

war effort. This tragedy united our country against a common enemy.

As a 24-year Army veteran, we must always remember this day as a reminder to be vigilant and always prepared.

Today, we honor those who lost their lives in the attack on Pearl Harbor. May we never forget their sacrifice and service to our great Nation.

COMPENSATION FOR FIRE SURVIVORS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of thousands of California wildfire survivors.

Following the disastrous wildfires in 2015, 2017, and 2018, a court-ordered trust was established to compensate survivors for their loss of property. These funds are nowhere near enough to fully compensate for the loss of a home. Even worse, I have heard from countless constituents concerned that the funds they receive from the trust will be taxed.

That is why I, along with Congressman LAMALFA, introduced H.R. 7305, to make clear that settlement proceeds like these are nontaxable.

This legislation is absolutely essential to wildfire survivors, many of whom still cannot return to a home on their property.

The sad reality is that more natural disasters, including fires, will happen in the future. It is critical that Congress pass this legislation now.

This bill ensures Americans impacted by disasters do not owe unfair taxes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to include this legislation in any omnibus or spending bill moving forward.

HELPING SMALL BUSINESSES EXPAND EXPORTS

(Mrs. KIM of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 8844, the STEP Improvement Act of 2022.

I was proud to join Representatives FLOOD, EVANS, and NEWMAN to introduce this bill to help our small businesses expand exports and reach new markets.

The STEP Improvement Act would reauthorize the State trade and export program from fiscal year 2023 to 2026, for 3 more years, and improve the program by streamlining the application process for small businesses and implementing strong metrics so the program works as intended.

Since STEP's creation in 2011, my home State of California has received \$8.5 million in STEP funding, helping more than 1,200 small businesses create jobs and generate more than \$85 mil-

lion in export sales. That is 10 times the return on our investment.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all of my colleagues who helped to pass this legislation yesterday in the House.

□ 1415

IN SUPPORT OF THE NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the \$2.8 million included in the National Defense Authorization Act for the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station.

This funding will support construction of a new combined operations and alert facility at the base. The project is important to the 914th Air Refueling Wing and national readiness.

A strong and efficient 914th is good for the country and for western New York. The air reserve station is Niagara County's largest employer, generating \$300 million in economic impact on the local economy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this funding and enhance mission response.

CELEBRATING CAROL HERNANDEZ

(Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate my incredible Air Force fellow, Carol Hernandez, for her tremendous work this past year in my office.

Carol has been instrumental in all things related to the Armed Services Committee, especially when it came to the NDAA and looking for ways to improve the DOD acquisitions process. Her wealth of knowledge, experience, and expertise has been crucial in helping address issues important to Oklahoma's Fifth Congressional District.

We will miss Carol, not for only what she brought to us legislatively, but mostly because of who she is as a person. Carol is truly one of the most kind, thoughtful, and genuine people I have ever met. She is also whip smart, an engineer, and an amazing mother to four daughters.

Although I am excited for her new chapter, it has been a pleasure to have her in my office. She will be truly missed.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Carol for everything she has done for Team Bice.

CONGRESS MUST SAFEGUARD SAME-SEX AND INTERRACIAL MARRIAGES

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

Ms. BROWNLEY. Mr. Speaker, this summer the Supreme Court issued the

Dobbs decision, a direct assault on the right to safe and legal abortion.

In a disturbing concurrence to an already dangerous decision, Justice Clarence Thomas attacked Obergefell v. Hodges, which underpins the right to marriage equality.

With the right to marry potentially at risk, House Democrats put people over politics and took action to protect marriage equality for all Americans.

The Respect for Marriage Act prevents right-wing extremists from overturning legal precedent and ensures statutory protections for same-sex and interracial marriages across the country.

While extremist Republicans continue their path to destroy American freedom and challenge the legitimacy of LGBTQ families, Democrats are protecting American people's right to marry who they love.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this crucial bill to safeguard same-sex and interracial marriages, and I look forward to seeing President Biden sign this bill into law to protect and respect the right to marriage equality across our country.

CONGRATULATING THE 2022 RECIPIENTS OF THE GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION AWARDS

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

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2022 recipients of the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission awards.

The Georgia Mountains Regional Commission, or GMRC, offers guidance and resources to nearly 50 local governments, fostering leadership, economic development, and prosperity to improve northeast Georgia communities.

GMRC recently celebrated its 60th anniversary and honored this year's accomplished award recipients.

I am pleased to congratulate:

Joe Rothwell, regional planner for GMRC, as employee of the year;

John Sell, community and economic development director of White County, as appointed official of the year;

The mayor of Dawsonville, Mike Eason, as elected official of the year;

The mayor of Lavonia, Mr. Courtney Umbehant, as GMRC council member of the year; and

Ken Schubring, GMRC vice chairman, who received this year's chairman award.

I am proud to honor this year's Georgia Mountains Regional Commission award recipients, and I thank each of them for their hard work and dedication to serving northeast Georgians.

CONDEMNING IRAN KILLING CHILDREN

(Ms. PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, Iran's youth have emerged as leaders of the anti-regime protests—but also as a political target.

On November 16, 9-year-old Kian Pirfalak was fatally shot, becoming the youngest killed by Iranian authorities' response to that demonstration. Two months after Mahsa Amini's death, over 60 children have died under Iran's brutal crackdown—children no older than my own.

These aren't accidents. Security forces are raiding grade schools looking for student protestors. Mass arrests and violent beatdowns are commonplace. Authorities are even holding hostage the remains of protestors, a heartless practice meant to silence grieving relatives.

These children belong in safe schools and loving families, not in body bags.

I strongly condemn Iran's killing of children and stand with the protestors demanding change and accountability.

Iran should not be allowed to rob children of their lives or their freedoms.

AMERICANS SHOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO IRS INTRUSION AND OVERREACH

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

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, as today is Pearl Harbor Day, may we all give thanks to those before us who fought and gave their lives for our freedom.

Mr. Speaker, come next year, Americans who receive \$600 or more on their third-party payment systems like Venmo will receive a tax form thanks to a provision put into the American Rescue Plan.

For instance, if you sold an old couch and received payment for it of over \$600, you could trigger an IRS audit. This reporting requirement will not be targeting the wealthy, as it was designed for, but middle class Americans who often send and receive money via Venmo and other services.

The new 87,000 IRS agents hired through the Democrat plan will be very busy. We were told last year the IRS agents would only be targeting those making more than \$400,000 a year. I think we all remember that. The SNOOP Act introduced by my colleague MICHELLE STEEL would reverse the reporting threshold back to \$20,000, ensuring everyday Americans are not subject to this IRS intrusion and overreach, and I ask my colleagues to support it.

DREAMERS DESERVE A PATHWAY TO CITIZENSHIP

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, the alarm bell has been sounding for over a

decade on the urgent need to permanently protect Dreamers in America.

For years, we have tried and tried to get a solution across the finish line, but there are Members of this body who have lacked the heart to do the right thing and get this done.

This is shameful.

It is now or never. If we don't act in this session, then DACA could end as early as next year. Immigrant youth deserve better. They are our teachers, firefighters, nurses, small business owners, servicemembers, and leaders across our country.

Their contributions of \$1.7 billion annually benefit all of us.

America is their home, and they deserve every opportunity to achieve the American Dream and continue to contribute to our economy and our great country.

I urge my colleagues to fight for a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, and I pray that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle do the right thing and put forth humane solutions, not senseless legislation that keeps countless immigrant people in the shadows.

HONORING IRENE DOROTHY SCHWEITZER

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

Mrs. STEEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate a great citizen of Orange County, Irene Dorothy Schweitzer.

Yesterday, Irene turned 100 years old. She has been an active member of the community and has consistently given back.

Everyone who knows Irene knows how happy she is because of her million-dollar smile which absolutely lights up the room. Even at 100 years old, Irene never forgets a face, which makes everyone who meets her feel so special.

I have personally been so blessed to know her, and I am so thankful that we have a person as wonderful as her living in Southern California and making our community a brighter place to live. She truly makes the world a better place.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all of Orange County, I wish Irene a happy 100th birthday and wish her many more years of joy, blessings, and smiles.

SOFT-ON-CRIME POLICIES ARE WREAKING HAVOC ON OUR COUNTRY

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

Mr. SEMPOLINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise because of my concern with the havoc that President Biden and the congressional Democrats' soft-on-crime policies are wreaking on our country.

This administration's approach to crime has only emboldened criminals who exploit these weaknesses.

In a recent poll, Gallup found 56 percent of Americans think local crime has increased, which is more than any time in the past five decades.

I come from a primarily rural district, and unfortunately, we have not been immune from this rise in crime. Members of my community are concerned for their family's safety.

Failed ideas like so-called bail reform, defunding the police, and putting violent offenders back onto our streets have created a powder keg.

According to a recent study by Just Facts, if homicide rates were to continue at the rate of increase in President Biden's first year in office, over your lifetime, the chance of your life ending by homicide is 1 in 179.

We have tied the hands of our heroes in law enforcement while untying the hands of criminals. We must act now to reserve these policies for the safety and security of our communities.

KANSANS MUST CONTROL THEIR OWN LAND

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

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Promoting Local Management of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken Act. Kansas energy producers and ranchers are excellent stewards of the land and resources. They work tirelessly to feed, fuel, and clothe our Nation while taking voluntary proactive measures to protect the lesser prairie-chicken's habitat.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's inclusion of the lesser prairie-chicken on the threatened and endangered species list is nonfactual and disregards the preservation efforts of our energy producers and ranchers who best know their land.

After a yearlong species status assessment, the Federal Government spent millions to conclude that the lesser prairie-chicken population is stable and has grown.

Its inclusion on the threatened and endangered species list is detrimental to our robust ag and energy industries, blatant bureaucratic overreach, and is another example of the Biden administration's hindering American energy independence.

My legislation stops Washington elites from undermining voluntary public-private conservation practices and ensures Kansans control our land.

□ 1430

HONORING RAJA CHARI

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

Mrs. HINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize NASA astronaut