

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,

coordinated Federal response is critical.

I want to thank President Trump for approving the emergency declaration and FEMA for mobilizing resources. Now we must act with urgency and precision. First, I call on FEMA to ensure rapid deployment of personnel and prepositioned supplies, with a focus on restoring access to food, clean water, and emergency medical care.

Second, I urge the administration to expedite individual assistance and public assistance under the Stafford Act so families can begin recovery immediately, not weeks from now.

Third, we must prioritize the rapid restoration of power and water systems. I ask for full Federal cooperation, including support from the Department of War, to stabilize critical infrastructure as quickly as possible.

Fourth, I ask this body to be prepared to support supplemental disaster funding, if needed, because for island communities like ours, recovery costs are disproportionately high, and resources are limited.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I ask that we not lose sight of the bigger picture. Events like this highlight the vulnerability of remote U.S. communities to increasingly severe weather and the need for sustained Federal investment in resilient infrastructure, energy security, and emergency preparedness in the territories.

Mr. Speaker, right now this is about life and safety. In the coming days, it will be about recovery. In the months ahead, it must be about resilience.

But today I ask for something simple and human. I ask this body and the American people to keep the Northern Mariana Islands in your prayers. Pray for the families riding out this storm as we speak. Pray for our first responders and pray for strength as our community begins to pick up the pieces.

We are proud to be a part of this Nation. We serve this Nation, and in this moment, we are asking this Nation to stand with us.

May God bless the Northern Mariana Islands.

EVERGLADES DETENTION CENTER VISIT

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ of Florida was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, last week, I conducted an unannounced oversight visit to the Everglades detention camp the Trump administration and Florida's government despicably named Alligator Alcatraz.

While the employees in charge honored the legal requirement to allow me in, for the 3 hours I was there they wouldn't allow me to speak with the people they had put in cages. Because I arrived without notifying ICE, as Federal law allows, they had no time to whitewash the inhumane conditions.

I want to tell Americans the truth about what is being done in the middle

of our Everglades, in our name, and on our dime. Mr. Speaker, when you walk into this facility's dormitory area, which is a series of massive tents built on top of a tarmac, all you see are cages. Inside were 32 adult men, from ages 18 to 75, all packed into each cage, eight cages per tent, with 1,500 packed in that way in total.

The cages are clearly unsanitary. It is dirty and smells like urine. Men used the toilet inside the cages with only an open-sided, pelvis-level wall a few feet from the beds with toilets that have feces remnants in them.

So whom have they put in these cages? Are they convicted criminals?

Some possibly are. Let's be clear: Convicted criminals should be deported. However, the vast majority are not that.

Do they pose an immediate public threat?

Under ICE's own risk assessments, the vast majority do not. Yet everyone there suffers, and that suffering is very intentional because cruelty is the point. Some have been held in cages for 6 months or more. Detainees report being beaten, taunted, and pepper-sprayed. Many have disappeared, without a day in court, to distant third countries where they don't speak the language.

Haitians have been dumped into Mexico. Cubans have been sent to African countries and jailed on arrival.

When I walked through, men cried out for help. An older man was sprawled on his cot, clearly ill. I am certain more are sick. I have seen reports that staff deny access to prescriptions, and several detainees have been hospitalized. They are served tiny meals marked fresh that were clearly dated 2 weeks old.

For months, ICE denied detainees' access to lawyers or family, including U.S. citizen kids. A court order finally forced them to install unmonitored phone lines for people inside to call their attorneys.

Human rights advocates alleged more violations since then. One harrowing example came just before my visit. On April 2, staff at the facility shut off phones for a full day, cutting contact to the outside world. When detainees protested, officers entered their cages and severely beat them. According to the court filing, one man was "thrown to the ground and beaten by multiple guards. He suffered injuries to his shoulder . . . and was kicked in the head. A guard placed their knee on his neck. . . ."

Reports say when officers pepper-sprayed everyone in cages, an "older gentleman passed out, as he could not breathe."

It begs the basic question: Who is in charge here?

ICE argues in court that this is a State facility, immune from Federal law, which is absurd. Immigration is a Federal responsibility.

The site is in the middle of a federally protected area on Miccosukee Tribal land under a Federal treaty.

Why is ICE hiding behind Florida?

Is it so they can try to evade accountability for depriving detained people of basic human rights?

As soon as I arrived, I was met by Florida State employees and contractors. During the tour, I asked if ICE had a permanent presence, and they said yes. Any questions I asked about the detainee population were referred to ICE. Yet ICE personnel not only refused to speak with me, they blocked me from talking to the men caged there for months, despite my having signed privacy releases for specific detainees.

Three things about this facility are crystal clear: First, while Florida taxpayers bear the costs, ICE is clearly in charge. That means this camp should fall under the same rules as any other ICE facility.

Second, it is an ecological disaster. Taxpayers spent billions to restore the Everglades, which is a critical water resource and a homeland for the Miccosukee people. Now we are spending countless tax dollars to produce heaven only knows how much pollution, because ICE never conducted an environmental assessment.

Third, this facility makes a mockery of our values.

It is an insult to the Bill of Rights, which requires due process and prohibits cruel and usual punishment for all people, not just citizens. It is a gut punch to family members who can only watch loved ones waste away inside dirty cages with no legal recourse.

We know this is wrong. We know it is un-American. That is why we must stand up. I watch with pride as my south Florida neighbors mobilize to hold vigils outside the Everglades interment camp and unite in solidarity.

For my part, I led Florida Democrats to sponsor legislation to shut this place down and guarantee every Member of Congress can conduct oversight at ICE jails, like I did, to see the truth.

Mr. Speaker, this detention camp must be shut down. Our conscience demands it, and I will not rest until the families torn apart by this stain on the State of Florida seek and obtain justice.

BLACK SUNDAY

(Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the 91st anniversary of a solemn day for the people of Oklahoma: Black Sunday.

While perhaps there are not many Americans who know about that consequential Sunday on April 14, 1935, I want to take a few minutes to tell you about it, Mr. Speaker, based on what my ancestors told me and the hardships that came from that day.

I still remember my grandfather, Fred Lucas, telling me and my cousins about Black Sunday. You see, Mr. Speaker, in Crawford, Oklahoma, on