

Madam Speaker, as Florence enters retirement this summer, I and our entire community offer our deepest gratitude for the life of service that she has lived, which has, without a doubt, made our community a better place.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate and thank my friend, Florence, and extend best wishes to her as she enters this next chapter of her life.

RECOGNIZING BUCKS COUNTY OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable group of graduates from the Bucks County Opportunity Council's Economic Self-Sufficiency program.

Since 1997, this program has helped families in our community build brighter, more stable futures through education, skill building, and a path to lasting economic independence.

Today, I am proud to recognize this year's graduates: Thais Defalco, Haussine Guengous, Kelsi Klinger, Amanda Leary, Haleigh Oliemuller, Tanya Quiles, Allina Ramirez, Jacklynn Ramsey, Ashley Reukauf, and Katlynn Whiteley.

Madam Speaker, these graduates now join more than 420 families whose lives have been transformed through this program, families who have broken cycles of poverty that, in many cases, had stretched across generations.

That kind of change does not happen by accident. It takes courage, discipline, perseverance, and supportive people willing to invest in their potential. That is exactly what my friends and longtime partners at the Bucks County Opportunity Council have delivered for decades.

As Bucks County's leading anti-poverty organization, BCOO has worked tirelessly to reduce poverty, expand opportunity, and help our neighbors at home.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, ICE is an untamed agency that continues to overstep the bounds of legality. They have shot and killed American citizens in Minnesota, and almost 50 people have died under their custody. They continue to pound people all over the country.

We saw how they lurked around schools, bringing fear to American families. They body slammed a sitting Member of the U.S. Senate from the State of California. They tear-gassed and threw chemicals at duly elected Members of the House of Representatives in California. They continue to establish that they have no civility and no respect for sensitive locations, for houses of worship, schools, and hospitals. Instead of addressing these issues and protecting constituents, Republicans have withheld hundreds of thousands of dollars from FEMA, TSA, and Coast Guard personnel.

This week, Madam Speaker, we are voting on a dishonest resolution that supposedly shows support for Department of Homeland Security agencies. Republicans are also putting the same DHS funding bill on the floor that has already failed in the Senate numerous times.

This is a disingenuous effort, a failed proposal, and, frankly, a lie. If Congress really supported these workers, then we would be having a serious discussion, a conversation, about how to end the shutdown.

Let's fund TSA. Let's separate TSA from ICE. Let's make sure that the men and women who work at our airports get their salaries. We can do that.

ICE deserves to be dismantled because of their rogue behavior and because of their deadly behavior. A discussion must be had about the future of any agency, and TSA agents deserve to get their salaries.

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Passengers across the country that are waiting hours upon hours and missing their flights deserve not to have their lives disrupted. Let's pay the TSA agents, and let's have a full discussion about the wrong ways of this deadly agency called ICE.

Meanwhile, more than 400 TSA officers have already quit since the shutdown on February 14. The FEMA disaster fund is now depleted. DHS employees have been forced to go without pay for nearly 6 weeks.

Airline travelers are experiencing the worst wait times in the history of our Nation, and some are being harassed at the airport by ICE agents.

The President has not helped this disaster by insisting that Republicans reject any and all proposals that come before his desk. Any attempt to pass a bill to resolve this matter the President has automatically rejected.

In fact, he has thrown gasoline on top of this conflict by adding a voter suppression bill, the SAVE Act, to this discussion, something that has nothing to do with the airports or TSA.

In fact, many Americans, including married women, seniors, and others feel that this is a voter suppression effort, trying to throw us decades back from the Civil Rights Act and Voting Rights Act legislation that protected all Americans.

We must hold this effort, dastardly effort, accountable. ICE's mission under Trump was never to keep America safe. It was to keep immigrant communities frightened through fear and intimidation tactics. We must hold this agency accountable, and we begin to do that by dismantling it.

CONGRATULATING PURDUE UNIVERSITY WRESTLING CHAMPIONS

(Mr. BAIRD of Indiana was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate four Boilermakers from

Purdue University who competed in the NCAA wrestling championships.

These student-athletes are Joey Blaze, a 165-pound weight class junior; Blake Boarman, a junior in the 133-pound weight class; 174-pound weight class senior Brody Baumann; and senior Ben Vanadia in the 197-pound weight class.

Purdue junior Joey Blaze wrapped up a sixth place finish, becoming the 13th two-time All-American in Purdue wrestling history.

Brody Baumann is a three-time NCAA qualifier and was one of the only three Indiana natives to qualify for the nationals in 2026.

Blake Boarman went to the nationals for the second time, his first time as a Boilermaker.

Competing in his fourth year, Ben Vanadia went to the nationals for the first time.

Congratulations to these outstanding student-athletes. They should be proud of their hard work. Boiler up.

CONGRATULATING DAVID BÉTOURNE

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to congratulate an unbelievable young speller from northwest Indiana.

David Betourne recently won the Scripps Regional Spelling Bee of northwest Indiana after seven rounds and nearly 2 hours of intense competition. David ultimately triumphed by spelling the word biomimicry, proving that every letter truly counts.

With this impressive victory, Mr. Betourne now has the opportunity to represent the Lafayette area at the National Spelling Bee in May in our Nation's Capital. Competing on the national stage takes not only knowledge but focus, preparation, and a vocabulary that would impress the dictionary.

I know David will do an excellent job, and I want him to know and remember that we are all rooting for him. I congratulate him again on this well-deserved and well-earned achievement. He will make Indiana proud.

CONGRATULATING WABASH COLLEGE TRACK AND FIELD ATHLETES

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate two Wabash College students who were honored at the North Coast Athletic Conference track and field.

Quinn Sholar was named the 2026 NCAC Men's Field Athlete of the Year. Brock DeBello earned the NCAC Newcomer of the Year award as a freshman. Quinn Sholar won shot put with a top mark of 16.42 meters. He also made a conferencewide and school record throw of 18.69 meters to win a February 27 weight throw competition.

As a freshman, Brock DeBello is having quite the season. Producing intense executions on the track, he broke a school record at the February 27 400-meter preliminaries with a time of 48.6 seconds. DeBello returned in the finals to secure a fourth-place finish at 47.47 seconds.

Congratulations to these two and to the entire Wabash track and field team for an amazing championship run.

REMEMBERING EMMANUEL
DAMAS

(Ms. PRESSLEY of Massachusetts was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember Emmanuel Damas, who was 56 years old, a father, brother, son, valued community member, and neighbor of the Massachusetts 7th.

Like so many, Emmanuel came to this country seeking safety from the violence, instability, and crisis in Haiti, only to be abducted by ICE and transferred far from his family.

Now, while in custody, Emmanuel pleaded for necessary medical care for a toothache, a basic human right. He was repeatedly denied medical care. That toothache became an infection, an infection that resulted in septic shock, as infection took over Emmanuel's body. I can only imagine the agony he was in. Eventually, Emmanuel fell into a coma, and he died a tragic, preventable, shameful death.

Mr. Speaker, this is not an isolated tragedy, but a pattern of cruelty and neglect that is robbing us of lives. Emmanuel was at least the 10th person to die in ICE custody this year, and his death was entirely preventable.

While there can never be true justice for Emmanuel—in a just world he would still be alive, at home with his family—there must be accountability.

Today, we extend our deepest condolences to his loved ones and community, and together we will keep pushing for the accountability, transparency, and healing they deserve.

HONORING OUR TSA WORKERS

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of our dedicated TSA workers throughout the country, including in the Massachusetts 7th, who take pride in their essential work and call Boston Logan International Airport their employer. They have gone 40 days without pay for their essential work.

The Trump administration does not care about protecting our workers or serving the traveling public. This is all a ploy for power and pushing an inhumane agenda against our immigrant neighbors.

Let's go back to Project 2025. I am a cofounder of the Stop Project 2025 Task Force here in the House. Project 2025 proposed privatizing TSA screening, shifting airport workers away from the government and its protections and into the hands of private contractors. It called for the deunionizing of TSA workers immediately.

What we see unfolding right now, this is not a contingency plan. It was always the plan. To bring in ICE agents who continue to be paid as if they will be able to step in for these highly trained, dedicated, and still unpaid TSA workers is not a solution.

Mr. Speaker, these are the lives and livelihoods of our neighbors, who are strained by missing paychecks and an inability to put food on the table.

Democrats have put forward multiple proposals to keep key agencies, such as TSA and FEMA, funded while not giving another cent to ICE.

Republicans have refused each and every time. The cruelty is truly the point.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE SURVIVORS

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to survivors of sexual violence in my district, across the country, and around the world. As a survivor of sexual violence myself, their stories matter. I am so sorry for what they have been through, the shame they carry that was never theirs to carry.

For too long, survivors have suffered in silence while abusers have carried on without consequence. Last week, our sister survivor Dolores Huerta shared her story publicly for the first time. She revealed that she feared if she came forward there would be no justice or accountability, only the vilification of a workers' movement she had dedicated her life to. Imagine the burden, the pain, the silence she carried.

Women and mothers far too often experience the brutal violence, only to hide their pain and wake up every day carrying on for their children, for their community, for their family, while they are shattered inside.

No survivor should have to suffer in silence. Society tells us our silence will stop the shame and trauma. It does not.

While I will always respect and fight for survivors who choose privacy if it is part of their healing journey, I want survivors to know that I believe them. I believe them if their voice shakes. I believe them if it happened decades ago. I believe them if they shared their story in real time or buried it away for years. I believe them.

Abusers may think they wield the power through violent acts, but let me tell you, anyone who violates another person in this way is small and broken. They should not be feared. They should be named, shamed, and held accountable for survivors everywhere.

OUR COUNTRY FACES A
CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS

(Mr. LARSON of Connecticut was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, good morning. This is a great day for the Larson and Messier family. My granddaughter Soleil Audrey Messier turns 1 year old today. She is the sunshine of our lives and a bundle of joy. We wish her and her mom a happy birth day.

Mr. Speaker, also on her birthday, I come to the floor as a concerned Member of this body and note that we are in a constitutional crisis, a constitutional crisis where this administration is currently ignoring the rule of law.

The President of the United States treats the Constitution as though it is a mere suggestion and that he is above

the law. Article I of the Constitution means little to him.

Mr. Speaker, fortunately, there are citizens in this country who care deeply about this. I am honored to have such a citizen who is one of my constituents, the renowned, legendary, and iconic Ralph Nader. Ralph Nader is coming to Washington, D.C., on April 8, along with Bruce Fein, a constitutional lawyer and authority on the Constitution. I will be holding meetings open to staff and open to people here in the Rayburn Building on this campus to talk about governmental accountability.

Ralph Nader has long been a voice throughout his history of public service since he first published "Unsafe at Any Speed," where he went after the automobile industry because of what they were doing to the American people and citizens.

He has been a voice, and I have to read this, Mr. Speaker: An author, lecturer, attorney, political activist, and in 2006 he was cited by The Atlantic as one of the 100 Most Influential Figures in American History.

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Time magazine called him "the U.S.'s toughest customer." The New York Times has said of him that Nader stands apart because he is moved beyond social criticism to effective political action—beyond criticism to effective political action.

In 1974, a survey conducted by the U.S. News & World Report rated him the fourth most influential person in the United States. I am proud to have him as a constituent.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Nader along with Bruce Fein will be discussing articles on government and corporate accountability on April 8.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Nader also gets up and says every day that there can be no daily democracy without daily citizenship. That is so true.

We just heard Mr. COMER over here talking before about the need for bringing forward whistleblowers. Yet, on the Committee on Ways and Means, we have been asking for the whistleblowers who have said that every person, including all the viewers here today, Social Security information has been stolen and placed in an insecure cloud—not one whistleblower, but two. Who brought them forward? The Trump Judiciary Department, the judicial branch of the Trump administration.

I listened to Mr. COMER call for whistleblowers coming forward in Minnesota and California. How about right here in the United States Congress, we hold accountable people who are looking at every Member of Congress' 435 districts, all of their data and information.

The public should be outraged. We should be demanding that they come before us as we have. Instead, we voted yesterday, once again, to alleviate resolutions of inquiry, the minority's choice to get answers.