

country regardless of race, income, or political affiliation.

Nearly 75 percent of Americans agree it is important to ensure all members of their community have equitable access to public parks and recreation facilities. In the United States, local public park and recreation agencies generated nearly \$201 billion in economic activity and supported almost 1.1 million jobs.

The most economically sound areas are those with ample public park and recreation facilities and activities. A key factor in business expansion and location decisions is the quality of life for employees, with a premium placed on adequate and accessible public parks and open space.

Mr. Speaker, public parks and recreational facilities foster a variety of activities that contribute to a healthier society. Americans living within a 10-minute walk of a park have higher levels of physical activity and lower rates of obesity. People who use public parks and open spaces are three times more likely to achieve the recommended levels of physical activity than nonusers.

Recreation programs at public parks provide children with a safe place to play, access to healthy foods, opportunities to be physically active, and enrichment facilities that help prevent at-risk behavior such as drug use and gang involvement.

Over the summer, many Americans will visit public parks and recreation facilities to spend time outdoors with family, friends, and neighbors. We are blessed with beautiful outdoor facilities. It is my hope that all Americans get out and enjoy the parks in their areas.

HONORING JUDGE JERRY RELLIHAN

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

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and service of Judge Jerry Rellihan, who passed away last month from a heart attack.

Jerry's career in law began as a prosecutor in Kansas City, Missouri. He later founded The Law Firm of Jerry Rellihan, P.C., serving the Kansas City metro area for many years. In 2015, he was elected as associate circuit judge for St. Clair County, based in Osceola, Missouri, in the Fourth Congressional District, where he served with fairness, compassion, and integrity.

Judge Rellihan's contributions to our community extended far beyond the courtroom, though. He was a mentor, leader, and friend to many. His wisdom and kindness touched the lives of countless individuals, and his legacy will continue to inspire us all.

Today, we remember Judge Rellihan not only for his professional accomplishments but also for his humanity and the positive impact he had on everyone he met.

Our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who mourn this great loss.

CELEBRATING CARLA AND BEN FORD'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 60 years of marriage between Carla and Ben Ford. Carla and Ben are Missouri District Four constituents living in Johnson County who met on a blind date at the stockyards.

They are not only strong in their marriage but also in the family they have created and in upholding their American values. Their 60 years together have brought many things to be thankful for, the most important being their two children, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

What started out as a blind date turned into six decades of love and the beginnings of future family lines. They say that trust, communication, and laughter have kept them together all these years.

I congratulate this Missouri District Four couple on the lovely marriage they have had and built. We wish Ben and Carla many, many more happy years.

CONGRATULATING MEGAN WALKER AND ALY PRENTZLER

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, we have started a contest much like the art contest where you can see the art displayed in the gallery just down the hallway here, but we started a speech contest. We wanted to rebuild patriotism in America, and we are starting with school-age children in the Fourth Congressional District. The topic: What does America mean to you?

We have two more winners today, Mr. Speaker, of this contest.

I begin with Megan Walker from Buffalo High School, Buffalo, Missouri, Dallas County. She says: "America to me is a place where I can choose who I want to be and am given the opportunities and resources to do it. America is my home, where I can feel safe expressing who I am no matter what I believe. I am given every chance possible to achieve my goals and build relationships with people that I choose. Americans are encouraged to be creative individuals by our country's leaders. I am able to feel safe and protected by my country and the people in it. We are allowed freedoms that many others are not, and I will forever be grateful for America."

Our next speech contest winner is Aly Prentzler from Glasgow High School in Glasgow, Missouri, Howard County. "America to me means freedom, freedom that has been fought for by brave men and women who serve in the military. It means even more to me since I have family members who have been part of the military. My papa served in the Army to make sure I have the right to make my own choices. My oldest brother is currently serving to make sure I continue to have this right. I am proud of this freedom and those who have fought for this right."

Mr. Speaker, I thank these students for being a shining example and a light in the classroom, sharing what America means to them.

PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I want to emphasize how important the situation is in California right now across the board with our resources: our water supply, our timber, our mining, and our agriculture.

Right now, of course, you are probably reading a lot of headlines about the fire situation, how much of our forests and open lands are in big trouble, and you are going to hear that side of the aisle talking all day long about climate change.

I throw back at them, if the climate is changing, what are we actually doing as people on the ground about it besides figuring out who we are going to tax or whose car we are going to take away or whose gas stove we are going to take away?

What are we doing, practically, about making our forests more fireproof or firesafe?

What are we doing about our water supply to make sure that there is more water stored so that people, agriculture, and, yes, even the environment can use it?

What are we doing to ensure we have a stronger electrical grid?

What is it we have happening? We see they want to tear out part of the electrical grid in the form of hydroelectric dams in northern California as well as up in Oregon and Washington, et cetera. It is just one after another.

Hydroelectric dams provide CO₂-free electricity, if you want to worry about the CO₂. Now, CO₂ only makes up 0.04 percent of our atmosphere, but they are using it as a weapon in order to force us to change our lifestyles.

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Let's store more water so we have it for agriculture, so we have it for hydroelectric power, and so we have it for all manner of things that we need water for, for human use and environmental use. Let's move the ball on that.

In my own district, we have a project called the Sites Reservoir that has been talked about for 50 years. It seems to be coming close to fruition of actually getting started to be built, but there are still roadblocks that could be thrown up. There could still be weaponized lawsuits to try and stop the building of the Sites Reservoir, which would be 1½ million more acre-feet of storage for California, as well as its positive flood control benefits when you are pulling the water out of a flooded river system into that reservoir. Why can't we think ahead a little more about these issues with our infrastructure?

Agriculture in California is one of the most important components of our food supply for this whole country that you can imagine. We have so much that we grow in California, from the Sacramento Valley to the San Joaquin Valley, that many of those crops, 90 to 99 percent of them, are grown in California.

If we don't grow it there, we are going to have to import it, or we have to do without. If we have to import it, it means it is going to be a higher cost, it is going to be lesser quality, or it will not be a reliable, constant source if they want to play trade games against us with it as well.

Why don't we produce it in California? We have the water supply. Hundreds of thousands, millions of acres, even, escape to the sea each year because we are not storing it. We are not trapping it. We are not putting it into groundwater recharge, which would be extremely helpful for the San Joaquin Valley, especially where the ground has actually subsided. It is sinking somewhat.

We pull a lot of water out of the ground in order to do agricultural activity, but that said, agriculture also means groundwater recharge. If we are flooding those fields and irrigating those fields, it percolates back down in there.

Instead, they take more water away from the farmers, and they want to replace it with what they call solar farms, which is an insult. Why would you call that a farm?

Indeed, we are finding more and more that these massive solar arrays, as well as windmills, can actually change the climate in the area where they are. Think of the concentration. Think of the heat sink. We see that in urban areas, the urban heat sinks from so much pavement, so much concrete, and so many buildings. It raises the temperature.

If you want to talk about temperature once again, what are you going to do to the San Joaquin Valley where the idea is to take more and more ag land out and put so-called solar farms in?

We need to have our State be much more productive in keeping agriculture going, keeping the jobs going, and having a domestic food supply that is reliable.

With that comes infrastructure, building more water supply, and not tearing out our hydroelectric dams but actually preserving them and adding more to our electrical grid.

We have the Diablo Canyon Power Plant that has been in place for 40-plus years. It was almost going to be decommissioned here this year or next year with the two different reactors. They bought 5 more years. We need 40 more years for that plant, and we need more plants like that.

We have small nuclear plants that we can build more and more of around the country to keep our electric grid stable. Right now, when you see the temperatures in California, and a lot of the

West, perhaps, over 100 degrees, 105, 108, even some other areas that are higher than that, it is going to be really tough on our electrical grid because we don't seem to have the foresight to produce electricity.

All these things work together for affordability and for families to sustain their homes and run the air conditioner and have a stable food supply that is halfway reasonable in cost.

It is a domestic food supply and one that brings jobs to our backyard and the water supply that we all need. We need all of the above on this.

RECOGNIZING BROOKE CHILDERS

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sincere gratitude for Brooke Ann Childers, our amazing district director in Savannah.

Brooke passionately served the First Congressional District of Georgia for many years, and our district is better off for her hard work and dedication.

As our district director, Brooke has ensured that the highest level of constituent outreach and services are met throughout the district.

From cofounding the southeastern Rotary E-Club to volunteering across Georgia's First District, Brooke continues to improve our community in her professional and private life. She is a member of several women's GOP groups and the First Congressional District GOP.

In every aspect of Brooke's time with us, she has prioritized the growth, well-being, and empowerment of the people she encounters.

I am forever grateful for her leadership in our district office and representation in our community.

I wish Brooke good luck in her future endeavors. We surely will miss her.

RECOGNIZING CHARLIE CONDON

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize University of Georgia baseball player Charlie Condon who recently was awarded the Golden Spikes Award.

This award is given annually to the premier amateur baseball player in the country, combining on-field accolades with a penchant for sportsmanship.

Condon began his career at Georgia as a walk-on and ended his career as the single-season home-run leader at Georgia.

He broke the Georgia program record in just two seasons of being in the lineup, hitting 62 home runs in only 116 games.

Charlie also led the country in home runs, batting average, slugging percentage, total bases, and OPS this season as well.

Not only is he the university's first Golden Spikes Award winner, but he is also the first Dick Howser Trophy winner, as well as the Bobby Bragan National Collegiate Slugger Award winner.

In addition to his stellar hitting, he was also well accomplished in the field, playing first and third base and all three outfield positions.

I congratulate Charlie on an amazing career at the University of Georgia. I look forward to seeing how many more home runs he hits in his professional career.

RECOGNIZING BERNADETTE BALL-OLIVER

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of Mrs. Bernadette Ball-Oliver following her recent retirement from the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System.

Mrs. Ball-Oliver completed her successful 35-year career as the deputy superintendent of teaching and learning for the school system where she always put the needs of students first.

She graduated from Beach High School and returned to Savannah's public school system as a high school English teacher.

Throughout her career, she served as a teacher, an assistant principal, a principal, and worked in the central office as a school turnaround executive director for her alma mater before becoming deputy superintendent.

Mrs. Ball-Oliver is known for her dedication to promoting what is best for students and improving educational outcomes for students across Savannah.

I know I join all students, parents, and employees of the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System in wishing Mrs. Ball-Oliver a wonderful, well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING DR. RUSSELL T. KEEN

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the exciting news that Augusta University has named its next president, my friend, Dr. Russell T. Keen.

The Georgia Board of Regents voted for Keen to lead the university, which includes the primary medical and dental school in the State.

I echo the words of USG Chancellor Sonny Perdue when I say that we are looking forward to seeing how Dr. Keen continues to push Augusta University toward being one of the best research universities in the Nation and to set its students up for lifelong success.

Keen is well equipped for the new position as he has over 20 years of experience in higher education, including his current role as executive vice president for administration and chief of staff to the retiring president.

I congratulate Russell. He is more than qualified to lead this prestigious institution. I know he will serve the Augusta community very well.

NEGATIVE NATIONAL SECURITY CONSEQUENCES

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the negative national security consequences of 3½ years of President Biden's open-border policies.