

There was no objection.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE APALACHEE HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTING

(Mr. COLLINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, it has been a rough year in the 10th District of Georgia. We started out the year with the brutal and heinous murder of Laken Riley over at the University of Georgia, and then last Wednesday, at the Apalachee High School in Barrow County, we had an active shooter enter the school.

Christian Angulo, a 14-year-old student; Mason Schermerhorn, another 14-year-old student; Richard Aspinwall, a teacher and coach; and Christina Irimie, a teacher, lost their lives. Nine other people went to the hospital, and numerous people were hurt.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that our colleagues join us for a moment of silence to reflect and remember those people who lost their lives and their families and those people who are still healing from this incident.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEM- BRANCE OF OFFICER DARRON BURKS

(Ms. CROCKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, this past week, north Texas laid to rest a sworn officer and beloved public servant, Officer Darron Burks, who tragically lost his life in the line of duty.

Long before anyone called me a Congresswoman, I was blessed to call Officer Burks a friend. I knew him before his time in law enforcement, when he proudly served his community as a public schoolteacher at Dallas Can Academy.

As a teacher, Darron inspired a generation of Dallas students to seek better for themselves, attain their degrees, and follow his example. He believed in practicing what he preached, and it was this dedication to his community that inspired him to complete police training.

Whether he was in front of a classroom or wearing a badge, Officer Burks was a shining example of servant leadership. He put his family, friends, and community before himself. His painful loss touches each and every one of us as we mourn his passing and celebrate his legacy.

On behalf of the people of north Texas who he loved and cherished, I wish to thank him one more time for his service and vow to honor his legacy of selfless servant leadership.

RECOGNIZING JONI CARRICO AS 2024 ANGEL IN ADOPTION

(Mr. COMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Joni Carrico of Graves County, Kentucky, on being chosen as the 2024 Angel in Adoption by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute.

Ms. Carrico has worked tirelessly with the Hope That Binds, a nonprofit organization based out of western Kentucky that aims to provide financial assistance for foster and adopted families.

Through Hope That Binds, a network of loving families is growing and expanding. To date, over 100 families have been assisted through the organization's fundraisers and grant program.

Throughout her time at Hope That Binds, Ms. Carrico has been a voice of advocacy in her church and community. Her service has provided much encouragement to the First Congressional District of Kentucky and our constituents. She remains an important voice for hopeful parents seeking to grow their families.

Ms. Carrico is an outstanding leader in west Kentucky, and her work impacts our community daily. I thank Ms. Carrico for supporting, connecting, and advocating for Kentucky families.

DREADED SCOURGE OF PORCH PIRATES

(Ms. PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, ahoy gentlefolk of the high seas of legislation. We gather 'round to speak of a matter that plagues our shores and threatens our treasures: the dreaded scourge of porch pirates.

Aye, these scallywags who plunder packages from doorsteps are a blight upon our communities, a menace to honest folks awaiting their rightful booty.

But fear not, for Congress spots justice on the horizon: the Porch Pirates Act. This mighty bill preserves our treasure and brings justice to those who dare to steal what is not rightfully theirs.

No longer shall we be at the mercy of porch pirates. Under this noble act, thieves will face fines or even a stretch in the brig.

Muster up, fellow congressional sailors. Let's pass the Porch Pirates Act so honest folk can rest assured that their treasures are safe from those who would plunder 'em.

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IN MEMORY OF LOIS RUTH CASON WOOTEN

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of

Lois Ruth Cason Wooten, who sadly passed away at the age of 95.

Lois studied English and library sciences at the University of Georgia. She took her passion and expertise to work as the head librarian at Northside High School in Atlanta, Georgia.

After her time in Atlanta, Lois and her husband, Frank, moved to Savannah, Georgia, where they selflessly served the city in a myriad of ways.

Lois was greatly involved in the Savannah Symphony. She was greatly involved in the Savannah College of Art and Design and Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Wooten are survived by their beloved daughter, Ann, and their wonderful grandchildren.

Lois will always be remembered for her service in the Atlanta and the Savannah communities and will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my sincere condolences to the entire Wooten family. My thoughts and prayers are with the family and Lois' friends today.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF SEPTEMBER 11

(Mr. GOLDMAN of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, this morning at Ground Zero, we observed the 23rd anniversary of the worst terrorist attack on American soil.

I was living in Lower Manhattan that day, and I will never forget watching the second plane hit the South Tower and then seeing the soot-covered people walking up Hudson Street. I will never forget the overwhelming patriotism that New Yorkers and Americans around the country displayed in the face of that evil.

Our Nation owes a debt of gratitude to the first responders who returned day after day to Ground Zero, looking for signs of life and clearing the rubble, and to the survivors who helped rebuild and transform the city in Lower Manhattan.

Now it is our turn to take care of them. That is why Congress must pass the bipartisan 9/11 Responder and Survivor Health Funding Correction Act to permanently address the funding shortfalls in the World Trade Center Health Program.

Just like our military veterans, we owe it to the 9/11 survivors and first responders, who are true American patriots, to get this bill across the finish line.

WATER FOR CROPS IN CALIFORNIA

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, we recently had a field hearing in central

California facilitated by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BENTZ), chairman of the Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries, and hosted by the gentleman from California (Mr. DUARTE).

We were talking about the water supply issue for the State of California. Why do my colleagues have to hear about water in California? These are the crops that California grows right here on this poster. Somewhere between 90 and 99 percent of them are grown in my home State.

If they aren't grown there, then U.S. consumers will not receive them. They would have to get them from somewhere else, some other country, with whatever quality and supply steadiness issues they might have there. It is important that the water supply in California continue to be directed to agriculture instead of directed to the Pacific Ocean.

We are losing tens of millions of acre-feet because we can't seem to harness the water with the existing dams we have because they let it all out due to dubious supposed environmental needs, whether it is fish, whether it is the smelt, which no longer really exists in the delta, so they find another smelt to call endangered and take more water away.

We need water for agriculture to feed this country.

FULLY FUND THE IDEA

(Ms. TLAIB asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or what we call IDEA, is a landmark civil rights law in our country, offering a promise of equal education for all of our students living with disabilities.

We continue as a country to fall short on this promise, a 50-year-old law that is now chronically underfunded. Teachers and parents in my district repeatedly tell me how we are not doing enough to meet the demands and requirements for IDEA.

The Federal Government promised to cover 40 percent of the extra costs of special education with the passage of IDEA in 1975. That pledge has never been met. Federal funding covers just under 15 percent, creating a shortfall of billions for many of our districts across the country.

My colleagues have been introducing a bill over and over again for almost 25 years to get it fully funded, and we haven't seen it yet.

We must follow on the promise of IDEA. That is why I cosponsored the IDEA Full Funding Act.

The problems today are real for our children. When we fail to fully fund these services, school districts are stuck and end up providing less than the law requires, cuts are made, and children are turned away.

Mr. Speaker, let's fund the IDEA.

INQUIRY INTO THE DEATH OF PATRICK FINUCANE

(Mr. NEAL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I acknowledge the decision today by the British Government to reopen the inquiry into the death of Patrick Finucane, who was brutally murdered in his home in front of his family in February of 1989.

This high-profile murder of a human rights solicitor by loyalist gunmen connected to the British security forces was one of the most controversial and shocking events of the Troubles in the north of Ireland.

Throughout my 35 years in Congress, I have been a steadfast supporter of the Finucane family and their tireless effort to get truth and justice. After years of public apologies, we are acknowledging today a state of collusion and numerous roadblocks that were set up.

I welcome the British Secretary of State Hilary Benn's comments and his intention to proceed with reopening this case. Pat's wife, Geraldine, and their family are entitled to the truth in hopes that this decades-long ordeal can finally be put to rest.

As co-chairman of the bipartisan Friends of Ireland Caucus, I will continue to advocate for the Finucane family as this process moves forward in our hopes that it is one more step toward peace, justice, and reconciliation on the island of Ireland.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE INDUCTION OF JIM LEYLAND TO THE MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man whose legacy now stretches from the ballfields of Perrysburg, Ohio, to the hallowed halls of Cooperstown, New York.

Jim Leyland, a son of northwest Ohio, recently became only the second native of northwest Ohio to be enshrined in the National Baseball Hall of Fame, following Toledo's own Roger Bresnahan, who was inducted almost 80 years ago in 1945.

What a momentous achievement that reflects not just on Jim's hard-won success as one of the greatest managers in baseball history, but also honors his hard work, humility, and dedication, qualities that define our region.

From his modest beginnings in Perrysburg, he rose through the ranks with perseverance and grit, leading teams to greatness and even winning a World Series. Through all of his accomplishments, Jim remained loyal to his roots, giving back to his community in countless ways and serving as a role model for generations of young athletes.

As he takes his rightful place in baseball's hallowed halls in Cooperstown, Perrysburg and all of northwest Ohio could not be more proud.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Jim on this historic, well-deserved honor.

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY: THE PEOPLE UNITED WILL NEVER BE DEFEATED

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ALFORD). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. RAMIREZ) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order hour.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, today is 9/11, and I start our Special Order hour by paying tribute to the 2,977 people who lost their lives at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and Somerset County, Pennsylvania, and the thousands of people who were injured that day.

I ask that we observe a minute of silence as we remember the families torn apart, futures stolen and irrevocably changed, and the lives that we lost that day.

As Progressives, we are committed to making our democracy work, repairing the places it is fractured, strengthening the places it is vulnerable, and defending the places it is effective.

In April, the Congressional Progressive Caucus released our platform for 2025. In it, we outlined the work we are committed to, ensuring our democracy is strong.

Today, I have the honor to stand with a number of my colleagues who have been the movers and shakers in protecting our democracy and working toward strengthening our democracy and helping expand our democracy. I am pleased, as we get started with our Special Order hour, to yield to my colleagues who will share the progress that they have made and what Congress must still accomplish to further deliver on the work their communities sent them here to do.

Mr. Speaker, I will start by yielding to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN).

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding and for organizing this Special Order hour on the most important problem of our time, which is democracy.

Will we have democracy, or will we lapse into some other form of government, like autocracy or theocracy or plutocracy?

I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership and for leading us in that