

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

□ 1015

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.

Don was a husband, grandfather, and longtime Orange County resident, a lifelong law enforcement officer who proudly served the city of Santa Ana for 25 years. As president of the Police Officers Association, he represented those whom we refer to as the thin blue line that protects our communities.

Don was also passionate about honoring fallen officers and dedicated over 20 years to the California Peace Officers' Memorial Foundation, where we worked together to remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Don was also a devout member of Santiago de Compostela Catholic Church. He loved to volunteer there, spend time with his family, and support Notre Dame football.

Today, I join Don's children, grandchildren, neighbors, and friends in remembering his legacy. I thank Don for his dedication and protection of the Santa Ana community.

#### HONORING SERGEANT MIKE GONZALEZ

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Sergeant Mike Gonzalez, who served our country and our Santa Ana community for 32 years.

Sergeant Gonzalez served in the U.S. Navy for 7 years. He was born and raised in North Carolina but soon came to love our Orange County community and served the residents of the city of Santa Ana for 32 years as a police officer.

Sergeant Gonzalez is a hero on and off duty. On duty, he received service medals for his valor as a police officer. Off duty, he sprang into action in 2017 during a mass shooting in Las Vegas, where he saved many lives.

I thank my good friend, Mike, for his service to our country and community. He represents the best Orange County has to offer.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Police Week and the brave men and women who serve and protect Orange County.

Beginning under President Kennedy in 1962, Police Week recognizes those who protect our neighborhoods. We also remember the brave men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

Back home in Orange County, our police officers are essential to keeping our community safe. I am proud to have brought back \$3 million just this year to renovate and upgrade police headquarters in Fullerton and Stanton.

I thank all the police officers at home and across the country for keeping us and keeping our neighborhoods safe. We are proud to have their service.

#### HONORING THE STATUE UNVEILING OF THE REVEREND WILLIAM FRANKLIN "BILLY" GRAHAM, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, for the first time since 1932, North Carolina will receive a new statue representing our State in the U.S. Capitol tomorrow.

The late Reverend Billy Graham, Jr., was a very cherished Christian leader and an exemplary North Carolinian. I am proud to welcome him into the U.S. Capitol's National Statuary Hall Collection.

Born on a dairy farm in Charlotte, North Carolina, Reverend Graham came from humble beginnings. He grew up learning the value of hard work and developed an unwavering commitment to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Through his ministry, he would go on to reach more than 200 million people in 185 countries, and many of those who heard his message accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior. I have no doubt he led millions to Christ, securing their salvation.

Known as America's pastor, he is one of the few private citizens to receive three of the highest honors that are bestowed by Congress: the Congressional Gold Medal in 1996, lying in honor in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda in 2018, and now a statue placed in the U.S. Capitol Building.

Created by Charlotte-based artist Chas Fagan, the statue depicts Reverend Graham pointing to an open Bible. Inscribed on the pedestal of the 7-foot statue will be the verse so foundational, John 3:16. This well-known Scripture tells us: "For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

At a time when America could use a spiritual revival like never before, how refreshing and great it is that we are enshrining this verse and Reverend Graham's legacy of faith within the Halls of Congress.

As noted in his 2011 book, "Nearing Home," Billy Graham wrote: "The greatest legacy you can pass on to your children and grandchildren is not your money or the other material things you have accumulated in life. The greatest legacy you can pass on to them is the legacy of your character and your faith. . . . Why is faith our greatest legacy? Because the memory of what we were like—not just our personalities but our character and our faith—has the potential to influence others for Christ."

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Graham dedicated his life to proclaiming the Gospel throughout the world and, I might add, in places and countries that were and in many that still are hostile to Christianity. I am proud that countless visitors and lawmakers will now be able to honor his legacy and message for generations to come in the U.S. Capitol.

#### MAGIC OF THE PACK

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight, honor, and celebrate the NC State University men's and women's basketball teams. Both reached the Final Four of their respec-

tive NCAA Division 1 basketball tournaments this past month of April, registering a historic achievement that few schools have ever achieved.

□ 1030

The NC State women's team led by Coach Wes Moore displayed strength all year with a 31-7 overall record, including 9 wins over AP Top 25 teams while earning their first Final Four appearance since 1998. They had state-ment wins in the tournament against Chattanooga, Tennessee, Stanford, and Texas. Junior guard, Aziaha James, was the leader of the Pack with blistering accuracy from three-point range.

Not to be outdone, the men's basketball team won the school's 11th ACC Tournament championship. The Wolfpack, led by Coach Kevin Keatts clenched an 84-76 victory against incredibly talented UNC-Chapel Hill, becoming the first ACC team to win 5 games in 5 days, securing their spot in the NCAA Tournament, and launching them to their first Final Four appearance since the magical championship run of the 1983 NC State team.

This team's collective skill, dedication to each other, and the team chemistry they solidified in the ACC Tournament enabled the Wolfpack to keep advancing, reeling off wins against Texas Tech, Oakland, Marquette, and Duke. With each round of the NCAA Tournament, the Wolfpack continued to excel and win.

As an NC State alumnus, it is with great pride that I join so many in celebrating these two teams and their accomplishments. Only a select few universities can say that both of their basketball teams made the Final Four in their respective tournaments in the same year. Both teams, as well as the individual players, will be long remembered. Their legacy is now etched in NC State basketball lore.

#### NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

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

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the courage and the sacrifice of the brave law enforcement officers who work each day to keep our communities safe and to honor those who have given their lives.

This week, as we commemorate Police Week, a week of appreciation and of solemnity that was first honored and created back in 1962, when President Kennedy designated May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which it falls Police Week, we know that this week draws between 25,000 and 40,000 attendees from across the Nation, including from Virginia; people who come to honor the sacrifice and the service of their fellow officers and their family members.

I grew up in a law enforcement household. My father was a career law