

After marrying Robert Mason "Doc" Combs in 1954, Rosemary immersed herself in service to her new community. She and her husband opened the beloved Flocoe Drug Store and Diner, an establishment renowned throughout Bell County for the warmth, generosity, and the sense of real fellowship Rosemary extended to every person who visited.

To generations of Pineville residents, Rosemary was more than a local businessowner. She was a counselor, volunteer, faithful servant, mentor, and friend. Whether through the Pineville Women's Club, the Rotary Club, the Bell County Chamber of Commerce, or through several decades of faithful service to St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Rosemary dedicated her life to serving others.

At her funeral, a member of the community recalled a moment when Rosemary gave him medicine he could not afford for a sick child. Such quiet acts of compassion were the very essence of her being.

Perhaps no tribute to Rosemary's life speaks louder than the fact that over 800 people gathered at her funeral, nearly half the town of Pineville. You have got to remember. She was 100 years old, and very few of her friends were still around. She had 800 friends.

Her legacy lives on through her 6 children, 16 grandchildren, and 22 great-grandchildren.

In an age that often celebrates fame and fortune, Rosemary reminds us that the true measure of one's life is found in service, kindness, faith, and love of your neighbor.

Today, we honor not only a wonderful woman, but a generation of Americans whose quiet strength built communities all across this great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, may Rosemary's memory continue to inspire the United States of America and all who were blessed to know her. She epitomizes the phrase to live is to serve. She did so admirably.

RELEASE OF ARMENIAN PRISONERS

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

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, for 1,000 days, Armenian prisoners of war and civilians have been held in unlawful detention. Detainees are reported to have suffered from torture and abuse while being denied fundamental legal rights. These conditions are unacceptable, and their continued detention is a violation of fundamental human rights.

I am proud to cosponsor the Azerbaijan Sanctions Review Act to demand the release of these prisoners and hold officials accountable for these abuses.

The San Fernando Valley is home to one of the largest communities of Armenian Americans in the country. The stories that members of the Armenian-American community have shared with

me throughout this conflict are heart-breaking. I stand with the Armenian-American community, my colleagues, and the families of the detainees in calling for the release and safe return of these prisoners of war.

BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, just moments ago, the Supreme Court struck down Donald Trump's illegal attempt to end birthright citizenship and ruled that 4 million children born in the United States, including many across the San Fernando Valley, have a place in this country as American citizens.

For 250 years, our country was built and defined by immigrants and children of immigrants. This includes people like my sister and me, who were born and raised in Los Angeles and are now pursuing our own American Dreams and contributing to the country that we love.

The Constitution is clear. Anyone born in the United States is a citizen of the United States. Donald Trump does not get to bend the rules and rewrite the Constitution just to comply with his illegal and anti-immigrant agenda.

Mr. Speaker, I will keep fighting to protect our immigrant communities like mine in the San Fernando Valley and across the country so that they, too, can have their chance at the American Dream.

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE

(Mr. KEAN of New Jersey was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with deep gratitude for the patience, kindness, prayers, and concern that have been shown to me and my family over the course of the last several months.

This is not an easy speech for me to give. I am a private person by nature, and I have spent most of my life talking about the people that I represent, issues facing our communities, and work that needs to be done.

Talking about myself has never come naturally, but I believe that I owe an explanation to the people of New Jersey's Seventh District, to my colleagues in this Chamber, and to the American people for my actions.

Several months ago, due to health concerns, I entered the hospital for some testing. I did not believe that this would result in a long-term stay. I was given the diagnosis of depression.

Now, when people hear the word "depression," many people think it simply means feeling sad. But depression is so much more than that. It is physical and emotional. Until you experience it yourself, it is difficult to fully understand how powerful this illness can be.

The doctors recommended that I remain in the hospital to address my illness. They explained to me that this would be the fastest way to recovery. To be honest, I was hesitant. I didn't think that I had time for it. I had responsibilities to my family, constituents, and to this institution.

Like many people, I believed that I could simply push through, but I agreed to follow my doctor's recommendations, again, not believing that it would result in a long-term stay. I began to understand not only my diagnosis but how long depression had been affecting my life.

When I first informed the public that I was dealing with a medical issue, I was still trying to understand what was happening myself. When I said I hoped to return in a matter of weeks, I believed it. Those were the best estimates that the doctors could provide. Yet, as the over 48 million of my fellow Americans being treated for this illness have come to discover, there is no timeline for healing and recovery—only the work of getting better one day at a time.

Today, I am grateful that I listened to my doctors, and I am grateful for the exceptional care that I received from doctors, nurses, and support staff. I am grateful that I accepted help because today I stand before you healthier, stronger, and excited to return to the work that I love.

I have always been a supporter of mental health care. During my time in New Jersey legislature, I worked to advance mental health parity. I believed in the cause then, and I understand it in a far more personal way now.

□ 1115

This experience has given me a deeper appreciation for the millions of Americans who face these challenges each and every day.

Many do so quietly. Many do so alone. Many do so while carrying burdens that the rest of us never see. To them I would say: Asking for help is not a weakness. It is a strength.

I thank my constituents. I thank them for their patience. I thank them for their understanding. I thank them for their prayers, and I thank them for allowing me the honor of serving them.

I also thank my staff, who worked tirelessly to ensure that our office continued serving constituents every day during my absence.

Most importantly, I thank my family, whose love, whose support, and whose faith carried me through some very difficult days.

This is not a partisan issue. It touches every community, every family, and every corner of this country.

If sharing my story encourages even one person to seek help, if it gives one family the courage to have a difficult conversation, or if it reminds one person that recovery is possible, then this moment will have been worthwhile.

I am grateful to be back with the full support of my doctors. I am grateful to be healthy. I am grateful for the opportunity to continue serving the people of New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District.

I say thank you. May God bless the people of New Jersey, and may God bless the United States of America.

HAITI TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS

(Ms. BROWN of Ohio was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, as often the case with the current occupant of the White House, it all started with a lie.

Nearly 2 years ago, JD VANCE got up off his couch and tweeted a racist smear that Haitians in Springfield, Ohio, were eating cats and dogs. Days later, Donald Trump shamelessly repeated it at a Presidential debate.

They knew it was a lie. They knew those families were here legally. They knew they were working, raising children, paying taxes, and helping rebuild a community.

None of that mattered because the point was never to tell the truth. The point was to make Americans fear Haitians, to turn them into scapegoats, to convince the country that Black immigrants were the source of their problems.

JD VANCE admitted that he was willing to “create stories” to advance his political agenda.

We all saw what happened next: Springfield was terrorized. Schools were closed. Bomb threats poured in. White supremacists descended on the city.

So families lived in fear because two of the most powerful politicians in America decided that a racist smear was politically useful. They never apologized. Instead, they spent 2 years putting that lie to work and turning it into government policy. Now, that campaign of fear is the official policy of our government.

Last week, the Supreme Court allowed the Trump administration to terminate the Temporary Protected Status, also known as TPS, for hundreds of thousands of Haitians, not because Haiti is safe, not because the facts have changed, but because this administration wants more people for ICE to deport.

Haiti remains consumed by political collapse and humanitarian disaster. The conditions that justified TPS still exist.

These are people who care for our seniors, build our community, and pay billions in taxes. They followed the rules. They trusted the American promise. Now, they are being told that a racist political narrative matters more than the law they followed to a T.

This is not who we are, America. The House has already passed the bill extending TPS because the facts demand it and because decency requires it.

Now, the Senate must pass it before the mass deportation tears lives and communities apart, all because of a racist, reckless, bigoted, blatant, dishonest, and disgusting campaign lie.

BIG UGLY LAW ANNIVERSARY

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, while families are struggling to keep up with rising prices for food, housing, gas, and

utilities, this President is focused on something else entirely different—himself.

He is spending taxpayer dollars on a lavish White House ballroom. He is tearing up the reflecting pool for another vanity project. He is putting his name and image on anything he can.

While Americans are tightening their belts, Donald Trump is building monuments to himself.

One year later, Republicans are still celebrating what they call the President's signature legislative achievement.

That law ripped healthcare away from millions of Americans, cut food assistance for families and children, made it harder to afford college—all to hand out massive tax breaks to the wealthiest people in America.

It was a transfer of wealth from working people to wealthy people.

Mr. Speaker, 17 million Americans have lost healthcare. More than 4 million Americans, including 800,000 children, have already lost access to basic food assistance.

Meanwhile, the wealthiest 0.1 percent received tax cuts worth nearly a quarter million dollars just last year.

I will ask the simple question: How has Trump's big, ugly law helped the American people? As far as I can tell, it is just welfare for the wealthy and well-connected.

Meanwhile, we have gotten higher prices, higher inflation, slower job growth, and an economy that works even better for those already on top.

Republicans called it the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. I call it a big, ugly law, because there is nothing beautiful about taking healthcare and food away from families to pay for tax cuts for billionaires.

Happy anniversary to Trump's signature achievement. One year later, the verdict is in: Working families paid the price, and the wealthiest Americans cashed the check.

RECOGNIZING HILLARY OLSON

(Mr. MORELLE of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary leader, a cherished friend, and someone whose impact on Rochester will be felt for generations to come: Hillary Olson.

Since arriving at the Rochester Museum & Science Center in 2018, Hillary has helped strengthen one of the cornerstones of our community. Through enormous challenges, including the pandemic, she guided the RMSC with vision, determination, and grace, helping ensure it emerged stronger than ever.

Hillary cares deeply about this community, about its history, about its future, and the people who call it home. She brings warmth, curiosity, and an unwavering belief that institutions like the Rochester Museum & Science Center can inspire young people, connect communities, and open minds.

Because of her leadership, countless families, students, and visitors have experienced the wonder of science, culture, and discovery.

While we are sad to see her leave Rochester, we are proud to see her take on this next chapter, knowing she will bring with it that same remarkable leadership wherever she goes.

Mr. Speaker, I wish her nothing but success, happiness, and continued impact in her new role and in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING DR. BETH PAUL

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Beth Paul as she concludes her tenure of as president of Nazareth University after 6 years of remarkable leadership.

Beth arrived at Nazareth during one of the most difficult moments in modern higher education, taking the helm in the midst of a global pandemic.

Through steady leadership, vision, and determination, she helped guide the institution through extraordinary challenges while positioning it for a stronger future.

Under her leadership, Nazareth embraced a historic new chapter, transitioning from Nazareth College to Nazareth University and celebrating its centennial year—milestones that will shape the institution for generations to come.

Beth has been a passionate advocate for students, a champion of higher education, and a leader who understands that universities are not just places of learning. They are engines of opportunity, discovery, and service.

On behalf of my entire community, I thank my dear friend Dr. Beth Paul for her leadership, her service, and her unwavering commitment to helping students realize their potential.

VISITING OMAR RAMOS-JIMENEZ

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today after visiting the Buffalo Federal Detention Facility in Batavia, New York, where I met with my constituent Omar Ramos-Jimenez.

Omar has lived in Rochester for three decades. He has worked, paid taxes, raised a family, and built a life in our community. He is not a danger to anyone. He is not a flight risk. He is a husband, a father, a neighbor.

As we spoke, he kept repeating the same words: “I just want to go home.” He does not want to go to Mexico. He wants to go to Rochester because Rochester is his home. Donald Trump told the American people he would target violent criminals, the worst of the worst. Instead, we are seeing longtime, productive members of our community swept up in a system built on fear. It is not about public safety. It is simply about cruelty.

In this moment, we must uphold American values. Dignity must be non-negotiable. Due process must be non-negotiable. Basic humanity must be non-negotiable.

I will continue fighting for Omar, for thousands like him, and for an immigration system rooted in fairness, decency, and respect for every person.