

Last Thursday, exactly 79 years and 1 month since his death, Lieutenant Brewer returned to Charlotte, receiving a dignified transfer. The U.S. flag was flown in his honor last Thursday at the U.S. Capitol at the request of my office.

Today, he will finally be laid to rest at Salisbury National Cemetery with full military honors.

While we celebrate today, we must never forget the countless Americans, including 25 Tuskegee Airmen, who remain unaccounted for and the families that long to bring their beloved heroes home, and we must never stop perfecting the cause for which they sacrificed.

We welcome Lieutenant Brewer home. We are forever indebted to his service.

CELEBRATING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

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

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as Christmastime approaches, I rise to share the history of another of our most beloved Christmas carols: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing."

Felix Mendelssohn once commented that the music he wrote to commemorate Johannes Gutenberg and the invention of the printing press would not be suitable for hymn or church music. How wrong he turned out to be.

Formerly, the words of this hymn were: "Hark, how are all the welkin [heaven] rings! Glory to the King of Kings."

The hymn's composer, Charles Wesley, didn't originally intend this as a Christmas hymn but perhaps as a hymn for Easter.

Wesley, the cofounder of the Methodist Church, wrote more than 4,000 hymns over the course of his life. George Whitefield, Wesley's friend, later added the first two lines we now sing.

An organist named W.H. Cummings decided to adapt Mendelssohn's music to Wesley's hymn. He arranged the 10-line stanza that we sing today, which was published as a carol in 1856.

The words of the carol are as follows:

Hark! The herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the newborn King;
 Peace on Earth, and mercy mild,
 God and sinners reconciled!"
 Joyful, all ye Nations rise,
 Join the triumph of the skies;
 With th'angelic hosts proclaim,
 "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
 Hark! The herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the newborn King!"
 Christ, by highest Heaven adored;
 Christ the everlasting Lord;
 Late in time, behold Him come,
 Offspring of a virgin's womb.
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
 Hail, th'incarnate Deity,
 Pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
 Jesus our Emmanuel.
 Hark! The herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the newborn King!"
 Hail the Heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Hail the Sun of righteousness!
 Light and life to all He brings,
 Ris'n with healing in His wings.
 Mild He lays His glory by,
 Born that man no more may die.
 Born to raise the sons of Earth,
 Born to give them second birth.
 Hark! The herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the newborn King!"

Mr. Speaker, I hope the history of this beautiful song will remind you of the Christmas season, of what it is all about and what the history is of this hymn.

On behalf of all the people of central Texas and all of Texas, I wish you a merry Christmas and a happy Hanukkah.

HONORING NOAH MACMILLAN

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

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to honor my neighbor and my young friend, Noah MacMillan, who we lost last July when he died of complications from colon cancer at the age of 33 years old.

What an honor it is to speak to America this morning about Noah MacMillan. Noah's brilliance, his gentle soul, and his boundless creativity live on in the hearts of everybody he touched, in the truly extraordinary and imperishable art that he left behind, and in the beautiful devotion of his remarkable parents, Jeff MacMillan and Lucinda Leach; and his brothers, Seth and Julian.

Noah was an accomplished artist. He was a talented athlete and a soccer player. He was a gifted chef, and he was a generous teacher.

His stunning and thought-provoking illustrations were accomplished in a variety of news outlets, including The New York Times, Smithsonian Magazine, Bloomberg Business, Sports Illustrated, and Riverfront Times, to name just a few of the places that recognized his exceptional art.

One of the crowning achievements of Noah's life and one of his final projects was an illustration that fused his passions for exuberant, colorful art and for the game of soccer.

The vibrant stamp that you see next to me here bursting with energy and power honors the electrifying achievements of women's soccer in America.

It was released by the United States Postal Service at the beginning of this year, 2023. Now, countless little replicas of Noah's art are flying all across the country on envelopes and packages, inspiring artists and athletes, especially young girl soccer players everywhere, all over America and all over the world.

Noah first came to battle cancer at the age of 23. He had the same oncological surgeon that I had at Johns Hopkins; Dr. Efron.

Noah's quiet courage and insistence on living joyfully carried him through treatment and through a lot of times of adversity over the next 10 years of his life.

In that intervening decade before colon cancer stole this splendid young man from us, he lived with great purpose and great passion and an unwavering dedication to his art and to the people in his life who he loved and was devoted to.

To honor Noah's generosity and his creativity, his loving family has launched a scholarship in his honor at his alma mater, Washington University in St. Louis.

This fund will make it possible for a high school student artist to attend the same summer program at Wash U. in St. Louis that gave Noah the confidence and the skills to pursue his dreams of becoming an artist and an illustrator, a dream that led just one of his pieces of art to become a stamp in our country.

Noah was not only a remarkable artist, he was an astonishingly quick-witted and gentle and loving human being.

He left an indelible mark on everyone who knew him, including his fantastic care team led by Dr. Jonathan Efron and nurse practitioner Tam Warczynski.

Noah is survived by his fiancée, Hitomi Inoue; his devoted parents, Jeffrey and Lucinda; his two loving brothers, Julian and Seth; his extended family; countless friends and neighbors; grateful, loving students; and, of course, his timeless amazing art, which now the entire country will get to enjoy.

HONORING JOHN "ANDREW" FISTER

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

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Amherst County teacher John "Andrew" Fister.

Mr. Fister was an exemplary educator who dedicated nearly 25 years of his life to teaching, training, and developing his students.

After teaching Bible, math, and German for 18 years in Ohio, he moved to Virginia to serve 3 years as an academic instructor, helping young adults enter the workforce.

In January of 2022, Mr. Fister joined Amherst County public schools as a math and German teacher. Despite his relatively short time there, he left an indelible impact on the student body.

Mr. Fister was loved by many students, even those not in his classes, and served as a mentor for many who walked those halls.

With a special gift working with students needing a second chance or just a little extra help, he taught them to believe in themselves and to work hard to achieve their dreams.

Mr. Fister's enthusiasm for life was contagious, and he meant so much to so many in the Amherst community.

Only 50 years old, his time on Earth was too short for those who loved him, but his personal testimony and the influence he had on others will live beyond his life here.

His family and those who knew him best are comforted by the knowledge that he is in Heaven with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. NICKEL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the urgent need to stand up for democracy at home and abroad.

Yesterday, Members of Congress heard from our Secretary of State, our Secretary of Defense, and other senior leaders from the administration on the dire situation in Ukraine and Israel.

While they said the right things, the sense of urgency, the sense of passion is missing from all of this right now. It is missing from this debate, Mr. Speaker.

If we leave next week for the holidays with inaction, Russian will win, and we will begin to hand over Ukraine to Russia and Vladimir Putin.

Mr. Speaker, the world is watching the actions of this Chamber right now in the next 10 days, and the silence is deafening.

Let's be clear: Both Russia and Hamas seek to destroy democracy, and we must stand with our allies and pass a supplemental aid package now.

Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about Ukraine. Right now, we risk Ukraine literally running out of bullets if we go 10 days with inaction here in Congress.

If we do nothing by the end of the month, Russia will begin to win in Ukraine. If we abandon Ukraine, Russia will win.

We need to be clear: The silence and inaction we are seeing play out here on the floor of the House means strong support for Russia and their invasion of Ukraine. That is the choice we are making by doing nothing.

Mr. Speaker, Ronald Reagan is rolling over in his grave right now as he watches far-right extremist Republicans standing with Russia and Vladimir Putin. How has the Republican Party become the party of Vladimir Putin?

Mr. Speaker, this place is broken. I want to be clear in what I am saying. We are witnessing a minority of the Republican Conference calling the shots in this Chamber.

A majority of the Republican Conference supports standing with Ukraine, but they have been cowed by the minority in their party, and we continue to see the tail wagging the dog.

To my Republican colleagues who remain silent, the time for action is now. Allow a clean vote on the supplemental funding package for Ukraine and for Israel. We must stand strong with Ukraine today.

Let's talk about the cost because that has been brought up over and over. If we gift wrap Ukraine for Vladimir Putin over this holiday season, we

will spend 100 times more money around the globe containing an aggressive Russia. Moldova and Georgia are next.

This is a national security issue for the American people, and support for Ukraine is in our national interest.

Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about Israel as well. We must stand with Israel and support its right to defend itself.

We must immediately pass humanitarian aid and security aid for Israel so that we can disarm and dismantle Hamas.

Mr. Speaker, 400 Members of this Chamber would easily support a clean security and humanitarian assistance package for Israel. It is shameful that our new Speaker chose to play partisan political games with support for Israel.

For the American people watching, the bill that passed out of this Chamber says we will stand with Israel, absolutely, only if we defund the police for billionaires and wealthy tax cheats. That is the choice that this body had, and it is shameful.

When someone's house is on fire, we don't say, hey, we will put out the fire as long as you let us not pay for a bunch of IRS agents to go after billionaires and wealthy tax cheats. You help them when their house is burning down.

Right now, that is what we are watching in Israel with Israel security assistance and humanitarian aid that we need to provide to the Palestinian people in Gaza.

An overwhelming majority of Members support standing with Ukraine and standing with Israel. If we could get a clean vote on this bill on the floor, it would pass, but it is time for action.

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Let me say that House Democrats, Senate Democrats, and Senate Republicans all agree on the need to support Israel and Ukraine, and I would even say a majority of the Republican Conference agrees. However, we can't get a vote on this as long as the far-right extremists of the Republican Conference continue to wag the tail of the dog in this House.

Mr. Speaker, this is about the future of democracy for the world. The defining question for our great experiment in self-governance is whether we can defend democracy at home and abroad. We will face that question about defending democracy at home in November, but right now, we need to stand and be counted.

Authoritarianism is on the rise around the globe. We can either stand with democracies like Israel and Ukraine or we can bend the knee to Putin, terrorists, and other authoritarian regimes around the world.

As I voted for Speaker 19 times now, I have learned how incredibly fragile our democracy is. We must act now to pass a supplemental aid package and stand with Ukraine and Israel.

The world is watching, Mr. Speaker. Bring a clean bill to the floor now. The time for action is now.

SECURING OUR NATIONAL SECURITY IN U.S. COLLEGES

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, the Sixth District is blessed to be among those congressional districts with the highest number of colleges and universities among all the 435 House districts, but Joe Biden's weakness on the global stage has allowed America's foreign adversaries to target our Nation's college students.

From pushing propaganda to stealing critical research to censoring free speech, America's colleges and universities are now on the battleground of foreign interference.

Regimes like the Chinese Communist Party have expanded their influence by bribing American academic institutions with funding opportunities.

According to a Senate report from 2019, 70 percent of all institutions failed to comply with the enforcement tool that is used to protect against threats by foreign adversaries.

All of this is unacceptable and dangerous, as it poses a threat to our national security, research and intellectual property, and our students and academic freedom.

That is why this Congress must pass the DETERRENT Act, which provides transparency, accountability, and clarity to foreign gift reporting requirements for colleges and universities across the country.

House Republicans remain committed to delivering a future that is built on freedom for the American people, and that starts with preventing our adversaries from indoctrinating our students with their propaganda and stealing the research of our colleges and universities across this country.

CONGRATULATING THE JAMES WOOD VOLLEYBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE CLASS 4 STATE TITLE

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the James Wood women's volleyball team for winning the class 4 State title, the program's second straight State championship.

After working hard all season, the Colonels left it all on the floor and dominated the Hanover Hawks for their sixth 3-0 win in six postseason matches.

These talented student athletes include Kennedy Spaid, Ashlynn Spence, Alexys Taylor, Adeline Pitcock, Kyla Wilhelm, Tenley Mattison, Hannah McCullough, Paige Ahakuelo, Brenna Corbin, and Claire Keefer.

Throughout each set, the Colonels focused on working together as a team and doing what was necessary to get the job done, demonstrating resilience, adaptability, and impeccable skills.

Under the leadership and encouragement of Head Coach Adrienne Patrick,