

□ 1740

HONORING THE LIFE OF FRANK W.
ZARDECKI

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

Mr. BRESNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Frank Zardecki, a devoted public servant and proud Pennsylvanian who passed away on January 11, 2026, at the age of 84.

Frank dedicated more than six decades of his life to serving our Nation. After proudly serving in the United States Air Force, he spent over 50 years at the Tobyhanna Army Depot, where he rose to the role of deputy commander and helped to lead one of the region's most important defense facilities.

Frank's leadership and commitment to excellence at Tobyhanna and his life was exceptional, earning him some of the highest civilian honors in Federal service, including the Department of Defense Medal of Distinguished Civilian Service, the highest DOD civilian service award.

Following his retirement in 2022, he was inducted into both the Army Materiel Command Hall of Fame and the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command Hall of Fame.

Above all, Frank was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather who cherished time with his family and his community in northeastern Pennsylvania.

I extend my deepest condolences to his loved ones and thank them for sharing Frank with our Nation. His legacy of service will not be forgotten.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOY
ATKINSON

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

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart to honor the remarkable life of civil rights activist and community leader, Joy Atkinson.

Joy dedicated her life to mentoring thousands of Black women to become the next generation of changemakers in Los Angeles, and I was one of them.

Joy was the first person to introduce me to public policy work. Without her, I would not be standing here today as a Member of Congress. Whether advising local elected officials or leading the Los Angeles African-American Women's Public Policy Institute, her integrity, courage, and commitment to building coalitions and creating change never wavered.

In my city, Joy touched the lives of anybody who was anybody. With her unexpected passing, we have not only lost a giant in the fight for justice but also a beloved mother, friend, and confidant. Her legacy will endure as we continue working toward the more eq-

uitable and inclusive society in which she so deeply believed.

May she rest in peace.

TRUST VERSUS WASTE

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

Mr. SHREVE. Mr. Speaker, across my home State of Indiana, I hear the same thing time and again. People work hard. They pay their taxes, and they expect Washington to treat their dollars with respect.

Hoosier hospitality means that we help neighbors who truly need it, but fraud turns this virtue into a target, and hardworking Hoosiers foot the bill.

This is not left versus right. It is honesty versus the dishonest, trust versus waste. For every dollar stolen by fraud, it is a dollar we cannot spend on public safety, on our national security, or on helping working families get ahead.

We owe taxpayers accountability, stronger oversight, and closed loopholes that invite abuse.

Protect the taxpayers. Protect the programs, and punish the scammers.

SCRIMPING ON VETERANS'
MEDICAL CARE IS UN-AMERICAN

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, this past December, the Department of Veterans Affairs released a proposal to cut 25,000 openings nationwide for much-needed nurses and medical staff.

In the New York City area, this would mean a loss of approximately 380 positions. While the VA claims these are unneeded openings left from the pandemic, its own inspector general reported last August that 94 percent of VA facilities reported severe staffing shortages for medical officer occupations, and 79 percent of facilities reported severe shortages for nurses.

It is baffling, but 250 years on, this Nation still struggles to reconcile the way that it treats the men and women who fought for our country after they have traded their swords for plowshares. The same can be said for the caregivers who tend to their wounds, both physical and psychological, in the years after their service.

Scrimping on veterans' medical care or diverting its availability is un-American, and it sends the message to our citizens that this government will not keep its part of the bargain.

I demand that this government invest in the VA system rather than seek its demise. The brave men and women who sacrificed to defend our country deserve better.

HONORING BOB WILLIS ON HIS
101ST BIRTHDAY

(Ms. HAGEMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Wyoming's remaining World War II veterans, Mr. Bob Willis of Laramie, who recently turned 101 years old.

Mr. Willis served his country as an infantryman during some of the fiercest fighting of the war, including the Battle of the Bulge. While under enemy fire, a German tank round exploded beneath him, and shrapnel struck his side, stopped only by the Book of Mormon, which he carried in his pocket.

Mr. Willis is a true hero. He earned the Purple Heart, helped to liberate Europe from Nazi tyranny, and later protected Holocaust survivors in the aftermath of the war.

When Mr. Willis returned home, he devoted four decades to serving the Laramie community as a dentist and raised a family with his wife, Kaye.

Bob Willis exemplifies duty, faith, humility, and service. Please join me in honoring his extraordinary life and service to Wyoming and our Nation.

RECOGNIZING ERIC SIROTA

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

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Eric Sirota for his work to expand tenants' rights and reshape the housing landscape.

As director of housing justice at the Shriver Center on Poverty Law and now as the director of a tenant advocacy clinic, Eric uses litigation advocacy to advance housing equity in Illinois and beyond. His work with the Illinois Fair Housing Coalition led to the passage of a State law prohibiting discrimination against housing choice voucher holders.

Eric co-led the Partnership of Just Housing, a national coalition that improved housing access for people with arrest and conviction histories. As a trusted counsel to countless tenant associations, Eric has maintained his commitment to housing for all.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, it is my honor to commend Eric Sirota for his work to ensure safe, just, and affordable housing as a fundamental human right.

I thank and congratulate Eric.

SHARIA FREE AMERICA CAUCUS

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

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Sharia Free America Caucus, which I am proud to have joined.

Across the world, ideologically driven Islamic movements have destabilized entire regions; displaced tens of millions of people; and fueled terrorism, repression, and violence.

Where civil law is subordinated to Islamic authority, freedom, prosperity, and security collapse. Sharia law is not a personal creed. It is a political and legal system and one that rejects equality before the law, suppresses dissent, and fuses radical religious doctrine with state power. History shows that where Sharia gains influence, constitutional government gives way to coercion.

In Texas, my constituents are increasingly alarmed by the consequences of mass migration and the importation of ideologies that are fundamentally incompatible with our Western civilization.

The purpose of this caucus is clear: to ensure that Sharia never gains a foothold in America—not now, and not ever.

WHERE IS THE OUTRAGE

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

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, I need to level set here.

The President cannot take money from the proceeds of seized Venezuelan oil and control it himself via means of a highly illegal and improper offshore slush fund. The President has no constitutional authority to do this.

He doesn't get to create his own secret, overseas slush fund, which is outside of our purview and oversight. This is absolutely insane. We take Venezuelan oil at gunpoint, engage in regime change and nation building, and then the President personally controls the proceeds?

What has happened here? Why do my colleagues give up their power?

Mr. Speaker, where is the Republican opposition to this lawless, half-baked, absurd plan? You know that if any Democratic President claimed this kind of maniacal power, you would be enraged.

So I ask you, Mr. Speaker: Where is the outrage now? Where is the pushback? Do not give this President any more power.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

□ 1750

2025 ECONOMIC REPORT AND MANUFACTURING JOBS

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

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, 2025 was one of the worst years for job growth in decades. In fact, if you don't count COVID, the United States created fewer jobs last year than any year since 2009. You don't need data. Just ask anyone who has been looking for a job. They will tell you no one is hiring.

This weak economy is a direct result of President Trump's policies: the crazy tariffs that are raising costs for businesses and consumers, massive cuts to healthcare, and the political attacks on clean energy that are driving up energy costs.

The President claimed that his tariffs would help American manufacturing, but instead we have lost 72,000 manufacturing jobs since Liberation Day, after years of gains.

What is the President focused on as working people struggle? He is focused on building himself a new ballroom, naming the Kennedy Center after himself, trying to take over Greenland, and selling cryptocurrency out of the White House to enrich himself. None of this creates jobs or lower costs for you or the millions of Americans who are struggling. It is time for the President to focus on the real needs of the American people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are again reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

MANUFACTURING JOBS LOST DUE TO TRUMP TARIFFS

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the 68,000 manufacturing jobs lost across our country in 2025 as a direct result of President Trump's reckless tariffs and DOGE cuts.

Why did he visit Detroit yesterday when his insistence on continuing these tariffs actually cuts investment in American manufacturing? It is all backward, and it puts America backward and America's workers backward.

In December, manufacturing jobs continued an 8-month decline that began after President Trump falsely promised these new tariffs would lead to an economic resurgence for American workers.

Instead, his broad across-the-board tariffs have driven prices up for everyday goods and all supply chains. Tariffs create uncertainty in the job market, leaving hardworking families worse off.

When manufacturing jobs disappear as costs rise, Ohio families feel it. Lost jobs and rising costs are not an abstract economic theory for us. They are a harsh reality. Thousands of families I represent have been touched. Another company just closed in Fulton County.

Mr. Speaker, let's make manufacturing more competitive, not less. Let's create jobs in the USA.

VENEZUELA

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

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, do you recall just a week and a half ago

when the President of the United States stood in front of the American people and said that he conducted an unauthorized military invasion of Venezuela to save American lives from drugs, but then a few days later told us it was actually about the oil?

Well, if we needed any confirmation that it was not about the drugs and not about saving American lives, look no further than the fact that last night the White House announced that they would cut millions of dollars from substance abuse and addiction recovery programs that save lives in America every single day.

In Donald Trump's America, down is up and up is down, and they will lie to your face every single day if they think it will get them what they want. That is why we are in the fight to stop unauthorized wars, to stop the daily assault on our communities, and to restore the America that we know and to save American lives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are again reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

HOW REPUBLICANS HAVE DELIVERED FOR AMERICANS

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. MOORE of Utah was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to be joined by my colleagues for this Conference Special Order to talk about ways we have delivered for all Americans through our legislative action, committee work, and much more.

Mr. Speaker, to start off, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia, Mr. BUDDY CARTER.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for hosting this Special Order Hour.

Mr. Speaker, America is back and, like the President says, hotter than ever.

Throughout 2025, Republicans worked to undo the damage of the Biden-Harris administration, resulting in less red tape, bigger paychecks, a blue-collar boom, and a stronger, more resilient workplace.

The United States will always be the land of opportunity, but the previous administration shuttered small businesses, choked economic growth, and enacted countless regulatory measures that hurt families and businesses alike.

I believe in America First. That means a Federal Government that gets