

Nevertheless, he must try. Americans have long since decided that Mr. Biden's immigration policy is a failure, and their judgment has become harsher over time. In the most recent Economist/YouGov survey, only 33% of respondents approve of his handling of this issue, a figure that drops to 27% among suburbanites and 21% for independents. Cities across the country, many governed by Democrats, are struggling to cope with a record flow of immigrants who can't legally work. When the cost of feeding and housing them forces city leaders to cut vital services to their constituents, those leaders pay a political price. New York Mayor Eric Adams's approval rating has fallen to 28%.

A Senate agreement will be successful only if it can pass the House. This means it must have the support of a solid majority of Republican senators, including the leadership team, not only the bare minimum of Republicans needed to give the measure the 60 votes it needs to survive a possible filibuster. Only Mr. McConnell can give Mr. Biden the assurance that an agreement would have sufficient backing.

Time isn't on the president's side. If this matter isn't resolved before the House and Senate adjourn in January, the results of the Iowa caucuses on Jan. 15 could convince Republican officials looking for an alternative to Donald Trump that no one is likely to defeat him for the party's nomination. Mr. Trump, who openly opposes linking border reform to Ukraine aid, would likely view Republican cooperation with Mr. Biden on this issue as a career-ending transgression.

This is why the president must begin negotiations immediately and insist that the Senate remain in session until it passes a package that contains border reforms and aid to our allies, including Ukraine. Once this happens, he should deliver a prime-time address from the Oval Office to explain why this package is in the national interest and call on the House to enact the Senate bill.

Though Speaker Mike Johnson has reiterated his support for Ukraine aid, anti-Ukraine Republicans will likely pressure him to adjourn for the year without taking up the Senate bill. To counter such a move, Mr. Biden should make clear that he is prepared to use his constitutional authority to call the House back into session. If the speaker fails to persuade a majority of the Republican caucus to back the measure, he would face by far the most consequential decision of his career—whether to bring the bill to the floor anyway, which would probably cost him the speakership, or let the bill die, along with Ukraine's hopes of prevailing against Russia.

It's a high-stakes gamble for the president, but the alternative is worse. If Mr. Biden can't secure the continuation of American aid to counter Russian aggression, the already dicey prospects for more European aid to Ukraine would darken.

The fate of Ukraine, the peace of Europe and the future of the Western alliance hang in the balance, as does Mr. Biden's presidency. After the fiasco of the Afghanistan withdrawal, defeat in Ukraine would undermine what is left of his reputation as an effective steward of American foreign policy. As public support for his re-election shrinks, the last thing he needs is another failure.

## HONORING THE REDWOOD EMPIRE CHAPTER, CALIFORNIA SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues, Representative JARED HUFFMAN and Representative JOHN GARAMENDI, to honor the Redwood Empire Chapter of the California Society of the Sons of the American Revolution which is celebrating 50 years of work to honor the patriots of the American Revolution.

The Redwood Empire Chapter was chartered on September 29, 1973, and serves the communities in Mendocino, Napa, Solano, and Sonoma Counties. The organization, its members, and its partners in the Daughters of the American Revolution are dedicated to the promotion of democratic values, to serving our nation's veterans, and to educating and inspiring future generations with the founding principles of the United States of America.

The Redwood Empire Chapter provides service and support to worthy causes in the North Bay and extended region. They are a community partner of the Department of Veterans Affairs San Francisco Health Care System participating in events to uplift the veteran community and increase their access to health care. In addition to working with youth serving organizations to provide speakers and presentations on American history, the Redwood Empire Chapter helps young people, including the descendants of patriots and Eagle Scouts, to apply for college scholarships through the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Preparations are underway for the United States' Semiquincentennial Anniversary in 2026, and the Redwood Empire Chapter is leading an important project to identify and recognize the patriots buried throughout California including those who served in the Spanish Frontier Militia. We are honored that our district is home to the final resting place of such patriots like Captain William Smith of the Virginia Navy at the Sonoma Mountain Cemetery. Each year, the Redwood Empire Chapter helps honor Captain Smith during Wreaths Across America Day.

Mr. Speaker, the Redwood Empire Chapter of the California Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is greatly appreciated for their 50 years of service. Therefore, it is fitting that we honor their chapter here today.

### WREN MCCORMICK

### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Wren McCormick for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Wren has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Wren, who strive to make the most of their education, develop cru-

cial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Wren's hard work determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Wren McCormick on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

## COMMEMORATING THE RETIREMENT OF LEAH CURRY

### HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, after 26 plus years of service with Toyota Motor North America, Leah Curry, plant president, Toyota Motor Manufacturing Indiana, Inc. (known to us in the Hoosier state as "TMMI Princeton"), is retiring. In her role as president, TMMI, Leah oversaw all production and administrative functions related to the assembly of the Toyota Highlander, Highlander Hybrid, and Sienna. In 2023, Leah and her team led the transformation for TMMI to assemble two all-new vehicles, the Toyota Grand Highlander and TMMI's first Lexus vehicle, the Lexus TX.

During her career, Leah has served in many leadership positions at TMMI and served as president, Toyota Motor Manufacturing West Virginia from 2017 through 2019. In 2013, Leah received the Manufacturing Institute Step Ahead award, recognizing female leadership in manufacturing, twice named as one of the 100 leading women in NA Automotive by Automotive News. In 2022, she was inducted into the Women of Manufacturing Hall of Fame and was named one of the top 250 most influential business leaders in Indiana by IBJ media.

Leah studied Industrial Electronics at the University of Evansville and Ivy Tech Community College in Evansville, Ind. She holds a TPC Certification in Industrial Electronics. She has served on the National Board of Directors of the Manufacturing Institute and is a member of the Education Alliance, a private, non-profit organization that advocates for public school student achievement.

Leah Curry's outstanding leadership, personal initiative, and devotion to the greater community of Princeton, Indiana, reflect great credit upon herself, the Hoosier State, and the United States of America.

## CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF CORPORAL AMOS E. PIERCE, JR. A WORLD WAR II VETERAN, BUFFALO SOLDIER, ARMY 24TH INFANTRY REGIMENT ATTACHED TO THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

### HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, today, I stand to honor the life of an exceptional New Orleans Serviceman, United States Marine Corporal Amos E. Pierce, Jr., who was

born on January 23, 1925, in New Orleans, LA, and peacefully passed away on November 29, 2023.

Amos E. Pierce, Jr., was a proud resident of Pontchartrain Park, now recognized on the National Register of Historic Places, and a devoted member of St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church for over 70 years. Pierce was a distinguished member of the "Buffalo Soldiers" during World War II.

Known affectionately as "Pops" and "Uncle Amos," he married Althea on July 26, 1952, and they had three sons: Stacey Anthony (deceased), Ron Paul, and Wendell Edward. Amos E. Pierce, Jr. was a dedicated employee of the University of New Orleans for 30 years.

Survived by two of his sons, Ron and Wendell, his four grandchildren, Meghan, Logan, Janelle, and Natalie Pierce, daughter-in-law's Debra Pierce and Erica Young, along with his sister-in-law Maryann Edwards and numerous nieces and nephews, Amos E. Pierce, Jr. was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Althea Lee Edwards Pierce.

His story of bravery in the Battle of Saipan was shared in his son's memoir "The Wind in the Reeds," shedding light on the injustice his father faced upon discharge, where his heroic achievements were unjustly dismissed due to racial prejudice.

The Defense Department realized its mistake and offered Mr. Amos his medals, but he declined. Despite the mistreatment, he didn't teach his sons to harbor resentment against the country.

In 2009, Wendell discovered that his dad had been unjustly denied medals. Working with a local TV reporter and Senator Mary Landrieu's office, they successfully corrected the oversight. Amos Pierce, who had earned six medals, was finally honored in a special ceremony at the World War II Museum in New Orleans in October 2009.

He received his medals, including an Asiatic Pacific Campaign medal with a Bronze Service Star and a World War II Victory medal, during a special Armed Forces Day ceremony at The National WWII Museum in 2009. One of the elder Pierce's last public appearances was at the museum's Patriot Awards Gala last month, where his son received the Distinguished Citizen Award from the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.

"He was a man of great resilience, a little boy who grew up in Gert Town, born at a time when everyone and everything around him said his humanity meant nothing, showed that he was something."

Drafted at the outset of World War II, he graduated from Gaudet High School after returning from the war and studied at Southern University and Agricultural & Mechanical College before moving to New York City to study photography.

He is affectionately described as a man of great fortitude who switched gears and became a maintenance man. He changed his profession and found a way to work and support his family, he wasn't overwhelmed by the change. He just adjusted, as men of purpose do.

Southern University held an exhibit of Amos Pierce's photographs, which were lost in August 2005 when Hurricane Katrina's floodwaters destroyed the family's home in Pontchartrain Park, a Gentilly subdivision established in the mid-1950s when segregation was

still official policy, to give African Americans the opportunity of home ownership. The Pierces were among the first Pontchartrain Park residents.

The Pontchartrain Park Community Development Corp., started to buy back homes in the subdivision that had been sold to the government. In 2012, slightly more than five years after moving back into Pontchartrain Park, Amos Pierce's wife, Althea Pierce, died. Amos Pierce kept going.

He was a parishioner of St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, where he was a member of the Knights of Peter Claver. He was praised for giving "the most precious things ever: love and time."

The Greater New Orleans Community has lost an incredible gem. I am proud to have connected with him during my time as a Member of Congress, appreciating the guidance and support he provided. I'll always carry his direction as I serve the constituents of the 2nd Congressional District of Louisiana. May he rest in peace forever.

JONATHAN OSORIO LOPEZ

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jonathan Osorio Lopez for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Jonathan has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Jonathan, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Jonathan's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Jonathan Osorio Lopez on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR DISTRICT DIRECTOR FOR RHODE ISLAND MARK HAYWARD

HON. GABE AMO

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Mr. AMO. Mr. Speaker, Rhode Islanders know that small businesses are the backbone of every city and town in our great state. It is my distinct pleasure to honor Small Business Administrator District Director for Rhode Island Mark Hayward for his long and important service to our state. Mark's service has benefited small businesses and the constituents of our First Congressional District in innumerable ways. I applaud his decades of commitment, and I express my gratitude on behalf of Rhode Islanders across every community for Mark's dedication.

I understand Mark's retirement has been planned since before the COVID-19 pandemic. However, Mark opted to continue to

serve an additional few long years to help ensure that the Rhode Island small business community saw its way through the crisis.

Mark's decision to help his community get to the other side of such a major event is the mark of a true public servant—one who is willing to put others first no matter the circumstances.

The success of so many small businesses across our state is because of Mark's many decades of hard work and expertise. For so many small business leaders, Mark's steady leadership was a lifeline. Whether helping small businesses navigate the Paycheck Protection Program or helping new business owners access the technical resources they needed to be successful, Mark has been relentlessly focused on growing our economy through his public service during his long and effective entire career.

I wish Mark some very well-deserved rest and time off with his wife Nancy, his children, and grandchildren. I know Mark's commitment to our community is thread throughout every fiber of his being and that he will continue to serve his fellow Rhode Islanders for many years to come.

Happy retirement to Mark, and I thank him for all he has done for Rhode Island.

HONORING GUILLERMO A. AHUMADA

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the outstanding contributions of Guillermo A. Ahumada, a distinguished journalist with a passion for giving back to his community.

Mr. Ahumada has demonstrated exceptional professionalism in journalism, lending his talents to various television stations, including Telemundo 52 and Univision 34, and different radio networks. His work on these stations is notable, and his commitment to representing and advocating for the issues of diverse populations shines through in his reporting. He continues to be a prominent voice on immigration, health, and workers' rights issues, and brings attention to stories of impact with his journalism and special reports.

Mr. Ahumada currently serves as the Director of Noticias de Vision, a Latino network where he plays a crucial role in coordinating the news department, scheduling, and supervising the selection of news—particularly topics of interest to the Latino community.

Outside of his role in the media, Mr. Ahumada is passionate about being of service to his community. He is the Executive Director of Chaplains Counselors, a nonprofit organization that has been instrumental in supporting low-income families and fostering self-esteem and personal growth among participants. The organization provides educational workshops on several vital topics, including domestic violence, drug abuse, and family counseling.

Mr. Ahumada also serves as the Colonel of Chaplains of the International Federation of Christian Chaplains. In this capacity, he leads and teaches individuals dedicated to helping those at risk, whether in prison, hospitals, or facing drug addiction.