hortman's greatest loves was her family's golden retriever, Gilbert, who was adopted by the Hortmans after being deemed too friendly to be a service dog;

Whereas, Hortman began her career in public service as a lawyer suing discriminatory landlords, reaching a record-setting verdict in a housing discrimination lawsuit;

Whereas, Hortman demonstrated strength of character and perseverance in her determination to serve her community when she was victorious in her third run for the Minnesota House of Representatives in 2004;

Whereas, Hortman went on to win reelection 10 consecutive times from 2006 to 2024 and was elected by her colleagues as minority leader in 2017 and speaker of the house in 2019;

Whereas, Hortman was the longest serving female speaker in Minnesota State history;

Whereas, Hortman was passionate about preventing gun violence, protecting reproductive healthcare, and leaving behind a better world for future generations by addressing climate change through investments in renewable energy;

Whereas, Hortman was proud to author Minnesota's solar standard and community solar law;

Whereas, Hortman led with humor and a calm and steady demeanor, emphasizing the importance of conversation and listening to one another and rejecting the idea that our political differences should prevent us from working together;

Whereas, Hortman respected and looked out for all members of her caucus, recognizing their duty to serve each of their unique constituencies while also holding them together to deliver for all Minnesotans one of the most productive legislative sessions in Minnesota's history;

Whereas, Hortman will be remembered for the crucial role she played in enacting legislation that allows Minnesotans to take time to care for their loved ones, ensures no student goes hungry, guarantees that every woman has the right to bodily autonomy, and upholds our democracy by protecting free and fair elections;

Whereas, Hortman led with humility and was quick to deflect recognition, allowing others to take the spotlight;

Whereas, Hortman recognized that true leaders do not bully and coerce; they listen and sacrifice, compromise while remaining true to their convictions, and inspire others to share in their vision of a better future; and

Whereas, this is a moment of mourning a great giant among Minnesota lawmakers;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the House of Representatives honors the life of Speaker Emerita Melissa Hortman for her devotion and service to the people of Minnesota; honors the life of Mark Hortman for his devotion to his family and service to his community; honors the life of Gilbert Hortman for his devotion to Melissa, treats, and lying in the snow; honors the leadership of Speaker Emerita Melissa Hortman, who led with kindness and compassion, passion and pragmatism, and conviction and respect; and honors the legacy of Speaker Emerita Melissa Hortman for her exemplary record in working through political differences through civil discourse and a shared desire to make Minnesota and her country a better place for the next generation.

RECOGNIZING JOSHUA ELLIOTT

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

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marine Sergeant Joshua Elliott of Stevens County in eastern Washington and to highlight the incredible work of Homes For Our Troops.

After the 9/11 attacks, Josh enlisted in the Marine Corps to serve his country. During his second deployment to Afghanistan, he was gravely injured by an improvised explosive device, losing both legs above the knee.

Despite these injuries, Josh returned home to continue to serve, founding Angel Peak Adaptive Sports with his wife, Samantha, to help other wounded veterans and athletes experience the freedom of adaptive skiing.

Yet, the uneven terrain and narrow spaces of their current home make daily life difficult.

That is why the great group Homes For Our Troops is stepping in to build Josh a specially adapted home, giving him the safety, independence, and access he has earned through his service.

Madam Speaker, Sergeant Elliott embodies the courage, resilience, and community spirit of eastern Washington, and we are proud to call him one of our own. We are also grateful to Homes For Our Troops for providing this needed assistance.

RECOGNIZING MILITARY RECRUITERS

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedicated work of our military recruiters and their critical role in shaping the future of our Armed Forces.

I recently met with recruiters from across eastern Washington to discuss the state of military recruiting and the challenges that they face in reaching new applicants. These men and women are often the first connection that young Americans have to military service. They open doors to opportunity, education, and leadership,