

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BENTZ). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

**REMEMBERING EMMANUEL
CLIFFORD DAMAS**

(Ms. ANSARI of Arizona was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. ANSARI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in outrage over the negligence that led to the death of Emmanuel Clifford Damas on March 2, 2026.

Emmanuel Damas was a 56-year-old Haitian asylum seeker who died after reportedly being denied adequate medical care while in ICE custody after complaining about a toothache to the staff at Florence Correctional Center in Arizona.

On March 13, I traveled to the Florence Correctional Center to conduct an oversight visit. I was met by more than a dozen people, including, to my surprise, private counsel for CoreCivic, the company that operates the facility and profits from mass detention.

When I asked basic questions about medical staffing, available care, and what happened to Mr. Damas, there was extreme reluctance, especially from the private lawyer.

Under DHS leadership, and masterminded by Stephen Miller, the architect of the Trump administration's racist mass deportation agenda, ICE has made it nearly impossible for Members of Congress to do our jobs.

Despite following ICE's arbitrary requirements, I was denied the ability to speak with detainees that day. I returned on March 20 and what I learned confirmed the worst. Detainees described Mr. Damas in excruciating pain. They called the medical care "fatal." His face had swollen to the size of a potato. He could no longer speak or walk. Night after night, he begged for help but was ignored. ICE only checked his blood pressure. By the time he was taken to the hospital, he could barely breathe.

Mr. Damas' death was a clear case of medical negligence at the hands of ICE. I have called for a full independent investigation into Mr. Damas' death, including the release of his medical examiner's report, a complete timeline of his care, and all medical records from his time in custody.

My heart goes out to the Damas family. They should never have experienced such a tragedy, perpetrated by the U.S. Government and funded by our taxpayer dollars.

These taxpayer dollars should be going to healthcare, to food assistance, and programs that support communities.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the only case. My constituent, Yari, is currently detained while suffering from leukemia. She has endured severe medical neglect for over a year. What happened to Mr. Damas could very well happen to her. Every time I visit these deten-

tion facilities, it brings me to tears. It is sickening. It is traumatizing. It is deeply un-American.

Firstly, I will not stop until there is an independent investigation into the death of Emmanuel Damas. At least 46 people have died in ICE custody under the Trump regime, and it cannot stand.

Second, I will be a "hell no" on ICE funding. Republicans are blocking essential workers from being paid just to protect a lawless, violent ICE system, while Democrats are pushing to separate ICE funding from the rest of the Department of Homeland Security.

Third, I urge my colleagues to sponsor my DRAIN ICE Act and the Stop Inhumane Conditions in ICE Detention Act. These bills would rescind ICE's \$75 billion slush fund and improve oversight, transparency, and conditions in detention centers.

Fourth, release my constituent, Yari, now so she can receive the care that she needs.

Finally, it should not be that damn difficult to provide humane conditions. ICE and companies like CoreCivic and GEO Group have billions of dollars at their disposal, and yet are choosing to treat human beings in this country like animals.

I will keep fighting until the American people know the truth about what is happening in ICE detention centers.

**OUR 250-YEAR-OLD EXPERIMENT
IN DEMOCRACY**

(Mr. MULLIN of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, all of us on this floor are heirs to a political system that generations before us believed could be the way to overcome our differences.

Is it perfect? Anyone who has been paying even the slightest attention for the past 250 years knows the answer to that question, but each generation has believed in our democracy. All of us elected to this body believe we can make people's lives better, not by fighting in the streets, not by fighting, where might makes right, but by coming together, by talking, by arguing, and then by voting.

Sometimes we win. Sometimes we lose.

Why is it that the majority party seems to be doing everything in its power to prevent voters from having their say?

I am actually old enough to remember when the Republican Party was the party of States' rights. Now, unfortunately, it is the party of following the lead of their President, overriding State laws to "nationalize the vote." It is the party of an executive order attempting to eliminate voting by mail under the guise of voter fraud, which we know is virtually nonexistent.

The SAVE Act and the MEGA Act make it harder for voters to cast a ballot. It has sadly become a party of deniers who only believe election results when they win.

President Trump's Department of Justice raided an election office in Georgia. He sent FBI agents to seize ballots. Meanwhile, he is attempting to extort Minnesota, California, and others into handing over voter data. His supporters are calling for ICE to surround the polls in November. We remember he sent an angry mob into this citadel of democracy to hang his Vice President and overturn the results of an election he lost in order to prevent a peaceful transfer of power. History will never forget.

The American people always have the last word on who has power in this country. If there is one thing we know how to do in this country is run elections. We cast our ballots in school gyms, in churches, in community rooms, and more commonly now at the kitchen table. Even President Trump votes by mail.

Ours is a decentralized system by design. The Framers of the Constitution, flawed as they were, knew that we would one day be faced with this moment: A strongman and his followers ready to throw it all away to avoid another free and fair election, but we won't let them.

My Republican colleagues, many of whom I genuinely like and respect, know better. Privately, I believe they are deeply ashamed by what is happening, and without a doubt, the American people are increasingly disgusted with what they are seeing and experiencing.

They know America is less affordable than it was even just a year ago. Support for the President's callous immigration policies has collapsed. The images of Federal agents executing Americans in the streets have been horrific.

All the while, the President is more obsessed with personal grievances, renaming buildings, starting wars, and exacting revenge on his opponents than making people's lives better.

He and his party know this is not a winning political message, so they are resorting to changing the rules to cling to power, but the American people know better.

All of us have a duty to protect elections. All of us must let the will of the people prevail. This Congress must seat the winners of the election regardless of party.

I hope there are some colleagues on the other side of the aisle who can still muster the courage to do the same because our 250-year-old experiment in democracy depends on it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded us again to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

**RECOGNIZING FRANK W. HARRIS,
III**

(Mr. VINDMAN of Virginia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Frank W. Harris III, a

United States Marine Corps Colonel whose extraordinary life of service spans three defining conflicts in our Nation's history: World War II, the Korean war, and the Vietnam war.

In each of these wars, Colonel Harris stood in defense of freedoms at moments when it was tested most. Colonel Harris has demonstrated time and again what it means to put Nation before self.

In doing so, he has embodied the highest ideals of the Marine Corps: honor, courage, and commitment.

Having lived through a century of American history, Colonel Harris represents more than remarkable longevity. He represents resilience. To witness 101 years and to have spent so many of them in service to others is itself extraordinary. His life tells the story of perseverance through hardship, faith through uncertainty, and leadership through change.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored to have him as my constituent. From this Army colonel: Oorah and Semper Fidelis.

CONSTITUENT OF THE WEEK: PATRICE SUMMERS

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Patrice Summers on her 26 years of exceptional service to Prince William County.

Inspired by her mother's civic engagement, Patrice committed herself to public service from a young age. For over two decades, she served as an elections officer and then chief elections officer right here in Prince William County.

Patrice is also actively involved in the Virginia 512 organizing committee.

Beyond her public sector and union work, Patrice is a devoted caregiver to two of her family members. Her dedication to uplifting her neighbors, her family, and giving back to her community embodies a lifetime of selflessness.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate her on this well-earned recognition and honor her as this week's Constituent of the Week. Congratulations, and I thank her for all that she does.

CONSTITUENT OF THE WEEK: PRANAV VEDULA

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I honor my Constituent of the Week, Pranav Vedula, of Stafford County, Virginia, for winning the Seventh Congressional District's App Challenge.

The Congressional App Challenge is a nationwide competition that encourages students to explore STEM, coding and computer science by creating original software applications.

Pranav, a senior at Colonial Forge High School, did exactly that by developing an innovative app called ReCheck. ReCheck is a productivity app designed to assist individuals experiencing memory loss.

It allows people living with dementia to build customized to-do lists that help them maintain independence and confidence in their daily lives.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Pranav for using his skills to bring awareness to this critical issue and for his clear

commitment to improving people's quality of life. I wish him continued success in his future academic and professional pursuits.

CONSTITUENT OF THE WEEK: CURRY ROBERTS

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate my constituent of the week, Curry Roberts, on his retirement from serving as the president of the Fredericksburg Regional Alliance at the University of Mary Washington.

A Fredericksburg-area business leader, Mr. Roberts has dedicated his career to our community.

Mr. Roberts has attracted over 6,000 new jobs to the region, laying groundwork for key opportunities for industry to work with local government.

In addition to work on the FRA, Mr. Roberts also had a 35-year career in leadership on various nonprofit, public sector, and private-sector jobs.

Mr. Roberts has always had the back of our communities, and I am committed to paying this forward in Congress.

I congratulate him on his retirement, and I wish him well on his next chapter.

CONSTITUENT OF THE WEEK: RICHARD E. TOYE, SR.

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Richard E. Toye, Sr., a 98-year-old World War II veteran, for his service to our country.

Mr. Toye was drafted in 1944 and stationed in Okinawa as the member of the Quartermaster Corps.

After being discharged from Active Duty, he reenlisted and served in the Navy Reserves until 1950.

Mr. Toye has been a steady voice for positive change in Spotsylvania County. He volunteered with Big Brothers and Big Sisters, United Way, and the Spotsylvania County Democratic Committee.

As a 25-year Army veteran and a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I know the depth of sacrifice that his service to our country demands.

That is why this week I am proud to recognize Mr. Toye as a constituent of the week. I thank him for his service to our Nation and for his continued work in our community. I will always work to deliver for veterans like him.

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 11 o'clock and 30 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. ROGERS of Alabama) at noon.

PRAYER

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

Our help is in the name of the Lord who made Heaven and Earth. Lord, we call on Your creative and redemptive aid this day.

Inundated as we are by the issues before us, we pray that You, O Lord, would come before us to make a way through. Torrential as the waters of decision may be, we pray that You would speak Your word of calm and clear guidance. Enraged as are those who demand attention and answers, Lord, still the roaring waves of anxiety with Your word of peace.

Remind us that You, the one who spoke into the darkness and brought forth the light and called it good; You, who gathered the waters and brought forth the land and saw that it too was good; You, who made us in Your image that we would have authority over the creatures of Your design; You are the one who gives life to all things and has called them all good. It is You who are our strength and our redeemer.

Our help this day is in the name of the Lord who made Heaven and Earth. We pray in Your name that You would grant us Your blessing anew on this day.

In Your eternal name we pray.

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 gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. PLASKETT 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.

RECOGNIZING TWO MEMBERS OF THE GREENVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two outstanding