

played an instrumental role in negotiating the Help America Vote Act, spending many early mornings and late nights to enact a law that The Washington Post later called “the most significant piece of Federal election law since the Voting Rights Act.”

Congratulations, Keith.

Similarly, he was integral to helping us pass the ADA Amendments Act in 2008, which strengthened and carried out the intent of Congress for the ADA and for future generations.

Keith was also a steadfast advocate for our Federal employees and went to great lengths to stave off repeated partisan attempts to cut their pay and benefits and security.

Perhaps the most significant result of Keith’s time in my office, of course, was his marriage to a fellow staffer whose name is Jane. Once coworkers, they are now parents to two incredible children, Adele and Henry. He cherishes his role as their father above all else.

It is in this spirit why, when looking back on my time with Keith, I don’t think of the list of groundbreaking laws he helped enact, though that list is long. Instead, I think the virtues he displayed everyday here on Capitol Hill are what I remember.

Keith has a doctorate in political science. He is an epic consumer of the printed word. You would typically find him with his head buried in the mountain of papers on his desk. He made frequent use of the Library of Congress, read multiple newspapers daily, and often left the office with a cache of unread papers under his arm.

Few can match Keith’s mastery of technical details behind the issues on which he worked. Even fewer share his ability to understand how these details impact Americans’ everyday lives.

That talent is rooted in Keith’s thoughtful demeanor. Quick to offer a piece of wisdom, a word of encouragement, or an expression of gratitude, Keith’s generosity made him a beloved feature of our team and of so many people in the private sector and public sector who dealt with him on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis.

We all admired the impressive enthusiasm he brought to his work. I can recall many meetings where Keith would speak so quickly and passionately about an issue that we could hardly keep pace.

A lifelong student of philosophy and a devout Catholic, Keith’s earnest energy stems from his belief in the importance of our work in this, the people’s House, and in the ethics that ought to guide each of us in this institution.

Through it all, Keith maintained a great sense of humor and never took himself too seriously. He was serious but not serious about himself.

Although I am proud to praise Keith, everyone should know that he is a man of deep humility and perhaps would not want me making this speech on the floor. He is probably squirming in his

seat listening to this, and I hope he is—listening, that is, not squirming.

Nevertheless, he ought to know how much we have appreciated his service. Who better to serve as my adviser on issues facing our Federal workers than a man who himself exemplifies the ideal Federal employee, a man of intellect, a man of integrity, a man of generosity, a man of humor, but a very serious, hardworking, and effective public servant.

Madam Speaker, if Keith is listening, and I hope he is, I thank him for everything he has done for our country and wish him well as he begins this new chapter in an extraordinarily productive career.

Madam Speaker, I bless him and his family, and I wish him Godspeed.

#### RECOGNIZING MARSHALL RAUCH’S 100TH BIRTHDAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the 100th birthday of one of North Carolina’s greatest statesmen, Marshall Rauch.

Growing up in Gaston County, Marshall Rauch was my State senator. He served 24 years in the State senate, representing Gaston, Cleveland, Lincoln, and Rutherford Counties, all parts of my congressional district.

Prior to that, he was on the Gastonia City Council for 14 years. He was one of the most powerful elected officials in the State, serving as chair of the North Carolina Senate Finance Committee, and that was before our Governor had a veto. His service was also groundbreaking. Senator Rauch was one of the first Jewish elected officials in North Carolina.

But let’s back up to where it all started. Marshall Rauch came south from his native New York City to play basketball at Duke University in the 1940s. That was long before anyone had heard of Coach K. In fact, he played for Coach Eddie Cameron in the first year that Duke Indoor Stadium was open, long before that legendary venue would be renamed for Coach Cameron.

Marshall’s time at Duke was cut short by World War II, where he served bravely. However, he will always have Duke to thank for meeting his wife of 64 years, Jeanne.

After the war, they settled in Jeanne’s native Gaston County, where Marshall started Rauch Industries, thus beginning his prolific business and political career. Rauch Industries in Gastonia grew into a leading manufacturer. I knew it well because I mowed the grass around his facility for a number of years.

Rauch Industries provided jobs to thousands and stood as a pillar of the civic and charitable community in Gaston County, and we are grateful for it.

It was not lost on anyone that this business owned by a leading Jewish cit-

izen was one of the world’s leading manufacturers of what, you may ask? Christmas ornaments.

Senator Rauch was recently quoted as saying: “In Judaism, there are eight degrees of charity, and the highest and best charity you can do is to help someone in a manner that they don’t need help anymore.”

Senator, you have done that in many ways for lots of people for a number of years, and we are all the better for it.

REMEMBERING WALTER STINE ISENHOWER

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, few people these days associate politicians with humility, but Catawba County in my district benefited from the service of one such person for many decades. Walter Stine Isenhower, known as Mr. Catawba County, passed away in January at the age of 95, and I rise today to honor his legacy and service to our area.

Stine was a lifelong Republican who served as chairman of the Catawba County Board of Commissioners and as a member of the North Carolina House of Representatives.

His impact is still felt in the community from many issues that he championed, including support for the local community college and the county hospital.

Stine was a veteran of the U.S. Army and a volunteer fireman, and he held various leadership roles with his beloved church, Concordia Lutheran.

His favorite saying was that a day out of Catawba County is a day wasted. We thank Stine for devoting his life to making our lives better.

#### CONGRATULATING THE NAPAVINE TIGERS FOOTBALL TEAM

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

Ms. PEREZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Napavine High School football team for a fabulous season. They have brought home yet another State championship in football.

The Tigers put up an impressive 41 points in one game. The defense stood tall, paving the way to secure the title.

Victories like these really highlight the importance of team sports and competition. These experiences bring communities together and teach students the value of teamwork and hard work.

Congratulations, Napavine Tigers. You have made your community and me very proud for an amazing season.

RECOGNIZING SANDRA BEDROSIAN SERMONE

Ms. PEREZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Sandra Bedrosian Sermone, a resident of my district, for her work on ADNP syndrome, a rare neurodevelopmental disorder.

In 2016, Sandra founded the ADNP Kids Research Foundation after her son was diagnosed with this disorder. Additionally, Sandra helped discover a

new biomarker for the ADNP gene, helping her spearhead efforts to diagnose and cure ADNP.

Through her efforts, the ADNP Kids Research Foundation has donated over \$2 million to studying ADNP syndrome, making it the world's largest contributor to ADNP research.

The foundation is based out of Brush Prairie, Washington, in my district, and I want to take this opportunity to thank Sandra and her entire team for their trailblazing work. I wish them the very best as they endeavor to find a cure for ADNP syndrome.

#### CELEBRATING LONGVIEW'S CENTENNIAL

Ms. PEREZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the centennial anniversary of Longview, Washington.

Longview was created north of the Columbia River and west of the Cowlitz River in 1923 by the Long-Bell Lumber Company. It was, at the time, the first city of its size created entirely by private funds.

Previously, the Long-Bell Lumber Company was located in Missouri, and I think they judiciously relocated to the Northwest, where timber grows on trees.

Longview was dedicated in 1923 and then incorporated as a municipal government in February 1924. Today, Longview is a thriving community of over 37,000 people. It is a major port hub and continues to be a powerhouse in timber, cardboard, and paper industries.

As part of its celebrations, Longview celebrated a Centennial Kickoff Celebration on January 20. I look forward to celebrating with them throughout the year, particularly during this summer's annual cardboard boat regatta.

#### CELEBRATING THE MECHA MULES ROBOTICS TEAM

Ms. PEREZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to give a huge shout-out to the Wahkiakum High School Mecha Mules robotics team. Somebody needs to make a movie about these guys. They are phenomenal.

Wahkiakum High School actually did not have hot running water in many of their bathrooms. It is a rural and, in many ways, a very underresourced school.

These kids, ranging in age from eighth grade all the way to seniors, placed second at the International SeaPerch underwater robotics competition. They are doing phenomenal work. They placed 17th out of over a hundred competitors in Washington State's competition.

I was so honored to visit with them last month. These kids really know their stuff. I am behind them 100 percent, so much so that I actually offered or agreed to jump in a pool if they are successful in their next competition. Hopefully, we will have more on that.

Again, congratulations. We are all so proud of you. You have made your community very proud, and I am very excited to see what you all continue to do.

#### THANKING U.S. COAST GUARD AND COLUMBIA RIVER BAR PILOTS FOR THEIR SERVICE

Ms. PEREZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank the U.S. Coast Guard and Columbia River Bar pilots in southwest Washington for their dedicated service every day on the Columbia River Bar.

This is one of the most dangerous bodies of water in the world. It is where the mighty Columbia meets the Pacific Ocean. In winter, waves reach over 30 feet to 40 feet in height.

Every day, these folks risk their lives to save lives and livelihoods and ensure that the Columbia River can be a connecting route for Washington State and the entire world for trade. I am so grateful for the work they do guiding cargo ships and providing aid to stranded vessels.

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#### RECKLESS SPENDING

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

Mrs. BICE. Madam Speaker, today the President will release his budget, and I thought it would be appropriate to stand before you to talk about how we got here today.

There has been reckless spending under both Republican and Democratic administrations, but let me be very clear: We do not have a revenue problem. We have a spending problem.

What is truly astonishing is that during the course of this 5-minute speech, the national debt will increase by \$7 million. In the next 10 years, the debt is predicted to almost double.

Furthermore, if the debt were divided evenly, each taxpayer would be responsible for \$246,867 in debt.

We should have heeded the words of George Washington, who said, “. . . avoiding likewise the accumulation of debt, not only by shunning occasions of expense, but by vigorous exertions in time of peace to discharge the debts, which unavoidable wars may have occasioned. . . .”

But it is not only George Washington, overall. The Founders generally disapproved of debt and believed that the amount the country owed should be limited.

The U.S. national debt has increased by more than \$8 trillion since late January 2020, the majority of which was under the Biden administration. This includes programs like the American Rescue Plan; the infrastructure legislation, which was really the Green New Deal in disguise; less than half of that funding went to traditional infrastructure; and the so-called Inflation Reduction Act.

We can't continue with the status quo. For FY23, Biden proposed a \$5.8 trillion budget. The national debt is becoming a leading national security concern. Foreign countries, such as China, hold nearly \$870 billion in debt.

It is Biden's executive orders that have led to increased regulations, high-

er inflation and, ultimately, higher national debt. Programs such as the student loan forgiveness program, canceling the Keystone XL pipeline, Waters of the U.S., and other executive orders that have cost Americans nearly \$1 trillion.

The CBO's Budget and Economic Outlook projects a Federal deficit of \$1.4 trillion in 2023, an average of \$2 trillion annually from 2024 to 2033.

The President's budget will double down on failed economic policies that have been devastating for millions of hardworking Americans. It locks in historic levels of spending on far-left policies and higher taxes that will worsen inflation and drive our economy into recession.

President Biden's answer—creating a culture of dependency that makes millions of families more reliant on the government. His approach will mean fewer people in the workforce, more people on welfare, and a stagnant economy for a generation. We are on the brink of an unprecedented fiscal crisis.

Republicans have a strong vision for the country. It is called the Commitment to America. It is built on four main principles: An economy that is strong, a Nation that is safe, a future that is built on freedom, and a government that is accountable.

Meanwhile, the Democrats have their own vision for this country, and it is weaker: An economy that is weak. The administration has significantly constrained economic growth, causing 15 consecutive months of 40-year high inflation. Prices for groceries, gas, and other household necessities have skyrocketed.

They propose raising taxes on individuals, families, and businesses, which will result in even higher prices, lower wages, and fewer jobs.

A nation that is at risk; President Biden's budget fails to prioritize the safety and security of the American people. It fails to adequately fund border security, leaving us vulnerable to crime, gangs, and drugs pouring into the country.

A future that is built on dependency; currently, there are 11 million job openings in America, and 5.7 million unemployed individuals. This partisan agenda traps people in a cycle of poverty and government dependence.

Lastly, a government that is unaccountable. The Democrats' proposed budgets represent a significant expansion of the Federal Government's role in our daily lives. It is essential we hold government accountable for spending and ensure that taxpayer dollars, yours and mine, are being spent wisely.

There are theories that the rich and corporations don't pay their fair share. Businessowners pay taxes in numerous ways, corporate tax, capital gains, income tax. The top 1 percent pay 40 percent Federal income tax already.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.