

taught in the political science department for 35 years.

Patricia Navarro Velez, an assistant professor of accounting at the university and a mother of four, devoted her career to educating the next generation of business professionals, particularly among underserved populations and minorities. She is remembered for her infectious smile and her larger-than-life personality.

Cha Jan "Jerry" Chang, a professor of management information systems and devoted UNLV colleague for more than 20 years, was known for his even-keeled, positive, and unwavering presence. He is survived by his wife and two children.

Naoko Takemaru was an associate professor of Japanese studies and a noted author, academic, and award-winning educator. In her 20th year at UNLV, Ms. Takemaru's colleagues remembered her as lionhearted in kindness.

Today, I stand here in solidarity with my colleagues from Nevada with a heavy heart for the victims, their families, and all of the UNLV students, faculty, and staff who experienced this horrific event.

Mr. Speaker, we honor the lives we lost and uplift the UNLV community during this trying time.

I ask that we not only use this time to commemorate the important and selfless contributions of each of these individuals who were part of the UNLV community and also to remember the heroic actions of our law enforcement, but also to reflect on the pressing need to enact commonsense legislation to protect our communities from the epidemic of gun violence.

I ask all of my colleagues to consider signing on to a resolution to this effect, which I will be introducing tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House observe a moment of silence to honor the three lives lost and to uplift the UNLV community.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF BRAEDAN STEVEN PENCE

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Braedan Steven Pence.

Braedan passed away this past October after courageously fighting multiple medical conditions for his entire life. Braedan's life was cut tragically short, but the impact that he left on others, his friends, his family, and members of our community will be felt forever.

He was known for his kindness and the joy that he confidently displayed to others. You could often find Braedan outside enjoying the sunshine or on a walk with his nurse, Bonnie, waving at everyone he passed.

Braedan should be an example to all of us on how we should live our lives.

Even in the face of adversity and challenges, it is important to always stay positive and to be kind to others. I, again, express my deepest sympathies to Braedan's family.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SARAH KEYS EVANS

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay special tribute to the remarkable life and legacy of Ms. Sarah Keys Evans. Her courage left an unforgettable mark on our Nation's history.

On August 1, 1952, 3 years before Rosa Parks, Ms. Keys, who was a private in the Women's Army Corps, refused to give up her seat on a bus in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, leading to the landmark case of Sarah Keys v. Carolina Coach Company.

Her stand against discrimination helped ignite the civil rights movement.

This past November, at the age of 94, Ms. Sarah Keys Evans passed, leaving us reflecting on her enduring impact on humanity.

Let us honor Ms. Sarah Keys Evans by continuously striving for a nation where opportunity for all flourishes.

RECOGNIZING A&B HEATING AND SHEET METAL COMPANY FOR 70 YEARS OF SERVICE TO WARREN COUNTY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize the A&B Heating and Sheet Metal Company from Warren County. Originally founded in 1953 by World War II veteran, Carl Papalia, the family-owned small business continues to provide excellent services to those in the Warren area for the last 70 years.

Before creating the company, Carl served his company honorably as a flight engineer on B-24 bombers in the South Pacific.

Carl and his brothers, Ralph and Joe, were first-generation Americans who together paved the way for the success of the business for more than 40 years.

Following Carl and Ralph's passing, Carl's son, David, took over the ownership of the company, leading to substantial growth.

Today, the company has 20 employees specialized to assist customers in a 60-mile radius. Seventy years later, the company's mission statement, "The satisfaction of helping the community is not about what you do, it is about who you are," remains the same.

I am so proud of the A&B Heating and Sheet Metal Company and all the work that they have done for those in Warren County and across the Northern Tier.

God bless them.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF RON BYRNE

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to celebrate the life and service of Mr. Ron Byrne, a pillar of New York's Capital Region community who sadly passed away on November 8.

When Ron's mother experienced a debilitating fall, he saw a group of local retirees come together to assist her with her daily needs.

Inspired by that outpouring of support, Ron devised an idea: an organization that would connect handy retirees and certified contractors with elderly homeowners who need help with errands, home repairs, or landscaping.

In 1995, Ron brought this idea to life and founded the Umbrella of the Capital District.

Today, this organization serves more than 500 homes in Albany, Saratoga, Schenectady, and Rensselaer Counties, enthusiastically helping seniors and people with disabilities to maintain their homes, their independence, and, yes, their dignity.

His unwavering commitment to service and community was a beacon to us all, and his impact will continue to be felt by all in my district.

Ron Byrne, rest in peace.

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THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM IS NOT OVER

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, over 110 times since Biden appeasement in Afghanistan, I have warned the global war on terrorism is not over as terrorists plan to attack American families with Biden open borders.

The threat is clear with a shocking number of trained, well-financed mass murderers who are invading America—reaching 169 persons this year. Ukraine was invaded, then Israel, now America—invaded.

House Republicans addressed the issue earlier this year with the Secure the Border Act, which was blocked by Senate Democrats. It promotes restarting wall construction, advancing technology, adding Border Patrol, transparency on illegals, ending catch and release, and reversing executive authorities.

Each congressional office has a rally point in the event of an attack, and I urge all families to plan a rally point. Communications may be disrupted, and every family member should know where to go for safety before roads are closed.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years. It is sadly clear there will be more 9/11s across America imminent as the FBI has finally, last week, revealed.

DON'T LEAVE THE GREAT LAKES REGION OUT

(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 urge the Biden administration to launch the Great Lakes Authority as passed by Congress last year. Don't leave our region out.

For decades, the Great Lakes watershed, the largest body of freshwater on Earth, has endured atypical economic stress, job loss due to disastrous trade policies, underinvestment, and major deindustrialization.

Now, with Democratic economic recovery initiatives that passed in the last 3 years, our region is beginning to see major reinvestment, starting with the long-delayed Soo Locks modernization so vital to our ports and maritime trade.

For decades and decades, the Great Lakes region lacked authorization for a regional development instrumentality that might begin to emulate the success of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Now, coupling the Great Lakes authority with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act, our region stands poised for new investment in good-paying jobs and economic opportunity to turbocharge revitalization.

Our need is no different than the TVA, which for nearly 100 years has uplifted that formerly neglected region. All our Great Lakes region asks the Biden administration for is equal footing. Don't leave us out.

WE NEED HIGHWAYS, NOT HIGH-SPEED RAIL

(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, the United States' debt has grown by \$2.5 trillion over the last year. Over the last 20 months, thanks to Biden-led policies, \$4.8 trillion. This is a massive driver of inflation and lack of credit on the market out there for regular people.

On top of the omnibus bill done a year ago and many other big spending ideas that were gotten through in the previous Congress, now the President wants to add \$6 billion more for high-speed rail in California, \$3 billion for the project, that is already 15 years late and four times its budget price, and \$3 billion more now for what was going to be a private concern from LA to Las Vegas, the gambler special.

We need highways to be rebuilt. We need less debt causing people to not be able to make ends meet. Why are we putting it on these boondoggles in southern California? It is crazy. Put it toward highways that people can use or something else.

THE THREAT CROSSING THE SOUTHERN BORDER

(Mr. GROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to remind the American public and my colleagues one more time of the biggest threat we face today, and that is the huge volume of people crossing our southern border.

Again, in the most recent month available, we made an all-time record of the number of people coming here, about 11 times the number of people crossing the border as were crossing the border just 3 years ago.

Don't let anybody tell you we have got to work on some solution. The solution was there. Just a little bit of will, and you could cut it by 91 percent.

Above that, don't forget, over a million people are sworn in legally. Don't let anybody ever tell you that we have a problem, and we have got to get more people here. A million people per year come here legally.

Don't forget that during the Trump administration, when Trump was criticized for not deporting enough criminals from this country, we were deporting about four times the number of people here today.

The American public has to wake up and tell this body to get in gear and do something about this illegal immigration.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAWLER) laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 11, 2023.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON: I hereby resign from the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology.

Sincerely,

TED W. LIEU,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) is recognized for 60

minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the topic of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, for over 80 years, our country has recognized the week of Thanksgiving to be National Bible Week. This week was first established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1941 to create an annual event where Christians could celebrate the Bible.

The very first Psalm of David expresses the importance of the Bible: Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly nor stands in the path of sinners nor sits in the seat of the scornful, but his delight is in the law of the Lord and in His law, he mediates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that brings forth its fruit in its season whose leave also shall not wither and whatever he does shall prosper.

King David found that his greatest counsel was not found in human philosophy but rather in the words of God.

America is a Nation that from its beginning has respected the Bible. The evidence is all around us here in Washington, D.C. Numerous memorials that quote the Bible, the buildings that house our executive, judicial, and legislative branches have Bible verses etched in stone. More importantly, the values and principles that have made us a secure, free, and prosperous Nation come from the holy Word of God.

In this hour, we will hear from Members of Congress from various faith traditions and denominations speak about what the Bible means to them. We are here in keeping with that 80-year tradition to recognize National Bible Week.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I have had the privilege to speak in each of those years talking about the Bible and its importance in my life.

The Psalmist in Psalm 119:105, the longest Psalm in the Bible, the longest chapter in the Bible, is written entirely about the Word of God and the impact on the Psalmist's life. He says: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

That has been my experience. Over the years, my friend and colleague, as he has led that, he has heard me talk about my experience from the Word of God.

Tonight, I will let the Bible, God's Word, speak for itself. We know in Genesis 1:1, it says: In the beginning, God.

In John 1:1, it says: In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. That speaks to the foundational truth that