

career centered on protecting and serving Kansans.

If you knew Bob, you knew there was always a joke. There was always a story. In every situation, he could find a way to lighten the mood and make people feel at ease. He never met a stranger who would not later become a friend.

Bob loved Kansas deeply. He traveled to every corner of the State multiple times during his years in public service. He cared about rural communities, small towns, working families, and the people whose voices too often went unheard. He believed government worked best when leaders listened first.

However, of all the titles Bob carried, the title he treasured most was “family man.” Bob and his beloved wife, Carole, shared 38 years of marriage. Together, they raised two sons, Phillip and Christopher, and later welcomed a granddaughter, Audrey, who brought Bob enormous joy.

Family traditions mattered to Bob. Every summer, the Tomlinsons would pack up and travel together to visit historic sites and State capitals across America. Thanks to Bob’s love of history and their travel, his sons can say they visited 48 State capitals and our Nation’s Capital here in Washington. Those trips reflected Bob’s belief that learning never stops and that the best memories are made together.

While Bob could discuss history, public policy, or baseball with anyone, his granddaughter, Audrey, may have known him best for yet another talent entirely: his unforgettable Donald Duck impression, which he happily performed for hours just to make her laugh.

That was Bob Tomlinson. He was accomplished but humble, serious about service but never about himself, a man whose greatest joy came not from recognition but from bringing joy to others.

On behalf of so many people in Kansas and of this U.S. House of Representatives, I extend my deepest condolences to Carole, Phillip, Chris, Megan, Audrey, and the entire Tomlinson family. May they find comfort in knowing that Bob’s life made a lasting difference in the lives of so many others. May he rest in peace.

HOME- AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES FRAUD

(Mrs. SYKES of Ohio was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, the House Oversight Committee’s Task Force on Defending Constitutional Rights and Exposing Institutional Abuses held a hearing last week focused on allegations of home- and community-based services in my State of Ohio.

I have some thoughts.

First, fraud is wrong. People misusing the system undermines the very purpose of safety net programs. If taxpayer dollars are misused, there must be accountability. Vulnerabilities must

be fixed, and oversight should be strengthened. I support that effort.

However, what I do not support is using allegations of fraud to mischaracterize an entire program, promote racist and xenophobic ideologies, limit the care of our most vulnerable citizens, or by presenting only part of the story. Unfortunately, that is what happened last week.

Before the hearing, my Ohio Democratic colleagues and I were told we would have an opportunity to engage in the hearing as Ohioans and folks who are closest to the issue, but at the last minute, we were shut out. That decision cut off a fuller conversation about both rooting out fraud and protecting services relied on by more than 122,000 Ohioans.

Home- and community-based services provide in-home support, including medication assistance, therapy, meals, and personal care that allows older adults and individuals with disabilities to remain at home rather than in institutions. This flexibility allows families to remain close with the added benefit of lower costs and better health outcomes. It is one of the many reasons these programs have long enjoyed bipartisan support.

Since the 1980s, Ohio has participated in these home- and community-based waiver programs, including the past 15 years under a State government fully led by Republicans. During that time, these programs have been designed, funded, administered, and repeatedly approved by State and Federal officials.

As a former State legislator, I served on the finance committee, and I was the ranking member for the health and human services subcommittee that oversaw the funding and activities toward the home-based and community-based services and Medicaid as an entire agency.

The move toward home-based services were led and championed by Governor Kasich, the Republican from Ohio. A feature of the program was to move toward agency-based services and away from independent providers to, you guessed it, combat fraud and abuse.

To be clear, Ohio Auditor Keith Faber, who was a witness at last week’s hearing, does not currently set Medicaid policy, at least not today. However, as a former State legislator and a former State senate president, he supported expanding HCBS and removing barriers to improve access and reduce costs.

While not only just that, he negotiated multiple budgets under his leadership, increasing funding for these programs. However, now, as the State auditor, he enjoys wide discretion to audit programs and State agencies.

Why were those oversight concerns not acted on more aggressively? What has been going on in the auditor’s office for the past 7½ years if there is so much fraud, waste, and abuse? Further, why weren’t there any notable flags in

the HCBS program in the last State audit of the Department of Medicaid?

In 2013, Ohio created the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee to strengthen accountability when the State expanded Medicaid under Republican Governor John Kasich, but that committee was dissolved last year by a Republican supermajority in the legislature and signed by the Republican Governor while it was actively reviewing Medicaid administration, including contracts with major claim processors.

If vulnerabilities have existed for years, Ohioans deserve answers as to why stronger safeguards were not implemented and enforced for the last 15 years of Republican-led State of Ohio. Additionally, why was the oversight committee abolished just in December of 2025?

During the hearing, we also heard testimony from an investigative reporter of The Daily Wire, whose testimony repeatedly focused on immigrants and ethnic communities in ways that blurred the line between identifying wrongdoing and casting suspicions and, quite frankly, racist suspicions on entire groups of people.

Fraud should be investigated wherever it exists, but oversight must be driven by evidence, not rhetoric that casts doubt and blame on entire communities.

The hearing also featured testimony from State Representative Mike Dovilla, who described oversight failures and data fragmentation that he argues persisted for years within Ohio’s Medicaid system. Again, this is Representative Dovilla’s second tour in the statehouse. Where has he been?

If those conditions are as longstanding and widespread as described, then Ohioans deserve to know why stronger safeguards were not implemented when State leaders, Republican State leaders, including those who governed and shaped policy decisions over the past 15 years, had and still have the authority to act.

The vast majority of caregivers and providers are not engaged in fraud.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mrs. SYKES. They are workers and family members providing essential care every day to our most vulnerable.

Fraud must be investigated and prosecuted.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

The gentlewoman is no longer recognized.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF ROTARY CLUB OF FERNANDINA BEACH, FLORIDA

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to take you back 100 years. The year is 1926. Calvin Coolidge was President. We only had 48 States. Silent films were all the rage, and Americans were just beginning to discover the joy

of the family road trip. It was a year of optimism, growth, and community spirit.

It was also the year the Rotary Club of Fernandina Beach, Florida, was founded.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of this remarkable organization for a century of service and fellowship.

Mr. Speaker, for me, it is personal. I have had the honor of being a member of this club, joining in 1990, and even serving as its club president. One of my most memorable moments of my Rotary journey was swearing in my own son, Bradley Bean, as president not too long ago.

For 100 years, the Rotary Club of Fernandina Beach has strengthened our community by supporting local students, advancing literacy, leading humanitarian projects, both locally, nationally, and even internationally, and living out the values that has defined Rotary since its founding in 1905 by Paul Harris.

Mr. Speaker, you may ask, is there going to be a party? The answer is: Yes, there will be. There will be a gathering of both current and former members to celebrate the milestone, as well as all the accomplishments in 100 years. They will honor every member who has given their talent, their time, and their heart to make Fernandina Beach and the world a better place.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Rotary Club of Fernandina Beach on 100 amazing years of "Service Above Self." I wish them another century of impact, leadership, and community.

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MOURNING THE LOSS OF NANCY ODA

(Ms. RIVAS of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, the San Fernando Valley mourns the loss of Nancy Oda.

Nancy was born in the Tule Lake Segregation Center during World War II, where her family was persecuted for their Japanese heritage. Her family's hope was that she would bring harmony into the world and overcome the challenges and discrimination they were facing at the time.

Nancy did what she could to bring that harmony by choosing a life of service to her community. She spent 32 years with the L.A. Unified School District, first as a teacher, then retiring as an elementary school principal.

Nancy's work didn't stop in the classroom. She served as president of the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center and the Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition, where she worked tirelessly to preserve the history of Japanese-American incarceration and ensure that future generations would understand its impact.

Nancy believed that preserving history was not simply about remembering the past; it was about protecting the future. She used her voice to advocate for immigrant communities and ensure that they can live their lives with dignity.

Nancy will be remembered for her commitment to education, her devotion to community, and her unwavering belief in justice throughout the San Fernando Valley. Her memory will live on through the students whom she taught, the history she preserved, and the communities she strengthened.

We were all fortunate to have met Nancy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for a moment of silence in her honor.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF SALVADOR TORRES

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, today, we celebrate the life and service of Salvador Torres from Pacoima.

Salvador was born and raised in Pacoima with his 12 siblings. After serving our country in Vietnam, Salvador came back to the valley where he worked at General Motors as a line worker to support his wife and three children, Marco, Fabiola, and Flor.

According to Marco, Salvador's love and kindness can be seen and felt in everyone that he knew. Salvador was able to form a bond with anyone, whether it be over stories from military service or their shared love of the L.A. Dodgers. This was evident at his memorial service, where over 400 people attended to pay their respects and celebrate a beloved neighbor, veteran, and leader.

Salvador's legacy lives on in his family, friends, and the community that he loved so dearly. He will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for a moment of silence in honor of Salvador.

JUHIE PARIKH COMMEMORATES AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Juhie Parikh, a student at Inderkum High School in Sacramento, for winning my office's essay contest commemorating America's 250th anniversary.

As our Nation prepares to celebrate 250 years of independence, students across my district were invited to reflect on what America means to them. Juhie's essay stood out for its thoughtful reflection on community, belonging, and unity.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share her essay in her own words:

As I look out onto my street in a Sacramento suburb, I see a lovely Chinese family with two daughters achieving their dreams in college, a Black family with two daughters in high school with me, a Mexican family with three children that love playing soccer, college students renting a house, three generations of a White family and their cute dog named Liesel who pass out

homemade cinnamon rolls every Christmas to each house, and my own Indian immigrant family. This isn't just a show of diversity, but unity.

To me, America is this street.

It is easy to look at a country and only see its fractures and divisions. America might have many imperfections, but that is not all it is. What I see from my window tells a different story, one that feels personal to me.

What strikes me most about my neighborhood isn't our differences. It is that we don't care about how different we are. The kids kick their soccer ball into the street, and everyone navigates around it without complaint. The college students wave. Liesel trots over to anyone who will scratch her ears, noticing their kindness first before their backgrounds. At Christmas, cinnamon rolls arrive at every door, not just ones that look familiar. These little details, repeated daily, are what a culture is actually made of.

My dad came to America first, alone, for his job, building the foundation to raise a family here. My mom followed him, leaving behind everything familiar to join him in a country still new to both of them. This risk is not unique to us. Nearly every family on my street has their own version: a sacrifice made, a life turned upside down, a bet placed on this country. And somewhere along the way, all of those separate stories merged into one shared street.

This shared life revealed itself most clearly on the day Liesel passed away. I had once been small enough that the Great Dane and I were nearly the same size, the two of us growing up together. She had belonged to one family, but in truth, she belonged to all of us. When she was gone, every family came to the door. Some brought food, some simply came to honor her memory. An entire street grieved together, and I understood that what we had built was not just proximity. It was genuine care.

This care is the truest thing I know about America. We are so defined by our differences, our backgrounds, our languages, or our histories. But on my street, those things are only the beginning of the story, not the end of it. Similarly, America's story is not finished either. To me, America means possibility, the possibility that people from every corner of the world can land on the same street and become part of each other's lives. It is not a perfect country. But it keeps producing diverse streets like mine. And that is enough to believe in.

RECOGNIZING 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF CITRUS HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 20th anniversary of the Citrus Heights Police Department.

For two decades, the men and women of the department have served the Citrus Heights community with dedication, professionalism, and an unwavering commitment to public safety. Every day, they work to keep families safe, respond in moments of crisis, and strengthen trust across the community.

I was proud to help secure \$540,000 in Federal funding for the department's emergency communication enhancements project to upgrade emergency communications to ensure first responders can communicate reliably during emergencies, coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions, and keep Citrus Heights residents safe when every second counts.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chief Alexander Turcotte and every officer, dispatcher,