

As Jennifer retired at the end of May, her legacy of hard work, compassion, and community service will continue to inspire us all.

We wish Jennifer a joyous and fulfilling retirement. May this new chapter be filled with happiness, peace, and cherished moments with her loved ones. I thank Jennifer for her remarkable service and for being a beacon of dedication and kindness.

Congratulations to Jennifer on her well-deserved retirement.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF AARON DAVID ATTEBERY

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of my constituent, Aaron David Attebery, who passed on April 4, 2024, after a long battle with cancer at the age of 35. While his illness was painful and debilitating, he never let it diminish his spirit and contributions to his family, friends, and community.

Aaron lived in the state of Missouri most of his life. He earned the highest rank of Eagle Scout as a youth and attended the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, MO, and graduating Summa Cum Laude with a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Missouri S&T.

Aaron began his career working with the John Deere Company where he worked to improve diesel engine performance. He later went on to work for Black & Veatch where he met the love of his life, his wife Rachel Attebery. Aaron will be missed by all, and his legacy will be felt by all who were lucky to know him.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF JACK SIMES

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Jack Simes as he retires after more than four decades of federal service.

Mr. Simes has dedicated 43 years of public service to our country and to nine Southern California counties that are home to more than 23 million people. For the last seven years, Mr. Simes served as the Southern California Area Manager for the United States Bureau of Reclamation. As Area Manager, Mr. Simes was responsible for implementing water reclamation and reuse projects under the Title XVI authority, conducting water and related resources planning, water conservation field services, and Native American Affairs. Mr. Simes established constructive working relationships with dozens of locally led water and power districts, guiding them through the process of seeking federal financial assistance for much needed infrastructure improvements.

Mr. Simes brought a can-do spirit and commitment to work that inevitably turned his colleagues and stakeholders into friends. Notably, he has a sign in his office detailing his

motto: be good, be kind, and be of service. Mr. Simes leaves behind a legacy that will be impossible to match.

As a direct result of Mr. Simes's exemplary work, the federal government was able to financially participate in and expedite the development of hundreds of millions of dollars in locally developed water resiliency, conservation and water supply projects that are operating today.

Mr. Speaker, Jack Simes has been an invaluable resource to Members of Congress, our staff, and to the constituents and water agencies we represent in the West. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Mr. Simes and wish him and his wife, Karen Simes, a rich and rewarding retirement.

HONORING THE WORK OF BOB PAUTKE

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Bob Pautke, Executive Director of LEAD Clermont Community Leadership Program in Clermont County, Ohio.

Since 2012, Bob has dedicated his time to helping local small business owners and community leaders build their leadership skills to improve the economic vitality and quality of life in Clermont County. He touched the lives of hundreds of LEAD graduates throughout his time.

While Bob's time with the LEAD Clermont Community Leadership Program is ending, Bob's dedication to the Clermont County community continues. He also volunteers with numerous programs throughout Ohio's Second District, including the Clermont County Boys and Girls Club and the Great Oaks Career Campuses Business Advisory Board.

I know Bob's commitment to bettering Clermont County will continue, and I thank him for his tireless dedication to our community.

RECOGNIZING DR. PAUL LEBLANC'S SERVICE TO SOUTH- ERN NEW HAMPSHIRE UNIVER- SITY

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Paul LeBlanc for his more than two decades of service to Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU). An immigrant, a first generation college student, an acclaimed author, and a renowned instructor, Dr. LeBlanc's impact as President and CEO of SNHU cannot be understated. I commend Dr. LeBlanc for his enduring legacy as an educator and an innovator in higher education that will continue to enrich the lives of people across our nation.

After earning his master's degree and PhD, Dr. LeBlanc worked at Houghton Mifflin Publishing Company and transitioned to a career in education. Dr. LeBlanc held the title of President at Marlboro College in Vermont be-

fore joining Southern New Hampshire University in 2003.

At the time he took the job, SNHU was a local institution with an enrollment of 2,000 students and was struggling economically. Under Dr. LeBlanc's leadership, SNHU transformed itself and has grown to have a worldwide enrollment of more than 225,000 students. Today SNHU is accessible, equitable, and affordable and is the largest non-profit university in the country. After two decades of Dr. LeBlanc's leadership, SNHU has been named one of the "World's Fifty Most Innovative Companies" by Fast Magazine and Dr. LeBlanc himself received numerous accolades, including from Forbes Magazine, Washington Monthly, and the TIAA Institute.

After decades of hard work, including a three month assignment at the Department of Education in 2015, Dr. LeBlanc is stepping aside from his role as President and CEO of SNHU. As a lifelong learner, Dr. LeBlanc hopes to explore and research the development of artificial intelligence during a year-long sabbatical.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I offer my sincere appreciation to Dr. Paul LeBlanc. Dr. LeBlanc has revolutionized education across the State of New Hampshire and country, and he has helped thousands achieve goals that they never thought were possible. I look forward to seeing what his next chapter holds and wish him the best in his academic and professional career.

HONORING SOUTH BEND POLICE OFFICER DAN NAPOLITAN FOR HIS LIFESAVING ACTIONS

HON. RUDY YAKYM, III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize South Bend Police Officer Dan Napolitan, whose quick thinking and decisive action last month likely saved the life of one of his coworkers.

On the evening of May 6, 2024, Officer Napolitan was working the front desk at the South Bend Police Department. Normally, Dan would have been out walking the beat or patrolling the streets of South Bend that night. However, sidelined by a foot injury, Officer Napolitan had recently started light duty assignment while his foot healed.

As he was working, Dan noticed something was wrong when his coworker seated nearby started coughing forcefully. When she stood up from her chair and began walking toward him, Officer Napolitan immediately realized that she was choking. Acting quickly, Dan delivered several back blows to his coworker to try to dislodge the food, but she continued to struggle to breathe. Dan then performed the Heimlich maneuver and some additional back blows, which ultimately cleared his coworker's airway and averted an even scarier outcome. Officer Napolitan's ability to keep a clear head and execute quickly and professionally under pressure likely saved his coworker's life.

For his actions, Officer Napolitan has already been recognized with the South Bend Police Department's Lifesaving Award; an award presented to those who have shown

exceptional courage and learned measures in order to save lives. I am proud to recognize Officer Napolitan.

I and Hoosiers throughout Indiana's Second Congressional District are extremely grateful to Officer Napolitan on this occasion and to all our law enforcement officials serving on the Thin Blue Line for the dedicated—and often dangerous—work they do day in and day out to go after the bad guys and keep our communities safe. God bless Officer Dan Napolitan and all those who protect and serve.

UNWINNABLE RACE: CONGRESS'S
RESPONSIBILITY TO PREVENT A
NUCLEAR ARMS RACE

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on this body to fulfill its responsibility in addressing an existential challenge facing our nation. For decades, nuclear weapons have threatened the safety of our country and our planet. Today, as nations re-arm and competition re-emerges, we run the risk of repeating our past mistakes and entering a new cold war. A nuclear arms race is well underway, and it poses an existential threat to all. This Congress must stand up and stop the escalatory spiral before it's too late.

It's well past time for our voices, the voices of restraint and risk reduction, to be heard in the nuclear arms debate. The United States, the Russian Federation, and the People's Republic of China are locked into an extraordinarily dangerous nuclear arms race. All three countries are rapidly increasing their nuclear firepower with new and more capable bombs, more long-range missiles, new stealth delivery systems, bombers, and submarines. And as tensions heighten, all of this is dependent on the newest field of warfare: space. All three countries depend upon their space assets to observe, detect threats, and communicate the commands to act.

We must cut through the rhetoric of fear and doomsaying that dominates our nuclear policy debates. We can no longer allow the thoughtful, calm voices to be drowned out by fearmongering cries. We must rise above the noise. Instead of developing cost-effective military systems that provide security while defusing tensions, we have fallen into the fallacy that more missiles make us more secure. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Today, we must call out the failures of our current approach to nuclear modernization and demand that we treat arms control and de-escalation with the same dedication and focus we give to our nuclear weapons development. It is long past time to develop a strategy that sets priorities, recognizes limitations, and strives for a safer future.

It is important to step back and consider the history and broader context of nuclear weapons and Congressional involvement. Since their development almost 80 years ago, the destructive capability of nuclear weapons has terrified and shocked, but also led governments to pursue their own arsenals and develop the capacity to destroy our civilization multiple times over. Governments have justified expanding stockpiles with convoluted

theories of nuclear deterrence that often defy common sense.

It wasn't until arms control programs and treaties were established that Russia and the United States de-escalated this spiral of stockpiling bombs. Through four decades, progress was made, the number of deployed and existing nuclear bombs was reduced, and even the most adversarial countries agreed that "a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought." Yet, despite this understanding, we continue to maintain and modernize our arsenals with a belief that these weapons dissuade others from employing theirs. The threat of nuclear conflict remains, and with it, life on our planet ending or becoming dramatically changed.

It would be useful to remind people of the arms control agreements and the leaders that negotiated them. I'm sure that some of my congressional nuclear warriors would be surprised to see that their most ardent national security heroes negotiated the reductions and controls.

I recognize the nuclear threats posed by countries like North Korea, Russia, and China. I do not deny the challenging security environment we face. I am fully aware of the Taiwan/China threat, as well as China's military build-up and South China Sea expansion. The North Korean regime is dangerous and could precipitate a conflict at any moment. I condemn Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, irresponsible nuclear saber-rattling, and dangerous nuclear exercises.

Despite these serious threats, we must be wise in preparing our defense and response. Aggression should not be our first thought when faced with threats, uncertainty, and misunderstandings. Therefore, I strongly support efforts by the U.S. and Chinese governments to engage in meaningful dialogue that results in specific, concrete actions to reduce the risk of miscommunication or escalation.

As we navigate these complex geopolitical landscapes, it is imperative that we pause and reflect on the strategies guiding our nuclear policy. Strategy must be more than a word thrown on top of grandiose statements. True strategy is making the hard choices to align our country's limited resources with our unlimited aspirations.

The greatest problem facing our nuclear strategy today is that we fail to realistically consider that balance, revisit our assumptions, adjust course when programs fail, and figure out new paths forward. Once approved, weapons programs persist, even when they nearly double and triple their budget. No one stops and says, "Enough."

Too often, we allow these debates to be driven by military calculations and how "experts" would fight a nuclear war. But we must not forget that in a democratic society, the military is the extension of the political and not the other way around. When it comes to programs and strategies that threaten our very existence, we, as a whole society, must decide what costs we should bear and what risks we must take. Our nuclear strategy must be balanced and rational, allowing for deterrence and defensive actions while encouraging collaboration for a more peaceful future.

We in Congress are part of the problem. We have bought into the assumption that more nuclear weapons will make us safer. Ever-growing costs reflect the irrationality that has plagued our nuclear policy. In the name of

"modernization," we've taken on hundreds of billions of dollars of additional spending, and the nuclear accounts grow without question or scrutiny.

An example is the nuclear modernization efforts. The political price tag for New START was the modernization of all three legs of America's nuclear triad. Proponents told us the multi-billion-dollar cost was necessary to ensure that we continue to have a viable deterrent. Today, we can and should debate whether every part of modernization is cost-effective and necessary for deterrence. We must also fully understand the reasons for the massive growth in the cost of all these programs.

Let's turn to the new Sentinel ICBM, which is destined to replace the Minuteman III. It has incurred an egregious 37 percent cost overrun, making the program's cost almost 211 percent higher than the Air Force's initial 2015 estimate. This has triggered a critical Nunn-McCurdy cost overrun, forcing a stop and a full statutory review. Despite the new estimated cost of \$130 billion, there are loud and clear reflexive signals that the Pentagon and Congress intend to plow ahead no matter the cost or the necessity. "We'll do whatever is necessary."

While this may be convenient, the law requires a complete and full review that addresses five critical steps. (1) The program is essential to national security; (2) there are no alternatives to the program that will provide acceptable capability; (3) the new cost estimates have been determined to be reasonable; (4) the program is a higher priority than programs whose funding will be reduced to cover the increased cost of this program; and (5) the management structure is sufficient to control additional cost growth. It is imperative that the Pentagon conduct a thorough examination to assess the necessity and feasibility of continuing the program in its current state. Equally necessary is that Congress engage in a full debate to assess the Pentagon's rationale. Without public pressure, it is doubtful that any hearings will occur, and that's why our Congressional Nuclear Weapons and Arms Control Working Group will hold its own hearing on July 24th.

For years, Congress has dictated in the annual NDAA that the U.S. maintain a minimum of 400 ICBMs. A number founded not on logic but because "that's what we have always had." The number of ground-based ICBMs should not be set by the number of existing concrete silos but in the honest analysis of nuclear strategy. Such a review must consider the risk of a catastrophic mistake inherent in the Sentinel program. In the event of an attack, it is assumed that the first target is the well-known locations of the ICBMs. It's a use-it or lose-it situation. Therefore, a "Launch on Warning" is the operational imperative. The President has only minutes to decide if the attack is real.

If the nuclear program is for deterrence, then the submarines, airplanes, and their missiles offer sufficient firepower to dissuade an adversary. These systems have the benefit of stealth, and the President has the time to gather all information and then decide to use the nuclear response. If that weren't enough, we also have ample conventional weapons capability to deter potential adversaries.

However, the Sentinel program is not the only problem. The hidden costs of ground-