

entries. In a State with 88 counties, that ranking speaks for itself. In a county of just 116,000 residents, the fair welcomes over 150,000 visitors each year. This displays just how central agriculture truly is to our community in Ohio.

The first two lines of motto of the Future Farmers of America, also known as the FFA, are: Learning to Do, Doing to Learn.

I believe this perfectly captures the spirit of our 4-H and FFA youth here in Ohio. These students are up before sunrise, feeding their livestock before school. They communicate the importance of agriculture with pride. They act with integrity even when no one is watching. They consistently exemplify the grit, determination, and character that will make them the leaders of tomorrow.

Behind them stands a remarkable community. This year alone, the junior fair auction exceeded \$2 million, a testament to the families, businesses, and neighbors who invest in these students and believe in their future.

The Wayne County Fair is more than an event. It is a tradition. It is a classroom, and it is a way of life for us in the Seventh District of Ohio. I couldn't be more honored to represent the students, families, volunteers, and community who make this fair what it is.

The Wayne County Fair reflects the very best of the American spirit: hard work, responsibility, community, and a commitment to the next generation.

When I see the young people of Wayne County carrying those values forward, I have great confidence in the future of American agriculture and the next generation of leaders who will carry it forward.

PRIORITIZING BASICS IN PUERTO RICO

(Mr. HERNÁNDEZ of Puerto Rico was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Speaker, the people of Puerto Rico want us to prioritize the basics of water and energy, and to fight corruption.

Last year in this Congress, I denounced alleged irregularities in the procurement process for an emergency energy generation contract.

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That concern was bipartisan. Former Congressman Mark Green and I co-signed a letter asking questions that weren't answered.

It turns out those concerns were warranted.

Let's take a cold look at the facts. On August 28, 2025, last year, Power Expectations and Reyes Contractor won a \$5.9 billion contract for temporary energy generation in Puerto Rico. But Power Expectations and Reyes Contractor didn't have the required expertise or financial capacity to perform the contract. The government agency in charge of procurement essentially

told them: find a partner who does, create a consortium, and then you have a deal.

Eventually Power Expectations and Reyes Contractor found Enchanted Rock. A person called Jhoby Weak, COO of Caribbean Operations, signed the contract on Enchanted Rock's behalf.

The oversight board, which must authorize contracts over \$10 million, approved the contract. Everyone was happy. Puerto Rico would have emergency energy generation in time for the summer peak.

The happiness didn't last. It turns out, Enchanted Rock had warned the government that there was a mistake: that they didn't sign the contract, that Jhoby Weak was not an Enchanted Rock employee, and that the position of COO for Caribbean Operations did not even exist within their company.

Apparently, someone forged the firm's signature.

But it gets worse. Before the alleged forgery, Enchanted Rock got a letter from a law firm. They claim the letter attempted to blackmail them, and when they replied, the law firm denied having sent that letter. The firm denied having ever represented Power Expectations or Reyes Contractor. Apparently, someone forged the law firm's letter.

Enchanted Rock informed the Government of Puerto Rico even before the contract was executed. You would expect that after all these irregularities, the relevant government agencies would have responded decisively, that they would have rescinded the contract, that they would have reported the fraud. But they didn't. Instead, they went and substituted Enchanted Rock with another company through an assumption and assignment agreement.

Nearly 2 months later, someone blew the whistle. An investigative journalist broke the news. Someone forged a signature in a \$5.9 billion energy contract.

The government knew, and the government hid it from the public, hid it from the oversight board, and hid it from the power authority.

When the oversight board found out, they canceled the contract. Under public pressure, the government referred the matter to law enforcement—again, 2 months late.

The people of Puerto Rico deserve answers and accountability.

Congress, which has assigned \$17 billion for Puerto Rico's energy grid, deserves answers and accountability. What did the Government of Puerto Rico know? When did the government know it? Why did the government hide it? Was it corruption, incompetence, or both?

This scandal has direct consequences over the people. There are power outages because we don't have emergency energy generation.

As the people of Puerto Rico's Representative in Congress, I want to emphasize the following: The vast major-

ity of Puerto Ricans are neither corrupt nor incompetent. Like the vast majority of American citizens and Members of Congress, we detest corruption, and we stand up to it.

I urge my colleagues to join me in this crusade of good government. Let's ask the questions and demand the answers. Let's work together to hold the crooks accountable, to fix the basics, and turn the lights back on in Puerto Rico.

HONORING BILL DOBA

(Mr. BAUMGARTNER of Washington was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a legend in Washington State University Cougars' athletics, former head football coach, Bill Doba, who passed away last week at the age of 85.

Bill was a great man and a great football coach, a longtime defensive coordinator, and 5-year head coach for the Cougars from 2003 to 2007. In all, he worked 19 seasons at WSU and was the lead architect of the renowned Palouse Posse defense, which led the country in 1994.

Bill was also a very devoted husband. Many knew of his lifetime romance with his wonderful wife, Judy. Judy herself was a great woman. I knew her personally when she volunteered frequently in my mother's kindergarten classroom at Franklin Elementary.

Bill Doba left a great impact on the entire State of Washington and the Pullman community, and he is remembered fondly.

Given that this is Apple Cup week, Mr. Speaker, I think it is also worth noting that Coach Bill Doba had a winning record against the Huskies and gave them a spanking in his last Apple Cup.

Rest in peace, Bill Doba, and thank you for all you have done for Cougar nation.

HONORING WALT WORTHY

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great member of the Spokane community, Mr. Walt Worthy. Many people know Walt and his wonderful wife, Karen, for their tremendous work to revitalize the Dav- enport Hotel. Today, I honor Walt for his extremely generous establishment of the Karen Worthy Memorial Wildfire Grant that will fund personal \$10,000 donations to victims of the Spokane fires.

In total, his generous donation could approach beyond \$5 million, perhaps even \$10 million, depending on how many fire victims are deemed eligible. It was only fitting that this announcement was made at Balboa Elementary School in the neighborhood of the fires and named in honor of his beloved wife, Karen. Karen taught first grade at Balboa Elementary School for nearly 20 years as Walt transitioned from his career as a survival specialist with the United States Air Force into a career as a builder and a developer.

I thank Walt Worthy for his generosity to the victims of these terrible fires. I thank him for all he has done for Washington State, our Spokane community, and indeed these United States of America. I am pleased to share his lifetime romance in memory of Karen here on the floor of Congress.

HONORING AMBASSADOR TIMOTHY CARNEY

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great patriot, a friend, and a giant of American diplomacy, Ambassador Tim Carney, who passed away earlier this month after a long fight with cancer.

Ambassador Carney was the 14th United States Ambassador to Sudan and the 45th United States Ambassador to Haiti.

I got to know Ambassador Carney during my year at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad during the Iraq surge where we worked closely together on issues related to Baghdad.

Ambassador Carney is one of those Americans that you read about in storybooks: an adventurer, a scholar, and indeed, truly a diplomat.

His wife, Vicki Butler, is equally amazing. Vicki came from a prominent Spokane family. They met in Southeast Asia and had a patriotic romance that spanned the globe and made a lasting impact on Washington State and the United States of America.

When Tim finished his diplomatic career, he came back to Spokane with Vicki and served as a very important director of our museum of arts and culture, helping bridge a challenging period in that institution's time.

I remember Tim fondly. Here in this photo you can see Tim and Vicki with me and my wife, Eleanor, and I look to them as an inspiration in my own romance with my wonderful wife.

Tim, you will not be forgotten. Vicki, you are loved, and we thank both of you for your tremendous impact on these United States of America.

MAIL BALLOT WHISTLEBLOWER

(Mr. MAGAZINER of Rhode Island was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to a plot that threatens to undermine the security of the upcoming elections.

A whistleblower has revealed that the Trump administration has directed the United States Postal Service to secretly build an untested, illegal system to intercept mail ballots on their way to State election administrators. It is a system that will disenfranchise thousands of American citizens and throw the November elections into chaos.

The whistleblower reports that under this new system, the Trump administration is building their own list of who they think should be eligible to vote, and Postal Service workers will be required to scan bar codes on ballots to see if the voter appears on the Trump administration's list, a list that has not been made publicly available.

They admit that it exists, but they have not shown the list to the public.

If just one bar code on just one ballot does not match a name on this secret list, then the whole batch of ballots numbering as many as 10,000 will not be delivered to the States to be counted.

Think about that. Do we really trust the Trump administration's secret list of who they think should be eligible to vote? And if one ballot is found not to match, should thousands of others also be seized? They are launching this system with no testing at all and with no time to identify and fix the bugs in the system.

That is to say nothing of the fact that they are doing this illegally. They have defied multiple court orders telling them to stop.

This secret system that they are forcing on the American people without the consent of Congress threatens to throw our elections into chaos. But the chaos is the point.

President Trump knows Republicans can't win the midterm elections on the merits—not with this economy, not with these tariffs, not with this war.

The Republicans have given up on trying to earn the votes of most Americans, and instead, they are trying to ensure that votes do not get counted, unless the voters are on their secret list.

Vote by mail is how millions of Americans, especially seniors, exercise their right to vote. President Trump even voted by mail himself just last month.

There is no evidence of widespread voter fraud in American elections. We must ensure our elections are secure, and I am open to working with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do that, but launching an untested, illegal, last-minute system that can silently wipe out thousands of legitimate ballots is a recipe for disaster.

I am joining a number of our colleagues in filing an amicus brief to stop this half-baked and dangerous attempt to interfere with American elections.

When Democrats take back the majority, we will end this nonsense. We will fight for every Americans' right to vote and defend our democracy from those who seek to undermine it from within.

IRAN WAR

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, the President's unnecessary war in Iran has now lasted 6 months with no end in sight. Mr. Speaker, 18 American servicemembers are dead. Countless civilians, including 100 children, have been bombed in their school.

This war has now cost \$100 billion and counting. Think of what we could have done instead with \$100 billion. We could have built 1 million new affordable homes for Americans. We could have repaired 80,000 bridges, made insulin free for every American who needs it, and given a \$1,000 tax cut to every middle-class family. Instead, we are wasting this money on a completely unnecessary war with no end in sight.

Because of this stupid war, the Strait of Hormuz is closed, and the cost of gas is skyrocketing. There has been a 40 percent increase since before the war began. The average American has paid \$500 more for gas in the last 6 months than they would have if the President had never bungled us into this stupid and unnecessary war.

To make it all worse, our top military leaders are sounding the alarm that we are depleting our munitions to the point that it has made us more vulnerable and less safe than we were before.

The American people are tired of politicians sending other people's kids to fight and die in unnecessary wars in the Middle East.

The President promised people that he would be different, but he is not. This is just another unnecessary war with no plan and no regard for what the American people actually need.

HONORING WORK OF WARRIOR HEALING CENTER

(Mr. CISCOMANI of Arizona was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of the Warrior Healing Center in Sierra Vista, Arizona.

The Warrior Healing Center, which I was honored to visit earlier this year, is a pillar of the local veteran community. The center provides community and peer support to veterans throughout Sierra Vista with the goal of eliminating veteran suicide throughout Cochise County.

The Warrior Healing Center cares for those who have served through crisis intervention, command and control, and a one-stop shop with several veteran organizations under the same roof.

The center's dedicated work ensures that local veterans have access to the resources and the tools that they need to thrive.

Veterans who come to the Warrior Healing Center are met with a caring staff and volunteers, which I have met, who are committed to understanding their individual needs. Through their efforts, these veterans are able to receive amazing short-term and also long-term support.

I thank Director Cathie Goodman, Chief Clerk Dr. Tim Kirk, and everyone at the Warrior Healing Center for all the work that they do for our veterans. Their efforts have made an incredible impact in Sierra Vista, in Cochise County, and beyond as well. I wish them all the best as they continue to provide veterans with the support they need after sacrificing so much for our country.

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RECOGNIZING TANQUE VERDE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT'S 140TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 140th anniversary of Tanque Verde Unified School District.