

Ho'opulalula, or return Native Hawaiians to their land.

This bill, H.R. 9614, will reduce the blood quantum requirement to Delegate Kuhio's original intent of 1/32 for the successors of those who have, while also addressing the inequity of those who don't have by lowering the 50 percent blood quantum requirement for successorship to 1/32 for the thousands of applicants and their successors on the DHHL applicant wait list.

With the 117th Congress coming to an end in just 13 days, it is my sincere hope that the 118th Congress will address this important issue and that an emerging new generation of Native Hawaiian political leaders in Hawaii will elevate this and the myriad of other issues that continue to suppress and harm the Native Hawaiian community.

Madam Speaker, I am confident that if we do that, we can effectuate sustainable and positive change across Hawaii and our Nation where all of our people thrive, not just a privileged few.

FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

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

Mr. MEIJER. Madam Speaker, I rise today for the last time as a Member of the 117th Congress. I do not seek to dwell on the circumstances of my departure, although it does bring to mind a few lines from Yeats' "Second Coming":

The best lack all conviction, while the worst

Are full of passionate intensity.

Perhaps it takes a cataclysm like World War I to capture the naked, malevolent cynicism of our politics. Yeats also well captured the harrowing consequence of elite ineptitude that precipitated the slaughter of tens of millions:

Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world.

I read and re-read those words while flying from Hamid Karzai International Airport last August during the shameful end to 20 years of America's war in Afghanistan.

What I saw on the ground during that waking nightmare exemplified some of the best of the American men and women in uniform, but it also reflected the haplessness and incompetency of American policymaking.

It is easy to question why we are here in this Chamber, what our purpose is, and what it is we seek to achieve. I did not enter this body as some wide-eyed innocent; three years in war zones had stripped me of that.

But what I did not anticipate until I got here was how many of the problems we are confronting are problems of Congress' own making.

Look at Afghanistan. Across the roundtable, we are fighting an uphill battle to pass the Afghan Adjustment Act so that our allies who have risked their lives to support our operations aren't

deported back to the same hell that 13 American servicemembers sacrificed their lives to rescue them from.

This should not be a Herculean task. Yet, Senators have the privilege of wrapping their hands around the neck of critical legislation and strangling it in back rooms. If they want to slit the throat of the Afghan Adjustment Act, then let them do it on the Senate floor in full view of the allies and veterans they are betraying.

The reason in the first place why we have to pass the Afghan Adjustment Act is due to the failure of our war in Afghanistan—a failure abetted by decades of Congress' lax oversight of the President and his Department of Defense.

To solve this, I pushed for Congress to take back its war powers, to take back that constitutional responsibility. But even when it comes to Congress asserting its own prerogative, this body has shown itself unwilling to do its job.

The current budget negotiations taking place on the other side of the roundtable also show a Congress unwilling to confront the very basic task of passing a budget on time. The last time we had a budget passed before the fiscal year started, I was in second grade. And here we sit, 72 hours before a government shutdown, while the Senate pats itself on the back for dropping a 4,155-page omnibus bill at 2 a.m. yesterday morning.

When Congress is incapable of solving problems of its own making, how can the American people have any faith that we can tackle the problems arising from the broader world?

What hope do we have of out-competing China and of winning this coming century if we can't even get out of a mess of our own making?

We need the best to regain their convictions, to set an example of what clear-eyed leadership looks like both at home and abroad. We need to hold the worst to account and reprise the moral resolve that has led us through dark times in this country many, many times before.

Too many have sacrificed too much for us to squander the opportunity before us, the opportunity to rise to the challenge of this moment, to set aside petty squabbles, the opportunity to build on the promise of limited government, economic freedom, and individual liberty—the promise that underpins the American Dream.

While I will not be in the 118th Congress to fight for the government our great people deserve, I remain steadfast to my commitment to make our Nation at last worthy of the sacrifices made in its name. And I pray that the next Congress learns from the mistakes of the last 2 years, that we learn from the mistakes of decades before, and that we have the courage necessary to fulfill the promise of a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

GREAT LAKES AUTHORITY

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise for two reasons.

First, as founding cochair of the Ukraine Caucus, I rise to express gratitude to our Speaker, NANCY PELOSI, for extending the invitation to Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to address our Congress in this beloved House tonight. What a consequential moment in world history his remarks will elucidate.

Our Ukraine Caucus, which is bipartisan, will warmly welcome him as a brother in the cause of liberty.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the names of Members of our bipartisan caucus.

CONGRESSIONAL UKRAINE CAUCUS MEMBERS

Ami Bera (CA-07)	Steven Horsford (NV-04)	Nancy Pelosi (CA-12)
Gus Bilirakis (FL-12)	Ronny Jackson (TX-13)	August Pfluger (TX-11)
Jamaal Bowman (NY-16)	Sheila Jackson Lee (TX-18)	Dean Phillips (MN-03)
Brendan Boyle (PA-02)	Hakeem Jeffries (NY-08)	Chellie Pingree (ME-01)
Julia Brownley (CA-26)	Bill Johnson (OH-06)	David Price (NC-04)
Vern Buchanan (FL-16)	Mondaire Jones (NY-17)	Mike Quigley (IL-05)
Michael Burgess (TX-26)	David Joyce (OH-14)	Kathleen Rice (NY-04)
Kat Cammack (FL-03)	Marcy Kaptur (OH-09)	Deborah Ross (NC-02)
André Carson (IN-07)	William Keating (MA-09)	Bobby Rush (IL-01)
Matt Cartwright (PA-08)	Andy Kim (NJ-03)	Tim Ryan (OH-13)
Sean Casten (IL-06)	Ron Kind (WI-03)	Mary Gay Scanlon (PA-05)
David Cicilline (RI-01)	Adam Kinzinger (IL-16)	Jan Schakowsky (IL-09)
Steve Cohen (TN-09)	Raja Krishnamoorthi (IL-08)	Adam Schiff (CA-28)
Gerry Connolly (VA-11)	Ann Kuster (NH-02)	Bobby Scott (VA-04)
Jim Costa (CA-16)	Doug Lamborn (CO-05)	Brad Sherman (CA-30)
Joe Courtney (CT-02)	James Langevin (RI-02)	Mikie Sherrill (NJ-11)
Jason Crow (CO-06)	Mike Levin (CA-49)	Elissa Slotkin (MI-08)
Danny K. Davis (IL-07)	Andy Levin (MI-09)	Adam Smith (WA-09)
Madeleine Dean (PA-04)	Nicole Malliotakis (NY-11)	Chris Smith (NJ-04)
Rosa DeLauro (CT-03)	Carolyn Maloney (NY-12)	Victoria Spartz (IN-05)
Suzan DelBene (WA-01)	A. Donald McEachin (VA-04)	Haley Stevens (MI-11)
Debbie Dingell (MI-12)	Cathy McMorris-Rodgers (WA-05)	Chris Stewart (UT-02)
Lloyd Doggett (TX-35)	Jerry McNerney (CA-09)	Eric Swalwell (CA-15)
Brian Fitzpatrick (PA-01)	Peter Meijer (MI-03)	Ritchie Torres (NY-15)
Ruben Gallego (AZ-07)	Dan Meuser (PA-09)	Lori Trahan (MA-03)
Josh Gottheimer (NJ-05)	Kweisi Mfume (MD-07)	David Trone (MD-06)
Andy Harris (MD-01)	Mariannette Miller-Meeke (IA-02)	Fred Upton (MI-06)
Jaime Herrera Beutler (WA-03)	Joe Murrells (NY-25)	Debbie Wasserman Schultz (FL-07)
Brian Higgins (NY-26)	Seth Moulton (MA-06)	Susan Wild (PA-07)
French Hill (AR-02)	Frank Pallone (NJ-06)	Joe Wilson (SC-02)
Jim Himes (CT-04)	William Pascrell (NJ-09)	Steve Womack (AR-03)
Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC-00)		

Ms. KAPTUR. Secondly, I also rise with considerable excitement as the Great Lakes Authority legislation,

which dozens and dozens of Members in both Chamber have supported, has been included in the 2023 omnibus bill.

The Great Lakes watershed is the only region in our Nation without an economic instrumentality helping it to adjust to changing economic conditions—the only place in this country. The Great Lakes Authority will unlock the economic heartland's full potential for the century ahead.

The Midwest communities that I represent are home to the people who make, build, and grow what makes, builds, and grows America.

For decades, however, our region has borne the brunt of job losses, largely the direct result of disastrous trade policies, underinvestment, and deindustrialization.

Since the passage of NAFTA in 1993, then China's entrance into the World Trade Organization in 2001, and CAFTA's passage in 2005, over 91,000 factories have closed across America—most in the region that I represent. Millions of good-paying jobs have been snuffed out.

□ 1230

Middle-class workers and families in the Great Lakes region, including Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, and New York, have suffered as good-paying jobs disappeared. Too many communities have been shattered.

The tragedy does not end there. Local governments have been left scrambling as declining revenues led to the collapse of budgets and the accumulation of crushing bonded indebtedness.

The size and scope of these accumulated economic challenges are too much for any one city or State to overcome alone. Places like Toledo, Lorain, Detroit, Buffalo, Flint, places with hardworking people throughout the region, have been scarred and struggle still to recover from the outsourcing of manufacturing and shipping jobs, including in agriculture, to penny-wage countries.

Meanwhile, impacted towns like Chicago, Erie, Pennsylvania, and Cleveland, Ohio, are limited in their ability to halt climate change and reverse its effects on their shorelines and natural habitats.

The Great Lakes region, the largest body of freshwater on Earth, needs accelerated investments and strategic support to get back on track.

Last year, in a bipartisan manner, this Congress accomplished what many had tried but failed to do: pass a historic investment in jobs and infrastructure. Billions of dollars are already on their way to some places, but we need to accelerate them to this region.

These dollars will empower our communities to rebuild roads and bridges; improve ports, rail lines, and airports; modernize energy and water infrastructure; and protect Lake Erie and the adjoining Great Lakes, which is the freshwater kingdom of the world and our continent.

All of this funding, every penny, is an investment in good-paying jobs. But to maximize the impact and turbocharge revitalization, our region needs a strategic plan to marshal these resources, work together, and invest for the future.

The Great Lakes region is the largest region in America that lacks such a Federal entity, and we can see where the West's water is served by the Bureau of Reclamation. The Delta Regional Authority helps 10 million people in the Delta region, and more than 400 counties from Mississippi to West Virginia are served by the Appalachian Regional Commission. Our region has long needed such an entity.

The Great Lakes authority will be a Federal-State mechanism created by us, the Congress, to spur creation of jobs and establish world-class worker education, training, and adjustment institutions in communities left behind.

Our goals for the Great Lakes authority are to foster innovation and expand the core U.S. manufacturing, industrial, and agricultural bases. We intend for it to promote new advances in renewable energy technologies, like solar, wind, and hydrogen, while helping us conserve and steward our environmental assets. It should also convene various agencies to help us produce this plan for the future. Finally, the Great Lakes authority provides a new opportunity for American progress, and I look forward to the true possibilities this authority will unleash.

I include in the RECORD a proposal from various members to President Biden.

Proposal: A Great Lakes Authority
FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF:

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR. PRESIDENT, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Rep. MARCY KAPTUR (D-OH),

Co-Chair, Great Lakes Task Force.

Rep. PAUL TONKO (D-NY),

Chair, Environment & Climate Change Subcommittee.

Rep. HALEY STEVENS (D-MI),

Co-Chair, House Manufacturing Task Force.

Rep. DEBBIE DINGELL (D-MI),

Co-Chair, Great Lakes Task Force.

Rep. BOBBY RUSH (D-IL),

Chair, Energy Subcommittee.

Summary. The eight states that comprise the U.S. portion of the Great Lakes watershed contain the core of America's commercial and defense industrial base.

The Department of Homeland Security defines these industries as "America's Critical Manufacturing Sector". Failure or disruption within these industries would result in cascading disruptions in other critical sectors of the economy, in multiple regions, and have significant national economic impact.

This existing industrial base contains the nation's largest pool of skilled and experienced production workers. The Region has an almost inexhaustible supply of fresh water. These 8 States do 25 percent of all U.S. trade with Canada, which is this nation's largest export market. In 2020, Canada imported more than \$255 billion of U.S. goods and services.

This base provides a solid foundation for creating a unique 21st Century regional development strategy—one that can enable the

United States to (1) build back its manufacturing base, (2) create millions of new and better jobs within the Region, and (3) restore an assured, U.S. defense industrial sector and a resilient energy platform sufficient to power U.S.-based production.

Franklin D. Roosevelt created the model for such a strategy in 1933 with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)—a unique institution brought into being to control the raging waters of the Tennessee River, provide low-cost electricity, and advance the economic development of the under-invested seven states in that Basin.

Our times require a 21st Century version of such an Authority in the Great Lakes Region—one that can protect and wisely use the fresh waters of the Great Lakes, build back better the Region's economy and be a necessary exemplar for climate change remediation.

The GLA's mission would be to:

Restore and protect America's principal source of fresh water.

Foster innovation, commercialize it, and by that create more and better jobs.

Strengthen and expand the core U.S. manufacturing and defense industrial base, and the required energy systems to sustain/power production.

Create world-class worker education, training and adjustment institutions.

Work with the Government and Provinces of Canada on our mutual Great Lakes challenges including the Great Lakes—Saint Lawrence Seaway Corporation.

The Chair of the Great Lakes Authority would be a Cabinet level official appointed by the President and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. The Chair would represent the U.S. Government. A five person board lead by the Chair would be joined by four bipartisan board members appointed by the U.S. House and Senate leadership.

The GLA would be governed by a five-person, bipartisan Board, each of whom serves for a five-year term. The Chair would be a Cabinet level official appointed by the President, confirmed by the U.S. Senate and be a full-time position. The other four members of the Board would be appointed by the Majority and Minority Leaders of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. Each would be confirmed by the U.S. Senate. Eligible appointees would be limited to residents of the Region who are currently active as a corporate manufacturing CEO, head of a major financial institution, President of a Land Grant University, or CEO of a major distribution company. These four positions would be part-time and compensated as is normal with private corporations.

The Great Lakes Authority would be funded by the same ways and means as was, and is now, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and include both federally appropriated funds and revenues generated by GLA projects, with the same annual financing similar to that of the Bureau of Reclamation.

The Great Lakes Authority would be authorized and funded to:

Create and administer a regional infrastructure bank that could finance domestic civil works that have a dedicated revenue stream such as water and wastewater systems,

Create and finance other domestic civil works from appropriated funds,

Create and operate a business development fund to assist in the establishment and expansion of regional-based manufacturers,

Create university-based research, development, and technical consortiums,

Create the 18th National Laboratory, with satellites as necessary in GLA states, and dedicate it to advancing applied science, the

manufacturing arts, and the commercialization of advanced technology products.

Create a patent hub that will aggressively invest and develop new clean energy inventions, technologies and industries, and

Create and fund world-class remedial, transition and advanced education and training institutions and programs that invest in the workers of the Region.

The United States has long dealt with regional challenges with regional solutions. The TV A is an example. The purpose of this proposal is to outline why a Great Lakes Authority is needed and identify how it can make a major contribution to building back better this vital region of the United States. Today, alone of the U.S.'s major economic regions, the Great Lakes states do not have such a vital development institution.

The Challenge. Manufacturing and Job Losses—The United States has closed 91,000 factories and lost 5 million manufacturing jobs since NAFTA was enacted in 1993 and China joined the World Trade Organization in 2000. The 8-state Great Lakes Region lost 1.5 millions of those jobs—that is, 30 percent. Many of the Region's people were unable to adapt and have responded with addiction, suicide, conspiracy fantasies, and political radicalization. Manufacturing Jobs Lost Since NAFTA and China Entered the WTO (IQ 1993–IQ 2018).

Weakened Finances—These losses of factories and jobs, in turn, have greatly weakened the fiscal capacity of the Region's state and local governments.

A measure of this fiscal crisis is found in the high municipal indebtedness of the Region's cities. Detroit and Cleveland each have a municipal bonded indebtedness of more than two billion dollars. Toledo owes \$1.6 billion and Milwaukee almost \$1.4 billion. Faced with the high costs of operation, repairs, rehabilitation and replacement, coupled with unavoidable federal mandates that come with only 50 percent funding, these municipalities are forced to increase utility rates on customers who are already in economic trouble.

The On-Going, Great Lakes Ecological Catastrophe—The Region's five Great Lakes—Erie, Huron, Michigan, Ontario, and Superior—are the source of 21% of the world's surface freshwater and 84% of North America's. These Lakes undergird life, work and recreation for tens of millions of people. Yet, before our eyes they are succumbing to an ecological disaster of epic proportions. Dan Egan in *The Death and Life of the Great Lakes* writes:

The Great Lakes are now home to 186 non-native species. None has been more devastating than the Junior Mint-sized zebra and quagga mussels . . . leaving trillions upon trillions of filter-feeding quagga mussels sucking the life out of the lake itself . . . native fish populations have been decimated. Bird-killing botulism outbreaks plague lakeshores. Poisonous algae slick capable of shutting down public water supplies have become a routine summertime threat. A virus that causes deadly hemorrhaging in dozens of species of fish, dubbed by some scientists the 'fish Ebola' has become endemic in the lakes and threatens to spread across the continent.

Yet, invasive species are only one of many threats to what in fact is the largest inland sea in the world. Researchers at the Universities of Wisconsin and Michigan have created a "threat map" that analyzes 34 distinct threats that affect these five lakes. The composite stresses include not only invasive species but also toxic algae, erosion, development, waste plastics and toxic pollutants among other sources.

Cumulative Stress in the Great Lakes. Today, the state and local governments of

the region are themselves so economically strapped that they are fiscally incapable of making the remediations that the Lakes require. Major fiscal help and institutional leadership from the Federal Government is essential if this ecological catastrophe is to be stopped and then reversed.

Innovation—Regarding innovation in the Great Lakes region, a telling measure of the region's innovation decline is found by comparing whether these eight states have kept pace with the rest of the United States in devising inventions that are sufficiently new, non-obvious and useful that inventors and companies file and receive a patent from the United States Patent Office (USPTO). The Great Lakes states have not kept pace with innovation. Specifically, in 1990, 51,000 U.S. patents were issued and in 2020 the USPTO granted 188,000—an increase of 265 percent.

In 2020, California residents were granted 571 percent more patents than they were in 1990. Oregon residents got 553 percent more. Washington State residents were awarded a whopping 901 percent more. Not a single Great Lake State even reached the national average by 2020. All fell behind the pace of U.S. invention.

The Nuclear Power Issue—Heavy power demands across the region require a dependable baseload energy supply with a highly skilled workforce. Today, the Region has 17 nuclear reactors at 15 sites in operation. Nuclear power provides 15% of the electricity for Ohio and Wisconsin, 23% for Minnesota, 29% for Michigan, 33% for New York, 41% for Pennsylvania, and 53% for Illinois.

Competition pressures from massive, new natural gas supplies have created financial pressures that make nuclear power more expensive. These zero net carbon nuclear plants have become financially uncompetitive. Yet, thousands of companies and hundreds of thousands of workers depend on this nuclear base load. For the foreseeable future, nuclear energy must be a key segment of electricity generation or neither economic development nor climate change goals can be attained. Ways are means are required to extend the operation of these nuclear facilities and, working with all stakeholders, increase electric production beyond what private enterprise appears to be able to facilitate in a quickly changing and uncertain market.

The Brookings Study—A decade ago, the Great Recession and the collapse of the U.S. auto industry highlighted the manufacturing decline in the Region. Regional leaders engaged the Brookings Institute to help identify a consensus among private-sector and public stakeholders as to what to do to create the next economy. The result was a report: "The Next Economy: Economic Recovery and Transformation in the Great Lakes Region." The report called for the federal, state, metropolitan leaders to join with the private and philanthropic sectors to:

Invest in the assets that matter—innovation, infrastructure and human capital. Devise new public-private institutions that are market-oriented and performance-driven. Reimagine metros' form and governance structures to set the right conditions for economic growth.

The report was issued in September 2010. The unstated expectation was that the report and leadership consensus would guide the Obama Administration's second round of recovery actions post-2010. It never happened. In November 2010, control of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives changed. What happened next is that the U.S. devolved into ten years of national political gridlock.

Neither the state, nor local governments, nor the industries, nor the companies, nor the people of the region could meet the magnitude of this challenge alone. Nor could

they form a joint regional strategy because there was no regional institution through which the leaders of the Region could define, advocate and create such a truly regional strategy.

What the Great Lakes Region needed then, and needs even more now, is a 21st Century Great Lakes Authority—an institution that can help the Region innovate, create jobs and confront the compounding environmental and climate challenges.

This proposed Great Lakes Authority can be that Institution. By its structure, focus, coherence, funding and leadership it can help the Region and nation envision, implement and sustain an aggressive Great Lakes strategic development agenda. This proposed Authority can be an institutional anchor to aid the Region to sustain a long-term effort through the storms, calms and vagaries of national policy making.

A Great Lakes Authority. The United States has always supported regional solutions to regional development and regional challenges. The principal of these efforts is managed by the Bureau of Land Management, which traces its roots to 1812 and was formed, in part, to serve arid parts of the nation with regional water resources and power generation.

Then, in 1933 during the economic depression, FDR created the 7-state TVA. In 1965, President Lyndon Johnson created the 13-state Appalachian Regional Commission. Their successors have created regional commissions in other parts of the U.S.

These regional instrumentalities were created to strengthen the economies of these Regions and help those states achieve economic equality with the rest of the Nation. Additional regional efforts have been proposed in other states.

Two of these Regional Commissions (Delta and Northern Border) have been provided minuscule funding. The Southeast Crescent Region and Southwest Border Regional Commissions have not been activated.

Strikingly, the Great Lakes Region has neither a Regional Authority, such as TVA, nor even a lesser-funded regional commission. Simply put, building back better the Great Lakes Region is a challenge that requires an empowered and well-financed Great Lakes Authority.

Lessons from the TVA—Now, almost nine decades after its founding, some lessons from TVA's experiences provide clear guidance for this proposed Great Lakes Authority. Many environmental and economic problems are not bound by state boundaries. Regional approaches are required to solve regional challenges.

The development institutions and capacities of any Region are so atomized as to be ineffectual when dealing with broader issues of mutual concern. The 2010 Brookings report highlighted that: "The metropolitan areas of the Great Lakes are ruled by a byzantine network of cities, counties, towns, townships, villages, school boards, fire districts, library districts, workforce boards, industrial development authorities, water and sewer districts and a host of other entities." The Brookings scholars concluded that the metropolitan areas of the Great Lakes need to begin speaking with a unified voice on economic development and design and implement a unified strategy. A Regional Authority can facilitate such coherence.

The TVA has a 200-person unit devoted to the economic development of the 7-state TVA region. It is far larger, better funded and more effective than any of the 7 state efforts in the Region. The TVA provides; (a) an international capacity to identify and source private capital investment, (b) secure domestic finance through state, municipal, banking and venture funds, as well as (c) the guidance required to select sites and coordinate

infrastructure and agreements at low, long-term interest rates. With these capacities, TVA has created a powerful supplement to state and local efforts to attract capital investment and jobs into the Tennessee Valley. It works well. The Great Lakes basin would benefit from this TVA approach.

Conclusion. When conceiving the TVA, President Franklin D. Roosevelt focused on equity. What FDR challenged was an inequality that was out of control between capital and labor and also between the regions of the United States, particularly the Southern and Appalachian regions. FDR closed much of this inequality—both between people and between regions. Since the early 1980s, the inequalities between the few and the many, the coasts and the interior, and the developed and underdeveloped regions of the U.S. have widened.

Now, it appears that a new era has opened with the Administration of President Joseph Biden. The new balance between economic efficiency and economic equity now appears to be once again emphasizing a more equitable distribution of economic growth and opportunities for both people and regions. The Great Lakes region has been falling behind by almost every measure and needs substantial attention to reverse economic and environmental challenges. A Great Lakes Authority is as vital a development tool for the Biden-Harris Era of today as TVA was for the Roosevelt Era of the 1930s.

HONORING DETECTIVE PAUL NEWELL

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

Mr. WOMACK. Madam Speaker, it is with profound sorrow and endless appreciation I rise today to honor the life of Detective Paul Newell of the Benton County Sheriff's Office in Arkansas.

He was one of Arkansas' finest law enforcement officers, a man who lived his life driven by a call to serve.

For more than two decades, he donned the badge. More importantly, he embodied the integrity and principled character the shield demands. He wore the uniform knowing it brought risk, but it also brought the reward of keeping Arkansans safe.

Detective Newell was one of the brave. He didn't pursue a career of comfort but one where he faced danger, helped those in need, and upheld the rule of law. He was devoted to being a guardian of the community he so loved.

It was in that spirit of service, Madam Speaker, while escorting the Wreaths Across America procession in northwest Arkansas, that Detective Newell was tragically killed in an accident involving his motorcycle in the line of duty 4 days ago.

He served in the military and was a veteran, patrol deputy, patrol sergeant, training sergeant, lieutenant, detective, and volunteer member of the Gravette, Arkansas, Fire Department. Wearing the uniform was fundamental to his life.

Those roles are only second to the titles he cherished most: proud son, husband, father, and grandfather. Our heartfelt sympathies are with his parents, his wife, his daughters, and his grandchildren.

I end with a sentiment that epitomizes the many accolades that have been shared by his fellow brothers and sisters in blue from Benton County Sheriff Shawn Holloway. "We are beyond saddened at the loss of our fallen brother and friend. Detective Paul Newell was one of the most respected deputies at our agency. His presence can never be replaced, but his legacy will remain through the hundreds of people he has trained. I ask that everyone continue to keep his family and fellow deputies in their prayers."

Madam Speaker, God bless Detective Paul Newell. His memory is a blessing, and the Third District of Arkansas is forever thankful to have had such a dedicated hero keeping us safe.

POSTAL SERVICE ELECTRIC VEHICLE ACQUISITION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Postal Service on its recent announcement to purchase a new vehicle fleet, 75 percent of which will be electric vehicles. I also rise to thank President Biden for his vision that led this country to that decision.

Yesterday's announcement by the Postal Service would not have been possible without the steadfast efforts of the Biden-Harris administration, including the landmark legislation President Biden signed into law earlier this year, the Inflation Reduction Act, and the postal reform legislation, which I authored.

I personally thank President Biden for his important leadership on this issue. His efforts to ensure that our Federal fleets, particularly the Postal Service fleet, transition to electric vehicles as soon as possible are a critical step to a cleaner environment and a more sustainable future for all Americans.

As chair of the Oversight and Reform Committee, electrifying the Postal Service fleet has been one of my top priorities for the last several years. I have spoken and written to the Postmaster General numerous times about the importance of adopting an all-electric fleet, and the committee has held briefings and hearings several times on this issue.

The Postal Service operates a fleet of nearly 230,000 cars and trucks. That is roughly one-third of the entire Federal fleet. It is the second largest fleet in our Nation and should set the standard for this Nation.

Unfortunately, this fleet is rapidly aging, with many vehicles already more than three decades old. The old postal trucks are often unsafe, have high maintenance costs, and get terrible gas mileage.

We cannot afford to continue polluting our environment with unnecessary carbon. This is simply unaccept-

able. We are in the middle of a climate crisis. The Federal Government should be leading the charge to reduce carbon emissions and green its fleets.

That is why I am elated the Postal Service has made the decision to acquire 45,000 electric next-generation delivery vehicles and an additional 21,000 other electric delivery cars and trucks between now and 2028.

I applaud the Postal Service for its commitment to purchasing only electric next-generation delivery vehicles after 2026, which is part of President Biden's vision for the future. This is a win for the Postal Service, the climate, and, most importantly, the American people.

This critical investment would not have been possible without the \$3 billion President Biden championed and Congress provided in the Inflation Reduction Act. These funds will help purchase these vehicles and build the infrastructure necessary to support them.

These purchases will make the Postal Service a global leader in the adoption of electric vehicles and sets an example for other Federal agencies and the private sector as they develop their future fleets. They are also a testament to President Biden's efforts to prioritize the climate and make the world safer and more secure for future generations.

I commend the Postal Service for making this decision, and I look forward to the steps Congress and the administration will continue to take to protect our planet and to green our planet. This is a great step forward for a cleaner and better environment.

HONORING PITTSBURGH ATHLETES ROBERTO CLEMENTE AND FRANCO HARRIS

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

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of several Pittsburgh athletes. The first is a young man named Roberto Clemente.

Roberto Clemente was a tremendous player for the Pittsburgh Pirates. He had an 18-year career with the Pirates—3,000 hits, 240 home runs, two-time World Series champion, and he had an arm that was incredible. Nobody in the Major Leagues, after getting a single to right field, ever made a wide turn at first base. Clemente would throw them out, throw it behind them.

As we remember him as a baseball player—and this is his last hit, which was a double where he got his 3,000th hit—one of the things I really admired about Roberto Clemente was not the fact that he was a great athlete, that he was a great leader, but that he was a great humanitarian.

Roberto died on December 31, 1972. That is 50 years ago this New Year's Eve. He was on a mission trip to deliver aid to the victims of an earthquake in Nicaragua. Mr. Clemente was only 38 years old.