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## HONORING NATE BRUCKENTHAL'S SERVICE

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

Mr. LALOTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a true hero, Nate Bruckenthal, who gave his life in service to our great country on April 24, 2004.

Born in Stony Brook, Nate's unwavering dedication to service was evident from a young age. In 1999, he answered the call of duty and joined the United States Coast Guard and served on the Point Wells based out of Montauk.

In 2004, he deployed to the Arabian Gulf where he and two Navy sailors were killed while intercepting a waterborne suicide attack off the coast of Iraq. Nate's actions saved the lives of countless fellow sailors, and we can never thank him enough for his bravery and heroism.

Nate's ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty serves as a poignant reminder of the selflessness and courage exhibited by our servicemembers every day. May we never forget his sacrifice and may his memory inspire future generations to serve with the same bravery and devotion.

## AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM ON BRINK OF COLLAPSE

(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, the Affordable Connectivity Program, ACP, a lifeline for 23 million households nationwide, is on the brink of collapse. April marks the end of the program, putting the internet out of reach for many Americans.

The ACP is about leveling the digital playing field, especially for rural America. Without action, millions will lose access to high-speed internet. In North Carolina's First Congressional District, over 81,000 households rely on ACP for internet access.

ACP isn't about luxury. It is essential for our farmers, students, and small businesses. I urge Congress to act now.

## HONORING FATHER ROBERT CYRIL GUISE

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

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Father Robert Cyril Guise, who passed away and entered into eternal life on April 4, 2024, at the age of 92.

He demonstrated through his decades of highly respected, Godly service around the world that a timeless faith in our Savior Jesus Christ rises above

all earthly troubles and that a man who dedicates himself to bringing the Word of God can shine a light to those in darkness that can never be extinguished.

He brought countless souls to Christ, and should be commended for this, but I believe that he would have preferred to be remembered as a simple servant of God. In his humility, he gave us an example to follow, this being a reflection of the example set by our Savior.

Father Cyril was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to Harry and Mary V. McGrath Guise. Father Cyril was a Carmelite Friar for almost 65 years. He entered religious life on August 21, 1950, at the age of 19 and made his first profession of vows a year later and was ordained into the priesthood on June 6, 1959.

After his ordination, Father Cyril was called to minister in the Philippines, and then he was appointed vicar at the Church's retreat house in Peterborough, New Hampshire. For the next several decades, Father Cyril lovingly served those in the most trying of times as a dedicated hospital chaplain in multiple locations around the country.

In 1994, God called him to Holy Hill, where he served in leadership for a 3-year term as prior and then as director of the developmental office. He will be greatly missed by his religious community.

On a personal note, Father Cyril was my Uncle Bob and Auntie Mary Jean's priest. We all consider him a member of our family who offered the greatest comfort to those of us during their passing, as he did during the passing of our daughter. May God bless him and grant him sweet repose.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that Father Robert Cyril Guise's contribution to my State, this Nation, and the world be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for posterity.

## ENERGY STABILITY IN INSULAR REGIONS

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak about the need for congressional support for energy stability in offshore, isolated and underserved areas. In the Virgin Islands, we are acutely aware of the impacts of climate change, including the increasing frequency and severity of hurricanes, as evidenced in 2017 with two Category 5 hurricanes hitting our home.

Energy remains the single most critical factor for our territory's future. High electricity costs and power instability continue to hamper economic recovery. Systemic energy instability has direct and indirect negative impacts on sustainable economic development, which magnifies existing societal vulnerabilities.

The Biden-Harris administration's energy policy offers the Virgin Islands

and places like it a transformative opportunity, including the Energy Department's State Energy Program and Loan Programs Office, the Interior Department's Energizing Insular Communities, and EPA's Solar for All programs.

We must continue to utilize and champion this administration's vision to enable disadvantaged, isolated areas to define and implement our energy future through a modern-day lens, fundamentally addressing our needs as we see them.

## FRANK'S RESTAURANT 100TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, in a time where there is conflict and war throughout the world, it is also good to remember those things that bring a smile to our face, whether it is people, traditions, or places. Today's tribute is one of those in my life.

It is the 100th anniversary of Frank's Restaurant, which is an absolute icon in my hometown of Zeeland, Michigan. It was started by a man named Frank Dionise just 100 years ago and was family owned. The Dionises and the Hammers had owned it until just recently.

It is the kind of place that every Zeelander has memories in and around. It is the kind of place where every true Zeelander knows what their go-to order is; mine happens to be the olive burger with onion rings.

I thank Teresa Vander Zwaag and the families that have taken that over and made sure that this institution is continuing while it celebrates 100 years in the great town of Zeeland, Michigan.

## NORTH AMERICA'S STRONGEST TOWN

(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 rise today to recognize the strongest town in America. This year, 16 cities from across our continent competed for the title of North America's Strongest Town.

Over a 4-week span, with each round of voting lasting one week, these communities competed for a prestigious title. That title came back home to America's heartland in the Great Lakes region. The winner was Maumee in northwest Ohio in the Ninth Congressional District. It took the title over Norfolk, Nebraska.

This year's contest was the ninth annual event to name the strongest town. According to contest rules, a strong town is defined as any town, big or small, that prioritizes making progress in transportation, housing, and fiscal resiliency for the long-term benefit of its people.

The award does not ask a town to be perfect nor does every strong town look the same. This is because strong towns incrementally adapt to the conditions and challenges of their specific place from the bottom up.

Maumee, Ohio, which exists along the Maumee River, the largest river that flows into the entire Great Lakes, will hold a news conference this morning to formally accept this prestigious title. We in northwest Ohio couldn't be prouder of Maumee, Ohio. Onward, Maumee.

#### OUR BORDER IS A SIEVE

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, we have this gigantic problem with our sieve of a border. We hear all these ideas of how we can spend lots of money or the White House can't do anything about it.

Well, I remind you that President Trump had many pieces in place that were actually working and bringing the numbers down on illegal immigration into this country. All we have to do is put these pieces right back in place.

President Biden, by executive action, could put these eight ideas right back in place and not have to do anything with new expenditures or new legislation. We have the laws; we have the ability. He just needs to act.

To hear the President saying: I don't know if I have the authority. That is bogus. He has the authority. If he wants to take action, he can. These eight items right here on this poster could be something he could sign executive orders right away and stop a massive percentage of what is wrong with our border. It would make our country secure again, save money, save the wear and tear on our social programs and make the citizens of our country feel like their citizenship actually means something once again.

I urge President Biden to take these steps and put us back on the correct track.

#### AUTHORIZING WORK PERMITS

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to emphasize the need for the Biden administration to authorize work permits for those in our Nation who are long-term immigrants.

Yesterday, my colleagues and I sent a letter to the White House pushing for work permits for long-term immigrants, those that have been in our country for decades working hard, paying taxes, and contributing to our economy. We should also help the spouses of our military. We should also help deported veterans.

The last time we had meaningful immigration reform in this country, that

great Californian Ronald Reagan was President. To date, Congress has failed to deliver on a pathway to citizenship.

I ask Mr. Biden to use his pen, sign an executive order, give these hard-working immigrants a work permit.

#### CONGRATULATING JEFF MCLENDON

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

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Georgia's Jeff McLendon on the conclusion of his tenure as chairman of the National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors.

This association is comprised of the companies that keep America moving while employing 6 million Americans, many of them Georgians, in high-paying, rewarding careers.

With Jeff's guidance as chairman, NAW expanded its educational opportunities for emerging leaders, enhanced its thoughtful leadership in a rapidly innovating world and continued to be an effective voice for distribution-friendly policies here in Washington.

NAW's success under Jeff's leadership shouldn't be a surprise to anyone, knowing Jeff's success in the business over these past 20 years leading Duluth, Georgia's, Specialty Building Products.

I had the opportunity to visit one of his facilities last year and to meet with him and members of his impressive team. Jeff is a humble leader and a man of faith who cares deeply about his employees, his community, and his country.

I, again, congratulate Jeff on his tenure as NAW chairman, and I appreciate his continued servant leadership in the Georgia business community.

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#### A SMART AGREEMENT

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, later today on April 18, three Australian submariners are slated to graduate from the Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton. They are the first three submariners from Australia under the AUKUS security agreement who are gaining proficiency to operate a nuclear-powered submarine—again, a first for both countries.

After graduating from this course, they will be headed to Naval Station Pearl Harbor for assignment to United States Virginia-class submarines, and this, again, marks another first where they will be the first-ever Australian naval personnel assigned a U.S. Navy vessel.

Over the next 12 months, 100 more Australian Navy personnel will continue in this pipeline to implement the

AUKUS agreement, which is one of the smartest collaborations between the U.S., the U.K., and Australia to uplift their submarine capacity to work together for the three nations and rebalance the deteriorating security environment in the Indo-Pacific. I congratulate them all, or as they would say in Australian, good on ya.

#### GAZA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CISCOMANI). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise, Mr. Speaker, and still I rise. Today, I would like to do something just a bit different. I have stood here on many occasions and said that I love my country, that I salute the flag. I still love my country and salute the flag, and today what I would like to do is actually salute the flag. I just believe that any time is a good time, especially when you are in this facility, to salute the flag.

If you would indulge me, Mr. Speaker, I would like to move to another podium.

And still I rise, Mr. Speaker, proud to stand here in the well of the House of Representatives. One can but only imagine the great speeches, the oratory that is imitated from this area. However, today, I want to do something different. I just want to say the Pledge of Allegiance from this very almost sacred place.

Those who would like to join me, you but only have to stand and as you would normally salute the flag, you may do so. If you choose not to, you don't have to. The greatness of America will not be measured by whether the AL GREENS of the world salute the flag. The greatness of America will be measured by whether the AL GREENS of the world would defend those who choose not to salute the flag, who choose not to say the Pledge of Allegiance, who choose not to sing the national anthem, who choose not to stand for the anthem.

I, today, will do what I will do, and that is salute the flag. To all of my friends who are here, we are about to say the Pledge of Allegiance, and for those who choose not to, you don't have to, but those who do, would you join me by standing. I place my hand over my heart when I say the Pledge of Allegiance. I shall lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate everyone joining me in this Pledge of Allegiance.

I wanted to do this because I believe the values that we have in this country we can export to the rest of the world.