

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of the first naturalized Asian American to become a flag officer in the United States Navy, Rear Admiral Ming Erh Chang.

He was born in Shanghai, China, in 1932. Just over a decade later, in 1946, his family immigrated to the United States to escape the Chinese Communist Party.

His dream was to attend the U.S. Naval Academy. However, because he was not a citizen, he was not allowed to do so. He was not deterred.

Instead, he attended the College of William and Mary. After graduating, he joined the Navy in 1958, becoming one of the first officers to earn the rank of admiral after completing officer candidate school rather than the Naval Academy.

Rear Admiral Chang served our Nation honorably for 34 years before retiring in 1992. He dedicated the rest of his life to mentoring and promoting young Asian Americans so they could achieve the American Dream as he had done.

Rear Admiral Chang passed away in October 2017. He embodied what it meant to an American, to serve our great Nation, and to carve a path forward for future generations of Asian Americans. It is a privilege to honor his legacy here today.

#### HONORING THE POLISH-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, the relationship between Poland and the United States and the contributions of Poles and Polish Americans to liberty during and since our American Revolution in 1776 are legendary.

As Polish Constitution Day approaches this Friday, May 3, our bipartisan House Polish Caucus will introduce a resolution recognizing the 105th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Poland and the United States. Those began on May 2, 1919, following the devastation of World War I.

Our Nation's enduring friendship dates back even further to Polish Generals Tadeusz Kosciuszko and Casimir Pulaski who nobly served during America's Revolutionary War fighting for America's independence.

During World War I, famed pianist Ignacy Jan Paderewski and Henryk Sienkiewicz traveled to the United States to promote the idea of an independent Poland.

Following World War I, President Woodrow Wilson delivered a compelling speech to Congress on January 22, 1917, advocating for Polish independence.

Let us pay tribute to the many contributions of Polish Americans and Poles to liberty on this Earth.

As Poland's first President Lech Walesa observes: "Every Pole is born with the Freedom gene."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to co-sponsor this bipartisan resolution.

#### WILDFIRE SEASON APPROACHING

(Mrs. KIM of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KIM of California. Madam Speaker, with California's peak wildfire season approaching, many of my constituents are weary of the increased threat of wildfires. First responders' ability to detect wildfires and share information rapidly and securely during a wildfire is a matter of life and death.

That is why I am thrilled that the House this week passed the Fire Weather Development Act, which I helped introduce with Representatives GARCIA and CARAVEO. This bipartisan bill includes two bills I worked on that boost fire weather forecasting technologies and public safety communication standards, which I introduced after hearing from local, State, and Federal first responders.

I am proud to co-lead this common-sense bill, and I will continue to fight to get this across the finish line so we can improve wildfire readiness and protect our communities.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE COMMISSION CORPS

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

Ms. TOKUDA. Madam Speaker, the United States Public Health Service Commission Corps is one of the Nation's uniformed service branches on the front lines of public health access across our country and our world.

Since wildfires destroyed Lahaina last August, 86 officers have been deployed to Maui to support behavioral health, disaster recovery, and environmental health responses.

They provided clinical care, created safe spaces for people to face their trauma, and made sure that first responders got the mental health support they needed, too. They even help initiate a biosurveillance program to monitor toxic exposure on first responders and the Hawaii National Guard.

Understanding the importance of meeting people where they are at, they provided services at schools, at congregate and non-congregate shelters, and at community events. Working with trusted local entities, they developed a mandatory cultural briefing for all responders, greatly enhancing their ability to care for a community in crisis.

The next time you thank our uniformed service branches for their service to our country, remember the men and the women of the Public Health Corps. When the health and wellbeing of our communities are on the line,

when you need them, they will be there.

#### HONORING TERRY ANDERSON

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

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Terry Anderson, who recently passed at his home in Greenwood Lake, New York. Terry served our country with honor and distinction, first as a marine and later as a journalist.

In 1985, while reporting on the Lebanese civil war as the AP's chief Middle Eastern correspondent, Terry was abducted by terrorists from Hezbollah and held hostage for 7 years. Terry never lost his sense of humor or his fiery spirit.

After his return to freedom, his extraordinary humanitarian efforts uplifted lives in our community and across the globe. Terry cofounded the Vietnam Children's Fund, building over 50 schools for communities in need. It was my privilege to fight alongside him to end veteran homelessness through the Rumshock Veterans Foundation on whose board he served.

My thoughts and our whole community's thoughts are with Terry's family and the countless friends and colleagues that come from a life well lived and grounded in service.

I want to share in closing words from Terry himself: "If you keep the hatred, you can't have the joy." I think we can all learn something from Mr. Terry Anderson, a true American patriot.

□ 1745

#### RECLASSIFYING MARIJUANA

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

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the news that the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration will soon reclassify marijuana as a less dangerous drug.

Reclassifying marijuana from a schedule I drug to a schedule III drug while not legalizing marijuana is an important step in normalizing cannabis use in the United States and recognizing that marijuana is not cocaine, and it is not heroin.

The order will broaden access to the drug for medicinal purposes and move us further away from a time of prosecution and incarceration for simple possession, something that has had damaging effects to Black and Brown communities across this country.

I commend President Biden for his important work on this issue. From pardoning thousands of Americans convicted of simple possession of marijuana to reviewing all Federal marijuana laws, the Biden administration is taking the necessary steps to improve marijuana policy in the United States.

Promises made, promised delivered. I thank President Biden.

#### TRAGEDY IN CHARLOTTE

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

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, in the face of tragedy, we often find ourselves angry and disillusioned, but Madam Speaker, I rise today because I am thankful.

I am thankful for the strength of the Charlotte community, I am thankful for the law enforcement personnel that put their lives on the line each and every day to protect us, and I am thankful for the four officers that made the ultimate sacrifice in Charlotte this past Monday.

Thomas "Tommy" Weeks, was a 13-year veteran of the U.S. marshals, a husband and dedicated father of four children.

Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department Officer Joshua Eyer, was a 6-year veteran of the Department who was recently named Employee of the Month. Joshua leaves behind his wife, Ashley, and their beautiful 3-year-old son.

Department of Adult Correction Officers Sam Poloche and Alden Elliott, were both 14-year veterans of the Department.

Officer Poloche was known for being active in his community, a loving husband, and a devoted father to his two sons who are set to graduate from high school and college in just a few weeks.

Officer Elliott also leaves behind a loving wife and one child.

As we mourn these four men and pray for the speedy recovery of the four other officers who were injured, let us never forget to be thankful for the heroes that walk among us and to the families and colleagues these men leave behind.

Your community is with you. We are here for you, and we are lifting you up in prayer. The days and weeks ahead will be difficult, but together, we will persevere because we are Charlotte Strong.

May the memories of these officers be the light that guides us forward and provides comfort to those who are mourning.

#### WE ARE BETTER THAN THIS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I wish there were many, many minutes, but let me take this 1 minute to say to the American people: We are better than this, and to offer to all of those who are in pain, those who feel that they are not respected, who have come from the Mideast and believe that people do not respect them, yes, you are. This is America. We believe in free speech, free expression.

For those who are Palestinian, we respect your view, we respect the view of those who are from Israel, and we must show that as we go home to honor our communities. We must show that.

We must also stop anti-Semitism and show who we are. If we show them who we are, that is who we are. We must show that freedom of religion counts in America, freedom of religion, freedom of speech.

Yes, we must honor those law enforcement officers who have fallen in the line of duty. This week they have died. We want them to know that they will not be forgotten.

I stand here today as I started, Madam Speaker, by saying: We are better than this. We are Americans. We will always fight for freedom.

We will always fight for your freedom. We will always fight for your ability to say that, and I will leave this floor right now to say that speech and those words are important, Madam Speaker.

#### DESIGNATION OF JILL BAISINGER AS ACTING INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 118-134)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability and ordered to be printed:

##### *To the Congress of the United States:*

This is to advise that I am exercising my authority to designate an Acting Inspector General of the Department of Commerce. I have directed that Jill Baisinger, who is currently serving as the Chief of Staff in the Office of Inspector General at the Department of the Interior, shall serve concurrently as Acting Inspector General of the Department of Commerce, effective 30 days from today.

In January, the Inspector General of the Department of Commerce resigned and the Deputy Inspector General began performing the functions and duties of the Inspector General in an acting capacity.

I have determined that during this period of transition, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) at the Department of Commerce would benefit from leadership brought in from outside of the office. In a letter to the President dated March 18, 2024, the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology (Committee) stated that they had reached the same conclusion after a 10-month investigation. The attached letter from Counsel to the President Ed Siskel, which I have incorporated here by reference, provides additional details regarding the Committee's investigation.

Jill Baisinger is well positioned to provide independent and strong leader-

ship to the OIG at the Department of Commerce. She has an exemplary track record in the Office of Inspector General at the Department of the Interior and previously at the Office of Inspector General at the Department of State. Her leadership experience, deep understanding of the mission of Inspectors General, and expertise in oversight and investigations will help the OIG perform its vital role for the Department of Commerce.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 1, 2024.

#### IMPORTANT ISSUES

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

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Madam Speaker, this is an important week in the House of Representatives as we discuss several issues important to Americans across the country, from standing up for Jewish students in the midst of dangerous anti-Semitic rhetoric and demonstrations being tolerated at universities across the country to denouncing the Biden administration for their mishandling of the crisis at our southern border.

It was also Lands Week this week, and House Republicans proudly championed and passed legislation that will unleash American energy, promote outdoor access, and support local communities.

In my home State of Utah, we are deeply concerned about the Biden administration's Federal land overreach that is stifling economic growth, national security, and recreation opportunities.

I thank my colleague for joining me this evening, on a fly-out day, no less.

I yield to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN).

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Utah, my friend, for having this Special Order tonight to once again highlight the failures of the Biden administration on our southern border.

Since President Biden's first day in office, he has failed our Nation by refusing to secure the southern border.

During his first year, President Biden reversed several of President Trump's policies that were effective in addressing illegal immigration.

President Biden stopped construction of the border wall, even though it was already funded. Instead, he paid contractors \$6 million a day while he studied the border.