

just three offices, which resulted in the largest loss of productivity and staffing in recent history for that agency. That is just three offices. Imagine moving the entire headquarters, which is 260 employees. Those folks, some of whom are my constituents, would have to choose between their jobs or uprooting their lives and their families.

□ 1215

The administration also wants to close 57 of 77 Forest Service research facilities. This will slow down or end research on wildfire prevention, logging techniques, endangered species research, and climate change response. I could keep going.

This is irresponsible, given the record temperatures we are seeing every year and the once-in-a-lifetime droughts and floods that are happening every few years.

This can't be about reducing waste, fraud, and abuse, or streamlining government, because the move itself would be incredibly costly, and the natural disasters that result from them will be far more costly than maintaining these offices.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this administration to stop these disastrous relocations of the Forest Service.

#### TAX DAY IS APRIL 15

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS of Iowa was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize what is shaping up to be one of the most significant tax days in American history and to remind Americans to file on time and take full advantage of the relief available to them this year.

Thanks to the working families tax cuts, millions of Americans are seeking real relief, with average savings of nearly \$4,000 for working- and middle-class families. This law delivers where it matters most: no tax on tips, no tax on overtime, tax relief for seniors, support for small businesses, and new investment accounts to help the next generation get ahead.

It is already making a difference. As a matter of fact, last week, when I was traveling in my district and going into a gas station convenience store, a gentleman was coming out. He looked at me and said: "Thank you very much. I got my refund back. It is bigger than I have ever had. I am a Democrat. I won't vote for you, but I appreciate the refund."

This isn't just about tax policy, though. It is about giving more Americans freedom to pay their bills, save for their future, pay for prescription drugs, and provide for their families.

Tax day is April 15. If you haven't filed yet, now is the time.

#### STRENGTHENING RURAL HEALTHCARE

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the urgent need to strengthen rural healthcare and expand access to care for communities across Iowa and our Nation.

In too many rural areas, hospitals face workforce shortages, limited resources, and the constant threat of closure, putting patients at risk of losing care close to home. That is why the first-of-its-kind \$50 billion Rural Health Transformation Program is so important—an investment designed to stabilize rural hospitals, expand services, and bring back care to communities that need it most. I fought to include this program in the working families tax cuts because rural Americans deserve access to high-quality care regardless of their ZIP Code.

Iowa is already leading the way as the first State to tap into this program, receiving over \$209 million to support rural hospitals. A supported workforce and modern technology are essential to outcomes and help expand access to care.

As a physician, I know that this is important to essential better health outcomes. That is why I recently convened my third rural healthcare roundtable, bringing together hospitals and our director of Medicaid to ensure this program is implemented in a way that meets the needs of patients and providers, especially in rural areas.

Expanding access to care means stronger communities, better outcomes, and ensuring that no one is left behind simply because of where they live.

#### CELEBRATING SUCCESSFUL RETURN OF ARTEMIS II

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the successful return of the Artemis II crew on April 10. Commander Reid Wiseman, Mission Specialist Christina Koch, Pilot Victor Glover, and Mission Specialist Jeremy Hansen completed the historic 10-day mission, traveling around the far side of the Moon and farther from Earth than any humans in history.

During their journey, they tested critical systems aboard the *Orion* spacecraft, paving the way for future missions that will return Americans to the lunar surface. Their safe splash-down off the coast of California marks a major milestone in American space exploration.

This mission also highlights the contributions of institutions across our country, including the University of Iowa, whose researchers have played an important role in advancing radiation monitoring and astronaut safety, building on decades of leadership in space science. I am grateful for the dedication of the scientists, engineers, and mission teams who made this achievement possible.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Artemis II crew and NASA on this extraordinary accomplishment. May we continue to lead the world in exploration and innovation. God bless the Artemis II and NASA, and God bless America.

#### BIRTHDAY WISHES

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I wish a happy birthday to a good friend of our family, Rodolfo Maciel.

Mr. Speaker, I wish a very happy birthday to my brother-in-law, Bob Branthoover.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish a happy birthday to my son, Jonathan.

#### HAITI TPS DISCHARGE PETITION

(Mr. FROST of Florida was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the discharge petition to extend temporary protected status for Haiti.

This petition, which I am very proud to be following the leadership of Representative AYANNA PRESSLEY in helping her co-lead this, has secured the 218 signatures needed to force a vote.

Tomorrow's debate is a critical moment. This is about over 350,000 Haitian nationals, our neighbors, who have built their lives here and contribute to our communities every single day.

Haiti is facing a humanitarian crisis. Forcing families to return under these conditions would be dangerous and unjust.

We are seeing bipartisan support emerge in real time as Members from both parties recognize what is at stake. Tomorrow, it is important that we do the right thing, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

Next, we must move forward and pass the discharge petition to extend temporary protected status for Venezuelan nationals, as well.

#### WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH DISTRICT HONOREES

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize extraordinary women from central Florida for their work and impact on the community that I proudly represent.

Last month, our office celebrated these women at an in-district event, and I will continue that celebration here today. They are mothers, public leaders, entrepreneurs, changemakers, educators, caregivers, and innovators. They are advocates and champions for communities that are often forgotten. They fight hard, and we see them.

The first is Ericka Gomez-Tejeda, a community organizer for over 33 years in the central Florida area and a fighter for immigrant rights.

Shirley Richardson Bradley is a retired educator of 38 years, a community trailblazer, and a historian.

Roniece Weaver and Fabiola Gaines are the cofounders of Hebni Nutrition and authors of several cookbooks that have revolutionized healthy eating in our underserved communities.

Michelle Sperzel is the CBO of Harbor House of Central Florida, and her work really helps local survivors of domestic violence.

Jamilyn Salonga Bailey is the owner of Kaya and a recipient of Florida's first-ever Michelin Green Star, located in Orlando's Mills 50 district.

Ossyris Bury is a first-generation Panamanian American majoring in aerospace engineering at the University of Central Florida and a researcher and aspiring astronaut who has already

made a lasting impact on her campus today.

Today and every day, we celebrate their achievements and honor these empowered women who uplift and inspire others.

#### HONORING MERRITT ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL'S AFEX STUDENTS

(Mr. HARIDOPOLOS of Florida was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Madam Speaker, I recently had the opportunity to visit Merritt Island High School to highlight their outstanding work being done in astronautics and flight exploration.

The program is a 4-year program that prepares students for careers in aerospace, aviation, and engineering. It combines classroom instruction with hands-on experience, using the tools that are used in the everyday workplace.

Programs like this show that success does not just follow one path. Not every student follows the traditional 4-year degree to build a strong future. Career-focused education gives students the opportunity to graduate with the practical skills necessary to step into aerospace jobs.

On the Space Coast, where aerospace drives our economy, this program and others like it are essential. They connect students with real opportunities right in our home community. The students and educators at Merritt Island High School are building the workforce of the future. This is what education should look like—relevant, practical, and focused on results.

#### HONORING LIEUTENANT COMMANDER MARK MAJCHER

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Lieutenant Commander Mark Majcher, United States Navy, retired. He proudly served our Nation as a naval aviator. His service reflects the discipline, courage, and commitment that define the very best of our military.

Beyond his time in uniform, he remained a part of our veteran community, carrying forward the values of service and sacrifice that have guided his life.

I had the privilege of meeting Lieutenant Commander Majcher on Veterans Day last year, and it was clear he took great pride in his service and the men and women who served beside him.

I also recognize his loving wife, Fran, whose support and devotion were a constant in his life.

Today, we honor not only a veteran but a life defined by service to others and a love of country. May we never forget his contributions or the example set by this remarkable American.

#### HIGHLIGHTING ARTEMIS II MISSION SUCCESS

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the successful mission of Artemis II, a defin-

ing moment in American leadership once again in space, as these four brave astronauts traveled further than any astronauts have ever traveled before, marking our next new era in space exploration.

I also, of course, applaud our President, who has steadfastly committed to space as he has created the Space Force, and our amazing new NASA Administrator, Jared Isaacman, who has brought new life to NASA as we are reaching further than ever.

It confirmed the strength of American engineering, the precision of our NASA employees, and the skill of our amazing astronauts.

Artemis II is more than exploration. It supports national security, drives our economy, and creates jobs across the country, especially on Florida's Space Coast.

As we look ahead to future missions, we celebrate this achievement to reaffirm our commitment to space.

Madam Speaker, America is going back to the Moon, and we are leading the way forward.

#### HONORING RITA VASTANO SIMAS ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable constituent, Rita Vastano Simas of Melbourne, Florida, as she celebrates her 100th birthday. Born on April 24, 1926, Rita's life is a testament to resilience, love, and devotion to her family and our country.

During World War II, she married the love of her life, George Simas, in Italy before coming to the United States to build a life together based on faith, hard work, and opportunity. Her husband earned multiple Purple Hearts and served our Nation with pride, as they are part of the Greatest Generation. Together, they represent a generation that sacrificed, endured, and helped shape the freedoms that we enjoy today.

Rita's life reflects the values of our Nation. Today, she celebrates 100 years. I wish Rita a happy birthday.

#### RECOGNIZING NOAH JOYCE-ANDERSON

(Mr. MCGOVERN of Massachusetts was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share the story of Noah Joyce-Anderson from Chicopee, Massachusetts.

Noah is a Black, trans veteran who served as a specialist in the U.S. Army Reserve from 2010 to 2015. In January of this year, Noah traveled to Minneapolis to assist protesters standing up to ICE's enforcement operations as a medic.

While at a protest outside the Whipple Building on January 30, 2026, Noah and a fellow veteran were tackled to the ground. Noah was charged with obstruction of legal process, with the bail set at \$500. During booking, a clerk told Noah that there were no charges,

and they would likely remain in custody through the weekend.

While in custody, Noah received only one of their nine daily medications. They were placed on suicide watch, given a soiled mattress, and put in unsanitary conditions. Previously, they had been left naked for an indeterminate period of time. A veterans group posted bail a day later, and Noah was able to walk free.

Noah is still struggling with a head injury and is being treated for back pain, muscle spasms, and post-concussive symptoms. Noah is also still unsure of the status of the charges. Hennepin County has not even confirmed whether Noah will be charged with a crime.

Noah is a veteran who went to Minneapolis to help protect peaceful protesters. I commend Noah for having the courage to do what is right, and I share Noah's story to shine a light on some of the realities of this administration's cruel immigration enforcement. I also recognize the selfless actions of those who are standing up for what is right.

Despite the violence so many in our communities have experienced, they have shown up. They are doing the good and decent thing and supporting our neighbors, whether they are down the block or across the country.

I thank all veterans, including Noah, for their service and also for standing on the right side of history and honoring the oath that they took to the Constitution. As so many of them have said, Madam Speaker, there is nothing more American than standing up for your neighbors.

□ 1230

#### SUPER TYPHOON SINLAKU

(Ms. KING-HINDS of the Northern Mariana Islands was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. KING-HINDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as my home, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, is taking a direct hit from supertyphoon Sinlaku, one of the most powerful storms on Earth this year.

Right now, families on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are sheltering from catastrophic winds, life-threatening storm surge, and severe flooding. Homes are being damaged. Power is going out, and communications are being disrupted.

For many of us here in Washington, there is a particular kind of pain that comes with this moment. That is because while we are here doing our jobs, our hearts are back home with our families and praying that they are alive and safe.

Mr. Speaker, the people of the Northern Mariana Islands are strong. We prepare, we endure, and we rebuild. But let me be clear: Resilience should never be mistaken for self-sufficiency. We are a small, remote island community. When disasters strike, the margin for error is thin, and the need for a fast,