

commonsense infrastructure strengthens our economy, improves our national security, and connects America's families. I am proud that the father of the Interstate Highway System called Abilene, Kansas, home, and I look forward to getting America back to building again.

HONORING MARTHA MENDOZA

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Martha Mendoza for 25 years of dedicated service to the people of Kansas.

In July 2001, Martha began working for Senator Pat Roberts in his Dodge City office. Over the next two decades, she earned the trust of Kansans across the region and ultimately served as Senator Roberts' district director for 8 years.

When I was elected to Congress in 2021, Senator Roberts personally recommended I hire Martha because he knew her character, her work ethic, and the genuine care she brings to every Kansan who asks for help. I am grateful that she agreed to continue her service as my constituent services director.

Today, Martha still works in the same Dodge City office where she began her public service career 25 years ago. During that time, she has helped countless Kansans navigate Federal agencies, resolve difficult casework, and find answers during some of the most stressful moments of their lives.

Martha works long hours, follows through, and treats every person who calls her or walks through the door with dignity and compassion. She understands that public service is about helping people, and she has spent her career putting others' lives in front of her own.

Martha is a trusted colleague, a devoted mother of Joe, Gio, and Alexyss, and a tireless advocate for the people of the Big First District.

I thank Martha for her 25 years of faithful service to Kansans. Our State is better because of her work and I am honored to have her on our team.

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SUPPORTING UKRAINE

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy established July 15 as Statehood Day for Ukraine, but we spend another year on this day wondering when the Ukrainian people will be able to celebrate without threats from Russia.

The length of the war in Ukraine has recently surpassed World War I, and it is an outrage that Ukraine has been forced to incur staggering casualties and defend its territory against a relentless dictator. Families are being torn apart, and fear is a part of everyday life for Ukrainians.

We have a duty to support nations that are aiming to support life, liberty,

and the pursuit of happiness for their citizens. That is why I firmly reassert the need to continue funding Ukraine's defense.

From the floor of the House of Representatives, I extend my regards to our Ukrainian friends and allies. May they soon honor their statehood during a time of peace.

ADDRESSING AFFORDABLE HOUSING CRISIS

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, in New York and across the country, we are in an affordable housing crisis.

According to the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, a household in the New York City region making the median income would need to spend 65 percent of their income to afford the average home.

No family should have to spend over one-half of their income on housing. That is why, this week, I introduced the Home Mortgage Interest Credit Act and the Senior Accessible Housing Tax Credit Act. These bills will create new tax credits on mortgage interest and home modifications to help families better afford homeownership and allow seniors to age in place.

As a county executive, I worked to construct affordable housing units and deliver options for families looking to move to my home county of Westchester, but more action is needed. We must work toward a sustained, all-of-government approach through funding, tax policy, and regulatory reform to fully tackle this affordability problem.

The bills I introduced today will deliver relief to young families taking on a mortgage to purchase their first home and to seniors who need to update the bathroom or install a ramp to allow them to age in place.

While the President claims that no one cares about housing, I look forward to moving these commonsense proposals forward with my colleagues to make affordable housing available again.

RECOGNIZING NEW YORK BLOOD CENTER

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize New York Blood Center and all community blood centers across the United States that ensure a stable blood supply for patients in our hospitals.

Blood can only come from generous donors, and patients in need are relying on volunteers to roll up their sleeves and give them the gift of life. But right now, the New York Blood Center is in its second blood emergency of the summer, signaling critically low levels of blood supply that exists for the State.

In the United States, someone needs blood every 2 seconds, and while more than 60 percent are eligible to donate blood, only about 3 percent of Americans do. If just 1 percent more volunteers donated blood, we could alleviate the blood shortages that endanger the blood supply each season.

I thank the millions of Americans who already regularly donate blood and encourage others to join them. Moreover, I commend the work being done

at the New York Blood Center, which has been serving the tristate area for more than 60 years and today serves more than 200 hospitals and EMS partners with more than half a million life-saving blood products.

Together, we can work to ensure that no matter when a person needs it, there will be blood available to them.

CONGRATULATING PELLA HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING DUTCH

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS of Iowa was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Pella High School Marching Dutch on their trip to our Nation's Capital for the 250th National Independence Day celebration.

Led by 21-year band director Dameon Place, the Pella Marching Dutch includes 225 talented high school students. Participation in the band gives students the opportunity to develop leadership, discipline, teamwork, and a commitment to excellence that will serve them well after graduation. I know this firsthand because my children participated in band and orchestra.

While the Independence Day Parade was, unfortunately, canceled because of the extreme heat, the students made the most of their once-in-a-lifetime trip. They adapted and played a special pop-up performance at the Upper Senate Park, allowing visitors to experience this talented Iowa band. They also attended the National Symphony Orchestra's Fourth of July concert and fireworks, visited our Nation's iconic monuments, and explored the Smithsonian museums.

Our community in Pella is extremely supportive of its band program. These students work hard, represent Iowa with pride, and demonstrate the positive impact school music programs have on our youth.

RECOGNIZING SHERIFF ROBERT ROTTER

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Sheriff Robert Rotter, who was recently confirmed by the Senate to serve as U.S. Marshal for the Northern District of Iowa.

Sheriff Rotter joined the Iowa County Sheriff's Office in 1990 and has dedicated more than three decades to public service. Before his nomination, Sheriff Rotter was serving his fifth term as the Iowa County Sheriff, earning a reputation for leadership, service, and commitment to the people of Iowa County and Iowa.

Throughout his career, Sheriff Rotter has remained dedicated to keeping our communities safe. As Iowa County Sheriff, he spearheaded a program to properly dispose of expired and unused prescription and over-the-counter medications, preventing drugs from falling into the wrong hands. He also initiated a countywide active shooter program that helped train over 1,500

students, teachers, and industrial and retail employees.

Sheriff Rotter's hard work, leadership, and commitment to protecting others have earned him this amazing opportunity to continue serving our State and Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Sheriff Rotter and thank him for his dedicated service to Iowa County and Iowa.

FIGHTING FOR THE AMERICAN DREAM

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the Iowa families who have been priced out of the American Dream.

Across this country, the average first-time home buyer is now 40 years old, an all-time high. In contrast, I purchased my first home as a young captain in the Army at age 22.

Our Nation is short as many as 5.5 million homes. The share of first-time home buyers has fallen by one-half since 2007.

Iowa families feel this every single day. Young couples work hard, save diligently, and still cannot afford a home in the communities they grew up in. Rental prices have increased, as well.

The 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act changes that. It cuts the red tape strangling home construction, so we build more homes and lower costs for buyers and renters alike. It stops big Wall Street firms from buying up single-family homes because Iowa homes belong to Iowa families, not hedge funds. This is the most significant housing reform in a generation, and it is now law.

To every Iowan chasing their first home, help is on the way. The American Dream is worth fighting for, and I will never stop fighting for my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend a birthday greeting to the oldest of seven siblings, Richard Miller.

Happy birthday, Richard.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend birthday greetings to the youngest of my seven siblings, MariEleanor Martino.

Happy birthday, MariEleanor.

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR SHOOTING OF LORENZO SALGADO ARAUJO

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

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, 13 months ago, when Trump's immigration raids began in my district, I warned exactly where this was headed. I warned that if ICE agents were allowed to operate without accountability, the violence would escalate. I warned that people would die.

I didn't want to be right, but here we are. This isn't normal. This isn't law enforcement. This is lawlessness: no due process and no Miranda rights.

Instead, some in Trump's ICE are acting as judge, jury, and executioner.

This is what happens when people who wear the badge are told that rules

don't apply to them. Over the last year, we witnessed ICE become more violent, more reckless, and more deadly. We witnessed masked agents jump out of unmarked vehicles. We witnessed people tackled, beaten, and shot. We have even seen children used as bait to detain their parents.

What has this administration done? What have congressional Republicans done? Not a darn thing: no accountability, no transparency, and no consequences.

Last week, Lorenzo Salgado Araujo left work and never came home. His son, Ronaldo, said something every Member of this Chamber should hear: "He did not deserve to die. He did not deserve to be reduced to a headline of 'Mexican man shot and killed by ICE.' He deserved to live a quiet life as Lorenzo Salgado Araujo, a husband, a father, and a job creator."

Then, yesterday, a little girl in Maine watched her father's lifeless body being carried away by ICE.

Think about that, Mr. Speaker: two fathers and two families are shattered.

In both cases, ICE wasn't even targeting the men who died. ICE claims these men used their vehicles as weapons, but local news video tells a different story. It shows unmarked vehicles following them. It shows what happens before the shootings. It shows that ICE wasn't wearing body cameras, despite its own policies.

This administration is asking Americans not to believe our own eyes over and over again. That is not acceptable.

What is even more unacceptable is that my Republican colleagues have watched this happen and responded by giving ICE billions more dollars.

How many more families have to bury a loved one before Republicans admit that something is deeply wrong? The truth is they know it is wrong. They are just too afraid to say it. They are too afraid of Donald Trump and too afraid of political consequences.

I know, and they know, where this leads. When these raids began in Los Angeles, I flew immediately back from Washington to conduct oversight and protect my communities. When the Trump administration tried to block me from inspecting ICE detention centers, I sued them and won.

I have trained legal observers to document ICE abuses, organized town-halls, and introduced legislation to reclaim Trump's \$175 billion ICE slush fund and put it into housing.

Every Representative here has a choice. They can keep writing blank checks for fear and abuse, or they can join us in saying enough—enough lawlessness, enough brutality, and enough deaths. We warned this country what would happen. We warned that, without accountability, violence would escalate. We warned that people would die.

Now, hear this warning: If you committed a crime, if you violated the Constitution, if you thought your badge put you above the law, you are

wrong. We are watching. The American people are watching. History is watching. No matter who you are or the title you hold, you will be prosecuted.

Accountability is coming.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their comments to the Chair.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PEARLINE COMPTON

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of a very special and very amazing person, a Bucks County resident, Pearline Compton, whose 94 years were defined by faith, family, hard work, and a remarkable commitment to serving others.

Born in Kelly, Louisiana, Pearline grew up with the values of humility, perseverance, and deep devotion to those whom she loved. As a young woman, she moved to Pennsylvania, carrying those values with her and planting new roots in her own community.

Though she began her life in the South, she became a proud Pennsylvanian, building strong and unbreakable ties to her new adopted home.

Pearline worked for more than 33 years as a skilled press operator for Falls Manufacturing in Fairless Hills in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, never missing a day of work. However, Pearline's greatest legacy was not only in what she did at work. It was how she loved and cared for her family.

In 1986, after the passing of her beloved niece, Eula Mae Hamilton, Pearline opened her heart and her home to Eula's daughters, Chrissandra and Valerie. She raised them as her own, believing that family is not defined solely by blood, but rather by love, compassion, and commitment. Through her quiet strength and steady presence, she gave those girls the foundation they needed to learn, to grow, and to thrive. That is what they did.

Even in her retirement, Pearline did not stop serving others. She continued to pour into her community through Children of God Educational Services in historic Bristol Borough in Bucks County. There, she shared her wisdom and her kindness with children and with families, offering support and a powerful example of what it means to live a life rooted in service. Whether through a kind word, a listening ear, or a simple act of generosity, Pearline made sure that people felt seen, valued, and cared for.

Pearline inspired so many people and supported countless organizations throughout her life, without fanfare and without recognition. She did not seek the spotlight. She simply did what needed to be done day after day, year after year. That quiet, consistent faithfulness is one of the highest forms of public service, and it speaks to her character.