

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.

Since 1886, the district has been providing public education in the Tanque Verde Valley. The first Tanque Verde school opening its doors all those years ago began a legacy of service and education that has impacted generations of valley residents.

Through the work of dedicated staff and the commitment of students and their families, Tanque Verde schools have served as an example of excellent public education.

The district will celebrate this historic milestone on September 23, bringing together members of the Tanque Verde community, both past and present, as a picture of the community's rich and unique history and honor the people who have made the district's success possible.

To superintendent Dr. Scott Hagerman, teachers and staff, and students and families, congratulations on an incredible 140 years. Through their work and dedication, Tanque Verde Valley is home to outstanding public education. Congratulations again, and here is to many, many more wonderful academic years ahead and lives impacted of our future generations through the power of public education.

HONORING LISA SCOTT BEING NAMED 2027
ARIZONA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate Lisa Scott from the Vail School District earning the title of 2027 Arizona Teacher of the Year.

Mrs. Scott, who is an eighth grade science teacher at Esmond Station K-8, has earned the highest honor among educators in being named the 2027 Arizona Teacher of the Year by the Arizona Educational Foundation.

This esteemed award celebrates and honors educators who represent the very best of their profession by both inspiring their students and also strengthening the local community.

Not only has Mrs. Scott been an amazing educator, she has done so while also navigating significant life changes that resulted from a near-death experience in December of 2022.

The discovery of a kidney stone led to Mrs. Scott experiencing a loss of consciousness, septic shock, and treatment with a medication that restricted her limbs' blood vessels to the point of needing to amputate both her hands and feet.

Committed to continuing to do what she loves, even after a life-altering event, Mrs. Scott returned to the classroom in July of 2024, where she has proven that anything is possible when you refuse to be defined by circumstances.

Being a great example to all the students that she serves and teaches, her colleagues, her administrators, but also our entire community of what grit and dedication and passion for a career like education can do for someone.

Congratulations to Mrs. Scott, Lisa, on this incredible achievement. I thank her for the impact she has made on her students and our entire community.

OLOWALU FIRE STATION

(Ms. TOKUDA of Hawaii was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, after the Lahaina wildfire, West Maui knew we could not afford to wait to strengthen fire protection and emergency response, so the community got to work.

They donated land and raised \$3 million to build a new fire station in Olowalu. This station will cut emergency response times by up to 15 minutes. That can mean the difference between life and death, between a home burning and a home being saved. It will also cut fire insurance costs by nearly half for homeowners, saving families thousands of dollars annually.

The land was donated. The money was raised. The project was fully funded. Then President Trump's steel tariff slapped over \$300,000 to the cost, not because the project changed, not because it went over budget, but because the President changed our trade policy. This is what reckless tariffs look like in real life.

Today, it is a fire station on Maui, but across our country, families, businesses, and communities are paying more because of the President's tariffs, including for the things that they need to keep themselves safe.

A fire station is not a luxury, not in West Maui, not after Lahaina. I am fighting to get relief for Olowalu, but we cannot fight these tariffs one fire station, one small business, or one community at a time. Congress has the constitutional authority over tariffs and trade, and it is time we take that responsibility back.

No President should be able to unilaterally impose tariffs that make it harder and more expensive for Americans to protect their homes, their communities, and their lives.

West Maui has already paid too high a price. We should be making communities safer, not making safety more expensive.

HURRICANE LALA

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, Hurricane Lala never technically made landfall in Hawaii, but disasters aren't measured by whether the eye of a storm crosses a shoreline. They are measured by what they leave behind, and Lala left devastation.

Over 3 days, an estimated 1.3 trillion gallons of rain fell across our State. Hawaii Island took the brunt of it, with some communities seeing 20 to 40 inches. I saw the damages myself.

At Na'alehu Elementary, buildings were pushed off their foundations by the force of water and debris. Parts of Highway 11 were washed away. At Na'alehu Cemetery, floodwaters tragically disturbed the resting place of generations of loved ones.

Hundreds of homes across Hawaii were damaged or destroyed. At the height of the storm, over 200,000 people were left without power.

However, I also saw Hawaii at its best: neighbors checking on neighbors,

community hubs feeding families, supplies flown in by helicopter and carried on horseback to communities cut off by damaged roads, school workers preparing food and hygiene supplies for our "children," "keiki," even while their campuses were closed.

When disaster strikes, Hawaii shows up. Now Washington needs to show up for Hawaii. I am grateful the President approved an emergency declaration, bringing critical FEMA resources to Hawaii, Maui, and Honolulu counties, but we need a major disaster declaration and individual assistance to help our families, farmers, and small businesses recover.

The storm may be gone, but the emergency is not. Families are still without power. People still need food, medicine, clothing, and basic necessities. Roads, homes, schools, farms, and businesses need to be repaired and rebuilt. Even as we recover, we have to prepare, because the Pacific is still churning. More storms are coming, and they will not wait for Hawaii to recover.

We need to replenish supplies, strengthen critical infrastructure, restore essential services, and make sure our most isolated communities are prepared to withstand whatever comes next.

Help our people recover, prepare for what is coming next, and do it now. That is what Hawaii needs from Washington.

HONORING GRAND MASTER NAVIGATOR SESARIO SEWRALUR

(Ms. KING-HINDS of the Northern Mariana Islands was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. KING-HINDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Grand Master Navigator Sesario Sewralur, captain of the Alingano Maisu, a cultural teacher, steward, and guardian of ancestral wayfinding knowledge.

A son of Satawal in the Federated States of Micronesia and the son of legendary master navigator Mau Piaulug, Sesario began sailing with his father at just 5 years old. He went on to lead 20 voyages across the Marianas, Palau, Yap, Taiwan, and Japan, helping preserve the ancient art of navigating the Pacific without modern instruments.

Sesario carried forward his father's legacy and helped ensure traditional navigation remained a living heritage, one that connects the peoples and islands of Oceania across our vast Pacific.

On behalf of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, I extend my deepest gratitude to Captain Sesario; his wife, Florentina; his children; grandchildren; family; and friends.

His teachings will endure for generations, and his spirit will live on in the stars, skies, and seas.

"A very big thank you"; "Undangkulu na Si Yu'us ma'ase yan, kinisou."