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REMEMBER MAYOR HENRY  
EBERLE

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

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, Henry Eberle, better known as "Mayor Hank," served as the mayor of Ridley Park for 28 years before his death last month at the age of 91.

From student council president at Sharon Hill High to a standout athlete at Franklin & Marshall College where he was inducted in the hall of fame, Hank was a born leader.

Hank raised a family in "Delco," where he became an executive at Sun Company and was active with his church and local civic groups.

In retirement, he visited every national park in the continental U.S. during dozens of cross-country road trips. Hank will long be remembered as a quintessential small-town mayor. As mayor of Ridley Park, he showed up at every community event, emceeing the Fourth of July parade in his trademark top hat and striped socks, greeting neighbors at the farmers market and Victorian Fair, and officiating at over 100 weddings.

He was a tireless advocate for revitalization of Ridley Park's business district and rebuilding the Sellers Avenue bridge.

Mayor Hank's humor, humility, and purpose will be deeply missed across our community.

CONGRATULATING MIKE  
FOUNTAIN ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of a dedicated public servant from California's 31st District. Assistant Fire Chief Mike Fountain has served the community of West Covina and the West Covina Fire Department since 1995.

Over his 30-year distinguished career, he has served as a firefighter, paramedic, fire captain, and assistant fire chief. He has worked tirelessly to ensure the community has the medical supplies and equipment it needs at all times.

His impact on the community extends well beyond the firehouse walls. Mr. Fountain committed countless hours to mentoring newly minted firefighters and leading the firefighters' union as president.

Through his example, Mike Fountain has shown us what leadership is all about. Mike has ensured the readiness of the West Covina Fire Department and made the firefighters and the community a top priority. That community is safer because of his work.

Mr. Speaker, we congratulate Mr. Fountain on an incredible career and a well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HARRY  
HULL FARR

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

Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Harry Hull Farr, a lifelong resident of the DMV whose service and achievements left a lasting impact on our community and country.

I lift him up particularly because he personified the American Dream. He was a citizen of relentless hard work and integrity and one who believed in the need of communities to come together for the common good, something we need more of today.

Born in 1925, Harry Hull Farr proudly served in the United States Navy during World War II, where he worked at the PhotoScience Air Station in Norfolk, Virginia, as a photographer mate 3rd Class.

Harry regarded work as a privilege. He built a career as a photographer and then founded the highly successful Harry H. Farr & Company, an investment and appraisal business and employer.

He was the finest example of the Greatest Generation, devoted to his country, his family, and a belief that no challenge is beyond our capabilities or our worth.

Our family was honored to know Harry's family. I extend my deepest condolences to children Julia, Michael, Mary Joyce, and Stephanie and his 11 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

May his memory be a blessing and a reminder to all of us of a life well-lived.

REMEMBERING JUDGE FRANK  
CAPRIO

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

Mr. AMO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late, great Judge Frank Caprio. In his decades on the bench and his iconic work on "Caught in Providence," he left a lasting impact.

Born in Providence in 1936 to Italian immigrants, Judge Caprio graduated from Central High School, served in the Army National Guard, taught American Government at Hope High School, got his law degree, and raised five children with his wife of 60 years, Joyce.

Whether dismissing parking tickets for those in need or teaching children about the courtroom, Judge Caprio proved justice and kindness go hand in hand.

Last week at his funeral, I joined thousands of Rhode Islanders and countless people around the world mourning Judge Caprio's passing. I extend my deepest condolences to his family and all those who loved him. I will conclude with Judge Caprio's own words.

"You don't need power or a title to make the world better, just compassion and the courage to act on it."

In his memory, we should all spread a little kindness today.

HIGHLIGHTING THE LAPSE IN  
SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS FUNDING

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

Mr. VASQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, on behalf New Mexico's Second District, I rise to highlight the dire financial situation many rural communities face because of the lapse in Secure Rural Schools funding.

For over 20 years, Congress has used SRS to support rural areas where national forests limit the local tax revenue. This funding has been a vital lifeline, helping rural communities pay for essential services like schools and roads.

Since SRS funding expired in 2024, these areas now face impossible choices like laying off beloved teachers, cutting back to 4-day school weeks, and deferring critical road maintenance that emergency responders rely on.

Last year, New Mexico lost \$9 million alone. I just met with a bipartisan group of county officials and educators back home. Their message was clear. Without this funding, rural communities are in crisis. We must act now.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act so that rural communities in New Mexico and across the country are not forgotten and left behind without access to basic needs.

## LAUNCHING FORO CAMPUS

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

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, I visited the Ponce Health Sciences University and the Pontifical Catholic University in Ponce, Puerto Rico. We launched Foro Campus, an initiative to visit universities and to listen about the impact that the big, ugly bill is having on students' futures.

What I found was not celebration. Instead, it was anxiety. I listened to students who face uncertainty over their ability to go to graduate school due to changes in Federal funding for student loan programs. I listened to students who are anxious due to changes to the repayment programs of Federal student loan programs.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue visiting these universities. I will continue collecting these stories and anecdotes so that Congress takes note and eventually takes action. We need more and better education and not less.

□ 1140

## THE CALIFORNIA REDISTRICTING WAR

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. KILEY of California was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, the redistricting war in this country is starting to escalate to an absurd degree. Among the States now looking at redistricting, or are currently in the process of it, we have Texas, California, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Ohio, Kentucky, Missouri, Utah, Florida, Maryland, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Kansas, Virginia, and New York.

This is insanity. Where does it end?

It certainly won't end this election cycle. There is no reason that in every election cycle now, Mr. Speaker, you won't have States redrawing district lines if they sense any sort of advantage can be gained in the process.

However, just in this round of what will apparently be a new precedent of ongoing, rolling redistricting, you are going to see millions of Americans across all of these States, Mr. Speaker, lose the right to vote for their current Representative.

My own district, for example, under a newly proposed map, would be cut into six different pieces. Hence, at least five-sixths of the current constituents whom I have would lose the right to be able to choose me as their Representative.

What is more, this is going to consume an inordinate amount of time of State legislatures across the country, not to mention resources. It is going to consume an inordinate amount of time for Representatives of this body who are going to have to learn and get to know new communities that they are going to be representing that they have never represented before. They are going to lose communities that they may have represented for some time.

No one wants this, not Democrats in the House and not Republicans in the House. I have people coming up to me constantly agreeing that what is going on is a terrible thing for the country. It is going to stratify and polarize representation like never before. You are going to have more and more State delegations, Mr. Speaker, that are extremely asymmetrical. Some will have no Representatives of one party or the other. That can only mean fewer perspectives in this body and fewer Americans feeling like they are represented in our representative government. It can only mean more of the gridlock and division that Americans are so frustrated with.

This all raises the question: Where is the Speaker of the House in all of this?

Why is he, at the very least, going along with a redistricting war that the Members who elected him overwhelmingly oppose?

Why is the leader of this institution simply watching as the institution crumbles?

By the way, where is the minority leader, as well, want-to-be Speaker, would-be Speaker, Minority Leader Jeffries?

He is all too happy to just treat this as another form of partisan warfare and has adopted this horrible fight-fire-with-fire slogan. He is apparently willing to burn everything down if it means he can be the next Speaker of the House.

What our leadership seems to have forgotten is that the House is a co-equal, independent branch of our government. There are supposed to be tensions between the branches. That is the design of our system.

Even if the leaders of the other branches are carbon copies of yourself, Mr. Speaker, there should, from time to time, be some tension because of the difference in perspectives and institutional roles and responsibilities. When the system works well, that can be a constructive tension that is resolved in a way that carries out our shared vision for the country and is in everyone's interest. However, that requires real leadership, and right now that leadership is sorely lacking.

I believe that gerrymandering wherever it occurs is a plague on our democracy whichever party does it. Both parties have been amply guilty. That is why I proposed H. Res. 4889. H. Res. 4889 will bring this redistricting war to an end by preserving the district maps that were used in our last election until the next Census when redistricting is supposed to be done.

Ultimately, by the time of the next Census, we need to come up with a solution to eradicate this plague of gerrymandering from our democracy. That is why I have called on the Speaker to set up a bipartisan commission to end gerrymandering in this country once and for all.

By the way, I think that should go hand in hand with a requirement for voter ID in elections across the country so that we can finally have fair elections in the United States.

The reality is that Americans of all party affiliations are tired of the political division that only seems to get worse and worse every single year.

Mr. Speaker, you can ask the folks I represent in California. I will fight harder than anyone for the policies that I think are best for my district and State and for the country. I have fought harder than anyone against the corruption of the ruling class in Sacramento. Often my critique is that that corruption undermines the foundations that we ought to share when it comes to politics in this country.

We truly need to find common ground, at the very least, when it comes to the basic parameters of our politics. That is what is so pernicious about this redistricting war.

We are supposed to disagree about policies and about our visions for the country vigorously. That is what the political process is about. That is what democracy is about. However, we need

to have some shared foundation upon which those differences can be debated. When you have this rolling redistricting, Mr. Speaker, this redistricting war that we are seeing right now, it erodes that foundation, and it makes it much more difficult for us to actually govern in the interests of the country and to fulfill the promise of representative government.

I am hopeful that the legislation I have offered can be a first step in saying we need to find more common ground. We need to get back to the issues that actually matter to the American people.

Mr. Speaker, one of the worst consequences of this redistricting war we see breaking out across the country is that it has provided a pretext for the Governor of California to do what he has always wanted to do, which is to undermine the fairness of our elections in California by abolishing the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.

The Governor and his enablers insist they are only doing this because of what is happening in other States. However, the redistricting commission itself was opposed by NANCY PELOSI, for example, who led the opposition to its creation and was opposed by the California Democratic Party.

Nothing could justify what is happening in California right now. However, they have grabbed on to whatever pretext they can in order to move forward with returning us and moving us backwards as a State to the era of partisan gerrymandering.

The problem for Newsom is that the voters of California are overwhelmingly opposed to this plan.

How do we know that? California voters have voted three times to support the independent redistricting commission. A poll just recently came out from Politico asking voters: Do you want the commission to draw district lines, or do you want the politicians to get that power back?

By a 2-1 margin, over 60 percent of Democrats, over 60 percent of Republicans, and over 70 percent of Independents said: We want the commission drawing district lines. We don't think politicians should draw their own district lines.

To solve this problem, that is to say, the public overwhelmingly opposing his plan which does require voter approval, the Governor has come up with a two-pronged strategy which is to disenfranchise voters and to defraud them.

First, while the previous votes to establish the independent commission and to affirm it were done by our full electorate, he is now just summoning a partial electorate in a low-turnout, off-year special election to try to overturn that decision.

What is more, he has thrown out all of our election rules in order to accelerate and condense the election timeline unlike anything we have ever seen so that the county registrars are