

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,

while ensuring our Nation remains a strong and ready force.

I call upon the memory of one of my favorite Presidents, President JFK, and think about his statement: "Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country."

Madam Speaker, I call on all the parents of eastern Washington and all the teachers and principals to have a conversation with our fine recruiters and talk about what career paths their young people in their homes and their schools may have in protecting our country with our military.

RECOGNIZING SPOKANE CHINESE ASSOCIATION  
AND SPOKANE CHINESE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Spokane Chinese Association and the Spokane Chinese Christian Church for hosting an outstanding Lunar New Year celebration in Spokane.

The event was a vibrant tribute to our community's diversity and the rich cultural traditions that strengthen all of us. The music and dance performances showcase not only extraordinary talent but also the spirit of unity and joy that defines this wonderful celebration.

In eastern Washington, we are proud to have such a vibrant Asian-American community. For more than 170 years, Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander families have helped to shape the cultural fabric of the inland Northwest.

□ 1100

As we celebrate this season of new beginnings, may it bring good health, prosperity, and joy to them and their families. I am proud to join in honoring the start of a new year filled with hope and good fortune.

Madam Speaker, I thank the Spokane Chinese Association and the Spokane Chinese Christian Church for inviting me to such a wonderful celebration, and I wish them a Happy Lunar New Year.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MACKENZIE) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

God of power and might, mercy and peace, we raise our voices on behalf of all those who have cried for so long

that their voices are weary and their words are faint. Especially on this fourth anniversary of the enduring conflict in Ukraine, let not their hearts fear. Though war has risen up against them without cease or cause, even still may they remain confident that You are their light and salvation.

Lord, be the stronghold that pushes back the enemy's relentless campaign against them. Hide them in the shelter of Your sanctuary in these endless days of trouble.

Then lift up their voices as they testify to the world their faith in You. Even as they refuse to give up their will to their adversaries, may their confidence in You serve as a testimony to all of us. As they wait for You, may their faith be strong and their hearts take courage that all may know that our salvation is found only in You.

Sovereign God, may all who believe in You when enemies encamp against us see Your goodness, O Lord, in our lifetime.

Hear the fervent prayers of all who call on Your name these days.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. DAVIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER  
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

PRESIDENT TRUMP IS DELIVERING  
REAL RELIEF FOR FAMILIES

(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, President Trump is delivering real relief for families in the form of lower costs for everyday items, creating jobs.

Wages are growing faster than prices, putting more money into the pockets of Americans. Year over year, inflation fell over 2.4 percent in January, mark-

ing a new low. Core inflation has dropped to the lowest level in 5 years, underscoring progress made by Donald Trump.

In the first Trump year, real earnings for workers have outpaced inflation by \$1,400, earning back some of the \$3,000 lost under Biden.

Key prices are falling in January. Beef, eggs, and coffee prices all declined. The interest rates are down for home building. Gasoline prices are falling. Promises made, promises kept.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Trump is reinstating peace through strength, revealing war criminal Putin lies, insulting Trump and mocking Trump as we now see war criminal Putin entering into the fourth anniversary of the Putin invasion today, which he lied to his troops would be a 30-day special mission. Courageous Ukrainians with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will be victorious over mass murderer Vladimir Putin.

HONORING AHMED REHAB

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

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ahmed Rehab, a fearless advocate and leader.

Ahmed's career reflects his courage, clarity, and conviction. For more than two decades, Ahmed has defended our civil rights and protected our Muslim and immigrant neighbors and communities.

While he is currently the executive director of the Chicago Office of CAIR, the Nation's largest Muslim civil liberties and advocacy group, he has served on the board of the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, the Chicago Council on Global Affairs' Muslim task force, and in many other leadership roles. He is committed to building multifaith, multi-sector coalitions.

Just last week, at Illinois' Third first Power of the People Summit, Ahmed reminded us that coalition is commitment. It means standing together before the storm, not just during it. It means being light in the midst of darkness.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, I am proud to commend Ahmed Rehab for his tireless defense of our civil liberties and for the wisdom he brings to the work of solidarity and unity.

I thank and congratulate Ahmed.

RECOGNIZING THE ROCHESTER  
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
ON 160 YEARS

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

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Rochester Area