

they will continue to make our country and State proud.

#### ICE OPERATIONS

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

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call out President Trump for abusing his power, acting in secrecy, and threatening our safety, all while failing to address the rising costs in America.

Trump is deploying ICE to our neighborhoods to terrorize our immigrant communities. His operations rely on brutal tactics, avoiding deescalation and due process against U.S. citizens. Although the administration claims it is only targeting undocumented criminals who pose a threat, we know that is an outright lie.

At every turn, the administration erodes any trust it has ever had with the public. That became even clearer when Secretary Noem signed an order barring Members of Congress from conducting oversight of ICE facilities without 7 days' notice.

I visited an ICE facility in Tacoma, Washington. I did provide that 7 days' notice, even though I was not legally required to do so, and yet I was still denied access to meet with my constituents due to so-called scheduling issues.

This is not transparency. This is an attempt to control access, suppress oversight, and manipulate the narrative.

Instead of terrorizing our communities, Trump needs to get back to the real work of solving the affordability crisis.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

#### HONORING SHERIFF WESLEY DOOLITTLE

(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, I rise today to honor the law enforcement officers in my district, specifically in Montgomery County. I thank Constable Chris Jones and his deputies and actually to honor the Montgomery County Sheriff, Wesley Doolittle, whose extraordinary service exemplifies the best of law enforcement in Texas' Eighth Congressional District.

Just last year, shortly after his election, Sheriff Doolittle personally disarmed an individual during a road rage incident. His acts are absolutely what defines service, character, and fearlessness in law enforcement.

Sheriff Doolittle has led by example to protect our communities for decades. His hands-on approach and unwavering commitment to public safety has made Texas' Eighth Congressional District a safe place to live, work, and raise a family.

Our community, State, and Congress continue to be thankful for Sheriff Doolittle's service.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO VICTIMS

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

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, on June 22, 2020, while serving as St. Louis County prosecutor, we were notified of a crime scene at a local restaurant by homicide detectives. Myself and our outreach director at the time, Captain Clay Farmer, responded to that scene to support the investigation that shortly after would be issued by our office.

What I witnessed at this scene still haunts me to this very day. I had intended this to be more celebratory to honor posthumously the great Demetrius Johnson and the legendary St. Louis American photographer Wiley Price on his retirement, and I will in the near future. In light of the conviction secured in this case yesterday, my thoughts are with the family of Kimberly Pelton and my friends, Lakeshia Finch and Arlydia Bufford.

Arlydia is a remarkable young woman, full of energy, and she beat me in UNO. Lakeshia, who has documented her heroic recovery from this atrocity, exemplifies courage, resiliency, and an unrelenting determination.

These three victims are our St. Louis stars.

#### HONORING GERALD ZEEK

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

Mr. MILLS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of an incredible American, a devoted patriot, and a pillar of the DeBary community in Florida's Seventh District, Mr. Gerald Zeek, who peacefully passed away on January 5, 2026, at the remarkable age of 96.

Gerald's life was defined by the quintessential American values of hard work, service, and family. Born on Halloween in 1929, he learned the value of a dollar early, taking his first job baling hay for just 25 cents an hour. That work ethic stayed with him throughout his entire life.

Following the Second World War, Gerald answered the call of duty and joined the United States Navy, completing an honorable tour of service, but his commitment to our Nation's defense didn't end there. He went on to dedicate 34 years of his life to Picatinny Arsenal, ensuring that freedom and servicemembers had the tools that they needed to defend this Nation.

In the 1980s, Gerald and his beloved wife, June, moved to DeBary, Florida. He was a man who appreciated the simple and the classic, often found working on his 1929 Ford Model A, a car as enduring and reliable as the man himself.

Above all, Gerald was a man of profound devotion. He was a husband to June for over 75 years, a testament to a love and loyalty that is rare to find in this world today. He was a father to his sons, Dave and Dan; and a grandfather to Christopher, Jeffrey, Deanna, Dave; and great-grandfather to eight grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I have a personal connection to this family's legacy of service. Gerald's own grandson Dave, who is with me today, is currently serving as my U.S. Army War Fellow, carrying forward the torch of excellence and patriotism that his grandfather lit nearly a century ago as a command sergeant major who has proudly served in our Joint Special Operations Command, 75th Ranger Regiment, and other units.

Gerald Zeek was an honorable, compassionate, and hardworking man. He was a great father, a great husband, and a great American. From one soldier to another, I want to take a moment to salute him and his lifetime of service.

May his memory be a blessing to his family and an inspiration to our district.

Airborne.

□ 1100

#### CHAMPIONS OF THE WEEK: DAVE EWERS, MARK HARPER, DOMINIC BAGNOLI

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Akron Fire Department Lieutenant Dave Ewers, retired Akron Firefighter Mark Harper, and Lynx EMS worker Dominic Bagnoli as Ohio's 13th Congressional District champions of the week.

Late last year, a man went into cardiac arrest at a roller skating rink in Jackson Township, Ohio. While not on the job and simply enjoying the rink, Lieutenant Ewers, retired Firefighter Harper, and Mr. Bagnoli leapt into action, giving the man CPR and other lifesaving support until Jackson Township EMS arrived.

Due to their quick response and effective CPR, the man made a full recovery and even started skating again this past weekend.

The three were recognized this week by Jackson Township with the EMS Excellence Award for their quick response during the incident.

Lieutenant Ewers and retired Firefighter Harper, both avid skaters themselves, said they have come to know a lot of the regulars at the roller rink, including the man who went into cardiac arrest. They said their fellow skaters are like family, so they were glad to be able to help one of their own.

Again, I extend my sincere gratitude to Akron Fire Department Lieutenant Dave Ewers, retired Akron Firefighter Mark Harper, and Lynx EMS worker

Dominic Bagnoli for their heroic actions and for stepping in to help a neighbor in need. They are just one more reason as to why Ohio's 13th Congressional District is the Birthplace of Champions.

#### CONGRATULATING 2006 IOLA FILLIES ON DON BAIN HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

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

Mr. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, 20 years ago this spring, there was a Cinderella moment in southeast Kansas. The Iola High School girls' basketball team, known as the Fillies, won the 2006 Kansas State High School Activities Association Class 4A State basketball championship. This came on top of a remarkable 24-2 season.

As a Kansas State senator at the time, I had the privilege of sponsoring a resolution in our State legislature to commend the team's win and to host the team at the Kansas State House to see the resolution's unanimous adoption.

A week ago, on the 20th anniversary, the community in Iola came together and inducted that 2006 team into the Iola High School's Don Bain Hall of Fame. Believe me, Mr. Speaker, the community has not forgotten what they accomplished.

The auditorium was packed. Former classmates and teachers came home to join in the celebration. Back in 2006, the student members of this outstanding basketball team received statewide recognition for their fine sportsmanship and athletic accomplishments. At the Hall of Fame induction last week, the team was also recognized for the ongoing camaraderie and success of its members in the years since.

As I said in the Kansas State House back in 2006, the team did an outstanding job of representing Allen County and southeast Kansas in the State tournament. I am very proud of their achievements, and I am honored to say in the United States Capitol today, 20 years later, I continue to be very proud of this team, the young women who composed it, and the community who supported it.

Congratulations, Fillies.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF BETTY REID SOSKIN

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Betty Reid Soskin, who used all 104 years of her life to the fullest.

Betty lived in the East Bay since 1927, when her family moved from New Orleans. As a young woman during World War II, Betty worked as a ship-

yard clerk for the all-Black auxiliary lodge of the segregated Boilermakers Union.

In 1945, she and her husband founded one of the first Black-owned music stores, which remained open until 2019.

Over the years, she has worked with many elected officials, State senators, and assembly members.

In the early 2000s, she became involved in the plans for opening the Rosie the Riveter WWII/Home Front National Historical Park. This led to her later career as a park ranger, which she began in 2007 at the age of 85.

Betty led talks explaining the importance of the park in memorializing the contributions of women and African Americans working in the war industries supporting the U.S. effort at the home front.

Betty used her experiences and observations as a Black woman to bring light to the untold stories of African Americans during World War II and underscored the racism experienced by her and countless other women of color.

Through Betty's hard work and storytelling, she has touched the lives of thousands of park visitors and millions of Americans. It was just 2 months ago that she and I were together at one of the premier facilities, the Mare Island Dry Docks, where she was able to, once again, call upon all of us.

Mr. Speaker, our thoughts and prayers are with Betty's family. From all of us, I thank Betty for her tireless service and dedication to the community. We will deeply miss her.

#### CELEBRATING AKA FOUNDERS' DAY

(Ms. SEWELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride and profound gratitude to celebrate Founders' Day 2026 for Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, the first Greek letter organization established for African-American college-educated women.

For 118 years, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority has been a beacon of scholarship, sisterhood, and service, lighting the way for generations of women who dared to lead and uplift their communities.

As proud members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, we stand on the shoulders of visionary founders, who believed that excellence and service were not just aspirations but obligations. From advancing educational equity to promoting economic empowerment and civic engagement, the women of AKA continue to answer the call to serve with grace, compassion, and unwavering commitment.

Today, we honor our legacy, a 118-year legacy that has shaped leaders in every field and strengthened communities across this Nation. May we continue to carry forward our mission with purpose and pride.

Happy Founders' Day 2026 to my beloved Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. Let us continue to be of service to all mankind.

#### UNITED STATES NATURALIZES 850,000 PEOPLE EVERY YEAR

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, immigration is in the news again, and I don't feel the Republicans have done a good enough job of explaining what is going on here.

During the Biden administration—people are going to argue—somewhere between 8 million and 10 million people were allowed in this country who were not coming here legally.

Obviously, if we are going to have immigration laws, in the future, we have to make it clear that people who broke the laws in the past are not allowed in the country.

What is going on is that we have riots in Minnesota, and important Democratic officials who are saying something is wrong here.

Let us not forget: Every year in this country, 850,000 people are naturalized. They are sworn in as new citizens. We are at an all-time record of the number of foreign-born people in this country. The United States has nothing to apologize for about the number of people being allowed in this country, as we try to remove people.

Right now, in Minnesota, the Governor and mayor aren't even in favor of ICE removing criminals, and we should be removing other people who came here.

In any event, remember in America, we naturalize 850,000 people every year.

□ 1110

#### CONSTITUENT OF THE WEEK ALEXANDRA VAKOS

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

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Alexandra Vakos on being named the 2025 Distinguished Assistant of the Year in a medium-sized office by the Virginia Association of Commonwealth's Attorneys.

Each year, this award honors just three prosecutors across the Commonwealth. Alexandra was selected from approximately 1,000 prosecutors who were qualified. She stood out because of her outstanding trial accomplishments and contributions to the Virginia Association of Commonwealth's Attorneys.

She played a pivotal role in establishing a regional behavioral health docket in the Fredericksburg area. This initiative helps connect individuals with serious mental health illness and substance abuse disorders to treatment and support through evidence-based practices and judicial oversight.