

passing the Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act, which was introduced by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER).

This bill is simple. It reverses President Biden's latest attack on the American energy industry by reversing his decision to ban American LNG exports.

American LNG helps to strengthen our economy, reduces worldwide emissions, and provides security to our Nation and our allies.

According to the American Petroleum Institute, increasing LNG exports could add as much as \$73 billion to the U.S. economy and upwards of 453,000 high-paying American jobs by 2040.

Additionally, more than 87 percent of LNG exports in December 2023 went to the European Union, the United Kingdom, and our allies in Asian markets.

Without a doubt, American LNG helped to reduce natural gas prices in Europe by over 83 percent from the 2022 levels following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in voting "yes" on H.R. 7176, the Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act, to ensure American energy leadership and security. This bill is a commonsense approach to increasing our energy production and lowering costs for all Americans.

I am proud to support its passage and will always fight against President Biden's war on American energy and American energy independence and the energy needs of the American people.

□ 1045

#### CELEBRATING LGBTQI+ AMERICANS ON VALENTINES DAY

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

Ms. PORTER. Madam Speaker, Valentine's Day is a time for us to cherish the loved ones in our lives. I rise to celebrate love in all its forms and to stand in solidarity with the LGBTQI+ communities in California and across the Nation.

While we have made progress to protect the rights and safety of queer Americans, there is still more to be done.

Last year, a record number of bills restricting LGBTQI+ rights were introduced in legislatures across the country, an extremist Supreme Court effectively legalized discrimination against the queer community, and House Republicans targeted LGBTQI+ in dozens of hearings.

These attacks are unacceptable. As a member of the Congressional Equality Caucus, I will always seek to champion and protect LGBTQI+ Californians.

May this week serve as a reminder to my colleagues that we must relentlessly celebrate and defend love.

COMMENDING UNITED TO END HOMELESSNESS MILESTONE

Ms. PORTER. I rise today to commend Orange County's United to End

Homelessness initiative for reaching a remarkable milestone. Its WelcomeHomeOC program has housed more than 1,000 people experiencing homelessness, including 103 former foster youth and 242 veterans.

This nationally recognized program pairs property owners with those given a voucher to reduce their housing costs. This public-private partnership helps people avoid homelessness and housing insecurity. Its focus on veterans and former foster youth who may lack adequate support systems helps the most vulnerable in our community.

Let's be clear: This program is a patch on a massive problem. California's housing crisis is the result of decades of inaction in Washington.

I have pushed for expanding the housing choice voucher program. The Federal Government must step up to help local and State governments in preventing homelessness.

I am proud to recognize the United to End Homelessness initiative and look forward to its continued success.

RECOGNIZING 44TH OC BLACK HISTORY PARADE

Ms. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Orange County Heritage Council on a wonderfully successful Black History Parade and Unity Festival.

Madam Speaker, 44 years ago, the late Helen Shipp, founder of the Orange County Heritage Council, envisioned an event that would bring the community together in celebration of Black excellence.

Now run by Helen's son, Dwayne, the Orange County Black History Parade and Unity Festival continues to thrive—just as Helen imagined. The event features interactive Black history lessons, college and scholarship information, health screenings, and business connection opportunities.

I applaud how the Unity Festival promotes inclusivity, understanding, and equality. It honors the diverse and resilient history of Black Americans and their historic and ongoing contributions to California.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate the Orange County Heritage Council on their successful event.

COMMENDING CALOPTIMA'S STREET MEDICINE PROGRAM

Ms. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend CalOptima Health for their new street medicine program, which offers critical mobile health services to unhoused individuals in Orange County.

Logistical barriers make it difficult for people experiencing homelessness to receive the healthcare that they desperately need. CalOptima, which provides health services to low-income Californians, is reducing these barriers by bringing healthcare directly to homeless people, meeting them where they are.

The mobile health program includes a fully equipped medical van and an experienced team to administer healthcare and connect individuals to services, including housing assistance.

CalOptima's Street Medicine program is just one example of how Californians step up to help our neighbors in crisis. Expanding this program would reduce emergency room visits and first responder interventions and keep our communities healthier.

I will continue fighting in Washington to lower housing costs, which is the only way to permanently end homelessness.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 49 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MEUSER) at noon.

#### PRAYER

Pastor Zach Terry, First Baptist Church, Fernandina Beach, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, as we gather in this Chamber, recognizing You as the only sovereign over these United States, we acknowledge our dependency upon You alone.

May Your holy spirit awaken within our Representatives those timeless truths of scripture, whispered from the lips of their ancestors and thundered from the sacred desk.

Those principles of liberty and justice transcend both time and culture and serve as a beacon amid the stormy seas of governance.

May this Congress embody the most sacred ideals of their constituents and honor the legacy of their honorable predecessors.

The good citizens of this Nation have elected them, but You, O Lord, have appointed them for such a time as this.

May the decisions that they make this day honor the prayer of our Lord, "Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven."

I ask all these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Mrs. BICE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. BICE 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.

#### WELCOMING PASTOR ZACH TERRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BEAN) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor First Baptist Church of Fernandina Beach, Florida, and our bold spiritual leader, Pastor Zach Terry.

My wife and I have discovered that First Baptist is a place to find strength and hope in times of adversity and to feel God's love. It is an incredibly welcoming place, and I challenge anyone to make it from the parking lot into the sanctuary without getting welcomed at least twice.

First Baptist is a cornerstone of our community, having reached and transformed countless lives, both in northeast Florida and, really, all over the world. Through its outreach programs and compassionate ministries, the church has been a steadfast advocate for the greater community, serving neighbors and sharing God's grace.

On October 7, Hamas had its attack in Israel. There were 54 members of the First Baptist Church of Fernandina Beach who found themselves stuck in Israel. Airports closed. Roads shut down. There was limited travel. It was indeed a scary time for getting these pilgrims out of that country safely.

Every day, we would text or communicate with the group, including Pastor Terry, about options, how we do it, what we could do. There was a lot of hunkering down. After a very, very long bus trip to Jordan over a week later, the team made it out.

During that time of chaos, Pastor Zach made several videos saying: We are calm. We are good.

Being a spiritual, dedicated shepherd, he reminded everyone what Mark 11:22 says: "Have faith in God." By faith and hope in a God who never fails, our congregation did make it safely back home.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to welcome Pastor Zach Terry; his wife, Julie; their children, Cole, Caitlyn, and Carly; and Pastor Zach's mother, Ms. Teresa Terry.

There are dozens of members of the congregation here in our Nation's Capital. It is a big day for everybody from the small town of Fernandina Beach.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### ASSAD REGIME CONDEMNED

(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, last night, with the bipartisan support of the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, MIKE ROGERS, and Ranking Member GREG MEEKS, the House passed the Assad Regime Anti-Normalization Act.

This legislation holds the regime of dictator Bashar al-Assad accountable for the murder of a million Syrians, with half of its population, 10 million people, losing their homes and businesses. Assad is an ally of war criminal Putin.

The bill passed the House floor with a vote of 389-32. This legislation improves and strengthens the bipartisan commitment to punish offenders while providing additional protection for humanitarian organizations serving the Syrian people.

The bill now awaits a vote in the Senate for final passage.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism continues moving from the safe haven of Afghanistan to America.

We do not need new border laws. We need to enforce existing laws. Biden shamefully opens borders for dictators as more 9/11 attacks across America are imminent, as warned by the FBI.

#### CONGRATULATING JESSE RODRIGUEZ

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an artist, an advocate, and a creator of community pride, Jesse Rodriguez, better known as Magnolia Grown.

Last month, Jesse achieved something special for our community. His sculpture, "Dale Shine," which you see behind me, was chosen to go to The Cheech, the finest private collection of Chicano art in the world, to become a part of their permanent collection.

This is a first for Houston. It is a first for Texas.

Jesse's work draws from deep cultural roots established while growing up in my district in Magnolia Park. His art is the art of our community, of growing up poor while living in full color, of a shared history "de nuestra gente" "of the people."

Jesse has become a community advocate in the East End portion of our district. He founded Magnolia Park Arts and Community to inspire the next generation to use art for action and to never forget where they came from.

He puts people over politics. He puts arts over darkness. We are so proud of him and everything that he has done, and I congratulate Jesse.

#### REVERSE COURSE ON LNG EXPORT BAN

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of H.R. 7176, the Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act.

The bill is simple. It would repeal President Biden's ban on liquefied natural gas, or LNG, exports. By passing H.R. 7176, we would strengthen our struggling economy, further U.S. leadership in reducing emissions, and increase the energy security of the United States and our allies.

Green New Deal activists shouldn't be driving America's energy policy, especially at the White House. Restricting LNG exports will mean higher prices at home for Americans as it reduces the amount of worldwide output, putting upward pressure on prices for energy and all related goods. It also decreases investment in infrastructure and good-paying American jobs.

Mr. Speaker, we must reverse course on this disastrous decision. Americans are already paying too much at the pump, the grocery store, and everywhere else. We must restore America's energy independence from foreign energy producers.

#### HONORING MATTHEW JEFFERSON ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

(Mr. AUCHINCLOSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Matthew Jefferson, in honor of his 100th birthday.

Matt Jefferson and his late wife, Lillie, worked to eliminate racial, educational, and economic barriers in Newton. As Black residents in an overwhelmingly White city, they devoted themselves to their religious community, the Myrtle Baptist Church; their neighborhood, the village in West Newton, built around Myrtle; and the civil rights of people of color.

Matt and Lillie helped found the Newton Interracial Fellowship to bring racial equity to Newton and helped form Newton's Fair Housing Committee, established to eliminate racial bias in housing.

In 1968, Matt was appointed to the board of aldermen, becoming Newton's first Black city alderman. The board instituted the fair housing requirement that at least 10 percent of any large housing development filing for a special permit be affordable.

Furthermore, he served on many boards and committees, including the Newton-Wellesley Hospital, Andover Newton Theological School, Middlesex Community College, Newton Housing Authority, and as president of the South Middlesex branch of the NAACP.

Above all else, Matt is known for his kindness and generosity. He is a mentor, leader, family man, and fierce advocate for social justice.