

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.

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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

suspend the State gas tax, as other States—including just recently Georgia—have done to provide consumers with relief from soaring prices. The legislature can provide a modest measure of relief by passing Assembly Bill 53 by Assemblyman Vince Fong, which would immediately suspend the State's gas tax and lower prices by 58 cents per gallon. The bill would also assure that no funding is lost for road projects throughout the State.

At a time when Californians continue to struggle with the effects of inflation, this relief would make life a little easier for millions of people. It is a commonsense proposal that merits bipartisan support, and I urge the legislature to act on it immediately.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF GERALD "GERRY" HEBERT

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and legacy of a good friend and brilliant attorney and someone who is a staunch advocate for voting rights all across our great land in the State of Texas, Gerry Hebert.

Originally from Worcester, Massachusetts, Gerry earned his law degree from Suffolk University. Upon graduating, he began his career as an attorney practicing voting rights.

From 1973 to 1994, Gerry served in the Department of Justice, where he worked as lead attorney in numerous voting rights and redistricting lawsuits. He also served as a chief trial counsel in over 100 voting rights cases. In his 20-year tenure at the DOJ, he received numerous commendations, including an award for his work in connection with the Boston school desegregation case in 1975, which received much national attention.

I had the privilege of knowing Gerry very well through his times as co-counsel with the Legal Defense Fund, the Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP firm, where he partnered to successfully challenge racially discriminatory voting ID laws in Texas.

I will always remember Gerry's hard work, his dedication. Gerry was someone that just understood the Constitution and the laws of our land so well and could have chosen a different career in law that would have earned him millions and millions of dollars, but Gerry truly wanted to help the people, especially people that were disenfranchised and had been wronged, particularly people that had been historically wronged.

Gerry will always be remembered as a great guy. Gerry leaves behind a wonderful family, some of whom I have gotten to know. I express condolences from the bottom of my heart. We will all miss Gerry, in particular, the people and the communities that Gerry defended to make sure that they had equal rights in this country.

CONSTITUTION UNDER ATTACK

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I think probably the single most important thing done in this body is when we uphold our oath to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.

I, therefore, would bring to the attention of the body two instances while we were on break in which the Constitution was under attack, and I don't think enough Americans know about it.

One of the things was in the State of New Mexico, the Governor of New Mexico decided to declare war on the Second Amendment on the grounds that there was an uptick or maybe a big increase in murder in the Albuquerque area.

The Second Amendment is absolute. We don't get rid of the Second Amendment if the murder rate is up 30 percent. The reason we don't get rid of it is our Forefathers wanted the power to be with the people, not the government. But it is particularly ridiculous in that it is obvious why we have had an uptick in murder in the last 3 years in this country. I think there are three obvious reasons.

One, the government is mucking around where they shouldn't, as was mentioned by the founders of Black Lives Matter. People around here wanted to disrupt what they refer to as the Western-prescribed nuclear family. In other words, they want to get the man out of the household.

We also have people trying to elect district attorneys who don't like to put people in jail, judges who don't like to put people in jail, and antipolice forces who make the police timid. When all these things get done, you wind up having an increase in murder.

I would point out that John Adams said that America was built for a moral and religious people. We have to get back to that moral and religious people so they don't abuse their right to guns. In the interim, the idea of leaving guns in the hands of the lawbreakers, which of course is what will happen, and taking guns from the people who are law abiding could not be worse. It is almost hard to believe that at this time in our history we have a Governor—a lawyer no less—who wants to enact a law, taking away the guns from the law abiding but presumably leaving in place the policies which resulted in increase in murder in the first place by not taking action against the type of people who are breaking the law.

The Second Amendment was under attack. A decision was made in the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in which the Biden administration had tried to weigh in on social platforms that were giving a narrative of the COVID epidemic that was not in line with what Pfizer and their political allies wanted to say.

We have a First Amendment in this country, and we expect decisions to be

made based upon a free exchange of ideas. We beat people in the court of public opinion. We don't say the government shouldn't weigh in and say we are not going to let people who disagree with us have a public platform.

The Biden administration chafes at the idea of free speech. They wanted to get only their way in dealing with the pandemic, and they decided to restrict free speech here in America. That should scare everyone to death, that we elected a President of the United States who wanted to restrict free speech.

Another thing that really concerned me about that, in an article by The New York Times, which I think is still viewed as an important paper by some people in this body, said the Court decision, which was a slap down of the Biden administration, was a victory for conservatives.

In other words, today, the people who write for The New York Times have said that upholding free speech is something conservatives do, implying it is not something that progressives or Democrats or liberals, or whatever, do. This is a scary thing.

When I was very young, I was a Democrat, believe it or not. At that time the Democrats were perceived I think even more boldly in favor of free speech than Republicans. So everybody was in favor of free speech. Nobody disagreed with the First Amendment.

Now, we have a decision in which truly the paper of record of leftwing America is saying that when the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals upholds free speech or slaps down the Biden administration for trying to restrict free speech, that is a victory for conservatives, implying it is a defeat for the progressives. Think about that.

I hope The New York Times reconsiders its position and does some sort of apology to America and say that they are going to try to do what they can to make progressives or the left, or whatever, advocates for free speech again.

In any event, we have two examples of the Constitution under attack. I hope the public demands that we stand united behind the First and Second Amendment.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 54 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.