

Now, I mentioned that Thomas was in the Army. Not only that, he served in Vietnam, and he served in combat in Vietnam. He served in combat in Vietnam in military intelligence, which essentially put him on the front lines of the front lines. As many combat heroes do, he didn't talk about it much.

I also mentioned that he was a man of faith. He was a man of deep faith. He lived that "I am third" philosophy, which is: God is first, friends and family are second, and I am third. That is who Thomas Wade was.

He had no interest in travel outside the United States because he loved his country that much. He felt there wasn't any need to leave for even a day. He loved his family hard. He also loved three things. He loved golf, the Missouri Tigers, and to prove that he was a man of high intelligence, he loved the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame.

Thomas fought cancer hard, and he fought it so hard because he loved this gift, this precious gift we have of life. He also loved his wife, Mariia, with all his heart and his wonderful son, John. During his fight, he never let his humor leave him. Humor is really a song of the divine. It gets us through.

□ 1100

The most important job any of us have, quite frankly, is that of being a parent, because our children are ultimately a reflection of us. Thomas' son, John, John Wade, is someone I have gotten to know. He is the CEO of the AES Restaurant Group. They employ thousands of Americans. You may know them by their more popular name, Arby's.

John followed in his father's footsteps. John is selfless, he is kind, he is hardworking, he is funny, he is gregarious and generous, and he is a man of accomplishment. John and his wife, Mallory, are dedicated to the AES Foundation which he founded. They have raised over a million dollars for charities in their community because that is who they are, servant leaders. They put country and community before themselves, and they have accomplished so much.

Thomas Wade was the best of us. He was a good man. He was a good father. He was a good husband. He was a good friend, a good mentor, and a good American. His very goodness, that is what made him great. The best compliment you can pay anyone is: The world is a better place because you were in it.

The light of America dimmed a bit on September 3 because Thomas Wade went to a better place. The world is a better place because Thomas was in it.

Mr. Speaker, may God hold Thomas up gently in the palm of his hand. May the patriot, Thomas Wade, rest easy.

MY AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 3838

(Mrs. SYKES of Ohio was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of my proposed amendments to H.R. 3838, the Streamlining Procurement for Effective Execution and Delivery and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026.

Ohio's 13th Congressional District has long been known as the Rubber Capital of the World, and my First Amendment upholds that legacy by investing in American manufacturing to ensure that this vital industry remains globally competitive.

Taking from the Retreaded Tires Jobs, Supply Chain Security and Sustainability Act of 2025, this amendment would ensure that the U.S. Government uses retreaded tires whenever possible rather than using cheap foreign tires.

This amendment will support more than just my neighbors in Ohio and Ohio's 13th District as retreaded tires make up the largest remanufacturing sector in the United States, employing over 51,000 American workers.

This commonsense amendment is good for both the economy, the environment, and the U.S. Government while protecting more good-paying manufacturing jobs right here in the United States of America.

I am proud that my district is also home to the most famous airship in the entire world, and that is the Goodyear Blimp.

This amendment, which is based on the Airship Improvement Research for Safety and Humanitarian Innovation Projects Act, or the AIRSHIPS Act, would support the research into additional civilian cases for airships, often referred to as "blimps," that could contribute to national defense; provide economic, sustainable, and clean air cargo transportation; support disaster response efforts; and provide humanitarian aid to people in areas of need.

Especially in the face of challenges such as global pandemics and natural disasters, airships are uniquely capable of accessing remote locations or damaged landscapes and delivering resources and services where traditional aircraft often cannot.

This amendment could enable and reintroduce the world to practical, economical, and environmentally friendly airship transportation, in addition to the fact that we see them at our favorite football game high in the sky.

I ask for the inclusion of this amendment to continue to establish my community, Ohio's 13th District, as a global leader in airship technology.

This amendment will encourage innovative uses of this method of transportation to address some of our Nation's and world's most pressing needs.

I am also proud to represent the Akron Sustainable Polymers Tech Hub. The Tech Hub aims to advance critical polymer and advanced material innovations of defense, mobility, healthcare, and semiconductor industries. Polymers touch every industrial sector in our modern world. People often ask: What is a polymer? Quite lit-

erally, it is almost anything that you touch.

Ohio's 13th Congressional District has long been a trailblazer in polymer science and polymer engineering. Akron's polymer manufacturing ecosystem provides a local pipeline from education and training to the workforce.

Among the world-class institutions included in the Akron Sustainable Polymers Tech Hub is the University of Akron which is ranked number one in polymer science and plastic engineering. Partners in the Tech Hub are also investing in industry-led workforce training programs in collaboration with universities and community colleges.

Strong coordination with the labor units through the Tri-County Labor Council within the region ensures the creation of good-quality jobs for workers from all educational and socioeconomic backgrounds, all with the protections of organized labor.

Last year, the Akron Sustainable Polymers Tech Hub was awarded approximately \$51 million in Federal funds, thanks to the historic CHIPS and Science Act.

I am proud to have worked with our local, State, and Federal stakeholders to bring these vital funds back to our district to create good-paying jobs and grow our local economy. This investment will ensure that northeast Ohio remains a global leader in polymer science and polymer engineering, reaffirming our district's legacy as the Rubber Capital of the World.

From sustainable tires to cutting-edge polymers, the next generation of rubber and plastics production will proudly be made right here in the United States and, most importantly, Ohio's 13th Congressional District.

I know that the Tech Hub in my community is performing groundbreaking research and development that can revolutionize industries across the country and across the world. That is why I am introducing this amendment that urges the Department of Defense to collaborate with Tech Hubs to accelerate defense innovations in partnerships with academia and industry right in our backyards.

As you can see, Mr. Speaker, these amendments will not only make sure our community is safe, our country is safe, but we are investing in American manufacturing with American workers. For that reason, I hope that my colleagues can support the amendments that I am offering to the NDAA and ensure that America is the best place to live, work, and grow.

REMEMBERING IRYNA ZARUTSKA

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I spoke about this young lady yesterday, Iryna Zarutskia. I think it bears repeating that she need not be forgotten in the

heinous crime that was committed in Charlotte on a light-rail system there.

Iryna Zarutska, escaped from Ukraine as a refugee, a true refugee to the United States, and lost her life because of the inability for us to stop crime in our large cities in the USA from a guy who had been arrested 14 different times and turned loose. Remember her name, Iryna Zarutska.

CALIFORNIA'S WATER SITUATION

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I speak often on this floor about California's water situation and how important it is not just to California, to California farmers, but to the country as a whole.

The crops that we grow in my home State indeed are important to the nutrition and the economy of the whole country. So many of the crops that we grow, up to 90 percent and more, are grown in California. You would have to import it from some other country if it wasn't grown there, and indeed, it would be at a lower level of quality, lower level of availability, under less constraints of proper environmental rules of usage of chemicals and labor. Those regulations go way beyond, a lot of times, like the California Air Resources Board, but I digress.

What is the key to California crops? It is our water supply. I speak often about how important it is to carefully guard our water supply that is available in our State.

□ 1110

Mr. Speaker, this graphic shows how much water is wasted each year. We wouldn't have to take away from fish. We wouldn't have to take away from farmers. We wouldn't have to take away from cities. We wouldn't have to take away from washing cars and filling swimming pools like they talk about in L.A. a lot. Nobody has to have less if we would be a little bit smarter on how we allocate it and how we store it.

We have opportunities in California to store more water. We can raise the Shasta Dam 18 feet and gain 630,000 more acre-feet of water. Down the Sacramento River a little way is an opportunity to build a place called the Sites Reservoir, which would be 1.5 million acre-feet of supply.

One of the topics I am working on with the Shasta Dam is an amendment to put the language into the next bill on what is called FIRO, which is called Forecast-Informed Reservoir Operations. Basically, we will do what a lot of people do, which is look at the weather forecast and look at the long term. We would see what the effects of the weather would be on the storage of the water in the dam.

The dam is required to have a certain amount of a buffer zone in the winter months so that if an extreme amount of rain or melting snowpack happens, the reservoir would have room to absorb that water instead of going straight down the river at an uncontrolled rate. That is what our flood control system is for.

This dam holds 4.5 million acre-feet full. They don't allow it to fill all the way up until April 1. They start filling it on approximately April 1 when the conservation period is over.

At that point we have to rely on how much snow might be on the mountains here on Mount Shasta, for example, and the other areas in the watershed to melt enough to bring the lake back up to that last 1 million acre-feet or so. We don't always have the weather to do that after April 1. A lot of times we run short. We don't fill the lake all the way up.

What we are talking about with the FIRO, the Forecast-Informed Reservoir Operations, is we will look at the weather patterns. What do we expect will happen in the period of February or March? We can look offshore and see there are no storm fronts coming in for 3 weeks. They can tell with a satellite.

Obviously, we can't predict the weather to the nth degree. We can tell if there is a big issue or a lack of issue. Is it El Nino or La Nina? What will happen there?

If we see there is no weather coming in for a period of time, we can bump up that level of water the lake is holding in February and in March to a little higher degree than we would if we are afraid it will fill up and overflow. That is why FIROs are important.

The amendment we are working on will put some resources forward so they can plan for FIRO on Shasta Dam, which is the largest one in the State. They have done FIRO on some smaller reservoirs around the State. Why wouldn't we do it to the biggest one first that can have the most gain on water supplies in the State?

Mr. Speaker, let's get that done. We can save 200,000 or 300,000 acre-feet easily just by looking at the weather.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 12 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOST) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Sovereign God, to You belongs all wisdom and insight. On this day, may we open ourselves to the truths creation itself professes. The array of animals on the Earth, the birds in the sky, the seasons and their turning, the tides of the great oceans—all these proclaim

Your divine plan for this world. The rhythms of life and the perfection of their design testify to the depth of Your knowledge and the breadth of Your authority.

To You belongs all strength and power. When You hold back the waters, there is drought. When You let them loose, they devastate the land. Such might is too great for us to comprehend, too awesome to grasp. Our own noble attempts and our best intentions fall short of Your glory.

But like the birds of the air and the fish of the sea, the creatures of the land, may we submit ourselves to Your grand design for this day.

For You have called us Your beloved children. As such, may we rejoice in the knowledge that Your everlasting arms uphold us in the living of each day. May we give testimony to our desire to serve You, almighty God, and that we would do so faithfully.

It is in your eternal name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Mr. Matthew Hanley, one of his secretaries.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

COUDERSPORT 2025 HERITAGE COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Coudersport, Pennsylvania, as the 2025 Heritage Community of the Year through the PA Route 6 Alliance.

This award is presented each year to one designated heritage community