

She is missed. Her humor will remain a reminder of the joy she has filled countless lives with. We mourn the loss of this esteemed member of our community.

Dr. Carole Goldsmith knows that she made a difference. The people in Fresno know that she made a difference, and we will miss her.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DOROTHY "DOTTIE" JONES

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I also rise today to honor the life of Dottie Jones, and what an incredible life it was. She lived 103 years, and she lived with passion and determination.

A loving mother of four children and a lifelong friend, she peacefully passed away at 103 years of age.

When Dottie was 21 years of age, she saw the attack on Pearl Harbor. A year later, in 1942, she enlisted in the United States Navy to serve our country.

She was among the first of women to join the United States Navy and served during World War II with distinction and honor, where only 350,000 females served in the United States military during World War II.

She was a groundbreaker in so many different ways, breaking the glass ceiling, knowing that women could do these jobs and serve their country with distinction and honor and make a difference, and what a difference she made.

Throughout her life, she contributed to our community in so many different ways. The legacy of her strength, her love, and resilience will live in the hearts of her family and all of those who knew her and had the privilege of being a part of her life.

Ms. Jones, my friend, will be deeply missed, and I thank her for a job well done.

#### GOLD STAR FAMILY REMEMBRANCE WEEK

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize this week as Gold Star Family Remembrance Week.

Every September, Gold Star Family Remembrance Week takes place the week before Gold Star Mother's Day, which has been observed by Presidential proclamations on the last Sunday of September since 1936.

The Gold Star symbol, a significant reminder of sacrifice, originated in 1917, when United States began its involvement in World War I.

Families would hang banners to represent a family member in the armed services. If the family member passed in combat, the family would change the banner from a blue star to a gold star, a symbol of the highest honor and most profound loss.

We will never know the exact number of Gold Star families. However, according to the National Gold Star Family

Registry, at least 472,251 fallen military members are registered by loved ones. At least 36,584 of those servicemembers have been registered in my home State of Pennsylvania.

As an Army dad, I am blessed that my son returned home. I am aware that this is not the case for all families, and we must take the time to remember, respect, and honor the families of our fallen servicemembers.

I look forward to supporting efforts, such as Gold Star Family Remembrance Week, to honor and remember our fallen servicemembers and their families. This week recognizes the loss and sacrifices of families in support of fallen members of the Armed Forces, as well as veterans.

I look forward to supporting legislative efforts to honor this occasion and encourage my fellow Americans to perform acts of community service and goodwill to honor those families.

Our servicemembers are the bravest among us. They answer the call to protect and defend our country in times of war and in times of peace.

This important week is a time to remember the families of the brave men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our freedom.

Mr. Speaker, let us all take a moment to remember that our freedom is not free.

We cannot begin to imagine the loss and the pain these families have experienced. Gold Star families have lost a loved one in the name of protecting our freedom, and they deserve our gratitude every day.

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#### CONGRATULATING JORDAN CHILES ON GOLD MEDAL IN GYMNASTICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. PEREZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jordan Chiles, a Gold Medal Olympic gymnast representing Team USA on her incredible performance in Paris.

Chiles grew up in Vancouver and attended Prairie High School. She was raised by parents who were both pastors, a unique identity I proudly relate to.

By the time Jordan had graduated high school, she had already made a national name for herself. At only 12, she made the U.S. gymnastics national team, a truly remarkable feat for any age.

Jordan's incredible journey as an athlete, where she navigates the pressure of being watched by millions, is nothing short of inspiring.

Mr. Speaker, Jordan Chiles has made her community in southwest Washington and her country very proud.

RECOGNIZING VANCOUVER POLICE CHIEF JEFF MORI

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Police Chief Jeff Mori of

the Vancouver Police Department and congratulate him on his upcoming retirement.

Chief Mori has served the Vancouver Police Department for 5 years and spent over 31 years working in law enforcement.

While serving as chief, Chief Mori oversaw the rollout of the VPD camera program, the recruitment and hiring of over 75 officers and staff, and advocated for a southwest Washington regional Criminal Justice Training Academy, which is now successfully training new recruits.

The Vancouver Police Department is our first line of defense to keep our communities safe, and it is a responsibility I know they don't take lightly.

Although we are losing a valued member of the team, I know his impact will remain.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chief Mori for all that he has done for our community. I am honored to have gotten to know him and for the chance to work with him, and I hope that retirement treats him well.

SKILLSUSA'S NATIONAL LEADERSHIP & SKILLS CONFERENCE

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the six high school students from my district who placed in the top three for their category at SkillsUSA's National Leadership & Skills Conference this past June.

The SkillsUSA competition highlights skilled trades and the accomplishments of career-ready leaders in a nationwide, weeklong event.

Sebastian Nejar and Luke Twiss from Evergreen High School in Vancouver won a silver medal in the category of interactive application and video game development.

Zachariah Hubbard and Kaiden Wood from Rochester High School won a silver medal in the category of commercial sUAS drone.

Daniel Dugas and Mason Young from Rochester High School also won a silver medal in the category of robotics—urban search and rescue.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate each team for such a great accomplishment. They all have made us very proud in southwest Washington.

RECOGNIZING RETIREMENT OF BILL DRAPER

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Bill Draper, who has been a construction technology instructor at Cascadia Tech for 28 years.

Cascadia Tech Academy is a premier career and technical education institution that was created in partnership with 10 school districts in my community. Cascadia Tech provides hands-on learning opportunities for students so they can develop talents and gain credentials that will make them ready to hit the ground running after graduation.

After 11 years in the construction field, Bill became a steward of the next generation of doers and makers. I have seen firsthand the incredible respect his students have for him and the pride

he cultivates in them for the trades, which is why he so deservedly earned the Evergreen School District's Educator of the Year award in 2021.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Bill for all he has done for our community and our students. I wish him the very best in his last year in the classroom and in his well-deserved retirement.

MIA AIR FORCE SERGEANT DAVID STANLEY PRICE FINALLY COMES HOME

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the return home to Centralia for Air Force Sergeant David Stanley Price, who has been considered missing in action for the last 56 years.

On March 11, 1968, while serving in the Vietnam war, Sergeant Price was declared missing in action when the outpost he was manning was attacked.

On that day, he, along with 10 other servicemembers manning that post, were deemed to be killed or captured.

Finally, last year, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency recovered his remains and was able to identify Sergeant Price. This allowed for him to finally return home and end the decades of worry and wondering his family has gone through.

Sergeant Price was a husband and father and an active member of his community. I cannot imagine the pain his loved ones have had to endure over the last 56 years, but I hope the return of his remains brings them some measure of peace.

Sergeant Price made the ultimate sacrifice for his country, and I am grateful that he can be properly laid to rest at home.

#### HONORING HEROES WHO MADE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE IN OCTOBER 1983

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 241 American heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice on October 23, 1983, 41 years ago, in Beirut, Lebanon.

For my family and so many families, this day is deeply emotional.

When I enlisted in 1979 as a young man, I wanted to serve and be part of something bigger. That led me to the United States Marine Corps.

Like every marine, I took an oath to God, to country, and to the corps. Semper Fidelis is not just a slogan or creed. For every marine, it is a way of life.

Only those who have earned the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor can fully understand the faith and loyalty instilled in us in the Marine Corps. Semper Fidelis is part of the very fabric of every marine, past and present.

I served as the first lieutenant in the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines. In 1983, my battalion was ordered to Beirut, Lebanon, in support of the 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment and the 24th Marine Amphibious Unit.

I vividly remember the evenings we sat on the roof of the Marine barracks

with the American flag flying over our heads. The nearby barrage of small armed gunfire and mortar rounds made it very clear that we were in harm's way.

On that terrible day 41 years ago, a terrorist affiliated with Hezbollah and Hamas, financed by Iran, drove a truck bomb into the barracks we called home.

Mr. Speaker, 241 American servicemen were killed, 220 of which were my fellow marines, 241 sons, brothers, fathers, and friends, the heroes who never returned home.

Mr. Speaker, 241 came in peace, and 241 lives were stolen from us by an act of pure evil.

It was the deadliest day for the Marine Corps since the Battle of Iwo Jima.

It is by the grace of God that I was able to come home to my wife, Denise, who was expecting our first child, Nicole. My battalion had shipped out 10 days before the bombing, but, Mr. Speaker, today is not about me.

Today is about the 241 soldiers, sailors, and marines who laid down their lives to protect our freedoms. Today is about every veteran who nobly wore the uniform of our Armed Forces.

On this somber day, I look out at the flag flying over the U.S. Capitol and feel the same reverence I felt standing below the Stars and Stripes on the roof of the Beirut barracks in 1983.

Though I will never know exactly why I was spared when so many were not, I understand that our first duty is to remember and be faithful. Every year, it does not get any easier to think of my fellow marines who never made it back home.

In the last few months, we have seen some level of justice, with the military termination of two of those responsible for stealing 241 futures with no regard for decency or humanity. While this is a moment I and so many have waited for, the families of the fallen deserve more. It is my mission to ensure we all remember the tragedy of this day and the lives we lost.

Mr. Speaker, we must always remain faithful and never forget the ultimate sacrifice these fine marines made on our behalf for freedom.

Semper Fi.

#### SOUNDING ALARM ON PROJECT 2025

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Mrs. TRAHAN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to sound the alarm about the dangerous and extreme policies put forward in Project 2025, the self-described blueprint for the Republican President to take over total control of the Federal Government and our lives.

Spanning more than 900 pages, Project 2025 lays out not a concept of a plan but a plan for Donald Trump or another GOP President to ignore the

Constitution and unilaterally turn back the clock on working families, women, and our children.

For women and girls, Project 2025 calls to eliminate overtime pay and kick people with preexisting conditions off of their healthcare insurance.

For women and girls, Project 2025 calls for taking the Republican abortion bans that are devastating women in Georgia and Texas and jeopardizing IVF in Alabama and doing the same nationally.

For our children, Project 2025 calls for eliminating the Department of Education and defunding our public schools.

Each and every one of these proposals would have been devastating for millions of Americans. I know that, Mr. Speaker, because every one of them would have ruined my life.

My dad was a union ironworker. He picked up overtime whenever possible so that he could keep a roof over our heads and put food on the table. Like so many families, Project 2025 taking away the chance to work overtime could have meant us losing our home or going to bed hungry.

When my dad was diagnosed with MS at just 48 years old, he needed his health insurance to visit the doctor and afford his medications. Project 2025 allowing an insurance corporation to kick him off his healthcare coverage just because he was sick would have been a death sentence, just as it could be for millions of Americans with preexisting conditions.

When my husband and I decided to start our family but struggled to get pregnant, we were forced to turn to IVF, and we are so fortunate to have our two beautiful daughters, but as we saw in Alabama, Project 2025's proposals that endanger IVF fertility treatments can be physically and mentally debilitating for couples turning to fertility treatments as their last hope.

Finally, I am the proud product of Lowell Public Schools, from elementary to high school. Like any public school student, I can tell you so many stories of teachers who made the most of the little resources they had to give us every opportunity to succeed.

Ripping that lifeline away from working families, as Project 2025 proposes, is a horrible idea, plain and simple.

Project 2025 will take us backward to a time when life was great if you were wealthy or well connected, but that same time was hard. It was hard for workers and parents like mine who wanted nothing more than to give their kids a better life than they had. That is why I am here to say that we can't and we won't go back.

House Democrats will move our country forward with a vision where people are proud to be an American again.

They are proud because working families aren't just getting by and making ends meet, but they are getting ahead.