

The Republicans have shown us their plans for a second Trump term. They have told us it will be even worse than his first. We should believe them.

The American people reject this extremism, and so should the GOP. Let's pass a bipartisan funding agreement that fulfills our duty to our country, to our veterans, to our seniors, and to our children.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GUSTAVOUS "GUS" HOLMES BELL III

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 honor the life of Gustavous "Gus" Holmes Bell III of Savannah, Georgia, who passed away on July 22 at the age of 86.

Gus, known by many as Buster, was a dedicated, hardworking man who earned a degree in civil engineering from The Citadel before attending graduate school at the University of Kentucky.

Gus was commissioned as a second lieutenant as a reserve commissioned officer in the U.S. Army. After assignments in Virginia, Texas, and New Mexico, Gus moved to Kentucky and was hired in an engineering role. Gus eventually landed in Savannah, Georgia, and was honorably discharged in 1969. Gus was an engineer who was instrumental in establishing a partnership between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia.

In honor of Gus' contributions to the city, former mayor Eddie DeLoach declared August 11 as Gus H. Bell III Day in Savannah. Gus was also a founder of St. Andrews on the Marsh School in Savannah and a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Savannah.

Gus was married for 42 years to his beloved wife, Mandy. After her passing, he was blessed to marry Jan Hall. He is survived by his three children, Lisa, Adair, and Holmes, as well as his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We mourn his loss and keep him and his family in our prayers.

On a personal note, he was one of my mentors who had a great deal to do with helping me and the city of Pooler and our tremendous growth that we experienced while I was mayor. I will forever be grateful for that.

RECOGNIZING RONALD COOPER

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Officer Ronald Cooper, who heroically saved the life of a woman who was kidnapped in Brunswick, Georgia.

On November 9, 2019, now-retired Glynn County police officer, Ronnie Cooper, responded to a kidnapping call on his police radio. A woman had been abducted from the daycare center where she worked. Bravely, the woman fought back against her attacker, allowing more time for Officer Cooper and the Glynn County Police Department to locate her. The assailant was

forced to change his plans, and the brave folks at Glynn County PD were able to locate the victim.

Against the clock and all odds, Officer Cooper and his partner, Officer Jeremy Stagner, successfully rescued the victim from the would-be killer.

Thanks to Officer Cooper, Officer Stagner, and all the brave law enforcement officers who work diligently to keep our communities safe from violence like this.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF FREDDY HOWELL

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Bryan County Fire Chief Freddy Howell.

Mr. Howell has had a wonderful 39-year career serving his community, and we are all better off for and will deeply miss his passionate service.

During his time of public service for Bryan County, Mr. Howell led his department in various cleanup efforts and oversaw the expansion of the fire department.

He led the cleanup for a tornado in north Bryan that damaged many parts of our community, and Mr. Howell secured several grants that grew his department's team from 36 to over 100 firefighters.

The fire department also acquired new equipment, ambulances, and tankers under Mr. Howell's leadership. With his passion for aiding others, Mr. Howell greatly enhanced Bryan County's emergency response capabilities.

Following his retirement from the Bryan County Fire Department, Mr. Howell plans to join the private sector as a customer relationship manager.

I am grateful for Mr. Howell's impactful public service to Bryan County and the First District of Georgia.

REMEMBERING RICHARD "DICK" BERKOWITZ

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to mourn the loss of Richard "Dick" Berkowitz, who sadly passed away this August at the age of 91 years old. He was a dear, dear friend.

After attending the Georgia Military Academy, Dick pursued a graduate degree at the Wharton School of Business. Dick proudly served in the United States Marine Corps and was stationed in France with the Army Finance Corps.

Mr. Berkowitz also had a 42-year-long career in investment banking and as a stockbroker. His career was marked with success as he was the youngest general partner ever at a Wall Street firm in 1967.

In addition to his military service and professional career, Dick will be remembered for expressing his outspoken political beliefs through writing candid memos and his involvement in the Savannah, Georgia, community.

Dick's legacy will surely be carried on by his wife, Lynn, and his five beloved children.

My thoughts and prayers are with the Berkowitz family, Dick's friends,

and every person he impacted throughout his wonderful life.

We will miss Dick. I will miss my friend Dick. God bless him.

U.S. SHIPBUILDING UPDATE

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, this coming Saturday, September 14, the USS *New Jersey*, the 23rd Virginia-class submarine, is going to be commissioned in northern New Jersey. It was delivered to the Navy earlier this year.

Next to me is a photo of USS *Iowa* which is going to be the 24th Virginia-class submarine which is going to be delivered next month. This is a shot from the drydock in Groton, Connecticut.

Early next year, the 25th submarine, the USS *Massachusetts* is going to be delivered to the Navy. Later in the year, the 26th submarine, USS *Idaho* is going to be delivered to the Navy. In the following year in 2026, USS *Arkansas* and USS *Utah* are also going to be delivered.

Again, these are really the most critical maritime vessels, particularly in the Indo-Pacific. We are here on China week. What is happening in these shipyards is the best rebalancing of deterrence in the Indo-Pacific region.

It is happening at the same time that we are building the *Columbia*-class submarines which are the ballistic submarines. Those submarines are actually 2½ times the size of the Virginia-class submarines. They are just massive vessels which, again, are critical because the hull life of the submarines they are replacing, the *Ohio*-class submarines, are over 40 years old. All this work, again, is something that is really driving a lot of economic activities certainly in southern New England but, frankly, all across the State.

Again, Congress has had a big part to play in terms of funding. Just in the recent supplemental, the submarine industrial base funding is aimed at three different things: number one, workforce; number two, supply chain; and number three, facility.

This is a picture of a supply chain company in Tolland, Connecticut, which is in my district in eastern Connecticut, Shelby Supply Company. The gentleman on the far right is Tim Briere. He is the owner of the company.

Their hiring has grown three times over the last 3 years because of the metal fabrication work that they do that, again, are a part of the submarine industrial base.

The woman on the far left in this picture is Amanda Dodd. She is somebody who grew up in Connecticut. She moved to Texas. She is a welder, and she moved back to Tolland, Connecticut, last year. She is part of the team there that is contributing to this production process which took a hit during COVID. There was a slippage in

terms of the production cadence and the schedule, but now they are recovering it. Congress has had a big part to play in terms of giving the funding for programs like those that Shelby Supply is part of.

In August, I visited Divers Cove, American Systems in Norwich, SEACORP in Groton, and Collins and Jewell in Bozrah. Again, these are all supply chain companies which are part of this enterprise.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I would just say that when we look at the horizon as far as the amount of work we are talking about here, it is at least 20 years, and we have to go younger and sooner in terms of training up people in terms of the metal trade skills and engineering skills that are going to be essential if we are going to succeed in this shipbuilding plan.

This is a picture of a welding lab where last Friday we had a ribbon cutting. This is a small public high school up in the northeast corner of the State of Connecticut, Tourtellotte High School. It is a regular public high school. This is a comprehensive high school, not a trade school. Because of the submarine industrial base funding which passed in this Chamber earlier this year, they, again, are now installing more welding booths so that the students are going to be able to take advantage of this opportunity.

The welding class used to be eight kids. Now it is going to be 50. These are kids who when they graduate from high school are going to be eligible to get their security badge, go into the shipyard, and be part of this production process.

Interestingly, talking to Superintendent Melinda Smith and some of the teachers at the high school, because of this program, students who otherwise would really not be that connected in terms of the work that was going on there because they really were not college bound, attendance is now going up. It is because these kids understand that this program which they really like, which is about an hour and a half a day, if they don't show up for school, then they are going to get removed from the program.

It is a win-win situation in terms of increasing educational proficiency in terms of all subjects, but particularly in giving people a skill which is a life skill that is going to allow them to succeed in the future.

Again, this is now happening not just in trade schools, which are wonderful, the career and technical schools which now have waiting lists for kids who want to get involved, but it is also happening in nontrade public high schools. Westbrook High School in Connecticut is also going to be a part of this program, and that is how we succeed as a nation to recapitalize our Navy fleet.

RECOGNIZING 100 YEARS OF THE CLEVELAND COUNTY FAIR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

North Carolina (Mr. McHENRY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate a few wonderful things that happened in my district this fall.

Mr. Speaker, every September, Cleveland County, North Carolina, celebrates an iconic event that marks the transition to autumn. This year, however, we have a special reason to celebrate. It is because the Cleveland County Fair in Shelby, North Carolina, is reaching an extraordinary milestone: its 100th anniversary.

For a century, the fair has been more than just an event. It has been a cornerstone of our community. It has brought families together, celebrated Cleveland County's rich agricultural heritage, and provided endless entertainment with thrilling rides and fantastic food.

As the leaves turn and the air grows crisp, the fair is the perfect way to welcome the fall season in North Carolina, and if you are a politician running for office, then you need to be there. The fair is a must. I have spent a lot of time shaking hands there over the years.

I am really grateful for the opportunity to interact with people when they are having great family fun. I thank everyone who makes the fair happen, the volunteers and the folks who work the fair.

I congratulate the Cleveland County Fair on its 100th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING CAMP MEETINGS IN NORTH CAROLINA'S TENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a unique and longstanding summer tradition in North Carolina's 10th Congressional District: church camp meetings. These annual events date back to the 1800s and are wonderful celebrations of faith, family, and community.

There are three camp meetings in my district not far from where I live: the Balls Creek camp meeting held in Catawba County and the Rock Springs and Tucker's Grove camp meetings which are both held in Lincoln County and very close to where I live in Lincoln County.

All three campgrounds are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Camp meetings happen each August and last for up to 2 weeks. Families gather for worship under an arbor which is a central open-air shelter that seats hundreds of people. There are also singings, youth rallies, and plenty of time to visit with family and friends.

Many families, in fact, stay at the campground in wooden cabins known as tents. Ownership of many tents has been passed down for generations.

These are beloved events, and they truly are events. These events were started so many years ago by families of the earliest settlers to the area. Many people who attend are direct descendants of these people of faith who first started gathering more than 150 years ago.

It is important to not just honor our traditions, but to preserve them, and that is what these camp meetings do. The organizers of these camp meetings continue to do that with these important events and timeless expressions of our enduring faith. For that, we honor and thank them.

□ 1030

REMEMBERING CASSIE MAE SMITH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate a remarkable woman, Cassie Mae Smith, a Battleboro, North Carolina, resident, and my State of the Union guest this year whose beautiful life spanned 109 years.

On August 10, she passed at her home, surrounded by family and friends. She was a beloved figure, affectionately called Ma Cassie by her neighbors and friends.

She was born in 1914, before women had the right to vote. Once Ma Cassie was able to exercise her right to vote, she voted in every election she could and began advocating for others to do the same.

In March, my office helped her achieve two items on her bucket list. She had never met a President or flown on an airplane. She flew to our Nation's Capital for the State of the Union. Afterward, she met President Joe Biden.

While here, I am grateful for so many colleagues from across the country and from across the aisle for taking the time to speak with her.

I am also grateful for President Biden spending time talking with her. If not the oldest, she had to be one of the oldest ever to attend the State of the Union Address. It meant a lot to her, and she was indeed grateful.

She loved our country, the United States of America. Her story of resilience and grace has touched the lives of many, including my own. Her journey has inspired us all, from working on a farm in North Carolina to traveling for the first time at 109 on an airplane to our Nation's Capital.

For those who knew her, Ms. Cassie Smith was also a woman of unwavering faith. She loved the Lord. She loved her church, Pittman Grove Baptist Church, and Pastor Thomas Ray Green and his wife, Sharon, who traveled with her for the State of the Union.

In fact, after the State of the Union, she made clear to me, she said: "I know my pastor prays for me." Frank Smith, her son, said his mother had a deep spiritual connection with God, always looking up when she prayed. He once asked: "Mamma, who are you talking to?" She said: "I am talking to the Lord."

I also recognize Faye, Frank's wife and Ms. Cassie's caregiver, and all her caregivers.