

country illegally. You don't need a spy balloon if you can just walk right into the country.

For 35 months in a row under this administration, the number of illegal immigrants encountered at our southern border was higher than the worst month under the previous President, President Trump. We are on track to break more records this fiscal year, as CBP has already reported more than 1 million encounters.

I would argue we no longer have a border crisis in this country, Mr. Speaker, we have a border catastrophe.

#### OPPENHEIMER'S UNTOLD STORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIMENEZ). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, this weekend, Oppenheimer is expected to win multiple Oscars.

In the film, we watched the pain and guilt in J.R. Oppenheimer's face when he heard what the atomic bomb did to the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

What the film didn't show—and the story that remains untold—is how thousands of New Mexican families were exposed to harmful amounts of radiation.

We didn't see how radioactive ash rained down on children, families, and farms from that first atomic bomb tested in New Mexico.

We didn't see the tears and pain as those families saw their loved ones die of cancers and rare diseases tied to radiation exposure.

So I present this film one more award: the award for the most incomplete story—for the missing, the countless American lives lost as a result of the Trinity test.

Congress can write a better ending to this story. A bipartisan coalition of Senators and Representatives have amendments to the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, which would finally compensate New Mexico downwinders and uranium workers, as well as workers in Missouri, Alaska, Kentucky, and Tennessee, and downwinders in other States who were left out of that original Radiation Exposure Compensation Act.

Earlier this year, these amendments were included in the NDAA as passed by the Senate. Sadly, Republican leadership for some inexplicable reason stripped these amendments from the final NDAA.

But today, soon, Congress can write a happier ending. We can now include it in our future funding bills.

Let's write an ending that honors those who sacrificed everything for our national security. Congress can do it. I call on my colleagues to join this bipartisan effort for justice.

#### WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, as we begin Women's History Month, we must remember something historic that has happened to women and to women's freedoms.

For 50 years, women enjoyed limited but certain reproductive freedoms. A Trump-packed Supreme Court overturned that history, overturned Roe v. Wade, and all of a sudden history, a sad history was made when for the first time in history women lost an essential right.

We are going back to a very sad time when women cannot make decisions about how and when and if to have a family without governmental interference.

We are going back to a sad time in history when women who were suffering complications from pregnancy, who were suffering miscarriages, cannot get healthcare, but instead, get handcuffs.

We are suffering a sad time in history when IVF is now prohibited in places like Alabama; and let us remind everybody, almost 200 Republicans in this very Chamber have voted for, have co-sponsored legislation which mirrors the Alabama law, which prohibits IVF.

As we begin Women's History Month, let's not turn back the clock on women's progress.

#### CONGRATULATING BRUCE REDMOND

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bruce Redmond on becoming the 2024 Georgia Farmer of the Year.

Bruce owns Shiloh Farms, which is a 2,800-acre farm located in Effingham County consisting of wet and drylands.

Larry Redmond passed down the art of farming to his son, instilling in him the essential skills and values needed to cultivate the land.

Bruce is a very successful farmer, having been named the Young Farmer of the Year for Effingham County, Georgia Outstanding Young Farmer, and Effingham County Friend of 4-H.

Shiloh Farms is one of the three certified TifQuik growers in the world and the largest producer of Bahia grass seed in the southeast.

The University of Georgia's Cooperative Extension named Bruce as Farmer of the Year because of his cooperation with conservation research initiatives and dedication to sustainable farming.

He will represent Georgia in competing for Southeastern Farmer of the Year in October.

I wish Bruce luck, and I thank Bruce for his dedication to Georgia agriculture.

#### REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF JOY POVEC

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Joy Povec.

Joy grew up in Savannah, Georgia, where she graduated from Robert W. Groves High School and went on to earn a degree from Draughon Business College.

Joy and her husband, Michael, lived in many different States during which Joy held a variety of positions.

After working in real estate, Joy went on to work for Lockheed Martin as a technical writer during the Space Shuttle program.

Joy was also an active member of her community. She was a dedicated member of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, the Chatham County Republican Party, and the Froebel Circle.

In 2009, Joy was honored with the J.C. Lewis Outstanding Republican of the Year Award by Chatham County.

Joy also served as a delegate to many local and State Republican conventions, and she was proud to attend the second inauguration of George W. Bush.

My thoughts and prayers go out to her husband of 55 years, her children, grandchildren, and all else who loved her.

#### RECOGNIZING JOHN FORBES

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Forbes for being designated as the grand marshal for the 2024 St. Patrick's Day Parade in Savannah.

For his service and community involvement, the Savannah community is proud to extend Forbes the opportunity to serve as the face of this St. Patrick's Day Parade on its 200th anniversary.

Forbes is continuing a family legacy by serving in the St. Patrick's Day ceremony. His father, John J. Forbes, Jr., was the St. Patrick's Day committee chairman in the early 1990s and was selected as grand marshal for the 1998 celebration.

Following the example set by his father, Forbes became involved in the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee in the 1980s and was subsequently named the general chairman for the committee in 2007.

Though filled with fun activities, the parade has a deeper meaning for Forbes. The holiday is one of remembrance and fellowship as locals and visitors gather to reflect on the area's Irish ancestry.

Forbes is a true community man, embodying the current celebration and preserving the meaning and purpose of its history.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate John.

#### CONGRATULATING MARK HENDRIX

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mark Hendrix for recently being named Superior Court Judge for the Atlantic Judicial Circuit.

Established by the Georgia General Assembly, the six-county circuit covers Liberty, Long, Bryan, Evans, McIntosh, and Tattnall Counties.

Hendrix received a bachelor's degree from the University of Florida in 1995. In the years prior, he earned his juris doctor from Mercer's Walter F. George School of Law in 1999.

His past work and experience illustrate that he is a valuable addition to the judicial system. Along with starting his private practice, Hendrix has served as solicitor general for Liberty County, Long County, and Richmond Hill.

He also served for nearly a decade as an assistant district attorney for the Atlantic Judicial Circuit.

Hendrix's acceptance for the nomination demonstrates his commitment to the legal field where he has already amassed an impressive 23 years of experience.

I thank Mr. Hendrix for working to serve his community, and I look forward to witnessing his future success.

#### COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING

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

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the inclusion of Community Project Funding in the bipartisan appropriations package that Congress will vote on this week.

The appropriations process known as Community Project Funding is what I consider to be good government working for the people. It is a process that takes our Federal tax dollars and puts them directly back into our communities.

Since serving in Congress, it has been my mission to bring Federal dollars home to my constituency. The Community Project Funding process has allowed me to do that successfully.

Over the past 2 years, I secured a total of \$44 million for 25 projects in the Sixth District of North Carolina.

That funding supported projects like one-on-one tutoring in public schools, first responder system upgrades, the building of greenways, childcare expansion, small business incubators, and much more.

For this fiscal year, I submitted 15 projects for consideration. I am very excited to announce that I secured funding for all 15 projects—a total of \$15 million for the Sixth District.

I am proud to say that every corner of the Sixth District is included with initiatives in Guilford, Forsyth, Caswell, and Rockingham Counties.

These investments will boost economic development, improve public safety, create workforce training programs, support local farmers, complete infrastructure programs, and improve affordable housing options.

I will take a moment to highlight just a few of the initiatives that will be receiving funding once this package is signed into law.

Guilford County schools will receive \$850,000 for a workforce development program to prepare workers for advanced manufacturing jobs related to electric vehicles.

Advanced manufacturing training is particularly important in my community where we have a Toyota electric vehicle battery plant and other electric vehicle manufacturers bringing good-paying jobs to the area.

This program will help local students build the necessary skills to take on these jobs after high school graduation.

Rockingham Community College will receive Federal funding to create an

advanced manufacturing training facility on campus.

In Gibsonville, the fire department will receive funding to purchase a new ladder fire truck.

The city of Winston-Salem will be able to expand their Behavioral Evaluation and Response Team, a rapid response program for mental health and substance abuse 911 calls.

These projects are prime examples of how government can work directly for the American people.

I thank our Democratic leaders HAKEEM JEFFRIES and ranking member ROSA DELAUNO for fighting to make sure these Community Funding Projects are included in the appropriations package.

I am looking forward to voting for the appropriations package this week, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, in the House and the Senate, to join me in voting for this package to get it quickly to President Biden's desk.

□ 1030

#### HONORING HENRY SIENKIEWICZ

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor World War II veteran Mr. Henry Sienkiewicz of Syracuse, New York. Mr. Sienkiewicz is the son of Polish immigrants and has lived his entire life in his hometown of Syracuse.

Mr. Sienkiewicz served his country as a bombardier on a B-17, named "The Saint," in Europe during World War II. He completed 35 brave missions with the 384th Bombardment Group of the 545th Squadron.

On one such mission, on July 19, 1944, the crew was targeting a hydrogen peroxide and chemical works plant in Munich, Germany. Mr. Sienkiewicz recalls shells hitting the B-17 from every which way. He recalls how several of his fellow crew members were wounded, including the navigator, and how he helped save the lives of everyone on the plane when he stepped in and navigated them all back to safety. When faced with danger, Mr. Sienkiewicz did not cower in fear but rather did what needed to be done to keep fighting.

Upon his return from the war, Mr. Sienkiewicz still felt the call to serve and did so for 30 years as a captain of the Syracuse Fire Department. During his time at the fire department, Mr. Sienkiewicz was known for his bravery and leadership and was even awarded a medal for saving a man from the second story of a burning home. While it wasn't easy work, Mr. Sienkiewicz felt rewarded by the opportunity to help his fellow neighbors and ensure the safety of his community.

Even with all this, Mr. Sienkiewicz still wanted to do more. For over 50 years, he sold poppy flowers outside of

supermarkets to raise money to help support his fellow veterans and their families with medical and financial needs, remembering that:

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row . . .  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high . . .  
We shall not sleep though poppies grow in  
Flanders fields.

That poem really touches on his acts of service. Mr. Sienkiewicz dedicated his life in an inspiring way, and we can all learn something from his story. I commend him for his brave and selfless service to our great Nation, his community, and to his fellow veterans. It is a privilege to recognize him today, and I wish him many more joyful years.

#### HONORING COLLEEN POBUR

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

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to shine a spotlight on a truly extraordinary woman, my good friend and amazing district chief of staff, Colleen Pobur. Today is Colleen's birthday, and I am delighted to recognize her on this special occasion. Colleen is not only a leader in my office, but she is a leader in Oakland County, Michigan, and throughout the metro Detroit region.

As a lifelong Michiganiaan, Colleen is a proud, if not the proudest, graduate of the University of Michigan. She graduated with a degree in French and obtained the ability to speak the language fluently.

Of course, she has an undying passion for Michigan football. Whether in the stadium or in her living room, she can be found avidly cheering on the Wolverines during every single game and, of course, adorning her U of M paraphernalia. Suffice to say, last fall was a pretty good one for Colleen when the U of M Wolverines were the undefeated champions.

Since graduating, in reality, if not in spirit, Colleen has spent her extraordinary career making life better for the people of Michigan. Colleen's contributions as a businesswoman and a public servant are truly too numerous to count, but here are just a few.

If you have ever flown through the Detroit airport and gotten something to eat, that is thanks to Colleen, who developed the award-winning buffet of concession options at DTW.

If you have ever had a beer in Michigan, that is thanks to Colleen. She kept bars open and legally serving after being appointed by Governor Jennifer Granholm to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission.

Of course, if you are a constituent in Michigan's 11th District and have ever had a Federal Government case solved, well, that is thanks to Colleen, who oversees our exceptional casework program and has helped the team return thousands of dollars to Michiganders'