

sense. She made history as the first woman to serve in the Illinois House as Illinois House majority leader and became the longest serving woman in the general assembly. Her leadership didn't just break barriers. It reshaped what leadership could look like.

As a founding mother of the Illinois Women in Leadership, also known as IWIL, Barbara inspired me and countless others to pursue a career in public service.

She was a force who opened doors for generations of women in Illinois politics. She led with integrity, always putting people before politics, and proving that government can work effectively when guided by principle and purpose.

That is the kind of leadership we need now more than ever.

Mr. Speaker, Barbara will be deeply missed, but her example will continue to guide and inspire us for years to come.

HONORING DR. LUCYNDA RABEN

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

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, today, we celebrate the remarkable career of a true pillar of Kansas dentistry, Dr. Lucynda Raben.

For over 40 years, Lucynda has been more than a dentist. She has been a pioneer and a dedicated advocate for dentistry. From the very beginning, when she formed the first father-daughter practice in Kansas history, she has set a standard for excellence that has become a benchmark for our community.

As the founder of Raben Dentistry, she provided world-class care to Wichita families, but her impact reached far beyond the walls of her clinic. Whether serving as chair of the Delta Dental of Kansas, being named KDA Dentist of the Year, or testifying before the State legislature, Lucynda has been a tireless advocate for us all.

Through her work with the KIND program and her years of dedicated outreach, she has secured a clear path for the next generation of dentists.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Dr. Raben's career of leadership, integrity, and unwavering commitment to Wichita. I thank her for her decades of service and the lasting mark she has made on our community. I congratulate her on a remarkable legacy.

FUNDING REQUESTS FOR OREGON'S FIFTH DISTRICT

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

Ms. BYNUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the more than \$36 million in funding I have requested for Oregon's Fifth Congressional District.

This money will strengthen our communities by investing in clean drinking

water, education, childcare, public safety, and workforce development.

In central Oregon alone, over \$10 million will go toward expanding access to childcare, good-paying jobs, and wildfire preparedness.

Across Oregon, these projects will make sure families, small businesses, and our children will have everything they need to survive and thrive because funding these projects builds on my work to support the next generation. The pillars of my K-30 agenda are education, jobs, and housing. These projects will unlock our ability to make progress on those key issues to set the next generation up for success.

At the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, this is an investment in expanding opportunity and lowering costs for Oregonians. I will keep fighting in Congress to deliver real results back home.

REMEMBERING GEORGE E. PARSONS

(Ms. MALLIOTAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of George Parsons, a proud American and decorated veteran of the Korean war, who passed away last week.

Born in Brooklyn in 1930, Mr. Parsons answered the call to serve, enlisting in 1950 in the National Guard. He fought in the Korean war with courage in multiple major Army offensives, defending freedom and earning numerous medals and citations.

After his military service, Mr. Parsons moved to Staten Island and embarked on a 33-year career serving our city in the Department of Sanitation.

In 1958, he heroically rescued three children and one adult from a house fire, earning him the Medal of Valor.

George proudly served as commander of the Allan F. Kivlehan Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association and earned a place in the New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, George was a dear friend to me and the community. We are forever grateful for his service and now must ensure future generations know the significant role that he and other Korean war veterans played in the fight against communism.

REMEMBERING AMBASSADOR ARTHUR SCHECHTER

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

Mr. MENEFEЕ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Houston's and this Nation's great public servants. Ambassador Arthur Schechter ended his journey in life on April 13, at the wise age of 86. He was an attorney, a diplomat, a philanthropist, and one of Houston's most committed civic leaders.

Ambassador Schechter was a Houston man through and through. He built

his legal career there, fought for maritime workers and working people and poured himself into this community for decades.

His impact didn't just stop in the city. President Clinton appointed him U.S. Ambassador to the Bahamas in 1998, and he served our country with dignity and honor.

The Governor General of the Bahamas called him the finest ambassador ever posted to that country. That says everything you need to know about the ambassador.

When Ambassador Schechter finished his post abroad, he continued the work back home. He chaired Houston's Public Transit Authority and helped open Houston's first light rail on our Main Street. He rode in that very first car with his grandchildren. That image captures who Arthur Schechter was. He didn't just build things. He made sure that the people he loved and everyone else in our communities got to experience them.

To Joyce, to Jennifer, to Leslie, and to the grandchildren and other family members that Ambassador Schechter loved so deeply, an entire Nation is grieving with you. God bless Ambassador Schechter in his service. May we carry his legacy forward.

HONORING MR. WILLIE COOPER

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

Ms. LETLOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Willie Cooper, whose decades of service left a lasting mark on agriculture in Louisiana.

For 56 years, Mr. Cooper served with the United States Department of Agriculture and the Farm Service Agency, supporting farmers and advancing one of Louisiana's most vital industries.

In 1972, he was appointed Louisiana State Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency, a role he held for 42 years.

He served under 8 Presidents and 13 Secretaries of Agriculture, an extraordinary testament to his expertise and the trust placed in him.

Mr. Cooper was known for his integrity, humility, and unwavering commitment to doing his work the right way. He embodied the very best of public service.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of this body, we extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and all who had the privilege of working with him. May we honor his memory through our service.

MAKE AMERICA AFFORDABLE

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

Mr. AMO. Mr. Speaker, last week, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent was asked why Americans don't feel better

about the economy. His answer: “Well in their heart of hearts they feel good.”

Let him tell that to the families in Pawtucket who are paying more at the grocery store and at the doctor’s office, or seniors in Smithfield choosing between prescriptions and rent, or drivers paying over \$4 a gallon to fill up for their commute from the East Bay or Aquidneck Island.

Working families don’t feel Trump’s economy in their hearts. They feel it in their wallets. This administration needs to stop the gaslighting. Trump’s tariffs illegally took billions from American consumers for everyday goods, and he won’t give a dime back.

Instead of fighting an unlawful war in Iran, they should be focused on lowering costs here at home. If they want people to feel good, then do good.

Mr. Speaker, stop the war, end the chaos, and make life affordable for Americans.

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RECOGNIZING SCOTT BLADES

(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 to recognize Scott Blades of Tucson, Arizona, for more than three decades of leadership and service to individuals living with HIV in Pima County.

At the height of the HIV/AIDS crisis, when stigma and fear left many isolated, Scott responded with compassion and resolve, bringing community members together to provide care, dignity, and connection.

In 1994, he founded the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network, building a powerful model that united faith communities, volunteers, and service providers to support those in need. Under his leadership, he recruited thousands of volunteers and, together, TIHAN served more than 1,600 people living with HIV, improving health outcomes, reducing stigma, and strengthening the community.

Scott Blades’ career reflects the very best of public service, a lasting commitment to dignity, equity, and care for others.

I ask the people of the Seventh Congressional District to join me in honoring his extraordinary contributions to southern Arizona.

I thank my friend Scott for his service.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Ms. FRIEDMAN. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow marks the 111th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, the systematic murder of 1.5 million Armenians by the Ottoman Empire. For more than a century, that truth was denied.

I represent California’s 30th District, home to the largest Armenian-American community outside of Armenia. For my constituents, this anniversary is not history. It is living memory. It is their friends and family.

Unfortunately, aggression against Armenians is happening again. More than 120,000 Armenians have been ethnically cleansed from Artsakh, their ancestral homeland, and 23 prisoners remain unjustly detained in Azerbaijan. Sacred cultural and religious sites are being destroyed. These are sites that I had the honor of visiting several years ago.

Today, I recommit to fighting to demand the release of every Armenian prisoner of war, the end of military aid to Azerbaijan, and the right of displaced Artsakh families to return home to their lands. I will fight to protect Armenia from ongoing threats from Turkiye and Azerbaijan.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to mark this solemn occasion.

RECOGNIZING DARREN CRONKITE

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Darren Cronkite on an extraordinary milestone of 30 years of dedicated business leadership in Riverside, California.

In 1996, Darren opened Back to the Grind, which quickly became more than a coffeehouse. Through open mikes, art showcases, and community events, it has become a cornerstone of downtown Riverside’s cultural life.

Darren’s commitment to inclusion and community building has made a lasting impact across the Inland Empire. By ensuring that all people, including members of the LGBTQ+ community, have a place to feel seen and connected, he has strengthened the social fabric of Riverside.

I congratulate Darren on 30 years of service, leadership, and community impact. His work will continue to make a meaningful mark, and I look forward to celebrating this milestone with him.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

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

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, how bad does it have to get for the GOP in this Chamber to do something?

Unhinged posts threatening war crimes; an illegal war in the Middle East that has killed thousands and thousands of civilians; 13 U.S. soldiers dead; an illegal invasion in Venezuela; illegal killing of civilians in the Caribbean; billions of dollars in grift, including insider trading and oil shorts, shady crypto deals, selling pardons, and his son-in-law making billion-dollar

business deals while negotiating a war; and the biggest coverup in American history in the Epstein case, where the President is not only implicated but named as accused.

My question, Mr. Speaker: When is enough enough to impeach, to invoke the 25th Amendment, to stop these wars, to rein in this insanity, and to remove this President now?

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

2027 PRESIDENTIAL BUDGET REQUEST WILL MAKE LIFE HARDER

(Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues from the Congressional Progressive Caucus and Assistant Democratic Leader JOE NEGUSE to call out the many ways that Donald Trump’s 2027 budget request will make life harder for our neighbors and constituents.

I will start with the fact that families across the country are already hurting because of Republican policies. Last year, Trump’s budget bill made drastic cuts to healthcare and food assistance, and 17 million people will lose healthcare coverage as a result. Yet, that wasn’t enough for Trump because his 2027 budget proposal cuts even more.

For example, the President’s budget request eliminates \$4 billion of affordable housing investments, wiping out programs that help families find housing, stay in their homes, and get back on their feet.

My district has suffered from severe floods over the last 2 years, and some of my constituents were displaced from their homes. As rents rise, Trump wants to cut programs that are designed to help keep a roof over their heads.

The President’s budget also eliminates LIHEAP, a program that helps 5 million families afford their utility bills, leaving them unable to cool their homes in the summer or pay heating bills in the winter. When you combine that with surging prices at the gas pump because of Trump’s illegal war with Iran, Trump is making the American people suffer twice.

As if this wasn’t bad enough, Trump’s budget proposal also calls for deep cuts to food assistance like SNAP and WIC.