

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.

I also ask that you pray for my community on this 11th anniversary of the shooting at Sandy Hook, for the families, for the people who live there, for the town of Newtown, who will forever be bound by their grief.

RECOGNIZING THE WALSH JESUIT GIRLS SOCCER TEAM

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the Walsh Jesuit High School girls soccer team as Ohio 13's Congressional District Champion of the Week.

Last month, the Walsh Jesuit Warriors girls soccer team won their first Ohio High School Athletic Association Division I State championship since 2016.

After a hard-fought game, the Warriors overcame Olentangy Liberty 2-1. This win cements Walsh Jesuit's status as a soccer powerhouse with their 11th State title win since the year 2000.

The program holds the record for the most girls soccer State titles in Ohio, and their win is just more proof as to why Ohio's 13th Congressional District is the birthplace of champions.

This victory is not only a major accomplishment for these hardworking student athletes but also for their coaches, parents, and entire community that supported them along the way.

Congratulations again to the incredible Walsh Jesuit girls soccer team. I can't wait to see how you dominate on and off the pitch.

REMEMBERING THE ISRAELI HOSTAGES

(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 met with families of Israeli hostages because it was important to hear their stories. While listening, there was deep pain and even moments of tears. These families continue carrying burdens no one should have to bear.

It has been over 2 months. These families are missing their loved ones and expressed a strong desire that we continue prioritizing their return. There are significant concerns about the rapidly deteriorating conditions of those who are still held captive. While life seems to continue for so many right now, empty seats remain at their tables.

Personally, I take this moment to thank those working around the clock for their safe return. Your tireless work provides unwavering hope.

The resilience of the families is a testament to the human spirit.

FAREWELL TO SPEAKER EMERITUS KEVIN MCCARTHY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FINSTAD). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous materials.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As the Dean of California's Republican delegation, it is my honor and privilege to come to the floor of the people's House to recognize someone from the Golden State who has made a historic impact on this institution.

KEVIN MCCARTHY is not from one of California's world-famous cities. He hails from the blue-collar city of Bakersfield. KEVIN is not the son of politicians or corporate titans. He is the son of a firefighter.

His story is an American story. He is the grandson of an Italian immigrant. From staffer to Speaker, he has devoted the better part of his life to the House of Representatives.

In politics, nothing is handed to you. That certainly holds true in this town and in this building. KEVIN's success is the result of hard work and determination. KEVIN is a fighter. Time and time again, he fought for his constituents, his State, his conference, and his country.

The first sign of KEVIN's go-get-em attitude was when, at the age of 19, he started his own small business selling sandwiches. While attending college at Cal State Bakersfield, KEVIN got interested in politics, took a job working for our former colleague, former chairman of the Ways and Means Committee Bill Thomas. For the next 15 years, he worked as a congressional aid and ultimately served as a district director for Congressman Thomas.

In 2000, KEVIN stepped forward as a candidate for the first time and was elected as a Kern Community College District trustee. Just a couple years later, in 2002, he was elected to the California State Assembly. After just one term in the Assembly, he was chosen to serve as the minority leader.

Upon retirement of Mr. Thomas, KEVIN was elected, in 2006, to follow in the footsteps of his former boss here in the House. As a freshman, KEVIN was appointed to serve on the Republican Steering Committee.

From those early days in the House until today, KEVIN has been a strong and effective advocate on a number of important issues.

Water is the lifeline of the Central Valley in California. In California, we

have a saying: "Whiskey is for drinking and water is for fighting." KEVIN approached the issue of water with his characteristic optimism that brought anyone together who wanted to find real solutions.

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California has a proud history of being at the forefront of aeronautics and space exploration, including the region KEVIN has represented. He has been a champion for recognizing that past and investing in the future.

Our State is a leader in innovation, and KEVIN has always been a vocal promoter of industries that will shape our economy and America's competitive edge in the years ahead.

Here in the House, we have seen KEVIN answer the call to lead time and time again—as chief deputy whip, majority whip, majority leader, minority leader, and then, ultimately, Speaker. KEVIN has consistently led the charge for our Conference and conservative priorities. During some difficult times, KEVIN was always the calm in the storm, levelheaded and positive.

Republicans would not be in the majority here today without KEVIN's tireless work and leadership. To say he will be missed is an understatement. Our loss is his wife Judy's gain. I wish his family, including his son, Connor, and his daughter, Meghan, the very best as we head into the holidays and the next chapter of his life.

As I mentioned earlier, KEVIN is from Bakersfield. He is probably the second most famous person to hail from Bakersfield. Country music legend Merle Haggard has had him beat for that top spot. A few years back, KEVIN introduced and passed a bill renaming the Bakersfield post office in honor of Merle Haggard.

As we join here today to celebrate another son of Bakersfield whose journey in the House is coming to an end, it seems fitting that Merle had a song titled "If We Make It Through December." In that song, Merle sings:

If we make it through December
Got plans to be in a warmer town come summertime
Maybe even California
If we make it through December, we'll be fine.

KEVIN, I have no doubt that warmer days await. I am grateful for your service, your friendship, and your leadership. You will continue to make your mark, and I look forward to the many great things to come.

Until then, farewell, my friend. God bless, and I know I will see you soon.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mrs. STEEL).

Mrs. STEEL. Mr. Speaker, this is a bittersweet moment.

I am grateful to have the opportunity to stand on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, an institution shaped by years of Speaker KEVIN MCCARTHY's faithful leadership. I thank and honor him for his service to the people of our State and to our