

me in recognizing Commissioner Al Haidous as we wish him well in his retirement.

THANKING NICK BOSTIC FOR HIS COURAGEOUS ACTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROGERS of Alabama). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BAIRD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nick Bostic, a former pizza delivery man who saved five sisters from a burning house.

Just after midnight, July 11, 2022, Bostic was driving nearby when he saw the house in flames. Bostic entered the home, where he found an 18-year-old woman, a toddler, and two 13-year-olds outside the upstairs bedroom. He led them out of the house before running back inside to rescue the 6-year-old girl.

For his actions, Nick Bostic received the Carnegie Medal, given to American and Canadian citizens who put themselves in extreme danger while saving and attempting to save the lives of others. It is North America's highest honor for civilian heroism.

The entire Lafayette community is grateful for his courageous actions to save the lives of these young girls.

CONGRATULATING BROWNSBURG BULLDOGS ON THEIR IHSA 6A VICTORY

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Brownsburg High School football team for winning the IHSA 6A State championship this year.

The Brownsburg Bulldogs took on Westfield High School in the State finals in Lucas Oil Stadium and emerged victorious, with a final score of 22-17. This was Brownsburg's first State title in nearly 40 years, and I know this win has meant so much to the Brownsburg community cheering them on to victory.

I congratulate these outstanding student athletes on becoming State champions. They should be incredibly proud of their hard work and dedication that brought them this victory. I also congratulate the parents, coaches, and faculty who gave their time and talent to this team. They couldn't have done it without them.

Congratulations again to the Brownsburg Bulldogs.

HONORING DR. MARK RUSSELL ON HIS RETIREMENT

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Dr. Mark Russell, who recently retired from his position as a professor of agricultural sciences education and communication at Purdue University. Dr. Russell joined Purdue in 1982. From August of 2015 to September of 2022, Dr. Russell served as the head of the agricultural sciences department.

Dr. Russell has truly been a leader in the Purdue community. Thanks to his expertise, he has judged over 1,100 horse shows for national breed associations in 14 countries. Dr. Russell has also established and expanded multiple

exchange programs around the world, growing the university's global presence and relationships.

He has been a stalwart professor at Purdue University's ag department, and his loss will be felt by the Purdue community and beyond. We wish him the very best as he begins this next chapter in his well-earned retirement.

HONORING CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER DANIEL PETERSON'S LIFE

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

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of retired Chief Warrant Officer Daniel Peterson, a champion for southern Nevada's veteran community.

Chief Peterson was a highly decorated Army veteran and unrelenting advocate for those around him. After flying helicopters in the Army for more than 20 years, he came home to serve as the commander of the Henderson chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, to be a member of the Henderson Vietnam Veterans of America, and attend as many unaccompanied veteran burial ceremonies as he could find. He also went to every Veterans Treatment Court graduation and never hesitated to offer his support to fellow veterans in need.

To be clear, it is impossible to sum up Chief Peterson's decades of service in just one speech on the House floor. That is part of the reason why I had the privilege of working with the Library of Congress for his story to be part of the Veterans History Project.

While he has too many medals to name here, I can say this: Chief Peterson was a mentor, a father, a spouse, a leader, a friend, a protector, and a servant to both southern Nevada and our entire country.

I extend my condolences and prayers to Dan's wife, Eileen, and his four children and stepchildren. We all owe Dan a debt of gratitude. We will all miss him.

□ 1030

UNCONDITIONAL AID FOR EATON FIRE VICTIMS

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, this week, I returned from my district in southern California, which has been completely devastated by the Eaton fire.

In Altadena and northern Pasadena, the fire took our neighbors' lives and destroyed the structures that provided stability to countless families' hopes, dreams, and memories. The fire has destroyed over 7,000 structures; left 20,000 people homeless; forced numerous health centers to close; and burned schools, businesses, and community institutions to the ground.

This is just one of six serious fires across Los Angeles, including the more than 23,000-acre Palisades fire. Places that served as safe havens for generations of Angelenos and where community was built across the San Gabriel Valley are now unrecognizable.

The Altadena Community Church, Altadena mosque, Pasadena Jewish Temple, Armenian school, mom-and-pop business centers, Eliot Arts Magnet School, and Altadena Country Club were all burned to the ground.

When Black Americans fled racial segregation in the Jim Crow South and came to Los Angeles, many made Altadena their home because there was no redlining there preventing them from owning homes. It has remained a hub of Black culture and civic life in Los Angeles. After being forced into incarceration in camps during World War II, many Japanese Americans came to Pasadena and built their lives back up.

Last week, thousands had to flee their homes at a moment's notice, frantically searching for pets and crying out to loved ones, many with nothing more than the clothes on their backs. Thousands of people have lost their homes and a lifetime's worth of belongings and memories.

Tragically, first responders have found 16 people who lost their lives, and they expect that number to rise.

Anthony Mitchell, Sr., a dedicated father, died alongside his son while waiting for help. Just a week before the fires began, Anthony told his son that what he treasured most in life was not money or possessions but his family.

Victor Shaw died outside of his longtime family home with a garden hose in his hand. He did everything he could to save it.

Erliene Louise Kelly bought her home in Altadena with her late husband, Howard, in the late 1960s. Together, they raised two kids, watched their grandchildren and great-grandchildren grow, and celebrated holidays, birthdays, and anniversaries.

The Los Angeles wildfires are on track to become one of the most costly and devastating natural disasters in our country's history. Yet, scores of Republicans, led by President-elect Trump and Speaker JOHNSON, are threatening to place conditions on the State of California for disaster assistance to flow to these victims.

This is truly unprecedented. Never in our history has the Federal Government placed conditions on emergency disaster aid to our own citizens. I invite any Republican in Congress who is entertaining these demands to visit my district, see the devastation for yourself, and look the victims in the eye when you tell them they don't deserve help from their country because you disagree with certain policies passed by their State.

This is the United States of America. We help our citizens when they fall victim to a natural disaster, regardless of their political party or opinions. We do it without strings attached, like we did just in December, 4 weeks ago, for victims of Hurricanes Milton and Helene.

I look forward to working with the majority to secure critical disaster relief funding that is necessary for this vibrant, beautiful, unique region to recover and rebuild.

PROSPECT MEDICAL FILING FOR BANKRUPTCY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. MAGAZINER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, this week, Prospect Medical Holdings, which owns Our Lady of Fatima Hospital in North Providence and Roger Williams Medical Center in Providence, filed for bankruptcy, threatening to undermine Rhode Island's already-stressed healthcare system.

Unfortunately, this is a day that many of us feared would come because, for years, Leonard Green & Partners, the private equity firm that owned Prospect Medical, and executives of the company engaged in outrageous profiteering, buying up hospitals and extracting hundreds of millions of dollars of management fees and dividends, money that should have been spent on patient care.

In the decade that private equity firm Leonard Green owned Prospect Medical, they extracted over half a billion dollars from the hospitals they owned. Their partner, Prospect CEO Sam Lee, personally made more than \$100 million, buying luxury properties for himself at the same time that he shut down emergency rooms. Shameful.

When I was State treasurer in 2020, I sent a letter to Leonard Green, expressing my frustration at their unethical practices and the impact they were having on healthcare in Rhode Island. In response, they put out a statement insisting that all was well and that the operations at Fatima and Roger Williams were doing just fine.

Now, 4 years later, wouldn't you know it, Prospect is declaring bankruptcy, threatening the health and safety of thousands of Rhode Islanders who rely on Fatima and Roger Williams and the livelihoods of the hundreds of healthcare workers who work in those hospitals.

The executives at Leonard Green and Prospect, who sucked all the money out of those hospitals, are long gone, counting their millions. It is greed, plain and simple.

I commend Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE and Attorney General Peter Neronha, who have been sounding the alarm about Prospect for years. I am committed to working with State officials and my colleagues in the Rhode Island congressional delegation to clean up the mess that Leonard Green left behind and to do our best to save Fatima and Roger Williams and stabilize our State's healthcare system.

Mark my words, we will not stop there. The time has come for Congress to take a hard look at the consequences of private equity ownership of hospitals. Rhode Islanders and the American people are counting on us for action, and they are going to get it.

HONORING OFFICERS FOR SERVING ON
JANUARY 6

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, 4 years ago last week, a violent mob at-

tacked our Nation's Capitol, assaulted police officers, and threatened to kill elected officials, all with the goal of blocking the results of the Presidential election and denying the will of the American people. They did it because the losing candidate in that election, President Donald Trump, incited them by falsely claiming he won.

On that dark day, hundreds of Capitol and Metropolitan Police officers bravely did their duty, putting their lives in harm's way to protect this building, the people in it, and our very democracy.

Over 140 police officers suffered injuries, including broken bones, concussions, and PTSD. They were attacked with baseball bats, axes, and chemicals, among other deadly weapons. In the weeks that followed, five officers died from their injuries.

The officers who served that day are all heroes who fought for our country and deserve our thanks and praise. Congress passed, and President Biden signed, a law to honor the Capitol Police officers who defended our country during the January 6 riots with a plaque here in the Capitol Building that they fought to defend.

Shamefully, Republicans in Congress continue to refuse to hang that plaque. Every day that my Republican colleagues delay is an insult to the brave officers who served on January 6 and who continue to protect us day in and day out.

Mr. Speaker, I say to my Republican colleagues: No more delays, no more disrespect. Hang the plaque now.

Every pivotal event in American history has heroes and cowards. January 6 is no different. History will always remember the heroic officers who risked their lives to defend our country and will also remember the cowards who refused to honor them.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President-elect.

HONORING MARINE CORPS LEAGUE EL PERRO DIABLO DE- TACHMENT 478

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

Mr. VASQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional service of the Marine Corps League El Perro Diablo Detachment 478, based in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

New Mexicans have a long history of stepping up to serve our Nation, and these marines continue to honor that commitment. For decades, the members of this detachment have provided military funeral honors for our veterans, with several members participating in over 1,000 ceremonies and winning multiple awards at honor guard conferences.

During times when military families are experiencing one of the most dif-

ficult moments of their lives, marines step forward with unwavering dedication to ensure our Nation's heroes are laid to rest with the dignity they deserve. Their service to our community is a profound reminder of the values instilled in these marines: honor, courage, and commitment.

We must continue to support our veterans and their families, ensuring that they also receive the benefits and recognition that they have earned.

On behalf of all New Mexicans, I extend my deepest gratitude to the Marine Corps League El Perro Diablo Detachment 478.

ENSURING EVERY STUDENT FEELS SAFE, SEEN, SUPPORTED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Hawaii (Ms. TOKUDA) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my deep concern and disappointment with the passage of H.R. 28.

As a mother of teenagers in public schools, I am appalled that instead of addressing urgent challenges, like the youth mental health crisis, gun violence in our schools, and the growing teacher shortage, this legislation diverts our attention to dangerous and divisive policies.

H.R. 28, under the guise of protecting fairness in sports and safety in schools, risks undermining the rights and dignity of girls and young women. Let me be clear: This bill threatens the very foundation of Title IX, the landmark legislation that, for over 50 years, has protected millions from gender-based discrimination in education.

Patsy Mink, the trailblazing Congresswoman who championed Title IX, understood the deep injustices women face in education and beyond. As a woman and a Japanese American, she fought so that her daughter and all future generations could pursue their dreams without fear of prejudice or exclusion. They fought this hard fight, and for us, this bill betrays her legacy and all of her efforts by turning back the clock on these hard-won rights.

Growing up, I experienced firsthand the pain of being bullied for the way I looked and being judged for not fitting traditional expectations of what a girl should look or act like.

I remember vividly being told by the school administrator: "Tuck in your shirt, boy." I was just a middle schooler, tall for my age, wearing my hair short, and pants, not dresses. The shock and humiliation of that moment stayed with me, and it fuels my resolve that no child should ever be made to feel ashamed of being authentically who they are.

Our students already face incredible pressures and challenges. Instead of making their lives harder by policing their identities and questioning their worth, we should be supporting them, fostering environments where they can grow, thrive, and succeed as their true, authentic selves.