

this role, she provides support and encouragement to prospective and adoptive families. She has also shared her family's story across numerous television media and speaking platforms, using every opportunity to educate, advocate, and inspire.

Through her platform, Adoption is an Option, Shannon works to increase awareness, encourage families to consider adoption, and advocate for children awaiting permanent loving homes. She believes that every child deserves a true sense of connection, belonging, and the knowledge that they are deeply loved.

By sharing both the beautiful moments and the real challenges of adoption, Shannon has become a champion for children and families across Nebraska and beyond. Her story is a testament to this belief that while adoption begins with a single act of love, its impact echoes for generations.

Shannon and her husband, Kurt, have three children, Seth, Ian, and Nora.

RECOGNIZING SUE MORRIS

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sue Morris, a leader and a true champion of community transformation in Nebraska.

For 25 years as president of Heritage Omaha, she shaped the culture and civic landscape of our region. Under her leadership, the organization realized over \$1 billion of community projects and raised more than \$750 million in private philanthropic funds. From the Holland Performing Art Center and the Joslyn Art Museum to the University of Nebraska Omaha's Baxter Arena and Charles Schwab Field, her work has transformed our community.

Sue's approach to philanthropy is to always focus on stewardship, ethics, and deep community impact. She mastered the art of aligning a donor's unique passion with a meaningful public need, viewing herself not just as a fundraiser but as a facilitator for the common good.

Her recent work represents what she calls the crown jewel of her professional life. As president of the Veterans Trust, Sue spearheaded the development of the new Ambulatory Care Center at the Omaha VA Medical Center, which serves thousands of veterans across Nebraska and western Iowa. The Ambulatory Care Center was the first-of-its-kind public-private partnership under the landmark legislation known as the CHIP-In for Veterans Act, which Sue helped shepherd through Congress. Her efforts on behalf of veterans continue to see the CHIP-In for Veterans Act become the permanent pathway for construction of veterans' healthcare facilities through public-private partnerships.

After leaving Heritage Omaha in 2020, Sue served as an adviser at Nebraska Philanthropic Trust until retiring in July 2026. Today, Sue remains a vital force in our community, driven by a simple and enduring desire to make a positive impact.

HONORING DIANA FLORES

(Mr. VEASEY of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my dear friend, an incredible person in education in Dallas, and that is Diana Flores, a DISD trustee.

After 30 years of hard work and dedication to the community in education, Ms. Flores is the longest-serving member of the Dallas College Board of Trustees. Throughout her tenure, she served numerous roles, including chair of the board from 2018 until 2020 and vice chair on two occasions. Most recently, she chaired the board's education and workforce committee. She has helped to build a connection between higher education and the needs of the North Texas workforce like no other.

During her service, Ms. Flores helped guide Dallas College through periods of tremendous growth, including the 2019 bond program to modernize campuses and expand educational opportunities at El Centro in downtown Dallas.

After three decades, my dear friend, Ms. Flores, retired on August 30, 2026. Diana did so much for our young people in the community, especially her work through LULAC. Her work with scholarships and other merit-based educational programs really are like no other.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Diana on her retirement. I thank her for everything she has done to serve the community, and I wish her well in the next 30 years.

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF VERNELL STURNS

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend and neighbor, Vernell Sturns.

This is a legend right here, Mr. Speaker, someone who rose from Mount Enterprise, Texas, down in the Piney Woods of east Texas, on to KU, part of that tremendous KU background that helped shape the city of Fort Worth.

Vernell Sturns passed away on August 23, 2026, at the age of 86.

Mr. Sturns' life was dedicated to making Fort Worth and north Texas a better place for all. He was the city's first Black assistant city manager and later was acting city manager and chief administrative officer. He was also the CEO of Dallas Fort Worth International Airport, one of our country's busiest and most successful airports, in 1991.

He served in various leadership roles throughout north Texas, including as a trustee of TCU and later on the board of trustees at Jarvis Christian College near east Texas, where he was from.

Mr. Sturns was also a force of the Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce in Fort Worth and so many other organizations.

Vernell's life touched so many people throughout Fort Worth, and I would not have time to list all of them here.

To his wife, Debra; his children, Michael, Robert, Paula, and Chris; and his grandchildren, I send my sincerest condolences. Their dad and their grandfather was an amazing man whose legacy will live forever.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FORT WORTH CIVIL RIGHTS AND COMMUNITY ADVOCATE JOHNNY LEWIS

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, this is very sad for me.

I rise today to honor a good friend of mine who was a community leader in Southeast Fort Worth and the Southside, Johnny Lewis.

Johnny was just an incredible person who loved the community. Raised in Historic Southside of Fort Worth, Johnny Lewis dedicated his life to improving opportunities for others as vice president of the Historic Southside neighborhood.

Johnny was from Georgia, but he loved the Southside of Fort Worth and lived there for more than 50 years. He worked hard to make sure that there was quality economic development, worked hard to make sure that the youngsters weren't getting in trouble, worked hard to do things about crime in the community, and was really on the front line of so many.

He and his wife, Shirley, who preceded him in death, were just absolutely amazing people who loved Fort Worth, and you can see their influence with the monuments and the various edifices along Evans Avenue and East Rosedale and Terrell Avenue, where they lived and made a difference.

Johnny was an amazing person who served our country in the military, and his entire family, his daughter, his brother, his nieces—that entire family is incredible, and we want to keep them in prayer because we know that Johnny is going to be someone who is missed in that family for a long time to come, as he will be missed in our community.

RECOGNIZING MARY ANN KELLAM

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my dear friend Mary Ann Kellam, who served 12 incredible years at the Irving Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. She did so much to make sure that the Chamber was in tip-top shape, and the Chamber received so many awards. I hate that I was unable to make Mary Ann's retirement party, but she is going to be missed. She was an incredible person.

CHOICE BEFORE OUR COUNTRY

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, there is a fundamental choice before our country today: Do we trust the American people, or do we trust Big Government?

Conservatives believe that freedom grows when the American Government gets out of the way. We believe in rewarding hard work, protecting free speech, securing our borders, lowering taxes, giving parents autonomy, and creating an economy where Americans can build, grow, and prosper.

The Democratic Party is moving in the opposite direction. Socialism was once dismissed as a fringe movement in American politics. Today, its ideas are increasingly becoming the agenda of the Democratic Party: bigger government, higher taxes, more spending, and more control over the daily lives of Americans.

Their own DSA movement openly calls for extending voting rights to noncitizens. Meanwhile, Democrats in Congress continue to oppose common-sense election safeguards, like the SAVE America Act, even though more than 80 percent of Americans support requiring identification to vote. That tells you everything you need to know about the competing visions before us.

Republicans believe that American elections should be decided by American citizens. We believe taxpayers' dollars should serve hardworking American families and not pay for gender transition surgeries for people who entered our country illegally. We believe that Americans should keep more of what they earn. We believe a sovereign country must have a secure border.

President Biden and congressional Democrats gave us 4 years of chaos at our southern border. President Trump and House Republicans proved that chaos was a policy choice. We enforced the law, secured the border, and restored common sense.

There is an inverse relationship between the size of government and the freedom of its people. Democrats want to grow government and shrink freedom. Congressional Republicans want to shrink the reach of government and grow individual freedom. That is the choice before this country: government control or individual liberty, dependence or opportunity, socialism or free markets, crazy or common sense.

I know which side I am on.

FAREWELL TEL

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dedicated public servant, a trusted member of my team, and a good friend, Tel Wittmer, as he concludes 3½ years of service to the people of the Big First District.

Tel is a Kansan through and through. He grew up in Holton, graduated from K-State, and, like me, had the privilege of serving as student body president at K-State.

From the beginning, I knew that Tel understood that leadership is ultimately about service. Tel first joined my office in Washington, where he quickly became someone who I trusted with some of the most difficult issues before the Congress. He brought tremendous thoughtfulness to his work as a legislative assistant, but he also brought personality and joy to the office.

My Washington, D.C., staff was incredibly sad to see him leave the Capitol when he and his wife, Madelyn, moved home to Kansas last February.

Fortunately for us, Tel was not leaving the team. He moved to Wamego and

took on the responsibility of serving as my district director. Over the last 1½ years, Kansans across the Big First have gotten to know the same Tel who we knew in Washington.

His thoughtfulness is apparent to everyone he meets. He listens carefully, treats people with respect, and approaches every conversation with a sincere desire to help. He has represented me and his office extremely well, and now my district staff feels the same way that my D.C. staff did when he left Washington. They are going to miss him tremendously, just as I will.

However, the things I admire most about Tel go way beyond his work. He is a man of strong faith, a leader in his community, a devoted husband to Madelyn, and now a great father to their young daughter, Eve.

I thank Tel for the 3½ years that he has given the people of Kansas. I thank him for his friendship, his counsel, his leadership, and the care he has shown to every Kansan who walked through the door.

While we will miss having Tel on our team, I am grateful that he will continue serving our great State in a new capacity. I know that God has great things ahead for Tel, Madelyn, and Eve, and I look forward to watching the next chapter unfold.

May God bless Tel, and I thank him for his service to the Big First.

EXPANDING SCOTUS

(Ms. MEJIA of New Jersey was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. MEJIA. Mr. Speaker, our forefathers showed tremendous wisdom at the founding of our Nation. They created a republic based on democratic values but remained keenly aware of the danger power, ambition, and corruption could present to future generations.

Today, House Republicans are asking Congress to surrender its power, a power that rightfully belongs to the American people.

Our Founding Fathers gave Congress countervailing power to the executive, which this ideologically captured Court is actively attempting to upend. That is disgraceful, and if we do not forcefully push back, it will not end.

Expanding the Court is one of the clearest tools we have to restore its integrity. Ethics reforms and staggered term limits would prevent any single President from stripping the American people of our democracy.

Every day we let this administration tighten its grip on our highest court of the land puts every single constitutional protection we enjoy at risk.

I did not come to Congress to watch our democracy get dismantled in silence. I will not watch it happen now.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to gather the intestinal fortitude to do what is right in this moment because history and the American people are watching.

RECOGNIZING NIHEEMA MALLOY

Ms. MEJIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the leadership of Niheema Malloy, the first woman and the first Black woman to serve as chief of police in Maplewood, New Jersey.

Chief Malloy was appointed to this position with over 25 years of law enforcement experience. Under her leadership, Maplewood would have a department built on community partnership, officers trained in de-escalation, in crisis response, and in listening before a crisis ever happens.

Chief Malloy is committed to putting Maplewood first by ensuring that community safety and protection go hand in hand with the well-being of our residents.

New Jersey is proud of Chief Niheema Malloy. Her leadership reflects the very best of our communities, and I thank her for her remarkable service.

CONGRATULATING MAJOR GENERAL
CHRISTOPHER D. SCHNEIDER

Ms. MEJIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Major General Christopher D. Schneider for his new role as the commanding general of Picatinny Arsenal in addition to serving as the portfolio acquisition executive for agile sustainment and ammunition.

General Schneider brings to this role more than three decades of distinguished service to our Nation. A graduate of the United States Military Academy, he began his career as an infantry officer, serving with the 1st Infantry Division, the 18th Airborne Corps, and the 82nd Airborne Division. Also, he served with the 75th Ranger Regiment, with deployments to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Iraq, and Afghanistan. He later transitioned to the Army Acquisition Corps, where he held senior leadership positions focused on strengthening our Nation's military capabilities and advancing critical technologies.

As commanding general of Picatinny Arsenal, General Schneider takes on an important responsibility for the U.S. Army and will be supported by one of the most talented and hardworking workforces in the Army right here in New Jersey's 11th Congressional District.

I congratulate General Schneider on his new role and look forward to working with him to support Picatinny Arsenal, its workforce, and our national security.

I welcome General Schneider to Picatinny and thank him for his service to our country.

HONORING TRADITION OF WAYNE COUNTY FAIR

(Mr. MILLER of Ohio was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the treasured northeast Ohio tradition in Ohio's Seventh Congressional District, the Wayne County Fair.

It is the largest junior fair in the State, with more than 7,800 junior fair