

COMMEMORATING ANNIVERSARY
AND SACRIFICE OF OFFICER
JOHN ANTHONY VALENZUELA

(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 commemorate the anniversary of the sacrifice of fallen officer John Anthony Valenzuela of the South Tucson Police Department, who was killed in the line of duty on May 17, 1993.

Officer Valenzuela was just 27 years old. He served as a school resource officer, dedicating himself to protecting children and strengthening the trust within the south Tucson community, a community in which he was raised, attended school, lived, and had strong ties.

On the day of his death, he acted on behalf of a young victim and courageously joined fellow officers in serving a warrant connected to a child sex abuse investigation. In the face of danger, Officer Valenzuela gave his life in service to others. He is the only officer killed in the line of duty in the history of the South Tucson Police Department.

More than three decades later, his legacy lives on in southern Arizona through the John Valenzuela Youth Center named in his honor, his family and friends, and through the countless lives he touched by his service and sacrifice.

We remember Officer John Valenzuela with gratitude, respect, and solemn remembrance.

May he forever rest in peace.

BACK THE BLUE

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, in today's high tech world, there seems to be an app for nearly everything, but when danger strikes there is still only one option. It is called the police, Mr. Speaker.

During National Police Week, I appreciate our officers, deputies, troopers, and the entire law enforcement family who put their lives on the line every day to protect others.

It takes courage to wear a badge. It takes even more courage to respond to an emergency, to step in harm's way, or to confront danger. But for our police, it is just part of the job.

Today, I want to say two words our officers do not hear nearly enough: Thank you. Thank you for protecting our businesses, our communities. Thank you for protecting our families and each of us. Thank you for upholding the law.

I will always back the blue, Mr. Speaker.

POLICE WEEK

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the brave men and women from police departments and law enforcement agencies throughout northwest Ohio and across our Nation.

We recognize them to thank them for their patriotism and to meet with them during this Police Week. We also honor the work they do, the hard work day in and day out to protect and serve our communities year-round.

Recently, efforts like Elon Musk's DOGE tried to cut Federal funding for law enforcement by cutting COPS and Department of Justice grants to them. These programs help local agencies get equipment and training they need, while also providing funding to hire additional officers.

At every step of the way, I opposed those cuts. Those efforts to cut funding are also why I joined my bipartisan Appropriations colleague Congresswoman STEPHANIE BICE of Oklahoma to introduce the Training Rural Law Enforcement Officers Act of 2026 to extend funding opportunities to trusted not-for-profits to train and support rural law enforcement.

Far too often, smaller departments get fewer opportunities for specialized training.

Mr. Speaker, our bill ensures every community, big or small, has access to 21st century tools for policing. I hope our colleagues join us in cosponsoring this legislation.

FOX VALLEY TECHNICAL
TRAINING CENTER STUDENTS

(Mr. WIED asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WIED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of EMT students at the Fox Valley Technical College Training Center in northeastern Wisconsin for their quick thinking and their lifesaving action.

On March 25, 72 year-old EMS instructor Karl Arps was acting as a patient during a simulated chest pain scenario when the emergency certainly became real.

The students recognized that Mr. Arps was experiencing cardiac arrest and immediately put their training into action. After nearly 5 minutes of CPR, his heart began beating again.

As students who are still preparing to enter the field, their ability to recognize the emergency and respond with such speed and confidence is truly extraordinary.

Mr. Arps has spent 25 years in EMS and has dedicated himself to preparing the next generation of emergency responders. In this remarkable moment, that exact training helped save his own life—a true testament to Mr. Arps' teaching abilities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Arps a speedy recovery and recognizing these students for their courage, composure, and lifesaving work.

HONORING DAVID SCOTT

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

Mrs. McBATH. Mr. Speaker, since the passing of our colleague and friend David Scott last month, we continue to miss his presence and honor the impact that he had on this body.

Whether it was the memory of his famous job fairs or a remembrance of how his office solved Federal problems for his constituents, I have deeply enjoyed hearing the stories from those David impacted, both colleagues here in D.C., and during his memorial service in Atlanta.

Back home in Georgia and in Congress, his legacy defines him as a fiercely devoted champion for farmers, for young Black scholars, and for all those who needed a voice in Congress.

We love and we miss you, David. Thank you for your devotion to this Congress and to this country.

□ 1730

HONORING LAW ENFORCEMENT
OFFICERS IN THE LEHIGH VALLEY
AND THE POCONOS

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

Mr. MACKENZIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during National Police Week to honor law enforcement throughout the Lehigh Valley and the Poconos who put their lives on the line every day to keep our communities safe. This week, we recognize the virtues of these officers, but we also know that the work of supporting police continues every day.

As a State representative, I authored legislation creating the Keystone First Responder Award to recognize those first responders killed or seriously injured in the line of duty.

Since becoming a Member of Congress, on the very first day, I took action to make sure that we were securing resources to benefit our first responders in the Lehigh Valley and the Poconos, and I am glad to report that we were able to secure \$5 million for projects benefiting those individuals and their organizations.

As we prepare to celebrate America 250, we also must remember past generations of law enforcement officers. This year, Constable Elmer P. Anthony of Carbon County was honored at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial more than a century after he was killed in the line of duty. His legacy serves as a permanent reminder of the sacrifice of law enforcement officers.

I thank all of our police officers for their service to our communities.

OUR NATION IS AT A CROSSROADS

(Ms. MEJIA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MEJIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise because our Nation is at a crossroads. We face a familiar foe: the avarice of the powerful who rig our electoral systems in order to cement their power. This story is as old as our Nation. The powerful weaken the power of the many so that they cannot be held to account.

After all, if entire communities are silenced, then the greed that results in cancer alleys, in mass unemployment, high infant mortality, or explosive unaffordability has neither check nor balance.

While these actions begin along racial lines, the harm rarely limits itself to the same. While stripping Black Americans of hard-fought political power is weaponized racism that would make Strom Thurmond proud, the result is that every American is, in fact, losing their representative government.

This is an act of war against democracy, and we should see it as such.

HONORING OFFICER GABRIEL FACIO

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

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the memory and selfless service of Officer Gabriel Facio of the Apache Junction Police Department. His end of watch was June 8, 2025.

On the morning of June 2, 2025, Officer Facio and his fellow officers bravely responded to a road rage incident where a suspect had brandished a weapon, threatening motorists and nearby residents. Officers attempted to subdue the suspect with nonlethal tools, but the suspect opened fire, striking Officer Facio in the face.

He was rushed to the hospital in critical condition. Gabriel fought valiantly for 6 days, but on June 8, 2025, at just 46 years old, he succumbed to his injuries, surrounded by his family and his brothers and sisters in uniform.

His legacy lives on through his wife and two children, who were his greatest joy. His name is now engraved on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial right here in Washington, D.C., and his service was honored at the annual candlelight vigil.

His life stands as a reminder of the courage and commitment that define our law enforcement officers.

Officer Facio is the first Apache Junction police officer ever killed in the line of duty. His sacrifice will always be remembered.

We pray for his family and for the Apache Junction Police Department.

We thank Gabriel for his service to the people of Apache Junction and Arizona's Fifth District.

May God welcome him home.

CELEBRATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF AKRON ROUNDTABLE

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Akron Roundtable and name them Champions of the Week for Ohio's 13th Congressional District.

The Akron Roundtable has been a cornerstone of our community since their founding in 1976. Over the last 50 years, the Akron Roundtable has brought together roughly 480 speakers, including government officials, famed reporters, athletes, artists, business leaders, astronauts, and many other community leaders.

I had the privilege of speaking at the Akron Roundtable in 2023, so you know it is an esteemed place to speak. I saw firsthand the dedication of the group in order to bring the world to Akron.

The group started as a partnership with the Kiwanis Club, the Akron Beacon Journal, the Akron Regional Development Board, and the Akron City Club.

Through their collaboration, they created a nationally esteemed institution, and today the Roundtable is filled with passionate volunteers with a drive for connecting with leaders from around the world.

I thank the hardworking members at the Akron Roundtable for their service to the community. Their commitment to bringing the world to Akron is just one of the reasons why Ohio's 13th Congressional District is known as the Birthplace of Champions.

I congratulate them on 50 years of leadership and thank them for opening the world to the heartland.

KEEPING AM RADIO

(Mr. GROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call for a vote at some time in this Chamber shortly on H.R. 979, a bill put together by GUS BILIRAKIS of Florida.

Recently, I had a friend who purchased a high—I could even argue overpriced European automobile. After driving around in the car for a few days, all of a sudden, she realized that automobile didn't have AM radio.

I can't imagine what I would have felt like if I spent 50 grand for a car and had no AM radio. Couldn't I take it back and say: Take out the windshield and put in the AM radio.

I mean, there are certain things you expect out of a car. I know the automobile industry is highly regulated to a certain extent because we don't want anybody shocked at the things they don't have in a car when they buy it.

This bill is mandatory. I bet I have AM radio on 80 percent of the time I am in the car. Whether you want news,

traffic, weather, sports, AM is the radio where you find it.

I will tell you: To prevent anybody from having a heart attack when they buy a car, let's pass H.R. 979.

IN SUPPORT OF VETERANS

(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, I rise today in support of our veterans and the proud men and women who have worn the uniform in service to this great Nation.

In New Mexico, service is part of our culture and who we are. Our veterans are our teachers, our firefighters, our small business owners, and our caregivers.

From Kirtland Air Force Base to Cannon Air Force Base, from rural and Tribal communities to the heart of Albuquerque, our veterans have answered the call. That service must be met with a commitment from Congress to fully support their care and benefits, and that means unequivocally rejecting efforts to privatize the VA. And we must stop this administration's quiet gutting of VA programs, including nearly 26,000 jobs at the VA cut across the country this year.

That is why, as we debate the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs bill this week, I have introduced an amendment to stop the privatization of the VA because we must stop these attacks on our veterans' affairs and fund the programs that our veterans have earned.

Mr. Speaker, our veterans have kept faith with this Nation, and we must keep faith with them.

RECOGNIZING BOB LESSARD

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

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great admiration and pride to recognize former Minnesota State Senator Bob Lessard, better known across northern Minnesota as "The Old Trapper" as he celebrates his 95th birthday.

Born in International Falls, Bob has long been a champion for the people and traditions of Minnesota. Over the course of his 26 years in the State senate, he never lost touch with the Northland. His work has left a lasting imprint on our State constitution, our natural resources, and the livelihoods of countless Minnesotans.

Bob fought to protect the rights of our hunters and anglers, implementing a constitutional amendment guaranteeing them the right to hunt, fish, and trap.

He was also the driving force behind the Upper Mississippi Headwaters Board, ensuring local control over the upper 400 miles of the river.