

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.

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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

forces as they inflict horrors upon civilians.

Let's be clear: If we allow Russia to win this war, the attacks on democratic nations will not stop there. The United States will undoubtedly be pulled into future global conflicts.

Now, more than ever, we must support our democratic allies in their fight against evil. Congress must recognize the urgency of this issue and send aid to our democratic allies immediately.

CONGRESS' FAILURE TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR OUR ALLIES

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

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to Congress' failure to show support for our allies abroad before leaving town for the holidays and ask that this body return to vote as soon as possible to secure the additional national security funding President Biden is requesting.

This week, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy made a trip to the United States to lobby directly for the aid his nation needs as they continue to fight on the front lines of the free world.

While addressing U.S. officers at the National Defense University, President Zelenskyy said: You can count on Ukraine, and we hope just as much to be able to count on you. Putin must lose.

He is right. Putin must lose. The world is not only watching how we respond to Ukraine right now but whether or not we will stand with our ally Israel, the only liberal democracy in the Middle East, and whether or not we are prepared to buttress Taiwan as they face increased hostility from the Chinese Communist Party.

As our allies are looking to us for support, our adversaries are waiting with bated breath to see if we will fail to meet this moment in history. This week, the Speaker wasted the House's time on a baseless impeachment inquiry, but he still can't put a bill on the floor to fund our democratic allies.

We cannot hand a Christmas present to Putin, Hamas, or Xi Jinping. We must press President Biden's request for supplemental foreign aid. If that means coming back from the holidays early to vote on it, so be it.

HONORING WENDY LEWIS

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

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a superb Air Force defense fellow for her tireless commitment to the U.S. Air Force, Congress, and to the constituents of Nevada's Fourth District.

Wendy Lewis' relentless commitment to the Air Force proved invaluable in

providing support to the House of Representatives and our constituents. This Nation is grateful for her commitment and the personal sacrifices that she has made during her time in the Defense Fellowship program and the United States Air Force.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the United States of America, I commend Wendy and her family for their dedicated support to our Air Force and to this Nation.

Nevada's official State motto is "all for our country," representing the patriotic spirit of the people of Nevada.

Wendy, who has served at Creech and Nellis Air Force Bases in Nevada, embodies this motto and is dedicated to public service. She has proven this through her service as an officer and now as a public servant.

Wendy is the personification of giving back and has given her all to honor my State's motto. She is an example of the true spirit of Nevada, and her commitment to service inspires others.

I congratulate her on an extremely successful career, her dedication to service, and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

May God bless her, our troops, and may God bless the United States of America.

TWO IMPORTANT ISSUES

(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 have two issues to address in a minute.

One, is to bring attention to an excellent editorial which appeared yesterday in The Wall Street Journal titled: "Biden and Ukraine Need a Senate Deal."

The author, William A. Galston, states: "Though Speaker MIKE JOHNSON has reiterated his support for Ukraine aid, anti-Ukraine Republicans will likely pressure him to adjourn for the year without taking up the Senate bill."

In fact, that has happened in real-time today.

The editorial goes on to say: "... Mr. Biden should make clear that he is prepared to use his constitutional authority to call the House back into session."

We take an oath to protect America against all enemies, foreign and domestic. Putin's Russia is a real enemy to liberty. We do not want to be drawn into a greater war in Europe. We need to do our duty and pass assistance for Ukraine and strengthen our NATO allies.

The second reason I rise today is to talk about the introduction of the bipartisan Healthy Farms Healthy Watersheds Act of 2023, which encourages volunteer USDA programs to apply to watersheds that are trying to bear the load of toxic algal blooms largely caused by dissolved reactive phosphorus and other pollutants.

Mr. Speaker, water is life. Please sponsor the bipartisan Healthy Farms Healthy Watersheds Act of 2023.

Mr. Speaker, fresh water is life. Today, I introduce the bipartisan "Healthy Farms Healthy Watersheds Act of 2023." This Bill encourages voluntary USDA programs to strategically apply resources to maximize watershed health with existing dollars.

Increasingly harmful algal bloom (HAB) compromise water quality in all 50 states. These toxic blooms adversely impact human health, sink property values, damp tourism, waterfront business, and regional economies. Impacted areas are estimated to have spent over \$1 Billion since 2010 to address and prevent HABs, this creeping green invasion.

A major cause of the harmful bloom is the loading of excessive levels of dissolved reactive phosphorus into lakes, rivers, and bays maliciously from megafarms and animal feeding operations and other pollution.

Despite federal agencies spending Billions to help farmers adopt management practices to improve water quality, the problem persists across America. Significant bodies of water like the Great Lakes and Chesapeake Bay are weighted down with this creeping green invasion.

A new strategy is needed to make current federal investments more efficient, and more effective. The Healthy Farms Healthy Watersheds Act focuses on troubled watersheds by directing Natural Resources Conservation Service resources toward the exact substances and sources that are contributing most to HABs.

I encourage my colleagues to support this important, budget-neutral, bipartisan, common-sense legislation.

COMMEMORATING THE 11TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SHOOTING AT SANDY HOOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, today, as we solemnly mark the 11th anniversary of the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School and remember the 26 beautiful lives murdered in a senseless act of preventable violence, I ask my colleagues in this body to remember your commitment to the people we serve.

I ask that we work together to make our schools and our communities safe to ensure tragedies like Sandy Hook Elementary School are a thing of the past.

I am committed to honoring the memory of my constituents with action. Today, I remain committed to working toward an assault weapons ban. I remain committed to working toward universal background checks. I remain committed to working toward legislation like Ethan's Law, which will provide for safe storage of firearms.

I remain committed to implementing the provisions of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. I ask my colleagues to join with me so that no child, no family, and no community ever has to endure this again.