

that letter, and to EARL, for guidance as I found my way. Even Snoop Dogg asked EARL for advice on how he could help with cannabis legislation.

Yes, EARL has friends everywhere, and I know many of us in Congress will miss him tremendously when he retires at the end of the 118th Congress, but for those of us who live, work, and visit Portland, EARL is not going anywhere. In his next role in Portland State's metropolitan studies program, he will continue to make things better for Oregonians with his typical thoughtful, methodical, and data-informed approach.

□ 1015

As the incoming dean of the Oregon delegation, I acknowledge that I have big shoes to fill, but EARL has charted a good and worthy path, and I know he will be around for advice when we need his wisdom, his sense of humor, and his sincerity about creating a better future.

We wish EARL BLUMENAUER well, and I know he will appreciate his additional time with his wife, Margaret, and his children and grandchildren.

Congress will not be the same without Congressman EARL BLUMENAUER.

FAREWELL FOR NOW

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

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, imagine winning a war for a country that didn't yet exist and had no government. That was our beginning.

What our Founders did have was freedom-loving people who believed that our rights come from God. There were 13 independent Colonies that united for a common purpose to form the United States of America. Eventually, they formed three branches of government: the executive, judicial, and legislative. Here we are in this beautiful Chamber right now.

Growing up, I watched "Superman," and each show began with the motto: Fighting for "truth, justice, and the American way." I bought in, and I truly believe that most of America does, as well.

At a young age, I knew that I wanted to be a doctor. I didn't imagine that that would lead to military and legislative careers as well. That is my version of the American Dream, I suppose.

I have loved every chapter, not knowing that they all would overlap, and, on occasion, God would put me right where I could serve best. Sometimes he would perform miracles: Long live Majority Leader STEVE SCALISE, an American hero.

When one chapter ends, another chapter begins. With the priorities of God, family, and country in mind, I will return home to further elevate my roles as husband, father, coach, and provider, while God, family, and country are all still priorities.

I cherish all the great Americans who I have served with along the way.

Thanks for keeping me company. I have been blessed.

My wife, Monica; and my children, Brad and Sophia, are my blessings, as well.

Farewell for now. God bless all of you, and God bless the United States of America.

END PARTISAN GERRYMANDERING ONCE AND FOR ALL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. NICKEL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, as my term in Congress ends, I express my heartfelt gratitude to those who made it possible: the people of North Carolina. Representing North Carolina's 13th District has been the honor of a lifetime.

I am proud of the impact our office has had over the past 2 years. We have helped more than 1,600 constituents resolve issues with Federal agencies, returning nearly \$2.8 million to my constituents in the process. We have hosted and attended nearly 300 public events, including 16 townhalls, to connect with our neighbors and make their voices heard in Washington.

We responded to over 70,000 pieces of correspondence, ensuring that every constituent knew that their voice mattered, and we brought back millions through the Federal budget to North Carolina's 13th District.

Legislatively, we have worked to make life better for the people we served. I introduced 13 bills and cosponsored over 450 pieces of legislation, fighting for affordable healthcare, safer schools, better infrastructure, and an economy that works for everyone. I took to this floor 70 times to advocate for my district's priorities and to share their stories with the American people.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a normal farewell speech. I am not giving this speech by choice. As someone who first came to Congress 30 years ago as an intern for Senator Dianne Feinstein, I can guarantee one thing: Nobody has truly loved serving in Congress more than me.

That is, in part, because we knew there was a good chance that my district would be erased by partisan gerrymandering and my time here would be short. I had a lot of work to do in a short amount of time.

Mr. Speaker, I am not here giving a farewell speech because I did a bad job or because my constituents voted for another candidate. I am here because of partisan gerrymandering by far-right extremists in the North Carolina General Assembly.

The fair, Republican-leaning district that sent me to Congress was erased last year with the stroke of a pen. The people of North Carolina and across the country deserve better. They deserve fair maps, a fair system, and a democracy that they can trust. People should choose their politicians, not the other way around.

I will continue to fight with every ounce of my energy for fair maps and an end to partisan gerrymandering.

Mr. Speaker, as we leave this week, we will be the least-productive Congress in our Nation's history going back to 1860, and that is because of extreme partisan gerrymandering. It provides no incentive to work together.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to end partisan gerrymandering once and for all.

I thank the people of North Carolina's 13th District for trusting me to be your voice in Congress. Serving has been the greatest honor of my life. I am not giving up or going out quietly, and I will always remain committed to working for a brighter future for North Carolina.

To my family, my wife, Caroline; and my kids, Prescott and Adeline, your love and support mean everything to me. Public service is never a solo effort. It is a family commitment. It is a team effort. I love you all so much, and I am so grateful for you. I am very excited to return back to Cary for Christmas.

I also thank my amazing staff. Their hard work and dedication ensured that we delivered for the people we served. I acknowledge their contributions by submitting their names to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Thank you so much to the best team in the business.

To my Democratic colleagues from North Carolina, it has been a true honor to serve with ALMA ADAMS, DEBORAH ROSS, and KATHY MANNING. While not with us in this Congress, David Price and G.K. Butterfield are absolutely part of the team for North Carolina in the House. I especially thank VALERIE FOUSHEE, DON DAVIS, and JEFF JACKSON for their partnership, friendship, and outstanding leadership for North Carolina.

Going back to our time serving together in the North Carolina Senate, all four of us served in the senate together and came here in this freshman class. It has been a true honor to serve with all of them.

I also mention the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) on the Republican side. He led the Financial Services Committee. We worked hard together in a bipartisan way on FIT 21, the first-ever crypto bill to be voted on in the U.S. Congress.

I am proud of the effort to bring 71 Democrats together. That is how legislation is supposed to work: working together in a bipartisan way. That, for me, was a bright spot for this Congress.

I thank my colleagues, especially my fellow freshmen, for their friendship and collaboration. Working alongside them has been a true honor.

We ended this term with an amazing dinner together last night. Their passion and determination remind me of why we do this work, and I am grateful for the lifelong friendships we have built.

I know I am leaving the future of the U.S. Congress in very good hands. Public service is about making a difference. It is about putting others first

and leaving things better than you found them. As I leave this Chamber, I do so with a full heart and hope for the future.

There is a lot of work that I still want to do, and I plan to continue in public service. North Carolina's working families deserve elected leaders who will serve their best interests, not the interests of special interests or the interests of Donald Trump. I am not giving up in that fight.

Mr. Speaker, may God bless the United States of America.

STAFF NAMES TO BE ADDED TO
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

Abigail Atkins, Shawntay Anthony, Miles Beasley, Owen Berman Woodard, Scotty Bryan, Amanda Campos, Jennifer Cárdenas, Wade Chapman, Rachel Curtis, Brady Cusick, Harry Davis Jr., Jennings Dean, Robert Erwin, Kate Ferland, Elizabeth George, Jacob Glasser, Henry Goodwin, Caroline Kenney, Cameron Kidder.

Rachel Kline, Matt Landini, Richard Lin, Abner Martinez-Padilla, Abby May, Priya Moran, Margaret Murphy, Nalani Noonan, Quinn O'Connor, Alyssa Olbrys, Jennifer Popa, Kevin Porter, Laurin Potter, Freedom Fox Richardson, Siyona Shah, John Sloop, Maddie Smith-Russell, Alicia Speedy, Fallon Strickland, Nia White, George Willets, Mariam Wolk.

CELEBRATING DON POSTLES'
RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a true Buffalo legend, Don Postles.

For nearly five decades, Don has been a trusted voice and a constant presence in the lives of western New Yorkers, guiding us through the news that shapes our community.

Don Postles' journey began in 1976. Since then, he has been a cornerstone of journalism in western New York. From his early days at Channel 7, to his time at Channel 2 and his remarkable 31 years at WIVB Channel 4, Don has been there for us through every significant moment. He has brought clarity to chaos, steadiness in uncertainty, and heart to every story he has told.

Don embodies the very best of journalism: honesty, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to the truth. At a time where trusted media is more important than ever, and more elusive, Don has been a beacon of credibility. Whether reporting on the tragedy surrounding the crash of Flight 3407 or sharing the joy of a Buffalo Bills victory, Don Postles delivered the news with professionalism, respect, and care for the community that he loves and serves.

Don Postles' legacy goes beyond the anchor desk. He has always been more than a journalist. He is a devoted member of this community. His presence at charity events, his support for local causes, and his role as an advocate for

western New Yorkers have made him an integral part of our region.

Mr. Speaker, western New York will not be the same without Don Postles on our screens each and every evening. His departure from Channel 4 marks the end of an era, but his impact will endure. He has set the gold standard for journalism and community service, leaving behind a legacy that will inspire generations to come.

On behalf of the people of western New York, I thank Don for his dedication to our community, his commitment to the truth, and the grace with which he has handled his role as our trusted voice.

As Don enters retirement, I hope he finds time to enjoy everything that he loves about Buffalo: spending time with his beautiful wife, Anne, and his gorgeous family; boating on Lake Erie; and savoring the pride of the community that he has helped to shape over the last five decades.

I congratulate Don. He has earned this next chapter and has left behind a legacy of excellence that will not be forgotten. We wish him and his family nothing but happiness and success in his years to come.

RECOGNIZING GRAND RAPIDS
MAYOR ROSALYNN BLISS ON
HER RETIREMENT

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

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the extraordinary career of Mayor Rosalynn Bliss of Grand Rapids, Michigan, my mayor and my friend.

Born in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, Mayor Bliss moved to Grand Rapids after graduating from the University of South Alabama. She then attended Michigan State University—go green—where she earned a master's in social work and then set forth on a career characterized by compassion and service.

In 2005, Mayor Bliss was first elected to the Grand Rapids City Commission, where she displayed her passion for improving Grand Rapids' beautiful parks and public spaces.

She had a vision for Grand Rapids and the experience and willingness to act. After laying out her ambitious plans for the city, then-City Commissioner Bliss was elected by her friends and neighbors to become the first woman mayor of Grand Rapids, which is Michigan's second largest city, and the youngest mayor in over 130 years.

Mayor Bliss' tenure in Grand Rapids was defined by bold, compassionate leadership. She strengthened community-police relations through community-centric law enforcement initiatives, mental health response teams, and a first-of-its-kind crisis stabilization unit.

Amidst a nationwide housing shortage, she expanded affordable housing opportunities and prioritized sustain-

able development through projects like the Grand River Greenway and an ambitious carbon-neutrality goal.

She also shepherded the city through the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing our west Michigan community to bounce back even stronger.

Thanks to Mayor Bliss, our economy is booming with over \$11 billion in private investments, a new soccer stadium, many new sports teams, and 9 million annual visitors. Our limitless growth potential is, in large part, due to her forward-thinking vision and her bold action.

After two incredible terms in our city's highest office, I am confident that Mayor Bliss will leave an impactful legacy that sets a high bar for public service in west Michigan and across America's great cities.

Mr. Speaker, once more, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Mayor Bliss for her decades of service to the great city of Grand Rapids.

I wish my dear friend the greatest happiness in her retirement.

RECOGNIZING MARK CURTIS ON
HIS RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. MILLER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I recognize one of West Virginia's most impressive reporters and a good friend of mine, Mark Curtis.

For four decades now, Mark has devoted his career to broadcast political journalism. From local government races to Presidential elections, Mark has consistently delivered fair and thorough reporting.

Despite his line of work taking him across the country, Mark chose to stay and finish his career in West Virginia, and his love of our State and its people shine through his reporting.

I am grateful for our friendship, and I have always enjoyed coming on his show to discuss the important issues that are happening in our State and around the country.

□ 1030

I remember as if it was yesterday when I sang happy birthday to him on the House floor in the West Virginia House.

Mr. Speaker, time certainly does fly by. I thank Mark so much for his years of service to our wild and wonderful State. I wish him a happy and well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF LISA MURRAY MCGOVERN

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the contributions of a dedicated, generous, and kindhearted person, Lisa Murray McGovern.