

2022, he was named the MLS Newcomer of the Year.

During the World Cup, Thiago made one appearance playing 6 minutes against Poland in the Group C finale. At just 21 years old, Thiago has a long career ahead of him.

Congratulations, Thiago. Continue to make Georgia proud.

PROTECT BORN ALIVE BABIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MCCLAIN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the unborn; for the protection and the defense of the most vulnerable among us.

I stand here today because this week the Republican majority is doing what the previous Congress refused to do, and that is uphold the right to life.

For far too long we have seen pro-life facilities vandalized and broken into. For far too long we have watched as Democrats refuse to protect born alive babies. Think about that for a moment. These babies are born alive, breathing outside the womb, and the Democrats want to kill them. They do not protect them.

This week, we right those wrongs and we defend life in America. It is well past time for the United States Congress, for this body, to uphold the guarantees laid out in the Declaration of Independence that we are endowed by our creator with the unalienable right to life.

WATER SUPPLY IN CALIFORNIA

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, as we have observed, Western States are receiving much welcomed rainfall and snowpack. Indeed, some of the side effects are flooding and there are many mudslides that are affecting communities and transportation corridors.

This is on the heels of short rainfall years for at least the last 3 years. This year, rainfall numbers are good. They are at a pace where they are at their historical average or a little above in some areas. This is historical average long-term over non-drought years.

The last 3 years have seen dire water supplies for many people and allocations for farmers. In 2019, our lakes in California were basically full. You may recall in 2017, in my district, Lake Oroville had the spillway collapse due to lack of maintenance and checking its integrity over the years, but it was plumb full, 101 percent full, in 2017.

Our water projects in California were designed with the idea that they withstand 5 years of drought. With Lake Oroville being full as recently as 2019 and Lake Shasta nearly full as well, how is it that our State water projects and our Central Valley projects which are run by the Bureau of Reclama-

tion—being at these high levels—that Lake Oroville, for example, in 2021, only 2 years after being full, was basically so low on water that for the first time in the history of that lake it did not make hydroelectric power because the water levels were so low.

Lake Shasta, in 2022, an unprecedented cut in water supply, including to its neighbor right there in Shasta County, Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District, received zero allocation because they couldn't deliver enough water to make it worth their while. In over 100 years of the existence of that district, this is the first time that they did not get to irrigate it.

These two dams were designed to withstand 5 years of drought, being full as recently as 2019. We had one running out in 2021 and the other basically being useless almost to agriculture in 2022, with drastic cuts all up and down the Sacramento River system.

What is going on here?

What is the State Water Project doing on the Feather River side, et cetera?

What is the Federal Bureau of Reclamation and CDP doing on the Sacramento River side that has changed?

They are not doing everything they can to hold water, even in drought years, that they could be holding. Why?

It is a mystery. We have the opportunity right now with these high flows. We have areas of California right in the Sacramento Valley that are being flooded out. They are running the pumps that are at the south end of the delta at about 18 percent on the State side and about 67 percent—not so bad—on the Federal level instead of taking full advantage of running those pumps as hard as they can and taking this excess water and relieving some of the flooding and putting it into a reservoir that will help our whole State withstand possible drought in the future.

Is this a drought year?

No, not as defined by lack of rainfall, as indeed we are at average, or we are above average in some areas. With the projection in January for a lot more rain coming, we might have a full normal water year or above. That would be good.

Our leaders in government in the agencies don't seem to feel the same urgency. At the same time they are talking that we have flood emergencies, they are still maintaining we have drought emergencies—not with this kind of rainfall.

Yes, we have low-lake problems, but that isn't how you define a drought. That is how you define lake management. That is how you define water management. It is not helping. We need to be running, at least, those two sets of pumps at 99 percent or 100 percent at the delta and filling up the San Luis Reservoir and allocating water to those recharge basins so the subsidence we are having in the San Joaquin Valley that everybody is worried about wouldn't be happening.

No, they want to just keep chugging along the way they are doing, especially on the State side. This is a disservice to all water users in California. At the same time, they don't really see a whole lot of need to cut back on environmental water that is very dubious in nature, if it is helping fish in the delta or anywhere else.

Indeed, they need a change of attitude at all of these levels of water management. These agencies don't seem to be on the side of growing food. I always bring this poster along so people can understand how much of their food is grown in California, a high percentage of these crops that only come from California that Americans consume.

If it is not grown in California, either you are not going to have it or you are going to have to import it from somewhere else.

Look at this: walnuts. Walnuts are having a devil of a time right now in their market. Tomatoes. If you want tomato paste for your pizza and your pasta, where is it going to come from? We are going to have to import all this stuff.

We need to have a much stronger and much smarter water policy, and that starts right in California, and it benefits the whole country.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 41 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Nebraska) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

On this day, O Lord our God, give us a fresh anointing, a sure sense of purpose and protection, as we execute the responsibilities You and the American people have entrusted to us.

And with Your Spirit in our midst, may we each walk in humility, with a healthy sense of our strengths and our weaknesses, our unique gifts and our vulnerabilities.

May we walk in gentleness, with the power we could wield under the authority of Your purpose. Guard us against our own inclinations to dominate or defend. But spur us to engage in kind disagreements and civil conversation.

Help us to walk in patience, to bear one another in love, a love born of selflessness and mercy, respect and forbearance.

God and creator of us all, You are above all and through all and in all. May we each give testimony to the grace and peace to be found in You.

We offer this prayer in Your most holy name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. McCormick) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCCORMICK led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

TAX RELIEF FOR DISASTER VICTIMS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, victims of disaster don't need to be hassled by government, especially by new taxes.

The 2018 Camp fire in California was the deadliest and most destructive in our State's history. The Fire Victim Trust was set up to compensate these people for their loss and help them rebuild their homes and their lives. However, these fire victims had to deal with the possibility that some of their settlement money and money for attorney's fees that they would pay would be taxed as income by the IRS.

To prevent the further victimization of these folks who lost so much already, Representative THOMPSON and I have introduced a bill to exempt payments from the Fire Victim Trust from being taxed by the IRS.

The bill received bipartisan support in the House and Senate, but was not included in the end-of-session vehicle last year, unfortunately. So, getting this bill passed and signed into law is very important and right.

The survivors need this money to help get their lives going again. They don't need the government as a partner in the middle taking their cut. It is essential we act quickly so that they can get back to their lives and get the dol-

lars moving toward rebuilding their homes and whatever it is they need from having suffered this already.

FOSTERING BETTER CONNECTIONS

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, the United States and Canada enjoy a shared border and shared values. We are friends and trading partners.

Unfortunately, in recent years, we have seen a layering of restrictions that hinder binational movement. This not only makes it hard to cross a bridge, but it hinders binational cooperation. It separates us from one another. It stifles trade and diminishes life quality.

Confusion, hassles, and delays prevent travel and inhibit travel plans.

As President Biden and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau meet today to discuss our future, I urge them to leverage our strengths to craft solutions that make it easier for us to connect between two countries, fostering better connections, a better economy, and a better life quality.

GRATEFUL FOR NEW LEADERSHIP

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that with a new Congress is new leadership.

Congratulations to Speaker KEVIN MCCARTHY.

Speaker MCCARTHY has a proven record of accomplishments for the American people, and his leadership will be enhanced with Majority Leader STEVE SCALISE, Majority Whip TOM EMMER, Republican Conference Chair ELISE STEFANIK, Republican Conference Vice Chair MIKE JOHNSON, National Republican Congressional Committee Chairman RICHARD HUDSON, and Policy Committee Chairman GARY PALMER.

The Republican majority will immediately begin to implement the Commitment to America that Speaker MCCARTHY coordinated with input from across the country. It promotes an economy that is strong, a Nation that is safe, a future that is built on freedom, and a government that is accountable.

Legislation begins with the Family and Small Business Taxpayer Protection Act, which defunds Biden's army of 87,000 new IRS agents.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who have successfully protected America for 20 years in the global war on terrorism as it continues from Afghanistan's safe haven to America.

Our sympathy to the family of magnificent Lynette "Diamond" Hardaway of North Carolina, and we welcome Delegate JIM MOYLAN of Guam.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DONALD WILLIAM NOTTOLI

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

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Don Nottoli and celebrate his retirement from the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors after seven terms on the board and a lifetime of service to the Sacramento community.

Don started his public service career in 1977 when he was elected to the Galt High School Board of Trustees. I have had the privilege of working with Don over the years. He is a tireless public servant. All of us get to go to Eagle Scout ceremonies, medal awards, and so forth. Don is at every one of those.

Our community is a much better place because of the service and the representation that we had from Supervisor Don Nottoli.

I extend my congratulations and thank County Supervisor Nottoli for his lifelong dedication to public service in Sacramento County. His commitment to the betterment of our region will stand as an example of public service for years to come.

Sacramento County is a better place to live and raise a family because of Don Nottoli's lifetime of service, and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Don Nottoli for his work in our community and his service to our country.

FUNDING OF FOREIGN MINING

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

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, we recently learned that the Biden administration is considering funding mining projects abroad with American tax dollars in order to address our country's mineral supply concerns.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen this movie before: President Biden looks to other countries to meet our country's energy needs while our domestic industries are blocked by unnecessary permitting delays and regulatory uncertainty.

If I may offer a suggestion to both the President and my Democratic colleagues, why not in America?

In my home State of Idaho, we have an abundance of resources, including cobalt, gold, silver, tungsten, and antimony. These resources are necessary for the production of batteries, semiconductors, munitions, and countless other essential products.

Instead of looking at countries with hostile motives against America, like Russia and China, to help us meet our demand for critical minerals, we should strengthen our domestic supply chain by enabling the responsible development of our resources at home.