

invisible wound, 31 days isn't a wait list. It is a countdown or even condemnation.

We say that the statistics have gotten better, but better is unacceptable. There are more than 16 million veterans in the United States. More than 1.5 million veterans call Florida home. They are our neighbors, our children, and our parents.

Still, on average, one veteran dies by suicide every 65 minutes. By the time we go to bed tonight, 17 chairs will sit empty at dinner tables across America. That is 17 folded flags and 17 families staring at their phones that will never ring again. It is not because they weren't strong enough. It is not because they didn't fight hard enough, but it is because we didn't fight hard enough to give them the services that they deserve and need.

If we can send our sons and our daughters into harm's way, then it is our duty to ensure that they have access to counseling, crisis services, and the dignity of timely care when they come home.

To our veterans who are watching, they are not alone. Their service mattered, and in this Congress, their lives matter during and after, too.

Mr. Speaker, our veterans are not lost, and they are always in our hearts. They upheld their duty to us, and now it is our duty to uphold our promise to them—not in 31 days, not tomorrow, but today and now.

To all of our veterans and our VSOs who are here visiting on the Hill, we thank them for their service and their courage, and we will never stop fighting for them until we fulfill our promise to them.

HONORING GLADYS WEST

(Ms. FOXX of North Carolina was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, March is Women's History Month, a time when we make an extra effort to honor and recognize women across the United States and the world who have made a positive, sustained impact upon society.

The Wall Street Journal recently ran an article honoring the life of Gladys West, a brilliant mathematician who played an integral role in creating GPS technology.

Gladys was a 42-year civilian employee of the United States Navy. Due to the classified nature of her work, few individuals knew of her contributions to this now popular and essential technology as it was being developed.

Here are quotes from the article I have referenced:

"In her 42-year career as a civilian employee of the Navy, West learned to program computers and solve mathematical problems she could never have imagined in graduate school. Some of her work involved measuring the precise contours of the Earth, on land and at sea, allowing for the effects of tides

and other forces. She was particularly diligent about checking for accuracy. The research was vital for creation of the Global Positioning System, or GPS, a priority for the U.S. military in the 1970s and 1980s."

Ms. West was inducted into the Air Force Space and Missile Pioneers Hall of Fame in 2018 and was awarded the President's Award by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers for her work in helping create GPS.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. West's story is one of service, hard work, determination, and perseverance, and I am quite certain that her story and accomplishments will continue to serve as an inspiration for generations of proud Americans to come.

I thank Gladys' family for sharing her so wonderfully with the rest of the world. I thank Gladys, even though she is now gone, for the wonderful work that she did in helping our country and the world.

RECOGNIZING EMELIN THEATRE

(Mr. LATIMER of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the magnificent jewel located in the heart of the village of Mamaroneck, the Emelin Theatre.

The Emelin is a nonprofit organization that brings world-class performing arts to all of Westchester, as well as nearby Connecticut. The events at the Emelin cover all genres of music, comedy, dance, family theater, and film. In the next few weeks alone, there will be performances highlighting Motown, flamenco dance, southern rock, jazz, cabaret standards, and numerous community events that will be hosted in their spacious environment.

The professional staff, led by Taryn Sacramone, ably directs and manages all of the component parts of the Emelin's mission, and community commitment to the Emelin is exceptional, led by Mark Ettenger, board president.

The generosity of the board of directors and the Friends of the Emelin provide the additional resources needed to keep this asset thriving decades after its inception.

From the floor of the House of Representatives, we recognize the tremendous presence of the Emelin in our Westchester world.

RECOGNIZING NEW ROCHELLE BAR ASSOCIATION

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, in this Chamber, we speak of this American experiment in democracy that is 250 years in the making under principles forged in our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the laws of the judicial rulings that have followed. Yet, these principles will die on the vine of history if they aren't taught and absorbed by each new generation of Americans.

One effort to keep those ideas alive is found in the New Rochelle Bar Association's unique outreach in the New Rochelle school system, the Lawyers in the Classroom program.

The New Rochelle Bar has signed up members skilled in all elements of the law to speak to elementary and middle school students in the nearly 10 schools in the district and make constitutional principles come alive—amendments with numbers that represent important principles: the First Amendment, the Second Amendment, the Fourth Amendment, and the 10th Amendment—helping young people understand, in everyday language, what these principles mean in everyday life.

In addition to the educators at the schools of Trinity, Jefferson, Columbus, Barnard, Webster, Davis, Ward, Albert Leonard, and Isaac Young, let me recognize some of the long list of lawyers who have dedicated time for this project: Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert, Andy Spatz, Suzanne Berger, Jennifer Pasquantonio, Regina Matos, David Lacher, Artem Djukic, Adam Sattler, Laurie Korngold, Jeffrey Levin, Michele Tombini, Barry Salzman, Stephanie Vetch, Susan Kettner, Frank D'Onofrio, Michael Schiffer, Julie Kattan, Christina Hall, Milton Kreppel, and so many more—a real all-star lineup on the frontline team for democracy.

CONGRATULATING BARRY AND BARBARA REITER

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate a dynamic couple, Barry and Barbara Reiter, as they plan to celebrate their 70th birthdays together later this month.

Barry and I were in Mount Vernon High School together all those years ago. He is a tad younger than I am, but he and Barbara have given years of community service over and above their professional careers and in raising their family. Their service in volunteer emergency services for their town and Barry's service on the town council are just two examples.

Mr. Speaker, take it from one who knows that age 70 is an achievement in life and an opportunity to continue to serve, and Barry and Barbara will.

From the floor of the House of Representatives, happy birthday to Barbara and Barry Reiter.

CONGRATULATING MORENCI HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' WRESTLING TEAM

(Mr. CISCOMANI of Arizona was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Morenci High School boys' wrestling team on winning the Division IV wrestling title for the 2025–2026 season.

The Morenci Wildcats totaled 214.5 points to win the Division IV title and were led by three teammates who each placed first overall in their weight classes.

Jacob Goodwin won the 159-pound championship with a total of four victories, with a total of three pins, as well.

Emerson Montes won the 152-pound title and secured a major decision in the championship match.

□ 1045

Caden Woodall won the 167-pound championship, with two pins during his run for that championship.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Coach Casey Woodall, the whole team, and everyone who made this win possible. Their hard work has made their school and community very proud. The Wildcats should enjoy this victory. They earned it. Here is to another successful season and many more to come.

SAHUARITA HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' WRESTLING WIN
DIVISION III STATE TITLE

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Sahuarita High School Boys' Wrestling Team on winning the Division III wrestling title for the fifth consecutive season.

The Mustangs are only the fifth program in Arizona Interscholastic Association history to reach this milestone. The team won the State title with a total of 239 points, 92 points ahead of the runners-up.

In addition, the Mustangs had five team members who took first place in their individual weight classes. Sophomore Marcus Killgore and senior Sebastian Serrano each won their individual weight class championship, earning both of them their second straight State titles. Additionally, senior James Buck and juniors Nathaniel Gallardo and Sergio Macias also won the title in their individual weight classes.

This win also marks the seventh consecutive year that the Mustangs have finished as State champions or as runner-up.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Coach Paul Vasquez, the whole team, and everyone who made this win possible. Their hard work has made their school and community very proud. The Mustangs should enjoy their victory. They have earned this one. Here is to another successful season and many more to come.

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 10 o'clock and 46 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

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

Examine us, O God, and test us. Search our hearts that we would prove faithful, and test our minds that we

would receive wisdom. For You alone are righteous. Let us be mindful of Your truth and attentive to Your Word.

Then judge us when we stray from Your will. Judge between nations and between neighbors in the resolution of their discord. Settle the disputes that have arisen from disdain and distrust among peoples.

Take our weapons—our swords of war and conflict—and transform them. Take our words of bitterness and redeem them, that we would instead wield tools of peace and reconciliation in our time.

Grant us the hope that is found only in You, a hope that promises a day when there will be neither need nor appetite for war anymore.

In Your mercy, show us the way You would have us go in our pursuit of freedom and democracy for our Nation and in our desire for peace and security in our world.

In Your sovereign name, we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South 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

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

DEFENDING AMERICAN 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, the Tehran regime is the head of the snake of terrorism worldwide, chanting death to America. They have targeted, kidnapped, wounded, and killed thousands of Americans for 47 years.

President Donald Trump repeatedly sought peace, but the Iranian regime boasted of 11 nuclear bombs, as exposed by talented Envoy Steve Witkoff.

As a result, President Trump made the decision with Israel to launch Operation Epic Fury, defending American families. The objectives are clear: de-

stroy the missile capabilities, annihilate the naval assets, and ensure that Iran can never have a nuclear weapon.

Senior Iranian despots and murderous Khamenei have been destroyed.

We grieve for the courageous servicemembers wounded and those who have given the ultimate sacrifice for freedom.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Trump is reiterating peace through strength, revealing war criminal Putin lies, insulting Trump and mocking Trump as Putin declares solidarity with the Iranian mass murderers.

Our prayers are with devoted Indiana Congressman JIM BAIRD upon the loss of his wife, Danise.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Lasky, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 3377. An act to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to James Capers, Jr., for acts of valor as a member of the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War.

H.R. 7194. An act to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Nicholas Dockery for acts of valor as a member of the Army while serving in Afghanistan.

H.R. 7211. An act to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to John W. Ripley for acts of valor during the Vietnam War, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 3971. An act to extend the SBIR and STTR programs, and for other purposes.

SALUTING MOUNT VERNON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

(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, I rise to recognize the outstanding work of the men and women who lead the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce.

Every month, they hold a Zoom meeting for all of their members and provide the latest information of value to the businessowners and retailers who provide goods and services to the people of Mount Vernon. The guest speakers cover substantive topics such as access to capital, tax preparation, availability of grant programs, healthcare, personnel issues, tariffs, and much more.

Every month, I join in virtually to give a Federal issues update. The same is true for county officials such as County Executive Ken Jenkins and Shari Rosen Ascher.

The chamber is led by Omar Fields, chairman of the board; Anita Hunt, board secretary; and former Mount Vernon Councilwoman Lisa Copeland, who serves as president. They do a tremendous service to the people and to