

He genuinely and deeply cared for others. He had enormous empathy for those with disabilities and those for whom life presented special challenges because he was diagnosed with dyslexia as a child. When Congress passed the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990, it was deeply meaningful to him, and he considered it a privilege both to be in the front row seat of the House gallery for the debate and was honored to join legislators and other special guests at the White House for the signing of the act into law.

I offer my hearty congratulations to Tom and thank him for nearly four decades of service to the U.S. House.

RECOGNIZING STAFF SERGEANT KEITH ORMSBY

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 to honor Muscatine County Vietnam veteran Staff Sergeant Keith Ormsby, who has finally received an Air Medal and his Purple Heart for injuries sustained in battle 54 years ago.

As Mr. Ormsby's Representative in Congress, I had the privilege of pinning him with the Purple Heart and personally thanking him for his dedicated service to our country during a special ceremony that took place on our Nation's Independence Day.

On January 31, 1970, while leading his platoon through the Vietnamese jungle and unloading a helicopter at a landing zone, Mr. Ormsby's unit was ambushed, resulting in him being shot and wounded.

Due to the chaotic nature of those times, the paperwork for his Purple Heart was never processed, and he was air-evacuated out of Vietnam immediately. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of the Muscatine County VA, we were finally able to properly recognize this hero.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Ormsby for his service to our country and expressing our gratitude to the Muscatine County VA and Eric for their exceptional work. God bless our veterans, and may God bless the United States of America.

HONORING DAWNELL DOREO ON HER RETIREMENT

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and career of Dawnell Doreo, who will be retiring after nearly four decades serving our Nation's heroes at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Dawnell is a lifelong resident of Iowa's First District, having grown up on a small farm in Washington, Iowa. She began her service at the Iowa City VA Medical Center in 1986 as a ward clerk and rose up through the ranks over the decades to become a management and program analyst today.

Because of Dawn, the Iowa City VA was able to provide world-class healthcare and benefits to our vet-

erans. In her free time, Dawnell also volunteers as a court-appointed special advocate, where she serves as a fierce advocate for child welfare.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Dawnell's amazing career and wishing her the absolute best on a well-earned retirement.

JENSEN WEDEKING RECEIVES MEDAL OF MERIT

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jensen Wedeking of Bellevue, Iowa, for receiving the American Medal of Merit.

As a member of Bellevue's Boy Scout Troop 86, Jensen achieved the prestigious Eagle rank in 2023 after leading various community projects. However, his most remarkable achievement came when he saved the life of his friend.

During a nighttime drive, Jensen's friend suffered an allergic reaction to peanuts. Acting swiftly and drawing on his Boy Scout training, Jensen administered lifesaving epinephrine via an EpiPen before rushing his friend to the hospital.

This quick thinking and exemplary first aid skills really underscore Jensen's exceptional character and deep concern for others, qualities that define recipients of the Medal of Merit. This national award is bestowed upon Scouts who demonstrate uncommon valor and compassion in critical situations, criteria that Jensen undoubtedly fulfilled.

I congratulate Jensen on this well-deserved recognition and on his quick thinking.

THANKING TOM WOODRUFF

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a remarkable man whose passion for history has led to the immortalization of some of Iowa's forgotten heroes. Tom Woodruff stands as a testament to the dedication and tenacity in preserving the legacy of the Littleton brothers, Union soldiers who gallantly fought during the Civil War.

Tom's journey began with a faded scrapbook, a gift that sparked a relentless pursuit of truth. Through decades of meticulous research and community-driven efforts, he immortalized the Littleton brothers in granite, ensuring that their story endures along the Great River Road.

His leadership in constructing the Toolesboro memorial exemplifies his commitment to honoring our past with dignity and respect. His unwavering dedication and selfless service to Louisa County's history resonate deeply with us all.

I thank Tom Woodruff for his indomitable spirit and for reminding us that history, when cherished and honored, binds us together as a community and Nation.

CONGRATULATING IOWA HAWKEYES PARTICIPATING IN SUMMER OLYMPICS

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor all the Iowa Hawkeyes who have qualified for the Paris 2024 Summer Olympics.

These incredible athletes, ranging from disciplines like wrestling, track

and field, rowing, and basketball, embody the excellence and determination encouraged in Iowa City.

The athletes competing have worked hard their entire lives for this opportunity, the opportunity to represent their countries in the sport that they love while the entire world watches them. Their journey to this global stage exemplifies the dedication and resilience that define what it means to be a Hawkeye.

As they prepare to represent Iowa and showcase their skills before the world, let us unite in cheering them on and sending our support. May their performances inspire future generations of athletes. Bring home the gold. As always, go Hawkeyes.

Mr. Speaker, I wish a very boisterous happy birthday to my sister Mari-Eleanor Martino.

REAUTHORIZING LONG ISLAND SOUND PROGRAM FUNDING

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5441, the Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Reauthorization Act of 2023, which I introduced as the lead Democratic sponsor along with my Republican colleague and Long Island Sound Caucus co-chair, NICK LALOTA from New York.

This overdue, bipartisan bill, which will be voted on this evening, reauthorizes critical Long Island Sound program funding, which expired at the end of the 2023 fiscal year. Congress must reauthorize this important program as soon as possible to ensure that Federal funds can continue to preserve and protect this unique body of water in the most densely populated area of our country.

Mr. Speaker, Long Island Sound is a national treasure. It is a tidal estuary that stretches 110 miles west to east, from the East River in New York City to Block Island Sound in Rhode Island. Its depth ranges from 65 feet to 230 feet, allowing transit for large and small ocean-going vessels.

Eighteen freshwater rivers flow into its salt waters, inducing an abundant array of plant life, fish, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, crustaceans, and birds.

It has been inhabited by humans for centuries, before European settlement up to the present. Now, more than 20 million Americans live within an hour's drive from its shores.

It is also a powerful engine to the region's economy, including maritime transportation, commercial and recreational fishing, ecotourism, and other water-dependent industries, including shipbuilding. Submarine construction at Electric Boat shipyard in Groton, Connecticut, in my district in southeastern Connecticut, employs 16,000 workers and another 7,000 at Quonset Point in Rhode Island.

With all of that activity, it is clear an organized effort is required to sustain the Long Island Sound economy in a way that balances growth with its core natural coastal habitat.

To respond to this need, Congress passed the Long Island Sound Stewardship Act, which provided Federal dollars going back to 2006 for projects to revitalize the wildlife population. In 2018, Congress reauthorized that law and greatly expanded the annual investment to \$40 million per year. Thanks to that funding, the amount of nitrogen entering Long Island Sound from sewage treatment plants has been reduced by 70 percent compared to the 1990s; hypoxic conditions have been reduced by 58 percent compared to the 1990s; over 2,239 acres of coastal habitat have been restored; and 570 conservation projects have been funded.

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Through the advocacy of Congresswoman ROSA DELAURO, Long Island Sound received \$40 million in both 2023 and 2024, the largest funding level in the history of the program.

Mr. Speaker, to ensure that Congress can continue to support this amazing success, we must move quickly tonight and pass H.R. 5441.

Again, I thank my fellow Caucus co-chair, Representative LALOTA from New York, and the Natural Resources Committee for their leadership in moving this bill forward. I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this bill.

WELCOMING LIAT BEININ ATZILI

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome Liat Beinini Atzili to Washington, D.C. She is visiting the White House today to advocate for the safe return of all Israeli hostages being held by Hamas.

Liat, a dual American-Israeli citizen, and her husband, Aviv, were violently taken hostage by Hamas on October 7 from their Kibbutz Nir Oz.

Liat's extended family lives in Waterford, Connecticut. She had, in fact, visited that coastal town just weeks before the October 7 attack.

When her cousin in Waterford, resident Jerry Fischer, learned that Liat and her husband were kidnapped, he immediately called me on the morning of October 8.

Within just a few hours, my chief of staff, Ayanti Grant, set up Liat and Aviv as missing person cases to the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem, immediately putting those agencies into action.

Over the following weeks, those agencies worked with the Atzili family closely to ensure that her release was a top priority for the administration.

Thanks to President Biden and Secretary Blinken's persistent diplomatic efforts, Liat was released 53 days later, alongside 104 other hostages taken during that weeklong cease-fire last November.

Unfortunately, hours after Liat's release, she was informed that her husband, Aviv, had been murdered by

Hamas on October 7. The relief and joy that she and her family experienced upon her release was abruptly replaced by grief and sadness.

Despite her traumatic loss, Liat is here today in Washington as a living, breathing example of what diplomacy and negotiation can achieve. She wants to make sure that every other hostage gets the same result that she did.

I thank Liat, her father, Yehuda Beinini, and her cousin, Jerry Fischer, for turning this horrific experience into a call for a just and lasting peace in Palestine and Israel.

EL SALVADOR CAUCUS

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

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to notify the House of the creation of the Congressional El Salvador Caucus for which I will serve as chairman and for which I have appointed the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ) to serve as the bipartisan co-chairman.

Congressman GONZALEZ has extensive relationships and insights drawn from his time in El Salvador and throughout Latin America, and undeniably, that will assist in leading the caucus.

Mr. Speaker, El Salvador's President, Nayib Bukele, has converted El Salvador from the murder capital of the world into a reliable and stable partner for peace and security for the United States of America.

The Congressional El Salvador Caucus will exist to nurture and advance the U.S.-El Salvador relationship, to encourage strong borders, strong culture, and the strong reforms that President Bukele has put into effect.

They have defeated the gangs. They have put prosperity on the march in El Salvador. Even the 70,000 people who are incarcerated in that country are not just seeing their lives wasted away.

President Bukele has instituted a zero-leisure policy where they are now restoring buildings and murals and actually rebuilding the country that so many of them have a hand in ravaging through gang warfare.

The purpose of this caucus will be to vindicate the choices that President Bukele has made that, indeed, strengthen the U.S.-El Salvador relationship.

El Salvador's resurgence has not existed as a consequence of falling for the siren song of globalism. Instead, President Bukele believes that the way El Salvador can lead within Central America and, indeed, throughout the West, is by being the best version of itself; not being excessively reliant on some of these globalist institutions.

President Bukele has delivered instant justice to the satanic gangs and the endemic political corruption, but, in fact, no good deed goes unpunished.

Too often, our own government and even some Members of this Congress mount attack after attack on El Salvador and President Bukele, presum-

ably because the comeback that El Salvador is having is a living, breathing indictment of other failed ideologies.

Through the inspiration from El Salvador's astonishing transformation, the great American rejuvenation can become a reality as well, so that we can experience a triumphant return of safety and prosperity that we once inspired in others.

I invite my colleagues in the House and Senate to contact our office. We would love to have them as Members of the Congressional El Salvador Caucus as we strengthen the U.S.-El Salvador relationship and as we work to amplify some of the good decisions that are being made by President Bukele and his government. We hope that these good ideas have legs and can travel and can be copied and implemented for a more stable world.

A CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve to know whether or not the President of the United States is fully capable of performing his duties. After his cringeworthy debate performance, numerous public appearances, and even small, private gatherings, many have concluded that he is not.

However, the President's doctor stated in a routine physical assessment almost 5 months ago in February that President Biden "... fully executes all of his responsibilities without any exemptions or accommodations."

Mr. Speaker, how can someone who needs pictures of what a podium and a stage are fully execute all of his responsibilities without any exemptions or accommodations?

That is the question House Republicans are asking by calling on the President's doctor to participate in a transcribed interview before the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability. Additionally, House Republicans are determined to receive the audiotapes from the President's interview with Special Counsel Robert Hur.

Yes, this is the same interview where Special Counsel Hur decided not to charge the President for his mishandling of classified documents because they were worried the President would "... present himself to a jury, as he did during our interview of him, as a sympathetic, well-meaning, elderly man with a poor memory."

Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker. Our country is in serious danger. Our enemies are watching the President let in millions of illegal immigrants at our southern border. They are watching as he fumbles his way through interviews where the questions are written by his staff beforehand.

This is a constitutional crisis. Each administration official, campaign staffer, congressional Democrat, or members of the press who have shielded the