

not measured only in miles. In many ways, our people are also living with systems and conditions decades behind the rest of our country. Power infrastructure built over 40 years ago struggles to stay online. Water systems built generations ago are failing under the weight of time. Long before Super Typhoon Sinlaku struck our islands this year, our economy was already under extraordinary strain.

Tourism had not recovered. Businesses were closing. Families were leaving. Air service was shrinking. Government revenues were collapsing.

Mr. Speaker, this did not happen in a vacuum. For decades, Federal policies toward the territories, while often well-intentioned, have too often operated as barriers instead of bridges to long-term economic sufficiency.

One-size-fits-all Federal policies may work on the mainland, but they do not work for small, remote-island economies in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

When transportation policies fail to account for isolation, we pay more. When healthcare systems fail to account for remoteness, people leave. When economic policies fail to account for the fact that tourism is our customer base, entire industries collapse.

When Federal systems are built around the assumption that every community has the same market access and the same economic flexibility, places like the Northern Mariana Islands are left trying to survive under rules that were never truly designed for us.

Then, Super Typhoon Sinlaku arrived.

Mr. Speaker, we are now weeks into a territory-wide recovery emergency across Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. More than 5,000 residents have already registered for FEMA individual assistance. Nearly half of surveyed households suffered major or catastrophic housing damage.

Entire islands lost power. Water systems failed. Hospitals, schools, sports, airports, and government facilities were forced into emergency operations.

While national media attention has already begun moving on, the people living this reality did not have the luxury of changing the channel because, for us, this is not a headline. This is home.

Thankfully, recovery is happening, but, Mr. Speaker, disasters do not create weaknesses out of nowhere. They expose the weakness that already exists. When a community has spent years operating at the edge, even a single storm can push entire systems toward failure.

The Indo-Pacific is often discussed through the lens of strategic competition and force projection, but national resilience in the Pacific also depends on whether American communities in the region remain economically and socially viable.

A collapsing utility system is a national security issue. A collapsing

transportation system is a national security issue. The inability of American territories to sustain population, workforce, and economic activity in a strategically important region is a national security issue.

If we are serious about maintaining a durable American presence in the Indo-Pacific, then we must also be serious about the long-term viability of the American communities already living there.

In the coming weeks, I will be working with my colleagues, Federal agencies, and the administration on proposals aimed at addressing the underlying vulnerabilities this disaster has exposed because we cannot simply rebuild to what existed before. We must build systems that are stronger, more flexible, and actually designed to give communities like ours a chance to survive and grow.

Mr. Speaker, at the beginning, I mentioned that the Northern Mariana Islands live a day ahead of the rest of the country. Sometimes, it also feels like communities like mine experience America's future first.

What happens when infrastructure ages beyond sustainability? What happens when economic systems become too fragile to absorb disruption? What happens when communities lose the flexibility to respond to their own realities because the systems governing them have become too distant and too rigid?

In the Northern Mariana Islands, those pressures arrive earlier and more visibly because we are small, remote, and heavily dependent on decisions that are made here, but the lesson is not unique to the Pacific. A country as large and diverse as the United States cannot remain strong if every community is treated as though it faces the same conditions, the same constraints, and the same path forward.

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Recovery is not only about debris removal and emergency response. It is about whether American communities still have a future once the cameras leave and the attention moves on. For the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands that question is immediate. It is urgent, and it deserves the attention of Congress.

ROSEBURG VA HOME

(Ms. HOYLE of Oregon was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, in March, I testified in front of the Appropriations Committee in support of the \$600 million appropriations funding request for the Veterans State Home Grant. This is a program that funds the Roseburg State Veterans' Home.

The Appropriations Committee came back with \$171 million request instead. That is a \$104 million cut from the 2026 enacted amount and an insult to those who served our country and who have earned the right to live out the rest of their lives in dignity.

There is a huge backlog of projects that need funding from the VA State Home Grant, including the Roseburg State Veterans' Home, totaling over \$1 billion—\$1 billion. That is less than we spend in day on the war in Iran.

Veterans in my district have been advocating for this home since 2011. Oregon has done its part. The State first set aside matching funds for this project in 2011 when Representative CLIFF BENTZ and I served in the State legislature and again in 2024.

Unfortunately, the Federal Government has not held up its end of the bargain, and the need is clear. My district is home to more veterans than any other district in Oregon, and many live in rural communities with limited access to long-term care options.

The Roseburg State Veterans' Home would house more than 150 veterans and be a model for community-based care. Our veterans have waited long enough to receive the care they deserve. The Federal Government needs to step up and ensure these projects, like the Roseburg State Veterans' Home, can finally move forward.

This isn't just about Roseburg, Oregon, but throughout this country we should all be united in ensuring our veterans, who put their lives on the line to protect and serve our country, get the benefits that they earned and deserve.

THE RIGHT THING TO DO

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, first and foremost, I want to congratulate the Eugene Emergency Physicians for their hard-fought and won contract with PeaceHealth, the only level 2 trauma hospital between Corvallis, Oregon, and Crescent City, California.

Now, for those who don't know, the PeaceHealth hospital leadership decided to replace our local emergency physician group, 41 medical professionals who live in our community and who have served our emergency medical needs with distinction for 35 years, with a management-run, venture capital-funded medical group out of Georgia.

Fortunately, Oregon passed a law restricting corporate ownership and the Corporate Practice of Medicine law that restricts MSOs from owning, controlling, or directing medical decision-making for professional medical entities.

It prevents MSOs from using a friendly physician amendment to circumvent ownership laws, and it voids noncompete, nondisclosure, and nondisparagement for medical professionals.

Now, if this law were not in place, then our community would have been left a lot less safe and less able to respond to a natural disaster or large emergency medical need before the July 4 weekend, which is traditionally the highest E.R. usage period in the year, and before what everyone agrees will be a devastating wildfire season.

We won this battle in Oregon. However, there is no national law that prohibits the corporate ownership and

practice of medicine where the highest priority is profits to the shareholders instead of providing quality, affordable, and appropriate healthcare.

We can and should fix that, and it shouldn't be partisan. We should all agree that large insurance companies, hedge funds, and venture capital firms should not be able to buy up healthcare systems, driving up costs while limiting service to everyone but their shareholders.

That is why I have introduced the people over profits bill to prevent squeezing every bit of profit out of a medical care system at the expense of our constituents when they are at their most vulnerable. We need this law so we can have more wins like the one I am so proud Eugene Emergency Physicians won last week. We need that all across this great country. It is the right thing to do, and I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this very, very important legislation.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM P. BASS AND FOUNDING OF SPACE COAST

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

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the legacy of William P. Bass, a pioneer who helped found America's space program.

After serving in World War II, Mr. Bass continued his service as a civilian leader in the United States Air Force.

In 1950, he came to Florida to help establish the Eastern Test Range, building the infrastructure that would launch the American space race and its ultimate success.

As the highest ranking civilian manager at the Eastern Test Range, he oversaw operations that supported the Gemini and the Apollo missions between the Air Force and NASA and led an organization of tens of thousands of men and women in the missile and space operations program.

At a time when Brevard County was largely undeveloped, his leadership helped transform it into the birthplace of American exploration.

His legacy of that work is clear. It helped put Americans on the Moon and secure our Nation's leadership in space.

Today, we honor William P. Bass for his service, his vision, and his lasting impact for the space coast.

HONORING ANDREW L. MILES

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Andrew L. Miles, a proud veteran from Florida's Space Coast and our Veteran of the Month.

Technical Sergeant Miles served our Nation honorably for 23 years in the United States Air Force, dedicating his life to our country and our military.

In fact, while overseas in Madrid, he met his wife, Angeles, and they shared a life together. His distinguished service earned him the Air Force Commendation Medal with Oakleaf Cluster, Outstanding Unit Award, and the Good

Conduct Medal, reflecting a career marked by professionalism and dedication.

Mr. Miles also reminds us of this civic truth: that democracy depends on participation. So today, we thank Andrew L. Miles for his service to our Nation, his example of patriotism, and continued commitment to our community.

RECOGNIZING LIFESAVING ACTIONS ON BREVARD COUNTY BEACHES

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, we not only live on the Space Coast, but we live on the beach. So today, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bravery and quick action of the lifeguards on Florida's Space Coast.

Recently, a Brevard County Ocean Rescue team led that fight to take on these dangerous waters. In a moment where every second matters, they acted without hesitation, demonstrating skill, courage, and deep commitment to protecting others.

In 1 day they rescued 15 different individuals as they faced strong rip currents and hazardous conditions on our beaches.

These lifeguards are often the first line of defense between safety and tragedy. Their work requires vigilance, training, and the willingness to put others first.

Their actions serve as a reminder of the importance of respecting the ocean and always providing safety guidance.

We thank the entire Brevard County Ocean Rescue team for their dedication and saving lives each and every day.

RECOGNIZING EASTERN FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE MEN'S GOLF TEAM

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievement of Eastern Florida State College men's golf team on the Space Coast. In fact, I used to teach at Eastern Florida and am especially proud of their incredible work.

The team is currently ranked eighth in the Nation, and they are moving up due to their hard work, discipline, and commitment to excellence.

This recognition reflects not only the talent they have on the golf course, but of course, their performance in the classroom, as well.

Eastern Florida continues to produce student-athletes who represent our region with pride and integrity.

We congratulate the team on this achievement and wish them continued success this season.

RECOGNIZING BOEING'S DESTINATION MOON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible work being done by our Brevard County public schools.

At the Boeing Destination Moon Awards Ceremony, more than 500 students were recognized for competing in a yearlong STEM design challenge to look at real-world lunar missions.

These students developed solutions using coding, robotics, and engineering and got hands-on experience that prepares them for a career in aerospace

and amazing new technologies. These students applied their talents to these challenges and led by example.

I was proud to be at this event most recently, and it just shows that Brevard County schools are not only putting students first, but they are putting the future in the hands of these students, so they can decide that ultimate civil right, which is a great education.

RECOGNIZING L&H INDUSTRIAL TEAM

(Ms. HAGEMAN of Wyoming was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the L&H Industrial team on receiving the 2026 Wyoming Small Business Person of the Year Award. Mike Wandler, Jason Percifield, Dustin Roush, and Gage Wandler accepted the award after their Gillette company manufactured critical material to propel mankind's return to the Moon.

L&H built and installed more than 1,300 components for the historic Artemis II mission, the first human flight to lunar orbit in more than 50 years.

The Gillette team also rebuilt 16 transmissions and engineered an enhanced flame detector system to protect the launch pad from over 9 million pounds of thrust.

Their work manufacturing America's next manifest destiny pays homage to our history and our commitment to exploration from the Cowboy State.

They make us proud of our frontier heritage.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the team at L&H Industrial and thank them for enabling humanity's next voyage.

HONORING HEATH HORNECKER

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary Wyoming educator whose retirement marks the end of an era for the Casper College ag department.

Heath Hornecker's relationship with Casper College began many years ago when the Douglas graduate followed his passion and his talent to judge livestock for Casper. It was there that he met his teammate and future wife, Jaime, and it is the program he joined as a member of the faculty in 2004.

He spent more than two decades changing the lives of his students and colleagues with an unwavering commitment to the next generation of Wyoming agriculturalists and imparting nuggets of wisdom to the many individuals he mentored.

He served many roles at Casper College, receiving nearly every single honor offered, including the Community College Faculty Member of the Year for the State of Wyoming, the Rosenthal Outstanding Educator Award, and the Shanklin Faculty Leadership Award.

He also served on the Wyoming Association for Career and Technical Education executive team and has been an