

through the countless lives she touched and the work she did to make Seguin a better place.

Let us honor her memory by continuing to serve with the same compassion and dedication she demonstrated every day. My thoughts and prayers are with her family, friends, and all those in Seguin who feel this tremendous loss. May she rest in peace.

HONORING ARMY SPECIALIST LAURO G. DELEON, JR.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and remember Army Specialist Lauro G. DeLeon, Jr., of Floresville, Texas, who gave his life in service to our Nation 20 years ago during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Lauro was just 20 years old and had a bright future ahead of him, yet he chose to serve his country with courage, knowing the risk but driven by his deep sense of duty.

In Iraq, Lauro faced fear and uncertainty, but his faith and love of his family sustained him. His mother, Grace, shared how prayer and faith in God guided him in his most dark moments. That unwavering faith is a testament to the kind of man Lauro was.

Though two decades have passed, his sacrifice is still fresh and felt. Today, we remember Lauro's bravery, his love for his family, and his commitment to his great country. May we never forget his service, and may God continue to bless his family and all those who serve.

□ 1045

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 102ND BIRTHDAY OF
VERLON "POP" MAGUGLIN

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an incredible milestone, Mr. Verlon "Pop" Maguglin's 102nd birthday.

For over a century, Pop has been a pillar of the Live Oak community and living there for 100 years. His life is a testament to hard work, family values, and dedication to the land he loves.

Pop's farming legacy, from raising cattle to growing crops like peanuts and the famous Maguglin Slim's okra, has left a lasting mark on this county. We are also eternally grateful for his service to our Nation during World War II.

As we celebrate his 102nd birthday, we honor his dedication to family, spanning five generations, and his unwavering commitment to living life with joy and purpose. Pop's life has enriched others, and I wish him continued health and happiness.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF ROY
RODRIGUEZ

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate City Manager Roy Rodriguez on his well-deserved retirement after more than two decades of remarkable service to the great city of McAllen.

Roy's leadership has guided McAllen, Texas, through an era of incredible growth, stability, and prosperity. Under his steady hand, the city has thrived, reaching new heights in finan-

cial strength and community development.

Roy's commitment to the people of McAllen, Texas, will leave a legacy. As he closes this chapter, I hope Roy knows he has made a profound impact on the lives of many. I wish him happiness, health, and a wonderful retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF GEORGE NEE

The SPEAKER *pro tempore*. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. AMO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AMO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dedicated champion for Rhode Island's working families, Mr. George Nee.

Last week, George publicly announced his retirement as president of the Rhode Island AFL-CIO. On October 11, he will leave behind a towering legacy of over 50 years of fighting for workers.

George has often said that there can be no democracy without a vibrant union movement. That is why he has dedicated his entire career to securing economic opportunity and advancing social justice.

As George prepares to hand over the reins, I would like to honor his incredible story, rising from humble beginnings to become the face of organized labor in Rhode Island.

George Nee found his calling at Boston College in the 1960s. After meeting farmworkers from California, he was inspired to make their cause his own. He was so inspired, in fact, that he dropped out of school as a 21-year-old to advocate for the cause full time.

George's early jobs involved coordinating Boston's successful grape boycott and later a lettuce boycott in Rhode Island. Thanks to his efforts, farmworkers who spoke little to no English were able to secure better conditions and union contracts.

He slept in church parishes, on office floors, and even in an abandoned building on Brown University's campus. It wasn't glamorous work, but George got the job done.

His successful efforts introduced him to key players in the labor movement, including a soft-spoken man from Delano, Mr. Cesar Chavez. George was his driver and a bodyguard whenever he was in the area. In the mid-1970s, George joined Cesar and eight others in a pilgrimage across southern California. Their courageous campaign to organize farmworkers led to a tense standoff with growers armed with shotguns.

That is textbook George Nee: Never one to shy away from what is right and never one to back down from a fight.

After returning to Rhode Island, George helped to organize an independent union for jewelry, clerical, and healthcare workers. This organization became the Service Employees International Union, or SEIU, Local 1199. George served as its founding president from 1976 to 1983.

Madam Speaker, I have a personal connection to Local 1199. It is the same union my mom proudly joined when she worked as a nurse in Rhode Island's nursing homes.

In 1983, George was hired by our statewide AFL-CIO. From staff representative to executive director to secretary treasurer to his 15-year run as president, George has become synonymous with the union. Thanks to his leadership, Rhode Island AFL-CIO and its affiliates are now more than 80,000 strong.

Our State consistently ranks as having one of the highest rates of union membership. Despite changes in the economy and a varying degree of appeal to organized labor, though it is at its most popular right now, George has kept the faith. He has been tireless, relentless, devoted, and a champion for workers and their families.

Above all, he has never lost sight of the ultimate goal, to make sure that working people have a seat at the table whenever decisions are being made. I saw this firsthand when I worked as an adviser in the Governor's office in Rhode Island several years ago. I will never forget the quintessential image of George at the Rhode Island State House. He was roaming the halls and making the case to legislators about the need for critical protections and critical investments.

George's accomplishments are too many to name with the time that I have remaining, but suffice to say that his dedication to our State will stand the test of time.

Madam Speaker, I conclude by quoting a portion of George's retirement letter. According to George, labor is "the strongest countervailing force that stands up to the power of the business community with the goal of having a level playing field. We truly are the people's lobby."

Truly, the people's lobby is never a bad cause to be fighting for.

For decades, George Nee has been a mentor and a friend, a colleague and an advocate, and a fighter for the working people of Rhode Island. He will no doubt be missed.

On behalf of the hardworking men and women of the State of Rhode Island, I thank George.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD George Nee's resignation letter.

RIAFLCIO,
September 3, 2024.

DEAR MEMBERS OF THE RHODE ISLAND AFL-CIO EXECUTIVE BOARD AND LOCAL UNION AFFILIATES, I am writing to inform you that I will be retiring as the President of the Rhode Island AFL-CIO effective on October 11, 2024. I have been honored to serve you and our membership at the Rhode Island AFL-CIO since 1983. I was employed as a Staff Representative in 1983. In 1985, I became the Executive Director. I was elected as your Secretary-Treasurer in 1991, and I was elected as the President in 2009. I would like to give a special thank you to Ed McElroy who hired me in 1983. His faith in me will always be appreciated.

I appreciate the confidence and trust you have had in me over these many years.

Our organization has been, is now, and will be in the future, a force for economic and social justice for all the workers in our state. We are the strongest countervailing force that stands up to the power of the business community with the goal of having a level playing field. We are truly the people's lobby. The legislation and issues for which we advocate improve the lives of all workers in our state.

We believe that there can be no democracy unless there is a vibrant free trade union movement. The way we have lived up to that ideal in Rhode Island is our commitment to participate in our democracy. We encourage union members to run for political office at every level. We have a process to endorse candidates based on labor issues. We mobilize voter registration efforts. We engage our members in assisting in our endorsed candidates' campaigns, and we hold elected leaders accountable.

Over the many years, we have adopted a perspective and philosophy that organized labor has a right and responsibility to exercise our voice when and where decisions are made at every level of government. These decisions impact the quality of life and economy of our state and we must be there.

Because of the commitment and dedication of the leaders and members that came before us, Rhode Island has always been a strong labor state. We achieve our maximum effectiveness when we are pro-business, pro-growth, pro-labor and pro-union. Because of your commitment and activity, it remains so today, and I strongly believe that as our labor movement goes forward with new leadership, it will be even stronger in the future.

We will continue to get stronger by organizing new members. We will continue to be among the states with the highest percentage of union members. We will continue to provide high quality and innovative education and training programs through our Institute for Labor Studies and Research. We will continue to champion innovative programs like Climate Jobs RI which enhance our image in the community and protect our future.

I am grateful and thankful that you have allowed me to be a part of this movement that has brought justice, prosperity, and hope to so many people.

In Solidarity,

*George H. Nee,
President.*

FINALIZED RULE OF THE CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, last year in California, the State's air pollution regulator, known as CARB, which stands for the California Air Resources Board, finalized a new rule that would require freight railroads in the State to adopt zero-emissions locomotives for industrial use, such as in local yards and ports, by 2030, and for normal, long-distance hauling by 2035. It is now requesting a waiver from the Environmental Protection Agency to proceed.

Madam Speaker, the EPA should deny this since this EPA CARB rule would effectively require all locomotives to operate in a zero-emissions configuration when operating in California, including out-of-state loco-

motives that would come into California and then proceed back out again. One of these noncompliant locomotives would have to unhitch at the border and bring other locomotives in just to drive into our State.

This regulation would limit the useful life of thousands of locomotives across the rail network and requires a transition to zero-emission technology. Even by CARB's own admission, this rule will drive many short-line railroad operators and rail lines out of business.

CARB also admits this rule will be shifting the transport of goods to trucks, which ultimately are going to raise highway miles traveled and likely raise emissions from trucks and the whole window of emissions because you can have many trucks hauling up to 80,000 pounds typically versus a railroad with the many, many tons they can haul efficiently. This is the opposite of the goal of CARB by causing a raise of emissions and vehicle miles traveled.

Rail operators have not yet been able to acquire the full tier 4 locomotives due to unavailability, and the technology isn't even fully developed yet on tier 4 locomotives. CARB, once again, is jumping the gun to move to even more stringent standards. Essentially, they are mandating tier 5 locomotives when tier 4 locomotives don't even fully exist yet. It is just amazing.

It would make more sense for the bureaucrats at CARB to take a break from their carbon-neutral crusade and let rail operators come up to tier 4 compliance standards. If they could make the tier 4, you would already see a dramatic cut in emissions across the board since these tier 4 locomotives are 85 percent cleaner than older technology, instead of pushing net-zero locomotives, which seems to be the holy grail, on such a ridiculous timeline.

Since they are obsessed with net zero and carbon reductions, they have actually worked against their own goals, as I mentioned, with forcing it onto trucks and on and on.

It is estimated that EPA approval would result in close to 65 percent of the Nation's class I railroad locomotive fleet being banned from operating in California by the year 2030. He notes that other States are going to do the monkey see, monkey do like California does.

General Van Ovost, the head of U.S. Transportation Command, expressed concerns that this regulation will negatively affect the economy and military readiness posture of moving military equipment as they need to. By reducing this ability to transport goods and military equipment in and out of the State from other parts of the country or having a lack of locomotives to do so, military operations could be severely impacted by this regulation. Imagine if we can't move the material we need in a timely fashion because of a California rule if the U.S. EPA gives them this waiver.

A large collection of national, State, and local agricultural groups have ex-

pressed great concern that this CARB rule poses a significant danger to U.S. agriculture and its ability to transport ag products domestically or to our ports. Members may remember a few years ago, there was a giant port problem in California. It was not an all-out strike, but a slowdown of work, where many ag products were left on the docks so long that the more perishable produce and agricultural food was rotting; it wasn't getting shipped out or, in some cases, even shipped in.

Do we want to add to that problem with, instead of the trucks at that time, having the railroads also be in that state?

It needs to be stated again that the technology required for these replacements does not yet exist for what would be called a tier 5 locomotive.

Freight railroads contribute only 0.5 percent to total U.S. emissions and about 1.7 percent to transportation-related emissions.

All of this is to reduce the amount of CO₂ in our atmosphere, which I will remind my colleagues once again, which I have done many times on this floor, CO₂ is only 0.04 percent of the gases of our atmosphere. When Members look at the pie chart, it is that tiny, little wedge in there that is typically listed as trace gases or other, along with krypton and water vapor.

This rule will slow the food our farmers grow getting to our tables and ports for trade and, indeed, as I mentioned, rotting while sitting at the ports. It will delay and raise in price the materials used to build and heat our homes. Every stage, of course, of automobile production, including EVs, will be slowed down as well by not being able to move these materials. The rule causes lots of problems. EPA, deny this rule.

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 10 o'clock and 58 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. ZINKE) at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Lisa Wink Schultz, Office of the Senate Chaplain, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within us, bless Your holy name. For You alone are holy and all who live and breathe find their purpose in You.

Let the light of Your glory illuminate the paths we take today, that