

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise as the chair of the California Democratic Congressional Delegation to urge that we focus our energy on standing with firefighters, businesses, and families impacted by the Los Angeles County fire, not politics.

I have been hearing unprecedented political attacks, lies, and threats of conditioning disaster aid, even while these fires rage. This is the largest urban fire in the history of the United States.

Our rule has always been disaster help without conditions.

Mr. Speaker, if you want to change our longstanding policy, remember, your constituents could be the next ones to be abandoned. As my California colleague Congresswoman YOUNG KIM said this week, “fires don’t discriminate,” and she is right.

In December, when disaster aid went to victims in Republican-led States, including North Carolina, South Carolina, Arkansas, and Florida, Democrats overwhelmingly voted for that aid.

Mr. Speaker, we didn’t discriminate then, and we must not discriminate now during Californians time of need.

#### DEFENDING THE CONSTITUTION AGAINST ALL ENEMIES, FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC

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

Mr. KENNEDY of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce myself as I undertake this awesome responsibility to serve the citizens of Utah’s Third Congressional District.

My name is MIKE KENNEDY, and I am both a physician and an attorney.

As a doctor, I am a trained listener. As a lawyer, I am a trained advocate. As a legislator, I intend to honor the promises I made to my constituents when I asked for their votes: to take seriously the problems we confront, which include a porous border and a massive national debt. I will be a foe to those who would work to turn the people over to the government and a friend to those who will turn the government over to the people.

Our common oath, when we begin this service, is to defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic. It is a call to actively search for all that unites us in our common citizenship without fear or favor.

The vision of our Founders, that we be “one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all,” burns brightly in me and will be my daily touchstone as I do the work of the people.

Mr. Speaker, let us go forward with renewed energy to keep all that makes America the great country that we know it to be.

#### PRIDE AND GRATITUDE FOR THE BRAVERY AND DEDICATION OF OUR 911 FIRST RESPONDERS AND FIREFIGHTERS

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

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today filled with immense pride and gratitude for the incredible bravery and dedication of our 911 dispatchers, first responders, and firefighters across California.

These men and women, many of whom work around the clock, have been on the front lines fighting tirelessly to protect our homes and communities from devastating impact of the ongoing fires.

I am also deeply proud of the way our communities have come together. From local volunteers to neighbors checking on one another and organizations offering aid, California’s spirit of unity and resilience shines brighter than ever.

Mr. Speaker, as we continue to navigate these difficult times, I urge my colleagues to not play politics and ensure we provide the disaster relief aid that California deserves and needs now more than ever.

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#### REMEMBERING GOVERNOR KENNETH “BUDDY” MACKAY

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a treasured Florida statesman, the Honorable Governor Kenneth “Buddy” MacKay.

Today, his hometown and family will celebrate this compassionate fighter who served 26 years in the State house and senate, Congress, as Florida’s Lieutenant Governor, and briefly as Governor.

A righteous fighter for what he believed in, he fought the Cross Florida Barge Canal and defended a fellow University of Florida classmate from racist taunts.

When others of his generation saw an issue to exploit, Buddy remained steadfast to protect civil rights, reproductive freedoms, and our precious ecosystem. Political foes used his decency against him, but Buddy MacKay remained a man of principle. He was a proud liberal who never abandoned causes that helped the less fortunate, even if it cost him votes.

I came of age watching Buddy MacKay masterfully maneuver against powerful adversaries and work tirelessly behind the scenes to help people. Buddy MacKay embodied all the values of decency and honesty, and his public service legacy is a model we desperately need.

May his memory be for a blessing.

#### LAYING A FOUNDATION FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

(Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to say thank you to President Biden and his team for their relentless perseverance and leadership in securing a needed agreement between Israel and Hamas that includes the release of 33 hostages, who have endured unimaginable suffering.

This breakthrough is a testament to unwavering U.S. diplomacy and steadfast support for Israel and is a profound moment of relief and joy for loved ones who never gave up hope.

With that said, Mr. Speaker, this mission is not over. We must remain resolute, bringing every hostage home, delivering humanitarian relief where needed, ensuring Israel’s security, and laying the foundation for lasting peace in the Middle East.

#### THE LEAST OF MY BRETHREN

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, during this week in Washington, I have heard certain cunning, power-hungry individuals invoke the name of Jesus to blasphemously whitewash their own awful transgressions against the Ten Commandments and the dehumanization of God’s precious creatures.

I don’t expect the coarse subjects of my concern will hear nor even comprehend the Biblical verse I wish to enter into the RECORD—Matthew 25:31–46. Some day may these prevaricators face a reckoning in which the Lord of all lords will judge: Truly I tell you, whatsoever you do for the least of my brethren, that you do unto me. So be it.

#### NO CONDITIONS ON AID

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

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, less than 4 weeks ago, Congress passed the American Relief Act, which provided disaster aid to States such as Florida, South Carolina, and Oklahoma. Did Democrats demand conditions on this aid because it went to red States? No, because we are all Americans. We are all God’s children.

Congress has never put conditions on disaster aid because when Mother Nature strikes, she doesn’t ask for your party affiliation before she hurts you. The people who were hurt in the fires in southern California were parents, children, and grandchildren who lost their homes or lost their loved ones.

I am asking Republican Members of Congress to please stop using the pain and suffering of disaster victims for

their own political purposes. It is not American. It is not Christian. It is not moral.

#### REMEMBERING DR. AL MIJARES

(Mr. CORREA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my very good friend, Orange County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Al Mijares, who passed away after a long battle with cancer.

Dr. Mijares was a champion for our students to prepare them for college and careers. During the 2022 school year, over 90 percent of Orange County High School graduates graduated on time, beating the California average.

During Dr. Mijares' tenure, he also fought to make Orange County a better place to live for everyone. He established the One Billion Acts of Kindness initiative, allowing Orange County residents to honor acts of kindness. He never stopped fighting to make our communities better.

The legacy of Dr. Mijares, my good friend, lives. We will never forget the passion for education that he showed us and his efforts to create future leaders for our great Nation. We will miss Al.

#### HUMANITY MUST ALWAYS TAKE PRECEDENCE

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about Americans who are hurting, who have been suffering over the last 10 days as a result of the fires that have occurred in Los Angeles and south coast basin.

What we are talking about is the moral imperative of what America has always done to help the American people when they are in need, whether it is hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding, earthquakes, fires, or natural disasters of every kind you can imagine.

In the wildfires that have ravaged Los Angeles and south coast basin, over 40,000 acres have burned, 12,000 buildings have been destroyed, and 24 lives and counting have been lost. There certainly will be more. That is more than 30,000 football fields. Think about it.

The pain, the suffering, the social, and the economic losses—from homes to businesses to churches and synagogues—have changed people's way of life.

I am appalled to hear that some of my Republican friends are openly discussing conditioning wildfire relief upon their partisan agendas. That is wrong. We should not forget that over \$120 million of hurricane relief was provided to the State of Louisiana when they needed it over the last 20 years. Humanity must always take precedence over partisanship.

#### CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

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

Mr. MIN. Mr. Speaker, my name is DAVE MIN. I was just elected to represent the 47th Congressional District in Orange County, California, just south of the fires. While we are not affected by these, we are subject to the same fire risks on a year-by-year basis.

What we are seeing right now is a biblical-level disaster in California. The scope of this devastation is unprecedented. Now, as has been mentioned before, is a time when we need to come together, understanding that with climate change we are going to continue seeing biblical-level events going forward.

When we have had past disasters, whether hurricanes in southeastern United States, Florida, the Gulf Coast, tornadoes, flooding, and, yes, wildfires, we have stepped up. The people of southern California have stepped up to help those in need. That is the American way. That is the California way.

What is being proposed right now in tying conditions to aid is un-American. It is despicable. It is pathetic. We have never done this before. I urge my Republican colleagues to think about the precedent they will be setting if they set conditions, political conditions to this aid because the next time a disaster strikes, it could be their district, their area, and they do not want to set this precedent right now. People are struggling. Thousands of firefighters are exhausted. We need your help.

#### GRAPPLING WITH HORRIBLE DEVASTATION

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

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, as families in Los Angeles and the surrounding areas grapple with horrible devastation, loss of homes, community, loss of life and livelihoods, I am disgusted to hear that Republican leadership—Speaker JOHNSON—is planning to use this tragedy for political gain and withhold aid from California.

Americans are evacuating their homes, watching their communities burn, and the Speaker and Trump and some of my Republican colleagues in Congress want to punish Americans for not voting their way in November? This is morally bankrupt.

Californians obviously need this help now. I am standing up here because I am a Vermonter who just endured two horrible summers of devastating floods. I know what it feels like to go house to house and talk to people who have lost everything.

I remember talking to one man who had lost his home and his livelihood and was out of his home. He said to me: I didn't vote for you. I said: It doesn't

matter that you didn't vote for me. I am still showing up for you.

We need to show up for all Americans, regardless of political party.

#### CELEBRATING LEBANON, OHIO'S 215TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 215th anniversary of Lebanon, Ohio. Lebanon is the birthplace of The Western Star, Ohio's oldest weekly newspaper, the home of the historic Golden Lamb Inn, Ohio's oldest hotel, which has hosted 12 United States Presidents and literary giants like Mark Twain, Charles Dickens, and Harriet Beecher Stowe.

After walking on the Moon and seeing the Earth from space, Neil Armstrong could go anywhere, and he chose Lebanon as his home for 23 years. It is that special.

Today, Lebanon continues to bring people together, including one of my favorite events, the Warren County Fair. It is a place where neighbors gather to celebrate community and tradition. We have an office there, and it is one of my favorite places. It is still remarkable 215 years later.

Congratulations to all my friends in Lebanon.

#### PROTECTING THE RIGHTS AND SAFETY OF WOMEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Republicans are doubling down on our commitment to supporting and protecting the rights and safety of women and girls across the country. We are doing this by championing bills that fight back against unfair competition in sports and dangerous immigration policies.

Yesterday, we passed Congressman STEUBE's Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act, which is now on its way to the Senate. This legislation prevents biological males from competing in school athletic programs for women and girls by requiring that sex in athletic competition be determined by genetics at birth.