

into the most dangerous places on Earth so that others may succeed.

They are pilots, crew chiefs, and maintainers who deliver our Nation's most elite special operations forces to the fight and bring them home. Often, they do it in silence, without recognition, without headlines, and without fanfare. But make no mistake: the success of countless missions and the safety of countless Americans rests on their shoulders.

Madam Speaker, my journey to the 160th began at the United States Military Academy at West Point, where I learned what it meant to lead and to serve. I went on to fly Apache attack helicopters on my first combat deployment to Iraq, but it was my selection into the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment at Fort Campbell that defined the most challenging and most meaningful chapter of my military career.

At Fort Campbell, I had the honor of serving alongside the very best. The standard is unforgiving. The training is relentless, and the expectation is clear: Mission first, people always.

It was there that I learned what true excellence looks like, not in theory, but in practice. It was there that I saw the character of the American warfighter at its finest.

Madam Speaker, we cannot talk about the 160th without recognizing the community that supports it. Clarksville, Montgomery County, and the surrounding region are more than just locations on a map. They are a critical part of the mission. They are home to thousands of servicemembers and their families. They are communities that understand sacrifice, communities that show up, and communities that support those who serve, not just in words, but in action.

Fort Campbell and the Clarksville community represent one of the strongest military civilian partnerships in our Nation, and we are stronger because of it.

Madam Speaker, the Night Stalkers are defined by their ethos: "Night Stalkers don't quit." But that ethos is more than a slogan. It is a promise—a promise to the elite special operators they carry, a promise to the missions they execute, and a promise to the Nation they serve.

It means flying into danger when others cannot. It means pressing forward when conditions say turn back, and it means doing the hard things over and over again without recognition, without hesitation, and without failure.

Today, I ask this body to join me in honoring the men and women of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, past and present.

To the Night Stalkers still serving, we see you, we respect you, and we are grateful for you.

To the families who stand behind them, your strength makes their service possible.

To those who gave their lives in service to this unit and this Nation, we will never forget your sacrifice.

Madam Speaker, it was the honor of a lifetime to serve among the Night Stalkers, and it is my honor today to stand on this floor and say on behalf of a grateful Nation: Night Stalkers don't quit, and neither will we.

RECOGNIZING SALLY ANDERSON

(Mr. NEGUSE of Colorado was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, before I was first sworn in to the United States Congress, my predecessor gave me a great piece of advice. He told me that the most important thing to do as I was getting started was to build a great team.

I am glad I took his advice. The first person that I hired when I became a Member of Congress, to help build the team and to ultimately help lead it, was Sally Anderson.

I rise today 7½ years later to thank her for her selfless, tireless, and dedicated service—her service to the people of Colorado's Second District, her service to the people of Colorado, and her service to our country.

Sally first served as my district director and later became my Colorado chief of staff. Throughout her tenure, she worked incredibly hard each and every day to serve the citizens of our district. One can imagine the various challenges that our communities face from year to year. She faced each of those challenges with empathy, with compassion, and with unwavering determination. Historic wildfires, terrible flash floods, a devastating mass shooting, emergency after emergency, crisis after crisis, Sally was often the first call that I would make when grappling with how to solve a challenge, address an emergency in my district, and to do the work that we are solemnly charged with doing. She joined me at funerals, memorials, and remembrances. She played a pivotal role in the development of legislation here in Washington, D.C.

I could spend hours, Madam Speaker, regaling you with the stories of the constituents' lives that she shaped, the casework that she supervised, and the countless examples of her kindness, leaving an indelible impression in the hearts and minds of the people I represent from Boulder to Fort Collins, from Vail to Steamboat Springs, and every corner in between.

Sally was also a leader here in Washington. She was a mentor to district directors across the country as part of our district directors' service program. I have heard countless stories from my colleagues who have told me from their district directors of their experience, when they have relied on her counsel and advice when faced with a challenge or crisis.

Perhaps most importantly, above all else, her professionalism and the ways in which she approached her job—selfless, thankless, and always available to help a constituent in need—in my view,

it helped restore some trust in our government, which is so desperately needed now more than ever.

Put simply, the Second District and our office will miss her. I wish her well and am so excited for her next chapter. On behalf of the people of the Second District, I thank Sally for her service.

NEXSTAR ACQUISITION OF TEGNA

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, last night, in the dead of night, the FCC and the Department of Justice did something unprecedented. They approved a merger that would create the Nation's largest local television station operator.

Nexstar Media Group's \$6.2 billion acquisition of Tegna would make it the largest local television station owner in the United States: 265 stations across 44 States, reaching 80 percent of American households. Why did they approve it? Simple reason: Because Donald Trump wanted them to.

The deal is outrageous. It is devastating for local news, devastating for consumers, devastating for freedom of the press, but perhaps most problematic of all, Mr. Speaker, it is unlawful. The merger and the decision to approve it violates the law.

By the way, this isn't complicated. It is simple. In 2004, Congress created a very specific 39 percent national audience limitation. That is in the law. It is not ambiguous. It is not nebulous. It is clear-cut, and this merger violates it.

Let me read, Mr. Speaker, the dissent from one of the FCC commissioners. I hope every Member of this body reads it in full. "The order is wrong on the law, wrong on the policy, and the process by which it was issued is indefensible.

"The Commission does not have the authority to raise or waive the 39 percent national audience reach limitation. Simply put: The national audience reach limitation is a statutory requirement, and only Congress has the authority to raise it."

It is clear-cut, simple. We cannot allow this debasement of the FCC's processes to continue.

Mr. Speaker, I have a solution: Let's rein in this lawless agency through the appropriations process. That is exactly what I intend to propose. I hope my colleagues will join me.

HONORING DR. LAWRENCE GELMAN

(Ms. DE LA CRUZ of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Lawrence Gelman.

For nearly 40 years, he served as a pillar of our South Texas community. A brilliant physician and visionary leader, he founded DHR Health, pioneering the physician-owned model in the Rio Grande Valley and championing the idea that doctors were the best qualified to run hospitals. Today,

DHR Health is one of the largest physician-owned hospitals in the United States of America and the only Level I trauma center south of San Antonio.

Dr. Gelman's influence reached far beyond the hospital walls. A radio host and dedicated steward of the arts, he spent decades preserving historic stained glass windows now permanently housed at the Gelman Stained Glass Museum in San Juan, Texas, which remains a gift to the Rio Grande Valley.

Dr. Gelman will be remembered for his love of God and his family. He leaves behind a legacy of generosity to his friends, family, and community.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER JOEL PULIDO

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate Officer Joel Pulido for 28 years of service with the Edinburg Police Department.

Officer Pulido started with the department in 1997 as the calm voice on the dispatch radio. Not long after, he joined the field after earning his badge and became a mentor to the next generation of recruits.

Throughout his career, he was committed to keeping criminals off our streets and protecting our community. His exceptional detective work solved 26 murder investigations with a perfect conviction rate. He didn't just close the cases. He delivered justice for families when they needed it the most.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Officer Pulido for nearly three decades of integrity and service. I congratulate him on a well-deserved retirement.

□ 1030

HONORING JONATHAN DANDES

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

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend and a friend to many, Jonathan Dandes, who tragically passed away on February 22, 2026, at the age of 72.

Born and raised in Queens, New York, he chose to put down his roots in the City of Good Neighbors, helping to cultivate Buffalo's identity and catalyze its resurgence for over four decades.

He was a champion for our city and provided our community with a steady, trusted presence in numerous corners of civic life.

In the world of local sports and entertainment, Jon was an institution. He was instrumental in the development of Sahlen Field, helping to bring professional baseball into the heart of downtown Buffalo, ensuring that generations of families could come together and create lasting memories.

As president of Rich Baseball Operations he elevated the fan experience, strengthening community ties and made baseball in Buffalo a point of pride.

He chaired and supported organizations that continued to define the Buffalo Niagara region, including Shea's

Performing Arts Center, the Buffalo Niagara Partnership, Visit Buffalo Niagara, and the Erie County Medical Center, among many, many more.

At the University at Buffalo, Jon served as the longest tenured member of the UB Council, being appointed by four of New York's Governors, first in 1994, and most recently, to his fifth term, dedicating decades to strengthening higher education and expanding opportunity for future generations.

He was a proud alumnus, a trusted adviser, and a relentless advocate for UB's mission to serve as a driver of innovation and public good.

In each role, he brought not only sharp insight and strategic vision but a genuine love for his community and its people.

Just as importantly, Jon believed in uplifting others. He mentored countless young professionals, guiding them, encouraging them, and helping them discover their own paths to leadership.

Jon was also keenly aware that a strong community is built through compassion. His work with organizations like the National Kidney Foundation, Upstate New York Transplant Services, and Erie County Jewish Family Services reflected a deep commitment to caring for others, especially those in need.

Through it all, he remained grounded in what mattered most: his family. He was a devoted husband to his late wife, Marcy; the proud father of Leo and Arin; and a beloved grandfather to Luca and Leif.

Jon's legacy lives on in the community he helped build, the lives he touched, and the spirit of service he embodied.

When western New Yorkers spend an afternoon with their family rooting on the Bisons, that is Jon Dandes' legacy in action. When their loved ones receive lifesaving care at ECMC, we can thank Jon Dandes for his tireless work to strengthen our region's only Level I trauma hospital. And when the next generation of UB grads decides to stay in Buffalo and call western New York home, that, too, is a testament to Jon's unwavering vision and leadership for our region.

Western New York is a better place to live, work, and raise a family because Jon Dandes decided to call it home.

Today, we honor not just what he accomplished but who he was: a leader, a mentor, a neighbor, and a friend.

May we carry forward his example, his signature generosity, energy, and unwavering belief in the community he cherished.

On behalf of a grateful city, State, and Nation, may Jonathan A. Dandes' memory be a blessing to all who knew him.

RECOGNIZING DAVE BAKER

(Mr. COMER of Kentucky was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize my good friend and First Congressional District of Kentucky resident, Dave Baker, upon his retirement from the University of Kentucky Sports Network after 37 years.

Dave "Buzz" Baker began his career at WKYT in Lexington as an intern and was hired full time upon his graduation from Georgetown College in 1982.

Dave and his lovely wife, Donna, reside in Frankfort and attend church with me and my family at Forks of Elkhorn Baptist in Midway, Kentucky.

Dave began working Southeastern Conference events in 1993 and has been a constant presence on the SEC Network and other University of Kentucky televised events ever since calling men's and women's basketball, baseball, softball, and volleyball.

Buzz Baker is a Kentucky sports legend who has always been and will continue to be a force in what we in the Bluegrass State call Big Blue Nation.

MISSION OF OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM COMMITTEE

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I rise to give an update on the work that the House Oversight Committee has been doing recently. I want to remind everyone that our mission on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee is to identify waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement in the Federal Government.

We have been going State by State and focusing on identifying massive fraud in the Federal welfare programs administered by poorly run States.

We began in Minnesota. We worked with nine whistleblowers. These whistleblowers were career State employees who came forward, and I hope that whistleblowers in other States saw how we treated those whistleblowers. We protected the whistleblowers.

We sat down with the whistleblowers. We interviewed them. We did transcribed interviews and took their testimony to produce a report to build our case to help with the Department of Justice's ongoing investigation in Minnesota on the welfare fraud.

What we concluded after bringing in people who were State employees in Minnesota who had been ringing the bell on fraud there for many years, we concluded that both Attorney General Keith Ellison and Minnesota Governor Tim Walz knew about the massive amounts of fraud in the welfare programs in Minnesota, yet did nothing about it, and in some instances, retaliated against the State employees who did the right thing and came forward.

Now we have moved our investigation into California, and we are focusing on a massive hospice fraud scheme—hospice of all things. This is a program I think every Member of Congress supports. Hospice is who we call in our deepest, darkest times of need.

We have zeroed in on one particular area in California: Los Angeles County. A recent audit revealed over \$3.5 billion in hospice fraud primarily in one county: Los Angeles County.