

In his free time, he enjoyed boating. He also worked out daily.

"He was a terrific guy," Mrs. Mease said. "He enjoyed life and life enjoyed him."

Along with American Legion Toledo Post 335, he was a member of Swanton American Legion Murbach-Siefert Post 479.

He was preceded in death by a twin sister. Along with his wife, Joyce Mease, he is survived by his daughter, Melissa Mease; a son, David Mease; and brother, Norman Mease.

Services will begin at noon Tuesday in Toledo Memorial Park, immediately followed by military honors.

Arrangements are by Walter Funeral Home.

#### CONGRATULATING OLYMPIANS AND PARALYMPIANS FROM COLORADO'S FOURTH DISTRICT

(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, I rise today to congratulate the Olympians and Paralympians from Colorado's Fourth Congressional District.

To compete in the Olympic and Paralympic Games is one of the highest honors an athlete can achieve. It takes years of hard work, grit, and determination, and I am honored to stand here today to celebrate their achievements in Paris.

Anna Hall, Jessica Thoennes, Sophia Smith, Mallory Swanson, and Derrick White have all dedicated their lives to advancing their sports, and to them, I say congratulations.

Each one of them has reached the top of their personal Everest. I hope that they feel incredibly proud when they reflect on their time in Paris and take a moment to celebrate their amazing accomplishments.

Each of them has had to persevere through injuries, defeats, and personal setbacks. The example they have set serves as an inspiration for future generations of athletes and is something they should be deeply proud of.

Mr. Speaker, Colorado's Fourth Congressional District was lucky to have such high-caliber athletes representing them this summer. They have made us proud, and I look forward to watching each of their careers grow.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS PAID TO THOSE WHO DESERVE IT

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

Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about our retired teachers, police officers, firefighters, letter carriers, and nurses, and the fact that, for decades, Congress has kept or stolen the Social Security benefits that they paid for and earned but have yet to receive.

The Social Security Fairness Act will fix this. Millions of retired public servants will get their benefits each and every month moving forward.

This bipartisan effort is the most co-sponsored bill in this 118th Congress. Yesterday, we hit a major milestone with 218 signatures on a discharge petition, forcing a vote on the Social Security Fairness Act.

Mr. Speaker, I am ready to vote "yes" when this bill comes to the floor. Let's get it done.

#### CELEBRATING 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF SONES DE MEXICO ENSEMBLE

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Sones de Mexico Ensemble, a nonprofit organization founded in the community of Pilsen. They are focused on promoting a greater appreciation of Mexican folk and traditional music and culture.

Sones de Mexico Ensemble has been nominated twice for a Grammy award because of their world-class performances and their contributions to the recording industry. The group has also collaborated with Irish, blues, classical, jazz, country and western, and rock artists, helping expand the reach and understanding of Mexican music.

In 2014, with the objective of giving back to the community, Sones de Mexico Ensemble opened a Mexican Music School with an impressive Spanish language curriculum for children and adults that has now expanded to serve over 150 sites all over Chicagoland.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have such talented artists in my district, and I cannot wait to hear and see where they go next.

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#### PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION IN THE MILITARY

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

Ms. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind this body of the incredible damage inflicted by the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy.

For 17 years, it was the official Federal policy to discriminate against LGBTQ+ servicemembers and prevent them from living authentically or risk being discharged.

This policy wasn't only hateful and isolating, it weakened our military and failed to live up to our values.

Today marks 13 years since we repealed this hateful policy, and we won't go back. We won't go back to Don't Ask, Don't Tell or the possibility of a trans service ban with the stroke of a pen or a tweet.

Countless queer people serve our country bravely, they serve our country proudly, they serve our country honorably, and they should serve our country authentically, too.

That is why we need to pass my Ensuring Military Readiness Not Dis-

crimination Act to prohibit discrimination in the military and protect trans servicemembers.

Our servicemembers sacrifice so much for us. They shouldn't have to sacrifice who they are.

#### HONORING DR. HUGH AUCHINCLOSS

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

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I am rising to thank and congratulate Dr. Hugh Auchincloss who is retiring this month as the longtime principal deputy director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, NIAID, at NIH, and its former acting director.

Among other extraordinary accomplishments, Dr. Auchincloss' leadership at NIAID put U.S. scientists and researchers in a position to develop the COVID-19 vaccine, the fastest vaccine program in world history, a stunning and successful response to this staggering centennial emergency.

For decades, Dr. Auchincloss has served his patients and our Nation with a ferocious work ethic, unshakable integrity, and disarming humility and humor.

It is no exaggeration but rather a plain statement of fact to say that all of humanity has benefited from Dr. Auchincloss' devotion to the public's health, and I am very proud to be his Congressman.

I am wishing him, his wife, Dr. Mary McCain, and his children, Kalah, Hugh, and my always inspiring colleague, Congressman JAKE AUCHINCLOSS, the very best during this next chapter of his career and his life.

#### TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

(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 in support of the Trade Adjustment Assistance program, or TAA, which provides a lifeline to workers who have lost their jobs due to outsourcing or other trade-related business decisions.

TAA provides up to 2 years of robust job training benefits, and according to the U.S. Census, recipients increase their earnings by an average of over \$50,000 over a 10-year period.

This is not just an economically sound thing to do, it is the right thing to do. We cannot realize the full benefits of trade if we are leaving our friends and our neighbors behind.

In my home State of Connecticut alone, over a thousand people have been helped by this program to find new jobs and to improve their skills, according to the Department of Labor.

Unfortunately, the program expired 2 years ago, and Congress has failed to

reauthorize it. That means over 121,000 workers who have submitted petitions seeking resources to improve their job skills have been ignored.

Elected officials on both sides of the aisle like to talk about supporting American workers. It is time that we put our money where our mouth is.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the American Worker and Trade Competitiveness Act and demand that it be brought to a vote.

The American people are watching. They want to know if we have their back. We cannot afford to wait any longer.

#### DEFINITION OF WOKE

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

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as my Republican colleagues continue to rail against everything woke and for their Project 2025 agenda.

Now, most Members don't even know what woke even means, so let me just try to lay it out. As the NAACP reminded us in a 2023 resolution, the word "woke" has been used by Black Americans even as far back as the 1940s when the Black mineworkers issued the statement: "We were asleep. But we will stay woke from now on."

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert this official NAACP resolution titled: "Resolution-Reclaiming the Word 'Woke' as Part of African-American Culture" be inserted into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

NAACP—2023

RESOLUTION: RECLAIMING THE WORD "WOKE" AS PART OF AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURE

Whereas, Black history is a critical aspect of American history and has shaped American culture, including the evolution of language; and

Whereas, The words "Wake Up" and "Woke" have served as a call to action as conveyed by social activist Marcus Garvey who stated, "Wake up Ethiopia! Wake up Africa", and the Negro Mine Workers who in 1940 issued the statement, "We were asleep. But we will stay woke from now on," in advocating against discriminatory pay; and

Whereas, The term "Woke" was first highlighted in the 1962 essay, "If You're Woke, You Dig It", featured in the "New York Times" by Harlem-based writer William Melvin Kelley who documented the cultural appropriation and distortion of language, resulting in certain idioms being abandoned by their original Black creators; and

Whereas, The term "Woke" has been similarly misused, as traditionally and white-focused media have reframed "Woke" as trendy new slang, eroding its cultural connection and separating the term from its historical grounding in social justice; and

Whereas, Six decades later, anti-Black racists have engaged in a similar exercise of cultural appropriation to weaponized and misdefine the term "Woke", as evidenced by the "Stop W.O.K.E. Act", specifically targeting the teaching of American history and Black educators; and

Whereas, Black educators are more likely to teach subjects that incorporate an inclusive view of history, and legislation like the "Stop W.O.K.E. Act" threatens the free speech and livelihood of teachers, and the quality of education received by all students, most recently students in Florida.

Therefore be it resolved, that the NAACP affirms the term "Woke" and its historical connection to Black history, Black liberation movements, and social justice.

Be it further resolved, that the NAACP through its units encourages a historically accurate and correct use of the term "Woke" when its misuse is identified.

Be it finally resolved, that the NAACP condemns cultural appropriation, misuse of Black idioms, and specific efforts by anti-Black racists to distort and redefine the specific term "Woke."

Ms. LEE of California. In 2010 it began to be used widely, primarily by Black Americans to bring awareness to social inequities such as racial injustice, sexism, and denial of LGBTQ+ rights.

Today, the Merriam-Webster dictionary defines "woke" as "aware of and actively attentive to important societal facts and issues, especially issues of racial and social justice."

Also, the Merriam-Webster Dictionary quotes me from a speech I gave several years ago: "We have a moral obligation to 'stay woke,' take a stand and be active; challenging injustices and racism in our communities. . . ."

#### A TWO-STATE SOLUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise.

And still I rise today, and I stand alone. I stand alone, Mr. Speaker, because sometimes it is better to stand alone than not stand at all.

I stand today, mindful of the words of the great Voltaire, the great intellectual who reminds us that it is dangerous, Mr. Speaker, to be right in affairs where established men are wrong.

I rise today to take a stand and call to the attention of the Nation that I love, I love this country. I salute the flag. I stand for the national anthem. I sing the national anthem.

I remind everyone that the greatness of America will not be measured by whether the AL GREENS of the world will stand and sing and salute.

The greatness of America will be measured by whether the AL GREENS of the world will defend those who choose not to stand, sing, and salute, and I do. I defend them.

I believe that the greatness of the country resides in our ability to have people that we disagree with stand before us, look us in the eye, announce their disagreement, and yet, we take that understanding that in this country, we can disagree and still have a great country.

I stand today to call to the attention of the Nation and the many who may

not know, but a good many may know what I am about to share, and I have with me evidence of what I speak.

This, my dear friends, is from CNN by Andrew Carey, July 18, 2024, which would be a little more than 2 months, as I calculate things.

And it reads: "Israeli Lawmakers Vote Overwhelmingly Against Palestinian Statehood"—remember, July 18, 2024. It goes on to say: "Challenging U.S. Policy." This is the style of this article published by CNN.

These are the words. "The Biden administration received another rebuff from Israel Wednesday night—this time from the country's parliament." The parliament would be the Knesset. That would be similar to—not the same as but similar to our Congress.

This is a rebuff, per CNN, from the parliament of Israel "over the United States' longstanding support for the eventual establishment of a Palestinian state."

Now, this is important to me because since I have been in Congress, and I arrived in 2005, there has been a policy of a two-state solution, a state for Palestinians and a state for Israelis—longstanding.

In fact, I have voted for it. I have voted to send money to Israel because I thought the two-state solution was the goal that we were all working toward. I have voted for more than \$50 billion, thinking that we were moving toward a two-state solution.

Well, this article goes on to say: "A two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been U.S. policy for decades"—I agree with that, it has—"but absent negotiations between the two sides, and a lack of sustained effort by the U.S."—I shall repeat—"a lack of sustained effort by the U.S. to make it happen."

Now, the contention in this article is that the United States has not made a sustained effort to make it happen.

I believe that the Biden administration has. I have witnessed much of what the Biden administration is trying to do and has done.

It goes on to read: "On Wednesday evening, the Israeli Parliament made clear its position, voting by 68-9 to reject any creation of a Palestinian state."

Mr. Speaker, 68-9, the Israeli Parliament has voted to reject any creation of a Palestinian state. Many people don't know this. I am grateful that CNN has published it.

It goes on. "The Knesset of Israel firmly opposes the establishment of a Palestinian state west of the Jordan [River]."

Actually, it says west of the Jordan, but we know that that is the Jordan River. The Jordan River is at the West Bank, and it is the West Bank of Jordan, not the West Bank of Israel. It is a part of what should be a Palestinian state. We have the West Bank.

I will read this again because this is exceedingly important. "The Knesset of Israel firmly opposes the establishment of a Palestinian state west of the Jordan [River]."