

strategy that looks to the future instead of clinging onto the past.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF BILL CURRENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Gaston County's leading citizens on the occasion of his passing. He is also the individual who succeeded me in the State House when I was elected to Congress in 2004. I am here to rise in honor of the life and legacy of the honorable Bill Current.

In so many ways, his service in the State House was counterintuitive. Dr. Current was already a leading Republican stalwart in Gaston County dating back to the 1960s. He had served two terms as the county GOP chairman and was instrumental in helping the Republican Party achieve dominance in our part of the State.

In 1976, when Ronald Reagan was running for President, he drove him around Gaston County and helped him win that great primary victory that year in North Carolina.

However, politics was only a fraction of Bill Current's prolific and incredible life. After his graduation from dental school at the University of North Carolina, Bill married the love of his life, Liz, and joined the Navy Dental Corps.

After his service, Bill and Liz returned to Gaston County and began a 40-year career in dentistry. In fact, dentistry became the family business. He was joined by his brother, A.C.; nephew Darrell; and his son Will, who still carries on that wonderful tradition today.

Dr. Current was a leader in the dental community in the State of North Carolina, serving on more boards and task forces than I can mention. He was also a great civic leader as well: American Red Cross, American Heart Association, First Presbyterian Church, and 27 years of perfect attendance at Rotary Club. I could go on and on. He did it all.

It would be fair to assume that in his seventies he would be ready to slow down and enjoy his retirement, but that wasn't Bill Current. That is instead when he ran for office and served four terms in the State House where he led on healthcare issues.

To the Current family, to Bill and Liz's children and grandchildren and extended family, I extend my condolences and gratitude for having known such a remarkable man.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LEROY LAIL

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Leroy Lail.

Mr. Speaker, Catawba County and all of North Carolina recently lost a legend with the passing of Leroy Lail, a legend in the business community and in the civic community of Catawba County in North Carolina. I was honored to count Leroy as a mentor during my service in Congress.

Leroy was a native of Catawba County, a Navy officer, and a graduate of his beloved University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

It was during his time in the business world that he made his greatest impact. In the 1960s, Leroy and his wife, Lynn, opened the Hickory Furniture Mart, building an economic engine for the region. This, in turn, led to his involvement in the tourism and hospitality sectors, growing the family business substantially. Leroy later was a driving force behind the creation of the Hickory Metro Convention Center.

Education was also a cause near and dear to Leroy's heart. He spent 13 years on the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina system. In fact, it was through Leroy's persistence that Appalachian State University established a campus in Hickory just last year.

To his beloved wife, Lynn, and the entire Lail family, I extend my condolences and gratitude for all of Leroy's contributions.

WE ARE SLEEPING WHILE UKRAINE IS BURNING

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, time is wasting. Time is running out. We are sleeping while Ukraine is burning, the victim of an international criminal.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as I have too many times before, just 72 hours before Members return to their districts for weeks despite failing to secure aid for our allies in Ukraine and Israel. The men and women of Ukraine on the front lines will not sleep for those 2 weeks.

This past weekend, Vladimir Putin reminded the world that he isn't going anywhere. He celebrated "victory" in Russia's Presidential election, imposing his power until at least 2030.

Mr. Speaker, Putin knew that there was only one possible outcome of that election. He would like the world to think that Russian victory in Ukraine is inevitable as well.

Every day, however, Mr. Speaker, the brave men and women of Ukraine prove him wrong. Our NATO allies, who continue to supply Ukraine with vital military assistance, prove him wrong.

Now, this House, this week, in the next 72 hours, needs to stand up and give Ukraine the aid they desperately need. We must reject aggression and terror.

For 447 days, we have signaled reluctance over resolve, doubt over determination, and division over decisiveness. We have emboldened freedom's enemies while leaving its protectors defenseless. How sad for America to be in that position. How sad for the leadership of this House to leave us in that position.

We have failed to aid Ukraine in 447 days and Israel in 165.

Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks back in our districts may feel short for us, but that

will be a very long time for our Ukrainian friends. They already must contend with the consequences of our inaction.

Thus far, Ukrainian air defenses have tried to shoot down four of every five Russian missiles fired at their cities. Hear that: four out of every five. Now, because of our negligence, because of our reluctance and ammunition shortages, they will soon be able to target only one in every five.

In Bakhmut, a Ukrainian artillery squad explained they are only shooting an average of 15 shells a week. My colleagues, they are shooting 15 shells a week to confront the Russian bear. Before American aid dried up, they were shooting 400 shells per week.

One Ukrainian soldier, shivering in his foxhole on the northern front line, recently said that because of these shortages: We are losing so many people. There are so many bodies we can't even bring them back.

How demoralizing is the inaction of this Congress. How irresponsible is the lack of action of this Congress to watch the Russian invader receive aid from North Korea, Iran, China, and the rest of the axis of evil while we fail to act. Have we lost our courage, our commitment to freedom?

Putin is a Russian invader who massacres civilians in Bucha, a dictator whose greatest political opponent is found dead in a Russian gulag, and a tyrant who forces occupied Ukrainians to vote at gunpoint in an election with but one choice: Vladimir Putin.

Putin wants this House to think his victory is inevitable because he knows that his victory is impossible if America stands with Ukraine.

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Let us stand with Ukraine, not in 2 weeks but today. Let us stand with Israel in its effort to defeat Hamas and recover the 134 remaining hostages in Gaza.

Speaker Johnson says he is looking for a path forward to work with the Democrats on Ukraine and Israel.

Take it today. We will work with you in that path.

Mr. Speaker, the path has been clear for quite some time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, we should not shut people up who are trying to defend freedom across this world.

Let us stop sleeping in this Congress.

Over 300 Members of this body have consistently voted to aid Ukraine. Even more wish to aid Israel.

Put the national security bill that received 70 votes in the Senate on the floor.

Give us a vote.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SAM LOIZZO

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

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an amazing teacher, Sam Loizzo.

Born in Kenosha, Sam taught at Craig High School in my hometown for over three decades. Over his career, he taught thousands of students. I was lucky enough to be in his government class my junior year.

As a teacher, he taught about the institutions that make our country so great. He provided all of us an appreciation for the United States of America. He also provided an understanding that we are always working to form a more perfect Union.

Sam left a mark on everyone he met.

In addition to being a teacher, he was a talented photographer and sports enthusiast. Most importantly, he was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and a friend to many in my hometown of Janesville.

After he retired from teaching, he dove into photography. He was a constant presence in the community, always working hard to capture the moment.

While Sam may no longer be with us, his legacy lives on in Janesville and in the countless lives that he has touched.

I am proud that I have memories of Sam that I have captured. On behalf of the class of 1999 and Craig High School, and on behalf of the thousands that he touched, Sam will be missed.

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO GRANDMA STEIL

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, grandparents are a window to the past and teach us where we came from. They are also a window to the future of who we will become.

My Grandma Steil has been that for all of us: an inspiration and a guide.

In Wisconsin, there are those whose grandparents retire to warmer climates, but my Grandma Steil has called Wisconsin home for 100 years. She never minds the cold. Below zero and wind? It is a fine day for a walk.

Maybe her strength came from growing up on a farm outside of Darlington, Wisconsin, during the Great Depression. After graduation and after World War II, she would marry her junior high school prom date, George Steil.

As a mother of 4, a grandmother of 10, and a great grandmother of another 10, she is a constant and loving presence and an example to all of us of how to live a meaningful life.

What makes my grandmother so special and so wonderful?

She is an ever-present inspiration of how to live a life of faith and service to others.

Whether it was serving as president of the Janesville Catholic Women's Club in 1954 or, as I still marvel, waking up at 4:30 in the morning in 2014 to prepare breakfast at the homeless shelter in Janesville, she provides us a guide on how to give to others in our community.

Grandma, thank you. You are a constant reminder of what it means to live a loving and meaningful life. We are profoundly grateful to be a part of your life.

On this, your 100th birthday, I say to you, Grandma, happy birthday.

HONORING THE HONORABLE MARCIA FUDGE DURING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

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

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during this month, Women's History Month, and it gives me great pleasure to rise today to honor a woman who has made history and is making history: the Honorable Marcia Fudge, the 18th Secretary of HUD, former United States female Black-American Member of Congress, a lawyer, a prosecutor, and the very first female and Black person to be mayor of Warrensville Heights, Ohio.

She hailed as the 21st national president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. She is a sojourner, she is a colleague, an adviser, and, more importantly, Mr. Speaker, a trusted friend.

Fudge never sat down and waited for an opportunity. She made opportunities. Mr. Speaker, I know that firsthand. I had known Marcia Fudge for decades prior to coming to the United States Congress. As a matter of fact, when I was a senior vice president at the Ohio State University, then-Congresswoman Marcia Fudge invited me to sit in the gallery as, again, she made history.

It was Congresswoman Marcia Fudge who honored the State of Ohio and my leadership for making Ohio the first State to honor Rosa Parks and what she did on December 1, 1955. Marcia Fudge entered it into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD from this very spot. That was another history for the great State of Ohio.

A few years later, there I was, a candidate for the United States Congress, and, again, it was then-Congresswoman Marcia Fudge who stood by my side and elevated me to have the confidence and the assurance that I, too, one day would stand on this House floor.

Then as a freshman, she entrusted me to be the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference. Never in the history of the CBC had a freshman been appointed some 40 days after being elected to chair such a massive event, but that is what Congresswoman Marcia Fudge did. She elevated people. She worked with people. She went out and mentored young students so they would know that they, too, could have opportunities.

It was no surprise to us that she became the seventh Black woman to chair the Congressional Black Caucus and the 21st national president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. It was no surprise when the President tapped her to be the 18th United States HUD Secretary.

When she walked into that White House, she brought with her a whole village because she understood the depth and the importance of what it would mean to be United States HUD Secretary.

Marcia Fudge's tireless efforts have not only helped families keep their homes, but she has also made the American Dream of homeownership a reality. It is a reality for countless individuals, including returning citizens. Through her advocacy, she has opened doors of housing and business opportunities for Black and Brown communities, championing equity every step of the way.

Her stand against racial bias in the appraisal market is a testament to her commitment to justice and fairness. Marcia Fudge's impact on housing and racial equity will resonate for generations to come.

Ohioans know her as a leader, a fighter, and an advocate for justice. We know her here as Congresswoman and Secretary Marcia Fudge.

I wish her good luck on her journey.

HONORING THE PLANO EAST PANTHERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SELF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Plano East Panthers basketball team for their perfect season, going 40-0 and capturing the program's first-ever division 6A State championship. This was the Panthers' first State title in any team sport.

The Panthers, led by Head Coach Matt Wester, became the first men's basketball team to go unbeaten in 6A, the highest level, amassing 40 wins by an average 22.7 point differential across the season. Each of East's seven playoff wins came by double figures, amassing an average margin of victory by 23.4 points.

In the State championship game, the Panthers only gave up 41 points, which ranks as the eighth fewest points the team surrendered all season. As the top-ranked Texas team and number three team in most national polls, the Panthers claimed the first State championship in school history, led by D.J. Hall's 18 points and six rebounds. Hall was named the Conference Final Most Valuable Player.

In addition, Rachard Angton added 13 points and Jordan Mizell pitched in 8 points and eight rebounds.

Through their display of teamwork and dedication, the Panthers made both the city of Plano and the State of Texas proud. It will be exciting to watch them next year and see if they can run it back.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate the Panthers on a remarkable season. They were perfect.

HONORING SERGEANT NICHOLAS B. LOVREN

Mr. SELF. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor I rise today to recognize Sergeant Nicholas B. Lovren of the Fairview Police Department as he retires after 20 years of dedicated service in law enforcement.

Sergeant Lovren's steadfast dedication to serving and assisting those in