

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 unacceptable.

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.

I think the thing that we need to remember as Americans is that while people have different talents, their commitment is always to their fellow man.

What I remember about Roberto Clemente was just how involved he was in Puerto Rico and in the islands because he knew they needed help.

On that day in 1972, in a DC-3 airplane loaded with medical supplies and food supplies, Clemente took off on a trip that would never reach the end he desired. The cargo shifted in the airplane, and the plane went into a spin and dove into the ocean.

We lost Roberto Clemente that day. We didn't just lose a great baseball player and a Hall of Fame player. We lost somebody else. On the back side of this, this is, perhaps, the picture—if you were to ask Roberto Clemente what uniform he liked the most, it would have been a toss-up between the Pittsburgh Pirates and U.S. Marines uniforms.

Roberto Clemente served in the Marine Corps from 1959 to 1962. In that time period, he was on the All-Star team and won a World Series twice, but again, it was his efforts to help his fellow human beings that we remember the most.

A tragic loss for us, but also something for all young people to look at and say: I want to be like him.

Also, Dr. JOYCE spoke earlier today about the loss of Pittsburgh Steelers running back and Hall of Famer Franco Harris.

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Madam Speaker, I had the blessing of actually knowing Mr. Harris, he was a very imposing figure and he was a phenomenal athlete. When we think of Franco Harris, this is a picture of him. This is the last tackler that was trying to get him. He picked up a pass that ricocheted off a guy name Frenchie Fuqua and ran it into the end zone. The Pittsburgh Steelers ended up winning their first championship game that day.

In addition to his years in the NFL and in addition to the years of being an idol in the Pittsburgh community, Franco Harris was something else. Franco Harris was very approachable. Franco Harris always had time for those who needed something.

Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey said today that Franco always said yes to helping our food banks, blood drives, and youth sports leagues. He loved this city and this city loved him. His memory will always be a blessing for the people of Pittsburgh.

When you think of these two athletes—not only their great prowess on the field of play, but their commitment to their fellow human beings—the thing that we really have to sort out and dwell on, especially at this time of the year, is that these are incredible people who did incredible things both on the field of athletics, but more importantly in the city in which they

lived and for the people that were around them.

Roberto Clemente died in a mercy flight to Nicaragua and Franco died this morning just days before the Pittsburgh Steelers were going to retire his number and honor the 50th anniversary of the “Immaculate Reception.”

RECOGNIZING JERRY KONTER

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jerry Konter, a builder and developer from Savannah, who on February 2 will conclude his successful term as the 2022 chairman of the National Association of Home Builders.

As chairman, Jerry has worked with both the administration and lawmakers on both sides of the aisle to provide solutions for our Nation's growing housing affordability crisis. This is an especially important issue and it is refreshing to have someone as knowledgeable and passionate as Jerry come to Washington with solutions and the know-how to make them a reality.

Jerry also recognizes the importance of giving back to his community. He has served on the Board of Directors for the Savannah Humane Society, as president of the Jewish Educational Alliance, and as a member of the Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Planning Commission.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of myself and the First Congressional District of Georgia, I thank Jerry for all of his hard work.

RECOGNIZING THE WARE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE CLASS 5A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Ware County High School football team for winning the Class 5A State championship in the State of Georgia. This is a first and long-overdue State title for the Gators. They finished the season with a 14-0 record—also a first for the school.

Ware County faced no trouble as they cruised through four playoff games. They allowed only 27 points to be scored by their opponents. The Gators entered the championship game having allowed just 90 points all season. Their defense was one of the best in the State.

In their title matchup, the Gators faced the Warner Robins Demons, a Georgia powerhouse program known for their historic success. Warner Robins was a two-time defending State champion coming off of a historic 2021 season.

The Gators held Warner Robins to only 13 points and brought the title back home to Waycross.

Congratulations to the Ware County Gators, you made the First Congressional District of Georgia proud.

RECOGNIZING THE BENEDICTINE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE CLASS 4A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Benedictine High School football team for winning the Class 4A State championship in the State of Georgia.

This is the second year in a row that the Cadets have won the title. In fact, over the last 12 years, the Cadets have won the State title four times.

Benedictine faced no trouble in the playoffs, scoring a combined 155 points. The Cadets, known for their strong defensive teams, only allowed their opponents to score 51 points during their playoff run.

In their title matchup, Benedictine beat Cedartown 14-13. It was the Benedictine defense that won the game for the Cadets as the unit made a goal-line stand in a driving rainstorm in the final seconds of the game.

Congratulations, Benedictine, you have made the First Congressional District of Georgia proud.

RECOGNIZING STETSON BENNETT OF THE GEORGIA BULLDOGS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize one of the First District of Georgia's finest, quarterback Stetson Bennett of the Georgia Bulldogs.

Stetson Bennett has now cemented himself as one of the greatest quarterbacks in the history of the University of Georgia.

Last week, Stetson finished fourth in the Heisman Trophy voting. Stetson was the first Georgia quarterback to be named a Heisman finalist and the first Bulldog to make the final cut for the award since Garrison Hearst in 1992.

This season, Stetson finished with 3,435 passing yards, 27 total touchdowns, and a completion rate of 68 percent through 13 games. He also showed off his speed, tacking on 148 yards rushing.

In the SEC championship game, Stetson threw for 274 yards and four touchdowns. Bennett will lead the Bulldogs into the college football playoffs as they take on the Ohio State Buckeyes in the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl.

Madam Speaker, I wish Stetson and the Bulldogs good luck as they try to become the first school to win back-to-back titles in college football playoff history.

Congratulations, Stetson, and Go Dawgs.

FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

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

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, this is my last speech on the House floor. I have given hundreds of speeches on this floor, but there will be no more. I am reminded of a quotation, each of us is called to do something, and if we don't do it, it won't get done.

For almost 15 years now, I have had the privilege to be in this Chamber to