

American air power and to support operations worldwide.

Since 2010, the Air Operations Group took on its current role supporting the U.S. Air Force's central theater as they have completed nine deployments in Doha, Qatar.

During these deployments, the 193rd supported the 609th Air Operations Center, conducting operations vital to the global war on terror and thwarting al-Qaida, ISIS, and Iranian-aligned aggressors in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria.

Additionally, the unit assisted in sustaining military operations throughout the U.S. Central Command area of operations, including 21 Nations in the Middle East, Central Asia, and South Asia.

Mr. Speaker, as the national strategy has begun to focus on defending against near-peer adversaries, the 193rd AOG has excelled at staying agile, informed, and at the tip of the spear for providing combat mission-ready warriors to support operations worldwide.

The members of the 193rd have most recently supported U.S. Indo-Pacific Command exercises in line with the national strategy to train and meet the increasing threat posed by China.

Additionally, the 193rd has participated in the Pennsylvania National Guard State partnership program with Lithuania, conducting military training and readiness with a strategic military ally.

Mr. Speaker, I personally thank those who previously and currently serve the 193rd AOG for their dedication and service to our great Nation, and I congratulate them on 75 years of operations.

HONORING OFFICER BRIAN SICKNICK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise during Police Week to honor a son of New Jersey's 12th District who gave his life protecting many of the people that are Members of this Chamber.

Brian Sicknick was raised in South River, New Jersey. He attended East Brunswick Technical High School where he dreamed of being a police officer.

He later joined the New Jersey Air Force National Guard's 108th Wing at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey.

Officer Sicknick served in Operation Enduring Freedom, attaining the rank of staff sergeant. He later moved to Springfield, Virginia, and joined the United States Capitol Police. One of his first assignments was the inauguration of President Obama.

For 12 years, Officer Sicknick was a dedicated protector of our Capitol. On January 6, 2021, he found himself at the front lines on the Capitol's west side, facing off against a violent mob bent on dismantling our democracy.

He came under repeated attacks but held his post, defending the lives of the people who had been elected, their staff, and employees of this Capitol. Later that night, Officer Sicknick collapsed at the Capitol and sadly passed away the next day.

Officer Brian Sicknick gave his life defending our democracy against an insurrection fomented by the former President of the United States of America, who is currently on trial.

Were it not for that insurrection, Officer Sicknick would still be with us today. Were it not for the heroism of Officer Sicknick and his fellow USCP officers, we would not be here today.

For those who were not with us on that day, it must be hard to imagine the danger of the moment, how close we came to losing everything, particularly our lives and our democracy.

We have a responsibility to the officers who defended the Capitol on that day and who still protect us now to ensure that never again shall they be called upon to sacrifice in such a way.

I will be forever grateful to Officer Sicknick and his fellow USCP and Metro Police Department officers for defending my life, for the lives of my colleagues, and most importantly, for our democracy. We are all forever in his debt.

THE GREAT STATE OF IOWA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my home State of Iowa being ranked the sixth overall State to live in.

Scoring third in opportunity and in the top 10 for education, Iowa has proven that regardless of where you come from or where you are going, you can find success in the Hawkeye State.

Looking for a great place to study? Iowa has some of the Nation's top schools. Want to buy a house and start a family? Iowa is one of the most affordable States to live in and a beautiful State to raise a family.

Want to start a new career? Iowa is home to several booming industries, entrepreneurship flourishes, and we would be happy to have you.

Iowa is historically known for being a farming State, but recently our State has emerged as one of the Nation's leaders in clean energy production.

In Iowa, the American Dream is alive, well, and waiting for you. God bless the Hawkeye State.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate National Teacher Appreciation Day, which took place this past Tuesday on May 7.

America's teachers are heroes who take on the monumental task of shaping our Nation's future leaders with the utmost grandeur and grit.

Growing up, we never forget those teachers who have left a marked im-

pact on our lives and mentor us through the grueling process of maturation.

As a matter of fact, I remember my second grade teacher, Ms. Tenniswood in Michigan, who helped me to know that I was special enough to one day achieve my dreams.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of America's teachers, our upcoming generation stands poised to confront the complexities of the future with resilience and readiness.

Iowa is home to over 35,000 teachers who play a key role in the future of our State. As we honor their invaluable contributions, let us unite in recognition of their dedication and pray for their continued success in nurturing the youth and steering the course of America's future.

Together, let us commit to supporting and uplifting our educators who are the bedrock of our society.

NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Nurses Week, which takes place from May 6 to May 12 every year.

In 1974, President Nixon declared that one week in May should be dedicated to our amazing nurses. Then in 1993, the American Nurses Association board of directors declared that May 6 through May 12 would be the official dates, coinciding with National Nurses Day on May 6 and Florence Nightingale's birthday on May 12.

As someone who has dedicated their life to healthcare and public service and was a former nurse before becoming a physician and married to a nurse, I can confidently say that our nurses are community heroes. The sacrifices they make for the well-being of our communities are commendable.

Let's take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to these dedicated healthcare heroes and thank them for their unwavering care and compassion.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Police Week. National Police Week stands as a beacon of honor, remembrance, and solidarity, allowing us to pay homage to the heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

Since its inception in 1962 by President John F. Kennedy, this week holds profound significance as we commemorate Peace Officers Memorial Day on May 15 and the surrounding days as Police Week.

It is a time when tens of thousands of law enforcement officers, survivors, and citizens converge on our Nation's Capital to partake in events that honor and remember our fallen heroes.

National Police Week isn't just a commemoration; it is a testament to the resilience and dedication of those who wear the badge. It is a reminder that the sacrifices made by our law enforcement officers will never be forgotten.

Let us stand together in gratitude and solidarity, honoring the heroes

who have given their all for the safety and well-being of others. In Iowa, we will always back the blue.

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HONORING COACH LISA BLUDER

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the incomparable career and influence of Iowa women's basketball Coach Lisa Bluder, who announced her retirement from coaching this week.

In her 24-year career coaching the Hawkeyes, she has led the team to five Big 10 tournament championships and two Final Fours. She is finishing her tenure as the Big Ten's winningest women's basketball coach of all time. Her wide-ranging influence over women's basketball is undeniable, and her time spent mentoring and molding young women into this generation's elite assembly of athletes is worthy of the utmost commendation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Coach Bluder's immaculate career and in wishing her well on a well-earned retirement.

As always, go Hawkeyes, and I congratulate Coach Bluder.

HONORING DR. ASSAD MEYMANDI

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOLINARO). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ROSS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable life and extraordinary legacy of Dr. Assad Meymandi, who sadly passed away last week.

Born in Iran, Dr. Meymandi moved to the United States in 1955 and quickly fell in love with this country. He moved to Raleigh, North Carolina, after receiving his medical degree from George Washington University. He dedicated much of his career to improving mental health care in our State at a time when mental health was much less understood.

His place in the community is also marked by his dedication to the arts. He believed in the power of the arts so much that we can thank him for the creation of the Meymandi Concert Hall, home to North Carolina's Symphony, where thousands of people go every year to hear the breathtaking music and to experience the concert hall's renowned acoustics.

Dr. Meymandi always said that he was an American by choice, not by birth, and that he loved his country so much that he celebrated his naturalization date as his true birthday. His love for America and for our Raleigh community should serve as a guiding light to all of us.

HONORING THE VICTIMS AND HEROES OF THE ALLEN PREMIUM OUTLET TRAGEDY

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

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, today, I stand in solemn reflection in the wake of the first anniversary of the devastating mass shooting at the Allen Premium Outlet Mall.

I stand to pay tribute to the eight cherished souls we mourn from that fateful day and to commend the courageous actions of the countless heroes in our community whose swift response mitigated what could have been an even greater tragedy.

On May 6, 2023, the community of Allen, Texas, faced a harrowing ordeal as a lone gunman unleashed terror upon innocent shoppers and workers in the Allen Premium Outlet Mall. Amidst the chaos and devastation, our first responders' collective bravery and swift actions exemplified the highest standards of courage and professionalism as they selflessly risked their safety to protect and assist those in harm's way.

Therefore, I extend my deepest gratitude and solemn appreciation to the individuals, departments, and agencies whose acts of valor undoubtedly saved lives and provided comfort and reassurance to a grieving community.

In remembrance of the innocent lives lost—Kyu Song Cho, Cindy Cho, James Cho, Elio Cumana-Rivas, Christian LaCour, Daniela Mendoza, Sofia Mendoza, and Aishwarya Thatikonda—we honor their memory and offer our sincerest condolences to their families and loved ones.

I reaffirm my commitment to combating senseless acts of violence and fostering communities of peace and safety. May this proclamation stand as a testament to the resilience, compassion, and spirit of unity that define our Nation in the face of adversity.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a list of those individuals and organizations who assisted.

ALLEN POLICE OFFICERS

Ofc. Dominique Akins, Ofc. David Childers, Ofc. Ryan Dexter, Ofc. John Pena, Ofc. Lane Pollan, Ofc. Daryl Whitehead, Ofc. Rory Kelly, Ofc. Brett Anderson, Ofc. CJ Rider, Corporal Dillon Egizi, Corporal Kyle Griffith, Sgt. Chadwick Hernandez, Lt. Ty Latham, Lt. Kris Wirstrom.

ALLEN FIRE DEPARTMENT

Jake Blackshear, Hunter Bostick, Dean Boyce, Jonathan Boyd, Kristopher Bravo, Hunter Brent, Zach Caldwell, David Cannaday, Chase Condor, Tony Cooper, Marcus Corey, James Cummings, Hannah DeGan, Brandon Derrick, Elton Grant, Greg Grimes, Sam Herber, Jillian Hernandez, Brian Hoverman, Jared Inman, Payton Lambert, Paul Lopez, Matt Madding, Steve McCormick, Marc Morrow, Roger Nolen, Jeffrey Peters, Mark Randle, Simeon Royal, Nolan Skidmore, Justin Sullivan, Greg Truitt, Luis Vargas, Michael Wade, Daniel Williams, Michael Wilson.

COUNTY

Collin County Sheriff's Office, Collin County Constable 1, Collin County Constable 3.

MUNICIPAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS

Dallas PD, McKinney PD, Frisco PD, Fairview PD, Hickory Creek PD, Prosper PD, Wylie PD, Plano PD.

MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS

McKinney Fire, Plano Fire, Fairview Fire, Frisco Fire, Prosper Fire, Lucas Fire, Princeton Fire.

STATE

Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission.

STOP SPENDING MONEY WE DON'T HAVE

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, the everyday people of America can't stand at this podium and talk about the crushing inflation Washington's spending has created. The single mothers struggling to put food on the table don't have a voting card to vote against the spending that fuels food price increases. Young families struggling to buy a home can't give a speech on the House floor about the surging home prices and mortgage rates.

We are their voice. We are their Representatives, or at least we are supposed to be, but based on the tax-and-spend policies of the administration and the blowout omnibus packages forced through this Congress by many of my own colleagues, I might add, I don't think Congress is doing a very good job listening to America.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress has passed two massive spending packages, continuing the blowout COVID expansion and leaving NANCY PELOSI's spending levels in the dust.

What did Americans get for it? What did they get for their money? They didn't get a secure border. They didn't get safer cities. They sure didn't get a better economy.

Mr. Speaker, do you know who did benefit from the blowout spending? LGBTQ youth organizations, transgender organizations, abortion facilities, and the FBI, which got a brand-new headquarters and expanded authority to spy on Americans.

Mr. Speaker, the Washington establishment is addicted to spending my constituents' money, and it is never enough. We are \$34 trillion in debt, and it is still never enough.

I have no doubt there are plans brewing right now in this murky swamp to clear the decks—that is the phrase—and use the upcoming appropriations to force through more spending and more leftwing poison pills with nothing to actually secure our border and significantly cut spending to stimulate our economy. It doesn't have to be this way.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents and Texas District Three, I urge my colleagues to wake up. Stop spending money we don't have and commit to cutting wasteful government spending. We must bring prosperity back to the hardworking Americans.

HONORING DON LEE BLANKENSHIP

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my very good friend, Don Lee Blankenship.