

were returned to New York City, where his sister Helen, her children, a full U.S. military honor guard, and the Port Authority Police were there to welcome him home.

I am taking this time today to ensure Raymond's memory lives on and his sacrifices will not be forgotten. Currently, there are more than 81,600 Americans that remain missing from World War II, the Korean war, the Vietnam war, the Cold War, the Gulf wars, and other conflicts. Let this give us hope that we can return them all home.

I urge the administration and my colleagues to work toward the return of all prisoners of war and a full accounting and the repatriation of our fallen servicemembers' remains.

#### ALL AMERICANS DESERVE SAFE, CLEAN, STABLE, AFFORDABLE HOUSING

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

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, all Americans, regardless of age, ZIP Code, or income, deserve to live in a safe, clean, and stable home they can afford. This is exactly what a healthy, just, and secure community relies on. It ensures that people are able to meet their basic needs. When over 145,000 Social Security beneficiaries in my district, the 10th Congressional District of Washington State—representing nearly 21 percent of the population—only have 100 to \$200 to spare for groceries, utilities, and other basic expenses after paying their rent or mortgage, we know that prosperity is not being shared equally, nor equitably.

When our servicemembers at Joint Base Lewis-McChord simply cannot find homes off post or on post for their families, due to lack of supply or the cost of housing, we must clearly improve our mission to support our Nation's heroes.

These are just a few of the stories that thousands of Washington State residents and families are experiencing, just like millions of Americans across the country. And we know the driving factor behind this housing crisis is lack of supply. We don't have enough housing, and we aren't building it fast enough to meet the demand. And some of the housing that we do have is not fit for human habitation.

According to Up for Growth, an organization that advocates for more housing, their report on housing underproduction from 2010 to 2017 in Washington State identifies some startling data points: For every one household that moved into my district, there were .64 housing units produced in Pierce County, .76 in Thurston County, and .62 housing units in Mason County.

So this means that for every family that moved into our district, that we were producing two-thirds to three-quarters of the housing that we needed

to accommodate them. This also means that for over 7 years the population increased and demand far outpaced supply, resulting in this crunch or lack of inventory that so many families are feeling right now.

What's more, there remains a shortage of nearly 160,000 homes for extremely low-income renters, and nearly half a million renters in Washington State are rent-burdened, which means that they spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing alone.

Now housing experts have told us that we need a once-in-a-generation solution to our housing supply shortage. That time is now. Now is our opportunity to build smarter, build better, and to do it inclusively.

We have solutions on the table, and it is well past time to use them. We can build to higher-density inside transit corridors, leveraging existing infrastructure. That is why I was so proud to help introduce the bipartisan Build More Housing Near Transit Act with Representative SCOTT PETERS to make sure that when we are investing \$2.3 billion each year for large-scale transit projects, we are ensuring that local land use policies, which are often the biggest barrier to increasing housing supply, will encourage sensible development around these major infrastructure investments. For so long we have built housing infrastructure around automobiles and that is a relic of the past; now we must invest in transit to utilize good and smart land use policies.

For our military servicemembers and their families, we can find solutions in our National Defense Authorization Act provisions, which passed out of the House in a bipartisan manner just weeks ago. I offered one provision, which will direct the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment to answer one question: How long are wait times for housing located on military installations in competitive housing markets? And we want them to produce a strategy to address this demand for housing.

It is simply unacceptable that servicemembers and their families must wait more than 6 months to be assigned housing on Joint Base Lewis-McChord. I urge all of my colleagues to support this inclusion of several reports that will address the issue, including a report on how and the extent to which commanders of military installations are connecting military families with local nonprofit organizations and government entities that provide services to the military, including assistance with finding housing.

And importantly, we must pass both our bipartisan infrastructure proposal and the Build Back Better Act and specifically deploy the Unlocking Possibilities Program.

This competitive grant program through HUD will be used to support cities and towns to design and implement policies that eliminate exclu-

sionary zoning and artificial barriers to adding more housing. I urge all of my colleagues to work to retain this important program in our build back better proposal.

Being securely housed is a fundamental human right regardless of your political affiliation. The cost of continuing to ignore our lack of supply is far too great, especially when the tools we need are at our disposal. Let's use them, and let's show our constituents that we can and will build back better. To do otherwise is irresponsible.

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#### THE BABY FOLD—2021 ANGELS IN ADOPTION HONOREE

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 recognize The Baby Fold in Normal, Illinois, for being chosen as a 2021 Angels in Adoption honoree. I nominated The Baby Fold this year because of their passion for adoption support and services throughout my Congressional district.

Since 1902, The Baby Fold has been transforming the lives of children and families by focusing on the Christian values of love, hope, and healing. They currently serve over 1,200 individuals each year across 28 different counties in Central Illinois.

The Baby Fold focuses on improving the lives of children and families by building safe environments through adoption services, foster care to adoption, community services, and more. The Baby Fold puts children first so that they can be blessed with the stability and love that they deserve.

Every day, I am grateful for adoption organizations that bring families together, like The Baby Fold. I applaud The Baby Fold and their volunteers for their strong dedication to children and families throughout Illinois.

#### TAYLORVILLE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL AWARDED THE NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Taylorville Junior High School regarding their selection for the National Blue Ribbon from the U.S. Department of Education.

The National Blue Ribbon is awarded to schools for their academic achievement or their progress in closing the achievement gaps among student subgroups.

Mrs. Jessica Miller, the principal at the time of the nomination, and assistant principal, Mrs. Jennifer Wise, led several building initiatives that improved academic performance and emotional growth by investing in professional development, creating a community of learners, and meeting the emotional needs of students.

The national recognition is also the result of the collective efforts of the building administration, teachers, support staff, and the entire Taylorville

community. I would like to personally congratulate both the Taylorville Junior High School and its administrators and teachers for their commitment and dedication to the improvement of public education for the students in my hometown of Taylorville.

CONGRATULATING KEN LEONARD ON HIS 400TH VICTORY

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate my friend, Ken Leonard, on reinforcing his Illinois high school football legacy by becoming the only coach in Illinois history to record 400 wins as a high school football coach.

Ken is currently the head coach at the dominant powerhouse Sacred Heart-Griffin in Springfield, Illinois. This achievement actually adds to Coach Leonard's impressive list of accomplishments.

Ken has held the record for career wins in Illinois since 2018 and has led the SHG Cyclones to five State championships and three State runner-up trophies. Coach Leonard holds an overall record of 400 wins and 80 losses throughout his 42 seasons as a head coach.

Ken began coaching at Sacred Heart-Griffin in 1984, and throughout his tenure at SHG, Coach Leonard is credited with creating a winning culture and inspiring countless young lives. Ken's place in Illinois high school football has already been cemented but will forever be cemented more with this victory.

Ken, and your entire coaching staff, and the SHG community, congratulations on this historic win, and we are looking forward to many more.

#### CRISIS AT LAKE MEAD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada (Mrs. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the water in Lake Mead has fallen to record-breaking lows not seen since the Hoover Dam was constructed.

Already, Lake Mead has fallen to just 35 percent of its capacity. And as you can see behind me, a bathtub ring taller than the Statue of Liberty surrounds the lake as a reminder of the water that was once there.

This is a crisis that we can fix only with new investment and innovative solutions, and that is why I am supporting the bipartisan infrastructure package and the climate and water investment provisions of the Build Back Better Act. It could not be more clear. Nevada is ground zero for the effects of climate change, but we also are ground zero for the benefits of this historic legislation.

The bipartisan infrastructure package includes more than \$8 billion for water infrastructure. This also includes my water recycling legislation that will invest in large-scale water recycling projects to help keep more water in Lake Mead for Nevadans.

There is not a moment to lose.

The opportunity is here and the time to act on climate and act for Nevada's water and future is now.

#### PROTECT PARENTS' RIGHT TO SPEAK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with students, parents, and teachers seeking a brighter academic future. From a student's earliest days of learning the ABC's, recognizing shapes and colors, to the moment they walk across the gymnasium floor to receive a high school diploma, their school days have been filled with learning and exploring, reading, writing, and math. Or they should be.

This, however, is not the experience of many of our K-12 students, especially not today. For the last 2 years, students, parents, teachers, and school administrators have been struggling with the global pandemic. COVID-19 has upended routines, hindered learning, shuttered schools, and angered families. These are real challenges requiring active listening and creative solutions. We need parental involvement. We need tutorial advice. We need school board engagement.

Parents are concerned with their children's education, health, safety, and well-being. Parents are concerned with what their children are learning, with what is being taught in the school system. Parents want to know that when they send their daughter or son to school, their children will be safe from bullies and predators. Recently, unfiltered frustrations have boiled over at local school board meetings.

Mr. Speaker, while I do not and will not condone violence, I was stunned to hear that part of the Federal response to rising parental concern with educational practices and pending school policies was to unleash Federal enforcement on vocal moms and dads. This is deeply disturbing.

One particular incident was cited as a catalyst for government's heavy-handedness. At the beginning of the summer, pictures of a dad tackled to the ground and arrested during a Loudoun County school board meeting surfaced. But what is the story behind the headline?

This dad was protesting a school policy that would allow biological males access to girls' private facilities. Why? Because his 15-year-old daughter was raped in the girls' bathroom at her school. The situation was expertly covered up and ignored by the very people responsible for protecting his daughter: the school.

School officials eventually called the police, not to report a serious crime against a young girl, but to restrain a distraught father when he discovered the school was attempting to sweep the assault under the rug.

One such horrific rape should be sufficient for every school district to review who has access to girls' safe spaces. Instead, this half-told story was crafted into a political narrative alleging examples akin to domestic terrorism.

Just a few months after this incident, a national school association letter demanded that the Federal Government respond to unrest, name-calling, and protests at school board meetings across the U.S. The arrest of this distressed father whose daughter had been raped was one of the examples cited in the correspondence to the President as a need for Federal intervention.

Earlier this month, the U.S. Department of Justice validated the concerns raised, not by the father or parent seeking input into their child's education, but to the dubious claims raised by the national association.

Instead of adhering to the constitutional charge to oversee Federal issues, it disturbs me that the power of the Federal Government is being wielded to bludgeon everyday parents into silence. This must end.

Whether parents voice concerns about a lack of safe spaces for their girls, the type of curriculum that is taught at every grade level, or mask mandates, parents deserve to be heard, and every American has a constitutional right to voice these concerns to the government without being treated like a criminal.

It is time we start listening to parents. They are the best arbiters of their child's education, and they deserve respect, not contempt.

#### FREEDOM TO VOTE

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

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak to the urgency of passing the Freedom to Vote Act, which the Senate is considering today.

The events of the past year have exposed the fragility of our democracy, and Congress must act now to protect that most fundamental of American freedoms: the freedom to vote.

In 2020, we lived through the most challenged and scrutinized election in American history. But now, even after the result is beyond all reasonable debate, radical right-wing extremists and would-be dictators are still trying to overturn the 2020 election; stoking the flames of conspiracy, hate, and chaos in order to create a dark and twisted vision of America that these agents of chaos have embraced.

Unless Congress acts now, the radical right will keep using the big lie told by the former President and endorsed by his supporters to enact damaging voting restrictions and prevent Americans who have rejected their dark vision for our country from participating in our representative democracy.

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, where I live, the majority in our