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## CELEBRATING EARTH DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. McCLELLAN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Earth Day, which will be on Monday, a day to honor and celebrate our remarkable planet.

Earth Day is an important opportunity to renew our commitment to combating climate change, transitioning to a clean-energy future, promoting conservation and sustainability, and advancing environmental justice.

We face serious environmental challenges across the globe, from preventing sea level rise on the coasts to combating the destruction of natural habitats in the Arctic and everything in between.

Under the leadership of the Biden-Harris administration, Congressional Democrats made historic climate progress over the past few years, including the largest investment in climate action and clean energy in our Nation's history.

The Inflation Reduction Act is creating hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs of the future, and as we continue to transition to cleaner, more sustainable technologies, we are working to ensure that everyone can benefit from these investments and that no one is left behind.

The Biden-Harris administration is complementing our efforts with transformative executive actions that include finalizing strong standards that cut greenhouse gas emissions and safeguard our communities.

Thanks to the administration, we have taken historic action to reduce methane emissions; strengthen standards for soot; limit emissions from cars, trucks, and buses; and curb PFAS, or forever chemical, contamination.

In the coming weeks, we look forward to a strong final rule for Mercury and Air Toxics Standards for power plants. Last year, I led over 50 Members of Congress in urging the administration to finalize strong standards that will protect the health and well-being of the American people, and we eagerly await that final rule.

I commend the administration for their commitment to ensuring that 40 percent of the overall benefits of Federal investments in climate, clean energy, affordable and sustainable housing, and other key areas flow to historically disadvantaged communities that have been disproportionately impacted by climate change and pollution.

For too long, low-income communities, communities of color, our Tribal and indigenous communities, have borne the brunt of environmental degradation and our worsening climate. The climate crisis exacerbates longstanding inequities and contributes to

worse public health outcomes for vulnerable populations.

My predecessor, the late Donald McEachin, was a true environmental justice champion who always stood up for these vulnerable populations. Each year, he would lead a resolution to recognize Earth Day and call for action to protect our planet. This week, I look forward to building on his legacy and helping to reintroduce that resolution to honor Earth Day.

As a mother to two young children, I am fighting to ensure a healthy, more sustainable future for my children and yours. Earth Day is a reminder that we have no planet B. We must continue fighting to protect our Earth and protect our next generation.

## RECOGNIZING COACH KEVIN KIERNAN

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 the career of Mater Dei High School Coach Kevin Kiernan. After 17 years at Mater Dei coaching the girls basketball team, this will be his last season coaching the Monarchs.

Coach Kiernan recently celebrated his 900th win after a decisive victory in the southern California regional playoffs. It was a bittersweet moment for the coach as he and his players reflected on the legacy that he is leaving behind. He wraps up his coaching career with 12 CIF Southern Section titles, six State crowns, and two national championships. That is a record.

Coach Kiernan is an Orange County native, and Mater Dei High School will keep him as athletic director.

We wish him the best. I am glad he is staying around. Let's keep the good work going.

## HONORING RICHARD "DICK" HIGGINS

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the heroic life and legacy of Richard "Dick" Higgins.

Dick was a husband, longtime Orange County resident, and a national hero. He served in the Navy during World War II after surviving the horrific attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

His service to our community continued after he left the Navy, visiting schools and doing interviews and making sure that history stayed alive with young people and others in Orange County.

Dick lived to be 102 years old, and he is survived by two children, two grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. In his words, he now goes to be with his beloved Winnie Ruth, his wife of 60 years.

I thank Dick for his service to our country and thank him for his sacrifice.

## HONORING ORANGE COUNTY SCHOOL COUNSELORS OF THE YEAR

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor this year's Orange County School Counselors of the Year.

I am so proud that two of these counselors are from my hometown. Mr. Gernux is from Santa Ana Unified School District, and Ms. Rodriguez is from Anaheim Union School District, both of whom represent the best in our local public schools.

Like myself, Ms. Rodriguez and Mr. Gernux were grown in our local hometowns. They are products of Orange County public schools, and now they are giving back to the public school system that gave them so much.

Ms. Rodriguez, Mr. Gernux, and the rest of these fine educators will continue to shape the future leaders of tomorrow. All of us in Orange County and in Congress appreciate their commitment to our community, our youth, and our future.

## RECOGNIZING BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, for women looking to start or grow their families, motherhood should be one of the greatest, most joyful times in their lives. For far too many Black women in Ohio's 13th Congressional District and across this country, this experience is often overshadowed by trauma, heartache, and loss.

It is no secret that Ohio, my home State, has one of the highest Black maternal death rates in the entire Nation, with Black women two to three times more likely than White women to die from pregnancy or birth-related causes.

We rightfully talk about the social determinants of health that Black women face in accessing quality, affordable prenatal and postnatal healthcare in our communities, which contributes to these completely unacceptable maternal mortality rates.

Today, I would like to focus our attention on another contributing factor to Black maternal mortality that is often overlooked: intimate partner violence. Homicide is the leading cause of death among pregnant women in the United States. It is higher than the three leading health causes of maternal mortality, those being hypertension, hemorrhaging, and sepsis.

Addressing the violence that plagues women during pregnancy and shortly thereafter is why I introduced the Safer Homes and Families Act. This comprehensive legislative package would provide vital support to keep moms and families safe, including prohibiting the use of electronic devices for stalking, providing training for healthcare providers to better identify and treat individuals experiencing abuse, and allowing survivors to break a lease without adverse costs.

Statistics have indicated that nearly 20 percent of women experience violence during their pregnancies, and for one in six women, abuse first begins during their pregnancy. This violence substantially increases the likelihood

for pregnancy-related complications that not only endanger the life of the woman but also that of her unborn baby.

While members of the Congressional Black Maternal Health Caucus are working tirelessly to highlight and address the ongoing epidemic of Black maternal health, it is clear there is more work that needs to be done. Even to this day, we are still trying to convince colleagues on both sides of the aisle and in both Chambers how important it is that we care for women and care for mothers.

This is not a partisan issue. It is a human issue. Our Black mothers and babies in every district across the country deserve to live long, healthy, and happy lives.

I am confident that regardless of our political party, we can work together to improve health outcomes and deliver on the promise of better health, healthier lives, and brighter futures for all of us.

I call on my colleagues to join us in the fight to keep our moms and babies safe. Our mothers and babies simply cannot wait any longer.

Finally, I would like to recognize the many local organizations in Ohio's 13th Congressional District that are working each and every day to improve the health of Black moms and babies in our community. Organizations like Stark County THRIVE, Full Term First Birthday, Project Ujima, and the Minority Behavioral Health Group are all committed to improving maternal health outcomes and promoting equity in Ohio's 13th District.

Improving maternal health requires action and collaboration at every level, and I am extremely proud and grateful to these organizations for the work they are doing.

This Black Maternal Health Week and beyond, I am committed to improving healthcare access to all and giving women and families the tools they need to live healthy, happier lives in Ohio's 13th Congressional District and beyond.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 25 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

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#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CARL) at noon.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Holy God, You call us to hold fast to faith, to trust You, the creator of the universe, to answer our personal needs, even while You attend to the multitude of demands in our communities, our country, and our world. How is it that You can hear us when the whole world cries for deliverance from warfare and famine and disease? May our faith be strong enough to believe that You in Your divine power will replenish us, as well as these deserts of disaster, with Your ocean of grace.

Our despair has names like Israel, Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, and Taiwan. What answers are to be had which will address the injustices, the injuries, the inhumanity that overwhelm these regions? God, give us reason to hope in You, our redeemer, that we would be patient in tribulation and constant in prayer.

Transform our fears, our pains, our worries, and our concerns with Your love, a love greater than all that seeks to defeat or overtake us. For when all our efforts fail, when no solution is in sight, these three remain: faith, hope, and love. The greatest of these is the love we receive from You.

In the name of the one who loved us first, we pray.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF U.S. ARMY CAPTAIN HARRY CRAMER

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and the legacy of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, native and U.S. Army Captain Harry Cramer.

In 1957, U.S. Army Captain Cramer was attached to the 14th Special Forces Operational Detachment when he was killed while training soldiers in Nha Trang.

In giving his life for his country, Captain Cramer became the first of 58,281 soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who would be killed during the Vietnam war.

Throughout his time in the Army, Captain Cramer showed incredible bravery and was awarded a Silver Star and two Purple Hearts during his service in the Korean war. Last week, Captain Cramer was recognized in Cambria County when Highway 403, a road that was originally built by his family in the 1890s, was renamed in his honor.

America owes a debt of gratitude to Captain Cramer that can never be fully repaid. May God bless him and the entire Cramer family.

#### CONGRATULATING NORTH HOLLYWOOD HIGH'S SCIENCE BOWL TEAM

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of smart, dedicated, and science-loving students in my district from North Hollywood, California.

Last month, the Science Bowl team at North Hollywood High School won first place at the LADWP Science Bowl, the regional qualifying tournament for the Department of Energy's National Science Bowl Competition.

The team, made up of Boheng Cao, Daniel Hong, Phoebe Xu, Connor Zhao, and Suzoko Ohshima, rose to the challenge and topped other formidable science teams.

North Hollywood High School has won an astounding 25 of 27 regional competitions and are two-time National Science Bowl champions, having won most recently in 2021.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the team coaches, Altair Maine and Len Soloff, for fostering a culture of academic excellence and spreading the love of science to these remarkable students. I wish them all the best in the upcoming 2024 national competition.

#### CONGRATULATING THE SIRMON FAMILY

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

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Sirmon family of Baldwin County, Alabama, on their family farm being awarded the 2024 Alabama Farm of Distinction.

Sirmon Farms is owned by Joel and Patti Sirmon. Joel's mother, Shirley, who bakes great cookies, and her brother, James, also help run the fifth-generation family-owned farm.

At Sirmon Farms, they grow cotton, peanuts, corn, and sweet potatoes on