

RECOGNIZING CHIEF JIM MEEK
FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

(Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Jim Meek for 50 years of dedicated service as a volunteer with the Blue Ridge Fire and Rescue Company in Blue Ridge Summit, Pennsylvania.

Over the years, Chief Meek has served the fire department in multiple active service and administrative roles, including fire chief for 25 years.

Chief Meek has been praised as a significant role model and mentor for the department's first responders.

His 50-year commitment to public safety and the protection of property is an inspiration to constituents throughout the 13th Congressional District.

For his bravery and selfless service, I express gratitude to Chief Meek for his enduring commitment to protecting communities, and I extend my best wishes to him in all future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING BLAIR COUNTY CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Blair County Conservation District for 60 years of service as an advocate for natural resources and the county's agricultural community.

Established in 1966, the Conservation District focuses on the protection and the preservation of Blair County's natural resources.

With pride, I join in a yearlong commemoration of the Conservation District's milestone anniversary. For six decades, the district has played an essential role in supporting our communities through conservation programs that help to preserve Blair County's rich natural heritage for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I express gratitude to Conservation District Manager Donna Fisher, her board of directors, and the professional staff for expanding upon their distinguished legacy.

RECOGNIZING BRECHBILL & HELMAN
CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brechbill & Helman Construction Company of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, for 60 years of success as an industry leader.

Founded in 1966 by Darrell Brechbill and John Helman, the company originated with three employees but possessed a vision that transformed them into a thriving construction business.

Over the past six decades, the company has expanded its expertise across a wide range of projects.

Brechbill & Helman have created a legacy of spaces that are created to strengthen the community and support businesses. Join me in congratulating company founders Darrell Brechbill and John Helman, Barb Runyon, and Matt Dice on this milestone anniversary.

HONORING THE LIFE AND PUBLIC SERVICE OF
JOSEPH METZGAR

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and public service of Joe Metzgar, who recently passed away in Altoona, Pennsylvania.

For over 20 years, Joe served as Logan Township supervisor. Many have noted that Joe could put a smile on your face even during intense discussions at meetings.

A proud United States Air Force veteran, Joe has been described as an honest and fair supervisor who took a commonsense approach to all issues.

In addition, Joe was a field auditor for the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare.

Mr. Speaker, as we pause to remember Joe's legacy of service, we also keep his entire family in our prayers. Join me in honoring the life of Joe Metzgar, a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather, who always had the best interests of Logan Township in his heart.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF LINDA SALLEY

(Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a woman whose life was a gift to Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and whose legacy will live far beyond the years she walked among us, Linda Salley of Levittown.

Linda was a visionary leader, a gifted educator, a keeper of history, a builder of bridges, and a trusted partner in service. Above all, she was a dear friend.

Mr. Speaker, there are some people who do not simply pass through a community. They enlarge it. They deepen its memory. They strengthen its character and strengthen its conscience. They leave behind a light by which others may find their way.

Linda Salley was such a person. Her life was rooted in faith, expressed in service, kindness, courage, and that steady belief that every person carries a story worthy of being heard.

Linda once reflected that every joy and sorrow, every frustration and hope, every human encounter becomes part of one exquisite quilt. In many ways, that was the work of her life. She took the scattered pieces of memory, stories that were neglected, voices that were overlooked, chapters left out of our common telling, and she stitched them into something whole, something beautiful, and something enduring.

As a teacher and administrator, Linda shaped young minds. As a founding member, president, and executive director of the African American Museum of Bucks County, she shaped the soul of our community.

It was the honor of my life to work alongside Linda over the years and to see up close the depth of her conviction and the power of her vision.

One of my greatest honors, Mr. Speaker, has been helping Linda and the African American Museum of Bucks County secure a permanent home at the historic Boone Farm in Middletown Township.

For years, the African American Museum of Bucks County carried its mission across our region, into schools, museums, churches, civic spaces, and community gatherings, bringing stories too often left untold into the light.

For Linda, Boone Farm was never just a location. It was a fulfillment of a promise that the history she worked so faithfully to preserve would finally have a place to stand, a place to teach, and a place to endure.

Long after today, children will walk through those doors. Families will see themselves in the story, and neighbors will learn, remember, and understand. In that sacred work and memory, Linda's hand will still be guiding us.

Mr. Speaker, Linda Salley understood a truth our Nation must never forget: History is not merely what we inherit. It is what we are brave enough to preserve, honest enough to tell, and faithful enough to pass on.

Bucks County is a better place because Linda Salley lived. Our children are wiser. Our history is richer, and our community is more whole.

Mr. Speaker, we mourn Linda's passing, but we will always celebrate the extraordinary life she lived and the work that she will pass on to others. The light that she lit is now ours to carry.

RISING COSTS OF HEALTHCARE

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to sound the alarm on skyrocketing healthcare costs in this country. Americans all across the country, including Georgia's Fourth Congressional District, are having a hard time and making very difficult decisions. They have to decide whether it is more important to pay for their groceries—and don't get me started on the cost of gas to go to work—or to provide their family with healthcare.

It is estimated that healthcare will cost more than \$26 trillion through the year 2036, making healthcare the largest category of Federal spending. This Republican rubber-stamped Congress has failed to advance extensions to the enhanced premium tax credits, causing more families to have to make these difficult decisions—decisions we should not have to make in a country like this, but don't take my word for it.

For example, my constituent, Julia has a 34-year-old son that has a brain condition that makes it difficult for him to work. He needs brain specialists and prescriptions to prevent him from having seizures, debilitating headaches, and memory loss, but without healthcare subsidies, his health insurance costs rose 400 percent this year.

Because of the high cost of healthcare for her son, Julia, who is responsible for paying all of the bills, has no savings. Extending the subsidies would have helped her put food on the table and make ends meet.

Another example is my constituent, Vivian from Tucker, who lives with chronic psoriatic arthritis and suffers from vision problems. Her medication costs \$4,000 a month.

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Without extensions of the subsidies, she and her husband's healthcare premiums skyrocketed from \$50 to \$1,300 a month, a 2,400 percent increase. That is a cost they simply cannot afford. Vivian said ObamaCare saved their lives.

Lastly, I would like to recognize a student at Georgia State University named Melani, whose parents' monthly premiums went from \$250 to \$850 a month, a 250 percent increase. As a student, she receives health insurance through her school, but her family's premiums tripled, making their coverage financially impossible.

Her parents, who are in their late fifties and early sixties, had to cancel their insurance because the costs are simply too high. The current tax credits are no longer sufficient to meaningfully offset rising insurance prices she told me.

Without adequate support, Melani's parents are forced to go uninsured and face the tax penalty, despite desperately wanting to keep their coverage.

Mr. Speaker, with Trump's war of choice in the Middle East and rising prices at home, Republicans have turned their backs on the very people who sent them to the Halls of Congress.

I believe that healthcare is a fundamental human right. When a loved one is in the hospital, the only question that should be asked is: "How do we get them better?" not, "How much is it going to cost?"

I will continue to speak up and speak out about these issues and fight for the people of Georgia's Fourth Congressional District.

FRIENDS OF NATIONAL SERVICE

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the power of civic engagement and the profound impact volunteering has on all of our communities.

To champion the vital work of service clubs and their volunteers, I founded the Congressional Service Organization Caucus in 2019 with my friend Congressman JIMMY PANETTA of California.

Volunteer service is a cornerstone of a successful and strong community. The relationships we create through service often give people the courage to take the next steps in life.

My journey in service began as a Scout washing local fire trucks, an experience I will always remember.

Over the years, I have been proud to continue serving my community, first as an Eagle Scout, later as a volunteer firefighter and a school board member.

Volunteering and dedicating my life to public service is a part of a greater calling to make a difference in people's lives, and it is a priority I will always uphold.

Through my own personal experiences, I have learned that volunteering allows people to connect with others, learn new skills, build relationships, and, most importantly, brings people a sense of purpose.

As a senior member of the House Committee on Education and Workforce, I know volunteering can help people build lasting careers. This is one of the many reasons why I support legislation that brings volunteer opportunities to schools, colleges, and to workforce sites.

Mr. Speaker, I highlight the many notable service organizations across the United States, including Kiwanis, the Lions Club, Optimists, the Rotary Club, and AmeriCorps, among many more. These organizations share the same goal of making a positive impact on others' lives.

Last week, I was honored to receive the National Service Champion Award from Voices for National Service, a coalition of organizations that prioritize service opportunities.

I applaud Voices for National Service for their continued support of AmeriCorps. Programs through AmeriCorps create meaningful opportunities for people to serve, respond to local needs, and make a tangible difference in people's lives.

I thank the thousands of volunteers at AmeriCorps who give back to others. Your goodwill touches the lives of real Americans and is an essential part of the fabric of our communities. I look forward to continuing to work in Congress to ensure volunteering and service programs receive the recognition that they deserve.

CELEBRATING THE 30th ANNIVERSARY OF SIERRA COLLEGE NEVADA COUNTY CAMPUS

(Mr. KILEY of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I will take a moment to recognize and celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Sierra College Nevada County Campus. First opening its doors to the Nevada County community in 1996, Sierra College has remained dedicated to cultivating students' success by empowering them to achieve their goals and support them in their academic endeavors.

This institution provides access to a high-quality education among a diverse student population, while striving to meet the unique needs of its large student body. I thank Sierra College for their invaluable service to our community as they work tirelessly to prepare

the next generation for what lies ahead in their academic and professional journeys.

The Sierra College Nevada County Campus celebrated this milestone on Saturday, April 25, and unveiled a time capsule that was sealed in 1996 when the campus first opened its doors to the community.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I am honored to recognize the Sierra College Nevada County campus for their three decades of outstanding commitment to the education of our communities.

HONORING CHIEF TROY BERGSTROM

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to take a moment to honor and congratulate Chief Troy Bergstrom of the Roseville Police Department, who retired at the end of April following 31 years of exceptional public service.

Holding a bachelor's and master's degree in criminal justice from California State University, Sacramento, Chief Bergstrom began his career with the San Mateo Police Department in 1995, prior to transferring to the Roseville Police Department in 2000 where he then served for the remainder of his illustrious career.

Following his start at the Roseville Police Department, Chief Bergstrom was promoted to sergeant in 2000, lieutenant in 2010, captain in 2016, and then finally as Roseville's 19th police chief in 2021.

During his time of service, he worked in varying units of the police department, including patrol, the K9 unit, the crime suppression unit, EOD commander, SWAT, and professional standards and training, all of which contributed to creating a safer community for the residents of Roseville.

Throughout his distinguished tenure as chief of police, he led a 240-member department and directed an annual operating budget of \$68 million with skill and integrity.

To reduce crime in the community, Chief Bergstrom built the Crime Suppression Unit and the Real Time Crime Center, both of which aided in improving call response time, officer safety, and investigative abilities. These initiatives and his leadership contributed to a decrease in crime throughout the years, reaching an 8 percent decrease in 2025, and setting a high standard for public safety.

In addition to his police service, he also serves on the board of directors for the Roseville Police Athletics League and the California Chiefs of Police Association and is a member of many organizations such as the FBI National Academy Associates. His compassion for the community is demonstrated through these roles, as well as by his commitment to expanding city services to assist unsheltered veterans and introduce a crisis care K9, Butter, to serve those in need.

Chief Bergstrom is highly valued by the Roseville community for his leadership, guidance, and dedication to