

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.

□ 1145

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.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Immortal, invisible, and only wise God, in this season of darkening days and sober skies, Your light seems inaccessible, Your presence hidden from our eyes. Though we do not see You, we love You and call upon You to reveal yourself as light in our darkness.

Though we walk in life-quenching shadows and cannot see Your hand to guide us, yet we believe in You and trust You to lead us on paths of righteousness.

Strengthen our faith that, in the face of all that overwhelms and undermines our best intentions, we would be filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy that dispels all gloom and releases us from the grip of despair.

This day and always, cultivate in us the hope of salvation, that through us, Your light of love would shine.

In the name of You, O Lord, our redeemer, our sustainer, our guide, and our friend, we offer our prayers.

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 Illinois (Ms. BUDZINSKI) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. BUDZINSKI 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.

RECOGNIZING PHILIP REGULSKI ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding commitment of Ridgway, Pennsylvania, volunteer fireman Philip Regulski.

Mr. Regulski has tirelessly served the Ridgway Fire Department for over 65 years.

Starting in March of 1959, Mr. Regulski has served as the department

treasurer, sat on the Ridgway Fire Department Board of Directors, was the representative of the Tri-County Firemen's Association, and enjoyed volunteering at the department's Tuesday-night bingo.

As a former volunteer firefighter, I understand how important Mr. Regulski's service to the community has been and how much of an impact he has had on so many people's lives.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I thank and congratulate Mr. Regulski on his 65 years of service to the community of Ridgway and the 15th Congressional District of Pennsylvania. I am proud to represent such incredible leaders and public servants like Mr. Regulski. I wish him all the best in his retirement.

INVEST IN BLACK WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

(Mrs. LEE CARTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. LEE CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of Black women entrepreneurs.

Black women own approximately 2.1 million businesses, representing 52.1 percent of all Black-owned businesses. Despite challenges, they continue to drive innovation for communities and create lasting legacies.

Kim Roxie is the founder of LAMIK Beauty, which started with a \$500 investment and was inspired by her mother, who passed from breast cancer, to create natural, safe, paraffin-free makeup.

MELODRAMA Boutique is a pillar of empowerment and sisterhood in Houston, featuring local fashion and empowering local designers.

I also honor Kim Aitch, founder of Camera Ready, a beauty, fashion, and wellness lifestyle brand. She is a force in the industry and also president of the Citywide Beauticians & Barbers Association that uplifts entrepreneurs across Houston.

These are but a few examples of extraordinarily talented Black women in business who join the many who employ over 528,000 people and generate \$98 billion in revenue for our Nation.

There could be more. They lack access to capital, and they often are left out of venture capital funds, where less than 2 percent of those dollars go to Black women. Yet, still, with great determination, they carry on.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we continue to invest in Black women entrepreneurs.

HONORING DENISE KAREN PENCE

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my wife of 43 years tomorrow, Denise Karen Pence.

She is the mother of Nicole, Lauren, Emily, and John; the mother-in-law of

Jason, Chris, and Giovanna; and the grandmother of Emma, Andrew, Colin, Kate, Matthew, Mary, Luke, Gregory, Jack, and Vivienne.

She is the love of my life, and I thank her for all of her love and support over these last 43 years, particularly for the last 6 years as I have served here.

God has blessed me with Denise Karen Pence.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER AND SERVICE OF ADJUTANT GENERAL CHRIS CALLAHAN

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

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Rhode Island Adjutant General Chris Callahan, who is retiring at the end of this year after four decades of service to our State and country.

General Callahan joined the Army National Guard in 1984 and quickly ascended up the ranks. He served as headquarters commander for the First Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, brigade commander for the 56th Troop Command, and commander of the Task Force Dragonwing Aviation Battalion in Iraq.

In 2015, he was named the 44th Adjutant General of Rhode Island and commanding general of the Rhode Island National Guard.

Under his leadership, the Rhode Island National Guard deployed more than 3,000 soldiers and airmen on missions across the globe, ran point on Rhode Island's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, providing mass testing and administering hundreds of thousands of vaccinations. He also activated thousands of soldiers and airmen to respond to blizzards and hurricanes, establish warming shelters, and fight wildfires in Rhode Island, among many other missions.

General Callahan's exemplary service to our country was made possible by the support of his wife, Donna; and his children, Devin, Grace, and Katie.

Together, they kept Rhode Island National Guard's promise to be: Always ready, always there.

I thank Chris Callahan for his service to our country and our State.

CONGRATULATING IOWA STATE SENATOR CHRIS COURNOYER

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartfelt congratulations to my good friend, Senator Chris Cournoyer, on her appointment as Iowa's new Lieutenant Governor.

This is a historic moment, as Iowa now has two women in the top two executive positions for the first time. It