

because this week is the first week that students will be returning to in-person classes since last month's horrifying shooting in which a gunman took the lives of three professors and critically wounded a fourth.

Thousands of students and faculty members were forced to huddle in classrooms behind locked and barricaded doors, waiting for hours to find out whether their campus was safe or not.

Immediately after the shooting, I, and many of my colleagues, demanded once again that Congress do something, just anything, to curb our Nation's gun violence epidemic.

Since then, our country has witnessed another 70 school shootings. That is in just 6 weeks. How many pieces of legislation to address gun violence have been brought to the floor in that time? Zero. It is shameful.

Instead, our far right has played partisan games to score cheap political points, threatening a government shutdown, and completely dismissing the very real fear that students and educators at UNLV and across the country feel each and every day.

That fear should not be normal. Nevadans are tired of it and so am I. I want my colleagues to work together to end this sick cycle of gun violence. Let's honor these victims with action.

HONORING PETER RICHARD SGRO

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to honor the life and legacy of the late Peter Richard Sgro, who sadly left this world on January 9. Peter was iconic on so many levels that his outside-the-box vision and drive to effectuate change will be deeply missed.

As an attorney, Peter always believed in seeking justice for his clients. He never walked away from a fight if he knew that virtue needed to prevail, and in his case, virtue certainly always prevailed.

As the chairman of the board of the Guam Chamber of Commerce, Peter evidenced that he was an advocate for small businesses, particularly the little guy. He stood with them to challenge policies that would raise the cost of doing business, and his relentlessness ensured that he wouldn't sit down until compromises were made.

As a businessman, Peter was a visionary, and this was clear when he worked aggressively to bring a private hospital to open its doors in Guam. Peter understood the necessities to improve and expand healthcare for families, and whenever we drive by the Guam Regional Medical City in the northern part of Guam, we can evidently see Peter's legacy on display.

For all the roles Peter embraced to help Guam prosper over the decades, there was none that he enjoyed more than being a father to Christopher,

Matthew, Katarina, and Maria, and a grandfather to Ricardo, Natalia, and Mila. They were his foundation, his purpose, and his pride. My heart and my deepest condolences go out to them in this trying time.

In 2022, as a Guam senator, I had the honor of recognizing Peter and his legacy as his company, International Group, Inc., was celebrating an anniversary. I am saddened that in such a short period of less than 2 years, I am recognizing him under a different set of circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, of behalf of a thankful Nation and an appreciative island of Guam, I honor the life and legacy of Peter Richard Sgro and thank him for his many contributions to our island community. He will be dearly missed. Adios to my friend, until we meet again.

A CALL FOR HUMANE TREATMENT OF MIGRANTS

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

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the proud daughter of Guatemalan immigrants, the wife of a Dreamer, and the Representative of Illinois 3, a district proud of the contributions of the migrants who call it home, and a member of the Humboldt Park United Methodist Church, a church that is formed by immigrants, a church that has been serving the community for decades, and a church that built me and taught me to put my faith into action and to advocate for our shared humanity.

As a Methodist, I would like to share a call for prayer and action from "Metodistas Asociados Representando la Causa Hispano Americana," "Methodists Associated Representing the Cause of Hispanic/Latinx American," the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry of the United Methodist Church, and the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church.

As we just celebrated the season of Epiphany, we are reminded again of the story of those three wise travelers who journeyed through many lands and over borders in search of a newborn king.

We are reminded that after they found the infant Jesus, his mother, and Joseph, the true peril of their mission began.

Herod's anxiety and paranoia led to one of the worst infant massacres recorded in the Gospel text, and their earnest pilgrims' story transformed the Holy Family's existence into a family like so many today seeking asylum in other lands and, in particular, at our southern border.

Therefore, we join in a call for the humane and sacred treatment of migrants, refugees, and those who seek asylum at our borders as a recognition that the same Jesus who traveled with his family on that fateful night, can

still be found in the faces of all of the families we see on our TV screens and our social media spaces.

Along with this, we stand in opposition to the State of Texas SB 4 law, signed by Governor Greg Abbott, which allows police officials to arrest and charge migrants with misdemeanors or more serious offenses if they do not agree to leave by order of a State judge.

This law incentivizes racial profiling and further limits the rights of due process for migrants fleeing unthinkable violence, poverty, and death.

Furthermore, we oppose the inhumane treatment of migrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers by Governor Abbott in transporting migrants to other States without their knowledge or consent, only to abandon them on cold streets without concern about the extreme cold weather and safety issues they would face.

We call on this administration to honor the principles of so many of the world religions that call us to mercy, to compassion, and to welcome and hold sacred lives of immigrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers when engaging in budget negotiations and stricter border security measures.

We urge the administration to consider prayerfully those measures that will lead to a safe and just resolution with a path toward effective immigration solutions, funding to be able to process asylum and refugee claims faster and more effectively, and intentional steps to work with countries of origin to understand and combat the reasons for this mass migration.

We call on our colleagues, Members of the House and Senate, to negotiate in good faith with this administration, not in the hopes of gaining political points, as we have seen, but in the spirit of their shared citizenship in the world and with a deep conviction of what it means to be a beloved community.

The Gospel of Matthew tells us that Herod tempted the wise men to carry out his evil intentions toward the Christ child and his family. However, in a dream, an angel warns them not to return to Herod. Instead, they chose to return by another route.

Their courage and conviction should inspire all of us to choose another route, one filled with compassion, with justice, with mercy, and the belief that we are all made in the image of our creator and endowed with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

We call on all Methodists and all humans everywhere to join us in the call of action for prayer.

May we lead differently. May we recognize our shared humanity. May our faith lead us to action. May we be reminded that we, in fact, have a shared humanity and a responsibility to act justly and mercifully.

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MAYOR JOSH MOENNING RETIRING

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sincere gratitude to my hometown mayor, Josh Moenning, of Norfolk, Nebraska. After almost 12 years as mayor, he has decided to retire at the end of his term.

During his tenure, Mayor Moenning saw Norfolk through dozens of projects that made our city a more desirable place for families and young people. Mayor Moenning said his time as mayor centered around three things: enhanced quality of life, improved infrastructure and city services, and economic growth.

He accomplished those three objectives and more by renovating Johnson Park, revitalizing a wide variety of businesses and housing developments, and expanding infrastructure. Mayor Moenning took the city's ideas and needs, and he put them into action.

Because of his service to our community, Norfolk is an even better place to live, work, and raise a family than it was 12 years ago.

On behalf of the city of Norfolk in the First Congressional District, I extend our appreciation to Mayor Moenning for his leadership over the past 12 years.

IN HONOR OF ANGIE MUHLEISEN

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Angie Muhleisen.

For the better part of three decades, Angie has led Union Bank & Trust of Lincoln. She has recently announced she is stepping down as CEO.

When Angie started at Union Bank, it was a \$50 million financial institution. Through the years, she has helped grow it into an \$8 billion organization with over 1,000 teammates.

From Lincoln's Inspire Woman of the Year to the Chamber's Burnham Yates Citizenship Award, Angie's leadership has earned significant recognition from community organizations.

Even as she steps away from her role as CEO, her heart for service isn't slowing down. She recently became the board chair for the University of Nebraska Foundation. She also serves on the board of Assurity and is involved in numerous other organizations.

Angie's greatest legacy is her family. Her son Jason is stepping into the role as CEO and will do an outstanding job building on her work.

Best wishes to Angie on this next chapter.

SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight National School Choice Week.

School choice allows parents and children to choose the school that best fits their needs. Whether it is a public school, a private school, a home school, or a hybrid of these options, parents have a right to direct the upbringing and education of their kids.

Last year, Nebraska passed its first school choice law, helping more families and kids to pick a school that best

fits their needs, but there is still more we can do.

Here at the Federal level, I am a proud cosponsor of Congressman ADRIAN SMITH's Educational Choice for Children Act, which would bolster school choice across the Nation. This legislation would help more kids from low-income households access the education of their choice. I urge my colleagues to pass this.

Back home in Nebraska, our legislature has been working to fund students, not systems. I am excited to see how they build on their school choice success. Keep up the great work.

HOUSING WEEK

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight housing week, as declared by me, in Nebraska.

A recent survey by Lending Tree found that 94 percent of Americans identified owning a house as part of the American Dream, but just over half of those "... who don't own a home say they're worried they never will."

Next week, I will address a Workforce Housing Summit hosted by the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce. If we want to keep the American Dream alive, we must address the high cost of housing, help more Americans save for a downpayment, and break through other barriers. We must also take care of the housing stock in our communities.

Later next week, I will be hosting a housing improvement meeting in Clarkson. This meeting will help brief community members about programs that can help weatherize and improve existing homes. Next week will be full of small, but important, steps toward addressing this shortage. While there is no silver bullet, through the work of local, State, and Federal partners, we can help more Americans find the home of their dreams.

100-PLUS DAYS OF ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, it has been more than 100 days since Hamas launched a vicious war against Israel, committing inhumane acts of violence.

Since October 7, Israel has worked to eliminate Hamas in response to their horrific killing and torture of over 1,000 innocent people. Right now, there are still more than 100 hostages being held by Hamas, including as many as six Americans.

Over the last few months, we have witnessed numerous protests across the country sympathizing with Hamas, which is nothing short of shocking. The messages of these protesters is often at odds with supporting the only democracy in the Middle East, and they do not reflect our Nation's values.

Let me be clear. America does not negotiate with terrorists, and we support the right of Israel to exist. America will continue to stand with Israel as they work to end Hamas and free every single hostage. We will not back down.

May God bless the continued friendship between Israel and America.

MATER DEI HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate Mater Dei High School's football team for earning their fourth California State championship. The Monarchs secured their final win of the season over an undefeated team with an impressive 35-0 victory.

Their success is a shining example of the dedication, hard work, and perseverance of the young players, the coaches, and the community.

Also with this win, the Monarchs claimed a top three position in national rankings and the number one spot in the media composite on the national level.

I congratulate the students, parents, coaches, and teachers that form the Monarch football team. You have made us proud. I am looking forward to next year.

NORTH ORANGE CONTINUING EDUCATION'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the North Orange County Continuing Education Program.

For half a century, North Orange County Continuing Education has offered programs that transform lives in Orange County.

Established in 1973, NOCE has grown to serve more than 29,000 students each and every year and offers over a thousand courses each semester to those of all ages.

The curriculum includes vocational, business, financial, and other skills that individuals need throughout their life. Also, beyond the classroom, NOCE has shown the real impact that they have on our community. In fact, they support over 3,000 jobs directly and indirectly and offer services to help everyday individuals succeed.

As we celebrate NOCE's 50th anniversary, we reflect back on their work and look forward to their future and their success in our community.

ANAHEIM PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Anaheim Public Library's award-winning Foster Youth Initiative that has gained recognition for making resources available to kids in need.

The library's Foster Youth Initiative offers library cards to youth who are in the foster care system, who are homeless, or those that have been emancipated. This card is special. It removes address requirements and penalties and makes sure that those young people have access to our community's public library system.

Also, the initiative has been recognized by the Orange County Business Council's Public-Private Partnership and has received such an award. It is a testament to the hundreds of library cards that have been made available to