

Mr. Henry's family and loved ones are in my prayers and in my thoughts. Our community will continue to honor Jim's remarkable achievements and his positive impact on the world.

HOUSE MUST ACT NOW TO END GUN VIOLENCE

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

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, my heart is breaking for the parents, children, friends, and neighbors in Lewiston, Maine, who woke up today to the unfathomable grief of yet another mass shooting.

We do not have to live like this. My constituents know it, and, Mr. Speaker, your constituents know it, too.

Americans are disgusted by Congress' failure to check the gun violence that is so rampant across our country, and they should be. Gun violence now impacts all of us, in urban areas, in rural areas, and in red and blue States. We must work together to address the gun violence crisis.

The House can and must act now to consider the numerous gun violence prevention bills that are waiting to be brought to the floor and that a majority of Americans, Democrats, Independents, and Republicans, support.

We call on Speaker JOHNSON to bring these commonsense and constitutional bills to the floor as soon as possible. Our constituents, our children, deserve to know where their Representatives stand on these bills. The very least we can do is have the courage to show them.

SAGE GROUSE AND COWS CAN COEXIST

(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, a recent study that has taken over 10 years by the University of Idaho has shown that cattle and sage grouse can indeed coexist.

There has been a great battle for many years over the sage grouse habitat in Western States, including in my own district in northern California, and the interaction of cattle on that, whether grazing is appropriate or not.

It is found during the study that not only is there no net negative effect for light to medium grazing but that it actually can be a positive benefit in helping to move about the soil and increase the insect biomass that is important for the grouse itself.

The idea of it being a negative has been dispelled by a very long and comprehensive study. It goes to show that what mankind can do with the interaction of nature can be very positive.

Grazing is also very well adapted to fire safety as a plus in our forested areas, as well. We need more to be done

by the U.S. Forest Service to have grazing be part of the solution for wildfire in Western States.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MAUREEN SCHEUERMANN

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

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Maureen Rosary O'Donnell Scheuermann, who peacefully departed this world on the eve of her 90th birthday.

Maureen's life was dedicated to love, devotion, and service.

Her journey began as a secretary at Loyola University, where fate led her to the love of her life, Rags Scheuermann. Their union in 1959 marked the beginning of a lifelong partnership, and her unwavering support defined the legacy of the Scheuermann family in New Orleans baseball. From the start of the Delgado Community College athletic department to her tireless leadership of Rags' New Orleans Boosters, Maureen became the beloved First Lady of New Orleans Baseball.

Maureen's life of service extended to the city of New Orleans, where she worked for over three decades in various roles at city hall. Her dedication as a secretary to three mayors underscored her commitment to public service.

Maureen's light touched everyone she encountered, and her "MawMaw" wisdom, faith, hope, and joy left a lasting mark on our hearts.

Mr. Speaker, Maureen is loved and missed. May she rest in peace.

TAKE POLITICIANS OUT OF REDISTRICTING

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

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the North Carolina General Assembly voted to pass an extreme, partisan gerrymander of our State's congressional map.

To be clear, this is Republican legislators trying to handpick their own voters and predetermine the outcome of elections before they ever happen.

This is not a new practice. In nearly every State, partisan gerrymandering has been used as a tool by politicians to manipulate electoral outcomes with surgical precision.

It doesn't matter who is doing it—Democrats or Republicans—gerrymandering is bad for democracy. It is time to end gerrymandering and implement a nonpartisan, independent redistricting commission in every State.

We need to pass the Freedom to Vote Act now.

By taking politicians out of the redistricting process, we can restore fair-

ness and ensure that voters are the ones choosing their politicians, not the other way around.

No matter what happens, I am going to keep fighting for North Carolina. It is time to restore faith in our government, end gerrymandering, and protect the right to vote for every single North Carolinian.

CONGRATULATING LAS VEGAS ACES

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

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to congratulate our own Las Vegas Aces on their remarkable achievement of back-to-back WNBA Championship wins.

This team has done it again. Their hard work, talent, and teamwork have demonstrated what a never-give-up attitude can achieve, battling past setbacks from injuries, including star and last year's Finals MVP Chelsea Gray.

I recognize this year's Finals MVP, A'ja Wilson, and the Aces' coach, Becky Hammon.

Mr. Speaker, it is not every day that a city gets to celebrate three championships in just over a year, two from the Las Vegas Aces. That is why I was proud to join Vice President KAMALA HARRIS in recognizing the team at the White House in August.

Las Vegas is a city of champions. For the second straight year, the team finished with the best regular season record.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate everyone on this achievement, especially the players and coaching staff.

Southern Nevada is excited to see more of what this team has, and we look forward to many more successes.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE DIANNE FEINSTEIN

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend and congressional colleague who passed away late last month, Senator Dianne Feinstein of California.

I was deeply saddened at the news of the passing of Dianne, whom I worked with closely over many years on energy independence for our Nation and to protect the waters of the United States, which are amongst our Nation's most precious resources. Her acute mastery of the energy and water needs of our Nation had no comparison.

Throughout her career, Dianne shattered glass ceilings, first on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, serving as the board's first female president, then as the first woman to serve as mayor of San Francisco, and, finally, as the first female Senator from the State of California.

She would go on to become the longest serving woman in the history of the U.S. Senate and was a champion for LGBTQ rights and our environmental needs throughout her career.

My thoughts and prayers are with her dear daughter, Katherine, and all who knew and loved her, including her staff in the Senate. Rest in peace, my dear friend.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an opinion piece celebrating her life, which was published this past month.

[From the Washington Post, Oct. 2, 2023]

OPINION—OUR NATION IS IN DIRE NEED OF LEADERS LIKE DIANNE FEINSTEIN

(By Hillary Rodham Clinton)

One day, on the floor of the Senate in 1993, Idaho Republican Larry Craig condescended to Dianne Feinstein, the Democratic sponsor of a proposed ban on assault weapons. “The gentle lady from California needs to become a little bit more familiar with firearms and their deadly characteristics,” he said. Craig, a board member of the National Rifle Association, had picked the wrong target.

“I am quite familiar with firearms,” Dianne responded, with fire in her eyes. “I became mayor as a product of assassination. I found my assassinated colleague and put a finger through a bullet hole trying to get a pulse. I was trained in the shooting of a firearm when I had terrorist attacks, with a bomb in my house, when my husband was dying, when I had windows shot out. Senator, I know something about what firearms can do.”

Craig was left sputtering, and the Senate passed the assault weapons ban thanks to Dianne’s tireless advocacy. My husband proudly signed the ban, and it helped keep millions of Americans safer for a decade.

Feinstein, who passed away on Thursday evening, was a giant of the Senate. She was brave, honorable, honest and unafraid to do what was right for her constituents and her country. We both came to Washington in 1993, I as first lady and Dianne as a senator. When she used her first floor speech to support the Family and Medical Leave Act, I knew I had found a kindred spirit.

When I joined Dianne in the small sisterhood of Senate women eight years later, I gained an appreciation for her blend of principle and pragmatism. In an institution known for show horses, she was a workhorse. Perhaps because she had been a mayor, she believed in delivering results, not rhetoric—and that’s what she did.

Dianne was tough and sometimes formal, but she had a big heart and enormous compassion. She was an early advocate for LGBTQ rights and people suffering from HIV and AIDS. As a trailblazer for women in politics, she opened space for those of us who followed.

I learned a tremendous amount from Dianne. We strategized, commiserated, laughed, drank California chardonnay and one time even planned a covert operation: Dianne hosted a secret meeting in the living room of her Northwest D.C. home, where then-Sen. Barack Obama and I made peace after the grueling 2008 primary. We chose to meet there because we both trusted Dianne. (She let us in, offered a glass of wine and left us alone.)

For all of us who loved Dianne, her passing is a deep personal loss. It is also a loss for our country when we are in desperate need of leaders willing to show half the backbone she displayed throughout her storied career.

Her calm determination in the wake of the 1978 assassination of San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and city Supervisor Harvey

Milk by a fellow council member reassured a shaken city. That tragedy didn’t just make her mayor; it gave her a mission. She took on the NRA and won. She became a champion for the rule of law and democratic institutions and refused to be intimidated by anyone.

As the chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee, she exposed torture and other abuses committed by the CIA after 9/11, despite efforts to keep her silent. She was a strong supporter of the intelligence community, but she believed those abuses could not be covered up. “History will judge us by our commitment to a just society governed by law and the willingness to face an ugly truth and say ‘never again,’” she said.

Those are words we should remember as we face the challenges ahead. Dianne has left the national scene at another moment of political violence and threats to the rule of law. So, we must again face ugly truths and do what is right.

The cries of an insurrectionist mob have barely faded from the halls of the Capitol. Former president Donald Trump, whose incendiary rhetoric has repeatedly incited violence, recently said Army Gen. Mark A. Milley, the just-retired chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, had committed “a treasonous act” for which “in times gone by, the punishment would have been DEATH!” As President Biden noted, while most Republicans may not agree, the silence is deafening.

Trump and his supporters have also suggested that if he regains the presidency, he will seek to gut checks on executive power, weaponize the Justice Department to pursue political opponents, eviscerate the civil service and attempt to put himself above the law. This is a man who has been indicted on a charge of a conspiracy to overturn an election and called for the “termination of all rules, regulations, and articles, even those found in the Constitution.”

We should believe him when he tells us what he’ll do next.

We could have used Dianne’s voice in the fights ahead. Democracy needs champions. So do our institutions, creaky and frustrating as they might be. The United States needs leaders willing to respond to attacks on the rule of law with the same fearlessness that Dianne showed when she exposed unlawful “enhanced interrogation techniques.” We must summon the passion of Dianne’s answer to Sen. Craig back in 1993. We all can honor her legacy by finding in ourselves the courage that Dianne showed on that bloody day in 1978.

Dianne’s journey has ended, but the fights of her life are far from over.

ADJOURNMENT FROM THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 26, 2023, TO MONDAY,
OCTOBER 30, 2023

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday, October 30, 2023.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CRANE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

REDIRECTION OF CONGRESS

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

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt the floor staff is overjoyed to be

returning to the floor and having business get back to normal. I will be sure to try to make sure I use the entirety of the 60 minutes and regale our fine staff.

I do want to take a moment to thank the staff, as the Speaker did when he was voted into office and sworn in yesterday. We have great staff who work hard here on the floor and keep this institution functioning even when sometimes we are not functioning much as a body. I am grateful for the staff. As a former staffer, I know how hard they work, and I am deeply appreciative of it.

We have had an interesting few weeks, and a lot of people around the country were asking questions about what we were doing in having a debate about the Speaker of the House. My response has largely been: We are doing our job. We are having a debate in this body about the future of the country, and that is actually what we are supposed to do.

Choosing a Speaker of the House, following a Speaker of the House, removing a Speaker of the House, all of those are things that are part of our job to figure out what we need to do to make sure that we are doing the people’s work in the people’s House.

All of this will be forgotten in a matter of hours, days, and certainly in history books. The only thing that is going to matter is what we do with our power in this institution, in the House of Representatives, to represent the people. That is all that is really going to matter in the end.

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All of the noise, all of the debate, all of the reporters scurrying around, all of the interviews and 24/7 news shows, none of that will matter.

None of that will be remembered. None of our kids and none of our grandkids are going to be wandering around in 10 years or 40 years or 100 years saying, well, man, what about that interview on Sean Hannity or on MSNBC or something.

They are not going to know anything about that. The only question that will matter is are they living in a free and strong country. That is the only thing that is going to matter.

Are they able to carry out their God-given rights that are protected under our Constitution and under the laws of the United States or are they not?

One of the things that I think is really important that I have observed throughout this process, as I sit here in a largely empty Chamber with two Members of Congress, a lot of my colleagues are catching their flights home after a few weeks of drama surrounding the Speaker.

One of the things that I have observed in this debate about who should be the Speaker and what House Republicans want to do with the majority is that my Democrat colleagues are nowhere to be found on any of the issues that matter to the people I represent