

and I wish the best for them as they continue their journey of academic achievement.

I would also like to take a moment to wish a happy belated birthday to my legislative assistant, Kendyl Willox, and a happy belated birthday to my good friend and colleague, enthusiastically, the gentleman from Long Island, Representative ANDREW GARBARINO.

IMPROVING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, a historic investment that will create millions of good-paying jobs and support America's future global competitiveness.

This bill will do so much to repair our ailing infrastructure and will create two million labor-friendly jobs each year for a decade.

Florida has 408 bridges and more than 3,564 miles of highway that are in poor condition.

Through this bill, Florida will receive \$13 billion for federal-aid highway programs and \$245 million for bridge repair.

Florida will also receive \$2.6 billion for public transit systems and \$1.2 billion for airport development.

To further help us cut down on transportation emissions, the bill will provide Florida with nearly \$200 million to support the expansion of an electric vehicle charging network.

I have also heard, Mr. Speaker, from so many municipalities throughout south Florida who are struggling with obsolete water infrastructure. Thankfully, this bill provides Florida with \$1.6 billion to get rid of lead pipes and improve water infrastructure.

For Florida's highways and byways, which are some of the most dangerous in the Nation, this legislation will usher in a "Safe Streets for All" program to help reduce crashes and fatalities.

Also important for Florida, this bill provides the Army Corps of Engineers with \$1.9 billion for aquatic ecosystem restoration projects.

The Florida delegation expects the Corps to use a large portion of this money on Everglades restoration to bolster the funding we already secured through the regular appropriation process and get the project back on track.

This bill is a big investment in surface transportation and hard infrastructure, but it is only a segment of President Biden's Build Back Better agenda.

I am looking forward to passing the revolutionary climate and resiliency programs in the Build Back Better Act.

For my own constituents and the children and grandchildren of everyone

in this Nation, I urge a "yes" vote on this important bill and the Build Back Better Act. That will allow us to truly rebuild our working class and set us on a path to prosperity.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

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

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize two Hispanic trailblazers in Omaha—Robert, known as Bob, Campos and Dr. James, known as Jim, Ramirez—for their generous contributions to our community.

After growing up together in the same working-class South Omaha neighborhood, Bob and Jim each went on to lead extraordinary, successful lives, and they have made a huge difference in our community.

Bob Campos was born in 1938 to Mexican immigrant parents in South Omaha, a neighborhood long regarded as a melting pot of multicultural immigrant families. Growing up, his large family shared only a one-bedroom home. So when Bob was only 8 years old, he went to work at the neighborhood grocery store to earn some extra income for his family.

At 16 years old, Campos dropped out of high school and attempted to enlist in the United States Marines but was unsuccessful after falsifying his age in his application. Shortly after that, he fulfilled his desire to serve his country by joining the U.S. Coast Guard.

After his military service, Bob moved back to Omaha and worked at the Kiewit Construction Company. After 15 years at Kiewit, he started his own business, Campos Construction, on January 1, 1977. Starting his business with only \$500 and a pickup truck, Campos grew his company to become the largest minority-owned construction company in Nebraska.

Bob's reputation for excellence led him to take on high-profile projects, to include painting the home of President Abraham Lincoln in Illinois and building the Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center in Omaha.

In 2003, Bob leased the land to build community soccer fields in South Omaha, personally mowing and tending to the property now known as the Bob Campos Soccer Complex.

Bob also fosters educational leadership opportunities for Hispanic high school students through the Grassroots Leadership Development Program.

Dr. Jim Ramirez was born in 1934 to Mexican immigrant parents who worked in the meatpacking plants of South Omaha.

During high school, Dr. Ramirez faced repeated discrimination and was told by guidance counselors and peers that Latinos such as himself did not belong in college. So after graduation, Jim joined his father at the Nebraska Beef packing plant, where arduous work motivated him to pursue higher education and a better life.

For 18 years, Ramirez worked the slaughterhouse in the day and took classes at night; graduating in 1971 with a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Nebraska Omaha. He went on to earn his master's degree in guidance and counseling from UNO in 1974 and, ultimately, a Ph.D. in adult continuing education in 1984.

Having witnessed discrimination throughout his years as a student, Dr. Ramirez made it his life's mission to promote pathways to higher education for Omaha's Hispanic community.

In 1972 Dr. Ramirez was selected to chair UNO's Committee on Mexican-American Affairs, upon whose recommendation the University hired more Hispanic faculty, administrators, and staff.

After earning his doctorate, Dr. Ramirez was hired by UNO as a professor and counselor, where he spent decades mentoring countless Hispanic and minority students.

Dr. Ramirez went on to work as a human relations specialist at Omaha Public Schools, where he recruited Hispanic teachers from across the country to teach and mentor Omaha's Latino students.

Additionally, today I would like to recognize the Latino Center of the Midlands for celebrating 50 years of serving Omaha's Hispanic community.

The Latino Center is an education and social service nonprofit located in South Omaha, the heart of Omaha's Latino community.

Founded officially in 1971 as the Chicano Awareness Center, their work is rooted in advocacy for and service to Omaha's Latino community. Their three major programs, Family and Community Well-Being, Pathways to Success, and Workforce Education and Innovation impact over 2,500 individuals and families a year. Currently it is led by Albert Varas.

During Hispanic Heritage Month, no other two individuals and organization are deserving for our recognition than Bob Campos, Dr. Jim Ramirez, and the Latino Center. Together they demonstrate for all Americans, especially Latino Americans, that through hard work, perseverance, and faith, anything is possible.

I am pleased to announce that Bob Campos, Dr. Jim Ramirez, and the Latino Center of the Midlands have been selected as the inaugural inductees to the Nebraska Hispanic Hall of Fame, established this year by the Nebraska Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with my office, where their stories and many others will be shared for centuries to come.

Thank you, Bob and Jim, and the Latino Center, for making a difference in our great community.

AMERICA CAN'T AFFORD TO WAIT ANY LONGER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

New Jersey (Mr. GOTTHEIMER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of passing the historic bipartisan infrastructure bill on Thursday.

In August, all 220 House Democrats came here on the floor and voted to support opening debate and to vote on this once-in-a-century bipartisan infrastructure bill this week. Why? Because America simply can't afford to wait any longer.

In New Jersey, our roads are the third worst in the Nation. One-third of our bridges are considered unsafe. Our transit has the worst on-time record in the country. Our train tunnel, which is critical between New York and New Jersey, 20 percent of the GDP runs through that corridor, yet the tunnel is 113 years old and literally crumbling. Moms and dads wait hours in delays to get home every night. It is affecting our businesses and our productivity.

Hurricane Ida and climate change destroyed so many family homes in my community just weeks ago.

The unfortunate reality is this: We just haven't made the investments we need in this country in infrastructure.

China last year spent \$3.7 trillion outside of China on infrastructure, and yet here we are year in and year out calling for infrastructure week and to get it done, and nothing happens. Now is our opportunity to get something done for our country.

This historic bill, \$1.2 trillion, will turn that around and put two million hardworking men and women of labor to work every year for the next decade. It will invest in electric vehicle infrastructure and the Gateway Tunnel, in rebuilding that. The tunnel I talked about that is crumbling, this is going to help fix it. It invests in roads and bridges and transit. Clean water to make sure that we get lead water out and forever chemicals out. It invests in broadband.

After the Problem Solvers Caucus, which I proudly co-chair, worked for months with our Senate colleagues from both sides of the aisle—and so many of us worked on it here in this House—50 Democrats and 19 Republicans in the Senate voted for this bill. Everyone from BERNIE SANDERS to JOE MANCHIN to MITCH MCCONNELL all voted for it and sent it to us early last month.

It is critical to the rest of the country and to New Jersey that we get it done. Not only because it makes these historic investments but because it is about the country coming together, Democrats and Republicans, to show that we can govern.

We need to get everyone on board this week, Democrats and Republicans, because this bill is simply too important for our country and our future. There is nothing partisan about fixing our roads and our bridges and tunnels. There is nothing partisan about investing in fighting climate change, which this bill does. There is nothing partisan

about making sure that we have the resources we need for our economy to run and for people to get to work every day.

I urge my colleagues, every one of them, to come to this Chamber Thursday and to vote for this critical legislation. I know that working together, our best days as a country will always be ahead of us here in the greatest country in the world. And infrastructure is the best place to start; for our President, for our country, and for all of us.

STEVE HOWARD IS A HARDWORKING LEADER

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 Steve Howard of Woodbine, Georgia, on his appointment to the National Association of Counties' Environment, Energy, & Land Use Steering Committee.

Known as an intensively hardworking leader, Steve's accomplishments are impressive. Over the past several years, Steve has led one of the most innovative and economic development projects in Georgia and throughout the country.

He has shown exceptional leadership in the Spaceport Camden project that is a tremendous opportunity for Georgia's First Congressional District. The project encompasses many of the aspects of the committee, making his expertise invaluable.

There is no county administrator who has as much knowledge in energy, environment, and land use as Steve. I know he will be an amazing resource for counties across the Nation. I am proud to see Steve represent our district with the National Association of Counties.

I would like to congratulate Steve on his appointment and thank him for his years of service to Georgia's First Congressional District.

SAVANNAH/HILTON HEAD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IS AN AWARD-WINNING FACILITY

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport for being awarded the second-best domestic airport in the United States.

Complemented by an amazing staff, this airport has shown exemplary service to its customers since 1929.

For the past 5 years, Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport has ranked in the top 10 of best domestic airports in the United States.

This award highlights their hard work and dedication to ensure safety and security, while offering the best customer service.

Savannah's airport has been a tremendous economic contributor to Georgia's First Congressional District, supporting the community with over 20,000 jobs. Although small in size, the Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport has had a lasting impact on the

people visiting the great State of Georgia.

I want to extend my congratulations to the great staff, TSA workers, and Savannah Airport Commission for their great work.

I look forward to the continued success of the Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport.

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REMEMBERING AND HONORING DEBORAH SMITH

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor Deborah Smith of Wayne County, Georgia, who, sadly, passed away on September 12, at the age of 51.

Debi devoted her life to improving her community and the lives of others. Debi loved volunteering and helping people.

Debi's love for her community was apparent during her time as the CEO of United Way of South Georgia, where she served eight counties and 26 agencies.

A giant in her local community, Debi also served as the president of the Rotary Club of Jesup and on the board of the Downtown Development Authority.

Debi was recognized by the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce as Ambassador of the Year for her selfless sacrifice toward her community.

I am thankful for the immense impact that Debi had on Georgia's First Congressional District, and I know her legacy will remain.

My thoughts and prayers are with her family, friends, and all who knew her, during this most difficult time.

RECOGNIZING JEFF LUREY

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Jeff Lurey for his long and accomplished pharmacy career.

Jeff discovered his passion for helping others during his time at the University of Georgia's School of Pharmacy. Following graduation, Jeff bought his first pharmacy in 1973 and would go on to own five other pharmacies.

Jeff's accomplishments are nothing short of extraordinary.

From starting the Georgia Pharmacy Foundation to his service on the Georgia Pharmacy Association, Jeff's leadership has been felt throughout the great State of Georgia.

During his accomplished career, Jeff served in numerous leadership positions within the Georgia Pharmacy Association.

Jeff has received numerous awards throughout the State of Georgia for his immense contributions to the pharmacy community.

While Jeff's work with the Georgia Pharmacy Association is coming to an end, I am confident that his service to pharmacists will continue.

I am truly grateful for Jeff's contributions, and I thank him for his years of service.