

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Washington University women's track and field team who just captured the 2026 NCAA Division III Indoor National Championship. This team found a way to turn individual effort into a collective title. You don't do that without character, and you don't do that without each other.

With the WashU women's soccer team winning back-to-back national titles a few months ago and now their women's track and field team, these ladies are making St. Louis title town.

Especially during Women's History Month, St. Louis is so proud of these young women. They define student-athlete and do both at the highest level.

When we talk about what makes St. Louis a great city, this is a big part of that answer. Champions live here. Champions are developed here.

I congratulate the athletes, the coaching staff, and the entire WashU family on this remarkable achievement.

MILITARY WOMEN

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, since getting into office, Donald Trump and Pete Hegseth have actively tried to undermine the brave women who answer the call to service and joined the United States military.

When Pete Hegseth took office, six women, leaders at the highest levels of our Armed Forces, were forced out of their positions. They were not minor roles. These women were generals, captains, admirals, and commandants who earned their rank through decades of service and sacrifice, yet they were removed because Pete Hegseth couldn't accept women holding the same authority and responsibility as their male counterparts.

Additionally, executive orders were put into place to change standards such as physical evaluations, harassment reporting, and equal employment regulations.

At a time when military enrollment is at an all-time low, Trump and Hegseth are doing everything in their power to make it even harder for half of our population to serve and protect the country they love.

We salute and praise the women who show their love of country by serving in the United States military.

BUCKS COUNTY OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 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 and a path to lasting economic independence.

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

Mr. Speaker, as Bucks County's leading antipoverty organization, the BCOC has worked tirelessly to reduce poverty and to help our neighbors achieve true self-sufficiency.

I thank the BCOC team for changing lives for the better and for strengthening our community. I congratulate the graduates. We celebrate all that you have achieved and all the many great things to come.

HANDS OFF CUBA

(Ms. OMAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, like many Americans, I am outraged by what Trump is doing to the Cuban people.

The oil blockade enacted by the Trump administration is cruel and indefensible. Cuba poses no threat to us, yet we are strangling an entire nation with economic warfare.

Families are going without food. Water systems are failing. Hospitals are struggling to stay open.

These tactics are designed to suffocate an island into submission, and its civilians, ordinary Cuban men, women, and children, are paying the price.

Make no mistake, this unconscionable suffering is occurring because Trump is trying to force regime change.

Across our country and around the world, people are standing in solidarity with the Cuban people. They are calling for dignity for humanity, for an end to this harm.

Hands off Cuba. End the blockade now.

HONORING AMY STONE

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor recognize and celebrate Ohio Extension Agent Amy Stone for 33 years of extraordinary, vigilant service to the agricultural community of Ohio through the Ohio State University Extension. Northwest Ohio says: Thank you, Amy Stone.

Amy's career has been defined by dedication. She was and always will be willing to assume leadership of the youth, families, and farmers who call Lucas County and northwest Ohio home.

Our freshwater tidal basin is the largest in the Great Lakes, and her job was consequential.

From horticulture and urban forestry to confronting invasive species like the emerald ash borer and spotted lanternfly, Amy dug in. She was always protecting Ohio's natural resources. When that first emerald ash borer infestation was discovered in Ohio, she identified it and changed the course of conservation across our entire region and Ohio.

Her impact goes far. She has taught, mentored, and inspired thousands of students and strengthened both our rural roots and urban canopy.

Amy Stone has elevated northwest Ohio to be sustainable, stronger, more arable, healthier, and greener than she found it.

Bravo to Amy Stone. We love her.

RECOGNIZING MONICA PRIETO

(Mrs. GRIJALVA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to recognize a historic moment for my hometown of Tucson and Arizona's Seventh Congressional District: the naming of Monica Prieto as the chief of the Tucson Police Department, the first woman to ever serve in this role over the department's 155-year existence.

Chief Prieto has dedicated more than 25 years to public service, starting in 1999 and rising through the ranks, serving in multiple divisions across the department throughout the community, including most recently as deputy chief.

Having been born and raised in Tucson, including graduating from CD07's own Desert View High School, Chief Prieto knows this community, knows this department, and she understands the people she serves.

This appointment is a testament to her leadership, her commitment, and her trust that she has built throughout the city and with her colleagues over the decades.

I am proud to congratulate Chief Prieto, and I look forward to her leadership as she helps guide Tucson forward. "Congratulations"; "felicidades" to Chief Prieto.

HONORING THEOPHILOS ARON SIMS, SR.

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate, honor, and recognize Dr. T.A. Sims, who we just lost recently. He was the longest serving member of the Fort Worth Independent School District and did an outstanding job and left a lasting impact on the lives of so many students and so many of our residents in Fort Worth.

His dedication to the board lasted for more than 35 years. He was elected in

1983, and Dr. Sims was not only a school board member but a very trusted pharmacist in the community.

Throughout his tenure, he championed vocational programs, advocated for students who needed additional support, and worked to strengthen community involvement in our local schools.

He was an amazing member and a very loyal Methodist.

I want to give special recognition to his family that stood by him for so many years: his wife, Nancy; his three children; and his grandchildren. He really was someone who was a testament to believing in kids, faith, and built an amazing legacy during his tenure on the board. He was a dear, dear friend of mine, and we are going to miss him so much.

Mr. Speaker, we thank him for his years of service. We thank his family for the many years of service in which he gave, and, T.A. Sims, I want you to know up there that you made a big difference in everyone's life. We will miss you, sir.

□ 1550

ENACTING FEDERAL CORPORATE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE LAW

(Ms. HOYLE of Oregon asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, for 35 years, PeaceHealth Hospital, the only level II trauma center between Corvallis, Oregon, and Crescent City, California, abruptly ended its contract with our local emergency room staffing group, Eugene Emergency Physicians.

With little notice and significant local opposition, PeaceHealth has awarded the contract to a Georgia-based management and medical staffing firm, Apollo.

Beyond losing locally based physicians who have met or exceeded performance standards in a hospital that has refused to address the lack of adequate patient care rooms, the Apollo Group appears to be a shell company set up to get around Oregon's law to ban the corporate practice of medicine.

The Apollo Group bills itself as physician-owned; however, their office houses 40 local groups in Atlanta, which also houses ValorBridge, a venture capital fund managed by the same person who manages the Apollo staffing firm.

When my office asked PeaceHealth CEO Jim McGovern about the obvious conflict, he said: "That is just a side hustle." Uber is a side hustle. Corporate practice of medicine is not a side hustle.

Allowing venture capital firms and hedge funds to siphon money from our healthcare system instead of providing quality, affordable, and appropriate care to our communities is what is wrong with our healthcare system. We need to follow Oregon's lead and make this practice illegal.

MASS DEPORTATIONS AND FAMILY SEPARATIONS

(Ms. BARRAGÁN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, Trump and Republicans are the party of mass deportations and family separations. That is right, Republicans are the party of putting children in prison, 3-year-olds and 5-year-olds, inflicting lifelong trauma on our children.

What happened to family values?

Mr. Speaker, let me tell you about 5-year-old Gael, whom I met in Dilley, Texas. He was totally bloated. He hadn't gone to the bathroom in 8 days. He went to the medical center. They pretty much dismissed him, saying, "Oh, here are some laxatives," and let him go, a 5-year-old in pain and suffering. This is how they are treating our children. It is disgusting, and it needs to end.

We need to end these child prisons.

END CRUEL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT AGAINST KIDS

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Ms. DEXTER of Oregon was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. DEXTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous material into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VAN EPPS). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

Ms. DEXTER. Mr. Speaker, I want to tell you about a second grader named Diana Crespo-Gonzalez. She loves to draw, and she loves school.

On January 16, she was sick. She had a persistent fever, her nose wouldn't stop bleeding, and her parents did what any good parents would do. They took their child to see a doctor. They never made it inside.

Instead, immigration agents surrounded their car. The parents pleaded with the agents to just let their daughter get seen.

Think about that for a second, Mr. Speaker. Put yourself in their car, wondering if you made a mistake by taking your child to a doctor.

Shortly after, Diana and her parents were detained and transported 2,000 miles from their home in Gresham, Oregon, to the Dilley child family detention facility in Texas, the largest child detention facility in the United States.

I will say that again: the largest child detention facility in the United States. That is a sentence that should not exist.

The conditions at Dilley are not just bad; they are indefensible and inhumane. The food is inedible. One father detained there with his child said: "We

were given wormy food, and when someone spoke out about it and said that the children should get better food, he was taken in the middle of the night and threatened that he and his family would be separated."

Another said: "Sometimes there are strange things in the food, and it seems like strange parts of an animal that shouldn't be in the food, but many children do not eat the food here. It worries me when there are so many small children who are just not eating."

A 14-year-old said that his 7-year-old brother stopped eating entirely. Many report that the water is not drinkable, that it is too salty, and that it smells of chemicals. If you do drink it, your stomach turns with pain.

It is not just food and water, but the foundation of human life. As if that weren't bad enough, these kids and families are also being deprived of sleep, healthcare, and education. Children inside have reported ideas of self-harm, even suicide.

A 14-year-old who was detained for 45 days said: "Since I got to this center, all you will feel is sadness and mostly depression."

Mr. Speaker, if you advocate for yourself, or as a parent advocating for your child, there is the threat of retaliation.

One father said: "We are scared to ask for anything because the officers start threatening us that they will put us in different detention centers and put our children in foster care."

This is where they sent Diana, a second grader who just needed to see a doctor.

I couldn't stand back while she was in prison there, and I had a chance to help. One of the most important lessons I have learned in my first year in Congress, Mr. Speaker, is that you cannot defend your constituents from behind a desk. Showing up and advocating for the people you represent matters.

So I traveled to Texas with plane tickets in hand to bring Diana and her parents back to Oregon. When I arrived, officials repeatedly blocked my entry, giving shifting and contradictory explanations as to why.

I was told I could not enter because of measles cases, despite an officer telling me just the day before that there were no active cases and no risk.

I was told to leave. I was told to wait. I was told nothing at all. The message was clear: Don't look too closely.

Oversight isn't optional. When ICE blocked me from entering, I made it clear that if they would not let me in, they would at least bring my constituents out to speak with me. After hours of waiting and arguing, ICE actually did more than that. They released the Crespo-Gonzalez family altogether. I was able to escort them home.

Diana made it home, but there are children today who are still trapped in Dilley. Legally, children are not supposed to be in custody for more than 20 days, yet dozens of children have been