

whether it is in the Middle East, whether it is in Asia, or elsewhere.

Mr. Speaker, this is the test of our time. It is the test of our generation, and historians will look back 10 to 20 years from now and they will determine: Did we make more good decisions than poor decisions in standing up for human rights and the freedoms we cherish?

I pray that we make more good decisions than poor decisions and that America remain united and the beacon of light for democracy around the world.

DELTA 8

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

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to address the growing threat of Delta 8 across communities in Nebraska.

For anyone who may not be following this issue yet, Delta 8 is a variant of THC and is derived from cannabis. Today, retailers across Nebraska are selling THC-laced products aimed at kids. For example, a retailer in Madison County has allegedly been selling gummies containing 200 times the level of THC needed to send a kid to the hospital. Delta 8 products are made to look like common types of candy or snacks to appeal to children.

I am glad Nebraska is cracking down on Delta 8, which are illegal even in States that have legalized recreational marijuana. Attorney General Mike Hilgers has filed complaints in 10 counties across Nebraska as he works to confront this challenge.

I commend him and others across the country who are taking action to stop the threat of Delta 8 that is hurting our children.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage everyone watching to visit AGO.Nebraska.gov to learn more.

SALUTING NEBRASKA STATE TREASURER TOM BRIESE

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the service of newly-appointed Nebraska State Treasurer Tom Briese.

For almost 7 years, Tom honorably served the people of District 41 in the unicameral. I sat next to him on our State's revenue committee. During those years, he fought hard to reform the State's high property taxes and school funding formula.

Over the course of time in the legislature, he worked with both Governor Ricketts and Governor Pillen to deliver historic tax relief.

Earlier this year, Governor Pillen announced that he would appoint Senator Briese to fill a vacancy in the role of State treasurer.

Tom brings with him a wealth of experience in working with the legislature and State senators to shape public policy. He leads an office that manages the State's college savings plan and unclaimed property programs while watching over the State's resources.

I know Tom will do an outstanding job in his new role and I wish him all the best as he takes on this new challenge.

Mr. Speaker, I wish the treasurer best wishes in the years ahead.

CONGRATULATING HAMPTON ENTERPRISES ON 75 YEARS OF BUSINESS

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Hampton Enterprises on 75 years of business. The late Joe Hampton opened the real estate and construction company in Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1948 when he was just 22 years old.

Throughout the past 75 years, Hampton has constructed everything from houses to offices to the Pinnacle Bank Arena. Hampton has an impressive and extensive list of arenas, schools, and offices, and with all of these buildings comes numerous tenants and customers.

One tenant has been renting office space from Hampton for nearly 40 years. He says they offer a complete spectrum of services. Hampton prides themselves on maintaining their core values of integrity, quality, work ethic, relationships, and stewardship, which is likely why they have found so much success.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Nebraska's First Congressional District, I congratulate Hampton Enterprises on 75 years.

BIDEN-XI MEETING

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the upcoming meeting between President Joe Biden and China's President Xi Jinping.

President Biden and President Xi are expected to meet later this month during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit. Leading Biden Cabinet members have been meeting with high-level officials from the Chinese Communist Party in recent months.

The focus of these meetings has been framed as "engagement." While that might sound nice, the Biden administration's approach has weakened America's position in relation to China.

The CCP respects strength, and America must project it if we are going to succeed in this new era of competition. If President Biden wants to find success in this policy area, he needs to be willing to communicate clear principles around national security, trade, and human rights as he meets with their President. Failure to do this will only mean America's ability to compete against China will fade away.

Mr. Speaker, I wish President Biden all the best as he takes on this challenge. I hope he is up to it.

RECOGNIZING BECKENHAUER CONSTRUCTION ON 145 YEARS IN BUSINESS.

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Beckenhauer Construction of Norfolk, Nebraska, on 145 years in business.

Since 1878, Beckenhauer has built everything from churches to schools to hospitals and community projects built around the good life. Today, it is still a family business being run by the fourth and fifth generations.

They have been involved in the Box Butte General Hospital and the Boone County health clinic. The University of Nebraska had them renovate the UNL Barkley Memorial Center in Lincoln just last year.

Beckenhauer Construction's reach extends beyond Nebraska. They recently broke ground on a new law enforcement center in Clay County, South Dakota.

The Beckenhauer commitment is to hold the standards of quality, reliability, integrity, safety, and honesty to provide unparalleled service to their clients. That is why they are likely to grow for another 145 years and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Beckenhauer Construction and wish them the best in the years to come.

SECOND AVENUE SUBWAY

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank President Joe Biden for the investment of \$1.2 trillion—that is right, Mr. Speaker—trillion with a t, of the Bipartisan Infrastructure and Jobs Act.

We hear a lot of noise from the other side every single day, but when we see those shovels going in the ground and when we see those major projects coming forward across the Nation, those same Members that are making noise on the other side of the aisle will show up to the ribbon-cutting, Mr. Speaker, and some of them may be there to take credit for the project.

The biggest investment in the history of our Nation with regard to infrastructure and jobs. It is not just infrastructure; it is an economic development machine that will generate hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of jobs across our Nation.

I thank our President for his investment in our Nation, and particularly in the 13th Congressional District, which is an iconic district that has Harlem; East Harlem, also known as El Barrio; Washington Heights—yeah, some of you may have seen the movie "In the Heights"—Inwood; and the Northwest Bronx. The second phase of the Second Avenue subway just kicked off this past weekend.

Mr. Speaker, I thank our Secretary of Transportation, Pete Buttigieg, for coming to our district to kick off the second phase of the Second Avenue subway right in East Harlem. This phase is such an important phase for a community that has for far too long been subjected to a transportation desert.

On Saturday, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration stood hand in hand with East Harlem leaders to sign off on a \$3.4 billion Full Funding Grant Agreement.

□ 1015

This was part of the capital investment grant program that received

record funding under the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. I thank the Secretary for coming to my district.

The funding will help support a 1.8-mile extension of the Q line. Some people seem to think that America cannot build a subway anymore. Yes, we can. Yes, we can when we put people over politics.

This new initiative on the East Side of Manhattan will connect the Q line from 96th Street to 125th Street to Harlem and will relieve an over-crowded Lexington Avenue line which is the most overcrowded line in the Nation, if not the world. It will transport over 200,000 riders on a daily basis in the most heavily used transit corridor in America.

Saturday marked the start of a vibrant economic future for families across East Harlem, and we worked with the Charles B. Rangel Infrastructure Workforce Initiative at City College that Congressman Rangel and I have been working on to ensure that we train those young people in our communities so they can have access to prevailing wage jobs.

This project is also called Uptown Grand Central. As you can see, Mr. Speaker, we will have a transportation hub that will connect Harlem to the rest of the world. You can see the lines here that will go from 125th Street to 96th Street.

Now, the first phase went uptown right through the Silk Stocking District, the richest ZIP Codes in the country. Maybe they weren't too open about the jobs, but we are laser focused on making sure that the second phase creates thousands of jobs.

The first phase created 16,000 jobs and generated \$142 million in wages and produced \$2.87 billion in economic activity during the construction. This second phase will lift that district, East Harlem, not only producing jobs but injecting oxygen to our economy.

Yes, we can when we put people over politics.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to be here to tell you that this project will connect Harlem to the rest of the world. It will connect the Second Avenue Subway to the Metro-North line and 14 counties outside of New York City.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here to say we have a bright future.

CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF CORPORAL LEONARD TURNER

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the achievements of Corporal Leonard Turner who recently celebrated his 100th birthday.

Corporal Turner is a World War II veteran who was part of the revered Marine Raiders, an elite infantry group that took on the most dangerous tasks during the war.

As his 100th birthday approached, his children decided to honor him and celebrate his very special birthday by inviting an array of veterans, generals, colonels, and dignitaries from the State.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Corporal Turner on reaching this incredible milestone of 100 years. His journey through life, including his valiant service during World War II, is an inspiration to us all.

His dedication, courage, and sacrifices have left an indelible mark on history, and we will be forever grateful for his service to our country.

CONGRATULATING WILLIAM "BILL" EASTERLIN

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Queensborough National Bank president William Easterlin on receiving the James Collier Award from the Georgia Bar Foundation at their annual grants meeting in July.

The James Collier Award is reserved for individuals, lawyers or nonlawyers, who make exceptional efforts to advance the foundation's primary objective of providing legal assistance to Georgians in need.

Mr. Easterlin has shown extraordinary support for the foundation through his counsel as a banker and dedication to assisting disadvantaged Georgians.

From growing his family-owned bank's assets from \$106 million to \$2 billion and expanding to 27 locations, he is committed to providing exceptional financial services and giving back to the community he serves.

Mr. Speaker, Bill has done great work. I look forward to seeing what else he achieves.

REMEMBERING ARLIE MAXTON MCNEILL

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Arlie Maxton McNeill, a resident of Brunswick, Georgia, who passed away on August 16, 2023, surrounded by his family after battling cancer.

Arlie was born in Seagrove, North Carolina, in 1936. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1955 where he became a dental assistant and soon realized he wanted to be a mortician.

In 1961 he married his wife, Sheila McNeill, and the following year he graduated from John A. Gupton College mortuary school in Nashville, Tennessee.

Arlie returned to Brunswick and started working at Edo Miller and Sons Funeral Home where he served for over 50 years and became part owner with Johnny Wilson.

Arlie was a well-known auctioneer and a 50-year Mason at Lodge 214 F&AM. In 1977 he became an ordained deacon at Norwich Street Baptist Church. He also served on the Georgia State Board of Funeral Services from 1998 to 2004. He was the area manager for the Loewen Funeral Group for 5 years and was a devout Christian.

He will be remembered by all, including his family and the community that he served well.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. GEORGE SKARPALEZOS, SR.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. George Skarpalezos, Sr., an American hero and a father to three children.

Upon graduating from basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia, First Lieutenant George Skarpalezos led a platoon of the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne during the Vietnam war.

After serving in the military, George returned to his roots of Brunswick, Georgia, to raise three children.

Mr. Skarpalezos was also a musician. He performed at many local establishments on St. Simons Island. He also played in several bands, including the Ascots, the Gypsies, and The Fabulous Sixty Minute Men.

He also found enjoyment in real estate, leading him to open his own real estate company called Skarpalezos Realty.

While we are all sad that he is no longer with us, we will remember the life of Mr. Skarpalezos, his service to the United States, and the contributions to the State of Georgia.

UAW TENTATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH THE BIG THREE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as a grateful and proud daughter of the United Auto Workers, I am heartened to see General Motors, Ford, and Jeep Stellantis reach tentative agreements with the hardworking brothers and sisters of the UAW.

This historic strike is deeply personal to me. I know firsthand from my parents and constituents the difficult jobs they do day in and day out, sometimes 10 hours a day 6 days a week.

While too many manufacturing jobs have been shipped overseas to penny wage havens, I salute companies inside our borders, the largest consumer market in the world, for agreeing to pay fair wages with good benefits that our hardworking American autoworkers have earned.

Firms in other nations should follow suit. Our trade negotiators should focus on reciprocal contracts for market access to achieve fair trade globally to stop the exploitation of workers in the automotive industry in the Third World.

Let's recall after the United Auto Workers conceded major benefits during the 2008 Great Recession to literally save the Big Three from bankruptcy. These agreements represent a monumental step toward finally making these workers whole again.

They say that when unions fight, all workers win. Last week we saw Toyota raise wages for their workers knowing they must now compete.

RECORD profits should mean record contracts. Americans must honor people who work hard hour by hour building the economic prosperity of our great Nation.