

and thank him for all he has done for the 22nd Ward.

REMEMBERING MR. TACO

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a small family business that was a staple in my district. After 49 years in Cicero, taqueria Mr. Taco, founded in 1976 by Carlos and Thelma Lopez, has closed.

The Lopez family had a simple dream to serve good food and make every customer feel at home. They succeeded in building a family restaurant that offered kindness and amazing Mexican food, becoming a common lunch spot for many people who worked in the area.

Others would go to Mr. Taco for that late night burrito after hanging out with friends or would take their girlfriends on a date. I heard of a couple who even went there on their wedding night.

Mr. Taco leaves not only an empty space on the corner of Ogden and Austin in Cicero, it leaves an empty space in our tummies and our hearts.

CLOSING NATIONAL ARCHIVES BRANCHES IN CHICAGO AND CALIFORNIA

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the closing of the Chicago and California branches of the National Archives and the relocation of the records.

The leadership at the National Archives and Records Administration argues that the transition to digital recordkeeping has resulted in a growing volume of extra space at both branches. However, there has not been a full plan for this transition shared with employees, stakeholders, or the public.

People from across our region and Nation visit the facility in Chicago to obtain census and naturalization records to prove citizenship status, to find information about Great Lakes vessels on which they serve, to find information about exam records to identify their ancestors, or to study major historical events like the 1894 Pullman Strike and the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials.

In a recent visit to the Chicago National Archives branch, I was able to find my father's naturalization application. This is an important piece of family history. The work of agencies, museums, scholars, teachers, and the public continues to depend on access to these records, which are vital to our history and NARA's mission.

NARA must immediately halt the relocation, provide Congress with the necessary information about the agency's plans, and reverse this decision to move the more than 140,000 cubic feet of historical records. History must be protected.

RECOGNIZING SOUTH STOKES HIGH SCHOOL MARINE CORPS JROTC

(Ms. FOXX of North Carolina was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the South Stokes High School Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program that was recently designated as a 2025-2026 Naval Honor School.

This is one of the highest recognitions that a Marine Corps JROTC unit can receive. This recognition honors MCJROTC units that have demonstrated exceptional performance, professionalism, leadership, and dedication throughout the school year.

What is more, the high school's program ranked among the top 20 percent of Marine Corps Junior ROTC units in the Nation and was one of only three schools in region 8 selected to receive the prestigious designation.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate South Stokes High School's JROTC cadets, instructors, and school administrators on this well-deserved, impeccable accomplishment.

RECOGNIZING WEST JEFFERSON HOTEL

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Mark Beck, Trent Pruitt, and the wonderful staff of the West Jefferson Hotel where I visited recently.

Mark Beck, the owner, has done a fabulous job of restoring the hotel back to the way it was in its heyday and further solidifying it as the landmark it truly is.

Mark has been diligent, remained sensitive to the hotel's history, and has been engaged with members of the community every step of the way. He has truly saved the character of the West Jefferson Hotel and has made it a wonderful place to visit.

Trent Pruitt, the chef at the hotel, deserves immense praise, as well. He shared with me his aspiration to become a James Beard-recognized chef and now he is working to bring a new perspective to Appalachian cuisine.

Madam Speaker, I encourage everyone who is fortunate enough to visit west Jefferson to stop, view, and visit this hotel. It is truly magnificent, and the people who oversee its day-to-day operations are some of the most salt of the Earth, dedicated people one would ever meet.

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RECOGNIZING NORTH CAROLINA A&T STATE UNIVERSITY

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize two monumental milestones for North Carolina A&T State University located in North Carolina's Fifth District.

In the latter part of October into early November, the university and its dedicated alumni will gather to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the school's football program and the centennial of its homecoming that is referred to as the "Greatest Homecoming on Earth."

The weeklong celebration will draw generations of proud Aggies back to the university to celebrate excellence, heritage, and the unshakable bond of the Blue and Gold.

Congratulations to North Carolina A&T State University, its students,

staff, and alumni on these two remarkable milestones. Here is to many more years and celebrations of Aggie Pride to come.

RECOGNIZING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. LATIMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today as we begin Hispanic Heritage Month, a time for members of the Hispanic community to honor their culture and to join together for traditions and gatherings.

Hispanic Heritage Month starts today, September 15, as we commemorate the fight for independence of five Central American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

Celebrations across Westchester and the Bronx will take place, including a community-wide event honoring the past, present, and future of the Hispanic community in New Rochelle, Yonkers, Elmsford, White Plains, and in Wakefield and Edenwald.

A gathering with Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins in September will occur at the Westchester County office building, as well as many other events celebrating Latino-owned small businesses and cultural organizations, such as 100 Hispanic Women National, Incorporated; El Centro Hispano; Neighbors Link; and others.

I look forward to celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month with our flourishing Latino communities across my district.

DEFENDING VOTE BY MAIL

Mr. LATIMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to defend against attacks on a cornerstone of our free and fair elections: our right as Americans to vote by mail.

The first large-scale absentee voting took place during the Civil War, under the direct order of President Lincoln, to ensure those who were bravely serving our country were still represented. It was a nation divided but then still committed to the democratic principles upon which the Nation was founded.

For over a century, those ballots have allowed rural, disabled, and elderly voters to participate in our democratic process.

Today, mail-in voting is facing unprecedented attacks by President Trump, seeking to prevent hard-working Americans across the country from being represented at the polls. We will not allow Federal overreach, bureaucracy, and conflict to impede our democratic principles.

I implore my colleagues to acknowledge the great benefit vote by mail has brought to our democracy and to do everything in our power to protect it.

RIISING COST OF LIVING

Mr. LATIMER. Madam Speaker, 49 percent of Americans cannot afford the true cost of living in our Nation. The Consumer Price Index is on a steady incline, and threats of new tariffs mean

even pricier receipts when shopping for everyday goods.

Hardworking families worry about how they will survive until the next payday. Our elderly go without care. Young people cannot afford their future. This is not the American Dream we were promised.

However, hope to return to an affordable Nation is on the horizon. The goal is simple: lower costs, rein in executive overreach, and restore trust in those in Washington that are working for you, no matter where you are in this country.

It is time to put the financial stability of everyday Americans ahead of partisan agendas. I call on my colleagues in Congress to use this time to chart a path to a better, more affordable future for the American people.

REMEMBERING PRINCIPLES THAT BUILT AMERICA

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, as America celebrates 250 years of independence, we should remember what has made this country great for two-and-a-half centuries: faith, strong families, hard work, personal responsibility, service to our neighbors, respect for those who defend our country and our communities, and the fundamental belief that government should serve the American people, not control them.

These values are alive and well in Kansas. I often say that the Big First District is the pilot light of America because the principles that built this country are still burning brightly in the communities I get to represent.

Today, our country faces a clear choice about the direction we are headed. Republicans believe in securing our borders, supporting law enforcement, strengthening our military, unleashing American energy, protecting our farmers and ranchers, and allowing hardworking Americans to keep more of the money that they earn.

We believe parents should have a say in their children's education. We believe government should live within its means. We believe Washington should get out of the way so families, small businesses, and communities can thrive.

We have watched as, time and time again, Democrats have offered a fundamentally different vision: more government spending, higher taxes, more regulation, weaker borders, and more control in Washington.

Over the last two years, Republicans have worked with President Trump to move our country in a different direction. We secured historic tax relief for working families, restored order at our southern border, cut burdensome regulations, strengthened American agriculture, and brought common sense back to Washington.

There is more work to do. The decisions our country makes in November will determine whether we continue down a path of freedom, opportunity, security, and American strength, or re-

turn to the failed policies that families across Kansas continue to reject.

Madam Speaker, I believe deeply in this country. The American experiment has survived for 250 years because every generation has accepted the responsibility of preserving it for the next.

Our responsibility now is clear: defend freedom, restore common sense, keep government accountable to the people, and leave our children a country that is stronger, safer, and freer than the one we inherited.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's 100th anniversary.

GCSAA was founded in 1926 as the National Association of Greenkeepers of America by Colonel John Morley. GCSAA has now grown into a professional association, representing more than 20,000 members in more than 78 countries, and is headquartered in my Congressional District in Lawrence.

For a century, the men and women represented by Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, or GCSAA, have played an essential role in one of our Nation's favorite pastimes. They understand turf, water, soil, weather, pest management, equipment, and conservation. They manage not only the course that golfers see, but the natural resources and the ecosystems that surround it.

Perhaps the best way to understand the importance of golf course superintendents is through the words of one of golf's greatest ambassadors, Arnold Palmer, who said, "The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and all golf course superintendents are probably the most important entity that we have in golf." That is a powerful statement from a man who knew the game better than almost anyone.

Madam Speaker, let us recognize the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America for a century of excellence and service. Let us thank the thousands of professionals who work behind the scenes to make the game possible.

Let us congratulate GCSAA on 100 years of keeping the game of golf on course and its commitment to making the next 100 years even better.

RECOGNIZING NEW JERSEY BALLET

Ms. MEJIA. Madam Speaker, one of the most important aspects of the human experience is artistic expression. It builds bridges, connects communities, and exemplifies how beauty is found in the ordinary and extraordinary.

That is why I rise today to recognize the New Jersey Ballet, an institution based in Florham Park that has brought artistic excellence to audiences across our State for nearly seven decades.

Founded in 1958, the New Jersey Ballet is entering a new era under artistic director Maria Kowroski, a 25-year veteran of the New York City Ballet. The company continues to honor iconic works, while commissioning new work that shapes the future of dance.

Through school partnerships, community programs, sensory friendly performances, and Dancing for Parkinson's, New Jersey Ballet is making the performing arts accessible to people of all ages and abilities.

Since 2022, NJB has proudly served as the resident ballet company at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, bringing world-class performances to our district in Morris County and supporting local businesses.

I am proud to recognize the New Jersey Ballet for inspiring generations of New Jerseyans and enriching our State's cultural identity.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Ms. MEJIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Hispanic Heritage Month and celebrate the vibrant Latino communities across New Jersey's 11th Congressional District.

Our district, at the crossroads of critical moments in history, is as diverse as it is historic. Communities from across the diaspora proudly call the 11th District home, including my own.

Recognizing the impact of the Latino community, without naming the crisis our community faces would be a disservice at this moment, however.

As the daughter of two Latino immigrants, I was raised by parents who recognized the importance of embracing my Nation, while holding on to who I was.

Following the scores of immigrants who arrived upon these shores, Latino Americans have created communities that enriched their adopted and beloved land, while remembering the culture of their parents and grandparents.

Like many, irrespective of their culture or ethnic backgrounds, we stand appalled at the way in which those at the highest perches of this land use racist tropes and dog whistles to divide a nation of immigrants yearning for liberty and justice for all.

Across my district, this warfare is made evident by every unjust arrest, through the gutting of safety net programs, and the wholesale vilification of a community that loves this Nation enough to serve it, grow it, and defend it.

Violent arrests, courthouse ambushes, the denial of justice all lay bare the willingness of some to turn away from what actually makes America great: "one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Some say that upholding these words somehow takes away the freedoms and opportunities of those whose ancestors arrived upon these shores in generations past. This flawed thinking treats justice as if it were finite, as if it were cake, and sharing a piece somehow lessens what is placed upon your plate.