

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank our first responders who are working day and night to contain the Airport fire that has spread across more than 23,000 acres in Orange and Riverside counties, which I represent, and injured at least five firefighters and two civilians.

Federal, State, and local first responders, community organizations, and individuals stepped up to help their neighbors by providing food and shelter, supporting animals, large and small, and being there for one another.

I have been in close contact with our fire, law enforcement, and community leaders on the ground, and I led a bipartisan letter to request Governor Newsom to declare a state of emergency to support our community's response and unlock Federal resources.

My team and I will keep doing all we can at the Federal level to keep residents safe and ensure our first responders have the tools they need.

Together we will get through this.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BILL PASCRELL, JR.

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

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, the work, and memory of one of this body's most senior and distinguished members, as well as my close and dear friend, Congressman Bill Pascrell.

I am heartbroken by Bill's passing. Bill was a teacher, professor, and a dedicated public servant to the people of New Jersey's Ninth District for nearly three decades. Bill was a true champion of working families. His tireless advocacy for fair trade policies that put American workers first was unmatched.

We first met when I was working as a New Jersey State director for the Mondale-Ferraro campaign in 1984. Bill was the mayor of Paterson, New Jersey. I just might tell you that Bill Pascrell yelled at me every single day for the 2 months that I was in New Jersey about what was right and what was wrong. I was really fearful that when he came to serve in Congress would we ever really have a civil conversation. We became the closest and dearest friends.

Bill was somebody who was always willing to lend a hand or advice, and I came to rely on him as a friend and an ally.

As a proud Italian-American leader, Bill brought our shared community values of fairness and justice to every aspect of his work, serving all of his constituents with passion and commitment over an exceptional career.

I knew that I could always count on Bill no matter how difficult the fight. Together, we pushed for improved trade policies that prioritized American workers and protected labor rights as with the bipartisan National Critical Capabilities Defense Act.

Bill's leadership on the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Oversight was instrumental in making sure our standards were not merely words on paper but strong and real policies that have upheld our Nation's values.

He co-chaired the Italian American Caucus here, preserving the rich culture and history of Italian Americans in this body and in this country. He was a proud son of Italy.

Bill's passing is a serious loss to New Jersey, the Congress, and the Nation. I send all of my love to Elsie, to his children, his family, and his friends during this time.

HONORING BRENDA ALLEN

(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 honor the life of Brenda Allen of Campbellsville, Kentucky.

Mrs. Allen served as the mayor of Campbellsville for three terms, dedicating her life to bettering her community and serving all who called Campbellsville home.

Mayor Allen was a lifelong resident of Campbellsville and spent years before her time in public office as an active community leader and volunteer. She was the recipient of numerous awards and honors due to her many years of service to her community.

She served as city clerk for 4 years before being elected the first female mayor of Campbellsville. Over the years, I had the privilege of getting to know Mayor Allen very well. Her endless pride for Campbellsville and dedication to improving the lives of her city's citizens never wavered.

Campbellsville and Kentucky's First Congressional District have lost a great leader and public servant. Mayor Allen's life and her time in office were marked by numerous accomplishments, and her legacy will be felt for many years to come.

On behalf of the First Congressional District of Kentucky, I send my condolences to Mayor Allen's family and friends during this difficult time.

HONORING GREG MEYER

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

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible career of Blackburn College president, Dr. Greg Meyer, and to congratulate him on his retirement.

Dr. Meyer began his time at Blackburn College in 1981 as the college's first full-time chaplain. During his 43 years at Blackburn, Dr. Meyer served as interim dean of students, a college counselor, director of church relations, chair of the philosophy and religion department, and college president.

His long and diverse tenure reflects his tireless dedication to bettering the lives of his students.

Beyond teaching, Dr. Meyer led a student music group called The Joyful Noise and participated in Blackburn's Midwinter Folk Festival. From hosting an annual Christmas vacation board game night to marrying approximately 100 couples on campus in Clegg Chapel, Dr. Meyer was always finding ways to bring our community together, and I am so grateful to call him a friend.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. Meyer for all that he has done to inspire and shape the next generation of thoughtful, passionate leaders, and I congratulate him on his retirement.

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HONORING THE MEMORY OF CAPTAIN JON MCBRIDE

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

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of a remarkable West Virginian, Captain Jon McBride, who passed away this August.

Captain McBride's life exemplifies the values of steadfast dedication, unwavering integrity, and a relentless pursuit of excellence. His distinguished career spanned flying 64 combat missions during the Vietnam war. As a NASA astronaut, he piloted the historic STS-41-G mission aboard the Space Shuttle Challenger.

McBride was inducted into the West Virginia Hall of Fame in 2014. He has received the honors of the Legion of Merit, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, and the NASA Space Flight Medal, among many others.

As we remember Captain Jon McBride, let us honor his legacy of inspiring all of us to reach for the stars while never forgetting the roots that ground us.

HONORING ANDREA ROPER FOR HER SERVICE TO WASHINGTON'S SIXTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Andrea Roper for her 12 years of working on behalf of Washington's Sixth Congressional District.

A graduate UW-Tacoma, Andrea started on our team as a scheduler, went on to do outreach in Kitsap County, and is departing as our district director and deputy chief of staff.

Every day, she has shown professionalism managing an amazing team and being available and responsive to constituents around clock. Every day she has been committed to solving problems, whether leading the charge to fix traffic challenges in Gorst or advancing economic development initiatives for communities across our district. Every day, she has remembered

that the people of our district are our bosses.

Andrea developed and oversaw a community project funding process for our office that should be the model of how things work, bringing efficiency, community input, and accountability into the process.

Andrea will soon be bringing her talents to the city of Tacoma where I am confident she will do great.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in thanking Andrea Roper for her service and wishing her well.

PROTECTING PROPERTY RIGHTS ABROAD

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

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, U.S.-Mexico relations are at risk as President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador continues to take unprecedented and irresponsible steps to unlawfully seize American property. President AMLO is planning to take control of a quarry and port owned by Vulcan Materials Company on the Caribbean coast of Mexico.

Vulcan has been in litigation and arbitration with Mexico since 2018, under NAFTA and then the U.S.-Mexico-Canada agreement. Yet still, President AMLO has taken a vendetta against the company, continuously trying to expropriate the American company's property and operations and making claims of environmental damages.

My legislation, the Defending American Property Abroad Act, would protect U.S. companies in the Western Hemisphere experiencing similar attempts at expropriation so economic growth and national security may continue.

American companies operating abroad should not have to fear arbitrary government actions that undermine their property rights. This is a gross abuse by the Mexican Government and sets a dangerous precedent for other American companies operating in Mexico.

PROTECTING PROPERTY RIGHTS ABROAD

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

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call this body's attention to a dangerous violation of the rule of law across our southern border.

Two years ago, the Mexican Government seized a quarry owned and operated by Vulcan Materials Company, an American company, near Playa del Carmen.

This quarry is a vital part of our construction supply chain across North America, supplying materials that fuel the revitalization of our Nation made possible by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Chips and Science Act,

the Inflation Reduction Act, and other landmark bills we have passed in recent years.

Every Member of this body should be concerned about the brazen action by an American ally and our largest trading partner.

In response, I helped introduce the Defending American Property Abroad Act, a bipartisan and bicameral legislation to deter such abuse.

As we urge President Lopez Obrador to reverse course, and as the Mexican Government continues to take disturbing steps that erode the rule of law and democratic ideals, I encourage each and all of my colleagues to sign onto our bill to protect American property and safeguard our future relationship with Mexico and other trading partners.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF WILLIAM ARTHUR "BILL" HUGHES

(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 William Arthur "Bill" Hughes who, sadly, passed away at the age of 96.

Bill served for 3 years in the United States Marine Corps and attended FAA Aeronautical Center in Oklahoma City which launched him into his 28-year career as a dedicated air traffic controller.

After his time in Oklahoma City, Bill and his beloved wife, Nancy, lived in Wilmington, North Carolina; Savannah, Georgia; and Isle of Hope. After settling down in Isle of Hope, Bill began his second career as a starter of one of Skidaway Island's golf courses.

Mr. Hughes was also well known for his incredible athletic skills. Bill played on the Marine Corps football team, was a highly talented bowler, and was a great golfer. In fact, between his two sons, his three grandsons, and himself, they have 14 hole in ones, and all 14 of them belong to Bill.

Bill and his wife, Nancy, are survived by their three children, William, Martha, and Jennings.

Mr. Hughes was a hardworking individual who will be missed greatly by his family, friends, and co-workers.

I send my most sincere condolences to Bill's wife and three children. My thoughts and prayers are with all his family and friends in this sad, sad time.

TROPICAL STORM DEBBY

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Tropical Storm Debby ripped through eastern North Carolina this past month.

Less than 3 weeks before students were due to return from summer break,

Springfield Middle School and Lucama, North Carolina, sustained severe damage to the sixth and seventh grade hallways resulting from a tornado causing administrators to scramble.

We visited the school. Despite the fierce wind removing the roof and debris everywhere, American flags mounted in the classrooms continue to fly.

Superintendent Dr. Lane Mills and the school board are to be commended for efforts to return students back to their school.

We give a special shoutout to Principal Kelly Thomas, teachers, educational support professionals, and the community for so many generous contributions.

What a great display of resilience, and I wish the Wildcats a great school year.

TREN DE ARAGUA PATROLS AMERICAN COMMUNITY

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

Mr. LOPEZ. Mr. Speaker, today, a knock at the door will make the blood of families run cold. Today, armed prison gang members patrol the perimeter of an American community with their fingers on the trigger, waiting to dish out death and dread. Today, inhabitants will endure with gritted teeth, unable to ask for help for fear of reprisal, longing for a setting sun to cast shadows that will hide the brazen faces of foreign invaders.

Mr. Speaker, an outpost of hell has sprung up in the suburbs of Denver. Vicious thugs have descended on Aurora like a plague or a cancer. The government doesn't care. The police can't be found. The Governor says that it is all in their heads.

Tren de Aragua, a transnational criminal gang started in a Venezuelan prison, has invaded multiple apartment communities with all the ferocity of wild dogs. TDA extorts residents, intimidates witnesses, and has received clearance from their leadership to shoot cops. The Biden-Harris administration encourages this with a senseless border policy that refuses to prioritize Americans' safety.

Will TDA be the first virus not to spread, the first cancer not to metastasize?

If we don't wake up, the next knock on the door will be for us.

HONORING AMERICA'S BRAVE WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

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

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor America's brave wildland firefighters and first responders. In Oregon and across the West, we