

just 18 years old as a detention officer and ascended the ranks to deputy sheriff earlier this year.

Erika lived a life of service and embodied the values of courage, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to protecting others.

On behalf of the Texas Eighth Congressional District, I am grateful for all that Erika did to protect the citizens of Montgomery County.

As our community grapples with the immeasurable loss, my prayers are with the family, friends, and the entire Montgomery County Sheriff's Office during this difficult time.

May Erika rest in peace.

HONORING CARL KUNASEK

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

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Carl Kunasek, a devoted Arizonan who passed away this week at the age of 94.

Carl, an Air Force veteran, came to Arizona in 1959. He opened a pharmacy in Mesa. When his families couldn't afford medicine for a sick child, he let them sign the book, and he would have them pay him later. To the people who lived there, he was a hero.

That same spirit carried him into public service. He served in the Arizona House, Arizona Senate, and on the Corporation Commission. He helped design AHCCCS, our State's Medicaid program, finding a made-in-Arizona solution to make sure lower income families could get the care they needed.

As Arizona Senate president, he presided over the difficult impeachment trial of a Governor of his own party. He did not want that duty, but he believed the Constitution left him no choice, and he did it with fairness. It cost him his seat, but he did it anyway.

Carl Kunasek did not see party first. He saw people. We would do well to remember his example.

My thoughts are with his wife, Karen, and his children, both of whom followed him into public service actions.

PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH

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

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for your combat service and my combat service, but, most importantly, the combat service of those currently on the front line.

As a 20-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force and a colonel, I respect America's strength and that it starts at home.

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2027 has been delivered in a bipartisan way, and I am proud to share that the NDAA passed yesterday with eight of my amendments, one of the

most of any Member of Congress, and in a bipartisan fashion.

They included enhancing our Air National Guard capabilities, countering Chinese aggression, rebuilding our defense arsenal, supporting our servicemembers' health, pay, and support increases for our veterans and our members.

However, I am most proud of my amendment No. 930, which directs the Air Force to identify bases that already have runways and technical expertise to support the next generation of aircraft but currently lack a permanent flying mission.

The 132nd Fighter Wing in Des Moines is a perfect example. The 132nd has a proud history as the premier flying unit in our Nation's history for F-16s, both training and operational.

Together, the F-16 and the 132nd have built a world-class drone, cyber, and intelligence operation mission while still having access to a fully operational runway. This gives the 132nd a rare winning combination of top-tier expertise, a secure facility, and an active runway.

I thank all of my friends at the Iowa Air National Guard.

CELEBRATING DORETHEA BRANCH ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the remarkable life of Dorethea Branch of La Grange, North Carolina, who recently celebrated her 100th birthday.

She has lived a life defined by faith, service, and a steadfast commitment to her community.

As a social worker, educator, businessowner, and civic leader, she broke barriers, including becoming the first African-American member of the board of trustees at UNC Health Lenoir.

Through decades of volunteer service and leadership, she strengthened lives and opened doors for others.

I wish Dorethea Branch a joyful 100th birthday and thank her for a century of faith, love, and service that continues to inspire eastern North Carolina and our Nation.

RECOGNIZING COAST GUARD PORT SECURITY UNIT 308

(Mr. EZELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EZELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding men and women of the United States Coast Guard Port Security Unit 308, proudly headquartered in Pascagoula, Mississippi, for receiving the Rear Admiral Bennett "Bud" Sparks Award, one of the highest honors bestowed upon the Coast Guard Reserve unit.

This prestigious award recognizes excellence and operational readiness, re-

serve integration, and mission performance. PSU 308 has more than earned this distinction.

Over the past year, these citizen servicemembers supported critical missions across the Indo-Pacific, became the first Coast Guard Reserve unit to execute back-to-back embarked security deployments aboard Military Sealift Command vessels, and deployed within 48 hours to help secure our Nation's southern maritime border during Operation River Wall.

They also conducted hundreds of patrols while maintaining an excellent reserve readiness rate of nearly 97 percent.

These achievements reflect the professionalism, discipline, and unwavering commitment of the men and women who balance civilian careers with answering our Nation's call whenever duty requires.

As chairman of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee, I know firsthand the vital role that our Coast Guard plays in protecting America's maritime interests. The members of PSU 308 embody the Coast Guard motto of *semper paratus*, always ready.

To the servicemembers of Port Security Unit 308 and their families, I thank them for their sacrifice, their dedication, and their faithful service to our Nation. Mississippi is proud of them, and so is the United States of America.

HONORING JACK PERME

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

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my constituent Jack Perme. I first met Jack several years ago in Westchester, where he was volunteering to help bring clean water to people in need, and that generosity would come to define his life.

Jack began experiencing symptoms of spinocerebellar ataxia as a child. This progressive neurodegenerative disease impaired his coordination, his balance, his speech, and his ability to swallow. It ultimately took his life at just 28 years old.

As the ataxia progressed, Jack had to give up driving and the many hobbies that he loved, including blacksmithing, woodworking, and 3D modeling. Yet, when Jack discovered that he could ride a recumbent bike, he regained a sense of freedom and independence. He immediately set out to share it.

In 2024, Jack founded Moving Forward for Ataxia. He rode thousands of miles, raised more than \$55,000, and provided 17 recumbent bikes to people across the country.

My heart is with Jack's parents, Monica and David; his stepmother, Leslie; his siblings, Grant and Ricky; and everyone who loved him and was touched by his bravery and his generosity.

Jack's message to all of us was very simple: Build connections, be kind, and whatever struggle you face, keep moving forward.

That is exactly what his legacy will help others to do.

HONORING ASSOCIATION OF PACIFIC PORTS

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

Ms. KING-HINDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Association of Pacific Ports and its more than a century of advancing maritime commerce, cooperation, and security across the Pacific.

For Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, our ports are lifelines. They connect our islands to the world and ensure our communities receive the food, fuel, medicine, and supplies we depend on every day.

Before coming to Congress, I had the privilege of serving as the chairperson of the Commonwealth Ports Authority and later as the president of the Association of Pacific Ports. I saw firsthand how collaboration among Pacific ports strengthens our economies, improves resilience, and supports our shared future.

As our Nation increases its focus on the Indo-Pacific, Pacific ports play an increasingly vital role in both economic prosperity and national security.

This August, the association will hold its 112th conference in Guam under the theme *Inafa'maolek: Strengthening our Shared Pacific*, reflecting the enduring value of partnership and mutual respect.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Association of Pacific Ports for its outstanding service and to congratulate its members and this important milestone.

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FREE YA'AKUB IRA VIJANDRE NOW

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, free Ya'akub Ira Vijandre now.

ICE arrested and detained him for exercising his First Amendment rights. They targeted him for speaking out against genocide and standing up for political prisoners.

Ya'akub is a photojournalist who has lived in the United States for 25 years as a Dreamer, as a DACA recipient. He is a first responder and spent a decade working for American Airlines serving on their CARE Team that supports families following plane crashes.

When the helicopter crashed into a plane in D.C., right here, Ya'akub was

there to support grieving families. When Texas experienced the deadliest flood in recent history, Ya'akub volunteered to bring emergency aid to victims.

Now it is our turn to be there for Ya'akub. They are trying to deport him over liking social media posts. Why? Because he wants to save lives no matter faith or ethnicity.

This should frighten all of us. The Trump administration is terrorizing immigrants who disagree with them and targeting political dissent in our country.

We must speak out. We must free Ya'akub now.

SALUTING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF KELLY'S SEA LEVEL

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, today I want to salute the 50th anniversary celebration of an institution in my home community of Rye, Kelly's Sea Level.

A big shindig is planned for the month of August, a little later on, at this iconic restaurant and bar that has welcomed locals and visitors since 1976.

The McGuire family, Jerry and Martha and their kids, are beloved in the community, and they are at Kelly's most every night with their families and friends watching TV sports, the Yankees, Giants, Rangers, Knicks, even the Mets. They also are outdoors in the fall to watch the Rye Garnets high school football games.

Visiting Kelly's is to be at home. For the long-term locals from Rye, Harrison, Port Chester, Greenwich—the financiers, the college kids home for the holidays, hardworking firefighters, and the occasional Congressman—they all come to Kelly's each week.

We know the menu, the bartenders, the waitstaff, and all of those little things that the locals know, like the two-seat table in the back known as The Oak Room.

It is Jerry and Martha who give Kelly's its heart and soul. We all are amazed that we have reached 50 years.

From the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, we salute the McGuire family and Kelly's Sea Level on its 50th year of serving the thirsty and hungry people of Rye and the surrounding communities.

CELEBRATING OPENING OF GORDIE HOWE BRIDGE

(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, this coming Monday morning, July 27, in the heart of the largest freshwater endowment on Earth, the Great Lakes, the iconic \$6 billion Gordie Howe bridge between Windsor, Ontario, and Detroit, Michigan, will officially open.

This magnificent suspension bridge, built totally with Canadian financing, coupled with the might of American union muscle, will usher in a new horizon for our international and connected economies and freshwater kingdom. This achievement will lift up our industrial and agricultural nations to new possibilities.

As with President Dwight D. Eisenhower's visionary construction of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System following World War II that connected our distant heartland region to the Atlantic Ocean through Canada, this singularly masterful achievement will propel economic growth in long-neglected corridors as multi-transport by rail, air, sea, and land are reimaged and joined.

I implore the President of our country and his coastal advisers to see the Great Lakes nation as a long-ignored bastion. Don't put more tariffs on us. Help us build our economy forward in the most sustainable region on planet Earth.

REMEMBERING ALPHONSO MAYFIELD

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

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of SEIU-FPSU President Alphonso Mayfield, a beloved labor leader and tireless champion across the State of Florida and across the South.

Alphonso was a young, Black labor leader from the South who understood the struggles of working-class families and dedicated his life to advancing economic and social justice.

For more than 25 years with the SEIU, including serving as president since 2010, he fought tirelessly for union members, securing important victories and inspiring countless workers to stand together in solidarity. He understood that the true power of our communities rests in the hands of working people united with a common purpose.

Alphonso led with love and an unwavering commitment that rests in the hands of working people.

As we mourn his loss, we must also honor his legacy by continuing the work that he dedicated his life to.

My deep condolences to his family and all touched by his leadership.

May his memory continue to be a blessing, and may his vision continue to guide us forward.

SNAP ASSISTANCE RIPPED AWAY

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

Mr. AMO. Mr. Speaker, the data is in, and Trump's and Republicans' big, ugly law has been disastrous for Americans.

We can now confirm that they have succeeded in ripping food assistance