

United States may still sanction any person determined to be responsible for or complicit in, or to have directly or indirectly engaged in, or attempted to engage in actions or policies that further threaten the peace, security, stability, or territorial integrity of Syria or the commission of serious human rights abuse.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, January 15, 2025.

VIRGINIA IS A BORDER STATE

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

Mr. MCGUIRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the Representative of Virginia's Fifth Congressional District.

I am honored to serve nearly 800,000 Virginians.

Virginia, thousands of miles from the border, is a border State. Every county, city, and town is a border county, city, and town under the current administration.

Last week, I voted on my first bill, the Laken Riley Act. Illegal aliens are robbing, sexually assaulting, and murdering American citizens. This bill detains illegal immigrants who commit additional crimes, like theft, until they get deported.

Laken had a bright future, but her life was cut short when an illegal alien murdered her while she was jogging one morning. She fought and did everything right.

The perpetrator kept getting released from jail because of weak America-last policies.

I was proud to vote in favor of this legislation introduced by my good friend, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS), who is empowering law enforcement to do their job.

HONORING FORMER MINNESOTA SENATE MAJORITY LEADER KARI DZIEDZIC

(Ms. OMAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late former Minnesota Senate Majority Leader Kari Dziedzic.

Senator Dziedzic was an incredible public servant who transformed the lives of so many. During her historic tenure, Senator Dziedzic led the Minnesota Legislature in passing significant investments in our State's public education system, transportation infrastructure, affordable housing, and green economy.

Her efforts resulted in Minnesota passing universal school meals, protecting bodily autonomy, and ensuring paid family and medical leave for Minnesota's workers.

It was an honor to serve alongside her when I was first elected to the Min-

nesota Legislature and to continue to hold her leadership as an inspiration as I serve the communities of Minnesota's Fifth District.

Her legacy of dedication to inclusive, productive lawmaking and her steadfast commitment to her constituents will be remembered for years to come.

PROMPT RELIEF TO VICTIMS IN LOS ANGELES

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

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to stress the importance of providing prompt relief to the victims of the ongoing disaster and nightmare in Los Angeles.

The relief measure should include direct support for rebuilding and recovery along with safeguards to assure that that support gets to victims as quickly and as efficaciously as possible.

Mr. Speaker, there will also need to be a thoroughgoing Federal inquiry into the causes of this catastrophe and into political failures that enabled this catastrophe.

We will need to use every tool that we have to inject some common sense into how California manages its forests and water supply, but that should not stand in the way of getting immediate relief to the victims. These folks have already paid an extraordinarily high price for the failures of their government, and they should not be punished again.

AMERICANS DON'T TURN THEIR BACKS ON EACH OTHER

(Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, this image could be from the California wildfires, but it is not. It is from New Mexico's Hermit's Peak and Calf Canyon Fires, which ravaged northern New Mexico. We are still recovering from the inferno with help from the Federal Government.

We might see a picture like this in Montana or Utah or anywhere there are droughts and extreme weather events.

When disaster hit New Mexico, my colleagues supported our State, including recently Speaker JOHNSON and my Republican friends. I am grateful that we acted as one.

When hurricanes hit North Carolina, Florida, and Georgia, we supported the recovery in those States without conditions because that is what we do.

Americans don't turn their backs on each other.

That should not change with California. They need our help. New Mexican firefighters are there helping, and Congress must also help without placing conditions on emergency disaster aid.

Let's act as one United States in the face of this disaster.

□ 1700

INCREDIBLE RETURN OF MR. MIKE KEITH AS THE NEXT "VOICE OF THE VOLTS"

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate and recognize the incredible return of my good friend, Mr. Mike Keith, as the next "Voice of the Vols," to the University of Tennessee's Vol Network.

Born in Knoxville and raised in Franklin, Mike started his career as WUTK's sports director in 1986 where he provided dynamic play-by-plays and captivating sports analysis.

Months after his initial appointment, he was hired by the legendary John Ward. Mike soon became the "Voice of the Baseball Vols" from 1992 to 1998.

It is not in my notes, but I will note that I did throw out the first pitch one time, and they said it was incredibly accurate and incredibly fast.

Mike's career did not stop there nor did his hard work. In 1999, Mike took over the play-by-play duties for the Tennessee Titans, with his career as an NFL broadcaster spanning a quarter century.

Mike's accolades speak for themselves. He is a member of five halls of fame, including the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, TSSAA Hall of Fame, BGA Hall of Fame, Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame, the University of Tennessee Baseball Athletics Hall of Fame, and being named Tennessee's Sports-caster of the Year 12 times.

Mike has now returned to Rocky Top as the lead play-by-play announcer for UT football and men's basketball games. He is a pioneer of radio broadcasting and represents his alma mater well.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mike on his return.

Go Big Orange.

REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF THE BOURBON STREET TERRORIST ATTACK

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

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Martin "Tiger" Bech, William "Billy" DiMaio, Elliot Wilkinson, Nicole Perez, Kareem Badawi, Brandon Taylor, Nikyra Dedeaux, Matthew Tenedorio, Hubert Gauthreaux, Edward Pettifer, Reggie Hunter, Drew Dauphin, Terrence Kennedy, and LaTasha Polk.

These precious lives were taken from us far too soon. We honor them not just as names but as fathers, mothers, children, and friends who brought light to New Orleans and to this world.

Last week, I stood with President Biden at the Bourbon Street memorial. We reflected on the profound loss felt by our community and our Nation. In the quiet of St. Louis Cathedral, we lit candles and prayed for healing for the injured survivors, for the grieving families, and for a city shaken but not broken.

This was not just an attack on New Orleans; it was an assault on our shared humanity, our spirit of joy, and our enduring strength.

Let me be clear: New Orleans will never let these lives be forgotten. We will rise from this pain with unity, love, and resilience as we always do.

Mr. Speaker, may God continue to bless the victims, their families, the great city of New Orleans, the great State of Louisiana, and the great United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE FIRST RESPONDERS OF MONTANA'S SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT COMBATING THE CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

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

Mr. DOWNING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the first responders of Montana's Second Congressional District who are sacrificing time and treasure to combat the ongoing wildfires in southern California.

Firefighters from Columbus and Red Lodge are joining groups like the Billings Flying Service and other crews and individuals from across the State to help those in need.

I applaud the leadership of these groups, including Columbus Fire Rescue Chief Rich Cowger and Red Lodge Fire Rescue Chief Tom Kuntz for setting an example of service before self.

During my time as a combat search and rescue enlisted aviator in the U.S. Air Force, we had a motto: These things we do, that others may live.

Mr. Speaker, these men and women exemplify that motto, so I ask that you join me in praying for and honoring these brave Montanans who have traveled far and wide and put themselves in harm's way to protect the lives and property of their fellow Americans.

God bless and Godspeed to these heroes.

RECEIVING DISASTER AID SHOULD NOT BE CONDITIONAL

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, some House Republicans are threatening to withhold disaster aid to California unless certain unknown conditions are met. There is even talk about attaching disaster aid to an increase in the debt ceiling.

Mr. Speaker, this could be your State. Never in our Nation's history has the Federal Government placed such politically driven conditions on disaster aid to its own citizens. We can have good-faith debates about water policy and infrastructure deficiencies, and we should, but that is not what this is about.

This is a bad-faith effort to use California as a punching bag. This is about the promotion of half-truths, conspiracy theories, and outright lies, not to mention it is a way out for House Republicans.

They can't raise the debt ceiling on their own, so they want to tie that to disaster aid. It is unconscionable.

Mr. Speaker, I say to my Republican friends that it is unacceptable and downright shameful to use the suffering of Californians in need, or anyone in need, to solve your internal political disputes. Please stop playing games. Let's get the disaster aid to the people who need it, and let's do it now.

HONORING GERRI McDANIEL

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

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a dear friend and dedicated public servant, Gerri McDaniel.

Gerri had a fierce determination to better her community not just with her words but with her actions, as well.

She was a resident of North Myrtle Beach for nearly 22 years, where she was active in her community, including the Horry County Republican Women's Club. She was a true pillar of the South Carolina conservative movement.

In 2016, Gerri worked for President Donald Trump, helping to secure a historic victory.

In 2020, she served as an elector to our electoral college, helping to assign our States' nine votes to President Donald Trump.

Gerri's personality was infectious. She was an incredibly hard worker, and she had the unique ability to inspire others to work diligently for the conservative cause.

Mr. Speaker, through all that she accomplished, one thing remained constant: her passion for improving the lives of South Carolina and our great country. Her conviction, her fearless leadership, and willingness to serve will no doubt leave a lasting legacy for all who knew her.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTOPHER BROOKS AS OHIO'S 13TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CHAMPION OF THE WEEK

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Christopher Brooks as

Ohio's 13th Congressional District champion of the week.

Christopher is a senior AP art student at Canton McKinley High School. This year, he was awarded a Gold Key, two Silver Keys, and an honorable mention in the regional scholastic art competition.

Christopher's beginnings in art started in kindergarten, where he used his creative skills to make unique constructions out of LEGO blocks. Fast-forward to high school, and he has taken his passion for art to the next level by creating beautiful color pencil works and oil paintings.

Christopher's work that earned him a Gold Key will now be considered for a national award.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Christopher on this fantastic accomplishment, and wish him good luck as he moves on to represent our region on the national stage. He is a shining example of why Ohio's 13th Congressional District is known as the birthplace of champions.

HIGH-SPEED RAIL PROJECT HAS BEEN A SYMBOL OF FISCAL MISMANAGEMENT

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, Governor Gavin Newsom's High-Speed Rail project has been a symbol of fiscal mismanagement, and now the Department of Government Efficiency here in D.C., known as DOGE, is stepping in to examine the situation, as well.

Originally projected to cost \$33 billion back in 2008, the price tag has now ballooned closer to \$130 billion.

Despite an initial completion date for 2020, now it is, at best, by about 2030, maybe even 2035. Zero passengers have ridden on it because it is not possible yet.

This boondoggle has already consumed \$6.8 billion in Federal funds of all U.S. taxpayers. Now they are asking for \$8 billion more, which is way short of \$130 billion.

DOGE's analysis paints a grim picture of a project spiraling out of control with no end in sight.

Governor Newsom keeps funneling California tax dollars into this never-ending pit, ignoring needs like critical water infrastructure which could be helping all of our State, including southern California, if we could raise Shasta Dam and gain 600,000 new acres.

We would have the ability to not be short-funded on the brush removal that needs to be happening in southern California, as well as the forestry management all over California. Instead of empty-handed promises by Governor Newsom, we need to have President Trump leading the way.

FIRES DON'T DISCRIMINATE

(Ms. LOFGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1