

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to wish Bishop Kevin Vann a happy 75th birthday.

Since 2012, Bishop Vann has led the Catholic Church in Orange County, guiding it through becoming one of the largest and most dynamic diocese in the Nation. He has also led the remarkable transformation of the former Crystal Cathedral, a protestant church, to Christ Cathedral, now a vibrant center of Catholic worship.

We are talking about relations, good relations, between Catholics and Protestants. Today, he serves nationally as the treasurer for the California Catholic Conference of Bishops as well as leading bishops nationwide through the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

I wish Bishop Vann a happy 75th, and many more.

RECOGNIZING THE EXTRAORDINARY RESPONSE TO SUPER TYPHOON SINLAKU

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

Ms. KING-HINDS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the extraordinary response to Super Typhoon Sinlaku and to honor the many people and organizations who stepped up and continue to step up for the Northern Mariana Islands in our time of need.

I commend our local first responders, utility crews, and linemen across the Marianas, our mayors' offices, FEMA, and the Army Corps of Engineers for their steadfast partnership in response and recovery.

I also extend my deep gratitude to World Central Kitchen, Team Rubicon, Samaritan's Purse, the Red Cross, The Salvation Army, Project Buddy Check 670, the Ayuda Foundation, Karidat, Team Koka, Ohala, and the Tan Sia Lin Foundation, and the many non-profit and faith-based organizations who continue help rebuild our communities.

I say to the CNMI diaspora, our churches, medical workers, community volunteers, and residents who raise funds, ship supplies, clear roads, deliver aid, and care for our neighbors: Your resilience reflects the very best of the Northern Mariana Islands.

In the CNMI, recovery is powered not only by government, but by community.

ON CARING

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

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, "I don't think about Americans' financial situation at all . . . I don't think about anybody . . ."

Madam Speaker, over the past too many years, I have found it important to point out our leaders' failures to tell

the truth. This week I heard something different, though no less troubling. I heard the truth.

On his way to China this week, the President said he does not care about Americans' financial situation, while back home, inflation is surging.

Gas in my home of Montgomery, Pennsylvania, has skyrocketed to \$4.69 per gallon. Diesel is even higher, farmers input costs soaring. Groceries, utilities, rent, and all sorts of goods are all up.

Through his illegal tariffs, grotesque immigration policies, and now a reckless \$30 billion-to-date, poorly thought out, deadly war with Iran, everything costs more.

The President does not care, and now he wants American taxpayers to fund his billion-dollar golden ballroom. Congressional Republicans somehow champion it.

Madam Speaker, the President may not think about lowering costs. He may not care, but I do.

□ 0910

HONORING CHAUNDRA BISHOP

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

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Urbana councilwoman, proud dog mom to Riley and now to Bronzely, and my good friend, Chaundra Bishop.

For 7 years, Chaundra served Urbana with determination and heart, fighting tirelessly for reforms to local policing systems, helping get folks in the community connected to good jobs, and working to strengthen public safety in the community.

All the while, Chaundra was fighting a long and difficult battle with cancer. At 29 years old, Chaundra was diagnosed with stage IV intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma, a rare cancer that effects fewer than 6 in 100,000 people each year.

When standard treatments were no longer enough, she refused to give up and enrolled in clinical trials in search of hope, not only for herself but for the others facing the very same fight. In the process, she became a powerful advocate and an expert.

When the Biden White House convened a forum on the importance of clinical trials, Chaundra shared her story, helping others understand what the research funding means for patients and families across the country.

While the Trump administration moved to cut clinical trial funding at NIH, Chaundra and I worked together to speak out about the devastating consequences those cuts could have for Americans still searching for answers.

Madam Speaker, my thoughts are with Chaundra as she continues her fight.

RECOGNIZING APACHE JAZZ ENSEMBLE

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

Mrs. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today with great pride to celebrate the incredible students of Apache Jazz Ensemble from Nogales High School in Arizona's Seventh Congressional District.

Earlier this spring, I had the joy of attending the Mingus Jazz Festival in Nogales and listening to the ensemble's performance. Their talent, energy, and love for music were absolutely unforgettable. I was so grateful for the opportunity to meet the students and hear their stories firsthand.

Since then, these remarkable young musicians traveled to Orlando, Florida, to compete at Festival Disney, where they earned a superior rating with an outstanding score of 97.7, taking first place in their division and winning the prestigious Gold Mickey award, the highest honor awarded across all instrumental divisions.

These students represented Nogales and southern Arizona with excellence, discipline, and heart. Their achievement is a testament to their hard work and dedication of their director, Anthony Belletti, and the power of music education to inspire and uplift our communities.

Madam Speaker, to Apache Jazz Ensemble, Nogales High School, and all of your friends, fans, and families: "Congratulations"; "muchisimas felicidades." Thank you for making Arizona proud.

RECOGNIZING STELLA APICELLA

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

Mr. LATIMER. Madam Speaker, let me celebrate young Stella Apicella, a sixth grader at Blind Brook Middle School in Rye Brook, as she prepares to become a bat mitzvah on May 30.

I have seen Stella grow up over the years, the daughter of Joe Apicella and Tara Rosenblum, two prominent Westchester residents. Stella is growing as a confident, thoughtful, and compassionate young woman. She loves basketball—go Knicks—soccer, dancing, and fashion. She is a talented public speaker through debate club and by sharing the stage at times with her prominent mother.

Most importantly, Stella gives back to her community. She stands up for others, and she always looks out for the underdog, qualities that will serve her well far beyond this special day.

Stella, mazel tov on this great accomplishment.

Madam Speaker, from the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, I send my best to her.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2027

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. KIM). Pursuant to House Resolution 1275 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. 8469.

Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) kindly take the chair.

□ 0914

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. 8469) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2027, and for other purposes, with Mr. ROUZER in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Thursday, May 14, 2026, amendment No. 23 printed in part B of House Report 119-648 offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 29 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 29 printed in part B of House Report 119-648.

Mr. PERRY. 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:

Page 31, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)” “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1275, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, this amendment increases and decreases the amount appropriated in the medical services account in the MILCON-VA appropriations bill to furnish stellate ganglion blocks, or SGB, in every VA facility, not just some of them.

SGB therapy is an outpatient procedure that has been used since the 1920s. It is safe, effective, and affordable, especially in cases where other treatments have failed, and is proven to alleviate common PTSD or PTSI symptoms, such as exaggerated responses and anxiety, with almost no known side effects.

By injecting an anesthetic agent into the stellate ganglion, nerves in the neck that control the fight or flight reflex, it helps bring relief to regions of the cerebral cortex thought to be abnormally activated in sufferers of PTSD.

SGB changes the paradigm of treatment from the failing perception of simply a mental disorder to that of a treatable injury. With traditional therapies as needed, that can bring long-term relief to the injured veterans.

As of 2018, only 11 out of all of America’s 170 VA facilities reported using SGB or making it available. Making matters worse, a veteran must fail all other traditional treatments before being considered for SGB therapy, which, anecdotally, is effective 85 percent of the time.

The time, distance, and monetary burdens demanded from finding SGB elsewhere frequently prove too much. I have heard stories of servicemembers getting in a van and traveling from Alabama on their last dime to come up north to try to get the treatment. It leaves far too many of our veterans with options like self-medicating, self-harm, and, too often, suicide as the outcome.

Our Nation suffers 20 veteran suicides every single day. Enough is enough. This has been way overdue way too long. Far too many of our veterans come home to find the war comes home with them. Our current PTSD treatments provide relief for only a fraction of our veterans, and some really encouraging treatments are either unavailable or offered at too few facilities.

We have a moral duty to do everything possible to ease the suffering of those who risked all to protect our freedoms, our way of life, and our country.

This is an incredible PTSD treatment, the results of which I have witnessed personally.

This amendment increases and decreases the amount appropriated to furnish SGB in every VA facility, so you don’t have to go to just some. You can go to any. It directs the Secretary of the VA to expand SGB access to veterans upon PTSD diagnosis by making it a covered treatment under Federal law.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentleman’s amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida is recognized is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, it is not the place for Congress to be pushing for increased use of experimental treatments.

This procedure is highly invasive, requiring an injection of medication into a collection of nerves at the bottom of the front side of the neck.

The VA and NIH are in the midst of a multiyear clinical trial to collect data on this treatment for potential use in treating post-traumatic stress disorder but do not yet have sufficient data one way or the other regarding this treatment. In fact, preliminary data show that SGB effects are not

clear, and it is uncertain whether there is a direct link between the treatment and PTSD.

□ 0920

If this treatment is safe, effective, and appropriate for expanded use, then the healthcare experts at the VA should be the ones to expand the treatment for wider use. There is a deliberative process for expanding the use of emerging healthcare treatments, and we should let that process play out. It is really not Congress’ role to micro-manage medical decisions.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, while the deliberative process is playing out, this treatment has been used for over 100 years, without any known side effects, without any damage to anybody. It is 85 percent effective for the users that have used it. I have witnessed it. If it is invasive, Mr. Chairman, it takes 15 minutes of lying down on the table and getting an injection, and oftentimes sitting up, standing up, and being relieved of your PTSD right then.

While they are studying it, while they are fighting at the VA over turf about which treatment is best, which practitioners should have primacy, 20 veterans a day are taking their own lives while they can’t get the treatment.

While they are studying it, it is offered in 11 facilities out of 170. Why, while they are studying it, why are they offering it at 11?

While they are studying it, all the other veterans have to fail every other paradigm before they can get it, and often they commit suicide before they ever get it.

I am tired of waiting on the bureaucracy at the VA and the turf wars between practitioners to do something to save our veterans, and I am going to keep on fighting.

I understand the gentlewoman’s comments. I just completely disagree. It is time for us to act while they won’t. It is our duty. Abraham Lincoln said it is our duty to take care of those who have borne the battle. We are not doing it. We are waiting on the VA, these different doctors and paradigms to discuss, well, maybe this works, maybe that works. These guys and gals are dying every day. We have got to do something about it.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I can appreciate the gentleman’s passion. This treatment is being trialed and piloted in 11 facilities for a reason, because we have to make sure it is safe. He is not Dr. PERRY. I am not Dr. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. In fact, it is important to note that in many instances when this treatment has been administered, while it might provide some immediate relief, oftentimes the PTSD symptoms come back.

This trial is being wrapped up in June, and then it will take about a year to analyze the data.