

simply inhumane to have many of our families not have access to water.

Watching a couple in their seventies in the city of Detroit after working all their lives retire to have to melt snow in a white bucket so they can flush their toilet is inhumane. Again, it is inhumane for us not to have a program to help people with their water bills.

Congress just approved nearly a trillion dollars for weapons in war. Please, for all of my colleagues, I don't want to hear that we don't have the money to help our families here at home. We must again ensure access to water. It is critical for public health. It is critical for our families.

#### BIDDING FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

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

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the House one final time. When I came to Washington, a former colleague of mine told our freshman class how fortunate we all were to be part of this body. I will never forget him saying he always felt humbled each and every time he saw the Capitol and when he walked on this floor. He warned us all: The day that you don't feel humbled walking on this floor or when you see the Capitol, it is time to retire and go home.

This comment stuck with me, and I still get chills every time I walk on this floor or I see this glorious Capitol at night.

In this very Chamber, so much of the history of our country and the history of the modern world has been made: The decision to start and end wars, the decision to end slavery, the decision to give women the right to vote, and much more debated and agreed upon in this very room.

I never thought that I would end up here. I spent most of my life building small businesses, growing my family, and doing what I could do to give back to my community. Then I got frustrated with the direction of our government and the decisions our leaders were making at that time, so I got involved and tried to make a difference.

If I could go back in time to when I was 25 years old and tell myself that I would be standing here on this floor today, I never would have believed myself. It is impossible to believe. In fact, all the odds are against me. In fact, I have better odds of starting on an NBA basketball team than I do to be a Member of Congress. Those are some pretty large odds.

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Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the accomplishments that my team and I have made over the past 4 years. We have written and passed legislation that has unleashed American energy, protected Alabama's resources, reduced the size and scope of the Federal Government, and returned millions of tax dollars back home for important projects.

We have also helped countless veterans get the benefits they earned, recovered millions of dollars from the IRS, expedited hundreds of passport requests, secured FEMA disaster relief after natural disasters, protected small businesses from unnecessary red tape, and on and on.

As any Member of this body knows, none of this would be possible without the countless hours of our hard-working, talented, and dedicated staff. To each of my current staff and to each of my former staff, I thank them. I thank them for their dedication to Alabama's First Congressional District and for being part of my team.

My hopes and prayers for this country are so positive knowing that we have a generation of young people like them and with their passion coming up behind us.

I lovingly give most all of them nicknames, like Junior, Little Bubba, Chilia, Cooper, Bogie Bogie, Chief, Busy, Jesus, and, yes, my favorite vegan, T-Bone. They are all forever part of Team Carl. I am proud to have played a role in each of their careers.

I also could not have done anything without the love and support of my wife, Tina, and our family. My family has always believed in me and supported me, and I look forward to spending more time with them very soon.

Tina, start your grinning because Big Daddy is headed home.

To the folks in the First District, I thank them for giving me the chance to represent them, to bring our shared values to Washington. I do not take lightly the job that each of them has entrusted me with, and I am grateful for the opportunity.

The future of south Alabama, our entire State, and our Nation is so bright. I truly believe our best days are ahead of us.

God bless Alabama. God bless the United States of America.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Bible Week. I am proud to be able to stand up here and proclaim my own devotion and adherence to the Bible and Biblical principles.

I appreciate my colleague, Mr. DOUG LAMBORN of Colorado, who led a Special Order on National Bible Week last night here in this Chamber. I am sorry I wasn't able to take part at that particular time, but I wanted to continue that.

Mr. LAMBORN has been a faithful servant in making sure that National Bible Week is always proclaimed and recognized each year here, and I appreciate him as a colleague. Of course, we will miss him, as he has decided to go off to other pastures from this body. God's blessings on him and his family.

As we know, during this National Bible Week, throughout American history, the Bible has been a guiding light, shaping our culture, government, and moral foundations to the good.

We hear a lot of talk about separation of church and state. That isn't really a truism. It is more about the State shall not establish a particular religion, but it is certainly fine for the Founders and our leaders to use that as a guiding principle. Indeed, they did, from Washington all the way through.

As we reflect on this week, it is important to remember that the Word of God has always provided clarity, strength, and direction to this Nation. In Psalms 119:105, we are reminded: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

In a world filled with uncertainty and confusion, the Bible serves as a beacon of truth and wisdom. It calls us to live with integrity, to honor one another, and to acknowledge the divine responsibility we have to God. Indeed, the Bible is the inerrant Word of God.

As leaders, citizens, and people of faith, we must continually seek guidance from our Scripture. It is extremely important and a guide in my own life, as well as that of my family.

The Word of God is not just a historical document, although it has always been found to be proven historically accurate. It is also the foundation of our morals and the source of wisdom that has indeed shaped our country.

During National Bible Week, let us renew our commitment to uphold these principles to guide our actions with the truth of the Bible and to honor God in all we do.

On top of that, it will soon be Christmas as this body tries to complete its work for the end of the year. Let's remember the reason for the season, as it is put. That is the birth of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amongst all the hustle and bustle of Christmastime, let's not lose sight of the fact that, indeed, that is why we celebrate.

Merry Christmas.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

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

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a national bestseller, a book that has changed the world and had a tremendous impact on my life, the Bible.

I regularly pray the Apostle Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 5:9: "Whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please Him."

I want God to be glorified through every meeting I go to, every speech I give, and every vote I make. My husband and I strive to instill Biblical values in our seven children, and that foundation has provided them with the stability they need to weather life's storms, something they are passing on to our 20 grandchildren.

I firmly believe the Word of God is the answer to any problem we face in life, providing clear distinctions between good and evil.

Psalms 119:105 says: "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Our Nation is floundering because we have neglected eternal truth. We no longer respect life, the distinctions between men and women, the beauty of marriage and family, the value of hard work, or the danger of falling into debt.

That is why following God's Word is essential to the success of our Republic. George Washington said: "It is impossible to rightly govern a nation without God and the Bible."

Psalms 18:30 says: "As for God, his way is perfect. The Word of the Lord is proven. He is a shield to all who trust in Him."

Whatever problems we face, political, professional, or personal, the answers are found in the Bible. Tyrants have tried to destroy it, but the Word of God endures forever.

I urge my colleagues to take a few moments each day to read a couple of chapters, a psalm, and a proverb. I am confident it will change their life and our Nation.

#### HONORING THE MEMORY OF JOHN WALDIE GULLEN

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

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of John Waldie Gullen, a lifelong Lewisboro resident and World War II veteran who passed away on December 1, less than 3 weeks after friends, family, and neighbors gathered to celebrate his 100th birthday.

John Waldie Gullen was born on November 12, 1924. He attended a one-room schoolhouse on Schoolhouse Road and graduated from Katonah High School in 1943.

After graduating, he joined the U.S. Army, eventually deploying and fighting in the European theater, where he served as a combat infantryman from 1944 until 1946.

He was a proud member of the 70th Infantry Division, known as the Trailblazers, and his heroic actions helped turn back Germany's last offensive operations of the war in northeastern France, earning him the Bronze Star medal.

Upon returning home, he married his high school sweetheart, Barbara Miller, with whom he was faithfully married for 72 years. He was the father of two sons, a grandfather of four grandchildren and great-grandfather of five.

John Waldie Gullen's life was marked by service on and off the battlefield. He continued to serve in the Army Reserves upon returning home from the European theater of World War II, and he was a member of the South Salem Volunteer Fire Department for 80 years.

A successful businessowner and real estate investor, Mr. Gullen helped found the Lewisboro Lions Club in 1958. His service to his country, community, and family spanned decades, and he was an inspiration to the many who knew him. I was proud to be among those blessed to have met him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that when the House adjourns today, it does so in the memory of John Waldie Gullen, a true hero of our Greatest Generation.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF MARIE LORENZINI

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Marie Lorenzini, a beloved leader and devoted public servant from Nyack, New York, whose passing is deeply felt by all who knew her.

Marie's service to the village of Nyack spanned decades, including her roles as trustee, deputy mayor, and liaison to the Nyack Parks Commission. In fact, she was the second longest serving trustee in the history of Nyack.

Even after leaving the village board, she continued her work as a parks commissioner, leaving an indelible mark on the community she cherished.

Known for her quick wit, warm smile, and big heart, Marie dedicated herself to serving others, whether through her commitment to her church, her work with the Nyack Soup Angels, or her unwavering advocacy for her neighbors. Her passion, humor, and friendship enriched the lives of all who had the privilege to know her.

Marie was truly one of a kind. While her loss leaves a profound void, her legacy of service and love for her community will live on in Nyack and beyond. May her memory always be a blessing.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF JOSEPH WILLIAM COTTER

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Joseph William Cotter, a visionary leader and beloved father who passed away unexpectedly on October 25, 2024, at the age of 66.

Joe was a proud father to Lydia and William, a devoted partner to Jane Carroll, and a son of both Purdys and New York City.

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A graduate of Williams College and NYU Stern School of Business, Joe co-founded National Resources in 1988, transforming urban and industrial sites into thriving communities. His innovative spirit and ability to see potential where others could not defined his life's work.

Joe was a man of many passions, an all-England rugby player at King's College, a basketball leader at Oxford, and an eternal optimist with a global perspective. His intellect, wit, and boundless energy brought people together, whether on the field, at home, or in his professional life.

Joe's legacy lives on through his family, his transformative projects, and the countless lives he touched with his warmth and vision.

May his memory inspire us to dream big and to find joy in every step of the journey.

Joe will be missed by all who knew him in our Hudson Valley community that he impacted so greatly for so many years.

#### RECOGNIZING CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

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

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize this year's Carmel High School football team, which won the California 5-AA State football championship.

It was not just the first time that a team from the central coast won 15-0, but also an amazing 48-7 win over El Capitan High School from the San Diego area, a high school that is more than double the size of Carmel High's 800 students.

Despite that small number, the Padres came up big on the gridiron, averaging 50 points a game in five postseason wins and holding El Capitan to a season low of one touchdown.

Now, I could highlight that the Padres have a player who got a full scholarship to the University of Alabama next year and who actually grew up playing youth soccer with my daughter, who I am sure if you know my daughter, Mr. Speaker, whipped that lineman into shape, but if you look closely at the entire team of the Padres, only a couple will go on to play at a 4-year college.

Coach Golden Anderson and the entire staff are very proud of the Padres, but they will be the first to tell you that they are a seasonal football program where 95 percent of the team are multisport players.

Coach Anderson will also tell you, Mr. Speaker, that when they started the season, they weren't thinking about a State title. They just wanted to win.

As someone who played football at Carmel High for all 4 of his high school years, I understand that attitude, but I admit that we didn't even come close to winning a league title, let alone a State title.

So, I stand here, Mr. Speaker, not just as the proud Representative of California's 19th Congressional District, but I am also a proud Padre, a proud Padre parent, and absolutely honored to say congratulations to Carmel High, to their State champion football team, and to all the Carmel Padre community.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 47 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.