

Then, over the course of just a few catastrophic weeks, our government took a wrecking ball to it all. In the second quarter, GDP plunged by one-third, the worst decline in productivity ever recorded. Unemployment skyrocketed to its highest levels since the Great Depression. Tens of millions of Americans lost their jobs. Trillions of dollars of the Nation's wealth were squandered.

In the months since, our children have been robbed of a year of their education. Millions of Americans have been forbidden from earning a living by their own government. Shopkeepers have seen their life's work destroyed, and when in desperation they try to hold on, they are led away in handcuffs.

Our most cherished rights to worship freely; to peaceably assemble; and not to be deprived of our lives, liberty, or property without due process of law have all been destroyed.

Now, COVID did not cause this damage. Public officials did. They promised us it was for our own good and that it would save lives. But mounting evidence in multiple scientific studies is putting the lie to these sophistries. It is becoming increasingly, tragically, and bitterly clear that the lockdowns have not only failed to save lives, but they are costing lives.

Last month, the University of Denmark released the results of a study comparing Danish municipalities that locked down with those that did not. Their conclusion: The lockdowns had "statistically insignificant effects."

Their conclusion mirrored a similar study out of Stanford University that compared eight lockdown nations and two non-lockdown nations. They concluded: "We fail to find an additional benefit of stay-at-home orders and business closures."

Now, these are studies based not on assumptions and models but on actual, real-life, hardcore data. That is what the science is telling us, and it is telling us the same thing for multiple studies: The lockdowns have not saved lives, certainly not to any statistically significant level.

But it gets worse, much worse. We are now seeing mounting evidence that the lockdowns are costing lives on a staggering scale. Last month, the National Bureau of Economic Research warned that increases in poverty caused by the lockdowns will cost more than 800,000 American lives over the next 15 years due to higher poverty levels, with the deaths disproportionately affecting African Americans and women. That comports with a U.N. warning that tens of millions of people worldwide are being pushed to the brink of starvation.

Suicide rates have jumped dramatically over the past year. Dementia deaths between March and September jumped 13,000 as patients were left with little means of social interaction. San Francisco reported that additional deaths from drug overdoses exceeded the total COVID deaths in 2020.

According to The Wall Street Journal, the CDC reported 475,000 excess deaths in the United States at a time when it was reporting 281,000 COVID-related fatalities. Now, that difference is 192,000 additional deaths unexplained by normal mortality and COVID combined.

Could it be this is the butcher's bill from a folly that has produced skyrocketing suicides, drug and alcohol deaths, domestic homicides, isolation-related deaths, delayed health screenings, delayed health treatments, and poverty-related deaths?

Unlike COVID, which is a curse brought us by nature, lockdown deaths are the fault of specific individuals in positions of public trust who imposed draconian restrictions out of panic, fear, ignorance, or egotism. They preened and virtue-signaled and boasted how much they cared for the lives of others while they have pursued a folly that is needlessly taking an appalling toll of lives and livelihoods.

Some of those responsible hold power by virtue of appointments by elected officials while others are elected officials themselves, and I fear this nightmare will not end until the officials who are responsible for it are removed from the offices they hold.

HONORING ALBERT HALE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. O'HALLERAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of former Navajo Nation President Albert Hale, who lost his battle with COVID this week.

Years ago, Albert and I served together in the Arizona House of Representatives, working on water issues and fighting to uphold Tribal sovereignty. As the second elected president of the Navajo Nation, Albert Hale taught me so much about the Dine people, their culture, and their long-overlooked struggles.

In this body, we are no strangers to the suffering the Navajo Nation has endured throughout the course of this pandemic—and still is. Forced to wait months for CARES Act funding to arrive, Navajo families were often at the epicenter of this global pandemic, several times experiencing the highest per capita infection rates in the world.

As a Congress, we must, once and for all, commit ourselves to discontinuing the shelving of Native American issues and concerns. I know that is what Albert Hale would have said.

We must wholeheartedly devote our efforts to serving all Americans equitably and come together reinvigorated to pass legislation to meet our obligations.

Today, I think of Albert's passing with a heavy heart for many reasons. I am saddened to lose his friendship and guidance, his smile, his sense of humor, and his sense of caring for his fellow Navajo and American people. And I am

frustrated to see yet again that the community he fought to uplift continues to be left behind. Too many Dine mothers, grandfathers, neighbors, and friends have fallen to this deadly disease.

Since coming to Congress in 2017, I have strived to bring the voices of all 12 sovereign Tribal nations in our district to the discussion table in Washington. Today, I recommit myself to fighting for their needs and honoring their unique stories, as Albert Hale did during his time with us.

My thoughts are with the Hale family and the entire Navajo Nation as we mourn Albert's passing. His work, his light, and his mission will not be forgotten.

And I can't stand here today and not say that one of my last conversations with Albert was about COVID.

I am so sad that he and many other people who have died from this dreaded disease have not been able to be with their loved ones as they have passed away, or their friends. I am saddened that I didn't know at that time that Albert would have been stricken with this terrible virus. But we do know Albert would say to us, Please continue to fight the fight for the American people.

□ 1015

CONGRATULATING DR. KARLA SAPP

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate a devoted advocate in my district, Dr. Karla Sapp, who was named the 2020 Mental Health Advocate of the Year by the Black Mental Health Symposium.

Dr. Sapp has worked tirelessly to decrease the stigma of mental illness, increase access to care, and improve the wellness of the individuals in her community.

A native of Midway, Georgia, Dr. Sapp previously served with the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice. For the past 11 years, she has worked as a drug abuse program coordinator with the Federal Bureau of Prisons. I have had the honor of working with Dr. Sapp during her tenure at the Federal Correctional Institution of Jesup.

Karla is a mother, sister, advocate, counselor, teacher, resource, motivator, and public servant. We are blessed to have Dr. Sapp working to better the lives of those suffering from mental illnesses, and I am thankful for her commitment to improving countless lives.

I congratulate her on this amazing accomplishment, and I look forward to her continued journey of service and success.

RECOGNIZING KEN GRINER

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor

Ken Griner of Georgia's First Congressional District for his 33 years of service in television and his many contributions to Savannah, Georgia.

Over the duration of his successful career, Ken began as a studio camera operator, then worked his way to covering late nights as WTOG's sports director, and eventually became the hall-mark coanchor at *The News at Daybreak* in historic Savannah, Georgia.

Ken's energetic, warm, and bubbly personality made him an invaluable and universally loved person within the television community, and I have personally enjoyed listening to his remarks.

Ken has always been known as a fan favorite; warm and friendly; a helpful coworker; and, above all, a loving person of all people. He is a pillar in Savannah, and I am thankful for his many years of dedicated work in media and for his whole-hearted investment in his community. I hold Ken in the highest regard and I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MACK MATTINGLY

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Senator Mack Mattingly, who celebrated his 90th birthday on January 7. Mack carries a long list of accomplishments and prestigious titles and awards, but his heart for public service stands out the most.

In the early 1950s, Mack served our country for 4 years in the United States Air Force and was stationed at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Georgia. He first became active in politics in 1964, when he served as chairman of U.S. Senator Barry Goldwater's campaign for President in Georgia's First Congressional District.

In 1980, Mack defeated longtime Democratic Senator Herman Talmadge and served in the Senate from January 1981 until January 1987. Mack was the first Republican to serve in the United States Senate from Georgia since Reconstruction.

In his post-Senatorial campaign, President Reagan appointed Mack to serve as assistant secretary-general for defense support for NATO in Brussels, Belgium. He was later appointed as ambassador to Seychelles by President George Bush. Mack has contributed greatly to Georgia and to the United States as a whole through all the positions he held.

I am thankful for his amazing life, and I wish him and his family the best in years to come.

HONORING STEPHEN TOOTLE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor Stephen Tootle of Savannah, Georgia, who recently passed away at the age of 32 on December 20.

Stephen was a man of remarkable character and a giving heart, who knew no stranger. He and his family were engrained in the local Savannah community, and everyone who knew him recognized his light-hearted personality and passion for the outdoors.

He was a 2006 graduate of Benedictine Military School and would go on to attend the University of Georgia, where he was a member of the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity. During this time, he made many lifelong friends. He graduated from the University of Georgia in 2010, with a degree in risk management and insurance, before he returned to his hometown of Savannah and worked as a commercial fisherman in his family's crabbing business.

Stephen was known as someone who saw the good in everyone and everything and had a heart of gold. He also had a way of making anyone he met laugh. He was a courageous fighter who battled addiction, and I know his story will continue to touch many lives.

Stephen leaves behind a wonderful, loving family who raised Stephen to be the amazing person he was, and I am thankful for the life he lived. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and all who knew him during this most difficult time.

REMEMBERING HAWAII COUNTY MAYOR WILLIAM "BILLY" P. KENOI

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

Mr. KAHELE. Mr. Speaker, my ohana is from the last native Hawaiian fishing village in Hawaii, Milolii. You have likely never heard of Milolii, and if you haven't heard of the small fishing village of Milolii, then you probably haven't heard of Kalapana.

Kalapana, like Milolii, is an ocean community, but Kalapana sits in the shadow of the volcano Kilauea. For decades, this area has been shaped by the various destructive lava flows that have flowed through; but no matter how many times this happened, the people of Kalapana remained resilient and proud of their community.

Mr. Speaker, I can think of no one who embodied the pride and resilience of being Kalapana born and raised than William Punapaia'alaikahala Kenoi, known to most as Hawaii Island Mayor Billy Kenoi. Billy Kenoi would proudly talk about the papaya fields of Kalapana and the mentors who helped him see the world outside of them. Their inspiration took him from the slopes of Kilauea to the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

From there, the boy from Kalapana walked with reverence through these very Halls, which he regarded as a heiau, or spiritual center of democracy, as a congressional intern with the legendary Senator Daniel K. Inouye. He then went on to attend the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

As he moved through his career, he remained that same resilient and proud kid from Kalapana. He worked for justice as a public defender with indigent clients. He moved home to Hawaii Island as a public servant, dedicated to helping his island weather the crystal

meth crisis that was ravaging our communities. His leadership in crisis, born of the lava flows and fields of Kalapana, eventually translated to leadership at the island level, when he was elected as Hawaii County mayor in 2008.

Nobody could deny Billy's charm, keen political drive, and charismatic leadership. And for all his high-level leadership and larger-than-life personality, he left his mark in the individual interactions he had with people, always kind and authentic. Some of us had the fortune of getting to know him as a friend. For me, he was also a mentor.

I will always remember Martin Luther King Day 2016, because it was the day my father had a heart attack and passed away a week later. In the chaotic hours after he passed, there were too many calls and texts of support to count and certainly too many to answer. Despite all of this, one person's grief persisted and pierced through the profound grief: Billy Kenoi.

Billy called, asked where I was, and told me to come to the State Capitol. He said, "It was time." I didn't know what he meant by that. My father had just passed, but when Billy spoke, I listened. When a man who was once a boy from Kalapana calls you in the middle of a family crisis, you know that he summons with it the resilience and strength of an island community that persisted through lava flow after lava flow.

I went to the State Capitol, to the desk of my father in the State Senate, surrounded by his colleagues, and my life was forever changed. Five years to the day after he passed, Billy Kenoi went into po himself, and he crossed into the afterlife. He left behind a beautiful wife, Takako, and three children, Justin, Liam, and Mahina. He was only 52. And like my father, he was too important a leader to lose too soon.

Billy was the personification of Kalapana. No matter what change life threw at him, he embraced it with pride, resilience, and a sense of humor. As Hawaii is now altered by the passing of this leader, we will conjure his spirit and the spirit of Kalapana. We will remember the boy from Kalapana who became the incomparable leader Billy Kenoi.

Colleagues, I leave you with words from his final speech—and he was famous for speeches—to remember him and take us to a more resilient and prouder future: If impossible is nothing, then everything is possible.

JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS IN SANCTUARY CITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I am here to talk for just a moment about law and order. I am here to talk about how we as a body can prevent more needless tragedies in our country. I am here to