

was also a loving husband and a dedicated father. My condolences to Rachael, his partner of 18 years, and their two children.

My heart goes out to your family, Rachael, during this difficult time. While I can't imagine a world without Ady, I know that through Be A Hero, his work and legacy will live on. That is why I am so proud to partner with Be A Hero and work towards introducing the Ady Barkan Memorial Resolution, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution when introduced.

Thank you, Ady, for advocating for a better tomorrow.

CONGRATULATING ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL TEAM TO PARTICIPATE IN 2023 CAMELLIA BOWL

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, today I stand to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Arkansas State University Red Wolves football team for their well-deserved selection to participate in the 2023 Camellia Bowl, where they will face Northern Illinois University.

Reflecting on the 2023 football season, there is every indication that the Red Wolves are poised for success in their upcoming clash with NIU.

Quarterback Jaylen Raynor has been a true leader on the field, helping deliver exhilarating victories that have ignited the enthusiasm of Arkansas State's devoted fans.

As an alum of Arkansas State, I eagerly await the moment when Coach Butch Jones and the entire wolf pack take the field on December 23 to proudly represent Natural State on a national stage.

Wolves up.

WORKING FOR AMERICA

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the bipartisan NDAA, H.R. 2670, because there are men and women on the front lines across the world who are doing the work of this Nation: The civilians and men and women in the United States military that are providing logistical and operational support with equipment, training and resources needed to carry on.

Yes, and we have reaffirmed diversity, equity, and inclusion, as well as the personal rights of our soldiers to have reproductive care.

In addition, my bill, the Foreign Extortion Prevention Act, was included, which stops Americans from being extorted overseas. It will finally enable U.S. law enforcement to indict foreign kleptocrats for extorting U.S. businesses and Americans individually that

basically stops the prosperous work that we are doing.

Mr. Speaker, as well I stand here supporting the Biden-Harris administration, because inflation is going down and retail purchases are going up. We are spreading broadband across America, and, yes, we are standing together to fight against denying women their reproductive rights.

Biden and Harris are going forward with this Democratic Congress, and we are standing here working for America. We will never leave you alone. We will always stand with you.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

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

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, the story of the birth of Jesus Christ from the Gospel of Luke:

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.

And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a savior, which is Christ the Lord.

POLITICALLY CONVENIENT CONDEMNATION

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

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, my Republican colleagues voted to condemn college presidents.

I wish they were condemning anti-Semitism, but don't let the title of that resolution fool you. This was never about that.

We know that because they did not condemn anti-Semitism when the Unite the Right rally chanted: "Jews will not replace us."

They didn't condemn anti-Semitism when their former Speaker shared a cartoon suggesting that Jewish bankers controlled the world.

They didn't condemn anti-Semitism when Donald Trump said that he only wanted Jews to count his money.

In every case, they have stood by in silent cowardice and defended hate

speech as free speech. Yet, they have the gall to ask college presidents to resign for emulating their cowardice.

Donald Trump's rhetoric led to a spike in hate crimes, anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim hate crimes. Both spiked again after October 6.

If you are only calling it out when it is politically convenient, you are not helping, you are a part of the problem.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF FIRE CHIEF RALPH STEGBAUER AND CAPTAIN JEFF SKAGGS

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

Mr. CAREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of two brave firefighters in my district who recently perished in a tragic accident.

Fire Chief Ralph Stegbauer and Captain Jeff Skaggs were longtime members of the Concord-Green Township Fire Department and proud sons of Fayette County.

Each man put their lives on the line daily for their community, whether it was responding to house fires at 3 a.m. or serving as first responders to roadway accidents, Chief Stegbauer and Captain Skaggs served selflessly.

Chief Stegbauer, a retired health department worker and teacher, left his mark on all those he encountered. A loving husband and proud father of two children, Chief Stegbauer always sought to build up those who were around him.

Captain Skaggs also had a long history of not only serving Fayette County, but the country as a whole. He served in the United States military as a Ranger, and later was given the rank of E5 sergeant.

Friends and family remember him as the first person to offer help to anyone who was in need. His community regarded him in the same way: never too busy to lend a helping hand.

These two men exemplified what it meant to be an Ohioan. They worked hard to support their families, but still found time to give back to their communities.

They put their lives on the line as volunteer firefighters and first responders, never asking for anything in return. Their tragic passing has left a hole in our community, and they will be missed dearly.

Their selfless public service also inspires all of us to work harder to make our communities just a little better. At Christmastime, please keep their families in your prayers.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF AMOS E. PIERCE, JR.

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

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Amos E. Pierce, Jr., a World War

II hero and father of my dear friend and acclaimed actor, Wendell Pierce. His life, spanning 98 years, was a testament to resilience, courage, and the pursuit of justice.

Amos served as an Army corporal with the 24th Infantry Regiment during the battle of Saipan in 1944. Though he faced racial discrimination, his commitment to country and values remained unwavering. Despite losing his home to Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Amos and his family triumphed over diversity.

Wendell Pierce's dedication and courage to rebuilding Pontchartrain Park and founding Pontchartrain Park Community Development Corporation was a testament to the leadership he learned at an early age from his father and reflects the family commitment to legacy and community.

Amos' enduring spirit, active involvement in church, and unwavering support for his son's artistic pursuit, define a life rich in love and a profound sense of purpose.

As a World War II veteran, father, and community pillar, Amos leaves behind an enduring legacy.

To my friends, Wendell and Ron, your father was an inspiration to me and so many others.

Our prayers are with you and your entire family. May he rest in peace. God bless you all.

RESOLVING THE MILITARY RECRUITING CRISIS

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

Mr. McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the conference report for the 2024 National Defense Authorization Act.

I am proud to report that this conference report includes language that I authored to both rein in government-sponsored censorship and help resolve the military recruiting crisis.

The 2024 NDAA will require advertising agencies placing military recruitment commercials to certify that they have not placed advertisements in news sources based on personal or institutional political preferences or biases or determinations of misinformation.

This language is intended to prevent the Department of Defense from contracting with advertising agencies that utilize blacklists provided by organizations like Global Disinformation Index and NewsGuard, which have been found to be biased against conservative viewpoints.

Mr. Speaker, of the five Defense Department service branches, only two, the Marine Corps and Space Force, met their Active-Duty enlisted recruiting goals for fiscal year 2023. Last year, the Army missed its recruiting goals by 25 percent.

In the midst of this recruiting crisis, it makes zero sense to artificially limit the reach of our military recruitment

advertisements. It is especially foolish when those limitations target the sites frequented by the people most likely to volunteer to serve.

I am grateful to Chairman ROGERS, Speaker JOHNSON, and Ranking Member WICKER for fighting to include this important revision.

RECOGNIZING SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT JESS ROPER

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

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Senior Master Sergeant Jess Roper, who has served as my Department of Defense fellow this past year.

Jess has served in the Air Force for 18 years, primarily as a Korean linguist, and has been stationed across the country and around the world, from California to South Korea, from Hawaii to Iraq.

Jess' contributions to my office are countless. She staffed me through my work on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, she has overseen the introduction of legislation on cybersecurity and mental health, and she has delivered on priorities for the Servicewomen and Women Veterans Caucus, as well.

Jess' dedication to public service is something we should all aspire to, but she is also so much more than that.

To date, she has completed 72 marathons, including one in Antarctica. She holds two master's degrees and is also recently a first-time homeowner. She is an amazing woman.

While my team and I are very sad to see her go, we are so thrilled that she was assigned to us, and she will always be ours.

I wish her nothing but the absolute best as she moves forward in her career.

Jess, aim high, and God speed.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF K9 BEK

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

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of a distinguished member of the Myrtle Beach Police Department, K9 Bek. I am proud to congratulate this canine and the rest of the Myrtle Beach police force for their crucial role in the department's drug detection and weapons recovery programs.

With well over 300 deployments, Bek was able to track and seize an array of illicit drugs, including 44 kilograms of marijuana, several ounces of heroin, cocaine, and meth. He was responsible for multiple firearm retrievals and numerous building searches. These efforts led to over 50 criminal apprehensions.

Thank you, K9 Bek, the Myrtle Beach Police Department, and all law

enforcement agents across our country for the work that you do to keep us and our countrymen safe.

South Carolina is indeed safer because of the men, women, and dogs in uniform.

□ 1115

I KNOW HOW HARD IT IS TO BE JEWISH

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

Ms. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, as the youngest Jewish Member of Congress, I know personally how hard it feels to be Jewish because I live it every day.

I was in the House Chamber on January 6 when insurrectionists stormed the Capitol wearing T-shirts saying six million was not enough.

I have experienced anti-Semitism my whole life: Jokes about my big nose, my fuzzy hair, being called a kike while waiting to get a drink at a bar.

Anti-Semitism was on the rise before October 7, and now it is running rampant. In San Diego, we know how hateful and deadly it can be. Four years ago, we mourned a beloved community member who was killed in the Chabad of Poway, and it seems like every other week we are washing swastikas off our buildings or sidewalks.

I am so grateful to President Biden for his leadership, for not politicizing our pain, and for bringing together Jewish Members to discuss a whole-of-society approach to countering anti-Semitism.

We need to fully fund and implement the U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism to ensure that Jewish people are safe and respected everywhere.

I am committed to this work, not just for a news cycle but for life, and I hope my colleagues will join me in that effort.

A CRUCIAL MOMENT

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

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, at this crucial moment, the United States must support our democratic ally Ukraine. Stopping the Russian invasion is critically important, because right now democracy worldwide is under attack.

Helping Ukraine defeat Putin will make clear that the United States, our allies, and democracies everywhere will not tolerate the invasion of sovereign nations by bad actors.

We must also recognize the common thread between what is happening in Ukraine and what is happening in Israel. Iran is supporting dictators and terrorists who seek the destruction of democracy around the globe.

Iran funds and trains Hamas terrorists and sends weapons to Russian