

As one of the first Black teachers in the Hazelwood School District, a committeewoman, a mentor, mother, sister, auntie, she led through her example, her advice, and her unconditional and sometimes tough love.

As I think about the term “rest in power,” its meaning, as I stand here, I have a moment of clarity because I stand here feeling an intense obligation to honor her and send her off right, and as I am going forward, a desire to make her proud although she is no longer with us. That is power.

Mr. Speaker, may Mama Gwen Reed rest in it, and we love her.

CELEBRATING WILLIAM L. “BILL” MCVEDA

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

Mr. DOWNING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William “Bill” McVeda who this past Valentine’s Day celebrated 100 years of a life well lived.

Bill McVeda was born in Lewistown, Montana, on the 14th of February, the youngest of three, to a hardworking family in a hardworking community.

At the age of 17, Bill enlisted in the United States Navy. He would go on to serve in the Pacific theater, witnessing the historic second flag-raising at Iwo Jima and the surrender of the Japanese.

For his service, Bill received the American Theater Campaign Ribbon, the Asiatic Pacific Ribbon with two stars, and the World War II Victory Medal.

After the war, Bill married his childhood sweetheart, Janet; raised two children; and built a respected career in human resources management with Lockheed Martin and with Northrop Grumman.

Mr. Speaker, Bill McVeda is a great American and a true patriot. The world needs more men like him, not fewer.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Bill for his example of service and his commitment to family and community. As a native son of Montana, our State is proud to call him ours and wishes him a happy birthday.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MICHAEL MEJIA

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

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of National City Firefighter Michael Mejia, a hero who was tragically lost in the line of duty in February.

Mike began his over three decades of service in 1993 with the Del Mar Fire Department.

In 2000, he joined the National City Fire Department, where he served for the rest of his distinguished career. He was a beloved member of this fire department.

Those who knew Mike best describe his bravery, kindness, professionalism,

and his dedication to his fellow fighters.

Service and community were at the heart of everything that Mike did, from his work as a founding member of the honor guard and color guard to his decades as medical unit leader and EMT at the Del Mar Fairgrounds.

Above all else, Mike was a devoted husband and father. His family was his greatest pride. He is survived by his wife, Marin, and their two daughters.

Mr. Speaker, my prayers are with Mike’s family, friends, and colleagues. Mike dedicated his life to helping others, and he will always be remembered.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT GENERAL THOMAS CARDEN

(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 Lieutenant General Thomas Carden.

General Carden has been promoted to Vice Chief of the National Guard Bureau, the second highest position in the National Guard, overseeing soldiers and airmen. He is the first vice chief ever to wear the four-star rank.

Previously, General Carden served as commander of the Georgia National Guard from 2019 to 2024.

He began his journey of selfless service at age 18, when he enlisted as a private in the Georgia Army National Guard. Throughout his career, General Carden has held many leadership roles, serving as a shining example to those he led.

He has a strong academic background, with degrees in history, human resource management, and strategic studies.

Few people have demonstrated unwavering commitment, integrity, and dedication to duty the way that General Carden has.

As a fellow Georgian, I am proud of his exemplary service to our State and to our Nation. I am confident he will lead with honor in this new role.

Mr. Speaker, I thank General Carden for his lifelong service to this great country.

SUPREME COURT TARIFF DECISION

(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 and every day on behalf of the people of northwestern Ohio: farmers, factory workers, small business owners, nurses, veterans, and retirees. They carry the heavy burden of President Trump’s reckless trade war.

Tariffs hit our region harder than almost anywhere in our country. Why? We make and grow America.

Our soybean growers saw foreign markets slam shut and prices tumble,

all because the President acted carelessly. Many are still waiting to be made whole as export markets vanish.

Our manufacturers, from steel processors to auto suppliers, are writing off huge losses, paying more on parts for materials, squeezing margins, and laying off workers.

Small retailers, restaurants, and childcare centers face higher costs they cannot absorb. Every family pays more at the checkout counter, and tariffs and reckless trade wars raise prices.

The Supreme Court affirmed that our Constitution still matters and President Trump overstepped his authority. These policies must be thoughtful, and Americans deserve stable markets and leadership that fights for our producers and workers.

□ 1100

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR DEPUTIES MICHAEL HISLOPE AND GABRIEL RAMIREZ

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

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives of Deputy Michael Hislope and Deputy Gabriel Ramirez of the Christian County Sheriff’s Office who yesterday were killed in the line of duty while serving the people of southwest Missouri.

Deputy Ramirez was murdered during a traffic stop while doing what law enforcement officers across this country do every day: protecting the public and enforcing the law.

He was a United States Army veteran who continued his service at home, serving nearly 1 year as a deputy.

What followed was a dangerous manhunt that stretched through the night and ended near Reeds Spring where Deputy Hislope was killed while helping bring the violence to an end.

Deputy Hislope was also a United States Army veteran and had served his country as a deputy for more than 6 years.

Two other deputies were also shot, and countless officers placed themselves in harm’s way to protect others. Their courage and sacrifice stand in stark contrast to the evil they confronted.

Today, we grieve for two families who have lost sons, husbands, and brothers, and we honor the public servants who answered the call to stand between danger and their neighbors.

Please join me in praying for their families, the injured officers, and the entire law enforcement community as they carry this profound loss on their hearts.

I ask for a moment of silence, Mr. Speaker.

RECOGNIZING MONIQUE PERALTA

(Mrs. GRIJALVA asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary educator from Arizona's Seventh Congressional District and Tucson Unified School District, Mrs. Monique Peralta, and to celebrate a true full-circle story of public education.

Mrs. Peralta is proudly Tucson Unified grown. She attended Vesey Elementary School and Morgan Maxwell and graduated from Cholla High School. Today, she teaches in the same community that raised her.

For 25 years, she has walked into her classroom determined to make every student feel seen and to make sure they learn and they believe in themselves.

Her students, including all of my three children, know her as someone who cares deeply and inspires lifelong learning.

Her colleagues know her as a mentor, and her community knows she never forgot where she came from.

Mrs. Peralta reminds us that public schools build futures and that great teachers change lives.

On behalf of Arizona's Seventh Congressional District, we thank Mrs. Peralta for 25 years of dedication, compassion, and service. We are proud of her, and we are so grateful for her.

"We love you very much, Mrs. Peralta"; "Te queremos muchos, Sra. Peralta."

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT TRUMP

(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 congratulate President Trump for his successful State of the Union Address last night.

With Republicans' help here in Congress, we have worked nonstop to bring down costs and empower everyday Americans.

For instance, President Trump has negotiated countless trade deals to bring manufacturing back to America. Tariffs have led to massive investments, particularly in Indiana, including investments from John Deere and General Motors and many small to mid-sized companies.

President Trump is also helping Americans by lowering prices on gas and food. Along with Republicans, he has worked to implement Trump accounts to ensure financial resources for future generations.

Above all, President Trump has built off the work of the late Charlie Kirk to put God at the center of American exceptionalism.

Our country has rebounded with safer streets, peace through strength, and tremendous tax cuts.

As America marks its 250th anniversary, I just thank him and support the work that Republicans and President

Trump are doing to make sure that America wins in the future and that God may bless America to continue to be the great Nation that we are blessed with.

NO MORE MIDDLE EAST WARS

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

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, another war in the Middle East is not America First. That is why Congressman MASSIE and I will introduce a bipartisan Iran war powers resolution.

America First means Congress first on matters of war and peace. Every Member in this body must go on the record about whether we should have another endless war in the Middle East.

The American people are sick of billions of dollars going for overseas wars. They want that money for manufacturing jobs here, for healthcare here, for childcare here, and for education here.

There is no doubt the Iranian regime is brutal in killing protestors and murdering their own people, but an American war will only inflame nationalism and will not prevent them from getting the bomb.

We need a better approach. We need to focus on our country's economic development.

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S GREAT SPEECH

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to one more time congratulate President Trump on a great speech last night. He is a great orator. I think of the six speeches I have heard him give in this Chamber. That was the best one yet.

He did a great job of recounting the successes he has had in immigration, the successes he has had in healthcare, the successes he has had using the tax code to help out parents with children, which is, I think, the one area in life in which having a decent revenue stream is most important.

However, he did lay out what is going to be a future conflict within the Republican Party, and it is important that our conservatives are aware of it.

President Trump is conscious of the fact that as revenue comes in from the tariffs, there are people who are going to want to spend it and people who are going to want to lower other taxes. It is important that all true Republicans weigh in and double their efforts to make sure that we do not use any of these increased tariffs to increase the role of government in people's lives.

PRESIDENT WASHINGTON'S FAREWELL ADDRESS

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. HILL of Ar-

kansas was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of the Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arkansas?

There was no objection.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today with my colleagues to lead the House of Representatives in reading President George Washington's farewell address.

Having just celebrated the 294th birthday of our indispensable first President, this is a fitting tribute as we celebrate the 250th year of our Nation's creation.

The farewell address is a remarkable document. Published in the American Daily Advertiser on September 19, 1796, it was never delivered in person, but it was widely read and remains one of the most important documents in American history.

President Washington completed his two terms as our indispensable first President. He was first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen.

Every step of the way, he viewed his actions through the lens of the precedent it would set for the Presidency and for future Presidents: his dress, his decorum, his relationship with Congress, his decisions about his Cabinet, and his approach to executive decision-making.

In this address, you will see clearly that he ended his extraordinary public career on a high note.

The practice of reading the farewell address began in a joint session of Congress on February 22, 1862, during the darkest days of the Civil War.

The Senate revived the ceremonial reading in 1888, and each year since 1896, the Senate has observed George Washington's birthday in February by selecting a Senator, alternating parties, to read the 7,641-word statement in their legislative session. This year, fittingly, in this year of America250, our semiquincentennial, it was Senator TIM KAINE of Virginia.

The House revived the ceremonial reading in 1889 and continued intermittently until 1933, after which it became an annual fixture in until 1979.

□ 1110

Today, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I are delighted to return this tradition to the House floor accompanied by our handsome portrait of our first President by John Vanderlyn that has hung here in the House Chamber since the 1830s.

Mr. Washington's Farewell Address:
"Friends and Fellow-Citizens:

"The period for a new election of a citizen to administer the executive government of the United States being