

and benefits to America's toxic-exposed veterans.

I encourage veterans to visit VA.gov/PACT for more information on PACT Act benefits.

Madam Speaker, and may I add that Bishop Barber, our guest chaplain today, along with our Speaker, were instrumental in including Camp Lejeune as part of the PACT Act, and I know that America is grateful for this justice to be done.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF SENATOR PAT ENGEL

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, today, I join Representative MIKE FLOOD to honor the life and service of former Nebraska State Senator Pat Engel, whom we served alongside during our time in the Nebraska Legislature.

Born in South Sioux City, Nebraska, Pat was a man of faith who applied his sharp mind to a life of service to his community and never stopped serving.

After his early military career concluded with Active Duty as an Air Force intelligence officer stationed in Germany, he chose to return with his young family to South Sioux City. There, as a prolific volunteer, he earned a reputation for his good nature and compassion for others as he served on two local school boards, numerous volunteer organizations, and as Dakota County commissioner.

In his 16 years in the legislature, Pat defined what it is to be a public servant. He was well liked. He had a special gift to work and connect with anyone, and I will always remember his cheerful way, even when issues were difficult. He was known for bringing people together.

Pat and his wife, Dee, were married for almost 68 years and had five children. Family, community, and love for his home State meant the world to Pat. He will be missed.

#### POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE

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

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I first thank Bishop Barber for that very powerful prayer for our Nation.

Today, the Poor People's Campaign's California Statewide Convening will uplift the launch of the California-led campaign for the Third Reconstruction resolution called Close the Wealth Gap, California.

Extreme poverty affects over 20 million people in California. This is a moral disgrace.

As written in House Resolution 438, the Third Reconstruction, we need the moral resolve to pass laws and policies

that fully address interlocking injustices, which have only deepened during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This country was founded on the moral commitment to ensure domestic tranquility, promote general welfare, and secure liberty and justice for all.

It is time we realize a Third Reconstruction to build an equitable, thriving, and resilient economy from the bottom up.

That is why I am calling on my colleagues to have the political will to make permanent the child tax credit. The most recent poverty data show that policy decisions like the temporary CTC, income support, and nutrition assistance cut the national child poverty rate nearly in half in 2021. This demonstrates that poverty is a policy choice and there is no excuse for poverty in America.

Madam Speaker, everyone deserves to live a life free from socioeconomic policies that are punitive and destructive to their families.

#### MEDICARE PHYSICIAN FEE SCHEDULE

(Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to address an impending disaster that is about to face patient care in this country.

Not just 2 years ago in this country, physicians were hailed as heroes for risking their lives to save others during the pandemic. Now, when other professions are being given large raises, doctors are facing double digit Medicare cuts beginning in January.

As a surgeon of 30 years, I can say without a doubt that these cuts will either force practices to close or severely restrict the number of Medicare patients who will be seen. The constant attack on physicians who see Medicare patients has to stop.

At present, the cost of seeing a Medicare patient exceeds its reimbursement. That is why most internal medicine practices will not see new Medicare patients.

The constant threat to Medicare needs to stop. We have a growing and aging population. We need to provide some certainty to doctors and hospitals if they are going to be able to plan to take care of these Medicare patients.

Madam Speaker, we cannot end this session without a Medicare fix.

#### CELEBRATING GALENA PARK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

(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 to celebrate Galena Park Independent School District's very own North Shore High School football team for their second trip in a row to the Texas State Championship.

Located in my district, the North Shore Senior High School is home to a group of standout athletes and students, both academically and athletically.

Through their hard work and preservation, our local stars will now play against Duncanville High School for a chance to defend their State championship.

I am truly so proud of all their accomplishments both on and off the field. They embody Texas' spirit of excellence and go-get-'em spirit.

Stay focused and play strong, Mustangs, because all of Galena Park in the Houston region is rooting for you this Saturday.

Best wishes and God bless.

#### CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF CROWE PEELE

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Crowe Peele, an NCAA boxing champion at LSU.

Born in Fayetteville, North Carolina, in 1934, Crowe made a name for himself in the Golden Gloves program where he was a four-time champion. He boxed twice in the National Golden Gloves Tournament in New York City and while in New York, Crowe lost two matches. Out of 64 pre-college bouts, these were his only two losses.

Crowe boxed for 2 years at LSU, winning Southeastern Conference and Sugar Bowl titles as a freshman in 1954 before repeating as conference champ in 1955.

During his sophomore year at LSU, Crowe won the top title in collegiate boxing, the NCAA Championship. This made him college boxing's premier heavyweight champion.

After winning the title, Crowe decided to leave amateur boxing and enter the professional arena. As a professional, Crowe had a record of 16-5, with wins in his first 14 fights and knockouts in his first 10. He fought on cards with Sugar Ray Robinson and Archie Moore.

After his retirement from boxing, Crowe settled in Baton Rouge with his wife, Betty, and started a family while operating service stations around the city.

He is survived by four children, including his daughter, Nancy, who proudly continued her father's legacy of service, professionalism, and dedication here in the House of Representatives.

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#### RECOGNIZING STAFF DIRECTOR RUSSELL ANELLO

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker and my dear friend, NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ, from the great State of New York, I rise today to recognize the outgoing staff director of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, Russell Anello.

Russ became my trusted adviser and leader of our committee staff in May 2021. Before his promotion to staff director, Russ served under three of our distinguished colleagues: Chairman Henry Waxman, Chairman JIM CLYBURN, and Chairman Elijah Cummings.

Russ is a tireless leader who defended democracy when democracy needed defending the most. Under his leadership, the committee passed landmark legislation, held high-profile hearings, and skillfully navigated complex investigations to hold government and private actors to account.

Russ' sharp legal skills and political instincts have helped to make our government more effective and efficient and have improved the lives of Americans.

On behalf of the members of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, and on behalf of the American people, I thank Russ for his selfless, dedicated service to our Nation.

#### RECOGNIZING JUDGE STEVE FLOYD

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

Mr. PFLUGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tom Green County Judge Steve Floyd, a faithful leader of our community who is retiring from elected office at the end of this year.

Judge Floyd has dedicated his life to our community with more than 30 years of service as justice of the peace, county commissioner, and now as county judge.

Whether he was leading the county, handing down justice, or just mowing the courthouse lawn, he led with wisdom and kindness.

Judge Floyd had a monumental impact on the partnership between San Angelo and Goodfellow Air Force Base, where his community leadership and visionary ideas strengthened the bond and paved the way for San Angelo to receive three unprecedented Altus Award trophies for exceptional community partnership, more than any other base has received.

Judge Floyd's retirement is bittersweet today. If you are watching this morning, Judge, please know that we are not just saying farewell to a good friend and a good leader but someone who has been an incredible public servant for over 30 years.

We are grateful for the decades of service to our community, and we wish you the very best in your upcoming retirement. Congratulations on a job well done, Judge Floyd.

#### CELEBRATING KOONTZ ELECTRIC SIGNING DAY

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

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Koontz Electric signing day for students committing to the Koontz Promise.

The Koontz Promise provides Arkansas River Valley High School students with an immediate career following graduation from a Koontz-operated skilled trade program.

Trade programs available for students include construction technology, industrial mechanics, maintenance technology, and welding.

The Koontz Electric Company of Morrilton, Arkansas, is a diversified heavy industrial electrical contractor that has noticed a skills gap between the generations. Immediately, they saw an opportunity to set up and train the next generation of young leaders to lessen the skills gap and highlight the opportunities of skilled trades immediately upon high school graduation.

On top of guaranteeing prospective students a career, the Koontz Promise also guarantees coverage of all expenses not covered by another funding source.

To celebrate and welcome the students who committed to the Koontz Promise, a signing day was held this past September.

I applaud Koontz Electric for their initiative in educating the next generation of leaders in the skilled trades, and I look forward to seeing these students achieve great careers in the future.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 8393, PUERTO RICO STATUS ACT

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1519 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1519

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 8393) to enable the people of Puerto Rico to choose a permanent, nonterritorial, fully self-governing political status for Puerto Rico and to provide for a transition to and the implementation of that permanent, nonterritorial, fully self-governing political status, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117-74 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate

equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ). The gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. RESCHENTHALER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, yesterday, the Rules Committee met and reported a rule, House Resolution 1519, providing for consideration of H.R. 8393, the Puerto Rico Status Act, under a closed rule. The rule provides 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Committee on Natural Resources and provides one motion to recommit.

Madam Speaker, Puerto Ricans have been U.S. citizens since the Jones-Shafroth Act of 1917. That is over 100 years the Puerto Rican people have been Americans. Yet, for those 100 years and more—in fact, going all the way back to the United States' annexation of the island in 1898—the U.S. Government has not guaranteed our fellow citizens on Puerto Rico the full and equal rights of citizens on the mainland.

Puerto Rico has faced multilayered crises rooted in this century-long policy, crises that have been compounded in recent years by natural disasters, the COVID-19 pandemic, and migration.

Puerto Rico's current status prevents the island from enjoying full democracy at the national level. Puerto Rico's Delegate to Congress has limited voting rights, and the Puerto Rican people cannot vote in U.S. Presidential elections, even though the U.S. Government enacts and enforces their national laws and residents pay Federal taxes.

Puerto Rico also cannot set its own monetary trade or immigration policy. They are unable to join international organizations or enter into international agreements, highlighting the complicated implications of the island's current status as a territory.

Puerto Rico's status also limits the island economically. For example, in