

HONORING BETTY ANN AMISON-LEWIS

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, tonight, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Toledo resident Betty Ann Amison-Lewis, a community builder.

An erudite woman with a true servant's heart, Betty looked for every opportunity she could to serve our community of northwest Ohio.

As founding director of Toledo's Grace Community Center, Betty devoted decades to others with the same grace for which the community center was named.

She supported young men and women as they navigated parenthood. She offered after-school care to thousands of children and reinvigorated Toledo seniors with a sense of belonging.

Our community will miss Betty deeply. We grieve with her loved ones. Our community celebrates her life and will remember her fondly for the tenacity with which she served others. Her life and legacy will live on in the unrelenting mission of Grace Community Center to better the lives of northwest Ohio families.

To her husband, Morris; her children, Yvette, Anika, Chantel, Alvin, Alysha; stepchildren, Morris, Terrance, Myron; and her beloved grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and other family and friends who will miss her dearly, know that she was profoundly grateful and awed by your love.

May Betty's good work and positive energy live on in your minds and hearts. Her amazing spirit is invincible, and I know it is alive and at work in our community and world. May her life be blessed.

HONORING STEVEN LAMPLEY

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

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Steven Lampley, a devoted husband, loving father, faithful servant of God, and tireless advocate for the people of southwest Missouri.

Steve was a genuinely good man. He loved his wife, Kathy. He loved his children, William, Rachel, and Hailey. Nothing made him happier than spending time with them, whether hunting, fishing, camping, or just being together.

More than anything else, that is how I know Steve would want to be remembered.

The values that guided Steve at home were the same values that guided his service to our community. A lot of people complain about the state of our government, but Steve believed the answer wasn't just to complain. It was to get involved, and, boy, did he do that.

Through his work with the Greene County Republican Central Committee and the Missouri Republican Assembly, he devoted countless hours to strengthening the grassroots and serving his fellow Missourians, spending his own time and money driving to Jefferson City, advocating for legislation, and getting bills that protected people's constitutional rights across the finish line.

If you knew Steve, you knew he never asked someone else to do something he wasn't willing to do himself. He stepped up when leadership was needed, treated everyone with dignity and respect, and quietly went about doing what he believed was right.

My prayers are with Kathy, William, Rachel, Hailey, and everyone who loved Steve. May God comfort them in these days ahead, and may they always find peace in the life and legacy that he lived and the example that he leaves behind. May he rest in peace.

HONORING GEORGE E. JOHNSON

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

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, there are some people who build companies, and there are others who build confidence. George E. Johnson did both.

He understood something this Nation too often refused to see—that Black people did not need permission to be beautiful, brilliant, or prosperous. We simply needed the opportunity to define ourselves.

Through Afro Sheen, he did more than create a successful business. He challenged a culture that had spent centuries teaching Black men and women to doubt the beauty that they saw in the mirror.

Every bottle that left his factory carried more than a product. It carried a declaration that Black enterprise could flourish and that Black excellence could employ thousands, inspire generations, and transform neighborhoods. His success was not measured merely in dollars, but in dignity. He proved that ownership is more than economics. It is self-determination.

George Johnson, a beloved family friend, invested not only in hair care, but in human care. He invested in communities, education, churches, and young dreamers who needed someone to believe that greatness could look like them.

He understood that wealth finds its highest purpose when it creates opportunities for others. His legacy reminds us that freedom is incomplete if it cannot produce opportunity. It reminds us that equality is unfinished if it cannot nurture enterprise, and justice remains unfinished if the gifts of a people are ignored.

Today, we honor not simply a businessman but a visionary who helped America become more fully itself by

insisting that Black genius belonged not on the margins of its history but at its very center core.

Mr. Speaker, may we remember George E. Johnson not only for what he sold but for what he restored: confidence, possibility, and pride.

May his life continue to remind every child who dares to dream that the greatest investment one can ever make is in the limitless potential of one's own people.

To a beloved friend and an outstanding American, I love you, and I honor you, the honorable George E. Johnson.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HELEN DIGIROLAMO

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Helen DiGirolamo of Bensalem, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who we sadly lost on July 10, 2026, at the age of 98.

Born in Philadelphia in 1928, Helen was a cherished member of the St. Ephrem Church in Bensalem for 55 years, where she rooted her life in faith, in service, and in her community.

In her younger years, she loved bowling. Throughout her life, she was known for her exceptional cooking, especially during the holiday gatherings with her family surrounding her at the table.

Helen was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 45 years, Eugene, and their daughter, Janice. She is survived by her children, Gene and Joanne; her son-in-law, Michael; seven grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, her son, Gene, was so good to her in all of her years, particularly her later years, when every single Sunday he dedicated to spending time with her.

Helen DiGirolamo will be deeply missed, but her spirit will live on in the family and the community she so dearly loved.

□ 1740

FAREWELL TO DOGE

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Ms. STANSBURY of New Mexico was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, we rise tonight to acknowledge that DOGE is, indeed, dead.

Mr. Speaker, the scandals, the gossip—when New Mexicans tune in to see what is happening here in Washington, it feels like they are tuning into an episode of a reality TV show rather than another day in the people's House, but the messiest House isn't an overseas villa. It is the White House.

The President has a lot of messy friends and a lot of messy breakups, but the biggest breakup of all was the breakup between President Trump and Elon Musk 1 year ago.

One day, Elon is sending a love letter of hundreds of millions in campaign donations to the President's campaign, and the next, he is wondering where it all went wrong. After all the insults, all of the public arguing, and a very public divorce, today, we are here to say to Elon Musk and his so-called Department of Government Efficiency: I am so sorry, but you have not been chosen, and you will be dumped from the villa.

Now that the season of DOGE is over, it is time to look back and have a reunion episode and answer the question on everyone's mind: Where did it all go wrong? Was it all talk, or did Elon actually deliver on his promises because when DOGE was created and Americans heard what they were up to, there were some very big promises. He said that he could save \$2 trillion by cutting waste, fraud, and abuse across the Federal Government.

Well, the honeymoon is over, and I think the numbers say it all. He didn't even save a fraction of that amount. In fact, what we know is that due to disruptions in government services and firings and litigation, he may have actually cost the Federal Government more money than he saved.

In fact, here is what we know about DOGE's impacts: Large-scale loss of experienced Federal employees. Our agencies lost tens of thousands of employees through layoffs, deferred resignations, early retirements and hiring freezes.

They reduced the institutional knowledge of generations across our agencies and made it impossible to do basic functions that our communities needed: Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and our nuclear agencies who protect the nuclear and national security of this country.

They disrupted government services. Agencies were unable to process basic functions. They attacked Social Security. They laid off thousands of veterans across our Federal Government who had served this great country and given their sacrifice in service, only to find themselves eliminated by a cheap date in the West Wing.

Legal challenges—we don't even know how many lawsuits there have been in the wake of DOGE—personnel actions, agency restructuring, illegal orders, withholding of funds, and

many, many more that are still awaiting to be adjudicated by the courts.

Let us not forget that they stole your data. That is right. They came in talking a big talk, saying that they were going to digitize our Federal Government and modernize it and help us actually make the government work for the people. It was a front for stealing your personal data—your IRS data, your Social Security data, your bank account data. They not only went into the most private systems of the Federal Government and stole your data, but they exported it and gave it to private companies.

This is not just a run-of-the-mill exercise of modernizing the government. They stole your data for a profit, for campaign advancement, and to ensure that they would be able to continue to access your data for power.

In addition to that, they broke key aspects of our Federal Government. They disrupted contracts. They gave themselves private contracts. They gave away billions of dollars in Federal taxpayer dollars for defense contracts to their friends, for NASA contracts for their friends, for weather service contracts for their friends. They disbanded decades of scientific research on every single continent across this planet.

The reductions in workforce not just impacted the functioning of the Federal Government but disrupted local economies across the country, especially in our rural communities.

Let us not forget the most consequential impacts that we know came as a result of Elon Musk's dangerous date with the White House, and that is the dismantling of the USAID. We know that, as a direct result of the dismantling of public health programs that have been in place across the world for decades, that literally thousands of children across the world died as a direct result.

Medicine, food—they came in claiming that they were trying to cut waste, and they left food for starving children to sit in warehouses and rot while children did not have anything to eat.

They let medicine expire in warehouses and actually threw it away rather than give it to people for whom it would save their lives.

What do they have to answer for it as they have come here to testify before Congress? Is there any remorse for the lives that were lost? Is there any remorse for the thousands of children whose lives were taken because they could not access medicine? Is there any remorse for the thousands of nonprofit organizations who serve our communities every day who have been impacted? Is there any remorse for the hundreds of thousands of Federal workers who they fired and whose lives they disrupted?

No. There is no remorse. And let me tell you this: This has been one toxic relationship since the very beginning.

So here is what we know. DOGE, you are voted off the island, and we do not want to ever see you back here again.

The American people want efficiency. The American people want a government that serves them. The American people want to make sure that their leaders care for the communities that they live in and will care for them.

The American people do not want toxic billionaires trying to steal their taxpayer dollars and dismantling the basic services that keep them well.

So we bid good-bye to DOGE. We say farewell. We won't miss you. We won't miss you as you leave the island and take your big exit.

What we will say is that we will continue to fight every single day for the American people. We will continue to actually work to make this government work for the American people, to actually cut real waste and real fraud and real abuse and the real abusers who are sitting in the White House and committing waste, fraud, and abuse on the American people every single day.

We will commit that when we take back this House, when we take back the White House, that we will fight for a nation that fights for our people. We will bring a new deal to this country that serves the working people of this country, that invests in housing and healthcare and food, that protects the environment, that fights for climate action, and that cares for the human dignity of our people.

□ 1750

That is our promise. We don't want any more toxic relationships. We just say this: The American people deserve better, girl, and we are here for you.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Oregon.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of the 119th session, I was ready to work with anyone to root out waste, fraud, and abuse in the government. We are here to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars, and we should want our government to be efficient.

That is not what happened. We started with a bipartisan congressional effort, and then President Trump appointed Elon Musk, who stood there with a chainsaw, brought in a bunch of unqualified DOGE bros, who said that they were going to make \$2 trillion in savings from the Federal budget, but made no meaningful impact in spending.

They tortured and went after our public employees that cost the taxpayers \$10 billion through the deferred resignation program. Mr. Speaker, 300,000 Federal workers were fired or urged to retire, including 100,000 veterans.

This wasn't done in a strategic way. People were fired without understanding what their jobs were. For instance, off the Oregon coast, they fired the people who knew how to operate the tsunami warning system. That isn't rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse.

They shut down promising innovations, like direct file, at the request of big businesses that stood to financially

benefit. That hurt low-income and working Americans who now have to pay to file their taxes.

They slowed response time to complaints made to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which had previously helped return \$21 billion to Americans.

They purged USAID by getting rid of 83 percent of USAID projects. Impact Counter estimates that 757,000 people died, mostly children. We lost the benefit of soft power that we had when we invested in this very effective program.

They tried to end NIOSH and canceled \$3.8 billion in NIH grants. They laid off 1,300 critical Federal workers from NOAA.

If you want to talk about government overreach and small government, that is not what happened with DOGE. They gained access to personal data, like our Social Security numbers, our tax returns, and our health records.

Waste, fraud, and abuse still exist in the Federal Government. For instance, if we want to root out waste, fraud, and abuse, let's start with the Pentagon that failed the last eight audits. There is a ton of waste, fraud, and abuse.

They have awarded more than \$208 billion in contracts to companies that have been cited for repeated or willful violations. Why are we not addressing that?

We should want government to be more efficient. We should want to root out waste, fraud, and abuse. I will work with anyone to make that happen.

Instead, we gave a chainsaw to a trillionaire who made his money off of Federal grants, Federal research, and Federal projects, and we cut critical investments to make our government work better for the working people.

On July Fourth, DOGE shut down. It doesn't intend to publish a final report because they would have to report a giant failure that cost taxpayers \$10 billion. I say, good-bye, good riddance, and let's not do this again.

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, there are so many things to be said about DOGE and the waste of money and lives that happened over the course of the year and a half that it was officially on the books.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to take a moment to talk about our country at a crossroads. Do we continue to use American taxpayer dollars to fund the killing of civilians, children, and families abroad, or do we finally say, enough?

Today, I took a vote for the children, for peace, and for the future of this country, by voting "yes" on an amendment to block \$3.3 billion in offensive military aid. This is money that should be used to build roads, to build housing, and to lower the cost of food and childcare for families who are struggling right here in the United States.

I did not come to Congress to write blank checks to the military. I did not come to Congress to write blank checks to foreign militaries to bomb civilians, and I did not come here to

support an unending and illegal war in the Middle East.

That is why I chose today to block offensive military aid. Today, I choose our people over weapons. I choose peace over war. I choose accountability over silence, and I will continue to choose that every single time.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as we close out this debate and the broken promises of DOGE and this administration, let us be reminded that when President Trump and Elon Musk first created DOGE, the American people were promised that it would cut waste, fight fraud and abuse, and save the taxpayers \$2 trillion across the government. Many of us hoped that was actually true because cutting waste, fraud, and abuse is not a partisan issue. It is just good government. All of us want a government that actually works for the people of this country.

Actions speak louder than words. When it comes to the legacy of DOGE and this administration, its actions speak for themselves. Instead of cutting waste, they cut over 100,000 jobs of veterans across the Federal Government, veterans in my district who worked at the VA and across our Federal agencies, who wanted nothing more than to continue their service to this country.

They cut workers in charge of maintaining our nuclear stockpile, only to scramble to rehire them. They fired some of our Nation's top scientists, who were responsible for making sure our national security is taken care of.

They attacked Social Security. They fired thousands of workers across the Social Security Administration, including in my district where people were struggling just to get access to their basic needs being met.

DOGE cut back hours and fired hundreds across New Mexico. It pushed seniors, children, and veterans to the brink.

Instead of saving taxpayers money, DOGE cost taxpayers billions of dollars in lost productivity, lost revenue, and the cost to hire essential civil servants they fired. Instead of fighting abuse, DOGE gave the richest man on planet Earth direct influence over government decisionmaking and access to our personal and financial data.

We will never know the true damage that DOGE did because the administration won't even release the final information or final report explaining what they did. This is not okay.

Let me say this to this administration: You better bet we will be investigating every inch of what you did through DOGE and your behavior in the administration.

The American people deserve transparency. The American people deserve a government that works for them. The American people deserve a government and leaders who tell the truth. The American people deserve accountability for their taxpayer dollars. The American people deserve respect, especially those who have served this great Nation.

□ 1800

Even though DOGE's disaster is officially over on the books, we already have another agency whose job is to find waste, fraud, and abuse. We will continue to investigate what happened through DOGE. We will continue to do the work of improving our government, and we will continue to investigate what has happened.

Our question is: After all that has been said and done, will the Republicans of this body continue to support the lies that this administration has put forward through DOGE? Will they continue to support the dismantling of our Federal agencies, as is happening right now at the Department of Education, as we stand here, and the Education Committee?

Will they continue to raid agencies like the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and steal money from the taxpayers?

Will they continue to allow this administration to steal your taxpayer dollars and give it to the military to bomb civilians overseas?

Will they continue to allow an out-of-control President to make billions of dollars in self-dealing while lining his pockets and demolishing the White House or will they actually stand up for the American people?

That is the real waste, fraud, and abuse, and that is the real corruption, a President who is wasting our taxpayer dollars on an unending and illegal war, painting a pool filled with algae, a golden ballroom, and trying to put his name on the Kennedy Center, spending millions of dollars, taxpayer dollars litigating over illegal actions he has taken since taking office, all while giving private contracts to his own family members and the very man who started DOGE in the first place.

While DOGE may be over, let the lesson be that when we take back the House, we will hold them accountable. We will build a government that works for the American people, that is stronger. We will stop billionaires from coming in and using their money to achieve their own political ends and line their own pockets.

We will stop the self-dealing not only in the White House, but that happens in this Chamber. We will work to get big money out of politics, to end Citizens United, and to ensure that we have a system that actually represents the people of this country.

We will rebuild better the agencies that were dismantled. We will create a whole new generation of public servants who want to serve this great Nation, and we will bring a new deal for this country that is about results, that is about dignity, that puts people and services ahead of profits and not empty promises.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, we are here today to celebrate the end of this dark chapter and bring DOGE to a conclusion.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

PRIORITIZING REINING IN OUR NATIONAL DEBT

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In 10 years, the deficit will be greater than every penny spent by the Federal Government between 1789 and 2023. As we celebrate our 250th, this is the time to reflect on it and to focus on it. I am going to share something tonight that is going on every single day, specifically about trying to find the opportunity for deficit reduction.

I have another colleague who will be here momentarily as well, but this is, obviously, an evergreen topic, something that we are constantly focused on, something that members of the Budget Committee, members of the Bipartisan Fiscal Forum, members of various groups that focus more heavily on this than maybe some other issues.

I am proud to count myself as part of that. I remember voting against debt ceiling increases that didn't have some type of spending reduction, even when my own side was proposing them, that didn't have some type of spending reduction, a spending cap, or even a fiscal commission. There are many solutions. It is a key aspect, and it is something that we need to reflect on.

In President Trump's first year, as we started the 119th Congress, taking that first entire year, calendar year 2025, and comparing it to calendar year 2024, a very unique thing happened: We had about \$360 billion worth of deficit reduction.

We ran an approximately \$1.8 to \$1.9 trillion deficit over the last few years, and it has gone up considerably since COVID, during President Biden's 4 years. The first year that Republicans had the White House, House, and Senate, we had an extraordinary feat of \$360 billion worth of deficit reduction.

There were spending constraints. There was restructuring of how we approached some of the student loan aspect of the budget, various elements within the entirety of the appropriations process from different agencies across the board that were pulling back and withholding some of their planned spending. That, mixed with revenues

from tariffs, created a \$360 billion deficit reduction. It doesn't get reported much, doesn't get talked about.

A portion of that tariff money after the SCOTUS ruling will be refunded back, so of that 360, there will be money going back ultimately to some of these companies that are involved in this. The world of tariff and trade policy will continue to play out where you will still get revenue to help us offset some of the deficits.

I have been critical of some of the tariff policy. I have been supportive of some of the tariff policy. I want two specific things from tariffs. I want them to be consistent. If they are going to exist, I want them to be consistent, something the companies, business folks, and families can plan on, as well as be a positive contributor to reducing deficits. I think there is an opportunity to do both of those things, and we are seeing that play out.

I am going to talk a little bit tonight about what is actually going on with one of the most important aspects of the constant churn of us reducing deficits, and that is what is taking place within some of our administrative agencies on finding fraud. I am going to share some anecdotes and some data. I look forward to doing that.

Before I do that, I have a colleague here who is going to share a brief message. I yield to the gentleman from the great State of North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS).

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, our national debt has now surpassed \$39 trillion, and every second that we fail to address it, that number continues to grow, placing an even greater burden on future generations.

Families across western North Carolina understand just a simple truth: You can't spend money that you don't have. They balance their budgets, make difficult decisions, and expect their government to do the same. Unfortunately, Washington has spent far too long doing just the opposite.

Decades of unchecked spending have left us with rising interest payments, growing deficits, and fewer resources available for the priorities that really matter.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I have worked to ensure that we are good stewards of every taxpayer dollar. That means supporting our national defense, strengthening border security, helping communities recover from disasters like Hurricane Helene, and funding the essential functions of government while still looking for every opportunity to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse.

□ 1810

Through the fiscal year 2027 appropriations process, House Republicans continued efforts to be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars by identifying several savings, reducing unnecessary spending, eliminating wasteful programs, and ensuring funding is focused on the Federal Government's core responsibilities.

We didn't create a \$39 trillion debt overnight, and we are not going to solve it overnight, but every responsible spending decision moves us in the right direction.

The American people deserve a government that lives within its means, just as they do every day. It is time to restore fiscal responsibility, reduce the deficit, and leave the next generation with a far stronger financial future.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina for his message and focus on very important issues.

Mr. Speaker, as I was mentioning, there is no question that we have a major issue in front of us. Over the last 18 months, I have gone back home and had a chance to share a lot of the specifics as to the gains that we are making from the reductions. I want to just highlight some of this.

Our Federal debt continues to grow unsustainably, and major trust fund programs face looming insolvency. To add insult to injury here, there is rampant fraud across our country.

If we want to get a handle on our national debt, then we also need to address what I will call the invisible tax on the American people. The data is staggering. The Government Accountability Office estimates that the U.S. Government loses as much as \$500 billion in Federal funds every year to fraud. Half a trillion dollars is wasted because fraudsters and scammers cheat our systems. That is \$4,000 per American household every year completely wasted. If there is one thing that infuriates every American, it is the waste of their hard-earned taxpayer dollars.

I find that in my own life. My wife and I are budgeting. The part that is frustrating is that it is not that we don't have to spend or invest in areas, but we have to eliminate the waste. Families are working hard to play by the rules, and fraudsters are stealing hundreds of millions of dollars from childcare programs,

To address this, the House Republicans recently passed the Stop Child Care Scams Act, forcing accountability when States repeatedly fail to fix fraud and serious program violations.

Fake ghost students are draining \$180 million in financial aid that should be helping hardworking American students, so I am supporting ID verification before tax dollars to support those programs go out the door.

Our reports have exposed fraud in States like Minnesota and California. They have industrial-scale theft, and it has gone unabated for years. Even States like Florida have had many issues in this regard.

One-third of all hospices in the entire country are in Los Angeles, and CMS estimates that at least one-half of those are fraudulent. Eight hundred of those hospices have now been suspended. The numbers I had from just a couple of months ago were that they suspended licenses of 400. They have even had a chance to do more, but they