

I met Coach Hale a year ago at Hi-Corbett Field and know that he will continue to do great things for this program.

As a former Wildcat, I know he has what it takes to take this team to the college world series.

Lastly, I recognize Dawson Netz, a former intern in my Tucson district office, who is a team captain and pitcher. He was voted PAC-12 Preseason All-Conference player and is currently eight games away from being the all-time leader in appearances for Arizona baseball. I am excited to see what the future holds for these athletes and wish them good luck in the PAC-12 tournament. Bear down.

#### HONORING TALENTED ART STUDENTS FROM COCHISE COLLEGE

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize a group of talented Cochise College art students for the mural they painted in the city of Sierra Vista.

The mural depicts the beauty of the San Pedro River and the wildlife in Cochise County, serving as a reminder of our connection to nature and the need to steward it wisely.

Through its Neighborhood Partnership Initiative Grant program, the city of Sierra Vista provides funding for projects like the mural and inspires community members to help beautify the city. The mural, which wraps around the Oscar Yrun Community Center, is a passion project of Cochise College art instructor JenMarie Zeleznak and her students and is a testament to the creativity of our Sierra Vista community.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. Zeleznak and her students for their work and for making Sierra Vista an even more beautiful city.

□ 1115

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF LEE COVINO

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of Lee Covino, a friend, a U.S. Army veteran, and a Staten Islander who dedicated his life to making our country and community a better place for those who served.

Lee served our country in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam war. After his service, he attended the College of Staten Island on scholarship from the GI Bill. It was here that his passion for veterans' affairs flourished. He became a peer counselor for local veterans and, almost a decade later, began working as an intervention counselor for the VA's Vietnam Veterans Outreach Center, assisting nearly 1,000 Vietnam-era and combat veterans across Staten Island and Brooklyn.

In July 1990, Lee was appointed to the cabinet of Staten Island Borough President Guy Molinari, where he

served as the veteran affairs adviser and director of contracts and procurement. His service to our borough continued for another two decades, extending his tenure at Staten Island Borough Hall through the administrations of James Molinaro and James Oddo until his retirement in March 2014.

In 2002, Mayor Michael Bloomberg appointed him to the city's Veterans Advisory Board, where he served until April 2015, retiring as the board's vice chairman.

During his time at the borough and city halls, Lee played a major role in bringing the vet center and the Veterans Affairs clinic to Staten Island and obtaining a Staten Island bus link to Brooklyn's VA Medical Center.

This week, New York City also will celebrate its 36th annual Fleet Week, a show of appreciation for our Nation's Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard teams. Lee was instrumental in helping coordinate local activities and events for this grand recognition of our Armed Forces. He also worked tirelessly to expand veteran services to minority-based areas and assist veterans with resume development and learning computer skills so that they could find employment and readjust to civilian life.

Lee's dedication to New York City veterans did not end with his official duties. After his retirement, he continued to serve as an invaluable resource for many elected officials, including myself, where he helped our office organize our veterans' roundtables and became reliable counsel for veteran-focused legislation and ideas.

Because of the profound impact he has had on our community, Lee was installed into the College of Staten Island Alumni Hall of Fame in 1989 and was set to be inducted into the New York State Veterans Hall of Fame later this year.

He was a member of the VFW, The American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, Catholic War Veterans, AMVETS, New York City Veterans Alliance, the 369th Veterans Association, and he served as treasurer of the United Staten Island Veterans Organization, which sponsored our borough's annual Memorial Day parade.

Here we are at the Staten Island Memorial Day parade in 2021, which Mayor de Blasio had originally canceled, citing COVID, until Lee's advocacy and leadership made the mayor reverse his decision, and we marched together honoring our fallen.

On Monday, Memorial Day, we, the community, will march again, and Lee's absence will be noticed and his presence immensely missed.

Lee was a true American patriot who dedicated his entire life to the service of others, and I know I speak for our entire community and city when I say his commitment to fighting for our veterans is extremely appreciated.

My office sends its deepest condolences to his daughter, Mariel, and three grandchildren, Melina, Michael, and Samantha, as they grieve this tre-

mendous loss. They should rest assured that, today, they are in the history books of the United States Congress and that his legacy of service and dedication will inspire us all as we continue to advocate for the rights and well-being of our veterans.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF BILL REYNOLDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MIKE GARCIA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend, a war veteran, and a real hero of California's 27th Congressional District who was taken from us way too soon. Mr. Bill Reynolds crossed into Heaven and joined the Lord on January 11, 2021, a couple of years ago.

As a young man, Bill crossed oceans and fought for this Nation in the jungles of Vietnam. He fought in some of the war's fiercest battles while in Vietnam, including the Mekong Delta, where he was wounded but continued fighting alongside his brothers, the famous and heroic Boys of '67.

Bill earned a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart for his extraordinary bravery, but he never forgot his brothers who made the ultimate sacrifice, those who didn't come home, and he never stopped serving our Nation when he returned home.

Bill Reynolds dedicated himself to fellow veterans in California's 27th Congressional District and around the country. His work led to the establishment of the Veterans Memorial Wall in Newhall, California, and he personally documented the stories of countless veterans to ensure their service and sacrifices will be remembered for future generations.

I am proud to say the endless service and sacrifice of Bill will now forever be etched in the heart of Santa Clarita, as well. Right in the middle of my district, today we celebrate the official renaming of the Valencia post office to the William L. Reynolds Post Office Building, an honor that has been signed into law by the President of the United States.

This commemoration is a fitting tribute to a man who dedicated so much of his life to this beautiful Nation, both on the battlefield and in our communities. It should be noted, and frankly a fitting tribute, that about 63,000 postal workers themselves are veterans, so this is very apropos.

Bill was a devoted husband to his beloved wife, Meg, who lives in Santa Clarita, a loving father and grandfather, and a friend to thousands. His legacy not only lives on in the medals he won and the landmarks that bear his name, but in the lives he touched and the community that he strengthened.

Bill left an indelible mark on me personally, and he continues to inspire me

to serve this beautiful country in this capacity.

In a time marked by stark political division, it was inspiring to witness both Democrats and Republicans unite in support of honoring this great man who epitomized the pinnacle of American valor and empathy.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Bill Reynolds, a true American hero, by supporting this special tribute.

May God bless Bill Reynolds and his family, and may God continue to bless this beautiful country, the United States of America.

#### CELEBRATING MEMORIAL DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Memorial Day. Our Nation's greatness was earned by the sacrifices of a few so that freedom and liberty would come to all. This weekend, we remember their sacrifices and service.

We are very proud that the tradition of Memorial Day originated in a Pennsylvania community located in my district, Boalsburg, Pennsylvania.

Dating back to 1864 in Boalsburg, Pennsylvania, the birthplace of Memorial Day, three ladies decorated the graves of fallen Civil War soldiers. They met in the graveyard and promised to come back the following year to do the same thing. From that simple beginning act of love and remembrance came the observance of Memorial Day.

Now, every year, on the last Monday of May, the people across this Nation gather in town squares, at memorials, and in the cemeteries of fallen heroes to pay tribute to those who gave their all. This includes our servicemembers who are missing in action or are prisoners of war.

According to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, more than 80,000 American citizens who served in the Vietnam war, Korean war, and World War II are still missing in action.

That is why I am proud to have introduced H. Con. Res. 64, which urges our mutually beneficial trade agreements to include a commitment from trading partners to continue search and recovery efforts of our Nation's missing servicemembers.

In August 2023, I was notified by the POW/MIA Accounting Agency that two MIAs from my district were identified and returning home. Army Corporal Francis James Jury of Clearfield, Pennsylvania, and Army Sergeant Richard M. Sharrow of Marienville, Pennsylvania, were deemed missing in action during the Korean war. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the POW/MIA Accounting Agency, these two heroes were able to be returned home and receive the proper burial that they deserved.

This Nation is united by our liberties and freedoms that our men and women

in uniform take an oath to protect and defend. We will always honor our brothers and sisters who fought in battle to uphold our way of life.

May God carry them in the palm of His hand and all of our servicemembers in the palm of His hand.

This Memorial Day, as we raise the Stars and Stripes, as we lay wreaths at monuments, memorials, and cemeteries, let us remember that our freedom is thanks to those who served and died in sacrifice.

#### PROTESTS AT UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN AT MILWAUKEE

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to comment on a controversy affecting the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee this past week.

Wisconsin at Milwaukee, like many universities in America, has been the site of bizarre protests in favor of Hamas. Milwaukee is the second largest university in the State of Wisconsin. While the response to these protests by universities around the country can best be described as pathetic, Milwaukee is one of the worst.

Israel has suffered an attack almost unprecedented in its brutality in which Hamas and its supporters reveled in the horrific deaths of civilians, including young children. Israel's response can best be described as very measured, particularly given that Hamas has decided to hide among hospitals and other civilian locations.

Certainly, Israel's response was more measured than our response during World War II when you look at what was done to Tokyo and Dresden, so by comparison, there is no comparison.

Hamas could end this war tomorrow if they would surrender, show Israel its tunnels and its arms, and surrender the hostages. They are entirely responsible for allowing this war to go on.

The university's statement to the protesters appears to blame Israel. Even before the October attacks, it should have been obvious who wears the white hats here.

Israel is a modern, prosperous, and tolerant country in which even Muslims can build mosques and are allowed to vote. In Gaza, from childhood on, children are raised to hate Jews. People from Thailand, the Philippines, and Latin America—non-Jewish people—flow to Israel to live and work there.

Hamas' leadership, meanwhile, takes their foreign aid from Europe and lives in Qatar and Turkiye. The descendants of Yasser Arafat himself don't want to live in Gaza. They live in Paris.

Even with this, UWM feels they should side with Hamas. The university has tried recently to amend their position, but they still display a moral equivalence in which they can't bring themselves to say there is a right and

a wrong, a good and an evil, in this conflict. Their bias shows further in that their first impulse was to meet only with representatives of the protesters and not with the broader community, this despite the fact that public opinion polls consistently show the American public as a whole, including presumably the taxpayers who fund the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, have no problem figuring out who is good and who is evil.

The university should apologize for developing their own foreign policy and spend some time with the broader community to learn what the vast majority of Americans and Wisconsinites think.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 27 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CARL) at noon.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Immortal and invisible God, all power belongs to You. Gracious and merciful God, in You is found unfailing love.

With You, O Lord, are not competing natures but the whole of life. In You we discover both tenderness and strength. You love us with a parent's compassion and guide us with Your firm hand.

In our lives may we learn to strike the balance between patience and persistence. May we show no ill will toward others but have the wherewithal to bear their criticism and their ridicule. And when our anger is justified, may we be just as quick to forgive those who repent of their offenses.

May those who are strong bear the feelings of the weak, and may those who are vulnerable bear witness to the strength of their empathy.

In this body may we acknowledge that we belong to one another and reconcile with those who attempt to dismantle our mutual purpose. In You, may we strive for restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, and live in peace.

God of justice and mercy, abide with us this day. In the power and love of Your eternal name, we pray.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the