

from Villa Park High School. He attended the police academy at Golden West College and served in the Santa Ana Police Department for 31 years.

A lover of motorcycles, Blaine then became a California Highway Patrol motorcycle rider instructor and opened a motorcycle school in Anaheim. An avid sports fan, he could be found cheering on his favorites: the Green Bay Packers, Florida State, and the Lakers.

He was a devoted father, son, brother, and uncle. Blaine leaves behind two children, Taylor and Courtney; his mother, Marsha; and siblings, Lorie, Darin, and Todd.

Mr. Speaker, I join his family in mourning his passing and honoring his legacy.

HONORING THE LIFE OF OTTO WARMBIER

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Otto Frederick Warmbier as we approach the seventh anniversary of his tragic death at the hands of the North Korean regime on June 19, 2017.

Otto was a dedicated young man, graduating as salutatorian of his high school in Ohio before attending the University of Virginia.

While on a school tour in North Korea in 2015, Otto was imprisoned and tortured by the North Korean regime. He died a few days after his release at just 22 years old.

Mr. Speaker, Otto experienced what no human being should ever have to go through. While he is no longer with us, his family carries on his legacy with their advocacy and strength.

"We remember and honor Otto always." "Uri-neun Otto-leul youngwonhi giukhal geos-ibnida."

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 44 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Holy Lord, in this moment in time, in all times, may we bless You. May our praise for You be continually in our mouths and may all that our souls boast for boast in You, O Lord. May our words magnify You, that all would know of our love for You and would then desire to exalt Your name with us.

We need only remember that when we seek You, You answer us. By Your

grace, You deliver us from all our fears. We need only to look to You, and our faces will be radiant with Your light. In light of Your mercy, the darkness of our shame disappears.

Attend to us this day. Encamp Your angels around us. Deliver those who fear You from the snares of those who would do us harm. Save us from every trouble we will face.

Then may we taste and see that You, O Lord, are good. Happy are we when we take refuge in You.

With Your name on our lips, we offer to You our prayers for this day.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. EDWARDS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

UNAFFORDABLE HOUSING CAUSED BY BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S DEFICIT SPENDING

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, affordable housing continues to be a problem for Tennesseans. Unfortunately, it is getting worse. The cost of owning a home continues to climb, putting the American Dream out of reach for millions of Americans.

The cost of a new home in February 2020 averaged \$332,000. Now, 4 short years later, that average is \$434,000. This is a direct result of the Biden administration's out-of-control deficit spending.

Inflation was at 1.9 percent prior to this administration. It has risen 20 per-

cent since. In Tennessee, families are now paying \$22,277 more a year, on average, for the very same goods they were buying in January 2021. This makes buying a home just that much more difficult.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for this administration to put the credit card down and enact policies aimed at restoring the American Dream.

CONGRATULATING

LAHAINALUNA'S CLASS OF 2024

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

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, I joined the graduation ceremony for the proud class of 2024 at Lahainaluna High School.

For the 225 seniors and hundreds of family members, students, faculty, and alumni, this evening honored the resiliency of this community. From the depths of the COVID-19 pandemic in freshman year to the tragic fires that struck the day before the start of senior year, this graduating class has been tested in so many ways, but they persisted. They made it. Now, these students will go off into the world to make their mark.

The valedictory speaker, M. Jee Abara, started his speech by ripping it up. Life is uncertain, he said. These words hit close to home for a community all too familiar with uncertainty.

Abara will now study disaster preparedness and emergency management at the University of Hawaii at West Oahu. What was a passion before the fires has only become a calling to give back to his hometown. It is a common theme for his entire class of brave, young students.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Lahainaluna's class of 2024. Their perseverance, courage, and strength give us all so much hope for Lahaina's recovery in the years to come.

CONGRATULATING SAMUEL AND SAUL MALDONADO AND SAMES, INC.

(Ms. DE LA CRUZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Samuel and Saul Maldonado and their exceptional company, SAM Engineering & Surveying, or SAMES for short, for receiving the Department of Energy's prestigious HUBZone Small Business of the Year award.

Founded in 2008 and based in McAllen, Texas, SAMES is a minority-owned small business providing top-tier construction, engineering, and surveying services. With over 100 employees across four locations, SAMES has grown into a nationally recognized, award-winning leader in its industry, proving that it is still possible to live the American Dream.

I congratulate Samuel and Saul Maldonado and SAMES.

CONGRESS SHOULD REMAIN IN D.C. UNTIL BUDGET IS DONE

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

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, every year since 1996, Congress has failed to pass our annual spending bills on time. Every year since 1996, despite work still left to be done, August rolls around and Congress goes home, kicking the can down the road and leaving funding for our Federal Government to another day.

Mr. Speaker, let's fix how Washington works and remain in D.C. until our budget work is done and completed this year.

We must fix how Washington works. That is why I am introducing the Do Our Job Act. If our work is not done, we must not go home in August. Let's show the American people that we are serious about reducing our debt and keeping our government running.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OBERNOLTE). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1530

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. MALOY) at 3 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

SMALL BUSINESS PROCUREMENT AND UTILIZATION REFORM ACT OF 2024

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7988) to amend the Small Business Act to include requirements relating to new small business entrants in the scorecard program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7988

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Small Business Procurement and Utilization Reform Act of 2024" or the "SPUR Act".

SEC. 2. MODIFICATIONS TO SCORECARD REQUIREMENTS.

Section 15(y) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(y)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (F); and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following new subparagraph:

"(E) The number of new small business entrants, including new small business entrants that are small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, qualified HUBZone small business concerns, small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, and small business concerns owned and controlled by women awarded prime contracts in each North American Industry Classification System code during the fiscal year, and a comparison to the number awarded prime contracts during the prior fiscal year, if available.";

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking "subparagraphs (B) through (E) of paragraph (2)" and inserting "subparagraphs (B) through (F) of paragraph (2)"; and

(3) by amending paragraph (6) to read as follows:

"(6) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

"(A) NEW SMALL BUSINESS ENTRANT.—The term 'new small business entrant' means a small business concern that—

"(i) has been awarded a prime contract; and

"(ii) has not previously been awarded a prime contract by the Federal Government.

"(B) SCORECARD.—The term 'scorecard' means any summary using a rating system to evaluate the efforts of a Federal agency to meet goals established under subsection (g)(1)(B) that—

"(i) includes the measures described in paragraph (2); and

"(ii) assigns a score to each Federal agency evaluated.".

SEC. 3. COMPLIANCE WITH CUTGO.

No additional amounts are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act or the amendments made by this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. 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 bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7988, the Small Business Procurement and Utilization Reform Act of 2024, also known as the SPUR Act, sponsored by Representatives STAUBER and PEREZ.

Small businesses are vital to the health and resiliency of America's in-

dustrial base. Broad and robust small business participation ensures that America can continue to lead the world in innovation and defend us against foreign adversaries. However, small businesses are getting squeezed out of the industrial base at a staggering rate, a direct threat to America's dominance.

There are just half as many small businesses participating in the industrial base as there were just a decade ago. This downward trend is a culmination of years of bad government policy and is being made worse by the Biden administration's regulatory onslaught, dissuading small businesses from even considering participating in the Federal marketplace.

The SPUR Act is a critical step into looking under the hood of the government and bringing accountability to agencies. By grading agencies on how many contracts have been awarded to small businesses for the very first time, we will bring together a great focus on reversing the declining participation of small businesses in the industrial base.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote for H.R. 7988, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today, we are considering H.R. 7988, which requires SBA to consider new small business government contractors when grading a Federal agency's performance toward meeting its small business goals.

The government has roughly 40 percent fewer small businesses in the ecosystem than it did just a decade ago. This has been an ongoing challenge the committee has identified and sought solutions to reverse because the industrial base decline has produced negative consequences for both the government and small firms alike.

Small firms lose out on the stability government contracting can provide, and the government loses out on the innovation and competition that a larger base of small businesses provides. Yet, despite this decline, Federal agencies award a record amount of contracting dollars to small businesses each year. This means fewer small businesses are getting larger contracts, and since contracts are getting larger, fewer smalls are willing and able to compete for them.

This legislation is a productive step that will help break that cycle. I commend Mr. STAUBER and Ms. PEREZ for their work to craft a solution to this challenge.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER).

Mr. STAUBER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of my bill, the Small Business Procurement and Utilization Reform Act of 2024, also known as the SPUR Act.