

Hard Report. He was so much more than a radio host. He was Chicago's best friend in the whole world.

When something big happened, Chicago would turn to Lin for his take on the events. Whether celebration or tragedy, he knew what to say. Now in the wake of his loss, we turn to the dial wanting.

He was married to his college sweetheart, Sara, and they shared a son, Wilson. They were both by his side in his final moments. My thoughts and deepest condolences are with his family and with all Chicagoans as we mourn his loss.

In closing, as Lin always reminded us, never take anything for granted. It is great to be alive.

FOOD SECURITY

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

Mr. MCCORMICK. Madam Speaker, today I address something that is near and dear to everyone's heart, and that is food security.

One of my biggest concerns right now, as I have become educated on the things that concern Americans, is the fact that all around the world right now, we are facing food shortages. A lot of this is created by our own actions.

If you look in Ukraine right now, you have food rotting in bins because of a war. The breadbasket of Europe is not going to be producing crops in the next year because of the war.

In China, you have massive pollution which is contaminating their agricultural output.

Meanwhile, you have countries like India that are reliant on foreign fertilizer that are going to be choked off because of the environmental movement.

You have the Netherlands and Germany reducing their nitrates in their fertilizers, which they haven't done since World War I, which created a famine back then.

In the United States, we have a third of our chickens and our eggs that are being reduced because of Avian Flu.

Meanwhile, we are allowing Chinese nationals and billionaires to buy up millions of acres of farmland. This is concerning for many reasons. If we thought that the pandemic was a reason for government to overreach, if we thought that that was going to be a crisis, imagine what it would be like if we ran out of food, if we have food shortages.

When you realize that we had people panicking over toilet paper, imagine what they will do when they panic when our cupboards are bare. This could be a worldwide reason for war.

It is also another reason for government to increase their control. There is always a reason for people to turn to the government to solve the problems that the government created; and that

is my main concern today, to be something proactive rather than reactive.

We see it coming. We can see that any foreign national country could come up with a virus to contaminate our livestock or even our crops; and yet, we are doing nothing to proactively make sure that Chinese nationals can't buy farmland in America; that billionaires can't buy millions of acres of farmland and artificially increase prices during a food shortage.

We, as Congress, need to be proactive. We need to reach out and make sure we are doing things to strategically protect our food resources, both here and abroad.

We need to fight back this idea that the environmental movement shouldn't use fertilizer, shouldn't produce agriculture; shouldn't be having foresight to protect human life over all else.

Madam Speaker, I propose that Congress is realistic in the way we allow people to purchase. I am all for a free market. I am all for allowing people to sell to who they want to; but always with the idea that America still comes first, and Americans are protected in the process; that we don't turn to the government to solve the problem that we are creating, and that we don't allow foreign nationals to affect our food supply because this would be catastrophic, both here and abroad, and would lead to wars, as we have seen over and over through the history of this world.

ONWARD ABRAMS

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise to support the delivery of Abrams tanks to our European allies, including Ukraine. Let us fulfill any backup supply to assure NATO can check aggression by Russia anywhere on that continent.

Liberty for Ukraine needs no Neville Chamberlain moments. Delivering Abrams tanks will help Ukraine push toward victory sooner rather than later. Liberty's mission must be victory.

Russia's cruel and unprovoked war on Ukraine has produced a nation soaked in blood from one end to the other. Putin views weakness and appeasement as a recipe for failure.

Across Ohio, which I am privileged to represent, and the Great Lakes region, our fellow citizens and families have survived and often, too often, have fled oppression in central Europe at the hands of a predatory Russia.

We know the price of liberty. Our patriotic men and women in the United Auto Workers proudly manufacture the Abrams tank in Lima, Ohio. They guard liberty every day.

Our workers build the finest equipment in the world, so critical to victory. Americans know what brave Ukrainians are fighting for and against.

Hasn't enough innocent blood been spilled already?

Onward Abrams.

FAIRFAX FAILURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I was appalled to learn that multiple schools in Fairfax County, Virginia, withheld National Merit Scholarship commendation award letters from hundreds of students. This is a problem.

When political ideology stands in the way of students' success, it is a problem. When the pursuit of so-called equity starts harming students, it is a problem. When school bureaucrats hold students back to hide their own failures, it is a problem.

The education bureaucracy failed these students. These students deserve to be rewarded for their hard work, and these students deserve an education system that will lift them up, not try to keep them down.

These school administrators were trusted with the future of these students, and they broke that trust. Shame on them.

DUAL ENROLLMENT

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, one silver lining of the pandemic is that it pushed more high school students to take dual enrollment classes.

With the ever-rising cost of postsecondary education, dual enrollment programs are a great way for high school students to save on college costs. These programs allow advanced students to get a head start on their futures.

This is the case at Jefferson State Community College in Birmingham, Alabama, where high schoolers made up a third of the student body, according to NPR. These students are benefiting from extensive State expansion of a dual enrollment program. The more education innovation we have, the better.

Madam Speaker, we know that if a high school student takes at least one college-level course, that student is three times more likely to graduate from college than if the student didn't take a course.

We should give students as many opportunities as possible to shape their own education experience, and encouraging dual enrollment is one great way to do just that.

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FILLING THE SKILLS GAP

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, it is no wonder we have a skills gap. For decades, people have been told that a bachelor's degree is the only path to a successful career. As a result, fewer and fewer young people are choosing to learn skilled trades.

Without skilled professionals, who will repair our roads, homes, and cars? We need these men and women who aren't afraid to get their hands dirty.

Yet, applications for technical jobs dropped by almost 50 percent over the last 2 years.

With a potential looming recession for those holding office jobs, many might be disappointed they missed out on learning a high-skilled trade. Fortunately, it isn't too late. Many open technical jobs pay a six-figure salary, and businessowners are struggling to fill them.

If I had to give young people advice today, it would be to consider learning a high-skilled trade.

LOOMING DEBT CEILING

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I was very encouraged with today's reports that the Republican leadership is planning to teach their Members about how the debt ceiling works. This is a very good sign, especially after the embarrassing first week with 15 votes to elect a Speaker, and the House leadership ending up exactly where it started. Unfortunately, the leadership is hallowed out, but they have empowered the exact same element or any other faction who want to hold the Speaker hostage.

But there is a key difference going forward. They are playing games with the full faith and credit of the United States, which is underpinning the global economy. Note, the debt ceiling is not just a way station on the way to a full government shutdown. While government shutdowns have real costs and consequences, the debt ceiling has massive ramifications that you cannot unwind.

This game of chicken with the global economy is very much more consequential. You can recover from the shutdown. But the Trump attacks on professionals, for example, drove thousands of people out of government service, and it is going to take years and millions of dollars to repair. These implementations of political slogans have real consequences.

In the end, I suspect we will be right where we started. The only way to reduce the deficit, to balance the budget books, is to actually reduce government spending, which they refused to do in the Trump administration when they were in total control of the government. They instead had a huge increase in the deficit. There were, of course, tax cuts that were a part of that, unfunded, and there was a major spike in military spending.

My friend, Hal Harvey, a leader in climate science, is fond of saying that you can't refute science, math, and economics. That is exactly the situation that my Republican friends are facing with this game of chicken with the debt ceiling.

There is no gimmick, there is no commission, and there is no slogan that avoids the painful truth that you

actually have to reduce spending. There are real things we could do.

I would suggest any Member could avail themselves of a secret weapon that is in each and every one of our districts. There are amazing young people who are involved with civics, with leadership congresses, with the efforts to understand how government works. I think we ought to employ them. They understand the dynamic: Cut spending, raise taxes, or just collect the taxes that are due and owing, which would be hundreds of billions of dollars. Unless and until we do this, all the rest is simply meaningless slogans and posturing, unfortunately with real risks of threatening the full faith and credit of the United States.

My friends have no alternative to the borrowing, and I am afraid that we are going to end up going through this meaningless exercise, agitating ourselves, confusing the public, and losing an opportunity to make real progress, improving the budgeting process, and making the tax system more effective to just collect the taxes that are already due and owing, which we are ignoring.

I strongly encourage the process that my Republican friends are involved with in terms of educating Members about the impacts of the debt ceiling, and I hope that we are able to come together to deal with the realities of what that implies.

RECOGNIZING STATE-OF-THE-ART UGA POULTRY SCIENCE BUILDING

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the creation of a state-of-the-art poultry science building at my alma mater, the University of Georgia.

In the State of Georgia, the poultry industry contributes an annual \$21.5 billion to our State's economy. The industry also generates an annual \$2.1 billion in Federal tax revenue. The poultry industry is vital to not only the State of Georgia but also the country. That is why I am proud to recognize the University of Georgia for building a brand-new poultry science building on their campus.

This \$54.1 million facility will feature new classrooms, research labs, and learning labs. These new labs will enhance the traditional classroom experience by offering students opportunities to learn in a fieldwork setting. These facilities are vital for preparing students as they enter the poultry industry.

I know this new project will serve the students at the university and the people of Georgia's First District well.

GEORGIA AMONG LEED-CERTIFIED TOP 10

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the State of Georgia for being a top 10 finisher in the country last year for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design-certified green buildings.

The United States Green Building Council has been working hard to create a healthier, more sustainable, and resilient world through LEED, and its annual ranking is an opportunity to recognize everyone working toward that goal.

Buildings that are LEED certified create healthier spaces for people, use fewer resources, reduce carbon emissions, and improve efficiency while providing operational cost savings.

Georgia is a leader in green building and ranks sixth out of the top 10 States. 2022 saw growth in green building and sustainability, and I am proud that Georgia is at the forefront of building a healthier, more sustainable future.

I thank all the building professionals who helped our State achieve this ranking.

RECOGNIZING GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Georgia Ports Authority for handling nearly 6 million 20-foot containers in 2022. In 2022 alone, the Georgia Ports Authority had a 5 percent increase in container handling.

Collaborative effort across Georgia's supply chain ensured that cargo movement remained a top priority during a very challenging year.

The Port of Savannah achieved 4 of its top 5 months for container volume in 2022, with trade volumes peaking in August at an all-time high of 575,500 20-foot containers.

With the renovation of Berth 1 at Garden City Terminal, the 90-acre Garden City Terminal West expansion, and the transition of Ocean Terminal to an all-container facility, the Port of Savannah is set to increase annual capacity from 6 million to 7.5 million 20-foot containers.

I congratulate the GPA on this wonderful accomplishment.

HONORING RIVERSIDE COUNTY DEPUTY ISAIAH CORDERO

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

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a fallen hero, Riverside County Sheriff's Department Deputy Isaiah Cordero, who gave his life serving our community.

Every day, our law enforcement officers put on their uniforms, kiss their loved ones good-bye, and go to work not knowing if they will come home.

On December 29, 2022, Deputy Cordero put on his uniform, said good-bye to his loved ones, and went to work that day to protect and serve. That afternoon, he was tragically shot and killed in the line of duty during what should have been a routine traffic stop.

Now, a family mourns a loved one, our local law enforcement grieves a brother, and our community lost a guardian, protector, and friend.

Deputy Cordero's service began with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department as a correctional deputy on May