

I am honored to congratulate him on his 99th birthday in the place where he so strongly advocated for our communities time and time again.

On behalf of our many residents whose lives were touched by his work, I wish a happy 99th birthday to Congressman Guarini.

#### RESTORE THE ROAR

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

Mr. JAMES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to say something that possibly no one in this Chamber's storied history has ever said: The Detroit Lions are the best team in football—you heard me—at least after week one.

The Detroit Lions went into Arrowhead Stadium last week, faced the 2023 Super Bowl champions, and walked away with a W.

Now, it used to be considered child abuse to turn your children into Lions fans. I have three little boys: John, 9, Hudson, 8, and Christian, 4. We all love the Lions.

Detroit football is back. When was the last time the Detroit Lions were the first team to score in the NFL season? When was the last time that on third and short, we actually ran the ball and made a first down? When was the last time there was a team on fourth and 25, deep in their own territory in the fourth quarter, and it not be the Detroit Lions?

This is an indication that we have turned a new leaf, and the good days are ahead.

I am 42, and this might be the best year in my football life after the Michigan Wolverines have beaten the Ohio State Buckeyes 2 years in a row and the Detroit Lions have only lost two games since last October.

Now, of course, we need to keep winning under our boy Dan Campbell's outstanding leadership and his staff, but I know our boys in southeast Michigan have what it takes to win.

The Detroit Lions' very first game at Ford Field is this Sunday, and Lions fans, I need you to make this the loudest game in Ford Field history, even louder than we were when we played the Bears in 2011 on Monday Night Football. Let's show up and show out.

Lions, I love you. Keep grinding. Let's restore the roar. Let's go 17-0 and not just win the NFC North title but the whole doggone thing. Let's win the Super Bowl.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for wearing Honolulu blue. Oh, shoot. He is gone. Well, I appreciate you wearing blue today for the Lions, Mr. YAKYM. Go Lions.

□ 1030

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF NICK GOMES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YAKYM). The Chair recognizes the gen-

tleman from California (Mr. COSTA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to three different individuals who made a difference during their lives who are no longer with us.

I first rise to pay tribute to the remarkable life of Steven Nicholas Gomes, otherwise known as Nick, a beloved son of Merced County whose legacy resonates with kindness, resilience, and an unwavering love.

Nick left an indelible mark on the hearts of his friends, family, and community, and he made a difference during his life, as short as it was. His dedication to making positive impacts on the lives of others was evident through the many roles that he had in life as a student athlete and a person who did so many different things. He was also my district representative in Merced County and helped people all the time.

During the pandemic, when folks were frustrated and angry, they would call the office. Nick's reassuring voice would always convey to my constituents that we were there, and we would help and would see them through this. His ability to engage with constituents exemplified his commitment to open dialogue and understanding.

His efforts extended beyond the office walls. His advocacy for community projects, such as securing grants for local water infrastructure improvements in communities like Dos Palos and Gustine, showed his ability to get things done.

His compassion extended to his family, where he showed his love through selfless actions, genuine connections, and a willingness to always go that extra mile.

To his mom and dad, my dear friends, and his sister, Melissa, I extend my deepest condolences. They are all missing him every day, but all were fortunate to share his journey in life. His parents will be celebrating an anniversary this month and will think fondly of Nick. He was a giant, literally and figuratively, among men in so many incredible ways. He will be missed. May he rest in peace.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF DIANA MARCUM

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I also rise today to commemorate the life and legacy of Diana Marcum, a beacon of compassion and storytelling brilliance whose words touched the hearts and unveiled the essence of the human experience.

Her journey began as a journalist, an editorial assistant, and blossomed into a remarkable but, again, short career. Her narrative prowess was on full display in a Pulitzer Prize-winning series, "Scenes from California's Dust Bowl," which chronicled the impact of the drought on the people of the San Joaquin Valley. She was a person who could, with words, express so many different challenges of life.

Through her elegant prose, Diana wove together stories of farmers, field workers, and others in the California Central Valley that really originated

with the "Grapes of Wrath," painting a vivid picture of their struggles, their hopes, and their triumphs.

Beyond her writing, her influence extended into her personal interactions and relationships. For me, a book that she completed called "The Tenth Island" chronicled the diaspora of the Azorean people who came to settle in the San Joaquin Valley, i.e., the tenth island. The fondness for those people and those shared experiences, were my experiences, so we bonded over that love and connection to the Azores islands.

Finally, in celebrating Diana's life, we also celebrate the timeless power of the narrative bridge that divides and illuminates the shared experience of life. She was a writer who could capture the essence of that, and her talent and her personality will be missed.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF KEN HART

Mr. COSTA. Finally, Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember and honor Kenneth Lee Hart, a friend, a man whose life was marked by dedication, wisdom, a passion for history and for politics. He was a history teacher at the community college.

A true patriot, Ken felt a profound sense of duty to his country. He volunteered to serve in the Army Signal Corps. He was stationed in Saigon, Vietnam, from 1962 to 1964 during that difficult war, but he never forgot his commitment to our country.

His involvement in Robert Kennedy's 1968 Presidential campaign marked his unwavering belief in the power of politics to shape a better future for America.

Ken and I shared the understanding that George Santayana once said: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." We had many memorable evenings with our friends, Congressman Rick Lehman and others talking about sports and the future of America.

We remember him for his wisdom, his dedication, and justice to an unwavering belief in the power of positive change. We will miss Ken.

#### REMEMBERING RONALD NURNBERGER, SR.

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

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, just days after the 22nd anniversary of September 11, 2001, to recognize and remember former chief, Ronald Nurnberger, Sr.

He was a member of the Island Park Fire Department, the same department that I serve, for over 40 years. He joined the department in 1977 and served as chief of department from 2001 to 2002.

Just hours after the attacks on our great Nation on September 11, Chief Ronald Nurnberger led a delegation from the Island Park Fire Department to Ground Zero, where he served and

dug on that pile looking for survivors in the days that followed the attack.

Less than a year ago, he was diagnosed with 9/11-related cancer, and just hours before September 11, 2023, Ex-Chief Nurnberger passed away from cancer he developed from operating on the pile on September 11.

He is another example as to why Members of this body and our colleagues on the other side of the Capitol must continue to fight for funding. There is no reason why 22 years later we still have survivors walking the Halls of Congress each and every year asking for money to support the issues that they are facing with health.

Ex-Chief Nurnberger leaves behind a loving wife, Sherrill; his children, who are also now part of the fire service, Ronald Jr., Brandon, Karlton, Collin, Stephen, and John-Paul; and, of course, grandchildren, Jameson, Lucas, Cody, Blakely, Brooke, and Noah.

Ex-Chief Nurnberger served the Island Park Fire Department and the village of Island Park for over 40 years, and I was lucky enough to call him a friend for the last 26 years.

Again, I rise today to remember and reflect upon a life gone too soon, another victim of the attacks on this great Nation on September 11, 2001. Ex-Chief Nurnberger has answered his final alarm, and I pray that he rests easy.

#### TIME TO GET BACK TO THE OFFICE

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

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our recently introduced legislation, the Congressional Access to Bureaucratic Offices, the CABO Act.

Oversight of the executive branch is one of the core functions of this very body, the U.S. House of Representatives, but agencies have continuously refused entry to Members of this House. For 6 long months, we have been refused entry into the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Small Business Administration. I sit on the Ag Committee and the Small Business Committee. This is unacceptable.

From everything we have been told, it appears that at least half of the Federal workforce is away from their office at any given time. Some reports say if you go over to these Federal offices down the way here from Congress, fewer than 20 percent of the workforce will actually be at their desks.

I ask, Mr. Speaker, are these agencies trying to hide the low numbers of workers actually showing up for work and doing their jobs like we do here?

Our legislation, the CABO Act, will address this very problem. It will allow Members and their staffs full access to these bureaucratic agencies without excuses like COVID restrictions or other declared emergencies. We need transparency. We need access to these agencies, these Federal bureaucracies that we oversee.

There is no reason that Members of Congress should not be allowed to see what is happening inside these buildings. It is time to get off the beach and back to work in Washington, D.C.

#### SNOOKS CANDIES AND CHOCOLATE FACTORY CELEBRATES 60TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, a local business in my district, Snooks Candies and Chocolate Factory, is celebrating their 60-year anniversary on Friday. Founded by John Snook in 1963, John and his wife, Jeannine, started their business at the Arden Fair Food Circus.

The family opened up a store in Tahoe City in 1981 and later moved to historic Folsom in 1985, where the store remains today. Each one of John and Jeannine's 6 kids and some of their 11 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren have spent time working in Snooks. To witness the bond of family in the business community and the successful operation of a thriving small business is truly inspiring.

After retiring and entrusting the store to his son, Jim, and Jim's wife, Renee, in 1999, John continued to be a consistent presence in the store, talking to customers and helping with work when needed.

Sadly, John Snook passed away earlier this year, but his legacy as a husband, father, and successful businessman continues to live on.

Over the span of six decades, Snooks Candies has faced many challenges, from nationwide recessions to the recent COVID-19 pandemic. However, these challenges have only reinforced the status of Snooks Candies as a true pillar in Folsom and the surrounding communities.

I applaud the commitment to their business and to producing iconic candies and treats for all to enjoy. Therefore, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I am proud to join Folsom and our surrounding communities in congratulating Snooks Candies and Chocolate Factory for reaching this momentous milestone.

#### FOLSOM COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the 10-year anniversary of Folsom Community Service Day, an event which will be held this year on Saturday, September 16.

Organized by the city of Folsom and partner organizations, Community Service Day mobilizes hundreds of volunteers to complete projects across the city to improve public resources and benefit the community.

In its tenure, the Folsom Community Service Day event has made a considerable and positive impact on the area. Since its inception, over 19,000 volunteers have participated. More than 900 projects have been completed, and 500

of them have been performed to serve senior citizens. There have been 537,000 pounds of food donated by the Twin Lakes Food Bank, and thousands of care packages to Active Duty military members have been sent. In addition, thousands of donated items have been collected for local nonprofits.

Their efforts have truly made a remarkable and lasting impact. To witness the hard work of this community over the span of a decade to deliver necessary change, improve neighborhoods, and help those in need is truly inspiring.

Therefore, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I am proud to recognize the city of Folsom and countless volunteers and partner organizations for providing 10 years of invaluable service and contributions to their communities.

#### SUCCESS ACADEMY

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Education and the Workforce Committee hosted a roundtable with Eva Moskowitz, the founder of Success Academy Charter Schools, which was first opened in 2006 and now has 47 schools.

The network of schools is known for setting high expectations of academic excellence and achieving exemplary results. Black and Hispanic students, which make up most of Success Academy's students, achieve proficiency rates double to triple what their New York City district peers do.

As AEI senior fellow Robert Pondiscio put it:

If Success Academy were a stand-alone school district, it would be by far the highest performing one in the State of New York, including places like Scarsdale, and Jericho on Long Island with multimillion dollar homes.

This is an example of why charter schools have been such an important innovation in American education and are a vital part of the landscape for school choice and why they are widely supported by the public.

□ 1045

In 2022, the Harris Poll found in a national survey that 81 percent of parents support expanding the number of slots at existing public charter schools in their area and 78 percent want more public charter schools in their area.

In California's Third District, we have many tremendous schools, both district schools and charter schools. Some of the popular charters include John Adams Academy, Placer County Pathways Charter, Newcastle Elementary Charter, Vantage Point Charter, and Plumas Charter.

As a former high school teacher and a member of the Education and Workforce Committee, I am truly inspired by schools like Success Academy and will work to support charter schools and to scale up successful models throughout our public education system.

#### SUSPEND THE STATE GAS TAX

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I am calling on the California Legislature to