When the front door was locked and conditions were too dangerous to enter, Officer Epperson did not give up. Hearing calls for help, he broke a smoke-filled window and pulled a woman to safety. He then returned to assist her husband, who had limited mobility, helping him also escape the burning home.

Officer Epperson then ensured no one else was inside and went door to door, warning the nearby neighbors, all while suffering smoke inhalation himself.

Mr. Speaker, without Officer Epperson's bravery, lives would have been lost that night. His actions reflect the very best of law enforcement and the very best of Texas. God bless Officer Epperson.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL IAN O'SULLIVAN

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, we honor a leader whose service has left a lasting mark on the Texas coast and on the safety of millions of Texans. I am speaking about Lieutenant Colonel Ian O'Sullivan, who has been instrumental in advancing the Coastal Texas Project, what folks back home called the Ike Dike. Under his leadership at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Galveston District, this project moved from concept toward construction.

Just recently, the House included $5 million to advance pre-construction engineering and design for the Ike Dike. That funding moves the project forward, Mr. Speaker, as it heads to the Senate, and it supports a comprehensive coastal resiliency strategy that protects lives, restores ecosystems, and strengthens our economy.

Those numbers only happen, Mr. Speaker, because of leaders like Mr. O'Sullivan, leaders who understand the mission, discipline, and follow through on what they promised.

From combat deployments overseas to mega projects right here at home, he has served with honor and excellence.

On behalf of the people of southeast Texas, I thank Lieutenant Colonel O'Sullivan for his leadership, his service, and his commitment to protecting our coast.

May God bless Lieutenant Colonel O'Sullivan, and may his next chapter be as impactful as the one he leaves behind.

□ 1045

CATALINA FOOTHILLS HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' SWIM TEAM WINS D2 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

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

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Catalina Foothills High School boys' swim team for winning the D2 State championship.

The Falcons finished with a total score of 386, with senior Connor Daggett winning gold.

The team finished first in three races: the 200-meter medley, with Nicholas Dinsmore, Mathew Murray, Ariston Elsesser, and Connor Daggett finishing with a time of 1:39.891; the 50-meter freestyle with Connor Daggett finishing with a time of 21:42; and the 200-meter freestyle relay, with Nicholas Dinsmore, Aidan Kastner, Ariston Elsesser, and Connor Daggett finishing with a time of 1:30.831.

In addition to finishing first in multiple races, the Falcons also placed in the top five for several others.

To Coach Ed Walter, the whole team, and everyone who made this win possible: Congratulations. Their hard work has made their school and our community extremely proud.

Falcons, enjoy your victory. You earned it. Congratulations again.

TANQUE VERDE BOYS' SWIM TEAM WINS D3 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Tanque Verde High School boys' swim team for winning the D3 State championship.

The Hawks finished with a total score of 257, placing first in the 200-meter freestyle relay and in the top five for multiple other events, including the 200-meter medley relay and 400 freestyle relay.

The team's time of 1:31.81 on the 200-meter freestyle won them first place, with a team made up of Jackson Eftekhar, Grayson The, Wade Olsson, and Zachary Duerkop.

To Coach Porter Olstad, the whole team, and everyone who made this win possible: Congratulations. Their hard work has made their school and our community extremely proud.

Hawks, enjoy your victory. You have earned it. Here is to another successful season and many, many more.

CIENEGA HIGH SCHOOL'S MARCHING BAND WINS CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Cienega High School's marching band on winning the Arizona Marching Band Southern Regional Championship.

The Bobcats broke the program's record for the highest score in a regular season show. They also brought home the highest score in music performance, visual performance, general effect, and percussion performance.

I also congratulate them on coming in as State silver medalists at the Arizona Marching Band Association's State championship. Through the long hours of hard work and dedication, the Bobcats achieved this outstanding accomplishment.

To Director Reed Bailey, each member of the band, and all parents and staff who made this win possible: Congratulations. They have made their school and our community very proud.

Bobcats, enjoy this victory. You earned it. Congratulations on yet another successful season.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 47 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOST) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Holy God, let all who are faithful offer their prayers to You. Trusting in Your care, teach us the way we should go, that we may yield ourselves to Your instruction and have confidence that Your righteousness is our strength.

When we are overwhelmed or in distress, even the inundation of mighty waters will not overtake us. For You are our shelter, a hiding place where we are protected from discouragement. Your voice delivers us from despair.

Your eye is upon us. You watch over our comings and goings. You attend to our motivations and discipline our inclinations. Your counsel is omniscient and perceptive, plumbing the depths of our innermost souls.

Your steadfast love surrounds us. There is nowhere we can be, no turn or move we can make that we are not hemmed in by Your compassionate care and guided by Your generous grace.

Sovereign God, may Your immeasurable and abiding presence be our guardian, guide, and refuge through this day and always.

In Your infinite mercy, we offer our prayers, and in Your matchless name, we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LUTTRELL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LUTTRELL led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests

for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

RECOGNIZING CENTRAL MOUNTAIN STUDENTS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize eight students from the Central Middle School and High School who performed in December at the ReliaQuest Bowl in Tampa Bay, Florida.

The Central Mountain Middle School and High School twirlers were among the 481 performers present during the pregame show and joined other high school bands during the halftime performance. The students performed in front of an estimated 35,000 fans in Raymond James Stadium, the home of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

The twirlers were invited to participate in the game day programming through the National Youth Dance and Twirling Program. Stephanie Ford, the Central Mountain High School twirling coach, provided choreography for the twirlers. Stephanie has been the high school and middle school coach for 11 years and was pivotal in making and helping the students learn the choreography ahead of the performance.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Central Mountain Middle School and High School twirlers on this fantastic achievement. I thank them for representing Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District on a national stage.

NATO

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

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the core of NATO is Article 5: An attack on one is an attack on all.

Since the end of World War II, the U.S. and our allies have honored and operated on this mutual trust. President Truman called it a neighborly act.

There is no article for if a NATO member attacks another because for 80 years, we have led a peaceful partnership for our shared democratic ideals. Truman considered the treaty a means to establish freedom from aggression and from the use of force in the North Atlantic community. If one ally invaded another, the center would not hold.

Now, President Trump seeks to threaten our historic alliance by his flippant, poisonous quip that we will have Greenland one way or another. As a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, I have met with the Prime Minister of Denmark and other key allies. They believe in America's global leadership. They have fought and died alongside us in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Now, they fear our words. They plan for a future in which the United States is no longer the indispensable nation, a core global ally.

This cannot be the path we forge. It is good to have friends, and in order to have friends, we must be one.

TRUMP AND REPUBLICANS WINNING FOR FAMILIES

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, led by Republicans and signed into law by President Donald Trump, the Working Families Tax Cuts is reversing harmful Biden-era regulations and putting more money in the pockets of American families and creating jobs.

The law is delivering bigger paychecks, lower costs, and real results for hardworking families, including: expanding childcare access, permanently expanding the child tax credit; supporting American jobs, with tax breaks for loans on ''Made in America'' cars; keeping the border secure, protecting American families with more Border Patrol agents; 4-year low gas prices; reversing Biden-era regulations; modernizing air traffic control; no tax on tips, overtime, and Social Security.

President Trump and House Republicans are producing real results, led by Speaker MIKE JOHNSON.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Trump is reinstituting peace through strength, revealing war criminal Putin lies, insulting Trump and mocking Trump, with Putin defending mass murderer Khomeini as Donald Trump courageously encourages the people of Iran for freedom.

ICE RAIDS IN NORTH CAROLINA

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

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, in November, my home State of North Carolina watched in horror as Federal immigration agents descended on our State and terrorized our communities.

During these raids, my constituent Fatima Velasquez-Antonio, was detained. She has work authorization, no criminal record, and is allowed to legally remain in this country while her asylum case is pending.

Yet despite all of this, she was taken into custody and ripped away from her family for weeks. Thankfully, after an outpouring of public anger and criticism, the Trump administration finally released Fatima a few days before Christmas.

Fatima is one of countless hardworking immigrants who have been unlawfully or unjustly detained across the country. People like Fatima with deep ties to our community are being targeted instead of a focus on apprehending violent criminals.

We cannot allow the Trump administration to continue violating the rights that all individuals in this country are guaranteed.

RECOGNIZING 2026 MONSTER ENERGY SUPERCROSS SERIES

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

Mr. LUTTRELL. Mr. Speaker, let's make today a great day.

I rise in recognition of excellence, discipline, and American competitiveness.

The 2026 Monster Energy Supercross Series is absolutely underway, and in America we like it. If it goes fast, has got a big motor, and there is a high probability of somebody getting hurt, even better.

If you have never seen Monster Energy Supercross, I am about to change your life, and you are welcome. You have got 22 riders in a confined space going from a starting gate to go-to-the-bathroom-on-your-pants, fast hitting 20-foot jumps with no seatbelts, airbags, or bumpers; just man on machine.

Last weekend on Saturday, Anaheim I, the first race of the series went off. In the 250 class, Max Anstie got first; Chance Hymas got second; Ryder DiFrancesco got third; and last year's champion, Haiden ''Danger Boy'' Deegan, got fourth place.

In the premier class, Eli Tomac absolutely showed up on his new ride. Ken Roczen got second; Jorge Prado third; and seventh place, last year's champion, was Cooper Webb.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Justin Barcia and Malcolm Stewart after that horrific crash they were involved in. I hope they are healing up well and every household has their favorite rider. My oldest boy loves Cooper Webb. My baby boy, Lincoln, loves Eli Tomac and Ken Roczen. My wife and I absolutely are the biggest fan of number 7, Aaron Plessinger, the cowboy. Go forward and do great things, Aaron. Dig in your spurs. This is your year.

□ 1210

HONORING BISHOP ROSIE O'NEAL

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Bishop Rosie O'neal, a celebrated pastor, author, and Christian leader, after 37 years of faithful service, retired as senior pastor on December 14.

Born in Germany and adopted by Norman and Joann Standifer, she gave her life to Christ at the age of 16 at Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church, where her grandfather served as pastor. Bishop O'neal went to East Carolina University to join the choir and answer the call to ministry,