

135 refueling aircraft supporting U.S. military operations in Iran crashed in western Iraq.

Today, we remember them by name: Major John “Alex” Klinner, Captain Ariana Savino, Captain Seth Koval, Captain Curtis Angst, Technical Sergeant Ashley Pruitt, and Technical Sergeant Tyler Simmons.

Three of these brave airmen were members of the 99th Air Refueling Squadron, which operates in Birmingham, Alabama, in my district.

I will take a moment to talk about the lives and legacies of these three airmen.

Major Alex Klinner was 33 years old, a native of Auburn, Alabama. He entered the Air Force through the ROTC program at Auburn University in 2017.

Major Klinner deployed in 2019, 2020, 2022, and 2026, and he served as chief of the squadron’s standardization and evaluation at the 99th Air Refueling Squadron since 2024. He was promoted to major in January.

A devoted husband and father, Major Klinner is survived by his wife, Libby, their 2-year-old son, and a 7-year-old set of twins.

Captain Ariana Savino was 31 years old. Captain Savino was a native of Covington, Washington. She entered the Air Force through the ROTC program at Central Washington University in 2017. Captain Savino deployed in 2020 and in 2026 and had served as the chief current operations pilot at the 99th Air Refueling Squadron since 2024.

Captain Savino was passionate about serving and supporting Latin women in aviation.

A dedicated friend and sister, she is survived by her parents, siblings, and pets.

Technical Sergeant Ashley Brooke Pruitt was 34 years old and a native of Bardstown, Kentucky. She entered the Air Force in 2017, deploying overseas three times and serving as an assistant flight chief of operations at the 99th Air Refueling Squadron.

Technical Sergeant Pruitt is remembered as a selfless servant and a radiant mother by those in her community. She is survived by her husband, Gregory, 3-year-old daughter, and a stepson.

The loss of all six of these brave American patriots is devastating, and my prayers are with their families as they grieve.

I know I speak for all of us in expressing our deep sorrow and immense gratitude for their service to the United States.

On behalf of Alabama’s Seventh Congressional District and a grateful nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the lives of six airmen who paid the ultimate price. May they rest in peace, and may we never ever forget their sacrifice.

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

HONORING CAPTAIN ARIANA SAVINO

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

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Captain Ariana Savino of Covington, Washington, who tragically lost her life in the KC-135 crash over Iraq during Operation Epic Fury.

Captain Savino was one of our Nation’s heroes, someone who made the ultimate sacrifice in service of our country.

We celebrate and mourn all of America’s heroes who lose their lives in combat operations or in training, but this loss hits especially close to home for those of us from Washington State.

While she was not based at Fairchild Air Force Base, the Fairchild Air Force Base community and all who serve the tanker mission exemplify extraordinary courage and quiet professionalism. Their work of keeping our aircraft fueled and our operations moving is essential to every mission that our Nation undertakes around the world. We are heartbroken by this tragedy.

Eastern Washington stands with Captain Savino’s family, friends, and the brave airmen and -women of Fairchild. May her memory continue to shine brightly, and may her loved ones find comfort in knowing that she served with honor and deep devotion to the United States of America.

HONORING AIRMAN 1ST CLASS KIMBERLYNN BLOOD

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Airman 1st Class Kimberlynn Blood of Fairfield, Washington, a shining example of the proud tradition of service that defines eastern Washington.

Airman Blood is the third generation of her family to serve the United States Air Force, following her great-grandfather and her grandfather. Her father also served in the United States Navy from 2003 to 2008, and several members of her family are veterans or currently serving.

Each week, when I come to the floor, I try to recognize one of the bright lights of eastern Washington, and Airman Blood is certainly one of those bright lights.

A former Civil Air Patrol member, Airman Blood graduated basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base on December 4, 2025, with honors, ranking in the top 10 percent in her class and as the only female in her squadron.

She went on to earn the prestigious Flight Chief Air Award at Sheppard Air Force Base, placing among the top 5 percent of her aircraft fuel systems class. Her first duty assignment will be at RAF Lakenheath in the United Kingdom.

Airman Blood’s achievement reflects the patriotism and dedication that run deep in eastern Washington, and her community is incredibly proud of her commitment to serve our Nation.

□ 1030

CELEBRATING NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate National Agriculture Week.

Agriculture is the backbone of eastern Washington, the heart of our economy, our culture, and our communities. In spite of escalating production costs and other challenges, our farmers and ranchers remain dedicated to feeding our families and strengthening our Nation.

From wheat and apples to some of the finest chickpeas and lentils in the world, eastern Washington’s producers help feed a hungry planet while building healthy soils and strong rural communities. Their resilience, innovation, and work ethic embody the best of the American spirit.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all of our hardworking farmers and ranchers across the Nation for all they do and wish all of America a happy National Agriculture Week.

RECOGNIZING CITY RESCUE MISSION

(Mr. BEAN of Florida was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, what does it take to change a city? Sometimes it starts with a cup of soup.

Eighty years ago, in Jacksonville, Florida, three businessmen did exactly that. They walked the streets handing out soup to men who had nowhere else to turn—no fanfare, no program, just compassion in action.

From that small act in 1946 grew the City Rescue Mission, an institution that has spent eight decades restoring hope to men, women, and families facing homelessness, addiction, hunger, and hardship.

What began as a small ministry has grown into a comprehensive network of services that provides emergency shelter, recovery programs, job training, medical care, and lifelong transformation for thousands of people in northeast Florida.

For 80 years, the mission has reminded our community of a simple truth: The strength of a city is measured not by the buildings or the economy but by how it cares for those struggling the most.

On May 7, the City Rescue Mission will celebrate—how about this, Mr. Speaker—its 80th anniversary with a dinner honoring its legacy and looking toward the future.

The real story isn’t the anniversary. It is the thousands of lives changed because someone cared enough to act.

Mr. Speaker, may God continue to bless the men and women who have been a part of the mission and continue to this day to be a part of that mission. To think, Mr. Speaker, it all started with three people walking through the streets of Jacksonville, carrying nothing but soup. Sometimes the smallest acts of service create the biggest change.

HONORING GREEN BERETS

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, across the world today, brave men and women servicemembers are standing watch, protecting our freedoms, and defending the liberties we all hold dear.

Among them is a group of soldiers whose mission is often carried out far away from the spotlight, and they would prefer it that way. They are known as the Quiet Professionals.

They are the men and women of the United States Army Special Forces, the Green Berets. They serve in some of the most demanding environments on Earth, often behind the scenes, carrying out difficult missions that protect American interests and defend freedom for the people they probably will never meet.

This April, the northeast Florida community will gather at the Jacksonville National Cemetery to unveil a memorial honoring these extraordinary soldiers. Many Green Berets from units such as the 7th Special Forces Group, who have lived, trained, served, and now, in some cases, rest there, are among the patriots who answered our Nation's call. This monument will stand as a lasting tribute to their courage, their sacrifice, and the families who carry the burdens of service alongside them.

Mr. Speaker, the Green Berets live by a simple motto: De Oppresso Liber, To Free the Oppressed. They have never sought recognition, but now it is our honor to give it to them.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 34 minutes 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. CRAWFORD) at noon.

PRAYER

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

God of the ages, we recall the words of Saint Patrick's breastplate, when we too bear witness to the strength of Heaven revealed in the light of the Sun, in the speed of the lightning, in the swiftness of the sea, in the stability of the Earth, and in the firmness of the rock.

This is the strength that You have provided us to face this day. And You, O Lord, alone are the source of that strength.

From You and through You and for You are all things. Deep are the riches of Your wisdom and knowledge.

And it is Your omniscience that directs us, Your might that upholds us, and Your spirit that inspires us to serve You. May we live up to the responsibility You have entrusted to us as we labor in these Halls.

To You, God Almighty, be all praise and honor. 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 New York (Mr. GOLDMAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York 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.

HONORING CHRISTOPHER MERIWETHER DEMM

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

Mr. McDOWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Christopher Meriwether Demm as he prepares to retire later this month.

A true legend of his craft, morning talk radio will never be the same.

Chris Demm of the "2 Guys Named Chris" show has been a fixture on radios across my district for the better part of three decades.

To the loyal PIs who listened to him every day, he is more than just a morning show host. He is a trusted source for a solid deep cut. He is a reliable bet for a laugh. He is the Michael Jordan of rock-and-roll trivia and the king of thoughtful interview questions.

Every morning thousands of people across North Carolina start their day listening to Chris Demm: people on job sites, folks on their morning commute to the office, or kids who got their start, like me, listening with my dad in the car on the way to school.

Mr. Speaker, while we prepare for our mornings to sound a little different, I speak on behalf of thousands of listeners in saying thank you to Chris for 27 years. We all enjoyed it. I extend congratulations to Chris on his retirement. His poor back has earned it by

carrying Chris Kelly for all of these years.

END HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, a key ingredient for making America healthy is better access to cooking classes to teach people how to prepare nutritious meals.

As part of my End Hunger Now tour across Massachusetts, I joined my friend Representative SETH MOULTON on a visit to the Phoenix Food Hub at Greater Lynn Senior Services. We participated in cooking classes where we learned how to make carrot muffins.

We talked with the CEO of Lynn Senior Services, Kathy Burns, and clients of the food hub who shared how important these classes are to their ability to eat nutritiously. We heard firsthand how Trump's reckless cuts to SNAP and other nutrition programs such as SNAP education, which was eliminated in the big, ugly bill, are making it even harder for them to put nutritious food on the table for their families.

Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is that Republicans are taking away money for food and tools to help improve nutrition. If we want to make America healthy again and end hunger now, Congress must reverse these cuts now.

CONDEMNING WEALTH INEQUALITY

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

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to condemn the skyrocketing wealth inequality in this country.

Over the last couple of decades, the rich have gotten richer while working families have been left behind. The very wealthiest of Americans pay an average effective tax rate of 3.4 percent. Elon Musk pays 3.3 percent. Jeff Bezos pays 1 percent. Yet, wage-earning Americans pay nearly 30 percent.

Put simply, our tax system is rigged. That is why I introduced the ROBINHOOD Act, to make these billionaires pay their fair share so that we can deliver universal childcare and Medicare for all.

These billionaires avoid paying taxes because their assets and money is in stock. They don't sell their stock. Instead, they take out loans against their stock, and they don't pay taxes on their loans.

Put simply, this bill would tax those loans and would generate nearly \$30 billion of revenue. This is the right way to tackle our wealth inequality and to make the wealthy pay their fair share.