

Mrs. Purcell has worked as an art teacher at Mark Twain and Herbert Hoover Elementary Schools in the Bettendorf Community School District for the past 15 years.

Her outstanding performance has earned her the title of Iowa's Outstanding Elementary Art Educator of the Year. It is educators like her that shape the minds of young future generations and lead us toward excellence. Her dedication to the education of Iowa's youth has been inspirational. She has been honored as the district's employee of the quarter and received the National Artsonia Educational Leadership Award.

She has attended six National Art Education Association national conventions and presented workshops on curriculum design and bookmaking techniques at the 2024 National Art Education Association conference in Minneapolis.

It is my hope that she can continue to inspire educators across the Nation to go above and beyond in our institutions of learning. Mrs. Purcell knows that it is the pursuance of excellence that sets us apart. It would serve us all well to remember that.

HONORING RICHARD BAILEY

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

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Richard Bailey of Coronado, who will conclude his service as mayor this December.

Since first being elected to the Coronado City Council in 2012 and later as mayor in 2016, Mayor Bailey has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to working with Congress to achieve clean beaches for Coronado.

Known for his dedication to local issues and his role in representing Coronado on the SANDAG board, Mayor Bailey has tirelessly advocated for his constituents. I very much appreciate the help he has provided me by reaching out to his contacts in Congress on the other side of the aisle to help us get funds approved to fix and expand the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant, which cleans sewage that crosses our border.

We had several meetings here at the Capitol and at home, and he has been a critical partner in our work to stop this terrible environmental and public health crisis.

It is an enormous challenge, but Mayor Bailey is known for taking challenges. He is also known for becoming the first American mayor to reach Everest Base Camp shortly after finishing the Boston Marathon.

His leadership has strengthened the city of Coronado and has set a standard for service.

As Mayor Bailey moves toward his next chapter, we thank him for his years of public service and for the positive legacy he leaves behind. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing

Mayor Richard Bailey's contributions and wishing him all the best in the future.

RECOGNIZING KENZIE WILLEN

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kenzie Willen from Cumberland County High School in Burkesville, Kentucky.

Kenzie was runner-up in the Kentucky High School Girls State Golf Tournament. This was a very competitive golf tournament. I knew several of the girls in the golf tournament from around the State, and Kenzie finished second overall. In Kentucky we don't have classes. Every school competes against every school—the big schools against the little schools.

Kenzie's achievement was the highest athletic achievement in the history of tiny Cumberland County High School.

Kenzie was also recently named the KHSAA Fourth Region Girls Athlete of the Year. Kenzie's parents, Lannie and Kristi Willen, are good friends of mine and are leaders in the great community of Burkesville, Kentucky.

Mr. Speaker, I again congratulate Miss Kenzie Willen from Cumberland County High School.

THANKING AMERICAN VOTERS

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the voters of America for overwhelmingly turning out to reelect a Republican majority in the United States House of Representatives.

I had the honor of serving this Congress as chairman of the House Oversight Committee, and I plan on serving my final 2 years as chairman in the next Congress.

The House Oversight Committee passed 23 good government bills through this House body, most of which received bipartisan majorities. The House Oversight Committee also led many successful investigations and probes, including our bipartisan PBM investigation—that is pharmacy benefit managers.

Our investigation revealed, along with our three bipartisan committee hearings, that the pharmacy benefit managers were actually doing the opposite of what they were created to do. They were created to help lower the price of prescription drugs when, in fact, in many instances they have actually increased the price of prescription drugs.

I believe our work on the House Oversight Committee will lead to significant reforms for the PBM industry in this next Congress.

We also had many other successful investigations, the most high profile of which was the Biden family influence peddling investigation, which revealed that the Biden family received tens of millions of dollars from our adversaries around the world, and according to the two IRS whistleblowers, never paid a penny of taxes on it. Despite the Presi-

dent of the United States saying he didn't know anything about it and never met with any of these people, he met with every single one of them.

We achieved many of our objectives with respect to providing the American people with the truth. We provided the American taxpayers with badly needed oversight, despite massive—and I repeat that, Mr. Speaker, massive—opposition from the Biden-Harris administration, as well as constant disruption and dishonesty from Ranking Member JAMIE RASKIN.

I hope that this next Congress on the House Oversight Committee we can work together to get the backs of the American taxpayers to provide the badly needed oversight that the American people deserve and that Congress is supposed to provide.

I am excited about the future because I am confident that the Trump administration will be more transparent than this current administration has and cooperate with us and do things like provide information when we request it.

We work for the American people. We work for the taxpayers. The taxpayers have taken it on the chin, Mr. Speaker. They expect Congress to provide oversight. They expect good government. They expect efficiency and transparency with their hard-earned tax dollars that they send here to Washington, D.C. They have not been getting that, Mr. Speaker.

I also look forward to working with Elon Musk and the new government efficiency task force. I think there are lots of opportunities there, Mr. Speaker, to save significant amounts of tax dollars. We cannot continue to operate in this body spending \$1.5 to \$2 trillion a year more than we take in. It is not sustainable, and it has led to excessive spending.

The American people spoke loud and clear. They want good government. They want efficiency and transparency. Mr. Speaker, I pledge that the House Oversight Committee will work together to see that the American people get the efficiency and transparency in the government that they deserve.

ANTI-SEMITISM IS RETURNING WITH A VENGEANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply concerned that history is repeating itself. Anti-Semitism, Jew hatred, the demonizing, terrorizing, and killing of innocent Jews, especially women and children, is returning with a vengeance.

I want to take us back 83 years to December 15 of 1941 in Liepaja, Latvia.

For 3 terrifying days, German Nazis and Latvian collaborators rounded up thousands of Jewish women and children, forced them to march in the freezing cold to a beach on the Baltic Sea, ordered them to strip off their

clothing, and shot them dead in groups of 10 while others looked on terrified.

This horrific massacre has been memorialized by a brilliant Jewish artist in my community, Victoria Carlin Milstein, in a sculpture she has named "She Wouldn't Take Off Her Boots." The sculpture, which stands in LeBauer Park in downtown Greensboro shows a grandmother, her daughter, and her three granddaughters, arms locked together, awaiting their gruesome fate. All are barefoot, except the grandmother, who in an act of defiance, refused to take off her boots.

The sculpture was based on a haunting photograph taken by the Nazis to document their cruelty. The artist has placed a bronze camera in front of the statue so each person can look through the camera lens and see exactly what the photographer saw before the family was shot. Each person who looks through that camera is a witness to the unimaginable cruelty that was inflicted on innocent Jews while others stood by either complicit or silent.

A film has been made about the creation of this sculpture and a curriculum written to educate students and teachers about this dark time in history when 6 million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust.

Tragically, we are experiencing the violent cruelty of anti-Semitism today.

On October 7, 2023, thousands of men from Gaza invaded Israel and tortured, burned, and murdered more than 1,200 innocent people. These Hamas jihadi terrorists driven by Jew hatred subjected women and girls of all ages to unimaginable acts of torture, mutilation, rape—violence intended to dehumanize and humiliate Jewish women and girls before they were murdered.

Just like the Nazis 83 years ago in the Liepaja massacre, the Hamas terrorists filmed their horrific acts to memorialize their unspeakable cruelty.

These acts should shock the conscience of the entire world, and yet for too long, the world stood silent. Despite overwhelming evidence, some continue to minimize or deny these war crimes.

Another Jewish woman, Sheryl Sandberg, made a film to show the world what happened on that terrible day, to allow the victims to tell their stories. Just like looking through the camera in front of Victoria's statue, we can all watch Sheryl's film and bear witness to the horrors of anti-Semitism.

I am proud of these Jewish women who have taken action to make sure we do not allow these atrocities to be denied or forgotten.

We must all take heed of the words of Elie Wiesel, which are inscribed on the base of Victoria's statue: "The opposite of love is not hate, it is indifference."

As a nation, we must not be indifferent to the alarming rise of anti-Semitism across our country and around the world—from Los Angeles to New York to Amsterdam to Lithuania to Israel.

I call on my colleagues and all Americans to speak out against anti-Semitism and hate in all its forms and take action. Let us not be indifferent.

RELEASE KEITH SIEGEL

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, it has been over a year since Hamas launched a brutal attack on our ally Israel, slaughtering 1,200 innocent people and taking hundreds of innocent people hostage.

Today, the families of these hostages continue to live in unthinkable anguish, desperate for their loved ones to return home safely.

Among them is the family of Keith Siegel from my home State of North Carolina.

On October 7, Keith and his wife, Aviva, were kidnapped from their home in K'far Aza and held captive together in inhumane conditions underground lacking food, water, and even air.

After 51 days, Aviva was released in a hostage exchange, but Keith, now 65 years old, remains in those horrific tunnels.

We must continue to fight for the return of Keith and all 100 hostages. We must keep them in our hearts and speak up for them.

WILLCOX SOFTBALL TEAM

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

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Willcox softball's little league team for their perseverance and their hard work.

After winning back-to-back Arizona Little League State titles, this team was crowned as this West Region Champions and were invited to play at the World Series Tournament.

Unfortunately, they came up a little short in a 5-2 defeat in one of the elimination games, but we are so proud of them.

While they were not able to make it all the way, I know that Cochise County and the entire State of Arizona is incredibly proud of the Willcox softball's first World Series appearance.

They are only the fifth team from southern Arizona to ever make it this far. They have made our district proud with their resilience and competitive spirit. They must keep up the great work.

□ 1030

CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
PRESIDENT DR. SURESH GARIMELLA

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the new president of the University of Arizona, my alma mater, Dr. Suresh Garimella.

I have met and spent time with him, and I am deeply impressed with what I have experienced. Dr. Garimella is a tireless champion for students who is well suited to lead the university into an even brighter future. He is a passionate educator who fosters the creativity of his students and empowers

them with the tools to pursue their own American Dream.

Throughout his career, he has personally mentored 90 graduate students and 50 post-doctoral scholars, many of whom were placed in prestigious faculty positions across the United States and the world.

Additionally, Dr. Garimella serves on the National Science Board, which acts as an independent body of advisers to Congress and the President on policy matters related to science and engineering.

I am grateful for Dr. Garimella's leadership and look forward to working with him to support the university and its students.

Bear Down.

CONGRATULATING MO SHELDON RETIRING

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mo Sheldon, who will be stepping down as CEO of Northern Cochise Community Hospital at the end of this month, and thank her for all of her invaluable work.

Mo joined the hospital in 2020 and has successfully led them over the past 4 years, including during their transition to Tucson Medical Center in 2021.

In FY24, Mo and I worked closely to secure \$859,000 in Federal funds for much-needed upgrades and repairs to the main entry area and emergency department, which are over 50 years old.

Mo is a pillar of her community, and she has dedicated herself to serving her patients and strengthening the healthcare system in our rural communities. Mo will be dearly missed, but her legacy of servant leadership will continue to echo far into the future.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mo for her commitment, dedication, and hard work. It truly made a difference in our communities. Laura and I wish her all the best in this next chapter in her life.

WATER IS LIFE

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, we all know that water is life. Safe, accessible, affordable drinking water is a human right.

In 2021, I was proud to work with Representative DEBBIE DINGELL and the Committee on Energy and Commerce in helping establish the low-income household water assistance program, a \$1.2 billion financial assistance program to help pay off bills and debts to keep people's water connected, especially during the pandemic.

The program, of course, saved countless lives, but the money has run out. Millions of Americans all across our Nation are still struggling to keep up with their bills, and many are having their water shut off as we speak.

We already have a permanent program right now for gas and electric utilities for our families called LIHEAP, but we have nothing for water utilities. The cost of water has gone up more than 40 percent nationwide in the last decade, and increased 285 percent in Detroit since 1980.