

Jimmy Hoffa and lived to tell the story about how he debated Jimmy Hoffa.

He was a staple in our community, and I was lucky to call him my very good friend. Ray will be remembered for his tremendous service not only to his country but to his family and community.

CONGRATULATING DR. RAFAEL LUEVANO UPON
GRISSET CHAIR APPOINTMENT

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my very good friend, Dr. Rafael Luevano, for his appointment as a Griset Chair in Bible and Christian Tradition at Chapman University.

Dr. Luevano is an accomplished scholar from Santa Ana, and his contributions to religious studies have shaped how we see religion in the context of our communities. His dedication to teaching students makes him an excellent choice for this prestigious position.

Dr. Luevano's students will continue to have an opportunity to learn from a nationally recognized religious scholar as well as having their own priest at Chapman University.

I congratulate Dr. Luevano, my good friend, today on his appointment on being the Griset Chair at Chapman University.

HONORING DR. WILLIAM KOTT

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of my very good friend, Dr. Bill Kott, and to celebrate the dedication and naming of the Anaheim post office after Dr. Bill Kott.

Dr. Kott was the son of immigrants. Dr. Kott was born in Philadelphia, and he served our Nation in the U.S. Army during World War II. He fought against Nazi Germany, and Dr. Kott showed his bravery and determination by walking across three nations to fight in the Battle of the Bulge. He was a first responder who liberated the Buchenwald concentration camp.

After returning home, Dr. Kott opened his own dentistry practice in Anaheim. He also served as the chairman of the California Republican Assembly of Orange County. As a member of the Anaheim City Council, he did great deeds for the Anaheim community.

The dedication of this post office is an honor that Dr. Kott earned through his dedication to his family, community, and country. We will always remember Dr. Kott's contributions to our country, to our Nation, and to the city of Anaheim.

HONORING ARNOLDO GUTIERREZ

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

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize someone who made a resounding impact on both me personally and also the Tucson community: My mentor, my pastor, and my friend, Arnolando Gutierrez.

Throughout his life, Pastor Gutierrez played many roles, from Air Force veteran to pastor and loving father and grandfather.

Having served his Nation during the Vietnam war, he taught me how to live my faith, how to live a life of public service, and how to live a life with a strong sense of true patriotism. While he and his generation fought a thankless war in Vietnam, Arnolando Gutierrez remained an unwavering patriot and was the perfect example of the American Dream.

He immigrated to the United States when he was 3 years old. He was a standout high school athlete who enlisted in the United States Air Force in his senior year of high school. He met the love of his life while he was serving in Spain, Belen.

He retired after 21 years of service, founded a church in south Tucson, and continued his service to his community that way.

Today, I extend my deepest appreciation to Arnolando Gutierrez and all those who served our Nation. He passed away Thanksgiving weekend of 2017. Not a day goes by when I don't remember him and the lessons he taught me.

Today he is laid to rest in Tucson, Arizona, but I know his legacy will live on forever in our community and in all those whose lives he touched.

In honoring Arnolando Gutierrez, we not only recognize his contributions but also recognize the sacrifice and bravery of all our veterans. May he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING SKILLSUSA REGION 6 COMPETITORS

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding southern Arizona high schoolers who showcased their construction skills at the SkillsUSA Region 6 construction competition.

Hosted at Catalina High School, this event welcomed 120 high school students eager to put their skills to the test. These students worked over the weekend in seven distinct construction-related categories, from plumbing to cabinetmaking.

SkillsUSA, a national organization dedicated to promoting career and technical education, hosts competitions annually at local, State, and national levels. The competition wasn't limited to construction alone. Other SkillsUSA events span various categories, from robotics to media arts, and took place throughout the entire weekend in Tucson.

Participating high schools came from all across southern Arizona, including Benson Unified School District, Bisbee Unified School District, Douglas Unified School District, Duncan Unified School District, Sierra Vista Unified School District, Pima County JTED, Pima Unified School District, and many more.

It is inspiring to see the dedication and talent of these hardworking students. I look forward to seeing what the future holds for them.

□ 1230

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA MINING SCHOOL

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the University of Arizona San Xavier Mining Lab where our next generation in the mining industry is growing and learning.

The School of Mining and Geological Engineering dates back to 1885, standing as one of University of Arizona's founding programs. This lab has notable achievements, including being ranked first nationally in metallurgical engineering and fourth nationally in mining engineering programs. In addition, it also has a commendable track record of 100 percent job placement for graduating seniors.

Recently, I led a group of my Western Caucus colleagues on a trip to the San Xavier mining site where they were able to meet students and see firsthand the innovation happening there. This program is leading the country in developing our future leaders in mining. They have set the standard for mining engineering programs and are an incredible point of pride for our community.

I recognize the students, professors, and stakeholders who work tirelessly as a part of this program. Of course, Bear Down.

ENCOURAGING NEWS IN
CONNECTICUT

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise before the House today as the Member from eastern Connecticut having the honor to represent the Second Congressional District to report on some encouraging news on probably one of the most gut-wrenching, disheartening problems that our Nation faces, which is the epidemic of opioid overdoses.

In the State of Connecticut, like other parts of the country, the rise of opioid deaths from 2012 up until 2021, 2022, has been 300 percent.

People are more likely to die from opioid overdoses than they are from motor vehicle accidents, and eastern Connecticut was no exception.

Again, in 2021, the number of opioid deaths in New London County, which takes up the largest portion of eastern Connecticut by population, peaked at 134 deaths.

Starting at that point, people decided it was time to get serious about trying to come up with ways to create more prevention and also remediation and recovery for people suffering from addiction.

In 2022, that number dropped from 134 to 125. A couple days ago, the 2023 numbers were reported, and it dropped to 71 deaths.

This did not happen by itself. It was in collaboration with the community of New London, the New London Overdose Action Team, which was led by

Margaret Lancaster from the Ledge Light Health District created in collaboration with the New London Police, the New London EMS, and social services agencies to get more Narcan kits out into the community and to educate people in terms of what to do in these situations, these crisis situations, and it is showing real results.

In Norwich, which is also one of the larger communities that was hard hit, the Norwich Opioid Task Force was created, led by Kate Milde, who is the director of Norwich Human Services, again, in collaboration with the Norwich Police Department, EMS, the youth prevention team, and the Recovery Coach Program, which is led by Michael Doyle from Reliance Health.

The Reliance Recovery Coach Program is a model with trained, street-smart staff that are out in the community street by street, tracking where overdoses have occurred and distributing Narcan kits—500 in 2023, and the number of deaths dropped from 34 to 17 in that community.

Again, I salute Michael and his team who are amazing people doing hard work, saving lives, and getting this country better positioned to deal with this crisis.

Again, I said it was encouraging news. We cannot end our efforts. We cannot stop there. We have more work to do in terms of making sure, through budgets in Washington and in State governments, that these incredible individuals are able to continue to do their work in collaboration with law enforcement and in collaboration with hospitals and EMT professionals to make sure that we save lives, get people into recovery, change lives, and get them up on their feet and contributing to our community.

Madam Speaker, I end by saluting their great work and encouraging them to continue. We are watching you, and we are cheering you on.

CONGRATULATING RON WANER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. VAN ORDEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great leader, innovator, industrialist, and philanthropist on the occasion of his induction into the Wisconsin Manufacturers' Hall of Fame.

Ron Waner founded Arcadia Furniture in 1970 in the small western Wisconsin town of Arcadia. Back then, Mr. Waner employed just 35 people.

In 1982, Arcadia Furniture and Ashley Furniture Corporation merged into Ashley Furniture Industries. Today, Ashley has grown to become the world's largest manufacturer of home furnishings with over 30 million square feet of worldwide manufacturing and distribution capacity and Ashley retail locations throughout the United States and 67 countries. Ashley employs 16,000 Americans, including 3,000 in my home State of Wisconsin.

Mr. Waner is the personification of the phrase "business is a force for good." Not only is Ashley Furniture Industries a massive economic driver in Wisconsin and beyond, but the Ronald and Joyce Waner Foundation has contributed tens of millions of dollars in support of a multitude of important charities.

Mr. Waner is an unmatched supporter of technical and STEM education at both the K-12 and secondary levels. Through its various programs and partnerships, the Ronald and Joyce Waner Foundation aims to inspire and empower students to pursue careers in STEM fields and improve the quality of life in our communities.

In addition, Mr. Waner is a passionate supporter of veterans. Just one example is his establishment of the incredible Soldiers Walk at Memorial Park in Arcadia, Wisconsin, which is a premier war memorial outside of Washington, D.C., that has 29 monuments, honoring all who have served our Nation.

Finally, Mr. Waner is not only the great embodiment of the American Dream, but he actively promotes it through his unwavering and ardent support of the free enterprise system, which has made this Nation the greatest country in the history of the world.

Madam Speaker, I ask that Ron Waner's contributions to my State and this Nation be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for posterity.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the importance of career and technical education.

Our education system needs to empower students to pursue the type of education that works best for them—be it an apprenticeship, a trade school, or a 4-year college.

That is why I joined the bipartisan Congressional Career Technical Education Caucus, or CTE, which is committed to supporting and promoting CTE for all Americans.

These programs prepare students for jobs in STEM disciplines such as healthcare, agriculture, information technology, manufacturing, the skilled trades, and many more.

There are more than 9 million job openings in the United States, and many are within the industries with noted skilled labor shortages.

Madam Speaker, 55 percent of the jobs in my home State of Wisconsin require CTE skills training but do not require a 4-year degree.

There are men and women working downstairs in this building and in other buildings in the woodshop and in the upholstery shop. We have pipe fitters, steam fitters, and we have welders.

I encourage every one of my colleagues, if they have a chance, to go down and visit these men and women that keep this building running. These are fantastic jobs, and they do not require a 4-year degree.

I remind the American people that the lights in this hallowed Chamber are

not on because someone got a master's in French poetry. They are on because someone went to trade school and became a master electrician.

SUPPORT FOR EMERGENCY AID

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

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Subcommittee on National Security, the Border and Foreign Affairs, I rise in strong support of emergency aid for our Democratic ally and partner and for the people of Ukraine, now entering the third year of their fight for freedom and democracy in the face of the brutal invasion launched by Russian President Vladimir Putin in 2022.

This morning, the United States Senate passed a bipartisan foreign aid package that included vital Ukraine assistance by a wide vote of 70-29.

In stark contrast to this bipartisan effort, the House Republican leadership continues to fall in line behind former President Trump, refusing to act swiftly on Ukraine funding on purely partisan political grounds.

Regrettably, Speaker JOHNSON has already dismissed the Senate bill as a status quo measure.

Madam Speaker, this is a missed opportunity. Members of this House should have the right to vote on a package of Ukraine funding, Israel funding, and greater security funding for our southern border.

On the issue of Ukraine funding in particular, this political impasse comes at the great expense of U.S. national security, international peace, and the freedom of the Ukrainian people.

It also follows repeated warnings from the Biden administration that the failure to enact additional aid will kneecap Ukraine on the battlefield. It will allow Putin, an autocratic dictator, to prevail and simply pave the way for a Russian military victory.

Even the Republican chairman of the House Intelligence Committee recently reported that with the Ukrainian armed forces now desperately rationing munitions, "We have to get this done. . . . If we do not move, this will be abandoning Ukraine."

The Ukrainian people deserve better. They are valiantly defending their country against relentless campaigns of state-sponsored terrorism that the United Nations reports has killed more than 10,000 and injured nearly 20,000 Ukrainian civilians.

The war has also forcibly displaced an estimated 10 million people, including 6.3 million people, Ukrainian refugees, who have fled to neighboring countries.

With Putin vowing to continue this unlawful war until Russia achieves its nationalist and imperialist objectives, I strongly urge my Republican colleagues to abandon their misguided and dangerous deference to Donald Trump.