

time, she has sharpened her skills, with one fine arts professional saying Marjorie paints “as a realist.”

Mr. Speaker, we wish Marjorie a very happy belated 100th birthday, and we congratulate her on her exhibit.

We thank Marjorie and her family for all that they do in our community.

RECOGNIZING THE BENSalem HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BAND

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a talented group of young musicians from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who were recently honored for their performances.

Last month, the Bensalem High School Jazz Band traveled to perform in the Cavalcade of Bands Jazz Championships. Bensalem High School Jazz Band, well-known for their outstanding performances, was the only band given the superior rating at the event and was also named grand champion.

This is the third time that Bensalem High School Jazz Band has been named grand champion over the past 11 years, a testament to the band’s skills, dedication, and work ethic.

Critical to the success of these young people is the director of the Bensalem High School Jazz Band, Michael Zimmerman. We extend our gratitude to him for working with our community’s youth and students to sharpen their musical abilities, and we congratulate all performers in the Bensalem High School Jazz Band for their earned distinctions.

RECOGNIZING MILTON “WOODY” WOODSIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Milton “Woody” Woodside for serving more than 30 years as president of the Brunswick-Golden Isles Chamber of Commerce.

After graduating from the Citadel, Mr. Woodside has dedicated his entire career to public service. Without his work, coastal Georgia would likely look very different than it does today.

To start, he worked 13 years for the First Congressional District of Georgia with Representatives Bo Ginn and Lindsay Thomas. Since his work with the House of Representatives, he has held the top position with the Chamber of Commerce and is one of the longest continually serving chamber leaders in Georgia.

In his position with the chamber, Mr. Woodside advocated for the creation of the South Georgia Parkway, funding to deepen the Port of Brunswick, a replacement for the Sidney Lanier Bridge, the building of both the Golden Isles Convention Center along with the Career Academy, and much more.

Whether it was at the Capitol in Washington, D.C., the statehouse in Georgia, or the mayor’s office in Brunswick, Mr. Woodside was constantly working to help Brunswick

grow. Although he is retiring on May 15, I am sure that Mr. Woodside will continue to help the Brunswick community in any way he can.

Woody, thank you for your service. You have been an inspiration to all of us. You were an icon in our community. Our community thanks you, our State thanks you, our country thanks you, and I thank you, my friend.

REMEMBERING ROY KENT HODNETT

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Mr. Roy Kent Hodnett who passed away at the age of 98 on Friday, April 26.

Known throughout Glynn County in the First Congressional District as a gentleman with a caring personality, he brightened the day of everyone around him.

He served in France during World War II directly after D-day, earning the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and Victory Medal. When he came home to the United States, he stopped in St. Simons Island while vacationing, fell in love with the area, bought a home that same weekend, and started raising a family.

While there, he built one of the most successful companies in the area, Hodnett Cooper Real Estate and Vacation Rentals.

Through all of this, Mr. Hodnett’s passion was with his family and his community. For him, the key to a successful business was having a wife of 75 years who has stood beside him and believed in him. He also mentored and advised countless young people, helping them to find their own paths through life.

I am proud to have had Mr. Hodnett spend so much of his life in the First Congressional District of Georgia. His family and friends will be in my thoughts and prayers during this time.

FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be cosponsoring H.R. 9, which we will be voting on this week.

H.R. 9 reaffirms the United States’ commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It is long past time that we do more to fight climate change.

Fighting climate change has been a priority of mine since I got to Congress more than a decade ago. In 2007, in an era of divided government, we were able to make some progress. I was able to get two bills passed into law that address climate change. One required the Federal Government to cut energy usage by installing energy-efficient light bulbs in Federal buildings. The other created a new prize competition to encourage development of clean transportation fuel. It seemed that we were starting to take climate change seriously.

In 2009 and 2010, more steps were taken. In order to make a major break-

through, in 2009, I helped introduce the first bipartisan bill to impose a revenue-neutral carbon fee. However, in 2010, Congress failed to pass major climate legislation, and since then, we have failed to make more progress.

Today, I have renewed hope. H.R. 9 is a good first step, but much more needs to be done. I am an original cosponsor of the bipartisan Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, which would institute a carbon fee with the revenue returned to Americans with a dividend check. This bill would bring greenhouse gas emissions down 90 percent by 2050.

I have sponsored several other climate change bills, including the Challenges & Prizes for Climate Act, which would incentivize and reward development of innovative solutions with direct benefits to the climate. These are all ways to harness American ingenuity to solve our climate crisis.

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In doing so, by coming up with an American solution, we could build our economy and create more jobs. We know, as Americans, that we can get this done, and we must do it. Now is the time for us to act.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CURTIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, Utahns believe in being good stewards of our planet, leaving the Earth better than we found it.

When I served as the mayor of Provo, we pursued policies to construct LEAD-certified buildings, create more environmentally friendly transit options, and educate our residents on how they can be better stewards of the environment. We considered these efforts to be meaningful steps in the right direction.

But, imagine my surprise when I arrived in Congress and learned of the dangerous winner-take-all system of governing that has overtaken Washington, especially on issues impacting the environment.

Instead of a pragmatic approach to a positive change through small and consistent consensus, an all-or-nothing approach dominates the debate and villainizes all but the most extreme positions.

Congress is a place where ideological purity is rewarded more than results. It is easy to vote on a messaging bill that the sponsor knows will never be passed into law and then go home and take the applause from the like-minded constituents, but it is difficult to leave the echo chambers and work across the aisle with individuals who have different backgrounds than yourself and find common ground.

The most obvious example of this is the climate change debate in our country where, today, my Democratic colleagues have taken the easy path. The

bill we are voting on today has 224 Democratic sponsors and not a single Republican sponsor.

Instead of working with Republicans on our four-part approach to addressing climate change through innovation, conservation, adaptation, and preparation, we are sending a partisan bill to die in the Senate.

I attempted to work with my colleagues on this bill. I offered a good-faith amendment that would increase transparency and competition by comparing emissions produced by all the countries in the Paris Agreement. This amendment wasn't even allowed a vote by the Democratic leadership, although there was no problem allowing votes from their Democratic friends' amendments.

In fact, only three Republican amendments will be considered, and 26 Democratic amendments will be offered for debate.

It is as if my colleagues on the other side are afraid of hurting the feelings of China and Russia by pointing out that they are not pulling their weight.

I have long been a proponent for the environment, and I was proud to receive the Utah Clean Air Partnership Person of the Year award in 2017. I have championed hundreds of thousands of acres of bipartisan conservation in Utah.

I, like all Utahns, care deeply about conserving our planet and our way of life for future generations, but I cannot vote for H.R. 9 because I believe it further divides us apart, reinforcing the false narrative that all Republicans don't care about the environment because they are unwilling to get on board with an all-or-nothing, unrealistic approach to addressing climate change.

H.R. 9 completely ignores the serious and legitimate concerns about the cost and effectiveness of the Paris Agreement.

H.R. 9 ignores that President Obama's pledge to the Paris Agreement could cost the United States \$250 billion and nearly 3 million jobs in this next 6 years; and it ignores that, in the next 20 years, this commitment could cost us \$3 trillion and 6.5 million American jobs.

H.R. 9 also ignores that, because of innovation and technological improvement, the United States is already leading the world in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Since 2000, the United States has decreased annual carbon dioxide emissions by nearly 800 million tons, the largest absolute decline among all countries since 2000.

H.R. 9 ignores the fact that, if the United States cut CO₂ emissions to zero, it would not even come close to offsetting the emissions coming from the rest of the world.

H.R. 9 even ignores that the Paris Agreement allows China, the Earth's largest greenhouse gas polluter, to increase their emissions through 2030 with little evidence to show that they plan to comply in the future.

I have heard over and over that the U.S. must remain in the Paris Agreement to show leadership. And I ask you: What kind of leadership leads to double-digit unemployment in rural America but lets China off the hook?

I agree that America must continue to show leadership, but let's focus on leadership that goes back to the core principles of innovation, conservation, adaptation, and preparation. This bill fails to do any of that.

Let's continue leading the world and bettering our environment, but let's not pretend that H.R. 9 is a silver bullet to our evolving world.

I hope that we can stop with the easy, cheap rhetoric that offers false promises and divides our country even further and focus on those things that make meaningful change.

HONORING RALPH VANNI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend Ralph Vanni, the senior House audio technician who retired earlier this month.

For 34 years, Ralph has been the man behind this microphone and every microphone in this Chamber. When he took his job as the House technician in 1985, Ralph was no stranger to Capitol Hill. At the age of 16, he landed an internship with the then-Senate majority leader.

After two more internships and graduating college, Ralph had a hand in nearly every corner of the Capitol building, from doorkeeper for the Sergeant at Arms to working in the Senate Cloakroom.

In his most recent role, Ralph saw six Presidents give their State of the Union speeches, but the day he has said he will never forget is running audio from that perch right up there for Pope Francis' address to this Chamber in 2015.

I remember meeting Ralph on my first day as a newly elected Member of Congress during orientation in 2013. With the Speaker's permission, we could take photos on the House floor that day, and I took a minute to take one with Ralph and some of his team and the many folks who do a wonderful job guarding this Chamber every day.

Ralph became my friend that day and has been my friend for the last 6½ years I have had the chance to serve in this great institution. I wish him the best in his retirement. And I want to thank him personally, on behalf of every Member of Congress who stands behind any microphone in this institution.

Ralph made us sound better, and we appreciate him for doing that. I wish him good luck in his retirement and thank him for all his years of service.

I am going to miss Ralph, looking up in that perch, but I am going to get to

know the folks who have replaced him so well. He has led a great generation into that seat to replace him now.

I thank Ralph Vanni.

SOLITO, SOLITA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, innocent children shouldn't pay the price for the President's cruel immigration agenda. Steamrolling the facts and the law, he has implemented policy after failed policy, playing catch and release with his own cabinet.

As the President ratchets up his threats to close the border and cut aid to Central America, thousands of migrants are fleeing their home countries to seek refuge in the United States.

I recently met with the editors of the book "Solito, Solita"—Alone, Alone—a collection of oral histories that tells the stories of young refugees in their own words. I rise today to read excerpts from one of them, Gabriel Mendez.

His story begins in a poor, dangerous neighborhood in the capital of Honduras. He says:

When I was just a boy of 7, my cousins raped me for a long time—for a year. They raped me at the river, where they collected water—and in my own home.

... Some of my fellow students who belonged to the maras took weapons to school. I told the mareros that I didn't want to bring weapons to school. I was afraid of them. They also wanted me to bring drugs into school. I didn't want to do it, so I left that school. ... Now the maras were looking for me—to kill me. They were asking my neighbors if they knew me.

When Gabriel was 14, he convinced his mother, who was living in San Francisco, to pay a coyote \$6,000 to bring him to the United States. Gabriel recounted the horrors he encountered along the way.

... they kept us locked in a house with eight other people for a week. We kept moving. Many days passed without eating or drinking water.

We were taken to the river, where there was a raft. We crossed the river into the United States and moved to a safe house. We spent 4 nights in the desert, including the night of my 15th birthday.

... We came upon another group of people who'd been traveling 2 days ahead of us. A young man, under 18, had perished from exposure and lack of water and food. I got stuck in some barbed wire in the desert. The coyote kicked me, ripping my flesh to set me free.

... We got to Los Angeles on December 17, 2013. If we didn't pay more money, they threatened to cut off our heads and all kinds of horrible things. My mom said she'd give them another \$50, and they piled another 8 people in a van and brought us to San Francisco.

In San Francisco, Gabriel feared for years he would be sent back to Honduras. With the support of his mother and an attorney, he was eventually granted asylum.

Now he is a student at the University of California at Berkeley, with dreams of becoming a lawyer himself.