

CONGRATULATING STEVE WATERS OF GLYNN COUNTY

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Steve Waters, athletic director at Glynn County for being named State Athletic Director of the Year for Class 6-A.

Steve has a long history of success in high school sports. He won a State championship in basketball at Christian Renewal Academy and turned around a losing program at Monroe Academy where he took them to the Elite Eight.

Steve has been the athletic director in Glynn County for the last 11 years. During his tenure, he has been responsible for large expansion projects centered around the high school football field. He has also been able to add 14 new sports programs to the school system.

Outside of work, Steve has a passion for service. He created a foundation that raises money for Morquio research, a rare genetic condition that affects a child's bones, spine, organs, and physical abilities. He recently held a golf tournament and silent auction fundraiser and was able to raise \$330,000.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Steve on this great honor and all he has done for our community.

FINDING A SOLUTION FOR GUN VIOLENCE

(Ms. HOULAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, over 13,000 people in the United States have died from gun violence this year alone. Let me repeat that: Over 13,000 people in the United States have died from gun violence this year alone, and it is only April. This means that over 100 people are dying by gunshot every single day.

We have to take action to stop this epidemic. We have to address the scourge of gun violence and the multiple reasons that we find ourselves here almost every single day having the same conversation.

People should be able to ring the wrong doorbell accidentally or drive into the wrong driveway without the fear of being shot. We cannot continue to glorify guns while vilifying and frightening our fellow Americans. More guns are not the answer. Improving public safety and supporting our law enforcement will make us safer and can help change public sentiment so that people will stop seeing guns as solutions and our neighbors and each other as threats.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to please work together on finding our common ground with actual solutions

to gun violence. The American people are asking us to do this. We must work together. We must move forward rather than pushing each other apart.

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CONGRATULATING THE CHILDREN'S TRUST ON THEIR 20TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate The Children's Trust on their 20th anniversary.

My wife, Lourdes, and I have been longtime supporters of The Children's Trust and are so proud of their tireless work to protect our community's children and safeguard taxpayer dollars.

I would especially thank our friends, David Lawrence and James Haaj. Their visionary leadership has paved the way for the countless innovative programs offered by The Children's Trust aimed at improving the lives of our next generation of leaders: our children.

In Miami-Dade, we are blessed to have The Children's Trust prioritizing our kids' welfare and investing in family programs to nurture and advocate for all of our children regardless of socioeconomic background.

As a county commissioner, mayor, and now a Member of Congress, I have seen the impact of The Children's Trust firsthand, and I look forward to continuing to work closely together.

Congratulations on these 20 years and many, many more.

IN MEMORY OF MELINDA GRACZYK

(Ms. TLAIB asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Melinda Graczyk, a lifelong volunteer in service to the people of Redford Township in Michigan's 12th District Strong.

Melinda embraced her passion to serve the unrepresented, chairing Redford's newly formed commission for diversity, equity, and inclusion in order to create a more welcoming community for all.

Through her work with the Jaycees, Melinda volunteered to build local community gardens which provided thousands of pounds of fresh vegetables to families in need. They also founded the Redford farmer's market, providing a local source of fresh, locally grown food at an affordable price.

As a volunteer and eventually president of Redford's festival committee, they helped plan and execute all of Redford's local festivals throughout the year, creating opportunities for residents to gather and foster a sense of community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Melinda Graczyk's unwavering

service to our district and the Redford Township community as we honor her memory.

OUR NATION'S DEBT CEILING CRISIS

(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, since January, Democrats and the President have tried to falsely claim that House Republicans have no plan regarding the Nation's debt ceiling crisis.

This week, we released our plan. As always, House Republicans have consistently argued for reasonable, responsible debt limit increases coupled with spending cuts.

Every debt limit debate in this body has been achieved via compromise. It is absurd to think that our Democrat colleagues now demand unilateral increases to our Nation's debt and balk at Republicans for asking for something in return.

Our plan, the Limit, Save, Grow Act of 2023, will save the American taxpayers \$4.5 trillion over the next decade. We will limit Federal spending to fiscal year 2022 levels, which our government operated on just 4 months ago.

In exchange, we will allow for a 1 percent annual growth in Federal spending over the next 10 years, which is a compromise.

Included in the bill are clawbacks for around \$60 billion in unspent COVID funds. The pandemic is over, and this money that has not been spent should be rescinded without delay.

Also included in the bill is our Lower Energy Costs Act, which has already passed this Chamber with bipartisan support, lowering energy costs for American families.

House Republicans' plan is economically sound, financially wise, and still allows for a debt limit increase of \$1.5 trillion. This is a reasonable and responsible plan that will benefit all Americans.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF GEORGE FENTON

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the life of a very good friend, a dedicated father, a great neighbor, George Fenton.

He was born on Valentine's Day in 1935 and devoted his entire life to serving his country and his community. After graduating from high school in Detroit, Michigan, George joined the U.S. Marine Corps. Decades after his service in the Marine Corps, he often talked and relayed stories about his time at boot camp in Parris Island and Camp Lejeune, and he called it his hot weather training at Twentynine Palms.

Later, George moved his entire family to Garden Grove. He worked for the

city of Orange before joining the Orange County Sheriff's Department in 1971. That is where he met his wife, Lynn, at the courthouse on the job in 1989. They were married in Santa Ana in 1991, and recently they celebrated 31 years of marriage.

After George retired from the Orange County Sheriff's Department in 1993, he spent the next 15 years working at Disneyland as a cast member and ticket taker.

George, you will be missed. Thank you for your time and service.

REMEMBERING HARRY BELAFONTE

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, he sold millions of records. He was known around the world: Harry Belafonte. That song we remember, "Day-O." But for those of us who admired and hung onto his every word, we know that he provided a transformational change in the civil rights history of this Nation.

Heroic and courageous, he was not afraid of those who attacked him and called him names. What a major force standing by Dr. Martin Luther King, intervening with politicians and entertainers and providing financial support. He continued questioning this Nation's issues of race. He was fearless.

Mr. Speaker, I am sad about his passing, but I will say that no one will fill his giant shoes. To his wife Pamela, Gina, and other wonderful relatives, I offer my personal regrets and sympathy. As a Jamaican immigrant that he was, he obviously touches my heart and that of my family.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we will always remember a man that could have been only an entertainer, as well as rich and resounding, but Harry Belafonte wanted to change this country.

Harry, as I see you soar where the eagles fly, may the Lord bless you. Rest in peace, my brother, and rest in power.

CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 30th anniversary of the U.S. Green Building Council, which was founded in April of 1993.

This member-led, nonprofit organization has helped countless schools, businesses, cities, and even countries build and operate better buildings that truly transform lives.

Their LEED certification program has grown to become the world's most acclaimed and widely used green building system with 105,000 projects in 187 countries.

In my home State of New York, over 2,600 projects and over 15,000 homes have achieved LEED certification.

At a time when homeowners and businesses are dealing with rising costs, research has repeatedly found that energy-efficient, lower-waste buildings result in major savings. Plus, they boost staff recruitment, retention, and productivity.

Mr. Speaker, 30 years ago there was no agreement on what constituted green buildings, let alone any kind of accepted mechanism to certify them.

Because of the efforts of the U.S. Green Building Council, our country is moving toward better performing buildings that lower costs and waste, mitigate climate impacts and improve health.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the council's staff for all their great efforts and offer my congratulations to this incredible organization. Here is to another impactful 30 years.

HOLD BAD ACTORS ACCOUNTABLE FOR ILLEGAL TRADING PRACTICES

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

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Fighting Trade Cheats Act of 2023, recently introduced by my friend from Illinois (Mr. BOST).

As the vice chairman of the Congressional Steel Caucus and Representative from one of the largest steel-producing districts in our Nation, I know it is a necessity that we protect American workers and hold bad actors accountable for illegal trading practices.

More must be done to ensure that foreign countries and companies that cheat our trade policies know that their actions will not be tolerated.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative BOST for his leadership, and appreciate that his legislation will increase penalties for those who harm American manufacturers.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that all American workers can compete and can, no doubt, thrive when we have a level playing field in our global economy.

FORCED ARBITRATION IS EVERYWHERE

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to announce this week that I am reintroducing the FAIR Act: the Forced Arbitration Injustice Repeal Act.

Forced arbitration has been a concern of mine for some time, and that is why I have always been in support of sponsoring this legislation which would strip away what powerful corporations have imposed upon consumers and workers. That is forced arbitration.

These forced arbitration clauses are everywhere. Americans sign away their rights when they buy a cell phone or sign an employment contract. They are forced into arbitration, which is a private, for-profit dispute resolution process, and it bans claimants from banding together. The deck is always stacked against the little guy. That is why I have been championing this legislation since 2007. Momentum is shifting to our side.

President Biden signed a law last year invalidating forced arbitration clauses. We have a lot of work to do, and we will continue that with the FAIR Act.

RECOGNIZING THE INCREDIBLE AND HEROIC ADVOCACY OF ELIZABETH WHELAN

(Ms. STEVENS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible and heroic advocacy of Elizabeth Whelan, the sister of my wrongfully detained constituent, U.S. citizen, and Michigander, Paul Whelan.

Paul Whelan is the longest detained American in Russia. Since his detention in December 2018, Elizabeth has been his fiercest advocate and tireless champion, alongside her brother, David, and parents, Rosemary and Ed.

Elizabeth has spent nearly \$100,000 of her own money in the last 5 years to travel to D.C. to meet with political leaders and State Department officials to receive updates on Paul's case, and fight for his release.

Yesterday, speaking at the United Nations, alongside U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Elizabeth directly confronted Russia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sergey Lavrov, and implored him to release Paul and to end their cruel practice of hostage diplomacy.

Elizabeth's speech has reverberated around the world. It has made its way to Paul's prison camp in Mordovia.

I have been honored to work with Elizabeth for many years and she will always serve as an inspiration to me and my staff.

Her words yesterday speak for themselves: "Paul has not committed a crime, but a crime has been committed against him."

ASKING FOR SUPPORT FOR ENES KANTER FREEDOM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SELF). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.