

This decision protects Americans and industries from being sacrificed on the altar of radical environmentalism. Automakers can now focus on innovation and consumer desires, rather than being forced into a one-size-fits-all EV agenda that stifles competition and choices for real people.

Gavin Newsom's California has been a cheerleader for these extreme policies, pushing mandates that hurt working families and drive up costs to meet their California goals.

President Trump's move rejects that failed approach, puts common sense back in the driver's seat. That is part of a broader effort to restore energy independence, roll back harmful regulations, and ensure America isn't crippled by radical climate agendas.

Today's actions are putting the needs of Americans ahead of an out-of-touch environmental elite. Instead of empty-handed promises by Gavin Newsom, we have President Trump who is focused on a forward-moving approach on real solutions, leading the way to support our economy, our workers, and our future.

#### HONORING TRACIE POUGH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. 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 subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, before I yield to other Members, Mr. Speaker, I will begin with my own remarks regarding my longtime chief of staff, Tracie Pough.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a woman who, as much as anyone in my adult life, has been a true partner, mentor, counsel, confidant, and quite frankly, like the sister that I never had. I do have a great brother, though.

I rise to honor my chief of staff, Tracie Pough, who is retiring after 20-plus years of service in the House, which has spanned my own 20 years representing my community in our beloved home State of Florida.

Rarely, Mr. Speaker, are any of us blessed with someone who can see our inner self with just a glance, someone who without one word knows exactly where you stand, someone who is truly your natural alter ego.

Throughout all of my time in Congress, and even before that, in my time

in the Florida Legislature, I leaned on no one more than my chief of staff, Tracie Pough.

We often joke in my office about how the two of us share one brain. I can't tell you how many nights I leaned on her for advice, knowledge, and insights, not just on how to make life better for the people that I represent, but how to navigate through life.

Anyone who knows her has benefited from her Tracie-isms, wisdom that comes with its own vocabulary. She is a staff leader who has mentored and trained dozens of staffers on our team, many of whom are watching C-SPAN. I know I am breaking rules referring to people in the gallery, but many are also joining us in the gallery tonight.

She is a staff leader who is sought out by other staffers, as well as chiefs, for her guidance. She is widely respected on both sides of the aisle, and her political acumen is legendary. Tracie is and always has been a trusted voice, an empathic voice to all who seek her counsel.

Her amazing political instincts, unmatched relationships, and her highly structured leadership of my office is something I have come to rely on for two decades.

When former staffers reached back to me with their thoughts about her leadership, many shared how Tracie was an invaluable mentor to them over her 21 years in Congress.

She has been both my top general and that ever-reliable shoulder to cry on. She has been there with me through it all. Tracie helped lift me to my highest of highs, and she was right there to pick me up in those low times.

It is during these times that you find out who you can really count on, Mr. Speaker, who has the courage, the passion and temperament and loyalty to continue to help you take steps forward, never back.

I have a couple of items that I want to recall, one of which was the story behind my passage of the first bill that I ever passed as a Member of Congress all the way back in 2005, which created Jewish American Heritage Month.

It is a lengthy story, but suffice it to say, you want to find yourself—to the new Members who may be listening to these remarks—you want to find yourself a chief of staff, a team leader, who knows the intricacies of the legislative process, who actually picks up the daily calendar, who looks closely at it, and then figures out what plays need to be made to get your legislation to the floor.

I can comfortably say that we would not have just celebrated the 17th year of Jewish American Heritage Month this past year in May if not for Tracie Pough's acumen, her strategic incite, and her relationships. As a freshman, I can tell you, I would not have been able to carry that ball by myself.

Tracie has also been an incredible generational bridge, which both of us have very much needed as the evolution of the age and generations of my

staff have gotten younger than we are today.

I was elected to Congress, Mr. Speaker, when I was 37 years old, and suffice it to say, that I had several staffers that were older than me back then. No longer. If anyone has dealt with the challenges—and I am now a parent of Gen Zers, three Gen Zers, whom I, like every parent, struggle to understand—but now I have an entire team, almost an entire team of staff who are either Millennials or Gen Zers, and Tracie and I have enjoyed helping raise them up.

Under her leadership, we taught them how to actually pick up the telephone and call other people, rather than just shoot them a text or send them an email. When they are sitting there wondering why someone hasn't gotten back to them, or they are ready to throw their hands up, and say, you know, it is time to move on, Congresswoman, Tracie will say, why don't you have Debbie actually go talk to that Member on the other side of the aisle.

Lo and behold, when I take the opportunity to do that, the logjam and the dam breaks. Human interaction is so incredibly important, and with the explosion of technology that the next generation of staffers and children and kids grow up with, she has been an incredible guide to ensuring that old school remains new school.

As with all wonderful relationships, this one will now evolve. She is prepared to move on and start that inevitable new chapter. Her impact on me, our staff, and the people that I represent runs so deep.

Through her tireless work, Tracie has made life better for millions of people across Florida, across my congressional district, and this entire Nation. She is someone who there aren't words to describe the depth of my feeling about her departure, but I will so miss working with directly and spending time with her each day. Although, I am confident that we will probably talk almost every day, at least for the foreseeable future and much to her dismay, probably.

She is someone to whom I will forever remain attached to. Tracie Pough is family to me, and I cherish her friendship and the time we have spent together more than I can ever put into words. As I always say, when a trusted and valued team member goes on to the next stage of their career, they will always be on team DWS, but she will technically move to the concentric circles of our family. She will always remain in the center as a trusted adviser, dearest friend, and sister.

On behalf of so many here today, and so many others, I thank her. I am honored to have her by my side and to celebrate her work, her character, and the indelible mark she has left on all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN).

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Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you so much for allowing me to join you in honoring our mutual friend and confidant, Tracie Pough.

Robert Frost, the great writer, once wrote:

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.

I don't argue with Robert Frost, but I beg to differ a little bit with that notion because I am of the opinion, and from my own experiences, no matter what road one chooses to travel, it is the people with whom you intersect that make the difference.

When I first met Tracie Pough, I don't remember where it was or exactly when it was, but it was more than 20 years. It was not long after I came to Congress. Of course, I am a bit older than both Debbie and Tracie.

We for some reason just kind of hit it off. Our spirits kind of congealed. I don't know exactly how to explain it. We started doing political stuff together, traveling.

She just reminded me of a trip we shared to Louisiana, a part of Louisiana I didn't know existed. I didn't know about all these places. It was this little place we went to work on behalf of a candidate, and we won. Of course, the candidate later switched parties. Then, I think we lost.

The fact still remains I got to know her on that trip. I often wonder what it is about Tracie that makes my chief of staff sometimes have to consult with her before he answers my question.

Be that as it may, I do believe it is because of her background. Early in our relationship, for some reason I went to Jacksonville, Florida. I met her parents, and we began to compare notes. Then it occurred to me. Jacksonville, Florida, is in Geechee country. I was married for 58 years to a Gullah woman.

People tend to separate those two. There isn't a separation. If you are in North Carolina and South Carolina, it is Gullah. If you are in Georgia and Florida, it is Geechee. I think my getting to know the Gullah-Geechee culture is really the background as to why our spirits tend to agree.

If I had met her before the first 2 or 3 years of my marriage, we might not have gotten along because I didn't particularly get along with the Gullah culture. I learned I had to make some adjustments. Those adjustments worked. It was the same thing with Tracie.

I really feel a part of her, getting to know her family, getting to work with her, getting to really consult with her sometimes behind Debbie's back but oftentimes for the benefit of both of us.

I really was a bit surprised when I was told several days ago, maybe several weeks that she was going to retire and leave the Hill. I can say this. Truly, I love this young lady. She has been a part, an extension really of my staff, a part of my life. I have enjoyed every minute of our relationship, and I feel that she is in many instances as

close to me as those three daughters that I have.

Tracie, you are going to be missed on this Hill. I want you to know that you won't be far from us because I know how to use this device in my pocket, and I expect you to answer my calls when I call you. I want you to enjoy whatever it is you are doing after you leave this Hill.

I also want you to know that if you ever think that I can be of any assistance in helping you do what you do better, just call. I know how to answer this device, as well. I also know I owe it not just to you but to your lovely family to respond in a positive way.

I often rely upon great writers to make the point. I am now thinking of the great writer, Shakespeare, when he wrote his I think it was his Sonnet 116. Shakespeare wrote:

Let me not to the marriage of true minds  
Admit impediments; love is not love  
Which alters when it alteration finds,  
Or bends with the remover to remove.  
O no, it is an ever-fixed mark  
That looks on tempests and is never shaken;  
It is the star to every wand'ring bark  
Whose worth's unknown, although his height  
be taken.  
Love's not time's fool, though rosy lips and  
cheeks  
Within his bending sickle's compass come.  
Love alters not with his brief hours and  
weeks,  
But bears it out even to the edge of doom:  
If this be error and upon me proved,  
I never writ, nor no man ever loved.

That is the love that I have for you. I thank you so much for being a part of my life. I join Debbie in wishing you great success, and let me know when I need to answer this device.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Thank you so much, Mr. Whip, for helping me honor my friend, my sister, Tracie Pough.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize the gentlewoman from the great State of Florida (Ms. CASTOR), my colleague and friend.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend and colleague from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to express my gratitude and good wishes to Tracie Pough for her years of service to this body, to the Congresswoman, to the State of Florida.

I also share that on behalf of the two chiefs of staff that I have had during my terms here, Clay Phillips and Lara Hopkins, they always consulted Tracie. They sought her counsel on how to run a congressional office, and how to do it in a proactive and positive way.

There are often twists and turns here on Capitol Hill, especially here in the people's House. Tracie has always had that steady hand. She has an open door. She is a good listener. She is the chief of staff to chiefs of staff. She is known as the consummate professional. She doesn't lose her temper. To the contrary, she is even-keeled and thoughtful in everything she does.

Let me say that sometimes that is not easy when you work for a Member

of Congress who is a go-getter and is trying to accomplish a hundred things at a hundred miles per hour every single day.

I think it is that yin and the yang where Tracie has been able to provide that steady hand and leadership to Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ that has really demonstrated her unbelievable capacity for being able to get things accomplished.

The record out of her office is incredible. It is not just because of Debbie's senior seat on the Appropriations Committee. It is because of her knowledge of our beautiful State of Florida. I don't think we would have such massive investment in saving the Florida Everglades without Tracie standing firm and getting to know the Army Corps of Engineers probably on a first-name basis.

I think some of her expertise comes from her service back in the Florida Legislature. We will claim you from the Tampa Bay area, a little Tampa credit, because she reminded me that she worked for Jim Hargrett who is a statehouse member from Tampa, who went on to be a State Senator; the great Jim Davis who was my predecessor here in Congress but also served in the statehouse; and also Arthenia Joyner.

On behalf my neighbors across the Tampa Bay area, I want the world to know that Tracie Pough has made an incredible difference. She has made the lives of the people of the State of Florida and the United States better. It takes a lot to serve a Member over the course of 21 years in the United States House of Representatives.

Every day there is a new challenge, and Tracie has handled these challenges with intelligence. Because of her even-keeled nature, her sense of fairness, her love for this country and the State of Florida, her love for the Congresswoman and all of the interns and staffers that came through her office over the years, Tracie Pough will leave an incredible legacy of service. For that, I am extremely grateful.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Thank you so much, Congresswoman CASTOR. That was a very special and important tribute. I appreciate it so much.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield to the Congresswoman from the great State of Florida (Ms. LOIS FRANKEL).

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I met Tracie almost 27 years ago. I am looking at her and thinking it was when I was a Member of the Florida Legislature. She was a very young, clear-eyed, energetic person with the belief that she could make a difference in the lives of people.

Mr. Speaker, do you know what? It is the same thing today. She is smart. She is energetic. I am even going to call her young at heart but still with that belief, and she has made that difference. She has had an extraordinary career in public service.

I feel so blessed that our lives have become interwoven, going back to the

Florida Legislature and then again now as a Member of Congress, with her work for the Democratic Party and for the DNC. We know she worked for an extraordinarily talented Member, but not to be trite, there is something about the wind beneath the wings. That is Tracie.

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Tracie still has that great smile.

I will thank her, as Representative CASTOR did, for her work with our staff and all the work she has done for our State, especially for the children and families of America.

I am going to say thank you to Tracie. Her work has inspired us. She leaves a really great legacy.

Mr. Speaker, for anyone who is listening to this, what they need to know is that they don't have to run for political office to really make a difference in the lives of people. Tracie has proven it.

I am going to read the words of a poet that I think describes Tracie.

Ever heard of Maya Angelou? I will just read a passage.

Now you understand

Just why my head's not bowed.

I don't shout or jump about

Or have to talk real loud.

When you see me passing,

It ought to make you proud.

I say,

It's in the click of my heels,

The bend of my hair,

The palm of my hand,

The need of my care.

'Cause I'm a woman

Phenomenally.

Phenomenal woman.

That is you. That is you. I am wishing you the best in your next chapter. I hope it is exciting and fulfilling. Come back anytime to see us. Love you.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman FRANKEL, my friend, for her remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO).

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Tracie Pough: This Is Your Life, the Congressional Version.

In this House of Representatives, every knight needs a good squire, and Tracie has been a super squire. Team WS is one of the most prolific offices in this Chamber, and Debbie's legacy is her legacy. We all know it.

Disaster relief, protecting reproductive rights, advocating for immigrant rights, a strong U.S.-Israel relationship, navigating the COVID crisis—but for me, the biggest legacy is all the funding brought back for the Everglades.

None of this was a guarantee. It took 20 years of work. When we started, water was drying up in the Everglades, and the water supply in south Florida was a real challenge. Roads cut right through it.

There was a lot of hope with CERP in 2000, a little before they got here, but

without all the work, CERP would have been just words on a paper. Instead, they wrote a reg.

To the gentlewoman, how long did it take before you became a cardinal, literally working the budget that makes that happen? What was it, 6 years?

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Two.

Mr. SOTO. Two years.

Mr. Speaker, Tracie is a super squire for all that, and Debbie's legacy is Tracie's legacy, in particular with the northern Everglades, which we are starting to work on. I know Tracie worked a lot with our team, helping us navigate the Army Corps of Engineers. That is like the seventh level of black belt Kung Fu legislating around here. I thank her for helping us with that.

Secondly, as it was alluded to a little bit, Tracie is a chief of chiefs. Not only has she advised a lot of other chiefs, new ones coming in for the entire Florida Democratic delegation over the years, but she was my chief's boss back in the day. That was on the DCCC side, and that is a whole other thing, but my chief still to this day considers Tracie a mentor, so I thank her for helping because that knowledge can be lost. Imagine being a chief with no mentor coming into this place. Tracie served Florida well through that.

Tracie has also been a committee assignment guru, with Debbie always seemingly one way or another getting onto steering and policy, now one of the chairs two terms in a row. It was with Tracie's help and DWS' help getting on the Energy and Commerce Committee, getting on the Agriculture Committee, getting on the Natural Resources Committee as of just a few hours ago. Her legacy is still being written right now.

I thank Tracie for all of her help personally because it makes me more effective to be on the committees I need to be on. I thank her for all the advice to my team to help her boss navigate that.

Central Florida also lays claim to Tracie, too. I heard the Tampa Bay story, but she went to Rollins College, so we claim Tracie also as a favorite daughter of central Florida.

Lastly, since there have been a lot of things about age and all this and that, Tracie has a whole third act left. I am looking forward to seeing what she ends up doing. I know it is going to be something special. Because of her work ethic and passion, I know it is going to be another big thing—hopefully, a little easier for a while, maybe a sabbatical for a few weeks. Maybe not. Probably not, but I am hoping.

Either way, I wish Tracie well in this third act. I know it is going to be amazing.

Thank you so much for all you have done for my team. On behalf of our constituents, we appreciate you.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. SOTO and all of my colleagues for helping me honor this remarkable woman.

Mr. Speaker, I will close with this. I think every Member can appreciate

that their chief of staff, really their entire congressional staff, but their chief of staff is often a person we spend more time with than we spend with any member of our family, including our spouses and significant others. It is someone who needs to put up with us and tolerate the highs and lows.

Tracie has done all that and more. She has taken calls at all hours of the night. Then, in the morning, she has always made herself available.

The sacrifices that all of our staff members make to be able to help us be successful and make sure that our constituents are able to have their representation maximized is truly remarkable.

Tracie and I have been through marriage, children, raising those children, helping one another raise our children; appointments to committees for me, like the Appropriations Committee in my second term, becoming a cardinal on my first day; being diagnosed, beating, and surviving breast cancer; and chairing the Democratic National Committee, and surviving the aftermath of that experience, including threats, bomb threats, international hacks.

We had the absolutely incredible opportunity to be able to do all of that together and to be able to make sure that we do the best job every day when we walk across the threshold of our office doors to give voice to the people of now Florida's 25th Congressional District, but prior to that the 23rd, and prior to that the 20th.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to be able to honor this remarkable woman on the floor of the United States House of Representatives, the beacon of democracy, our temple of democracy that is a light unto the world and whose light is going to be a little bit dimmer with her departure on Friday.

I know that we will continue to work together and lean on one another for all the rest of our days.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HURD of Colorado). The Chair reminds Members that the rules do not allow references to persons in the gallery.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 53 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, January 22, 2025, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-59. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy,