

soon ran a red light directly into an SUV, resulting in a burning two-car collision.

They pulled over, and along with two civilians, assisted the victims in both vehicles.

While Captain Saddler attended to the trapped people in the SUV, Captain Evans, at great personal risk to himself, sprinted to the burning truck to remove the suspected drunk driver, who had two broken legs, from the vehicle.

Thankfully, Captain Evans saved the man just before the truck became fully engulfed in flames. Captain Evans and Captain Saddler stayed with the victims until first responders arrived on scene and remained to direct traffic.

Captain Evans and Captain Saddler were each recognized on October 23 with the City of Dover Gold Medal for their lifesaving actions and were presented with the Dover Police Department's Distinguished Citizen Award.

I salute both Captain Zach Evans and Captain Joshua Saddler and the two civilians for their actions that day.

RECOGNIZING BARBARA FELDEN ON HER
RETIREMENT

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Barbara Felden, who, after 43 years of honorable service to our country as an enlisted airman in the Air Force and as a senior civilian liaison in Germany, is retiring.

I worked with Barbara starting in 2008 when I was commander of the 435th Air Base Wing at Ramstein Air Base in Germany.

Since 2011, she has been the Host Nation Advisor to the Commander of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe and U.S. Air Forces Africa.

At 21, Barbara, a German citizen, married to a U.S. airman, qualified to join the U.S. military service. She was assigned to Robins Air Force Base after basic training, and returned to Germany where she served in various liaison assignments, first as an interpreter, then taking on command-wide responsibilities dealing with Federal officials.

In 1948, she transferred to the 86th Tactical Fighter Wing liaison office where she developed first-time liaison initiatives with local communities, such as the organization of German civic leaders and familiarization to the United States.

One of Barbara's most challenging assignments was closing down the historic Rhein-Main Air Base in Frankfurt and transferring their operations to Ramstein Air Base.

Barbara also served as director of the liaison for the U.S. Kaiserslautern Military Community, the largest military overseas community in the world.

During my time as commander at Ramstein, Barbara organized events and meetings with the community. I recall that one time she helped arrange for me to deliver the opening remarks at the world's largest wine festival where I had the opportunity to lead a parade and conduct the orchestra.

Barbara has provided critical support and assistance for a variety of major projects during her tenure at headquarters for the U.S. Air Forces in Europe and U.S. Air Forces Africa.

During the COVID pandemic, she liaised with Federal and State officials to ensure military missions could continue, while ensuring alignment with the host nation protective measures.

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In the late summer of 2021, the emergency evacuation of Afghan nationals to Ramstein Air Base presented many challenges for Ms. Felden and her team. While initial expectations were for 5,000 evacuees, about 35,000 people were actually processed at Ramstein.

Barbara has always displayed the utmost professionalism in the various positions she held during her 43 years. I am proud of her accomplishments, and I am honored to call her and her husband, Claude, my friends. I salute you both. I thank Barbara for all she has done in her stellar career.

MOMENT OF CRISIS IN UKRAINE

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, in a moment of crisis, the people of Ukraine and around the world are looking to the United States for support and leadership.

After an 80-day hiatus, Russia launched a wave of cruise missile attacks on Ukraine on the Remembrance Day of the Holodomor, which is a reflection of when the Soviet Union imposed a famine and killed millions of Ukrainians in 1932 and 1933.

These attacks come just days after the Senate Republicans blocked funding for Ukraine and Israel. Putin is watching. He is enjoying these political fights, which is only giving him an advantage, he believes. His propaganda machine is celebrating the legislative blockade that is occurring as the first step to withdrawing total support for Ukraine. Believe it.

The United States must send a strong message to Putin that we stand strong and united with the people of Ukraine.

I have met with brave Ukrainian soldiers and their families who shared that our support has given them hope that Ukraine will win this fight. They will. Those who say Ukraine is losing the war are wrong. Putin's goal to conquer Ukraine has failed. Ukraine has regained 50 percent of the land Russia originally took and has reopened the Black Sea to allow them to export grain.

Meanwhile, the Ukrainian military has depleted the Russian army. From a total of over 480,000 soldiers, Russia has lost over 320,000 who have either been wounded or killed—think about that, over half their army—forcing Putin to take coercive actions for new and inexperienced personnel, even people from prison, and has desperately turned to

North Korea for supplies—all this at a cost for the United States of less than 1 percent of our GDP and all without U.S. troops on the ground. That is a very good deal.

Less than 10 percent of our annual defense budget has gone to assist Ukraine's military, and it has destroyed almost 50 percent of Russia's army. Compared to our allies in Europe, we rank 20th in giving to Ukraine, when you factor in GDP. We need to pass a supplemental aid package to provide immediate assistance, and we need to do it in an overwhelming bipartisan way as we have before.

We are living during a seminal moment in the history of America and the world we live in. Historians will look back years from now and determine whether or not we made more good decisions than poor decisions. This is an opportunity to make a good decision. We need to pass the supplemental package to provide immediate assistance that our ally Ukraine needs now.

We must provide humanitarian assistance for the Palestinians that have been afflicted by the war and for Armenian refugees who have been removed from their historical home in Nagorno-Karabakh.

We need to pass a package to let our European allies know that the United States is reliable and consistent in support of democracies around the world. The passage of this supplemental package also provides support for Taiwan and restores American military inventory that is so critical.

There is nothing more that Putin wants than to see this Congress and our country divided. The Congress in November and December seemed to have time for baseless impeachment inquiries but not the time to do the most important things like provide funding for national defense, the Federal Aviation Administration, and, most importantly, resolving our differences and passing a budget.

I ask my Republican colleagues: What have we done? What are we doing? When we gather around the holiday tables in the next 2 weeks and we ask for good tidings in the new year, as Members of Congress, I think we must ask ourselves: What have we done? What have we done to work together in a bipartisan fashion to pass these critical bills? The answer is nothing.

We must do more important things to provide for the American people and the world that we live in. This is a seminal moment, as I said before, in world history, and the world is watching. We cannot lose sight of what is at stake. If we do not stop these threats against freedom and democracy, we will fail. This, make no mistake about it, is the test of our time.

I also wish for one and for all a happy holiday season. May the new year bring us good tidings. Let us not forget about our responsibilities as the world's lone superpower. We have responsibilities. We are still, as President Reagan said, the beacon of light on that shining hill.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ANGIE WOOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Angie Wood. Angie was a leader in Illinois who touched the lives of countless people. She was someone who empowered the people around her and was an inspiration to everyone she met.

She was quick to invite new friends to dinner and was always there to help someone in need. Angie embodied selfless devotion to her family, her community, and her country.

Everyone knew Angie as a patriot because of her love for our Constitution and her devotion to serving our country. She organized women's constitutional luncheons to teach people about our history, our rights, and our freedoms. She firmly believed that knowledge is power, and she was devoted to our Founding Fathers' vision of self-government.

Angie's patriotism was not merely something she talked about. It was something she lived out every day because of her love for God and country.

At her core, Angie was a Christian whose faith in Christ was evident to everyone around her, and she sought to carry the love of Jesus into the world. She organized Bible studies and was always first to offer prayer. She was sure to remind her friends about the peace and comfort that comes from the Lord. Angie would remind people that the only hope for our Nation and the world is Jesus Christ.

Angie's legacy will continue to inspire everyone who knew her. She exemplified servant leadership, and her patriotism, optimism, and faith will be lived out by the people whose lives she touched. No matter how the future looked, Angie would always say that the best is yet to come.

Now, I want to read one of her favorite passages from Philippians: Whatever happens, keep living your lives based on the reality of the Gospel of Christ. Then, when I come to see you or hear good reports of you, I will know that you stand united in one spirit and one passion, celebrating together as conquerors in the faith of the gospel. Then you will never be shaken or intimidated by the opposition that rises up against us. Your courage will prove to be a true sign from God of their coming destruction.

I pray that her memory will serve as an example to us all.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for a moment of silence.

SUPPORT FOR AMERICAN HOS- TAGES AND DETAINEES ABROAD

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

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, as a co-chair of the Congressional Task Force

on American Hostages and Americans Wrongfully Detained Abroad, I rise in support of the Conference Report to Accompany the National Defense Authorization Act.

In the past decade, we have seen a dramatic increase in the number of Americans taken hostage by rogue states and bad actors who are trying to leverage civilians to get what they want.

Right now, according to the Foley Foundation, there are currently at least 64 Americans held hostage or wrongfully detained in countries overseas. They are held in 16 different countries and territories.

Now, more than ever, we must keep up the drumbeat to bring these individuals home. That is why I am so heartened that the NDAA includes two of my bills to support and assist Americans wrongfully detained abroad and their loved ones fighting to get them safely back home.

First, the U.S. Hostage and Wrongful Detainee Day Act designates March 9 as Hostage and Wrongful Detainee Day and requests that the President issue a yearly proclamation urging Americans to observe this day in remembrance for those held hostage.

The bill also requires the Hostage and Wrongful Detainee flag be flown at the Capitol, the White House, and numerous other Federal buildings.

These families need our support. These families need the Nation's attention. These families need this legislation. By designating a day and a flag to be flown on Federal property, we will bring much-needed awareness to the plight of these Americans and the heartache of their families.

In addition, I am so very pleased to see that the NDAA includes the Supporting Americans Wrongfully or Unlawfully Detained Abroad Act. Families of the wrongfully detained often spend thousands and thousands of dollars traveling back and forth to Washington to advocate for the release of their loved ones and to work on their safe return home.

This bill would help families defray these costs by providing financial assistance to cover the costs of travel to and from Washington, D.C., including travel by air, train, bus, or other transit, as well as covering lodging expenses.

These families who are already dealing with the detention of a loved one shouldn't have to worry about going broke or spending a life savings because they are working alongside the Federal Government to do what is right. This bill will help ease that financial burden.

Finally, when detainees return home after years of wrongful detention, we must do more to ensure that they have the resources they need to return to normal life. They have often been stripped of employment, housing, and life as they knew it before they were taken hostage.

We must remember that the wrongfully detained have been imprisoned of-

tentimes for years, if not decades, which is wrong. They may come home, but they won't necessarily come home to a job. We cannot let these individuals fall through the cracks when they return. We need to help them return back to society.

That is why I am so proud that this bill will also seek to make available physical health services, mental health services, and other support, including providing information on available legal or financial resources for up to 5 years following the release of a detainee.

We need to make sure that these individuals have the physical and mental health assistance that they need to recover from unspeakable trauma.

While nothing can give back the years that our adversaries or the time that our adversaries have taken from these Americans, we have a responsibility to help them get back on their feet.

I sincerely thank the other co-chair of the American Hostage and Americans Wrongfully Detained Abroad Task Force, Mr. FRENCH HILL from Arkansas, for working with me on both of these bills.

I also pay recognition to the families of the hostages, particularly the family of my constituent, Paul Whelan, who is about to hit 5 years wrongfully detained in Russia. We are continuing to shine a light on Paul and demand and call for his release from the Russian Government.

To those held hostage, Congress stands behind you. Congress continues to work alongside our ally, Israel, in calling for the return of the 138 hostages currently still being held in Gaza.

HONORING DEAN DALE GREENE

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

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dean Dale Greene of the University of Georgia's Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, a role in which he has served since 2015.

After decades of service to UGA and our great State, Dean Greene will retire at the end of this year. Dale is an accomplished man. He is a graduate of Louisiana State University, holds a master's degree from Virginia Tech and a Ph.D. from Auburn University.

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He joined the UGA faculty in 1986 and has served our school and this State in so many ways since.

Dale currently sits on the board of trustees for the American Forestry Association and has been on the board of directors for the Georgia Forestry Association since 1992. He was appointed by two Georgia Governors to the State Board of Registration of Foresters, first in 2004 and then again in 2010.