

As a young woman in World War II, Mae went on to work for the home front, helping build the aircraft that formed the backbone of America's airpower.

For decades since she has been a tireless advocate to ensure that millions of Rosies receive the recognition they have long deserved. They riveted, welded, and labored in our factories, in our shipyards, in our farms, in our schools, and in our hospitals.

Mr. Speaker, I was honored to lead the Rosie the Riveter Congressional Gold Medal Act and to present Mae Krier with that gold medal, the very first one, the highest civilian honor from Congress, on the shores of Normandy during the 80th anniversary of the D-Day invasion in tribute to all the women whose hands and hearts helped win this war.

Mae is the embodiment of a trailblazer. Her contributions during the war and her tireless advocacy for women's empowerment and equality have laid the foundation for the America we cherish today and for the next generation of young women.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Rosie the Riveter Mae Krier a very happy 100th birthday and in honoring all the Rosies whose courage and patriotism changed America forever.

HONORING JAMES A. LEWIS IV

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

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and legacy of James A. Lewis IV, who tragically passed away on January 26, 2026, at the age of 46.

James was the beloved son of Reverend Dr. James A. Lewis III and Lady Zandra Lewis of Miracle Missions Full Gospel Church.

He was a loving brother to Lisa, Colby, Tamara, Jamila, and Jermaine. He was a trusted friend. Above all, he was a devoted father to Jada and grandfather to JaKai James Smith, instilling a love that will forever run deep within them.

For James, his friends, family, and community were everything. On Sundays, one didn't have to look far to find James. He would be at the grill, apron on, with tongs in hand and a smile on his face, graciously making sure everyone had a full plate. It was a simple demonstration of his kind and generous spirit. One of the quiet ways he showed love was by making sure everyone was taken care of.

He carried that same spirit of service into every facet of his life, including his work at the Erie County Medical Center and Golisano Children's Hospital of Buffalo. He helped keep patients safe, supported frontline caregivers, and ensured that healing could happen.

James went on to build a business of his own, starting a cleaning company,

driven by excellence and commitment to service. Through his work, James supported community institutions of all sizes and helped create spaces where opportunity and hope could flourish and take root.

James measured his success by whether his family was cared for, whether his work was done well, and whether he lived in accordance with his faith. Today, his legacy lives on through his beloved family. In them, his strength endures; and his spirit carries forward.

The backbone of this Nation is built by those like James A. Lewis IV, people who serve quietly, love fiercely, and build community one act of kindness at a time.

May we honor him not just for what he did but for who he was. May we carry forward his example by loving our families more intentionally, serving our communities more faithfully, and remembering that greatness is often found in everyday acts of devotion.

Our community and our Nation grieves with the Lewis family. May memories of his life and the knowledge that he is now in the arms of the Lord comfort them. May James A. Lewis IV rest in peace.

HONORING BERNARD LAFAYETTE

(Ms. SEWELL of Alabama was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the extraordinary life and legacy of Bernard LaFayette, who passed away on March 5, 2026, at the age of 85. He was a giant of the civil rights movement and a lifelong champion of justice, equality, and nonviolence.

Bernard LaFayette was an extraordinary man who had extraordinary talents and extraordinary courage. As a Freedom Rider and a cofounder of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, otherwise known as SNCC, Bernard placed himself on the front line of the struggle for civil rights, risking life and limb to challenge injustice and dismantle segregation across the South.

As a trusted lieutenant of Dr. Martin Luther King, he helped to advocate a philosophy of nonviolent social change that moved our Nation closer to its founding promise of liberty and justice for all.

His liberation was one of selflessness. His leadership was instrumental during the most pivotal moments of the civil rights movement, especially in my hometown of Selma, where his organizing efforts helped secure the right to vote for countless Black Americans.

Yet, what set Bernard LaFayette apart was not only his bravery in those defining moments but his lifelong commitment to ensuring the principles of nonviolence would endure forever.

Through his ministry, his scholarship, and his teaching, Bernard LaFayette dedicated himself to training new

generations in the principles and the discipline of peaceful resistance.

He believed deeply in what Dr. King called the Beloved Community, a Nation and a world rooted in justice, in reconciliation, and love. He worked every day of his life to make that vision a reality.

On a personal note, as a proud daughter of Selma, I am forever grateful for the sacrifices made by Bernard LaFayette in the name of justice and equality. I know that I get to walk the Halls of Congress as Alabama's first Black Congresswoman because of the resilience, the courage, and determination of people like Bernard.

My thoughts and prayers are with his beloved wife, Kate, as well as his family, friends, and all those whose lives he touched.

On behalf of Alabama's Seventh Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the extraordinary life and legacy of a civil rights icon and a nonviolent advocate, Bernard LaFayette. May he rest in power and in peace.

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NEBRASKA WILDFIRE CRISIS

(Mr. SMITH of Nebraska was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in keeping the people of Nebraska in their thoughts and prayers as our State confronts the worst wildfire crisis in our history.

Nebraska has always been defined by resilience. From the pioneers who endured brutal blizzards, devastating droughts, and an uncertain future to build a life on the Great Plains, to the families who call it home today, that spirit has never left us. It is who we are.

Today, that spirit is being tested once again. On March 12, four fires ignited across central and western Nebraska. In less than a week, they have burned over 826,000 acres, and there is still no clear end in sight.

This past weekend, I joined Governor Pillen and Senator RICKETTS to tour the affected areas and meet with local officials to learn about the latest containment efforts. What I saw and heard was certainly sobering. The scale of this devastation is staggering.

Across 10 counties, no less than 46 structures have been destroyed and 470 more are threatened. At least 600 Nebraskans have had to evacuate their homes, and 1 Nebraskan, Rose White of Arthur, Nebraska, has lost her life. I certainly take a moment to offer my heartfelt condolences to her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and all who knew and loved her.

Right now, these fires continue to burn, and Mother Nature is not predicted to be of any assistance any time soon. The Morrill fire, now the largest wildfire in Nebraska's history, has already burned more than 643,000 acres

and is only 16 percent contained. The Cottonwood fire has taken over 131,000 acres and is just 40 percent contained. Road 203 fire has burned more than 35,000 acres and is only 36 percent contained, and the Anderson Bridge fire has burned up to 17,000 acres and is 60 percent contained.

Yet, even in the face of this disaster, Nebraskans are doing what we have always done, and that is coming together. Neighbors are helping neighbors. Unaffected communities across our State are sending their support, and a countless number of brave volunteer firefighters and first responders continue to work around the clock, putting everything on the line to protect lives, land, and livelihoods.

Governor Pillen has deployed the Nebraska National Guard, and Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds has sent Iowa National Guard helicopters with Bambi Buckets and crews trained for firefighting operations to assist in these efforts. This is what it means to look out for one another.

While this fight is far from over, we must remember what is at stake. Agriculture is the backbone of Nebraska's economy and a way of life for countless families. These fires are not just burning land. They are threatening livelihoods.

Heading into the summer, it is expected that more than 35,000 head of cattle will be without grass this grazing season. Tens of millions of dollars' worth of fencing, fence lines, and other crucial infrastructure have been lost. This means for many producers that the hardship will continue long after the fires are contained.

I ask those producers to please document their losses when it is safe to do so. Federal disaster assistance programs are available, and I want to ensure that support is received for those who are eligible.

I also will take a moment to be honest about what is happening here in Washington. While Nebraska is battling the worst wildfire in our State's history, Senate Democrats are continuing to hold funding for the Department of Homeland Security hostage, putting future FEMA disaster relief funding at risk. Enough is enough. Disaster relief and other vital programs, including TSA and others, should never be used as a political pawn.

All Nebraskans should know that they have the full support of the entire Nebraska Federal delegation, and we stand ready to help in any way that we can. We have faced tough times before, and we have always come through them stronger together. We will do that again now because that is who we are as Nebraskans.

AMERICANS DESERVE A SAY IN DECISIONS TO GO TO WAR

(Ms. DEXTER of Oregon was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. DEXTER. Mr. Speaker, to the American people watching, I am here

to say clearly on the floor of the House of Representatives:

You deserve a say in whether our country goes to war.

You deserve a say in whether our children are sent into combat.

You deserve a say in whether your tax dollars are fueling a \$1 billion-a-day conflict.

You deserve a voice because the decision to go to war needs to reflect the will of the people who fight in and pay for that war. That will is exercised through the American people's elected Representatives in Congress. It is not about bureaucratic process. It is about the fact that you should have a say in whether your country goes to war.

The White House has cut the American people out of that conversation to launch a war without articulating a compelling imminent threat. They are taking our children to war with no goal, no justification, and no off-ramp. Yet, I will be clear that we still do have the power to stop this.

Public support for Trump is collapsing. If the American people stay loud, more Republicans in this body will have to decide whether they stand with their constituents or with the war. People in red States and blue States want and need the same things: good jobs, safe neighborhoods, a stable economy, affordable healthcare and housing, and the ability to thrive in their communities.

They do not want war, especially not a war being led by Pete Hegseth from day one, who has been failing to demonstrate that he can keep Americans safe. At least 13 soldiers have already died on his watch, and over 1,000 civilians have been killed. It is becoming increasingly clear that the U.S. military is responsible for bombing a school full of elementary school children, killing at least 168 people. The American people do not support this horror.

To my Republican colleagues: Do the right thing. Stand up for our constituents.

To the American people: Do not look away from the truth of what is happening. Refuse to normalize being silent and complicit. You must stay loud.

PROTECTION FOR EXPOSURE OF GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION

(Ms. TLAIB of Michigan was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, alerting the public to government wrongdoing is not a crime. Yet, sadly, administrations of both parties are increasingly using the Espionage Act to target and prosecute whistleblowers and journalists for sharing critical information, important information, with the public. Such prosecutions undermine our government's transparency and are a clear violation of the First Amendment and fundamental right to due process.

That is why I am introducing the Daniel Ellsberg Press Freedom and

Whistleblower Protection Act, which would prevent abuses against whistleblowers, journalists, and the American public for exposing government corruption.

Ever since it became law in 1917, the Espionage Act has been used to criminalize political dissent, and that is dangerous. It has been used to target whistleblowers who alerted the American people about government lies about the Vietnam war, mass surveillance, torture, drone assassinations, and the U.S. war crimes in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In recent years, the use of this repressive tool has prosecuted whistleblowers and journalists acting in the public interest and has expanded dramatically, producing a major chilling effect on the right to dissent in our country. In our country, war has always been used as an excuse by the powerful to take away the rights of our people.

This legislation is named in honor of the late Daniel Ellsberg, the celebrated whistleblower who bravely exposed government lies about the Vietnam war with the publication of the Pentagon Papers.

Today, our government is committing horrific war crimes against humanity, from Iran to Palestine to Cuba, while expanding mass surveillance and spying on Americans more than ever.

If we allow Presidential administrations to continue to abuse this power and erode our rights, we will lose our freedom of speech and so much more.

It is time to put an end to these abuses and stand up for our First Amendment rights and freedoms.

STRIFE IN LEBANON

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the celebration of Eid al-Fitr, the end of the holy month of Ramadan, thousands of our families in the 12th Congressional District who have strong ties to Lebanon are struggling right now.

This year's Eid feels different for us. I know many have lost loved ones. Many mosques are full of memorials, and many, many, again, are watching their grandparents' homes be bombed and seeing relatives, uprooted from their neighbors, becoming homeless. This campaign of ethnic cleansing by the Israeli Government has already killed nearly 1,000 people, including over 100 children that we know of.

Over 1 million people in Lebanon, one-fifth of Lebanon's entire population, has been forcibly displaced and told by the Israeli military that they will not be allowed to return to their homes and their villages. This has all been supported and enabled by our tax dollars.

Mr. Speaker, entire families have been wiped out, and towns and city neighborhoods have been completely erased. Entire generations—grandparents, parents, and children are gone. Medical centers and universities are being targeted. Look it up. They are