

As a certified fire investigator, Darren spent years uncovering the truth behind how fires occurred and helping provide answers to families during some of their most difficult moments. Beyond his own investigations, he dedicated himself to training fellow investigators and passing along his knowledge and expertise to the next generation.

Throughout his remarkable career, Darren has demonstrated unwavering patriotism, a deep love for his family, and a strong commitment to his community.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Darren for his service. It will never go unnoticed, and I am proud to have him as part of the great Eighth District of North Carolina and wish him a well-earned retirement.

HUMANITY MATTERS

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

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today after returning this morning from Israel convinced of something simple: We do not have to choose whose humanity matters.

I stood at the Nova Festival site where young people went to dance and 364 never came home.

I walked through Kibbutz Kfar Aza and saw the remains of bloodshed and attacks on peaceful people.

I sat across from people who survived captivity and somehow found the courage to tell us what it means to come home.

Their humanity matters.

I also met World Central Kitchen workers feeding Palestinian families in Gaza, and at Kerem Shalom, I saw the urgent work of getting food and medicine to innocent people trapped in a war they did not choose.

Their humanity matters too.

At Hadassah Medical Center, I saw perhaps the clearest reminder of all: Jewish and Arab doctors and nurses working side by side to save whoever comes through the door, because medicine does not ask who you choose whose life is worth saving. Every life is worth saving and neither should humanity.

We can mourn the victims of October 7 and demand dignity for innocent Palestinians. We can demand security for Israelis and humanitarian relief for Gaza.

When the world asks us to choose whose humanity matters, America should have the answer: Everyone's.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

HONORING DONNA BESLER-TATEM

(Ms. TENNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in loving memory of Donna Besler-Tatem of Canandaigua, New

York, a woman defined by faith, family, compassion, and service.

She led the Care Net Pregnancy Center of Canandaigua, helped to establish a Nowhere to Go program for people experiencing homelessness, supported suicide prevention efforts, and counseled individuals in the Ontario County Jail.

Donna lived with deep faith, love for her family, and compassion for others. She was always warm and welcoming, with a special gift of making people feel seen, heard, and valued.

After losing her beloved son Brennan to suicide, Donna transformed her grief into a mission of hope and compassion.

Family was precious to Donna. She was the loving mother of Ashley, Grant, Luke, and the late Brennan. She cherished her father; her sisters, including Diana, her sister and best friend; and her precious therapy dog, Piper.

In recent years, Donna devoted herself to caring for her beloved mother, who passed away just months ago.

Donna's life reminds us to be kinder, listen longer, judge less, and see the person first. Our Finger Lakes community is better because Donna was a part of it.

May God bless Donna, her family, and all who loved her.

CELEBRATING 901 DAY

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

Mr. COHEN. Today, we celebrate 901 Day—a day to celebrate Memphis, Tennessee, and the people who make the city the great city that it is.

Mr. Speaker, 901 is more than an area code. It represents people who have never been afraid to stand up and demand better.

In 1968, AFSCME sanitation workers in Memphis marched for dignity, fair wages, and the basic right to be treated with respect. Dr. King came to Memphis to stand with those workers and tragically lost his life at that time.

This history reminds us that progress has never simply been given to Memphis. We have fought for it.

Now with the gerrymandered redistricting effort that took away the votes of Black voters and the large-scale ICE raid that was carried out this past weekend, we must fight harder.

Yes, today we celebrate the history, music, culture, and barbecue; but, most importantly, we celebrate the people, the generation of Memphians who refused to accept that things had to stay the way they were. We carry that spirit forward.

Happy 901 Day, Memphis.

CELEBRATING CONSTITUTION DAY

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

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Constitution

Day coming up, commemorating the day our Constitution was signed in Philadelphia.

The Constitution was debated, written, and signed at a fragile moment in our Nation's history. Yet, through the wisdom of our Founders and their unwavering determination to secure liberty for future generations, they produced a document that has stood the test of time.

For nearly two-and-a-half centuries, the Constitution has safeguarded our freedoms, restrained the power of government, and served as an enduring example to people around the world who aspire to liberty and self-government.

This year, we celebrated the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. That remarkable milestone was only possible because generations of Americans have preserved the principles our Founders enshrined in the Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, I am profoundly grateful for those who went before, framed this extraordinary document, and for the liberty it has secured for generations of Americans. I hope it endures another 250 years.

VERMONT AVENUE BUS RAPID TRANSIT

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

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, for far too many Angelenos, a bus ride to work, school, or home takes far too long.

Today, we are changing that. I am proud to announce \$149 million in new Federal funding for L.A.'s busiest bus corridor, through the Vermont Avenue Bus Rapid Transit project.

This investment will serve over 20 million riders a year, cut travel time by 24 percent, and create thousands of good-paying jobs.

Angelenos deserve transit that gets them where they need to go, faster, safer, and on time. This investment is a major step forward to a more connected, affordable, and livable Los Angeles.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF JASON LYNN POTTER

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

Mr. LALOTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jason Lynn Potter for 25 years of outstanding service to our Nation, both in uniform and as a civilian defense leader, and to congratulate him on retirement.

As a distinguished Navy veteran, Jason served aboard USS *Cape St. George* and USS *Rushmore*, and on a Joint Special Operations task force in the Philippines.

Following his military service, he served 10 years as a Senate professional staff member on the Committee on

Armed Services and the Committee on Appropriations, providing oversight of naval shipbuilding and procurement.

Most recently, Jason served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for ship programs and Acting Assistant Secretary of the Navy for research, development, and acquisition, where he drove our fleet's modernization.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House join me in congratulating Mr. Potter as he retires from Federal service. His profound patriotism, excellent leadership, and tireless work ethic leave an enduring legacy that has strengthened our national defense.

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FAILING ECONOMIC POLICIES

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

Ms. MORRISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Minnesotans who continue to be forced to pay for the President's failing economic policies.

President Trump's tariffs have cost Minnesotans alone \$4.8 billion, and for what? For a debunked policy that is raising costs, damaging our economy, and alienating our allies? For taking the American people's money during a cost-of-living crisis to bankroll his corrupt, inexplicable war? Now he is escalating with Canada, of all places, one of our Nation's strongest allies and Minnesota's number one trade partner.

Why would we ever pick a fight with Canada? This will be a disaster for our small businesses, farmers, and every Minnesotan who is going to have to pay higher prices because of tariffs on everything from steel to kitchen appliances to hockey sticks.

We are not powerless, and it begs the question yet again: When will the Republican majority stand up to this President and represent the American people? If Trump won't end this trade war, Congress has to.

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

RECOGNIZING JOE COOPER

(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 recognize Joe Cooper of Springfield, better known to a lot of folks as "Joe the Barber."

Joe has been cutting hair in Springfield since 1970 and has owned Cooper's Clippers since 1983. For five decades, Joe has cut hair. He has cut my hair. He has cut my father's hair. He has cut the hair of nearly everyone I know.

Joe has told jokes. He has told stories. They solve the problems of the world right there in the barber shop, and he has gotten to know generations of Springfield families.

He is also a huge Cardinals fan. Joe has accurately called the Dodgers the best team that money could buy. So if you are a Dodgers fan sitting in his chair, you may want to keep that to yourself until the haircut is finished.

Ask Joe what he will miss most, and his answer is simple: The people.

I congratulate Joe on 56 years behind the chair, and I thank him for being such a memorable part of the Springfield community. I wish him a joyous retirement, and go Cardinals.

CONGRATULATING JOHN AVILA

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate a young constituent, John Avila.

I first met John when he was working toward his bachelor's degree in the prelaw track of New York University. I met him outside of Our Lady of Angels Roman Catholic Church in my district, in the Bronx part of the district.

As a son of Luis and Ivonne Avila, two Ecuadorian immigrants who settled in the Bronx in the 1990s, he said that he noticed disparities around him and believed that a just legal system could help bridge the opportunity gap.

After graduating from NYU, he became a paralegal during COVID and enrolled in New York Law School. Through his hard work, he was able to graduate with his law degree in 2022. He now works at a personal injury firm.

He says that he looks forward to mentoring other aspiring lawyers, especially children of immigrants.

I congratulate John on all of his accomplishments. I know that his family is very proud of him.

REVERSE THE TIRE BAN IN CALIFORNIA

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

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I am calling on Governor Newsom and the California Legislature to reverse the tire ban.

Yes, that is right. In case you didn't hear, California has banned tires, or at least 70 percent of them that don't meet performance standards, under a new mandate, the likes of which exists nowhere else in the country.

So what does this mean? Californians will now be forced to pay hundreds of dollars more by some estimates. Also, these tires are likely to wear out quicker, which means they are going to have to buy more expensive tires, and they are going to have to buy them more often. By the way, there is going to be more waste with the tires that get used, so it is probably bad for the environment, as well.

Mr. Speaker, Californians simply cannot afford this when the cost of liv-

ing in our State is already higher than anywhere else in the country.

When the State tried to ban gas cars without any sort of vote of an elected representative or the voters, we got that reversed through bipartisan legislation here. I am hoping that we can find a way to reverse this, as well.

California needs to stop doing things to make life unaffordable and needs to stop banning things without the vote of any elected representative.

RECOGNIZING AVERILL PARK GOLDEN KNIGHTS

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

Mr. RILEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, when the stakes are highest, that is when upstate New Yorkers' grit and toughness shows the most. Just look at our Averill Park Golden Knights, who brought home both the baseball and softball State championships this year.

The baseball team went into the championship game as underdogs facing an undefeated opponent on a 28-game winning streak, but Coach George Brooks told his team to keep it simple, stay focused, stay disciplined, and that is what they did.

Fred Bornn locked in and threw a complete game shutout, and Jeg Sansone drove in two runs to bring home the title.

Speaking of great coaching, Maria Roberts led the Averill Park softball team to the championship in her very first year on the job. The Golden Knights built an early lead off of Emily Aiossa's three-run homer, but the game was on the line at the top of the sixth with the bases loaded and nobody out and the opponent's top of the order coming up to bat.

Pitcher Abigail Colwill and the Golden Knights defense did what upstate New Yorkers do under pressure: they dug in and got to work. They retired three straight, the last of which was an amazing catch by center fielder Mady Charron.

I congratulate the Averill Park Golden Knights. We are so proud of them, and I am honored to enter their roster into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

RECOGNIZING COMMUNITY HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

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

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Community Housing Improvement Program, or CHIP for short, a nonprofit that is helping working families achieve the American Dream of homeownership across the north State.

I recently visited the community of Orland Park Estates housing project in Glenn County, where eight families received keys to homes they helped build with their own hands.