

quickly, and we must use all of the water tools in our water toolbox to prevent future disasters like this from destroying our State and for other water basins, like the Colorado River and the Mississippi River. All of these are known to experience periodic flooding and periodic droughts. We must act now.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF BILL STEINER

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

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and legacy of Bill Steiner, who devoted his career to making Orange County a better place.

He held many elected positions, serving on the Orange Unified School District school board, the Orange City Council, and the Orange County Board of Supervisors.

However, his true passion was his work for children. Mr. Steiner founded the Orangewood Children's Home in Orange and the Good Samaritan Boy's Home in Corona. He also served on the board of directors for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children for over 16 years.

While we miss him dearly, his legacy lives on and his organizations will have an untold impact on countless children.

He is also an active member of the Rotary Club of Orange. In that capacity, Mr. Steiner epitomized the motto "Service Above Self," and we are all better because of his tireless work. We will miss him dearly.

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CELEBRATING VILLA PARK'S 61ST BIRTHDAY

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate the incorporation date of the city of Villa Park. Villa Park, known as the Hidden Jewel, was incorporated on this day in 1962 but was first settled around 1860.

Despite being the smallest incorporated city in California's 40th District, in both land and population, Villa Park has an outsized impact on our community. It is home to four public schools and is known for its charitable organizations and programs, such as Villa Park Rotary Club, Villa Park Women's League, and the Marine Thanksgiving program.

Villa Park's quiet neighborhoods, tree-lined streets, and low crime rate make the city an excellent place to live.

As your Representative, I am committed to doing all I can to help Villa Park continue to be a haven for families and workers striving toward their American Dream.

Happy 61st birthday, Villa Park.

RECOGNIZING KOREAN AMERICAN DAY

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Korean American Day.

Since the first Korean immigrants arrived on January 13, 1903, Korean

Americans have made their mark from sea to shining sea and have found success in the classroom, workplace, and even right here in Congress to make our Nation a better place.

As one of the first Korean-American women to serve in Congress, and as an immigrant from South Korea, today, I reflect on the sacrifices my family made in the aftermath of the Korean war to have the chance at a better life here in the United States.

I remain grateful for those who came before me and paved the way for someone like me to have a seat at the table, and I will always fight for freedom and opportunity for all Americans.

OPPOSING EXTREME ANTI-ABORTION AGENDA

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the extreme anti-abortion agenda that my colleagues on the other side are advancing, despite clear opposition across our country.

In November, Mr. Speaker, access to abortion care was on the ballot, and the American people rejected the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe and refused to allow far-right extremists to take away their right to bodily autonomy.

Voters in Vermont, in the Speaker's home State of California, and in my home State of Michigan codified abortion rights in their State constitutions.

Voters in Montana, as well as Kentucky, Senator MITCH MCCONNELL's home State, rejected attempts to restrict their access to reproductive freedom. Still, they are advancing a policy agenda to criminalize abortion nationwide with no exceptions for rape or incest.

Let me be clear: Abortion bans impact and endanger the lives of many of our residents, including those who live with disabilities.

We will have many fights ahead of us, Mr. Speaker, and I will continue to hold the line to push back against the policy violence by those who want to continue to inflict on the American people the extreme right agenda.

We will continue, my colleagues and I, to mobilize and organize a movement to secure reproductive justice across our Nation, and I will continue to fight like hell until abortion rights are restored as the law of the land.

PALESTINIAN HUMAN RIGHTS

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the only Palestinian American serving in the United States Congress.

I feel a strong responsibility, Mr. Speaker, to humanize the Palestinian people who are living under increasingly oppressive and racist apartheid policies.

2022 was one of the deadliest in memory for Palestinians. Dozens of children were killed by the Government of Israel, and many were targeted. Groups

like DCI-Palestine that monitor these killings were targeted.

We cannot look away, Mr. Speaker, and gaslight the oppressive and violent policies toward the Palestinian people, who are experiencing, right now, literally, the taking away of their human dignity and their right to be able to freely live and raise their children without this type of targeting.

We can't keep handing over billions each year to an apartheid state violating human rights. We are dealing with a far-right government there now promising to make things worse.

They are not even hiding it, Mr. Speaker. They are intentionally saying exactly what they are going to continue to do, which is the status quo, again, making it very dangerous for Palestinians to live and thrive.

No person—not one, Palestinian, Israeli, anyone—deserves to suffer or die for who they are, what they believe, or where they were born. The sooner we end unconditional support for Israel's apartheid government, the sooner we can begin making good on that belief.

Today, I am thinking of my Sity, my grandmother, who deserves to have human dignity. She should not be denied of who she is solely because she was born Palestinian, to be able to feel safe and to be able to have human rights.

I am also thinking today, Mr. Speaker, of the Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh and the countless Palestinians who deserved to live but whose lives were cut short.

I thank the Speaker for at least trying to listen and hear from someone who, again, is connected to so many folks on the ground there who deserve to be seen and heard in this Chamber.

RESPONDING TO CALIFORNIA'S WEATHER EMERGENCY

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

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on the powerful winter storm systems that are currently impacting my district and much of the State of California.

Rainfall in recent weeks has been several times above average, which, along with severe winds, has had devastating and cascading impacts. This includes flooding in Folsom and Lincoln, avalanches, and mudslides. The Tahoe area and Mono County are currently under avalanche warning. There are localized mudslides occurring in Plumas County.

There have been road closures from downed trees, hundreds of downed trees that have disrupted travel plans; power outages affecting roughly 345,000 Californians, 4,500 people in the Third District; and hundreds of school closures, including all schools in the Lake Tahoe Unified District.

There have also been, tragically, at least 17 deaths in the State, including 5 in the Sacramento area.

I extend my most sincere sympathies to everyone who has been affected, who has been harmed, and whose lives have been disrupted.

I also extend my most heartfelt gratitude to all the first responders who are working tirelessly to mitigate these impacts and to protect life and property.

My office is working to ensure the greatest measure of Federal assistance is available to the affected communities. FEMA has issued an emergency declaration for most counties in California now, including Placer, Sacramento, El Dorado, and Yuba.

My office is in constant communication with FEMA, and I have spoken personally to FEMA Regional Administrator Bob Fenton, who briefed me on the State Operations Center in California.

We are also in close contact with local authorities, including members of the boards of supervisors in affected counties, and continue to closely monitor developments as more storms are expected.

Mr. Speaker, California now finds itself in both a flood emergency and a drought emergency at the same time. That absurdity underscores a fundamental failure of governance.

Citizens are told to take shorter showers. Farmers are told to fallow their fields. All the while, they watch water flow abundantly into the ocean. An estimated 8 billion gallons of water from these storms will flow into the ocean in the Los Angeles Basin alone.

Cycles of wetness and dryness are nothing new to our State. Joan Didion, in 1977, wrote: "California summers were characterized by the coughing in the pipes that meant the well was dry, and California winters by all-night watches on rivers about to crest."

Yet, since that time, we have done little to build the storage capacity that is needed to stabilize our water supply. That is why I am cosponsoring the WATER for California Act to expand our storage capacity. We must also strengthen our flood defenses to be better prepared for extreme weather events in the future.

Our focus right now is on the days ahead. These storms are impacting different areas very differently, so it is important to be closely attuned to the advisories of your local government.

On my website, we have a comprehensive emergency contacts document that constituents in affected areas can access for resources and phone numbers. You can find that at kiley.house.gov.

WE CAN'T GO BACK

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have heard the women of Congress come to the floor one by one by one to tell their personal stories about abortion. I am a very private person, and I

just couldn't do it. I didn't want to relive the most painful time in my entire life.

But, yesterday, I read these startling statistics about my State, yes, the great State of Florida, the beautiful Sunshine State with all the beaches and the theme parks and the immigrant-rich communities, my Florida, my State.

If abortion is banned nationwide, Florida will be the most impacted State, seeing maternal deaths increase by 29 percent. That is the mother.

The Nation will see a 24 percent increase in maternal deaths, with a disproportionate 39 percent rise in maternal mortality for Black women.

All I ever wanted since I was a little girl was plenty of children that I could love and cuddle and raise to greatness. That was the school principal in me even back then.

So, after getting married in 1968, I would soon become a mother-to-be. It was the joy of my life. I was ecstatic. My husband was walking on the clouds. My husband and I would touch my stomach all the time just to feel the movement of our baby boy and the glory of a life growing inside of me. It was amazing.

Then, at 7 months, the baby stopped moving. He was soon pronounced dead right inside of my womb, and the doctor was prohibited, by law, from inducing labor.

I had to learn how, first of all, to handle the immense grief that comes with losing a child and the fact that the corpse of that child was still within me.

I cried every night and all day. My little body was wracked with pain, weakness, and frailty. I lost 50 pounds. I would crawl into a fetal position in my mother's lap most of the day and in my husband's most of the night.

I beg you, I plead with you, we can't go back. Lord have mercy, please have mercy on women like me.

I almost died. As the days became weeks and the weeks became months, the baby began to disintegrate, and the flesh from the corpse began to spill into my bloodstream. I was at risk for toxic shock. Poison was flowing through my grief-stricken little body.

At 8½ months, I went into labor, hard, painful labor, and what was left of the baby Wilson boy was born. Oh, what a day. Oh, what pain. Oh, what grief. Oh, what despair. Oh, what suffering.

After 3 days, I left the maternity ward in a wheelchair emptyhanded, no baby, nothing. I watched other mothers and families celebrate their newborns while I grieved and cried.

We had a small graveside burial for baby boy Wilson, and the doctors were so afraid that I would also have had to have a graveside burial.

Do not take us back to the days before Roe v. Wade. Everyone who needs reproductive healthcare is different. Abortion does not only apply to women who have decided for themselves they

are not ready to have a child. Abortion affects women who are at risk of facing medical emergencies, life-altering emergencies, and death.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, let the women march on and on till victory is won.

You cannot put young, childbearing women at risk because of a group of ludicrous, hateful, majority male Congressmen, who have no idea what it feels to even bear the pain of childbirth or even have the courage to carry a child for 9 months and who take pride in monitoring women's vaginas.

How dare you. How dare you. How dare you.

May God help you find it in your heart to hear my story and never wish that kind of pain and grief that I experienced on another living soul.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

SECURING A BETTER FUTURE FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. WILLIAMS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer perspective on the purpose and mission of this 118th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to speak here on the House floor for the first time. I am the first nuclear submarine veteran to serve in the United States House of Representatives in the last 50 years, and only the second in our Nation's history.

One particular submarine patrol, we pulled into Pearl Harbor to take World War II veterans out to sea with us for the day. By naval tradition, we stood at attention and saluted the USS *Arizona* as we passed by. One part of the experience we shared with these veterans was to demonstrate the tremendous pressure of the ocean.

In the control room with the periscopes, we would tie a string from one side of the hole to the other, about the width of this rostrum behind me. Our submarine's hole is made of high-strength steel to keep the water out and the crew safe. On the surface, this string would be taut like a guitar string and would sit about a foot off the deck. But as we submerged our boat, the pressure of the sea would compress the hole and that string would begin to droop. By the time we reached many hundreds of feet below the ocean, that string would lay flat on the deck. The incredible pressure of the ocean visible for everyone to see.

Now, like that submarine that I served on, America is under tremendous pressure. And like that string sitting on the deck, we can all see it. It is inflation. It is the border. It is the lawlessness of our Federal agencies. It is clear that our Nation is in trouble.

The failed policies of the current administration are only taking us deeper and deeper. Now, with a Republican