

# RECOGNIZING SCRIPPS VICE CHANCELLOR MARGARET LEINEN

(Mr. PETERS of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Margaret Leinen, who is stepping down as director of Scripps Institution of Oceanography and vice chancellor for marine science at the University of California San Diego.

The Scripps Institution of Oceanography works to study and find solutions to our most pressing environmental challenges, such as the relationship among our oceans, climate change, and human health.

Under Dr. Leinen's leadership, Scripps grew its degree programs and student enrollment, doubled its sponsored research and philanthropic funding, and furthered UC San Diego's reputation as one of the prestigious research institutions on the world stage.

Dr. Leinen has shaped our ocean and climate research. She oversaw the commissioning of state-of-the-art research vessels, the opening of multiple new facilities, and fostered Scripps' relationship with San Diego's developing blue economy industry.

Dr. Leinen has also served as the U.S. Department of State's science envoy for the oceans to Latin America and the Pacific and as assistant director for geosciences at the National Science Foundation. I have enjoyed working with her and learning from her at the U.N. climate change conferences, or COP.

Dr. Leinen's work has left an extraordinary mark on oceanography. I thank Dr. Margaret Leinen for her service. Along with all of San Diego, I wish her the best in her retirement.

## RECOGNIZING DR. ALESSANDRO SETTE

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a constituent of mine, Dr. Alessandro Sette, for being awarded the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic and being granted the status of knight, or Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia, for his exceptional work in immunology. He was previously elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Academy of Microbiology.

Dr. Sette is a professor at the La Jolla Institute for Immunology in the centers for autoimmunity and inflammation, infectious disease, and vaccine research. He has dedicated his career to understanding our body's immune system and developing interventions against cancer, autoimmunity, allergies, and infectious diseases. His laboratory works to understand scientific structures called epitopes that the immune system recognizes in diseases, and he uses this knowledge to improve our immune responses.

Dr. Sette's research led to the creation of the Immune Epitope Database, which is a vital source of experimental data on antibody and T cell responses.

Dr. Sette's research revealed how T cells can fight pathogens like tuberculosis, dengue, SARS-CoV-2, pertussis, and the virus that causes Mpox.

Dr. Sette and the La Jolla Institute team were the first in the world to publish a detailed analysis of our immune system's response to the coronavirus. Their research exemplifies San Diego's role in developing the cures and treatments of tomorrow.

I congratulate Dr. Alessandro Sette on his achievements and on this most recent distinct honor of being knighted by the Italian Republic.

## RECOGNIZING DR. SHANE CROTTY

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable Shane Crotty, a San Diegan and world-renowned immunologist whose work has transformed our understanding of the human immune system.

Dr. Crotty's groundbreaking research into the body's response to virus was not only vital to the global fight against COVID-19 but also to the advancement of vaccines and treatments for a wide range of infectious diseases.

In recognition of Dr. Crotty's enduring contributions to research on the immune system, he was recently elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. This honor is a testimony to the value of his scientific contributions and to the curiosity, integrity, and commitment to public service that define his work.

At a time when public trust in science is more important than ever, Dr. Crotty stands as a beacon of integrity, innovation, and hope. His tireless pursuit of knowledge continues to save lives and will inspire future generations of researchers.

I am grateful for his leadership and proud to honor his legacy, and I thank Dr. Crotty.

## CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS

(Mr. HARIDOPOLOS of Florida was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I keep hearing the term "constitutional crisis" over and over again. Candidly, the only constitutional crisis that has taken place over the last 4 years was the last administration abandoning their responsibility to defend our border and allowing over 10 million people to enter this country illegally, cutting in line over people who want to come here legally and add to the American Dream.

We don't know who these 10 million people are, where they came from, or if they could be a danger to our community and country. On top of that, they put a strain on our social welfare system, schools, hospitals, and law enforcement, taking away resources from the tax-paying citizens in areas not just on the border but around the country.

When food, gas, and rent prices were going up by 20 and 30 percent, if not more, over that time period, the very

people who were breaking the law were actually getting free things, whether it be rent, phones, cash cards, and other things that Americans were struggling to pay for every single day.

Cleaning up this mess has become our responsibility, the new majority, the new administration that has committed itself to actually keeping the promises from the campaign trail in 2024. Instead of bending over backward to help people who are breaking the law, they want to look at it and say: How about those folks that were left behind?

They were facing a constitutional crisis in the sense that their own government was not enforcing the laws of this land.

As the new administration is moving forward to deport gang members, wife-beaters, and others, the real constitutional crisis is finally being defined, that America should finally stand up for the citizens who make this country great and allow people to enter this country in a legal way so they can contribute to the American Dream.

I am so proud of this administration for keeping those campaign promises and working swiftly and in a smart way to deport those folks who broke the law, not just coming to this country but once here in this country.

For a change, I think a lot of people are finally saying that the government is working for them instead of against them. Let's send a clear message that law and order mean something, the Constitution means something, and we can finally end this constitutional crisis.

I applaud the President for moving forward and allowing the American people to stand up. Let's just look at it candidly: When you are standing up exclusively for judges, you are not having a checks-and-balances system. You are putting one single judge above the American public's popular vote, let alone the electoral college.

I am so glad that this House said that we are going to move forward in a thoughtful way and not allow, again, one single judge, who is not elected by the people, to decide the policies of this government.

I thank the President for his leadership. We stand with him in making sure that the rule of law is finally followed, ending the constitutional crisis that existed for the last 4 years.

□ 1030

## CONGRATULATIONS TO MARELY GUTIERREZ

(Mr. CISNEROS of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, I will just say if this administration was keeping their promises, we would actually have a President, who, when asked if it is his responsibility to uphold the Constitution, wouldn't say I don't know, and instead of passing laws

about renaming bodies of water, we would actually be doing things to help the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the winners of this year's Congressional Art Competition.

Art is a cornerstone of educational success for our students, giving them a healthy, creative outlet to process their emotions and share their stories with the world.

We had over 80 talented young artists submit their work to my Congressional Art Competition as the California 31st Congressional District's Representative.

I am proud to announce Marelly Gutierrez, an Azusa High School senior, as our first-place winner. Her charcoal and graphic artwork, Heartfelt Gaze, will be hung in the Cannon tunnel for the next year for everyone to see.

I had the pleasure of meeting Marelly and the other talented young artists at a ceremony we hosted last month. Our ceremony was held in the beautiful Vincenzo's Terrazza in San Dimas, where we celebrated with students, parents, teachers, and everyone who participated in this year's competition.

It was such a joy to meet many of California 31st District's bright young artists and hear about the impact art has on their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Marelly again and all the students who submitted their artwork. I am so proud of each and every one of them.

#### HELP SMALL BUSINESSES THRIVE AGAIN

(Mr. MANN of Kansas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, the Big First District of Kansas is home to more than 20,000 small businesses who employ over 80 percent of working adults in my district. These small businesses are the backbone of our economy. Their stories, defined by sacrifice, hard work, and determination, serve as a reminder of what the American Dream is all about: that anyone, from anywhere, can come to the U.S. the right way, work hard, make an honest living, and succeed. That is what it is all about.

Many of the small businesses I represent are family owned and operated. As the fifth generation to grow up on my family farm and feedyard in western Kansas, I understand the immense sense of pride and gratitude that comes with growing up around a family business. It is much more than a 9 to 5; it is a personal investment of endless hours to see a dream come to life. When that dream gets off the ground, families give it their all to keep it afloat. They take pride in serving their neighbors and leaving their communities better than they found them. Our Federal policies ought to help them do just that.

Since I came to Congress, I have worked nonstop to make this a reality.

Every year, I have introduced legislation to preserve stepped-up basis and to stop far-left Democrats' farm killer tax. For decades, stepped-up basis has protected families from being forced to pay capital gains taxes on inherited assets.

President Biden tried his best to remove this provision, which would have resulted in the destruction of family farms across my district and around the country. I have always and will continue to oppose any effort to impose new taxes on small, family-owned businesses, period.

I have fought to protect similar exemptions for students from family farms and small businesses. Last year, new FAFSA provisions altered the Federal formula for student aid, counting assets in small businesses and family farms as part of the family's net worth. My Family Farm and Small Business Exemption Act seeks to correct this flaw and to level the playing field for students who come from these families.

When these students are applying for higher education financial aid, assets tied up in a small business should not count against them. As their families work tirelessly to make an honest living and serve their neighbors, we should make it easier for them to succeed and pass on these businesses to the next generation.

My bill evens the playing field and protects the American Dream for every student. I was proud to see it included in the bill that the House Education and Workforce Committee marked up last week.

Congress should also roll back burdensome regulations that further handcuff our small businesses in an already challenging environment. For the last 4 years, our small business owners navigated regulation after regulation imposed by the Biden administration. President Biden attempted to regulate every aspect of small business owners' livelihoods if they didn't fall in line with his Green New Deal agenda.

Small business owners, already struggling with sky-high inflation, begged Washington, D.C., for less regulation and more freedom to just make a living. The Republican majority has spent the last 4 months rolling back these regulations. That is what our small business owners want and that is what they deserve.

Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, over the last few months, this body will work to further support small business owners by extending the 2017 tax cuts. These historic tax cuts by President Trump during his first term ushered in an economic boom that benefited America's small businesses and the communities they serve. We have a duty to bring back the growing economy and to ensure that family businesses that are the backbone of our country can thrive again.

If we fail to extend the Trump tax cuts, small businesses will see their tax rates nearly double, harming local economies and Main Street. This finan-

cial burden would limit small businesses' ability to grow and force some to reduce the size of their staffs or even close their doors entirely. America can't afford to leave these men and women out to dry.

During this National Small Business Week, we thank the hardworking men and women who make up the more than 33 million small businesses across our great Nation, employing nearly 62 million Americans, and equipping them to feed their families, put a roof over their heads, and clothes on their backs. I look forward to working with my colleagues in this body to see America's small business community thrive once again.

Mr. Speaker, if our small businesses fail, America fails, and the world cannot afford that. I recognize that over these next few weeks we will have very difficult conversations on the best way to extend these cuts and enact President Trump's agenda, but they are conversations worth having.

Mr. Speaker, America is counting on us.

#### THREATS NONESSENTIAL HELICOPTERS POSE TO PUBLIC SAFETY

(Mr. MENENDEZ of New Jersey was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, last month, an air tourism helicopter crashed into the Hudson River near Jersey City killing six people, including three young children.

This tragedy is yet another example of the threat that nonessential helicopters pose to public safety, especially in the congested airspace over New Jersey and New York.

Since 1983, there have been at least 30 helicopter crashes in our region, resulting in at least 31 fatalities. We also continue to hear from countless New Jersey residents whose lives are upended by the constant, incessant noise of helicopters traveling at low altitudes over our neighborhoods.

Since taking office, we have consistently worked to address these challenges, from the noise and nuisance they cause to the safety risks that have been well documented.

In the 118th Congress, we introduced two pieces of legislation and directly engaged with the FAA to address these issues, hosting a workshop in Jersey City with stakeholders and local leaders, but this crash is a clarion call to every level of government that further urgent action is needed.

That is why, along with my colleagues from New Jersey and New York, I introduced the Improving Helicopter Safety Act, which bans all nonessential helicopter traffic within a 20-mile radius of the Statue of Liberty.

It is clear that the helicopter industry is not a good actor or one willing to proactively take measures to protect our communities. In the wake of this most recent tragedy, one air tourism