

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.

At a campaign rally this past weekend, the current standard-bearer of the Republican Party actually stated that if one of our 31 NATO allies did not meet their defense spending goals, he would not protect them as President of the United States in honoring our obligations to NATO.

In fact, he said he would encourage Russia “. . . to do whatever the hell they want.” He would treat the surrender of millions of Ukrainian people as a transaction.

We must instead be guided by our own founding Democratic principles, enduring defense of freedom and human rights around the world.

Indeed, the House Republican leadership would also be wise to recall their own longstanding commitment to a strong national defense and embrace American global leadership as a bulwark against expansionist schemes undertaken by brutal dictatorships.

The Ukrainian people deserve better. They are defending their country against a relentless campaign of state-sponsored terrorism that the United States reports has killed more than 10,000 people.

“. . . people are at last free to determine their own destiny,” said Ronald Reagan, who also demanded of Putin’s President, Mr. Gorbachev, “Tear down this wall.” He was a defender of a free and democratic Europe.

I recently returned from a bipartisan delegation to Ukraine where I met with President Zelenskyy and examined the security and humanitarian situation on the ground. There is zero evidence that the Government of Ukraine is directing resources anywhere but toward its singular goal of preserving Ukrainian sovereignty and independence.

I urge my colleagues to support additional aid for Ukraine.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o’clock and 42 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Send, O Lord, Your spirit to move among us in this place. Guide us into Your truth, a truth that is not of our authority nor bound by our place in time.

Reveal to us a truth beyond our every memory, greater than our best

knowledge, deeper than we can possibly imagine. May our hearts, our heads, and our wills be open to that which is Your truth alone. May we let go of our own designs, loose our certain grip on our desires, and yield to Your righteous plan for us and for all creation.

Great Creator, use this day to give us a fresh anointing to serve Your people. Life bestower, give us, in this moment, a new awakening to lay hold of the hope You set before us.

Eternal advocate, equip and empower us with the truth You reveal and uphold us with the strength You supply this day and always.

In Your sovereign name we pray.  
Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day’s proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### EXPOSING WOKE KINDERGARTEN

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, at a San Francisco Bay Area school, only 16 percent of students were reading at grade level and only 8 percent were proficient at math.

The school spent \$250,000 in taxpayer money on a group called Woke Kindergarten to help boost test scores for some of the country’s lowest performing schools.

However, after 2 years with Woke Kindergarten, student scores are worse. Now, only 12 percent are reading at grade level and fewer than 4 percent are proficient in math.

There is more. The head of Woke Kindergarten is on record wanting “a world free of the U.S. empire”; believing space aliens are oppressed; and supporting “a free Palestine from the river to the sea.”

A teacher who questioned the program has been put on leave.

I wish this were made up, but it is real and, sadly, encapsulates so much of what is wrong with our education system.

#### BRING OMER NEUTRA HOME

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the story of Omer Neutra, a Binghamton University student.

Omer is 22 years old. Omer’s friends and family describe him as a true American kid whose fun-loving personality shines the brightest when he is cheering on his favorite team, the New York Knicks.

On October 7, Omer was one of more than 240 men, women, and children who were brutally kidnapped by Hamas terrorists. He and 133 hostages are still held captive today, enduring unthinkable torture and trauma.

I join my colleagues in demanding that Hamas release Omer immediately, along with the remaining hostages. Those who have been released have shared horror stories of sexual abuse, children being forced to take drugs, and inhumane and barbaric conditions.

I continue to stand with Israel as it works to eradicate Hamas and free the innocent people wrongfully held by this terrorist group. It is time to bring Omer home. It is time to bring them all home.

#### SOUTH CAROLINA LEADERSHIP CREATES JOBS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, families in South Carolina have been negatively affected by the failed policies of Biden, with the highest inflation in 40 years destroying jobs.

Gratefully, in South Carolina, with the leadership of Republican Governor Henry McMaster, all statewide officials, and supermajorities in the General Assembly, budget surpluses have been achieved with responsible spending creating jobs.

The South Carolina Department of Commerce, led by Secretary Harry Lightsey, announced \$9.2 billion in investments with 14,000 new jobs.

This is in the tradition of Governor Jim Edwards, recruiting the largest Michelin facilities in the world, and Governor Carroll Campbell groundbreaking the largest BMW assembly plant in the world. Governor Nikki Haley saved Boeing jobs, and Senator TIM SCOTT, with President Donald Trump, developed opportunity zones.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism moves from the Afghanistan safe haven to America. Biden shamefully opens borders for dictators, failing to enforce laws. We don’t need new laws as more 9/11 attacks across America are imminent, as warned by the FBI.