

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 21 Christian men who were murdered for their faith.

In 2015, ISIS dragged them onto a Libyan beach, forced them to kneel, and beheaded them on video. In that horrific moment, they did not show fear. They showed faith.

Mr. Speaker, 20 of these men were Coptic Christians from Egypt just trying to earn a living for their families. The 21st man, Matthew, who was from Ghana, wasn't even Coptic by birth. ISIS gave him a choice to walk away or die. He chose to stand with his brothers, knowing exactly what it would cost him. He knew it was better to die free than to live under tyranny.

That is faith, Mr. Speaker. That is true freedom. For 45 days, ISIS beat, starved, and tortured these men. They were offered food and money if they would just deny Christ, but they never did. Instead, as the terrorists raised their blades, their last word was the name of Jesus.

I remember my father had a Bible verse on his mirror that said if you deny me before man, I will deny you before the gates of Heaven. They did not deny their faith.

This month marks 10 years since their deaths. ISIS thought they were making a statement of fear. Instead, they showed the world what unshakeable faith looks like.

The Coptic and Catholic churches have honored these men as martyrs, as they should. Just as these men refused to abandon their faith, their faith has never abandoned them. One of the martyrs' widows said: Their blood mixed together, and as a result, we the widows are united.

These men weren't just believers. They were immovable. Their story should remind every American what real religious freedom means. May we never forget them.

FIRE BY PRESIDENT TRUMP

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

Mrs. FOUSHEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the Representative of North Carolina's Fourth Congressional District, and the home of the Research Triangle Park, to share the story of a Federal scientist, in their own words, who was fired by President Trump and Elon Musk.

I worked for the Department of Health and Human Services. I was responsible for leading technical oversight over the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network in order to ensure patient safety, maximal usage of donated organs, continued confidence in the donor system, efficient spending of taxpayer dollars, and a secure, modern technology infrastructure.

These aggressive and sweeping mass firings of hundreds of thousands of Federal employees will have profound and

devastating consequences across the country.

Our dedicated civil servants work tirelessly each day to deliver essential services, conduct critical scientific research, and ensure the safety of our communities. They deserve better.

RECOGNIZING CARL HARRIS

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

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the exceptional service of Kansan Carl Harris, the 2024 chairman of the National Association of Home Builders.

For more than four decades, Carl has made an outsized impact on the residential construction industry and communities across Kansas through his work as cofounder and president of the Carl Harris Company and managing partner of Harris Homes.

Most recently, he completed his term as the 2024 chairman of the National Association of Home Builders, where he has been relentless in advocating for policies that strengthen the construction workforce and help make homeownership, a key tenet of the American Dream, possible.

Generous in sharing his time and talent, Carl served as president of the Wichita Area Builders Association and the Kansas Building Industry Association and in numerous roles in local governments in Newton. In addition, he has promoted workforce development initiatives and outreach to high schoolers to introduce them to opportunities in the construction trades.

It is my honor to thank Carl for his dedicated career and wish him all the best with his next step.

FIRE BY PRESIDENT TRUMP

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

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share the story of a Federal scientist, and a constituent of mine, who has witnessed the impacts of President Trump and Elon Musk's recent firings. He wrote:

This week, 168 of my colleagues at the National Science Foundation were fired in a mass meeting and then waited for hours for an email with instructions before they were removed from NSF systems.

Two in my division were program assistants who provided crucial support for the review process—both early in their career and with tremendous promise as civil servants.

Another in my division was an intermittent expert.

National Science Foundation's work depends on bringing in knowledgeable experts from many fields, and intermittent experts are critical for this.

To lose them is an incredible loss for STEM education.

The cost of employing them to the government is small and far outweighed by the benefits of their service to NSF and the Nation.

Letting them go makes no sense that I can see.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with my constituent that this makes absolutely no sense. This will be a severe loss for American scientific leadership and scientific advancement at large.

We stand with our scientific community and condemn these firings.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF BENNET CHIOTTI

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Bennet "Ben" Chiotti, of Roanoke, Illinois, who passed away on February 9 at the age of 93.

Ben was born in Saluzzo, Italy, in 1931, where he grew up under the oppression of the Italian Fascist regime.

One of four brothers, Ben immigrated to the United States as a teenager with little money and speaking very little English, hoping to pursue the American Dream.

After immigrating, Ben went on to serve in the United States Army during the Korean war before settling in Roanoke, Illinois, outside of Peoria, where he lived for 70 years.

Ben was an active community member and local businessowner. He started Roanoke Plumbing, Heating and Cooling in 1968, a business still run today by his family.

Ben was married to his late wife, Evelyn, of Metamora, Illinois, for nearly 50 years. Ben is survived by his older brother, Louis, who is currently 100 years old, four children, and many grandchildren.

I offer my sincere condolences to the Chiotti family and their loved ones on the loss of a great husband, father, grandfather, and veteran of our Nation.

Ben's commitment to his community will leave a lasting legacy and impact on central Illinois for years to come.

FIRE BY PRESIDENT TRUMP

(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, I rise today to share the story of a Federal scientist who was fired by President Trump and Elon Musk.

In their own words, this researcher wrote:

I was a biologist with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. I worked to mitigate human-wildlife conflict and protect American agriculture. As a Wildlife Services biologist, I was also designated as an emergency response official and was preparing to deploy to help the efforts combating the avian influenza epidemic.

Bird flu cases are popping up across the country, including in my district, yet Trump is firing the public servants who are responsible for fighting the disease.

Donald Trump is not only jeopardizing the livelihoods of thousands of