

past time for the United States to choose engagement over isolation and humanity over cruelty.

I am calling on every Member of this Congress to cosponsor Representative MCGOVERN's legislation to end the U.S. trade embargo on Cuba and move this nation toward normalized relations.

As Trump continues to act erratically abroad, Congress must send a clear and unified message: There will be no military action against Cuba.

It is time to stand up for the people of Cuba. This is about basic human decency. Congress cannot look to this administration to find that.

From Havana to Portland, we will stand up, and that means ending this cruel blockade now. I will use every tool at my disposal to make this happen, and I am asking every one of my colleagues to join me.

ONE YEAR OF WORKING FAMILIES TAX CUTS

(Mr. MANN of Kansas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, just over a year ago, President Trump signed the Working Families Tax Cuts into law on July 4, 2025.

One year later, the results are clear. American families are keeping more of the money they earn. Businesses are investing. Farmers and ranchers have stronger risk management tools, and our Nation is once again putting American workers first.

Our legislation prevented the largest tax increase in American history and made President Trump's 2017 tax cuts permanent.

During the most recent filing season, 97 percent of taxpayers received a tax cut, and \$82 billion was returned directly to the American people. Nearly 70 percent of those receiving relief earned less than \$100,000.

This law was written for working families, small businesses, seniors, farmers, ranchers, and Americans who get up every morning and work hard to build a better life.

More than 7.5 million workers claimed the no tax on tips deduction. More than 29 million claimed no tax on overtime. Nearly 40 million families claimed the enhanced child tax credit, and more than 35 million seniors benefited from the enhanced deduction for seniors.

These are real savings for Americans buying groceries, paying rent, putting gas in the car, and raising a family.

The Working Families Tax Cuts also delivered for Kansas agriculture. I called this legislation farm bill 1.0 because it strengthened the farm safety net and gave family farms more options to invest in their operations and keep their agricultural assets in the family.

It expanded access to affordable crop insurance, improved risk management tools for livestock producers and specialty crop growers, strengthened disaster and conservation programs, and

provided immediate tax relief for farmers, ranchers, and small rural businesses.

It also significantly increased the death tax exemption, protecting nearly 2 million family farms and helping ensure that land, livestock, and operations can be passed from one generation to the next.

In the Big First district, agriculture is our way of life. Producers face unpredictable weather, volatile markets, and rising input costs. They deserve certainty from Washington, not higher taxes and more red tape.

This law also made historic investments in rural America by creating the Rural Health Transformation Program and providing \$50 billion over 5 years to improve rural healthcare access in places like the Big First district of Kansas.

The bill also supported President Trump's work to secure our border and restore integrity to Federal programs. American taxpayers should not be forced to fund benefits for people who enter our country illegally. The Working Families Tax Cuts helps ensure that Medicaid and SNAP resources serve eligible, working Americans while supporting the men and women serving our communities and enforcing our laws.

Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago, President Trump and congressional Republicans made a commitment to working families. We promised lower taxes, a stronger economy, support for rural America, and policies that put American citizens first.

Mr. Speaker, 1 year later, Americans are seeing the benefits. The Working Families Tax Cuts are helping families keep more of their money, protecting family farms, strengthening rural communities, and creating greater opportunity across our country. Promises made. Promises kept.

HONORING MS. YOLANDA JACKSON

(Ms. SEWELL of Alabama was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend and extraordinary woman of faith, and a living testament to courage and resilience: Ms. Yolanda Jackson.

This week, the O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham will present Yolanda with its Iron Strong Award for her courageous battle with breast cancer. I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this recognition.

I have known Yolanda for more than 20 years. We became fast friends as neighbors in 2005, after we moved into the same apartment complex in Birmingham, Alabama. But our connection actually began years earlier. While working as a human resource consultant for the city of Selma in the early nineties, Yolanda became known to my mother, Nancy Gardner Sewell—Selma's first Black city council-

woman—and she adored Yolanda. It was a wonderful reminder of how small and how special our Alabama family can be.

Over the past two decades, we have celebrated life's blessings together, and we stood beside one another through some of life's toughest moments. Yolanda has been there for me, just as I try to be there for her, and I am extraordinarily grateful for her friendship. My life is richer because she is in it.

Not long after moving to Birmingham in 2005, Yolanda was diagnosed with breast cancer. She would go on to face two more cancer diagnoses in 2022 and again in 2024—three cancer diagnoses, three difficult battles, and three remarkable victories.

Throughout every step of that journey, Yolanda received exceptional care from the physicians, nurses, and staff at the O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at UAB. Her final treatment was in October of 2025. Her treatment was a success. Today, I am grateful to say that she remains in remission.

When you ask Yolanda where she finds her strength, her answer is simple: her faith. She believes that even at our hardest moments, God is at work, and that through suffering, he walks beside us, gives us strength to endure, and uses our trials to shape our character, deepen our faith, and make us into the people he wants us to be.

Yolanda has lived that belief every day of her life. She encourages everyone facing cancer to hold on to hope, to stay positive, and never stop fighting. She believes we all need someone to love, something to look forward to, and something to live for.

For Yolanda, that purpose shines brightest through her beautiful family. In 2019, she welcomed and adopted two precious twin boys, Ayden and Jayden, into her life. Last year, she opened her heart again by adopting their younger brother, Kyrie. Those three boys are truly blessed to have such a loving, faithful, and determined mom.

Today, we celebrate Yolanda. We also celebrate the extraordinary work of the O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at UAB. Their groundbreaking research, innovative treatments, and compassionate care have transformed countless lives, and Yolanda's story is a powerful testament to their mission.

Today, we celebrate an iron strong survivor, my dear friend Yolanda Jackson. More than that, we celebrate an iron strong woman, a faithful servant, a devoted mother, loyal friend, and an inspiration to everyone blessed enough to know her.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Yolanda on this well-deserved honor. Her courage, her faith, and her unwavering hope inspires everyone who has been privileged to know her.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Ms. Yolanda Jackson and wishing her beautiful family many years of continued health,

happiness, and God's abundant blessings. I love you, Yolanda.

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LEGACY OF AMERICAN LIBERTY

(Mr. MCGUIRE of Virginia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MCGUIRE. Mr. Speaker, imagine riding 40 miles through dark Virginia woods to save the American Revolution.

In June 1781, militia Captain Jack Jouett did just that, galloping from Louisa County in the Fifth District to Monticello, also in the Fifth District, to warn Governor Thomas Jefferson of an impending British capture. Jouett's warning saved Jefferson and the general assembly in Charlottesville, preserving our young Nation's leadership.

These heroes are deeply tied to Virginia's historic Fifth Congressional District, which still includes Albemarle and Louisa County today.

In 1789, the Fifth District hosted a legendary race: James Madison, the father of the Constitution, campaigned against his friend and neighbor, James Monroe, the Revolutionary War veteran who was the father of the Monroe Doctrine. Madison won, becoming Virginia Fifth District's very first Representative.

From Jack Jouett's courage to the vision of three Presidents, the legacy of American liberty was forged right here in Virginia's Fifth Congressional District.

A REMARKABLE FOUNDING STORY

Mr. MCGUIRE. Mr. Speaker, Virginia's Fifth can tell one remarkable founding story through four names.

Thomas Jefferson gave the Nation its words in the Declaration of Independence and served as Virginia's wartime Governor and our third President. He left this district with Monticello and the University of Virginia.

James Madison gave those words structure, helping shape the Constitution and Bill of Rights. Though Montpelier now sits just outside today's Fifth, his work still lives in Charlottesville through the university he helped build and lead.

James Monroe was a soldier, diplomat, Governor, and the fifth President. He gave us the Monroe Doctrine, and he carried that work forward from his Albemarle home, Highland.

Jack Jouett rode through the night from Louisa to Charlottesville to warn Jefferson and save Virginia's leadership from capture.

Together, these Virginians helped write, defend, and steady the American experiment.

IT BEGAN WITH THOMAS JEFFERSON

Mr. MCGUIRE. Mr. Speaker, Virginia's Fifth Congressional District began with Thomas Jefferson. He gave independence its voice as the principal author of the Declaration, then helped secure liberty again through the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom

and the founding of the University of Virginia.

Beside him stood James Madison, Jefferson's close collaborator and the Nation's constitutional architect. Known as the father of the Constitution, Madison helped win ratification through the Federalist Papers and then steered the Bill of Rights through Congress.

James Monroe carried that Virginia legacy from soldier to statesman. A Continental Army veteran, he later helped to negotiate the Louisiana Purchase, presided over the Era of Good Feelings, and gave American diplomacy a landmark win in the Monroe Doctrine.

Connecting them all is militia Captain Jack Jouett, whose overnight warning in 1781 helped Jefferson and Virginia leaders escape British capture, protecting the cause these Founders were still building.

CUBAN BLOCKADE IS INHUMANE

(Mr. POCAN of Wisconsin was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I just got back from a fact-finding trip to Cuba a week ago after having visited the country 30 years ago and 3½ years ago, as well. Let me tell you what I found on this trip.

The United States' blockade of Cuba is crushing the Cuban people. We are hurting the very people who we profess to care about, and we are not doing so for national security reasons but for political reasons.

Here is what I saw. Our blockade is inhumane. Food, medicine, fuel for energy, literally everything you need to live and thrive, is blocked by us. It is not just us. We forced the world into an involuntary global blockade, as well, as we will punish anyone who does business with these sanctions.

Our boot is on the throats of the Cuban people after over 65 years of blockading their government. The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result. Our punishing of the people of Cuba has not brought the regime change that some politicians want, but we are pushing our boot harder onto the necks of the people. Insanity.

Mr. Speaker, we had a period of time of lifting the restrictions under Barack Obama. Guess what. Americans visited Cuba. The people of the country thrived and loved our country, and America was no less safe.

All of that got taken away by Donald Trump. In fact, we didn't just go back to the same old repression. Instead, we went to new levels of sadism against the Cuban people. Ships can't bring supplies due to our blockade. Goods can't be exchanged with the Cuban people because of our blockade. Medicine—even in war, we allow medicine through. Medicine and medical parts can't get to the Cuban people due to our blockade.

Cuba is a nation that trains doctors who serve around the world, especially in Central and South America. Yet, in Cuban hospitals, MRI and CAT scan machines sit idly because they can't get the parts they need to fix them. I have seen it with my own eyes.

The infant mortality rate has doubled due to the tightening of the blockade. Nearly 14,000 kids and 100,000 adults are waiting for surgeries.

When the power goes out, which it does quite often due to our oil ban, surgeons finish surgeries with the light from their cell phones because of our blockade.

In fact, while I was there, the power went out across the country for the second time that week: 42 hours down, then 1½ hours of power, and then a shutdown again. Garbage is lining the streets because garbage trucks can't pick up trash, causing additional health hazards.

We say that we want to transform the country with a more robust private sector, yet we make it harder for small businesses to open and thrive. I have talked to small business owners there, one who went from 400 employees to 12 due to our blockade. The government in Cuba announced 176 reforms for helping private businesses, but our government refuses to acknowledge a single one. Bluntly, the U.S. Government is lying to the American people about Cuba.

I met with some ambassadors from other countries, and one thing really stuck. One said that it was like a silent Gaza. No, there aren't bombs destroying buildings and neighborhoods, but there is a destruction of the power system. There is a devastation to their healthcare system. There is an attack on their ability to educate their children.

The people of Cuba are hurting economically more than ever, all due to the U.S. sanctions and blockade, not because of the Cuban Government.

Mr. Speaker, their governing system certainly isn't ours. We disagree with some of their actions, for sure. Unfortunately, Secretary of State Marco Rubio is making this personal and political rather than about the best interests of the United States.

The State Department just published a ridiculous report about the threat to America from Cuba. It may be the stupidest, most fantastical, most biased thing I have ever read from a government agency. Enough.

The people of America are tired of war and regime change. We want things in our country addressed, like being able to make a good wage and have groceries, healthcare, and gas be more affordable. Yet, starting another conflict while in a quagmire in Iran is the last thing we need.

We don't want another Gaza in Cuba. We need to end the blockade.