

As a senior member of the Education and Labor Committee, co-chair of the bipartisan Career and Technical Education Caucus, co-chair of the 4-H Caucus, and proud member of the FFA Caucus, I am passionate about advancing agricultural education in schools.

I take this moment to thank all of our agricultural educators across the country, the Commonwealth, and in the 15th Congressional District. Their work invests in our agriculture education and helps prepare the next generation of farmers, producers, and ranchers.

I always enjoy my meetings with FFA and 4-H students, as they are clearly our future, and our conversations give me great hope in the direction of our agricultural community.

Mr. Speaker, I, once again, thank all those involved in agricultural education and empowering our next generation of farmers.

CELEBRATING ACCUWEATHER'S 60TH  
ANNIVERSARY

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate AccuWeather on its 60th anniversary.

Since 1962, AccuWeather has provided trusted and accurate weather forecasts for individuals, businesses, and communities.

AccuWeather is repeatedly recognized as the most accurate weather forecast. Their warnings have saved thousands of lives and have protected people from harm and property from damage. Most notably, Congress cited AccuWeather during Hurricane Katrina for saving 10,000 people, thanks to their accurate forecasts.

Today, more than 1.5 billion people rely on AccuWeather to stay safe and plan their day.

AccuWeather currently has the largest collection of data at its Global Weather Center, which receives more information than any other facility on Earth.

Most importantly, AccuWeather is a proud Pennsylvania 15th Congressional District business with more than 500 employees and is headquartered in Ferguson Township in Centre County.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating AccuWeather; their founder and CEO, Dr. Joel Myers; and their entire team on 60 years of service to our communities and excellence in forecasting the weather.

UNCERTAINTY IN WAKE OF  
HURRICANE FIONA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to continue to raise awareness to the destruction that Hurricane Fiona has brought about to the Caribbean—namely, to Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic.

Let me start, Mr. Speaker, by saying that yesterday marked the fifth anni-

versary of Hurricane Maria, a natural disaster that left 3.5 million Americans without power and killed over 3,000 lives.

While hurricanes in the islands are not new, Hurricane Maria exposed the vulnerability of Puerto Rico, and 5 years later, uncertainty remains in the wake of Hurricane Fiona, which occurred this past weekend.

There was a 100 percent blackout on the island when the hurricane landed. As of 10 a.m. yesterday, 73 percent of the island had no power and 60 percent of the island had no water.

I commend the Biden administration for its swift actions to declare a state of emergency for the region, and I am hopeful that they will approve Governor Pierluisi's request for a major disaster declaration soon, which will follow additional lifesaving resources for Puerto Rico.

For this reason, I join Senator SCHUMER and Congresswoman VELÁZQUEZ in speaking with FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell, urging the administration to reimburse 100 percent of the costs, allow document flexibility for accessing aid, and advance funding to Puerto Rico in this critical moment.

We must do all it takes to ensure relief assistance to help residents recover. We cannot turn our backs on our brothers and sisters in Puerto Rico.

Yesterday, I held a strategy planning call with leaders from New York, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and emergency services organizations in response to Hurricane Fiona.

We have witnessed catastrophic devastation across Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, and it will require a multilevel government approach to ensure vital resources to the region in a timely manner.

□ 1045

As of today, more than 1 million people in the Dominican Republic are without access to utilities and shelter.

At least 1 million people in the Dominican Republic have no access to running water.

More than 700,000 homes and businesses have been left in the dark as they suffered loss of power.

Additionally, at least 3,000 homes were damaged or destroyed, and four bridges collapsed.

The situation is dire. We must do all we can to help the people of the Dominican Republic during this moment of crisis.

For this reason, I am urging the United States Agency For International Development to deploy a Disaster Assistance Response Team and coordinate with other U.S. Government agencies and partners to advance relief efforts.

The Federal response must be swift, robust, and continue for as long as is needed.

The impact of this devastating natural disaster hits close to home, as a multitude of my district—we have many folks in Washington Heights, in

the Bronx, in El Barrio, and Harlem—have family members in Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic who are in need of supplies and other disaster relief.

Mr. Speaker, my heart is with the people of the Caribbean, and we will continue to monitor this situation closely.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL  
THOMAS CAUTHEN

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Brigadier General Thomas Cauthen, an American patriot who served 38 years in the Tennessee Air National Guard.

He was inspired as a child by watching his dad's career as a pilot in the Tennessee Air National Guard's 134th Fighter-Interceptor Group, which later became the 134th Air Refueling Wing.

In 1984, General Cauthen followed in his dad's footsteps and started his commission right after getting his bachelor of science in civil engineering from the University of Tennessee.

After getting his pilot training, he flew combat support missions during Operation Desert Storm, Southern Watch, Joint Forge, Allied Force, Enduring Freedom, and Noble Eagle. He eventually went to the 134th Air Refueling Wing and ended up serving as its commander for 7 years. He then became the director of staff at the Joint Force Headquarters Tennessee and then chief of staff for the entire Tennessee Air National Guard.

Mr. Speaker, last month, he retired after 38 long years of faithfully serving his country. He plans to spend more time with his wonderful wife, Penny, their two kids, and their grandchild. He also plans to get more involved with the community by volunteering with the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and get more involved with the East Tennessee Military Affairs Council.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Brigadier General Thomas Cauthen as Tennessee's Second District's September 2022 Veteran of the Month. I thank him for his incredible service and congratulate him on a well-earned retirement.

CONGRATULATING ETHAN AND ARI KLASKY  
POWERLIFTING CHAMPIONS IN EAST TENNESSEE

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to appreciate some powerlifting champions in east Tennessee. That is correct, I said powerlifting.

Last week, I was on the plane back to Knoxville from Washington. This fellow sitting next to me talked excitedly about his set of twins, 17-year-old Ari and Ethan, who go to Webb School of Knoxville. They are powerlifting champions.

Their dad, Scott, used to powerlift as a hobby, and he got his boys into the

sport when they were about 9 years old. They all trained together, and as time went on, they ended up loving the sport as much as their dad.

This year, the boys decided to compete for the first time in the Southern Powerlifting Federation championship, and they blew the competition out of the water. Both boys won their divisions, and Ari set a world record—a world record, Mr. Speaker—for his age and weight class by lifting a total of 1,660 pounds between his deadlift, bench, and squat.

It is very cool to me to have a world record holder who goes to school in my district, but it is even cooler to hear how the shared love of powerlifting bonded this father and his sons in a very unique way.

Ari and Ethan didn't grow up as bickering brothers as most do. They grew up as training partners. They supported each other, kept each other safe, and pushed each other to keep pursuing their goals.

Unfortunately, Ari tore his ACL and won't be able to compete in the squat or deadlift this year, but he isn't letting that fact get him down. He still plans to compete in the bench press competition, and he credits his perseverance to his brother's constant inspiration. Ari isn't giving up on his dream of competing in the USA Powerlifting competition.

I have a teenage daughter, Isabelle, and she is also an athlete. She does horseback riding competitions. She is a barrel racer, and she is pretty good at it. I know exactly how awesome it is to be a dad who is incredibly proud of their kids' accomplishments.

We all want our kids to do well in life. To see them push themselves and exceed everyone's expectations is a feeling like no other.

Scott, Ari, and Ethan are prime examples of what we can accomplish when we set goals and work hard every day to achieve them.

Mr. Speaker, I take just a moment to recognize their accomplishments.

#### UKRAINE TRIP

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the world has changed—socially, economically, and the political landscape. Putin's war has killed thousands of Ukrainians, innocent citizens, and displaced millions who have struggled to get food and resources in this region.

Last April, I spoke on the floor after the attacks in Bucha, which I visited, and labeled President Putin for what he is, a war criminal. As Russia continues this unprovoked attack on Ukraine, we must continue to stand strong and united against him.

I traveled to Kyiv, Ukraine's capital city, as a part of the Yalta European Strategy Conference recently.

As one of the only Members of Congress to have actually stayed over-

night, spent a couple of days, I witnessed the 24-hour cycle of the capital city finding energy once again, revitalizing itself through its day-to-day routines.

I saw parts of the city where Russia's tanks entered the suburbs and killed innocent civilians, as well as children, destroying homes, apartments and schools, mass graves with over 166 individuals. Even through this tragedy, Ukraine has remained resilient, and Kyiv returns to life.

I felt relatively safe as I walked the streets in the central city. Looking back to where the city was 6 months ago is a reminder to me of how precious all of our freedoms are. As I met Ukrainians across the capital, it was inspiring to see their hope that better days are coming, and that Ukraine will prevail.

During my visit, we met with NATO allies and many of the panel sessions that we had focused on how we will continue our support for Ukraine amidst Russia's brutal war that was unprovoked.

Critically, we discussed matters related to Ukraine's defense, its economy and recovery plans, and humanitarian aid as it continues to prevail from Russia's countless attacks.

Strong economic security is critical to rebuilding Ukraine and preserving its sovereignty. That is what we must do after the war. We saw Ukrainian Armed Forces execute one of the most pivotable 48-hour counteroffensives during the past 6 months, and it continues.

The liberation of Izium and territory to the north in Kharkiv is one of the countless displays of bravery and sacrifice that have come to define Ukraine's fight.

Ukraine is putting up a stronger fight than Russia was anticipating; through strength, unity, and love of country, Ukraine will prevail.

Today, we heard that Putin is enlarging his forces by 300,000 and is inferring that everything is on the table. We must call his bluff.

Congress and President Biden have provided significant support to Ukraine since the beginning of the war, and it has made a difference on a bipartisan basis, and we must continue that when we pass the continuing resolution later in the next week.

Ukraine has been able to strengthen its defense systems, bolster its refugee services, and tackle food insecurity. Millions of tons of grain have come out of Odessa through the agreement that was reached through Turkey and the U.N. However, challenges remain, and the war has not yet been won.

We, the United States with our NATO allies, must continue to unite against Vladimir Putin and provide Ukraine with the tools to defend itself and to protect its sovereignty from this brutal invasion.

As we craft the upcoming continuing resolution, we must continue additional funding.

This is a pivotal moment in our history. Our actions today will determine the future of the 21st century.

The world has changed in the last 8 months. Future generations will look back in history and judge us if we made more good decisions than poor decisions to preserve their rights and their liberties.

We must not let Putin win. Democracy must prevail. This is the test of our time and our generation among our NATO allies and here in America to stand up for liberty and democracy.

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California has 30 seconds remaining.

#### AZERBAIJAN'S ATTACK ON ARMENIA

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I also rise today to condemn Azerbaijan's attack on Armenia.

Nearly 204 Armenian troops are confirmed killed or missing. It was an attack on a sovereign territory.

Speaker PELOSI's visit to Armenia is a symbol of the United States' commitment to a peaceful, prosperous Armenia that is setting up its own democratic nation. That is why I am pushing to include demining assistance and other aid for Armenia and Artsakh in the fiscal year 2023 budget.

Mr. Speaker, we must stand with the people of Armenia for all the right reasons.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 56 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. HAYES) at noon.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

With the psalmist, let us pray.

You, O Lord, are our strength, we watch for You. You, O God, are our fortress on whom we can rely.

God, go before the men and women of Ukraine and be the shield and defense of their country against their aggressors. In Your might uproot their enemies and bring them down.

For the sins of their mouths, for the words of their lips, let those who would slander Ukraine, let them be caught in their pride. For the curses and lies they utter, consume them in Your wrath.

Deliver Ukraine, O God. Save its people from those who conspire against them for no offense or sin of their own.