

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

are seeing deadly wildfires on the rise. They are starting earlier and growing larger than in previous years.

Throughout this fire season, I have spent a lot of time attending inter-agency briefings, visiting fire camps, and talking with first responders on the ground. Just last week, I visited a camp near Mount Hood where wildland firefighters are battling through a heat wave to contain the Sandstone fire.

These heroes put their lives on the line to keep us safe. In return, we must provide them with the resources and support they need to continue doing their jobs and protecting our communities.

I have introduced legislation to do just that, including a bipartisan bill to help the U.S. Forest Service recruit, train, and place wildland firefighters in our communities to expand their fire-fighting capacity.

Understandably, fighting these blazes and being separated from home and family for weeks on end can be emotionally taxing. Another bill of mine would actually connect more firefighters with mental health services and help them cope with the trauma they face on a daily basis.

To our brave heroes: Thank you for your sacrifices. I will keep working to deliver the pay, benefits, and support you rightfully deserve.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF J. MICHAEL DOWNEY

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

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of J. Michael Downey, a giant in the labor movement who worked tirelessly to improve the lives of working Rhode Islanders.

Mike grew up in a union household. His father was the president of Local 28, the plumbers union, and executive director of the allied building trades.

He followed in his father's footsteps and worked as a plumber at the University of Rhode Island for over 27 years before becoming the chief plumbing investigator at the State Department of Labor and Training.

Mike worked a good job and wanted all workers in Rhode Island to have what he had, a fair and liveable wage, good benefits, and the opportunity to build a middle-class life.

That is what he fought for as president of ASFCME council 94, the State's largest public-sector employees union, and as president of Local 528, which represents workers at the University of Rhode Island.

Mike championed policies to protect members' wages and added several more locals under his leadership. Mike's work speaks for itself. He was re-elected as president five times.

Mike was also active in his own community, serving as the co-chair of Serve Rhode Island and as a council member for the town of Charlestown.

He will be remembered as a humble leader who dedicated his life and service to others. May his memory be a blessing.

WHICH FLAVOR CONTINUING RESOLUTION

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

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, all the talk in Washington is about whether we will have this flavor of a continuing resolution for government funding or that flavor of a continuing resolution.

What that does is it presents the entire funding of the United States Government as an up-or-down vote, an up-or-down proposition. That is precisely the reason we are nearly \$38 trillion in debt.

We have to break the fever dream of governing by omnibus spending bill and continuing resolution, and we have to get to single-subject spending bills where these agencies have to defend their budget in its programmatic review.

The reason that doesn't happen is because the lobbyists and the special interests who run this town and who own the leaders on both sides want it that way. They don't want any itemized review.

We have to get back to those single-subject bills or we will continue this path we are on where we are adding \$1 trillion in debt to the national debt every 100 days.

The American people don't want it. Only the folks in Washington want it, and I am going to keep demanding a change in the way we think, breaking the fever dream, and getting back to single-subject bills. I will vote against these continuing resolutions.

CHAMPION OF THE WEEK: TWINSBURG EDUCATOR NAMED OHIO'S TEACHER OF THE YEAR, DANEE PINCKNEY

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Danee Pinckney, an English teacher at Twinsburg High School, as Ohio's 13th Congressional District Champion of the Week.

Danee was recognized by the State Board of Education as Ohio Teacher of the Year for various accomplishments in the classroom, such as the creation of an advanced course on African-American literature and addressing a need for representation sought by both students and community members. Using literature as the anchor, Danee also works to encourage students' engagement in community service and activism projects.

However, it comes as no surprise that this honor is not Danee's first award. In 2023, she was named the Twinsburg

City Schools Teacher of the Year and was a Martha Holden Jennings Foundation finalist for master teacher.

Danee represents the very best of what every educator should aspire to be, as she has a true passion for bettering our entire community through her work and the lessons she teaches her students.

I am grateful for Danee's tireless dedication to Twinsburg's students. She is a perfect example of why Ohio's 13th District is known as the birthplace of champions.

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CALIFORNIA LEADS THE NATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BEAN of Florida). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, the United States Census Bureau has just announced that California once again leads the Nation in poverty. It has the highest poverty rate, according to the widely accepted supplemental measure, of any State in the country: 15.4 percent.

The Public Policy Institute of California, when you expand this definition to include those living at or near poverty, estimates the number to be at 31.1 percent. To put that in perspective, an adult with one child living in San Francisco, one study found, would have to work 22 hours a day, 7 days a week just to cover basic living expenses.

This is significant not only because it means life is more difficult than it needs to be for millions of people in our State but also because our Governor, Gavin Newsom, has said that California is a model for the Nation. Another Californian, Vice President KAMALA HARRIS, has said that California is a role model for what can be done around the country.

Newsom even recently put out a press release titled: "10 Ways California Leads the Nation." That is the title of his press release: "10 Ways California Leads the Nation."

The items on this list range from the meaninglessly vague, like belonging and unity, to the downright farcical, like transportation, with Newsom citing high-speed rail, even though The New York Times estimates that the California High-Speed Rail won't be completed this century. Even if it is completed, it will be the slowest and most expensive high-speed train in the world.

Of course, what wasn't on Newsom's list of the 10 ways California leads the Nation is poverty, even though California has held that dubious distinction for many years running. So, I thought I would take a moment this morning to go through a few other things that were not on Newsom's list. That is, a few other ways in which California leads the Nation yet he neglected to include on his press release.