

with the might and potency to make sure our enemies and our competitors abide by international rule of law.

Again, as Neil begins the next chapter in his life, let me express my deep gratitude personally, but also take a moment on the floor of this Chamber to remind people that people like Neil are great staff people and are so essential in terms of doing great things that benefit our country.

Neil, best wishes to you and your family and your future.

REMEMBERING LANNA ALDRIDGE DENISON

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 in remembrance of Lanna Aldridge Denison.

This July, Lanna passed away following a fight with a sudden illness. She was known for her radiant smile and her love for others. She earned her position as principal of Blackshear Elementary through her years of dedication and hard work, earning many accolades, including being named district coordinator of student learning objectives for Pierce County Schools and director of student achievement in 2017.

She transformed her school through her tireless and creative efforts, making it a happy, thriving place for the 800 students who looked up to her.

She took every opportunity to put others first and lift their spirits. It was never too early or too late to call her for anything. She truly put everyone else first and many called her their best friend.

Ms. Lanna will forever be known as someone who “loved big” and her impact will be felt for decades to come.

CONGRATULATING ERROL ROACH ON 40 YEARS OF TEACHING MUSIC

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Savannah native Errol Roach for hitting a major milestone. This past June he celebrated his 40th anniversary of teaching music.

At just 4 years old, Mr. Roach was able to play music by ear, and that began his lifelong passion for music. He attended what is now Savannah State University, where at just 19 years old, he started passing down his love of music through teaching lessons out of his parents' home in Carver Village.

Mr. Roach founded the Sound of Joy School of Music in Savannah, Georgia, and was recognized for reaching this milestone of teaching through a proclamation from Savannah Mayor Van Johnson.

The slogan for Mr. Roach's school is “for a world of harmony.” He hopes his students will continue to pass on the gift of music and harmony for many more generations to come.

Madam Speaker, I take this moment to congratulate Mr. Roach on reaching this significant milestone, and I know that he will continue to touch many through his love of music.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF CENTRAL HARDWARE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of Central Hardware. Central Hardware opened on Norwich Street in downtown Brunswick in 1948 and quickly became known as “The Store of 10,000 Items.”

The store is still family owned and is managed by Anne Strother and her brother Baxter Shaw. Their father, Jimmy Shaw, always emphasized the importance of quick, friendly customer service and competitive pricing. This is the main reason the store has survived in the face of competition from big-box stores.

Shaw taught his children everything about the business, and they continued managing it the way he did.

I am proud to say Central Hardware has been an important part of the First District community for 75 years now. Again, I congratulate them on their success, and I know they will continue to bless our community for many more years to come.

APPROPRIATIONS FUNDING CUTS

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, this week, we have seen the events that have gripped this Nation, the potential for a shutdown, the squabble on the floor for leadership, extreme MAGA opinions trying to impose their points of view on the American people.

This past year, we have also watched distinctly as climate change-related natural disasters have hit every region of this country.

This last week, we saw images from New York City with subways flooding, streets flooding, backyards and front yards of houses flooding. The inability to sustain consistent and persistent rainfall crippled New York City.

As we saw New York City underwater, just 2 months ago, wildfires consumed Maui. Mother Nature is talking to us. Mother Nature is never wrong.

Madam Speaker, this year the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024 within the appropriations process slashes the renewable energy and energy-efficient programs by 14 percent—get this—and instead funds the Department's fossil fuel energy at more than \$850 million.

In the middle of this climate crisis, we take money away from renewable energy and we empower fossil fuel energy. We put them on steroids. It also underfunds the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers who will be able to address the flood and storm damage protection and claws back \$50 million that would have allowed communities like the one that I represent from becoming energy efficient.

So right in the middle of global warming, right in the middle of these disasters that are hurting communities

across the Nation, we see how funding is cut for renewable energy and for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer.

The legislative branch bill, as part of the appropriations process, harms both those that work in the Capitol and those that secure it. It lacks funding to secure the Capitol campus and district offices.

Not so long ago, we saw how some of our staff members in the Commonwealth of Virginia were attacked in their district offices where they worked.

We know that security on the Capitol complex is important not just for Members, but for our staff, for visitors, for everyone who makes their way here, just as security is also important in our district offices. Not enough funding has been given to that area.

Retention of U.S. Capitol police officers continues to be a major problem. After January 6, the Capitol Police is having a difficult time recruiting and retaining officers that will protect all of us.

The legislative branch bill also eliminates diversity, equity, and inclusion training. This program has been important to ensure that the government continues to look more and more like the rest of the country.

Inclusion means me being at this podium, Madam Speaker. Inclusion means you presiding over these proceedings. That is inclusion, to have a representative government of the people that make up our people. Yet, the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion was eliminated.

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THANKING STATION 9 FIREFIGHTERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the firefighters of Station 9 in west Little Rock, Arkansas, for their selfless service during the horrific tornado that struck our city and region in March.

The firefighters of Station 9 were standing in their building when it was directly hit by the tornado, completely destroying it.

Despite their fire station being in ruins, they immediately got to work clearing debris, providing emergency assistance, and serving as an important beacon of hope for those in need in that neighborhood.

Their tremendous efforts were a critical component in helping my hometown recover from one of the worst storms in recent history.

I am proud to honor the brave firefighters for their dedicated work in the face of destruction and ruin. Their service stands as a model of resilience and strength for our entire State and Nation.

RECOGNIZING HEIDE HARRELL

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my good friend, Heide

Harrell, on being a recipient of the Public Relations Society of America, Arkansas Chapter's 2023 Crystal Award.

Heide and I worked together at Arkansas-based Delta Trust and Banking Corporation, a Little Rock-based banking, trust, and investment company, where she was the communications and marketing officer.

Today, she serves as the vice president and communications director at Stephens, one of the largest privately held independent investment firms off Wall Street.

Just a few years ago, Heide was selected as an honoree in the 27th class of Arkansas Business 40 Under 40.

Heide is truly an inspiration to all through her hard work and leadership. Mr. Speaker, I thank Heide for being a great friend and a creative force for good across our community.

RECOGNIZING MADISON MURPHY

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a longtime friend and a terrific civic leader in our State, Madison Murphy, on the occasion of Highway 167 from El Dorado to Little Rock being dedicated in his honor.

Madison has been an inspiration to all Arkansans for many years and has received numerous awards and recognition for his work throughout the State.

He has been named to the Arkansas Business 40 Under 40 list and named Arkansas' Tourism Person of the Year for his financial support and inspiration in the creation of the Murphy Arts District in El Dorado.

Madison has also served as chairman of the Arkansas Highway Commission from 2003 to 2013, where he championed the widening of the Highway 167 corridor to provide a four-lane connection between south and central Arkansas, improving roadway safety, mobility, and transit.

Throughout his leadership as chairman, a temporary half-cent sales tax was implemented that funded 31 highway widening projects to improve connectivity across the State.

I applaud Mr. Murphy for his leadership and service to the State of Arkansas and congratulate him on this recognition.

CONTROL DEFICITS AND SPENDING

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, last Saturday, this House—all the Democrats and 31 Republicans—rejected a stopgap spending measure, which would have lowered spending for the 4 weeks of the continuing resolution period; secured the border with important needs, a critical element that every day we see and hear from our constituents; and established a commission to tackle the biggest challenge this House and this Nation has, which is that 70 percent of our spending, Mr. Speaker, is not voted on on this House floor. It is on autopilot—mandatory spending.

These mandatory spending programs require bipartisan attention to reform them. We can keep the promises made to the American people on Social Security and Medicare, but we need to get our fiscal house in order.

I support that commission, and I was so disappointed that 31 Republicans joined the Democrats to reject it.

Now, in this period of 45 days, as we continue to look for the most conservative spending policies that we can achieve across this House floor and in the Senate, let's be committed that we will have a bipartisan commission on debt and deficit and get this spending and these deficits under control.

HONORING DAVE SMIGLEWSKI

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

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Granite Falls Mayor David Smiglewski.

On September 22, the mayor passed away after a long and courageous battle with ALS.

Mr. Granite Falls, as many came to know him, began his service in city government in 1979 as a member of the city council. In 1996, he became the city's mayor and served in that role for 27 years until his passing.

During his tenure, Dave's commitment as a leader and advocate never wavered. He guided his community through devastating floods in 1997 and 2001 and a tornado in 2000.

He even spent his final days here in Washington, working to secure highway funding for his community.

The people of Granite Falls and the people of Minnesota have lost one of their greatest public servants.

We can all only hope to be more like Dave Smiglewski. I offer my deepest condolences to Cindy, his wife of 40 years, and his children, Cody, Seth, and Laurel.

RECOGNIZING LUKE COOPER

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor one of the best and brightest of Florida's Fourth Congressional District, Luke Cooper.

Luke is an exceptional young man who was recently announced as a silver medalist for the Congressional Award, one of the highest awards Congress can bestow upon America's youth.

The Congressional Award Foundation was created to recognize initiative, service, and achievement in young people. There are exceptionally few who meet these lofty goals, and Luke is one of them.

He has given back to his local community by volunteering at Safe Animal Shelter in Clay County, fostering cats and kittens until they can find forever homes. Through his 150 hours of service, Luke has helped with the shelter's efforts to care for homeless animals while leaving a positive impact on his community.

As a volunteer at Clay County Teen Court, Luke has gained hands-on expe-

rience with our judicial system and learned the necessary skills to be a catalyst for a better tomorrow.

Beyond service to others, Luke has put in hundreds of hours of personal development, including training for a 50-mile cycling excursion and sharpening his problem-solving skills on the golf course.

A prime example of what students from Florida's Fourth Congressional District are capable of, I am proud to congratulate Luke Cooper on his impressive achievements.

HONORING JACKSONVILLE EXCHANGE CLUB

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, what do Hasbro, Warner Brothers, Russell Stover, and the Jacksonville Exchange Club have in common? Well, they all were started in 1923 and have thrived for 100 years. They each represent the gold standard of service and success.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Jacksonville Exchange Club, an all-volunteer national service organization that has been providing valuable services and programs to members of our community for 100 years.

Since 1923, the club has continued to expand and evolve, dedicating their free time toward the pursuit of community projects that promote volunteerism, good citizenship, and love of country.

With a strong belief that America's youth are the leaders of tomorrow, club members actively seek out ways to inspire and engage Jacksonville's youth with programs such as Student of the Year, Accepting the Challenge of Excellence Award, and Americanism Speech Contest.

The Jacksonville Exchange Club continues to not only make a difference through their ongoing community service efforts but by providing members with a space where they may gather, exchange ideas and knowledge, and pursue the core principles envisioned by the club's original members.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this significant milestone of the Jacksonville Exchange Club, its members, and the entire city of Jacksonville.

On its 100th anniversary, I wish the Jacksonville Exchange Club continued growth and prosperity in the years ahead.

CELEBRATING HYUNDAI HOPE ON WHEELS' 25TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of childhood cancer research and the organization Hyundai Hope on Wheels, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

Before serving in Congress, I began working with Hyundai Hope on Wheels in my role as a Hyundai dealer. Today, I am proud to work with this incredible