

whom I had the pleasure of meeting last year and who we lost just 2 months before his 103rd birthday, in Catonsville, Maryland.

In World War II, Mr. Bucci served in the 99th Infantry Division during one of the war's most pivotal battles, the Battle of the Bulge.

Following the victory, Mr. Bucci and his division helped liberate three POW camps and one Jewish Holocaust concentration camp.

Mr. Bucci was awarded the Purple Heart for his injuries sustained during his service, and decades later, the French Government honored him with the Legion of Honor medal, France's highest military award.

Mr. Bucci continued his lifetime of service by working to improve the quality of life for all veterans at the VFW Post 7472 in Ellicott City. He also told his story to students around the world in the spirit of keeping history alive.

Today, we honor his sharp wit, his big heart, and his immeasurable devotion to our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, he leaves behind a historic legacy and is survived by his daughter, Joyce; his son-in-law, George; his grandson; many nieces and nephews; and friends who were like family.

FUNDING DISASTER RELIEF

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

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, western North Carolina is still recovering from Hurricane Helene. Families are rebuilding homes; small businesses are getting back on their feet; and communities are working every day to repair critical infrastructure.

Now, Mr. Speaker, because some Members of Congress have chosen to protect their political interests over serving the folks of America, including those in western North Carolina, the Disaster Recovery Fund is about to run out of money, putting our recovery in serious jeopardy.

This fund supports debris removal, infrastructure repair, and emergency response already underway. Once it is depleted, Federal recovery operations will come to a halt, stopping reimbursements, delaying projects, and leaving local governments to shoulder costs that they cannot afford.

We cannot allow Washington to continue this dysfunction and derail disaster recovery or let the Disaster Relief Fund run dry.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to act immediately, end the political games, reopen the Department of Homeland Security operations, and fully replenish the Disaster Relief Fund so that western North Carolina can continue rebuilding without interruption.

□ 0910

RHODE ISLAND INDEPENDENCE DAY

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

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, 250 years ago, on May 4, 1776, the people of Rhode Island became the first in America to declare their independence from the British crown.

Two months before the signing of the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia, the Rhode Island General Assembly met in Providence and passed an act of renunciation to separate our State's political ties with the English King.

Rhode Islanders have always believed in freedom, democracy, and the right to chart our own course. Our State's founding document in 1663 made us the first place in the Western Hemisphere to allow freedom of religion.

In 1772, when the British Empire sent ships to enforce its unfair laws, we took matters into our own hands and burnt the HMS *Gaspee* in the Narragansett Bay, an act of defiance to inspire the continent to rise up against tyranny.

Rhode Island did not just participate in the American Revolution. We launched it. Happy May 4.

HONORING LIFE OF ANTHONY YANIZ

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

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to honor the life of Anthony Yaniz, a proud son of Key West and a true pillar of the Florida Keys community.

Tony was a former Key West commissioner and a larger-than-life figure who dedicated himself to serving others and strengthening the community that he loved.

Tony's work supported important local institutions, including the Key West Veterans Memorial and the Center for Animal Welfare and Education. His commitment to his community was not just public. It was personal. He showed up for his neighbors time and time again.

Anthony Yaniz leaves behind a legacy of service, passion, and love for Key West. He will be deeply missed, but his impact will live on for generations.

May he rest in peace.

WE CARE FOR OUR VETERANS

(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, veterans give so much to our country, and it is up to us to take care of them when they become civilians. That means

quality, easy-to-access care at VA hospitals and outpatient facilities and benefits for a disability diagnosis, purchasing a home, or learning skills to rejoin the workforce.

In Congress, I am committed to maintaining these benefits for veterans and preventing any action that would require additional hurdles to receive these earned benefits.

One major bill I am supporting is top of mind for veterans: H.R. 1970, Providing Veterans Essential Medications Act, will direct the VA to reimburse State homes for the cost of certain costly medications provided to veterans who receive nursing home care.

Last year, I visited the Bronx VA medical center to speak with staff and veterans about the high quality of services and research provided there.

It is clear that the VA staff are doing everything that they can to care for and improve services for veterans. We will push back against any cuts by this administration that renege on our commitment to our veterans.

HONORING IDAHO GOVERNOR DIRK KEMPThorNE

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

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand today to remember the life and legacy of a dear friend and fellow Idahoan, Dirk Kempthorne.

Dirk was a trusted leader and a devoted public servant. Throughout his distinguished career, he served as mayor of Boise, Idaho's Governor, United States Senator, and Secretary of the Interior.

In each role, Dirk worked tirelessly to strengthen our communities, promote responsible stewardship, and expand opportunity for Idaho families.

His leadership helped support job growth, drive commerce, and invest in infrastructure across the Gem State. He was also instrumental in the commissioning of the USS *Idaho* nuclear submarine, championing support for its crew and their families.

Beyond his many accomplishments, Dirk was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He was just a good man.

Rest in peace, my friend.

HONORING EVA WOODBY

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

Mrs. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend, Eva Woodby, who recently passed away, and I send my deepest condolences to her devoted husband, Alex Yu, and family.

Eva lived the American Dream. She came to the United States as a student with nothing and worked tirelessly to build a very successful business. No matter how much she achieved, she never stopped giving back or lifting others up.

Even when her business struggled during COVID and as she battled late-stage cancer, Eva never gave up. She faced every challenge with strength, dignity, and determination. Her life was not defined by hardship, but by courage and resilience. She showed all of us what it means to keep moving forward, no matter the odds.

I am very grateful for Eva's friendship, and I will strive to live up to the example she set every single day.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUALS TO ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CHILD CARE CENTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 2062, and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, of the following individuals to the Advisory Board for the House of Representatives Child Care Center:

- Mr. John Byers, Alexandria, Virginia
- Ms. Rachel Collins, Washington, D.C.
- Ms. Giulia Leganski, Potomac, Maryland
- Mr. Derek Harley, Avon Lake, Ohio
- Ms. Lauren Hodge, Alexandria, Virginia
- Mr. Thomas McAllister, Washington, D.C.
- Ms. Anna McCormack, Alexandria, Virginia
- Mr. Kevin O'Keefe, Falls Church, Virginia

APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUAL TO THE COMMISSION ON THE NATIONAL DEFENSE STRATEGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 1095(b)(1)(A) of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026 (Public Law 119-60), and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, of the following individual on the part of the House to the Commission on the National Defense Strategy:

- Mr. Robert O'Brien of Heber City, Utah

FARM, FOOD, AND NATIONAL SECURITY ACT OF 2026

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. KIM). Pursuant to House Resolution 1224 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 7567.

Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PATRONIS) kindly take the chair.

□ 0917

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 7567) to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other pro-

grams of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2031, and for other purposes, with Mr. PATRONIS in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 47 printed in part B of House Report 119-628 offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF) had been postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 49 OFFERED BY MRS. SPARTZ

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 49 printed in part B of House Report 119-628.

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end of subtitle D of title XII the following:

SEC. 12. EXEMPTION OF FARM EQUIPMENT FROM CLEAN AIR ACT EMISSION STANDARDS.

Section 213 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7547) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) EXEMPTION FOR FARM EQUIPMENT.—The standards under this section shall not apply to new or in-use—

“(1) agricultural tractors, as such term is defined in section 1928.51 of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations; or

“(2) self-propelled agricultural equipment used to spray, fertilize, or harvest covered commodities, as such term is defined in section 1111(6) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9011(6)).”

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1224, the gentleman from Indiana (Mrs. SPARTZ) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is very simple: Does Congress really care about American farmers and consumers, or about Big Ag screwing them on the farms and in the grocery stores?

Does Congress really care about affordability, or is it just lip service during an election year?

All this bill does is exempt large tractors and combines from unreasonable Clean Air Act emission standards, standards we already waived for military equipment in the name of national security. Is not food security just as much as national security?

Really, Mr. Chair, how much damage to the environment is a combine going to do in 2 weeks in the field?

These emission standards, however, are doing real damage to family farms and grocery prices. They make equipment extremely costly, prone to breakdowns, and less reliable, causing delays, fires, and higher prices for consumers.

□ 0920

Ask any farmer about DEF, diesel exhaust fluid, and you will hear it: Farm equipment and input costs have in-

creased 30 to 100 percent in just 5 years. Farmers are struggling to survive, and consumers are struggling to afford groceries.

These regulations only benefit large manufacturers like John Deere, controlled by billionaires like Bill Gates and BlackRock CEO, Larry Fink. You will hear a lot of BS arguments about the environment, but this has nothing to do with it. It is all about benefiting Wall Street and billionaire donors while screwing farmers and consumers.

Is it not interesting that John Deere runs two production lines, one to screw American farmers under heavy regulations and one for Brazilian farmers with no emission standards? How is an American farmer supposed to compete with that? No one seems to care about those same exempt tractors being used in Brazil or the rainforest, the lungs of the planet, being destroyed.

Democrats destroyed American mining and manufacturing, and now we appease China. Now they want to do the same to American farming, leaving us begging Brazil to feed us; Brazil, which has teamed up with Russia and China to take us down.

I know that Big Ag lobbyists are working hard through congressional staff, which many of my colleagues unfortunately are controlled by, to defeat this amendment.

These staffers have never held a real job. They are not going to be sweating fixing combines, getting covered with diesel fuel, grease, and chemicals, losing family farms, or struggling to put food on the table. They will be eating steak dinners at fancy restaurants in D.C. and trying to figure out how they can sell out our country to big money so they can get a million-dollar paycheck at the age of 30.

If my colleagues truly care about affordability, not Wall Street donors, I urge them to support this common-sense amendment. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this amendment, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Chair, just wow. Just wow. That entire speech is just wow. At the end of the day, we are sitting here talking about the farm bill, and this amendment does nothing to materially address the very real issues farmers are facing as they look at planting season today.

All I could really hear is the word “Brazil.” We have forced our largest export markets, like China, to Brazil and Argentina because of bad policies from this administration.

I am pretty sure that my farmers back home in Minnesota are far more concerned about how they are going to afford fertilizer to make it to next year without a substantial loss than they are about emissions standards on their tractors.

The cost of diesel has gone up 50 percent since the start of the war in Iran.