

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in thanking the men and women who swear an oath to protect and serve and keep us safe.

DEMANDING ANSWERS ON OHIO MEDICAID FRAUD

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

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, fraudsters are robbing the American people.

In Ohio, hundreds of shell companies, operating out of empty office buildings, billed the Federal Government for over \$250 million for home health services that couldn't even be verified. We believe the full scope of this scandal, in fact, reaches into the billions of dollars.

These are programs that required no medical training, had no verification that services were actually provided, and had no spending caps, but they enriched fraudsters at the expense of the American people.

That is why Chairman COMER created the Task Force on Defending Constitutional Rights and Exposing Institutional Abuses, to go after corrupt institutions that steal from taxpayers, abuse our immigration system, silence Americans, and bury illegal discrimination. It is my honor to lead this task force.

This week, we sent a letter demanding answers from the Ohio Department of Medicaid, and we are going to get them. The era of zero consequences is over. We are coming for every single institution that thinks otherwise.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND O. ROBERT DeMARTINIS

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a man of unyielding faith, compassion, and love, Reverend O. Robert DeMartinis, known to New York's capital region as Father Bob. This year celebrates the 40th anniversary of his ordination as a priest.

Born in Amsterdam, New York, on November 11, 1956, to Filomena Sasso and the late Tullio DeMartinis, Father Bob, guided by the deep faith of his parents and service as an altar boy for Fathers Robert Balth and Joseph Beck, sensed his calling at an early age.

He was ordained in Florida in 1986 and returned home to Amsterdam on Trinity Sunday to celebrate his first mass that year at St. Casimir's Church. He permanently returned to the Albany Catholic Diocese in 1990, serving at several parishes within the diocese.

It was in 2010 that Father Bob was welcomed for service in his hometown of Amsterdam to shepherd the con-

gregation of St. Stanislaus. Today, as pastor of both St. Stanislaus and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Churches, his devotion and spirit of service shine through every mass he offers and every religious assignment he assumes.

As we honor his four decades of faithful service, a hearty "for many more years"; "ad multos annos," Father Bob, is rendered.

I congratulate Father Bob on his many years of service.

□ 1100

PROTECTING SNAP

(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, recently Trump's Agriculture Secretary bragged with great pride about kicking 4.5 million Americans off of SNAP.

At a time when Republicans' tariffs and wars have jacked up grocery prices, it is not good news that Trump and Republicans are making Americans hungrier.

SNAP provides the bare minimum, just enough. But it means that kids in Woonsocket can focus on school and not on an empty stomach. It means moms in Pawtucket can worry a little less if there is enough on the breakfast table. It means veterans in Middletown have breathing room on their decisions to pay the light bill or buy food. It means seniors in Smithfield might not skip a prescription refill to eat.

Celebrating ripping away 4.5 million American SNAP benefits is immoral and wrong.

If this administration actually wanted to help families, they would lower costs, not take away food and make life more expensive.

We have to protect SNAP.

CONGRATULATING ALLAN POLLOCK

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

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Allan Pollock for 19 years of dedicated public service in my district.

This summer, Allan is retiring from his role as general manager of the Salem Area Mass Transit District known as Cherriots.

Under Allan's leadership, Cherriots has grown steadily. They restored weekend and late-night service, underwent a comprehensive rebranding, and have put sustainable, climate-friendly electric buses into circulation.

Cherriots now provides over 3 million rides yearly.

But beyond numbers, Allan quite literally brought our community together—bringing workers to their jobs, shoppers to stores, and parents home to their children.

Oregon's Sixth District wishes Allan the best in his next chapter. We thank

him for his years of dedicated service and for leaving the Salem area stronger and more connected.

IRAN

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

Ms. SIMON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about who we are in this moment when the world is watching us choose.

The President's illegal war has already lasted 75 days and cost us over \$29 billion.

We are bombing schoolgirls in Iran, and we are standing by while civilians are being murdered by the thousands. We are shattering every global alliance that we have built.

And we stand alone.

History will require atonement, but we can choose differently. We have a choice right now.

We are a nation of profound moral power. The power does not live in bullets, but it lives in our willingness to return to our deepest values, to choose diplomacy when a world expects war, to honor the lives of those we claim to protect while refusing to destroy them.

This is a moment that can and will define us; not who we are, rather, who we are choosing to be.

To achieve a free Iran, a free Cuba, a free Lebanon, a free Venezuela, a free Sudan, a free Gaza, diplomacy is our best tool.

I will not support or give another dime to this war, and I call on Congress to remember who we are meant to be.

AMERICAN SPACE LEADERSHIP

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

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, it is America's 250th anniversary, and we are proud in central Florida to have this historic accomplishment of Artemis II's successful Moon mission.

Every day, central Floridians drive out to the Cape to work on advancing America's space leadership.

This is the first Moon mission in over 50 years that went the farthest of any humans ever. These astronauts were the first astronauts to witness the dark side of the Moon with their own eyes.

We welcomed astronauts Reid, Victor, Christina, and Jeremy to the Capitol this week. They had many firsts: the oldest astronaut, the first astronaut of color, the first female astronaut, and the first non-America to do a Moon mission.

As the only Member of Congress to witness both Artemis launches firsthand, I couldn't be more proud of them.

Congress needs to be committed to us going back to the Moon to land and to go to Mars and beyond. So we need to dig deep to advance American space leadership, and promote innovation for the sake of all humankind.

VISAS FOR SHRIMPERS

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

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of an issue threatening the Texas Gulf Coast shrimping and fishing industry, an industry that has thrived for generations but is now under threat to unfair competition from foreign countries and foreign import seafood.

This is an issue that this administration said they would address under America First policies, but they forgot the Texas fishing industry, and now labor shortages exacerbate the H-2B visa caps that are preventing small, family-owned businesses from securing the necessary workforce.

To make matters worse, our shrimpers must now catch three times the load to make up for the high fuel costs of \$80,000 per vessel.

In response to this crisis, I co-lead the House-passed Save Our Shrimpers Act to block taxpayer-funded projects from financing foreign shrimp industries.

The administration must provide immediate relief by giving our shrimpers and fishermen the ability to hire the workforce they need to survive the season.

I strongly urge President Trump and this administration to release more H-2B or H-2A visas so we can bring certainty to the coastal communities and ensure the American shrimping and fishing industry can survive.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

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

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in observance of National Police Week.

Over 300 names were added to the wall in memoriam this week. One of those names was my cousin, Earl Ivey, Jr.

He served as an officer for the Mount Rainier Police Department, the Office of the Sheriff, the Seat Pleasant Police Department, and he did double duty as chief and chaplain of the Fairmount Heights Police Department.

He was an excellent man, an excellent father and husband, and a great neighbor and friend.

I commend him and all of the others who were added to the wall this week.

I had one comment I wanted to make to my colleagues. During this week that should be celebratory, there was an amendment to a resolution that was offered that was political and partisan instead of being straightforward and honoring those who were added to the wall.

Their names don't have Ds or Rs listed after them. They didn't serve based on their party affiliation. We should set the party affiliations to the side for this week and this purpose and just celebrate them and the great work that they do.

IRAN WAR

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

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, in 75 days, Trump's war has caused the deaths of over 2,000 innocent civilians, including 413 children and 15 American servicemembers.

Initially, President Trump called his actions in Iran a "little excursion" that would last a couple of weeks. Now he has acknowledged it is a war.

Last month, the President threatened a whole civilization to die.

This war has cost almost \$30 billion to American taxpayers. It has caused the American inflation rate to rise to almost 4 percent. It has raised gas prices for hardworking Americans across this country.

President Trump does not have the power to declare war. This is a war, not an excursion. Only Congress can declare war.

We cannot continue to cede congressional authority to a President who acts like this.

I call on my Republican colleagues and leaders in Congress to stand up and push back against this reckless and corrupt President before any more lives are lost.

Pope Leo, a great American moral authority says: "The future belongs to men and women of peace." I stand with the great American Pope Leo XIV.

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

□ 1110

RECOGNIZING SMITH COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL OWLS

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. ROSE of Tennessee was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Smith County High School Owls of Carthage, Tennessee, Class 2A semifinalists in the 2025 TSSAA State basketball championships, and to honor their remarkable journey representing Smith County and Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

These young men embodied everything we admire in our communities: grit, teamwork, and unshakable belief in one another.

From the hills of Smith County, they competed on the biggest stage in Tennessee high school basketball, and they did it with pride, dedication, and heart.

To Head Coach Layne Bussell, the coaching staff, the families, and the entire Carthage community, this team made you proud. A semifinal finish in Class 2A is no small feat, and these Owls proved that Smith County competes with anyone in the great State of Tennessee.

HONORING UPPERMAN HIGH SCHOOL BEES

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable achievement

from the young men of Upperman High School in Baxter, Tennessee, right in the heart of Putnam County in Tennessee's Sixth District.

The Upperman Bees have made their community proud, competing as semifinalists in the 2026 TSSAA Class 3A boys' basketball State championship. These student athletes displayed the grit, discipline, and teamwork that define the character of our communities in middle Tennessee.

From the opening tip to the final buzzer, the Baxter Bees represented Putnam County with class and heart. Their coaches, including Head Coach Bobby McWilliams, families, and the entire Upperman community have every reason to stand tall today.

Mr. Speaker, we celebrate these young men, not just for the games they won, but for the example they set.

CELEBRATING WHITE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL SPARTA WARRIORS

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a remarkable achievement by the Sparta Warrior girls' basketball team from White County High School in Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

This season, the Warriors advanced all the way to the 2026 TSSAA Class 3A girls' basketball State championship game, finishing as proud runner-up.

In doing so, they earned their second consecutive trip to the State tournament, a feat that speaks volumes about their talent, discipline, and unrelenting work ethic.

From the opening tip to the final buzzer, these young women represented White County with discipline and dedication. Their coaches and families poured countless hours into developing not just great athletes but great leaders.

In a district that values hard work and perseverance, the Sparta Warriors have given us all something to celebrate and a standard of excellence to follow.

I congratulate every player, coach, and supporter of this outstanding season. Tennessee's Sixth District is stronger because of these young women.

CONGRATULATING YORK INSTITUTE DRAGONS

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary achievement by the York Institute Dragons of Jamestown, Tennessee, in Fentress County.

This year, the Dragons captured the hearts of their community with a remarkable run to the TSSAA Class 2A girls' basketball State championship, finishing as runner-up.

This marks their fifth consecutive State tournament appearance, a testament to their discipline, hard work, and unwavering commitment to excellence.

In a county of modest means and mighty pride, their journey to the State championship game reflects what is possible when a community rallies behind its young people.

The banner that will hang in the gym at Alvin C. York Institute stands as a symbol of that shared effort and belief.