

These actions show the President's commitment to reducing climate change and supporting America.

CONGRATULATING LIEUTENANT GENERAL DANIEL KARBLER ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. STRONG. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in honor of Lieutenant General Dan Karbler, commanding general of Army Space and Missile Defense Command and the Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense, on his upcoming retirement.

When he took command at Redstone Arsenal, General Karbler shared a vision of a people-first team, providing unmatched expertise to support joint warfighting readiness across all domains. This vision has not only been achieved but set an example for what excellence looks like, with SMDC and JFCC IMD being named the best place to work in the Department of Defense for 2 years in a row.

Known for his candor, thoughtfulness, and humility, his legacy will live on much longer than his 36 years in Active-Duty service to the United States Army.

Mr. Speaker, I speak for many as I thank General Karbler and his wife, Leah; his dad, Tim; and his children, Lauren and Tim, for years of extraordinary service.

Mr. Speaker, I wish General Karbler a happy and restful retirement.

HONORING JUSTICE SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

(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 to honor the first female Supreme Court Justice, Sandra Day O'Connor, who passed away last Friday.

Frequently referred to as the most powerful woman in America, Justice O'Connor, who was highly gifted and dignified, paved the way for women on the highest court in our land.

Justice O'Connor knew the value of being the first. She felt a special responsibility as the first woman. When she was appointed to the Court by President Ronald Reagan in 1981, no women in the Court's nearly 200-year history had ever graced the bench with their intellect. Her diligence and legal mastery moved America forward, and she always knew how to find the big middle in her opinions.

Since her retirement in 2006, four female Supreme Court Justices have been appointed and confirmed to the bench of the highest court in our land. That is only five women in 234 years.

In our Nation's history, our great State of Ohio has never elected a female Senator. Including myself, Ohio has only

ever elected 13 female Representatives. Our Nation has not seen a female President yet. Women in our Nation have many glass ceilings to shatter and many more firsts to go.

Mr. Speaker, I honor Justice O'Connor, her character, and her legacy, and I honor and encourage the new firsts yet to come from among America's young women.

CLOSING ACT 22 AND FEDERAL TAX LOOPHOLES

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

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on a crisis of displacement, tax evasion, and lack of housing affordability that is directly affecting our communities, including the people of Illinois' Third Congressional District and their families.

Because of Act 22 and Federal tax loopholes, Puerto Rico is the only place where a wealthy American with no tie to the island can move and evade paying any Federal taxes—taxes that represent essential funds for safety net programs and critical infrastructure in our districts.

While those Americans seek out a tax shelter in Puerto Rico, they are driving up the price of rent by 600 percent, privatizing lands that belong to the people, robbing Puerto Ricans of affordable housing, and driving the second largest migration that the island has seen.

Congress has a responsibility to close the Act 22 loophole that is hurting Puerto Rico and depriving our districts of vital services.

CONGRATULATING MASSILLON TIGERS

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the Massillon Tigers high school football team as Ohio's 13th Congressional District champion of the week.

With a record-breaking season of 16-0, the Tigers won their first-ever Ohio High School Athletic Association Division 2 championship last week.

In a repeat of the Massillon versus Archbishop Hoban High School, another Ohio 13th District high school, playoff rivalry for the fifth time in 6 years, the Tigers edged out their opponents with a hard-fought 7-2 victory.

More than 14,000 fans filled the Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium to cheer on the best of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, demonstrating just how much this team and this championship mean to the entire district.

This victory is a testament to the hard work and determination of these exceptional student athletes both on the field and in the classroom.

Once again, our phenomenal student athletes in Ohio's 13th Congressional

District are reaffirming our district's legacy as the Birthplace of Champions and the City of Champions, which is the motto of Massillon.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Massillon Tigers for their hard work, and I hope they continue to dominate the world of sports one play at a time.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FORMER FIRST LADY ROSALYNN SMITH CARTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUARTE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a former First Lady of the United States, a former First Lady of the State of Georgia, a great wife, a loving mother, a doting grandmother and great-grandmother, a dedicated servant leader, and a friend of longstanding, Mrs. Rosalynn Smith Carter.

Sadly, Mrs. Carter transitioned from this life on November 19, 2023. Her funeral service was held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, November 29, 2023, at the Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains, Georgia.

Rosalynn Smith Carter was born and raised in Plains, Georgia, to the union of Wilburn Edgar Smith and Frances Allethea "Allie" Murray Smith. She graduated as valedictorian from Plains High School and attended Georgia Southwestern College, now Georgia Southwestern State University, in Americus, Georgia, where she served as vice president of her class and graduated in 1946.

In 1945, she began dating James Earl "Jimmy" Carter, Jr., also from Plains and whose family farmed peanuts. Jimmy was attending the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, at the time. They were married in Plains on July 7, 1946, and they would go on to spend 77 cherished years together.

Following the death of her father-in-law, James Earl Carter, Sr., in 1953, Rosalynn, Jimmy, and their three sons returned to Plains, Georgia, from Norfolk, Virginia, where he had been stationed in the Navy as Jimmy was now tasked with running the family business.

Rosalynn took over its bookkeeping and proved herself a formidable business partner.

After her husband was elected to the Georgia State Senate in 1962, her role on the peanut farm grew, especially while he traveled to Atlanta for legislative sessions.

In 1970, Senator Jimmy Carter launched his campaign for Governor, and Rosalynn took a leading role on the campaign trail. In addition to handling most of her husband's political correspondence and meeting with constituents, Mrs. Carter began to travel

across the State of Georgia to campaign on his behalf.

Following Jimmy Carter's election as Governor, Mrs. Carter served as Georgia's First Lady from 1971 to 1975, where she would take on the role of Governor Carter's trusted adviser and confidant. She was appointed to the Governor's Commission to Improve Services for the Mentally and Emotionally Handicapped, where she formally began working on one of her foremost initiatives: improving and breaking the stigma surrounding mental health.

In 1972, Governor Carter gave me, a young, beginning lawyer, my first political appointment, a seat on the Governor's Advisory Council on Drug Abuse.

Governor Carter completed his term in January 1975. Georgia's Constitution then banned its Governors from serving successive terms.

Prior to moving back to Plains, Governor Carter had already announced his intention to run for President of the United States in the 1976 election.

Rosalynn Carter, once again, joined the campaign and quickly began traveling the Nation on her husband's behalf to tell American voters why the soft-spoken Georgia peanut farmer should become President of the United States.

In November 1976, Jimmy Carter was elected President of the United States, and Rosalynn accompanied him to the White House, where she would make her mark in defining what it meant to be America's First Lady.

While serving as First Lady of the United States from 1977 to 1981, Mrs. Carter made it clear that she had no intention of solely carrying out the duties traditionally left to wives of Presidents. As an equal partner to her husband, she attended many Cabinet meetings and weekly business meetings with President Carter, where she would be informed and could give meaningful advice and counsel on the policy issues of the day.

The egalitarian relationship between President and Mrs. Carter drew widespread interest but also criticism from those who believed the wife of a U.S. President should focus solely on homemaking and hosting White House parties and events for foreign dignitaries.

The Carters brushed their critics aside, and in 1977, President Carter appointed Rosalynn the honorary chair of the President's Commission on Mental Health.

In 1979, the commission submitted a mental health systems bill to Congress, and Mrs. Carter testified in support of the bill before a U.S. Senate subcommittee, becoming the first Presidential wife since Eleanor Roosevelt to do so.

Subsequently, the Mental Health Systems Act was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Carter on October 7, 1980.

Following President Carter's loss in the 1980 Presidential election, the Car-

ter family returned to Plains, Georgia, where they continued to make a positive impact on both their local community and the world.

Mr. and Mrs. Carter continued their ministry of service after that time in the White House with the same vigor and urgency, becoming heavily involved in Habitat for Humanity, whose international headquarters was then located in Americus, Georgia.

The Carters' work with Habitat for Humanity drew national attention through the annual Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Work Project, which helped the upstart nonprofit organization grow and construct thousands and thousands of new homes for low- and middle-income families.

In 1982, Rosalynn and Jimmy founded The Carter Center, a nonprofit human rights organization that has since become famous for its work to eradicate disease, strengthen democracies, and alleviate human suffering all around the world.

□ 1515

Mrs. Carter served as the vice chair of The Carter Center from 1986 to 2005 and served as a member of the board of trustees from 2005 until her death.

Throughout her life, she sought to improve the quality of life for those who suffered from mental illness and disability, including those who care for them.

Mrs. Carter established the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregivers in 1987 at her alma mater, Georgia Southwestern State University in Americus. Today, the Rosalynn Carter Institute supports caregivers across the United States through research, creating dementia and Alzheimer's disease programs and other tools that help Americans be effective caregivers to their loved ones.

Mother Teresa once said: "A life not lived for others is not a life." I can say without a shadow of a doubt that Rosalynn Carter lived her life for others and went beyond the call of duty to do so.

It has been an honor to know Rosalynn and Jimmy Carter for more than half a century. I will always cherish their friendship as well as their sage counsel and advice, which has been invaluable to me as I have served in Congress. They have been my constituents for 31 years, and they did not hold back in expressing their opinion on the issues of the day.

Together they rose to great heights, supporting and cherishing one another along the way as they served the world around them. From the Plains peanut fields to the Governor's mansion to the White House and to communities around the globe, they always remained grounded, and Plains remained home in their hearts.

Rosalynn Carter accomplished so much for so many for so long. She did so with the grace of God as well as the love and support of her devoted husband, their five children, their 22 grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues of the United States House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District and people all around the world in honoring the great service to humanity of Mrs. Rosalynn Carter and extending our deepest sympathies to her family.

At this time, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia's Eighth District (Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT), my good friend.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague, Congressman BISHOP, for his courtesy and for leading this Special Order hour.

We are here to honor the former First Lady of both Georgia and the United States, Rosalynn Carter.

She was a great lady, an outstanding Georgian, a Navy spouse, and a distinguished humanitarian who dedicated her life to bettering her country and her community.

The Carter name is synonymous with a faith in and love for Jesus Christ, and anybody in our part of the State—I lived about an hour from them—who knows the Carter family knows their legacy is that they continued to teach and be active in their church, and they were just wonderful people. They loved Georgia, they loved the United States of America, and specifically they loved rural Georgia and south Georgia.

She would have been very proud to know that all five of the First Ladies were there to show respect to her at her memorial service in a bipartisan manner.

She was born and raised in Plains, Georgia. She attended Georgia Southwestern College before she married the beloved farmer, Georgia Governor, and President Jimmy Carter. What you might not know is that she was first attracted to President Carter when she saw him in his naval uniform, as he was a graduate of the Naval Academy.

She was his equivalent in every way when they served together, whether it was as First Lady of our great State from 1971 to 1975 or as First Lady of the United States of America.

She was a long-term advocate of mental health in Georgia, aiming to increase mental health services and to stop the stigma that surrounds mental illness. She was appointed to serve on the Governor's Commission to Improve Services for the Mentally and Emotionally Handicapped. She volunteered at the Georgia Regional Hospital in Atlanta and was an honorary chairperson for the Georgia Special Olympics.

After her husband became President of the United States in 1977, it was Mrs. Carter who elevated the role of the First Lady for generations to come by continuing to work to improve mental health services across the United States. She actually sat in on Cabinet meetings. If I am not mistaken, she was the first of the First Ladies to sit in on Cabinet meetings.

During her time in the White House, mental health care was one of her priorities to increase government assistance to the mentally ill. She later became an honorary chair of the President's Commission on Mental Health.

After leaving the White House, she cofounded The Carter Center alongside her husband in 1982 to advocate for democracy and peace across the globe and established mental health programs to collaborate on mental health policy. Her passion for mental health advocacy encouraged her to create the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregivers, which addresses issues in caregiving not just in the United States, but internationally.

She was also the sponsor of the USS *Jimmy Carter*, one of the most distinguished submarines in the history of the United States Navy. A sponsor is named by the Secretary of the Navy, and the sponsor's role is an important one. Mrs. Carter participated in many of the milestones in the life of her ship, including smashing the bottle against the bow of the submarine and bestowing its name in 2004. The following year, the USS *Jimmy Carter* was commissioned and entered the fleet after she said in her role as sponsor: "Man our ship and bring her to life."

Rosalynn Carter's dedication to public service made her an inspiration to everyone. Our Nation is thankful for her grace and bipartisanship as First Lady.

Our prayers are with President Jimmy Carter and the Carter family. May we continue to carry her patriotic legacy as we serve the people of our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague, Congressman BISHOP, for leading this hour, and I thank the Carter family for their service to this country.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia, my friend and my colleague, for his comments, and I thank him for joining with me in organizing today's bipartisan Special Order hour in honor of First Lady Rosalynn Carter.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the 13th Congressional District of Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT), the ranking member of the Agriculture Committee.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise at this time feeling a great honor to be here in the House of Representatives of the United States to say a few words about an extraordinary person.

Mr. Speaker, as I reflect, I am thinking of three specific instances of my interactions with this wonderful lady that I think sheds a great light on the legacy of her story.

One was where I served in the Georgia State Senate. I was chairman of the State senate rules committee, and we were dealing with a very serious issue facing our farmers, particularly our peanut farmers. Into the committee walked this lady, Mrs. Rosalynn Car-

ter, to express the need to help these farmers. It ruled the day because there was some debate on that, but she turned it and gave a resounding victory, and helped to give that victory to our farmers.

The second instance was in the rules committee when we had another bill. It was to give our young people of Georgia scholarships in our university systems. Some had great problems with that. It was a good friend, Zell Miller's bill, Governor Zell Miller at the time, and some wanted to reference it as gambling because it was related to that. However, with Rosalynn Carter there, again, she was able to help get a victory.

The third time was when Rosalynn Carter came into my district in Georgia. It was in the neighborhood of Summerhill and Grant Park. There she was with us all, hammering nails and building houses for those who needed houses in my district. What a lady.

Mr. Speaker:

Them that's got shall get
Them that's not shall lose
So the Bible said and it still is news
Mama may have, papa may have,
But God bless the child that's got his own.

Mr. Speaker, Rosalynn Carter was most assuredly a child of God, and we thank God for sending Mrs. Rosalynn Carter our way.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia's First Congressional District (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for hosting this Special Order hour.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and to remember the life of the late First Lady Rosalynn Carter, a trailblazer, a great American, a strong Christian, and an icon in the State of Georgia.

Born in 1927 in Plains, Georgia, like her husband, Mrs. Carter came from very humble beginnings. She was the valedictorian of Plains High School, and soon after a proud graduate of Georgia Southwestern College.

She married the future President, Jimmy Carter, in 1946, whom she remained dutifully married to until her passing this past November.

Rosalynn Carter wasn't just any Georgian. She was one of the best. Her entire life exemplified what it means to be selfless, to serve others and her community. She dedicated herself to improving the lives of those around her, the lives of Georgians, and the lives of Americans.

She became a pioneer in the mental health space, helping to found The Carter Center with the mission of alleviating human suffering and advancing human rights. She was also active in Habitat for Humanity, building homes for the less fortunate members of our community.

Throughout her entire life, Rosalynn Carter lived with the mission of leaving the world a better place than when she got here.

I want to pay particular attention to her work in the mental health space. Rosalynn Carter was a trailblazer in mental health issues at a time when mental health issues were something that weren't accepted in this country. She led. For that I think she will always be thanked.

Through her entire life, she lived with the mission of leaving the world a better place than when she got here. I can confidently say she accomplished that mission. Though she is no longer with us, her legacy and her impact have been felt by millions and will be felt by millions in the future.

I had the pleasure of serving with her grandson, Jason, in the Georgia State Senate. I remember how proud Jason was of his grandparents. I remember the love that he expressed for his grandmother.

Mr. Speaker, in our lives there are people and places we remember. For the State of Georgia, we always will remember Rosalynn Carter, an inspiration to all of us.

My prayers are with her family, with former President Carter, and the millions of Americans affected by her loss. I thank my colleague from Georgia, again, for inviting me to speak today and giving me this opportunity to honor one of the truly great Georgians of our time.

□ 1530

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative CARTER for his remarks.

I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) of the Fourth Congressional District.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of the remarkable life of an extraordinary woman, a true Georgia treasure, First Lady Rosalynn Carter. I extend my deepest condolences to her family and friends.

In my representation of the citizens of Georgia's Fourth Congressional District, it is my honor to acknowledge the indelible impact Mrs. Carter had, not only on the State of Georgia but also on our country.

From her tireless advocacy for mental health and disability rights to her dedication to humanitarian causes, Rosalynn Carter exemplified the essence of public service.

A graduate of Georgia's Southwestern College in Americus, Georgia, Rosalynn Carter was an accomplished woman who graduated as valedictorian of her class in 1946.

She became an accomplished businesswoman while establishing herself as an equal partner to her husband, Jimmy, who would later become President of the United States.

Mrs. Carter was a devoted wife and mother, and her love and support for her husband, President Jimmy Carter, was unwavering.

Her grace, resilience, and unwavering commitment to fostering a compassionate society have left an enduring legacy.

In her selfless pursuit of making the world a better place, Rosalynn Carter embodied the finest qualities of leadership, even expanding the role of First Lady by attending Cabinet meetings and offering wise counsel to her husband, our President.

As we celebrate the life of this consummate southern gentlewoman, let us all commit to living a life such as hers, one that has enriched the fabric of our country and serves as a guiding light for generations to come.

I thank the gentleman representing Georgia's Second Congressional District (Mr. BISHOP) for organizing this Special Order hour.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks.

I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LOUDERMILK) of Georgia's 11th District.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Georgia for yielding the time and for setting up this time to honor the life of Rosalynn Carter.

I am a native Georgian. I grew up in Georgia. The town I grew up in is represented by my good friend Mr. SCOTT.

Where I live now is in north Georgia, in the northern part of the State, and right behind my house as a cemetery where the graves date back to before the Civil War. There are some even as far back as the late 1700s.

I like to walk through that cemetery and think about the history that is there. As you go to each one of the tombstones there, in most cases, you have a birth date and a date of death, but in between those are the dash.

As I tell my children, it is not the date you were born that matters nor the date that you die, but it is what you did in that dash that matters.

The Carters have left an impact on the State of Georgia that has personally impacted me. I remember as Jimmy Carter was the 76th Governor of Georgia and Rosalynn was the First Lady. As has been said here, she was a champion of mental health issues.

I was a young Cub Scout who actually was on a field trip to visit the Governor's mansion in the State of Georgia in the early 1970s. As a young Cub Scout, I still remember today walking up the steps of the Governor's mansion, and I was met at the front door by Governor Jimmy Carter and First Lady Rosalynn Carter.

I still remember what a sweet demeanor she had as she welcomed us into her home, the home of the Governor of the State of Georgia.

I also remember that as I stretched my hand out and shook her hand, as I pulled it away, she placed in my hand a bag of peanuts.

If you go to any of the offices in Georgia today, you will find bags of peanuts in our offices. Every time I see a bag of peanuts, I reflect back as a young Cub Scout having a bag of peanuts placed in my hand by Rosalynn Carter.

I didn't realize that that legacy would continue on as I served in the

State Senate. In Georgia, I served with their grandson, Jason Carter.

Although he was on the other side of the aisle, we became good friends, and we worked closely together. We joked about our political differences, but we focused on the things that we agreed upon, and there were many.

In fact, when I won my first election for Congress, one of the first calls of congratulation I received was from the Carter family.

The interaction with the Carters did not end there. Just a few years ago, I was working on a piece of legislation called the BUILD Act.

The BUILD Act was to reduce government regulation when it comes to zero interest mortgages by charity groups such as Habitat for Humanity.

When we were working on this bill in the Financial Services Committee, we reached out to the Carters who helped us with this very important piece of legislation, putting partisanship aside with their hearts still upon doing everything that they can to help the people of Georgia and help the people of this country.

They reached out and helped us move along this bipartisan piece of legislation, which, by the way, was the very last piece of legislation that was signed into law by the previous President, Mr. Donald Trump.

This is what Rosalynn Carter's dash was about. It was about the people. It was about leaving an impression upon a young Cub Scout that really lasted a lifetime and was an inspiration to me and is still an inspiration going forward.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Georgia for taking this time to honor Mrs. Carter.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks.

I yield to the gentlewoman from the Fifth Congressional District, (Ms. WILLIAMS).

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman BISHOP, dean of our Georgia delegation, for chairing today's Special Order hour remembering First Lady Rosalynn Carter, a truly remarkable public servant, a wife, a parent, a grandparent, a friend, a humanitarian, and an inspiration to countless people around the globe.

Mrs. Carter's impact could be seen last week as thousands of people lined up to honor her in Plains where she lived with her beloved husband of 77 years, President Jimmy Carter; and then in Americus, where she attended college; and Atlanta, where she co-founded the Carter Center with President Carter.

I was one of those people who paid their respects at The Carter Center as she laid in repose. I am honored to add to the tribute today on the floor of the House of Representatives.

I am very fortunate to have met First Lady Carter on many occasions. Every time that I met her, I was struck by her grace and her kindness and genuineness.

Mrs. Carter embodied service and never stopped working to uplift marginalized communities. I was especially fortunate to partner with Mrs. Carter in that work as we uplifted care workers and an increase in investments to the care economy which is so essential to everything in our lives.

She founded the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregivers at Georgia's Southwestern State University, her alma mater, which today supports 40 million caregivers across the country and will be an enduring living legacy of the former First Lady.

Uplifting care workers was only one of the many issues for which Mrs. Carter was an advocate. Mrs. Carter wasn't afraid to advocate for issues long before it was easy or popular to do so.

She was a champion for women's rights and one of the leading supporters of the equal rights amendment. She spearheaded the Mental Health Systems Act of 1980 to end stigmas around mental illness.

As First Lady and with The Carter Center, she strengthened democracy around the globe. Of course, who can forget the images of her and President Carter building homes with Habitat for Humanity for many, many decades.

This spirit of service was genuine and a defining characteristic of Mrs. Carter's life. The spirit of service embodied by Rosalynn and Jimmy Carter inspired me and my husband, Leslie, to name our only son, Carter, in their honor. Every day we strive to ensure that Carter lives up to the spirit of his namesake.

While delivering her eulogy, my friend, Jason Carter, Mrs. Carter's grandson, said his grandmother's life was a sermon. It is true, and all great sermons compel us to act.

Mrs. Carter showed us the power of action while using every opportunity given to us. If the House of Representatives uses our opportunity to act every day to improve the lives of our constituents, we will truly have taken the sermon of Rosalynn Carter's life to heart while honoring her in the best way possible.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the dean of our delegation for honoring Mrs. Carter today and hosting this Special Order hour.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative WILLIAMS for her remarks.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) of Ohio's Ninth District, my fellow appropriator and a dedicated public servant.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the former and soon-to-be again chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies; Mr. BISHOP.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of former First Lady Rosalynn Carter of Plains, Georgia.

Born Eleanor Rosalynn Smith, she began dating a young Naval cadet named James Earl Carter, Jr., in 1945.

The two were inseparable for nearly 8 years.

Rosalynn Carter, beloved spouse of President Jimmy Carter and mother to their family and our Nation, has blessed our Republic for over three-quarters of a century.

Her perpetual kindness, wisdom, and faithfulness to family, community, and country is legendary. Her patriotism had no bounds.

As First Lady of Georgia and then our Nation, she perseveringly and with her matter-of-fact manner elevated the plight of the mentally ill to national attention.

I can recall as a farm wife, after her husband was elected President, the footage of her carrying her sewing machine into the White House, which stirred surprise and even criticism in some privileged quarters by people who had never worked with their hands as she tried to show struggling families at home and abroad how to be more self-sufficient.

As a White House urban policy staffer after the President was elected, I had the privilege of working with her, a fierce, caring ally in neighborhood revitalization across our Nation in some of the most forgotten corners of America.

She was a lady in every sense of the word, but, boy, was she determined. She was gracious, erudite, persuasive, faith filled, indefatigable, committed, and a true credit to our great Nation.

As others have mentioned, upon leaving the White House, she would go on to be involved in many worthy endeavors both abroad and at home.

From hurricane relief to global aid for Africa to Habitat for Humanity, building homes for those in need, and to founding The Carter Center, we all know the lasting legacy that Rosalynn and Jimmy Carter left for those who came after them and to future generations.

History will treat them well because they helped build a better America and one with a kinder heart. Their lives of public service will be unmatched by any First Family in our lifetimes and among the most consequential in our Nation's history.

May Rosalynn's spirit and memory comfort her husband, her family, staff that served them ably, and all the millions of people the Carter family touched with healing and inspiration.

May the angels of mercy carry her to a peaceful rest. I am so honored to be able to pay tribute to her beautiful life here today.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia has 24 minutes remaining.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) of the Ninth Congressional District.

□ 1545

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I don't do a lot of these, but when Congressman BISHOP asked me to come to be recognized and talk about Rosalynn Carter, I had no choice but to say yes. She was a marvelous woman, a marvelous human being, and a great First Lady. She was the epitome of what a spouse should be, what a mother should be, and what a grandmother should be. She did live nearly a perfect life, from what we know. She was a giving person and a caring person.

Rosalynn was very devoted to her religion, and there was not any hypocrisy about her. She lived her life and took actions as the Bible would have taught her to do. She cared about others, and she gave her life to others.

The last time I saw Rosalynn was in Memphis when she was there with her husband, I guess about 4 or 5 years ago, maybe a little more. They were there for Habitat for Humanity, and they both got out in blue jeans with their hammers and nails, building houses. She was with Jimmy in all those things. She wanted to help people and give people a better opportunity.

I have visited The Carter Center, and that is a great tribute to their years in the White House and what they did to try to make a better world, which we all should and they did. I had great regard for her.

Last night, I was at the White House for the Christmas party, and it was a marvelous event. Dr. Biden has done a great job in decorating the White House in the way that it should be for people who see the beauty and the wonder of Christmas.

One of the portraits I saw when I walked in was of Rosalynn Carter. It was in the hallway when you walk in, and I had to stop to look at it on the way going in and on the way coming out and made a point to go over and look at the name of the artist who painted the portrait. It looked exactly like this, but that is what Rosalynn Carter looked like. I thought she was just the perfect expression of love and simplicity, and she belonged there. She belonged there so much.

I appreciate what she gave to our country and Jimmy Carter, too. I can mention Jimmy Carter. I did once have an opportunity on a flight from Atlanta to D.C.—a Delta flight, of course—to have Jimmy Carter on my flight. He got up and walked through. He shook hands with me, and I thought: "Wow, that is pretty cool. The President is shaking hands with me." Then I turned around and noticed he shook hands with every single person on the airplane because he wanted everybody to have the opportunity to know they had shaken hands with a President of the United States.

That is the way the Carters were. They wanted to share. They wanted to recognize individuals and give them what they had received in life, which are certain moments that they will never forget and will hold dear.

I thank Rosalynn Carter for her life. I thank her for the service, which I

watched just about all of, and the wonderful expressions by her children and grandchildren, and the rendition of "Imagine" by Trisha Yearwood and Garth Brooks, which I think she would have appreciated. I thank her for her life and for what she gave America.

Mr. Speaker, I thank SANFORD BISHOP for inviting me to participate today.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for those words.

Mrs. Rosalynn Carter did so much in her lifetime, and she held many leadership positions throughout it. She received numerous awards and recognitions for her work. She served as the honorary chairperson of the Georgia Special Olympics from 1971 to 1975. She was a member of the Menninger Foundation board of trustees from 1986 to 2003. She was the chair of the International Women Leaders for Mental Health, an honorary fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, and a board member emeritus of the National Mental Health Association. She was awarded the Dorothea Dix Award by the Mental Illness Foundation, the Jefferson Award for Greatest Public Service Benefiting the Disadvantaged, and the Rhoda and Bernard Sarnat International Prize in Mental Health. She was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 2001. Most notably, in 1999, Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter were jointly awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Nation's highest civilian honor, by President Bill Clinton.

Rosalynn Carter was a great person not because of the titles that she held, not because of the organizations that she served, but Rosalynn was great measured by the true standard of greatness set by Jesus that he or she who is great among you shall be your servant, and he who is greatest shall be servant to all. Certainly, without a doubt, Rosalynn Carter measures up.

Mr. Speaker, in concluding this Special Order hour, I thank my colleague, AUSTIN SCOTT, for working with me in order to organize today's event, and I thank the Members who joined us in commemorating the life and legacy of former First Lady Rosalynn Carter.

Though Rosalynn Carter has departed from this Earth, countless Americans—in fact, countless people worldwide—will continue to have a better life because of her compassion, dedication, and public service.

We will miss her dearly, but she will remain an inspiration for generations to come.

To the Carter family, I extend my heartfelt condolences and prayers.

Mr. Speaker, I will close by reflecting on the fact that I attended the wreath-laying ceremony at Georgia Southwestern State University last week and the memorial services for Rosalynn Carter held at the Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church at Emory University. During the event, several poignant eulogies were offered, but I would like to close this Special

Order by reading one that was special from her daughter, Amy Lynn Carter. She said: "My mom spent most of her life in love with my dad. Their partnership and love story was a defining feature of her life. Because he isn't able to speak to you today, I am going to share some of his words about loving and missing her.

"This is from a letter he wrote 75 years ago while serving in the Navy: 'My darling, every time I have ever been away from you, I have been thrilled when I returned to discover just how wonderful you are. While I am away, I try to convince myself that you really are not—could not be—as sweet and beautiful as I remember. But when I see you, I fall in love with you all over again. Does that seem strange to you? Good-bye, Darling, until tomorrow.'"

Sir Thomas Gray wrote in his "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard":

Full many a gem of purest ray serene
The dark unfathom'd caves of oceans bear:
Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,
And waste its sweetness on the desert air.

We are all so thankful that Rosalynn Smith Carter did not waste her sweetness on the desert air. From Plains, Georgia, to the United States, for the State of Georgia, and throughout the world and for all of humankind, she truly made a difference.

We have all been truly blessed by Rosalynn Smith Carter.

As I close, I leave these words: To God be the glory for the life and the legacy of Rosalynn Smith Carter.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

WHAT WE WILL FIGHT FOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KILEY). 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 thank my colleague for spending time here on the floor of the House commemorating the life of former First Lady Carter. We are reminded, as we heard his words and as we have commemorated her life, of the longstanding love affair and relationship between the First Lady and President Carter.

Regardless of my disagreements with them on policy and politics, they are two great public servants who committed to live out their faith, their Southern Baptist Christian faith, in real time, whether it was Habitat for Humanity or in numerous other ways.

We are reminded of how important it is for those of us in public service to have our committed spouses—in my case, my committed wife, who is at home carrying out all the tasks of keeping our family, with a 14-year-old son and a 12-year-old daughter, going—how we could not be here without them, and how honored we are by their sacrifices on our behalf and cannot possibly convey what it means while we

are up here doing the work of the people to have our wives or husbands back home supporting us from afar.

I would note, while we are commemorating our spouses—in this case, First Lady Carter—or the longstanding relationship between former President Bush and Barbara Bush, how important those relationships are for all of us in public service.

I would also be remiss if we didn't talk about our mothers. My mama turned 75 last week, and I was not able to be here to wish her a happy birthday, so I am going to wish her a happy belated birthday a week later and thank her for all she has done for me and all of her sacrifices and her love in raising me.

We in my family believe in the American Dream and believe in that generational transfer of love of this country and transfer of the work of one generation to the next, a generation that was working the fields that then became a generation that was working in the factories that became a generation that was then going to college to a generation that would then have a son that could go to law school and end up on the floor of the House of Representatives.

That is what is great about this country. That is what we need to restore in this country.

On that note of respect and love for our parents, our love for our moms, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. WILLIAMS), my friend, to be able to give him some time on the floor to commemorate the life of his mama.

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I am pleased to be joined by my wife, who has supported me through this journey. She is in the gallery.

I will say that I love you because I can do that in real time.

Judith Kay Alguire was born in Duncan, Oklahoma. Her father was a self-educated carpenter who never finished high school.

She changed schools frequently as their family chased the postwar housing boom all over the Southwest, and she landed in Roswell, New Mexico, for her senior year in high school.

She married at 18 and narrowly missed earning a science degree in college. Instead, she took a job as a medical technician while she was 5 months pregnant right here in D.C. to allow her husband to attend law school.

Working up to the moment of labor and returning to work just 2 weeks later would be par for the course—whatever it takes, family first, never counting the cost.

What makes Judy remarkable is her powerful intellect. She reads medical journals for fun. Growing up poor, power and wealth don't impress her. Every person is measured by their own merits.

Raising children made her funny—well, humorous, I mean. Although, you may understandably imagine the ef-

fects of five strong personalities and having to care for them.

Perhaps Judy's most remarkable quality and the source of much of her renown is her generosity. Countless children have attended college, worn shoes, been clothed, and attended summer camp, and an endless number of anonymous blessings have flowed from her heart out to so many.

□ 1600

Judith Kay Alguire Williams passed from this life into the next just this morning. She passed in peace, and more importantly, she passed into peace.

I will miss my mom every day, but her humor, intelligence, and I hope her generosity will live on in me and my siblings. God bless her.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from New York for his touching remarks about his mother. We will be praying for him and his family, knowing that she is in a better place, knowing that we are all here for a brief period of time, and we are celebrating a life well lived. I am sure she was proud to see you on the floor of the House of Representatives. We will honor her life by doing our job.

To that point, you heard my friend from New York (Mr. WILLIAMS) talking about the life of his family, and it reflected what I started talking about, that generational transfer of the American Dream, the extent to which one generation sacrifices so the next can live that American Dream.

My grandmother was a single mom in West Texas with my father, who was a 7-year-old stricken with polio. She had just lost her husband, my grandfather, to cancer. She didn't run around asking for help. She didn't say: Where is the government? She got a second job. She woke up at 4:00 in the morning. She did all the rehab my father needed so that he could walk, got him through polio. She ran and became the first woman elected county clerk in Nolan County, Texas. She wasn't running around asking for some sort of handout because her father was an orphan, the bastard child of somebody that we don't know—we believe him to have been an American Indian in Mississippi—and was sitting in an orphanage and then moves to West Texas to figure out how to build a family, build the American Dream, farm. That is where my grandmother grew up.

She didn't ask for people to be giving her something because her family wasn't treated right, or she drew a short straw because her husband died of cancer, or her son had polio. She just worked. She just did what you are supposed to do.

That core aspect of the American Dream is what currently is increasingly unattainable for the vast majority of Americans. Too many Americans today are looking out and saying: I cannot live as my parents and my grandparents did. I can't afford to buy a house because interest rates are so