Though his Active Duty has ended, he continues to serve as Honorary Colonel of the 75th Ranger Regiment, and he still inspires young people in his community today.

Colonel Puckett was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame and received a Distinguished Service Cross for his actions at Hill 205, in addition to two Silver Stars, five Purple Hearts, various awards from Vietnam and Colombia, and a Distinguished Graduate Award from West Point. His bravery is a testament to his strength and patriotism, and he is an inspiration to the people of the Third District of Georgia, as well as our country.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Colonel Puckett and extending our sincere appreciation to him and all of our men and women in uniform. As a nation, we are forever grateful for their service and their sacrifice.

CONGRATULATING THE FIRST CLASS OF GRADUATES FROM THE KIRK KERKORIAN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

(Mrs. LEE of Nevada asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the historic first class of medical students to graduate from the Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Four years ago, the 50 students of this inaugural class donned their white coats, pledged their formal oaths, and began their lifelong medical journeys.

But for southern Nevada, this was more than your average first day of school. Nevada has consistently ranked among the lowest rates in doctors per capita; and before this class, Las Vegas was the largest metro area in the Nation without a medical school capable of bestowing M.D. degrees.

These graduates are pioneers in providing for the health of our community, and their dedication to home is clear. Ninety-seven percent of this class hails from the Battle Born State, and well over one-third of the graduates will stay right here to continue their education.

We cannot thank them enough for their dedication to the health of our community, especially in the midst of this pandemic.

Congratulations to the UNLV Medical graduates.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

(Mrs. STEEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. STEEL. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize National Police Week.

Our police officers put their lives on the line every single day they go to work. They answer the call of duty on holidays, weekends, birthdays, and through the COVID–19 pandemic to selflessly protect our communities.

When I was chair of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, I introduced a resolution to recognize Law Enforcement Appreciation Day in Orange County because now, more than ever, we owe these brave officers our support and appreciation.

I am especially grateful for our Capitol Police officers who have been through so much this year with the devastating loss of multiple officers in the line of duty.

Thank you to all police officers for your continued bravery. I and so many others are proud to stand with you today and every day.

BENEFITS OF THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

(Mr. JONES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, the American Rescue Plan is the most transformative economic legislation for working families in a generation.

Our expansion of the child tax credit will literally cut child poverty in half. But unless we make the expansion permanent, we will find ourselves a year from now in the same dire straits that existed before the pandemic: A country where we accept that 11 million people live in poverty, nearly 15 percent of all children in this country; a country where we accept that 25 percent of Black children live in poverty.

I have been in Congress for 5 months and I am already tired of having to vote to reauthorize things that we know should be permanent. Expanding the child tax credit is a moral and economic imperative. It should not have an expiration date.

For the last year, we have talked about the impossible choices that families have been forced to make: childcare or healthcare; food or rent.

The reality is, these impossible choices existed for millions of families before the pandemic began, and they will continue to exist after the pandemic is over. Poverty is a choice that we make here in this Chamber, and we can choose to end it.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF SERGEANT FIRST CLASS DONALD KEITH STRICKLAND

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Sergeant First Class Donald Keith Strickland. Donald passed away recently after a long life of service to his country, his fellow Americans, and his family.

Standing with me today is my good friend, Representative ALEX MOONEY of West Virginia. We are both dear friends of Donald's son, Tony Strickland, who I served in the legislature with and who has a long relationship with this great person here.

What you see in a legacy with a man like Donald, who was an Army staff sergeant, also known as a drill sergeant—which, by the way, the family home was known as ''strict land'' because it was very strict there due to that background. The legacy shows the great family that we know with Tony and his kids and all the wonderful grandchildren that Mr. Donald Strickland had.

He is survived by his wife, Antonie; his three children; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The legacy of how we are measured is truly in your family and what you leave behind as you touch your country.

For our dear friend Tony, our hearts are with you in the loss of your father, and God bless you all.

HONORING LOCAL POLICE OFFICERS

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I recently toured my district to meet members of the community nominated by their fellow residents who served their fellow citizens extraordinarily during the pandemic.

During my tour, I had the honor of meeting Mena Police Chief Tommy Stueart and Bearden Police Chief Nathan Greeley. These men cared for their communities by delivering food and prescriptions and taking care of the sick and elderly, all while dealing with their own staff shortages.

When our local police officers go to work, they wear many hats. Of course, they are protectors, but they also play the role of nurse, comforter, teacher, caretaker, and confidant.

Ask any police officer and they will say it is just part of the job, but it is a grave mistake to take this for granted.

Madam Speaker, another grave mistake is the Democrats' move to defund police. This National Police Week, let's honor the heroism and the daily kindnesses shown by our law enforcement, and let's work to support those brave men and women who protect and serve.

HONORING LAW ENFORCEMENT

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

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, today, I rise in honor of National Police Week, a week where we honor the men and women who risk their lives every day to protect and serve our neighborhoods.

I want to take this opportunity to highlight some of the great work from