

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.

While we hear President Biden and his allies boast about a so-called drop in illegal immigrant encounters in recent weeks, the number of national security threats resulting from this administration's policies continue to mount.

According to the Department of Homeland Security's own threat assessment for this year, illegal drugs produced in Mexico and sold in the United States will take more American lives than any other threat we face.

Further underscoring the threat our country faces due to the President's open-border policies, we learned 2 weeks ago that the Department of Homeland Security has identified more than 400 illegal immigrants that have entered the U.S. over the last 3 years as "subjects of concern." They are subjects of concern because they were brought here by an ISIS-affiliated human smuggling network, according to sources who spoke with NBC News.

These unnamed officials report that 150 of these individuals have been arrested, but the whereabouts of many more are unknown. We also don't know whether the money earned in this human smuggling operation is funding ISIS activity.

A couple of weeks prior to this story, NBC also reported that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrested eight men from Tajikistan, also for suspected affiliation with ISIS, in three major U.S. cities. This turned out to be an entirely separate ISIS-affiliated human smuggling network.

Mr. Speaker, these are just a couple of examples from recent weeks. We face many, many more national security threats that are a direct result of open borders and a refusal to uphold existing immigration laws in this country.

More than 350 illegal immigrants who are on the terror watch list have attempted to cross into the United States since President Biden took office. More than 1.8 million people have successfully evaded Border Patrol. Hundreds of thousands of unknown individuals have been admitted into the U.S. on parole with no way of tracking many of these individuals. This widespread abuse of parole authority was a key factor in my vote to impeach DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas. It has truly paved the way for countless instances of crime across this country.

The President's recent executive order is far too little, far too late. It doesn't go far enough to treat these threats to our safety and security with the seriousness that they merit. The action, however, does prove what I have been saying and arguing for months, that the President has and has had the authority to end this crisis at our border. It also highlights the fact that our Commander in Chief waited 3½ years before taking any action to curb the unprecedented flow of illegal immigrants into this country.

This isn't hyperbole. These are facts. As sobering as they may be, I fear they will persist as long as President Biden or whoever is making decisions at the White House is in the White House.

HONORING ANDRE JONES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. RAMIREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Andre Jones, in recognition of BIPOC Mental Health Awareness Month. Andre's life and creativity are an invitation to celebrate the beauty of our shared humanity.

Andre, a Chicago native from the Logan Square area in Illinois-03, has published a unique coloring book. It is called "Colorful Memoirs: A Journey Through Andre's Life," that offers a glimpse into his experiences and affirms his credo: Just like you, I am a human being.

Andre participates in the community living programs at Envision Unlimited where he practices his commitment to inclusion and community building through his leadership of the cycling committee. Andre is donating the proceeds from the coloring book to support his beloved summer cycling programs.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, I commend Andre for his contributions to mental health awareness and his ongoing efforts to equip and uplift our community.

I thank and congratulate Andre.

HONORING NAT VIKITSRETH

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nat Vikitsreth in recognition of BIPOC Mental Health Awareness Month.

Nat is the founder of Come Back to Care based in the Illinois-03 and a self-described dot connector, norm agitator, and a lover of liberation. She brings wit, authenticity, honesty, and audacity to the work of collaborating with parents to address intergenerational family trauma and healing from internalized oppression.

Nat unapologetically pursues social justice and liberation in her practice while rooting her work in our sacred shared humanity.

While she has a long, impressive list of awards, publications, and traditional credentials to be proud of, Nat believes that her work with parents, caregivers, and children is the highest honor.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, I commend Nat Vikitsreth for her contributions to mental health, especially for Black and Brown communities, and her unwavering commitment to the sacred work of healing and justice.

I thank and congratulate Nat.

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HONORING JACK ROSS

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Illinois Third constituent and veteran, Jack Ross.

Jack was wounded in action during his deployment in Vietnam while serving as his squad's point man. Like so many servicemembers living with disabilities and traumas as a result of their service, Jack witnessed unspeak-

able horrors and returned home injured and with PTSD.

His commendable service and sacrifice were recognized with two Purple Hearts, two Bronze Star Medals and an Air Medal.

Upon returning home, Jack turned his military experience into a lifetime of community leadership. He owns and operates Manor Press, a veteran-owned business in River Grove. He has also served on the boards of Oak Leyden Developmental Services and his alma mater, Guerin Prep High School.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, I commend Jack Ross for his courage, for his service to our communities, and his unwavering leadership.

CONGRATULATING HENDERSON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' SOFTBALL TEAM

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Henderson County High School girls' softball team on an amazing season and their first-ever State championship.

The Lady Colonels won the title in a dominating fashion by a final score of 11-0.

This State title capped an impressive season. The team notched 36 wins and recorded multiple school records, including highest batting average, most hits, most runs scored, most singles, most doubles, most RBIs, and most stolen bases.

Three players on the Henderson County team were also named to the All-Tournament Team. This is an amazing accomplishment for Henderson County High School, for the program, the community, and I am so honored to represent this great community in west Kentucky.

I again congratulate the Henderson County girls' softball team on their first-ever State championship.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the new bill that I filed titled the "Presidential Ethics Reform Act."

This bill is a bipartisan bill that I have filed with Representative KATIE PORTER from California. The American people are skeptical about whether government officials actually work in the public interest, regardless of which party they are in.

This bill would require Presidents and Vice Presidents to disclose foreign payments, family gifts, family loans, family use of government travel, and tax returns.

Increasing transparency is a key step to restoring trust in the government. Let the American people see for themselves whether or not there are conflicts of interest with their leadership.

Both parties have complained about previous administrations having conflicts of interest, especially among