

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, wars were fought, movements were launched, constitutional amendments were passed to give every American of every race and gender full citizenship and the right to vote.

But last month, the Supreme Court released a shadow docket ruling reinstating Louisiana's GOP-drawn, unrepresentative congressional maps. This sends Louisiana back to a tarnished history of diminishing the votes and voices of African Americans.

It is shameful that the Court refused maps that fairly represent the population of Louisiana. We need maps that follow the simple math and give Black Louisianians their rightful representation per current population.

The Supreme Court is out of control in so many ways, but this and other most recent rulings make it clear that this Supreme Court will stop at nothing to silence the voices of Black and Brown Americans. This ruling shows that many of these Justices are committed not to the Constitution but to the far-right political agenda that includes further attacking of the Voting Rights Act.

Together we must fight against the age-old pattern of silencing Black voters. While the forces of injustice may have won the battle, we will win the war.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF HERSHEL "WOODY" WILLIAMS

(Mr. McCARTHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. McCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American hero.

Ronald Reagan once said: "Some people wonder all their lives if they made a difference. The Marines don't have that problem."

This is especially true of Hershel "Woody" Williams, who will be lying in honor in the Capitol tomorrow. Until his death on June 29, Williams was the sole surviving marine from World War II to wear the Medal of Honor.

Then-Corporal Williams was a 21-year-old marine when his unit landed on Iwo Jima in February 1945. He was thrown into bloody combat almost immediately. Japanese forces were dug into a network of reinforced pillboxes, and American forces were pinned down by heavy machine gun fire.

Williams could see his fellow marines needed help, so he grabbed a flamethrower and charged towards the enemy stronghold alone.

Can you believe he was just 21 years old when he did that? As his Medal of Honor citation says: "Covered only by four riflemen, he fought desperately for 4 hours under terrific enemy small-arms fire and repeatedly returned to his own lines to prepare demolition charges and obtain serviced flamethrowers, struggling back, frequently to the rear of hostile emplacements, to wipe out one position after another."

Williams' actions, his citation concludes, displayed "valiant devotion to

duty" and enabled "his company to reach its objective."

Williams saw the American flag raised on Mount Suribachi that same day.

Williams was honorably discharged 9 months later, but he reenlisted in the Reserves twice. By the time he retired from the Corps in 1969, he had served 20 years and risen to the rank of chief warrant officer 4.

Yet, Williams still felt the call to service after he retired. So, among other things, he started the Woody Williams Foundation. Williams and his foundation helped establish 104 Gold Star Families Memorial Monuments across America to date, and right now more than 69 more monuments are underway in 50 States.

Woody Williams went above and beyond the call of duty on the battlefield and back home, and by lying in honor in the rotunda tomorrow, Williams continues to serve our veterans.

Some people don't know this, but Williams said one of his last wishes was to lie in honor in the Capitol, but it wasn't for himself. No, it was for every Medal of Honor recipient who served in World War II. What a hero.

Our veterans fought together as a team. They sacrificed as a team. And now, thanks in part to Woody Williams, we will honor them as a team.

One last wish, one final act of service. That was Woody Williams. Selfless to the end.

As long as there are Americans like Williams and all the Medal of Honor recipients we honor this week, this will always be the land of the free and the home of the brave.

WE MUST REMAIN ALERT

(Mr. ESPAILLAT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, the January 6 Committee has interviewed more than a thousand people and gathered more than 140,000 documents.

Yesterday, the committee revealed how the former White House counsel agreed that there was no evidence of widespread election fraud. At hearing after hearing, the committee has proven that Trump's big lie led to a violent insurrection that attempted to end our democracy.

I introduced two resolutions calling for the prosecution of insurrectionists and condemning the Proud Boys' acts of terror. Now, more than 800 insurrectionists have been arrested, and the leader of the Proud Boys has been charged with seditious conspiracy.

Efforts to undermine our democracy are not over. We must remain alert and protect people's right to vote.

SAFEGUARDING THE SAVINGS OF RETIREES

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the left's woke agenda is putting the retirement savings of many Americans at risk.

The Biden administration's proposed rule would require retirement plan managers to consider environmental, social, and governance factors when making investment decisions for workers and retirees. These factors can include a company's carbon footprint, hiring practices, and whether it is unionized.

ESG factors are subjective and arbitrary, making them a perfect weapon for the left. Forcing ESG standards on retirement accounts is a clear violation of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, which requires fiduciaries to put the financial interests of plan participants first.

ESG requirements pressure investors to subject retirement savings to low-yield investments. This is irresponsible. We should be doing all that we can to safeguard the savings of retirees instead of putting them at risk to satisfy the woke mob.

VULNERABLE WOMEN WILL BE HURT MOST

(Ms. GARCIA of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in outrage that extreme Republicans seek to control women and their most intimate healthcare decisions by banning abortions. These cruel efforts will hurt the already vulnerable women in our communities the most, especially poor women.

Madam Speaker, there are more than 800,000 women of reproductive age with incomes under 100 percent of poverty who live in States that haven't expanded Medicaid.

These women are being left without access to comprehensive healthcare coverage, and now many are being stripped of their abortion rights. These women are less likely to access birth control, will struggle to receive wellness exams, and now will not have access to abortion.

This is the vision Republicans have for America. This is what the right-wing wants. Well, I won't stand by quietly, and Democrats will not stand by quietly. I plan to fight for women because I trust women to make their most personal, intimate healthcare decisions.

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RECOGNIZING BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF HARRISONBURG-ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

(Mr. CLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Harrisonburg-Rockingham County

for winning the 2022 Quality Award at their national conference.

Big Brothers Big Sisters aims to connect mentors, or “bigs,” with local youth, known as “littles.”

This prestigious Quality Award is granted to only a third of chapters in the country. To achieve it, the chapter must succeed in having 73 percent of mentors meet with a youth member for a whole year. Additionally, 54 percent of participants must meet with their “littles” at school for that year.

The Harrisburg-Rockingham chapter knocked that standard out of the park, reporting a 70 to 80 percent meeting success rate.

According to Lindsay Douglas, the executive director of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham chapter, the reason for the chapter’s superb performance is strong communication between the mentors, children, and their parents.

It is community organizations like Big Brothers Big Sisters that foster an environment where our youth can thrive.

Congratulations, again, to the Harrisburg-Rockingham chapter.

UPHOLDING OUR END OF THE PACT WITH VETERANS

(Ms. UNDERWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, this week, we are making history as we pass the Honoring Our PACT Act and move one step closer to sending the legislation to President Biden’s desk to be signed into law.

The journey to this point has been long. As a member of the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee, I was proud to be an original cosponsor of the PACT Act when we introduced it over a year ago.

Now, we are finally at the finish line, ready to expand healthcare to 3.5 million veterans exposed to toxic substances during their service.

We are upholding our end of the pact we made with our veterans to ensure they have the care they need and deserve when they come home.

I am grateful to the veterans and military families in my community who have made their voices heard on this urgent cause, and I am thankful for the tireless advocacy of the VSOs across the country who have made this moment possible.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO EDWARD C. MAHEN

(Mr. STEWART asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEWART. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly great American, Mr. Edward C. Mahen, who unfortunately died last fall. This was an amazing man, and he will be missed.

Mr. Mahen was a dedicated civil servant, an Air Force combat veteran, and an extraordinary engineer with more than 50 years of service to our country.

In 1972, Ed joined the Air Force. In Vietnam, he earned two Distinguished Flying Crosses and eleven Air Medals flying 144 combat missions. He retired as a colonel in 1997 after a career of assignments in classified strategic and electronic warfare programs.

In 1998, Ed was recruited by the director of the NRO to become the chief technology officer for the Advanced Systems and Technology Directorate.

He was a remarkable leader. He left a legacy within the IC by hiring and guiding a new generation of IC professionals.

May he rest in peace. May his wife and family be comforted knowing he was a true patriot, a true friend, and one who endlessly loved his family and this country.

HONORING JUAN CARLOS REYNAGA

(Mr. CORREA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor and celebrate the life of my constituent, Juan Carlos Reynaga.

Juan was 17 years old; he was a lineman for Anaheim High School varsity football team, and he was keeping his grades up. He wanted to become a certified crane operator after graduating from high school.

Sadly, last Friday, after working his late-night shift at Walmart, when he was walking home, a car drove up; two individuals in the car asked him: Are you a gangbanger? And he said: No, I am not a gang member. They shot him in the back, anyway, killing him.

Juan was a hardworking, honest young man. He was looking for the American Dream and working hard to achieve the American Dream. Sadly, his life was taken from him by gangbangers.

My heart goes out to his family. As the father of four, I can’t imagine the pain and the grief of losing your child to a senseless gang shooting.

Juan, thank you for giving us so much in your very short life.

Go Colonists.

REMEMBERING VINCENT BECHARD AND PRAYING FOR PETER KREINER

(Mrs. McCRAIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. McCRAIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart. On July 8, there was a terrible car crash in Sherman Township in my district that involved two of my constituents, Vincent Joseph Bechard and Peter Kreiner.

Sadly, this tragedy took the life of 67-year-old Vincent from Marlette.

Vincent is survived by his children and several grandchildren. This horrific accident has also put 62-year-old Peter Kreiner, also from Marlette, in the hospital in critical condition.

Both men have championed the right to life and been decades-long devotees to our country, our communities, and its founding ideals. Their impact on their community will be felt long after this terrible tragedy.

My prayers go out to the families of Vincent and Peter, and I am asking my colleagues in this Chamber to please pray for Mr. Bechard’s family and for the speedy and full recovery of Peter Kreiner.

NATIONAL DEFENSE IN THE CARIBBEAN

(Ms. PLASKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak on my amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act that directs the Department of Defense, in conjunction with the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security, to assess the standing U.S. military force posture in the Caribbean Basin and the value, feasibility, and cost of increasing U.S. military capacity in the region.

The Caribbean region has long been a place of geopolitical exertion of power by foreign forces. Presently, China has planted flags in numerous Caribbean nations through investment and infrastructure. The United States is vulnerable from a national security posture.

This amendment is bipartisan, with support from our colleague representing the island of Puerto Rico, Congresswoman GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. This amendment is warranted, given the importance of the U.S. national security apparatus to capably fight transnational crime and protect U.S. national and regional security in the region. Too often, the Caribbean is ignored, and this amendment ensures that our Third Border is not forgotten as it confronts increasing regional political instability, hostile foreign engagement, and transnational criminal activity.

PRESIDENT BIDEN’S IDEOLOGICAL PURGE OF THE MILITARY

(Mrs. MILLER of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, last week, the Biden administration announced that they are cutting off the benefits for 60,000 National Guard and Reserve soldiers who do not want to take the COVID vaccine.

We are losing some of our best and brightest servicemembers to the Biden administration’s ideological purge of our military.

President Biden’s military purge weakens America and emboldens our adversaries, especially China.