

Ed began the Wildlife Center of Virginia in 1981. Since then, the center has provided world-class care of wildlife, outstanding educational outreach, and dedicated professional training. Over the years, the center has gained recognition for several achievements, including developing the first comprehensive national wildlife health database for the real-time monitoring of emerging diseases in wildlife.

The center also provides professional training for more than 1,000 veterinary students and professionals, including undergraduate students, fourth-year veterinary students, postdoctoral interns, fellows, and residents from every veterinary school in the United States, Canada, and nearly 40 other countries.

Under Ed Clark's leadership, the center has grown from a small, local wildlife rehabilitation facility to a professionally staffed, internationally recognized training and research center deep in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Ed Clark on his many years of success. I wish him a well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING SNOWBUSTERS OF WINCHESTER,  
VIRGINIA

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the snowbusters in Winchester, Virginia, for their excellent work during the recent snowstorms.

The snowbusters is a volunteer network created by the city of Winchester that is dedicated to removing snow and ice at no charge from walkways in front of the homes of senior citizens and people with disabilities who live in Winchester.

Thirteen snowbuster volunteers were called into service to homes within walking distance to reduce the need for volunteers driving to an assignment.

Once enrolled, the city gives volunteers a snow shovel and tells them to be ready whenever winter weather is in the forecast.

The program's only goal is to clear sidewalks in front of the homes of people who sign up for the service, but in several cases, the volunteers went even further and shoveled driveways as well.

The initiative was a huge success and very rewarding, and the community received it well. The snowbusters displayed the true testament of neighbors coming together to help neighbors and make a difference, and I commend them for their dedication to community service.

RECOGNIZING WAYNESBORO POLICE  
DEPARTMENT ON 125 YEARS OF SERVICE

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Waynesboro Police Department for 125 years of dedicated service and sacrifice to keeping the city of Waynesboro safe.

1898 was the first year of the Waynesboro Police Department, when the city was much smaller and only a few officers were needed to patrol on foot.

Today, with a bustling city of more than 22,000 people and growing, patrol officers grapple with everything from cybercrime to drug crime and everything in between.

However, the job of the law enforcement officers remains true now as it did then: an increasingly difficult but utterly essential one of enforcing our laws and serving on the front lines of justice.

Throughout the years, the Waynesboro police chiefs and officers have been pushed, both mentally and physically, and have been willing to lay their lives on the line for others.

They have represented their community well and the hundreds of thousands of law enforcement officers across this great country. For that, they are all heroes.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all the retired and current officers for their efforts to make the city of Waynesboro a better and safer place, and I wish the Waynesboro Police Department another 125 years of success.

RECOGNIZING COACH BRAD LUTZ OF WILLIAM  
BYRD HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Coach Brad Lutz of William Byrd High School in Roanoke, Virginia, for being nominated by the Washington Commanders for the Don Shula National Football League High School Coach of the Year.

After leading the William Byrd Terriers to their first-ever football regional title and State semifinal appearance this past season, the Washington Commanders took notice of the teams' accomplishments and nominated Coach Lutz for this prestigious award.

The NFL will select two winners from each conference that the league comprises, and the Commanders are members of the NFC Conference.

The award winners will be announced in the week before the Super Bowl and each winner will receive \$15,000 for their school and money as a personal award. The remaining 30 nominees each will receive \$1,000 courtesy of the NFL Foundation and Nike.

This nomination demonstrates the drive and dedication required to come together as a team and accomplish outstanding achievements.

Congratulations, again, to Coach Brad Lutz and the William Byrd football team players on this nomination and I wish them many more years of success.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE NOTHING LESS  
THAN A SAFE AND SECURE BORDER

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, wherever you go across this country, citizens are very aware of the border crisis that President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas have created and are demanding that the Senate take immediate action on H.R. 2, the border security legislation we passed nearly a year ago, in addition to this House taking action to impeach Secretary Mayorkas.

In December, there were 300,000 illegal migrant encounters at our southern border. The month prior, there were 250,000 illegal migrant encounters. During his trip to Eagle Pass in Texas recently, Secretary Mayorkas admitted that the current release rate for migrants caught crossing the border illegally is more than 85 percent.

Make no mistake, Secretary Mayorkas has neglected his constitutional duty to protect the homeland and enforce our immigration laws. I urge this House to take action to impeach Secretary Mayorkas due to his incompetence, but also increase pressure on the Senate to quit wasting time and take up H.R. 2, which finishes the construction of our wall, fights the cartels, and keeps our communities safe.

SHAM IMPEACHMENT OF SECRETARY ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, in 1986, Republican President Ronald Reagan signed the Immigration Reform and Control Act.

That 1986 Reagan bill, in addition to implementing border security, granted a pathway to citizenship to nearly 3 million undocumented immigrants in the United States.

Then in 1990, Mr. Speaker, Republican President George Bush signed another immigration act, which, among other measures, created the Temporary Protective Status program, known as TPS, to provide relief for immigrants from countries who are immersed in deep suffering.

Later on, Mr. Speaker, his son, George W. Bush, also followed through in providing relief to immigrants across the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, what has happened to that Republican Party? I want to know where they are today.

Issues with our immigration system has existed since the Reagan years. The only difference today is their lack of bipartisan desire from MAGA Republicans to work with us and address this issue.

President Bush worked with Senator Kennedy. George W. Bush worked across the aisle to find equal ground. Instead of coming to the table to address issues on the border security and compassionate measures like protections for Dreamers, which 80 percent of voters support, MAGA Republicans are turning their backs on legislation to fix our immigration system.

Instead of doing their jobs, the latest stunt of House Republicans is a bogus, baseless impeachment inquiry of Secretary Mayorkas, which blames a single man for the situation at the border. A situation that has been around since the Reagan years and lays at the doorstep of a single man, Mr. Speaker, this issue. It is a bogus and baseless political tool in an election year. That is what this impeachment proceeding is, Mr. Speaker.

Listen to the Republicans when they speak on this as they have time and time again failed to articulate any charge against Secretary Mayorkas.

Even conservative experts agree this impeachment inquiry is a sham. Michael Chertoff, a former judge and DHS

Secretary under President George W. Bush, stated that Republicans have failed to put forward any evidence that meets the bar for this impeachment. This is a bogus impeachment process that is used as a political tool in an election year.

In reality, Secretary Mayorkas has done all he can to improve conditions in the ports of entry where fentanyl comes through every day through wheels, not through migrants.

He has done all he could to bring technology to the border in a balanced approach, but even so, Secretary Mayorkas can only execute the laws that are written by Congress, and this Congress has been negligent, derelict in its duty not to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

Instead of acting with us to fix this issue, Republicans are pursuing a bogus impeachment inquiry, trying to lay a problem that has dragged for decades upon decades upon decades in Republican administrations and Democrat administrations at the doorstep of Secretary Mayorkas. It is a bogus, political tool that they resort to every 4 years to try to get elected.

And that is why, Mr. Speaker, they choose not to fix the problem. They don't want to put it in the rear-view mirror. They want to go to it every 4 years so they can flame xenophobia against ordinary immigrants like myself.

I stand here to denounce this bogus, baseless impeachment proceeding against Secretary Mayorkas. If anybody should be expelled, it is the leadership of that party that has been negligent in their duties to address a balanced approach that takes into consideration border safety, that takes into consideration immigration reform, that takes into consideration the impact on the economy of farmworkers, that takes into consideration the root causes of migration in the hemisphere.

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#### PREPARE FOR THE DRY YEARS NOW

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

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, next week, California is expecting more atmospheric rivers that are bringing welcome rain to our State. I am grateful for this rain and know many of my fellow farmers are. Unfortunately, this is deja vu for many of us in the Central Valley since not much has changed in the last 12 months to better prepare ourselves for a consecutive wet year.

Just last year, after 3 years of extreme drought, our State was hit with enough water to supply farms, communities, and homes for years to come. Unfortunately, extreme environmentalists and Sacramento bureaucrats have denied the approval of new water storage projects and restricted how much water we are able to pump

with complex and contradictory regulations.

The devastating flooding in my district and the millions of gallons of water that were flushed out to the ocean were the direct result of water mismanagement. Many of my constituents are still picking up the pieces from this flooding. These storms brought to light many flaws in our existing disaster relief programs.

We must improve coordination between Federal agencies involved in disaster relief like FEMA, Army Corps, and the USDA, so that residents and industries know who to turn to and have timely access to disaster assistance programs and services.

As we continue working to get additional disaster assistance for these communities, we must work to ensure we are better prepared for these types of weather events because we know that eventually the rain will stop.

Drought is a recurring feature in California's climate, and the time to prepare for those dry years is right now. Maximizing what can be moved at all times through the delta, especially during these atmospheric river events, and investing in water storage infrastructure and conveyance projects is critical to capture and store as much rain as possible. If we don't, we will inevitably find ourselves in another man-made water shortage.

We cannot let this water go to waste, and we cannot let the lessons learned from last year's storms be in vain. Thousands of livelihoods, the future of agriculture in California and America's food security depend on it.

#### UPHOLD JUSTICE AND ACT WITH COMPASSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. VASQUEZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. VASQUEZ. Mr. Speaker:

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish by Mr. VASQUEZ is as follows:)

Today, I rise to tell you about my visit to the Cibola County Correctional Facility, and to demand changes to mistreatment within immigration detention centers.

Many of these centers, like Cibola, are operated by private companies. And what we have seen is that the conditions inside these facilities are unacceptable, lacking humanity and access to the civil rights that these immigrants deserve.

The detainees, whose only crime is entering this country without papers, informed me in person of these deplorable conditions, including food that is not even fair for the dogs. They do not have access to the legal system. They are locked in solitary cells for asking for help. They can't even wash their sheets. They leave them locked up for almost a year, while they wait to go before a judge. The mistreatment of those seeking refuge is something we

should never accept in our Nation. It doesn't matter if they are from Ukraine, Afghanistan or Venezuela.

My bill, the Humanitarian Accountability Act, is a critical step in ensuring the humane treatment of immigrants. The intention of my legislation is to bring to light the treatment of immigrants in detention centers. We must face reality—there is an opportunity to ensure that we can treat everyone with dignity and humanity.

For example, when the majority of immigrants are Spanish speakers, and the guards and these companies do not provide them with information in Spanish, it is an injustice to access to the legal system, and to this Nation of laws.

Imagine fleeing your country in panic, suffering abuse, losing everything, risking your life, and then facing a judge who will decide your future without having access to a lawyer because you did not receive the information in your language, and they did not give you access to your documents in a detention center.

On this visit, I spoke to a man from Venezuela, a soldier from his country who was seeking refuge, and he told me that he could not present evidence of his asylum case due to the lack of internet access in the detention center. These injustices are done on purpose. He and many others at this center deserve the opportunity to have the resources to present their asylum cases.

Colleagues, we have to make a decision. Do we ignore the suffering at the border and continue giving millions of dollars to the private companies that cause this suffering? Or do we uphold justice and act with compassion? My legislation is a response: a commitment to ensure that all immigration detention centers operate with basic standards that protect the human rights of all who seek refuge in our great Nation. After all, we are a nation of immigrants.

I ask my colleagues to support the Humanitarian Accountability Act, be a voice for those who cannot speak for themselves, and bring about the change our immigration system so desperately needs.

Hoy, estoy presente entre ustedes para contarles sobre mi visita al Centro Correccional del Condado de Cibola, y para demandar cambios a los malos tratos dentro de los centros de detención de inmigrantes.

Muchos de estos centros, como el de Cibola, son operados por compañías privadas. Y lo que hemos visto es que las condiciones dentro de estas instalaciones son inaceptables, faltando humanidad y acceso a los derechos civiles que estos inmigrantes merecen.

Los detenidos, cual su único crimen es entrar a este país sin papeles, me informaron en persona, de estas condiciones deplorables, incluyendo alimentos que ni son justo para los perros. No tienen acceso al sistema legal. Los encierran en celdas