

on in our Nation that we may be rapidly becoming unworthy of that mission. And if we lay that mantle down, if it is taken away from us, Mr. Speaker, who will pick it up?

Russia, China, radical Islam?

I don't believe so.

I believe it is important not only for America to continue to be that God-fearing Nation but also important for the rest of the world.

That verse in Second Chronicles 7:14 says:

If my people, who are called by my name love themselves, turn from their wicked ways, seek my face and pray, then I will hear them in Heaven. I will forgive their sins, and I will heal their land.

Our land needs healing. That is God's promise. It is written in stone. God doesn't change any of his promises. And that promise is available to us as a Nation. That is the promise.

The solution, however, lies with us. We must be that people who will turn from our wicked ways, seek God's face, pray, and then he will hear us from Heaven, he will heal our land, and forgive our sins.

Mr. Speaker, our land needs healing, probably more so than at any time since the Civil War. We are a divided Nation, and only God's guidance and God's divine intervention, I believe, can make that happen. We have to be, however, God's instruments to make that happen.

The Bible is important to me. It is important to our Nation. It is important for the ongoing safety of this world. God bless each and every one of you. God bless Texas. And God bless the United States of America.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and I would like to say that this country is a better place because of your service. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Colorado has 7 minutes remaining.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, quickly I am going to give a quote from one of our Presidents, our Founding Father, and then John Quincy Adams, the sixth President.

George Washington said: It is impossible to rightly govern a Nation without God and the Bible. So he began a rich history of Presidents leaning on the Bible for wisdom and guidance.

John Quincy Adams, the sixth President said: "The first and almost the only Book deserving of universal attention is the Bible." So those are great quotes from some of our Founding Fathers.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT), my friend and colleague.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, my colleague, and my brother in Christ for yielding and for hosting this Special Order.

To follow up on what Congressman LAMBORN said, the very first book that the United States Congress authorized

to be published at taxpayer expense was a book called the Bible.

Not only that, I would also point to a quote, as there is a lot of talk about socialism and how it would work in this country. Dostoevsky hypothesized about it at the end of the 1800s, and Solzhenitsyn didn't hypothesize it, he lived what Dostoevsky said, and that is, the problem with socialism is not economic, the problem with socialism is atheism. And that is diametrically opposed to how this country was started.

In fact, I had asked for the Congressional Research Service to give me information about the role of the church and the Bible in our founding, and this is derived from that.

The first Christian church services in this United States Capitol were held when the government moved to Washington in the fall of 1800. They were conducted in the Hall of the House. During church services the Speaker's podium was used as a preacher's pulpit.

Within a year of his inauguration, President Jefferson began attending church services in the Chamber of the House of Representatives. Throughout his administration, Thomas Jefferson permitted and encouraged church services in executive branch buildings. Sermons regarding the Old and New Testaments of the Bible were conducted in the Supreme Court Chambers while the judicial branch was located in the old north wing of the Capitol.

And by the way, that was until the Supreme Court began to think of themselves as God, and at that time they said you can't talk about God or you can't be doing this kind of stuff in schools and other places.

But the term "separation of church and state" was not found in the Constitution, it was in a letter written by Thomas Jefferson to the Danbury Baptists, in essence, saying, we are not going to pick a specific official denomination.

President James Madison, who was often recognized as the author of much of our Constitution, followed Jefferson's example as President of coming to church in the Capitol and worshipping God here and using the Bible as the foundational support for that.

If you look at President Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural address, it is inscribed on the inside of the north wall of his memorial, he said of North and South, "Both read the same Bible, and pray to the same God; and each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces; but let us judge not that we be not judged."

But he goes on to ultimately say: "Yet if God wills that it continue, until all the wealth piled by the bondsmen's 250 years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash, shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said 3,000 years ago," in the Bible, "so

still it must be said 'the judgments of the Lord, are true and righteous altogether.'"

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and I would I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the recognition of National Bible Week by my namesake from Colorado, Douglas Lamborn, for always being so faithful to this.

Christians believe the Bible is the divine and inherent Word of God. I believe that. And we hear a lot of things in this society today that would try to denigrate that, denigrate the faith, and, indeed, there is nothing wrong with what the Bible says as a guidance for life.

□ 1830

The Ten Commandments: there is nothing wrong with living by those even if you don't believe in the Bible.

It is indeed, we know, the best seller, the most quoted, a treasure for all of us to go by.

So as I contemplate here what we are doing tonight, I just want to leave you with this as a guidance for working in this town, in Proverbs 4:23-27:

Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.

Rid yourself of a deceitful mouth and keep devious speech far from you.

Let your eyes look directly ahead and let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you.

Keep straight paths of your feet, and all your ways will be established.

Do not turn to the right or to the left; turn your foot from evil.

Indeed, if we could do more of that around here, we would be much better off.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his great words.

In conclusion, it has been an honor to commemorate National Bible Week this evening. I am grateful to my colleagues who joined me.

The Bible claims to be more than a mere book. It claims to be the inspired words of God. As it says in the first book of Peter:

All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers and the flower falls off, but the word of the Lord abides forever.

So I am thankful for the Word of God on my life and all the lives of those who have spoken today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

THANK YOU FOR THE HONOR OF SERVING IN THIS HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentlewoman from Iowa (Ms. FINKENAUER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. FINKENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say thank you to this body and to the constituents of Iowa's

First Congressional District for giving me the honor to serve these last few years, and also my incredible staff, who both here and in Iowa have given their all to Iowa and to this country. You have made me proud every single day to know you.

Importantly, I also want to say thank you to my family: my husband, Daniel, who has been my rock and been with me every step of the way; to my siblings and nieces and nephews, who have taught me to never take myself too seriously; and to my parents, who I know are watching right now because, as I found out within the first 6 months of being in Congress, they actually DVR and record C-SPAN every day so that they can find me on the floor during votes.

You know, I think back to the day that they came to visit right before swearing in. My very first visitors to my congressional office, where my dad, Jerry, a UA retired union pipefitter welder, and my mom, a retired public school secretary, held hands and walked through the door of their 29-year-old daughter's congressional office.

I can't imagine what they thought, but I hope it was better than when I told them and sat them down at the age of 24 and said I was running for Iowa's State House, where my mom blurted out, "Why in the heck are you doing that?"

Well, it has been 7½ years since mom asked that question, and I hope every day they have seen the answer.

The reason I entered public service was because of them. You see, my parents couldn't give me a trust fund or debt-free college, but what they gave me was worth a hell of a lot more.

They taught me about treating people with respect, and seeing work to be done and doing it; about standing up for those who need a voice; and, most importantly, to never think you are better than anyone else no matter what you do or where you go.

The work I have done both in Iowa and here in Congress has been shaped by the stories and the lives of my constituents and my family, from my late grandfathers, one a firefighter and one a Purple Heart World War II vet who worked in a meat packing plant, to my uncles; from a former UPS driver to a small business owner; and my mother-in-law and my sister-in-law, both who are heroes and nurses.

Because of them, my fight for working families, wage protections, collective bargaining, paid leave, workplace protections, have continued to be, in every sense of the word, personal, and that is the way policy should be.

These laws we pass—and, unfortunately on some occasions don't pass because of stalemates—aren't just dollars and cents on a page. They are affecting people's lives.

I hope for this body and for the American people that we can have a Congress and a Senate who sees that and understands the value of public service.

Until we get there fully, I hope that young people across the country find their "why" and run. We need you. And when you get here, I hope you do the work and I hope you find an incredible staff like I did to help you do it.

You see, this place is not about the crystal chandeliers or the fancy titles. It is about the work. It is about the people in your district. It is about finding common ground where you can and just getting things done.

I have been proud to get to work with my staff the way that we did passing my first bill within the first 2 weeks, becoming the youngest woman in the history of this body to ever pass a bill through this floor; to working on the Small Business Committee and beginning to chair the Rural Development, Ag, Trade and Entrepreneurship Subcommittee, where we got to fight for things like better access to markets for our farmers and for our small business owners; to stepping up for our childcare workers, who need it most right now; and the work that we did on that Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, along with the honorable Chairman DEFazio, getting to help pass some of the best investments in rural infrastructure that has ever come out of either one of these Chambers; to standing here, I think in this very spot, having to fight back against attacks on Davis-Bacon wages, good wage protections, in the middle of a pandemic; to helping our farmers, our biofuel industries, trying to fight for and also getting done the biodiesel tax credit extender; to, again, one of the things I might be most proud of, standing here sharing a story that was hard to tell about my own battle with endometriosis, and then fighting and working with my staff to help double that funding for research that had been at the bottom of the National Institutes of Health's research for years.

I also just want to say a special thank you to the staff in Iowa, who have been there for my constituents in one of the toughest years we've ever had, this pandemic, where they have taken calls from folks wondering about their unemployment checks, wondering about how they are going to be able to feed their family because they are unemployed right now through no fault of their own, to then, on top of it, going almost 2 weeks without electricity post-derecho in my district, which was basically like a Category 4 hurricane that came through and decimated large parts of my district.

The way that my staff stepped up when, again, they themselves didn't even have electricity or WiFi is extraordinary. You make me proud every day.

And the way that my constituents came together, it made me proud to be a Congresswoman and to be an Iowan.

You see, I, again, just want to say one last big thank you to my staff. You are all incredible public servants that I am blessed to have known and some of the best public servants I have ever

met. And I should know, because I met one of the best.

That late grandfather I talked about, that firefighter, he was the one who taught me what all of this was. You see, he is the guy that I would sit around the kitchen table with when I was 10 talking about what was happening in the world. And he is also the guy that taught me what public service should be. You see, when he would run into a burning building to save people's lives, he didn't call and ask first: What color is your skin? Where are you from? Who do you love? What language do you speak?

He just showed up and he helped people, and he did his job.

That is what I have tried to do here every single day, both here in Congress and my 4 years in the State House in Iowa. It is what I will continue to do in whatever I do next.

It has been an honor and a privilege to get to serve in this body and represent this district and this country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

RECOGNIZING MISSISSIPPI'S LINEMEN AND POWER COMPANIES FOLLOWING HURRICANE ZETA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PALAZZO) for 30 minutes.

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of the linemen of Mississippi.

Following the recent Hurricane Zeta, almost 100,000 homes in our area were left without power due to the heavy rains and winds.

Nearly 1,000 of Mississippi's linemen jumped to action to serve their neighbors during our time of need. These storm teams are expertly trained and well-equipped to reinstate normalcy following a storm, and I am proud to acknowledge their work here today.

As one of America's most dangerous jobs, these individuals go to work knowing they serve a critical cause providing the power that empowers our daily lives.

So when you make a call to a loved one, use hot water, turn on an air-conditioner, or stay up to date on the news, remember the brave linemen who make these services possible.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to take a moment to thank Mississippi Power, Coast Electric Power Association, Singing River Electric Power Company, Pearl River Valley Electric Company, Dixie Electric Power Association, and the many other workers within Mississippi and from out of State who banded together to restore power back to our area.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our gratitude to these unsung heroes. Without them, our future would be a lot less bright.