

cause of death for adults aged 18 to 49. Even in my home State of Virginia, drug cartels were caught smuggling rainbow-colored fentanyl, specifically intended to target our children. Enough is enough.

That is why this week the House will vote on the HALT Fentanyl Act to address this crisis head on. Introduced by my colleague, Representative GRIF-FITH, the HALT Fentanyl Act will increase penalties for fentanyl traffickers, support research into the devastating mental health effects of fentanyl, and equip law enforcement with the authority and resources needed to keep the deadly drug off our streets.

Unlike the previous administration, House Republicans are stepping up to protect the American people. We are committed to fighting back against the fentanyl crisis, securing our borders, and saving lives. We must pass this important legislation to protect innocent lives and ensure the safety of our families and our communities.

CONGRATULATING DALE MEYERHOEFFER

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend a resident of Verona, Virginia, who cares passionately about preserving the lands and cultures that epitomize our American heritage.

On December 11, 2024, in a ceremony in Washington, D.C., it was announced that Dale Meyerhoeffler received the National Park Service 2023 Director's Award for Excellence in Natural Resource Management.

Mr. Meyerhoeffler is a biological technician whose undaunted efforts to save Shenandoah National Park's remaining eastern hemlock trees preserved an ecologically important resource for the park.

After the death of 95 percent of the park's hemlocks from an invasive insect, Meyerhoeffler, with the help from volunteers and park staff, used insecticide treatment to protect more than 30,000 hemlocks.

To reduce the park's reliance on pesticide treatments, Meyerhoeffler worked with researchers from Virginia Tech to procure and release host-specific, predatory beetles and flies in hopes of controlling the invasive insect.

This effort culminated in major success for Shenandoah National Park and the Sixth District of Virginia. We thank him for his persistence and contribution to our great Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE RESTORATION COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Restoration Community Development Corporation in Luray, Virginia, and its selfless founder, Pastor Audre King. Pastor King grew up in Page County and has made a difference in the community since he moved back 8 years ago.

Pastor King founded Living Legacy, a community nonprofit that serves as an umbrella organization, focused on underprivileged youth. Its most recent

initiative is the Restoration Community Development Corporation, which aims to restore houses and give unboxed mothers and their children a place to live.

A house in the heart of Luray was rehabilitated in December and is now home to 4 moms and 11 children who are grateful to live together as a family. The moms attend church service and life skills classes and are offered recovery sessions as needed.

They also pay a portion of the upkeep and save for the future. Pastor King hopes to finish a second house for fathers by the end of February and eventually hopes to expand across the county.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Restoration Community Development Corporation and Pastor King for their exceptional work in the Sixth District of Virginia.

HONORING ARCHITECT FRIEDRICH ST. FLORIAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and remember architect Friedrich St. Florian.

He was a visionary architect whose profound design of the National War II Memorial on our National Mall has left an indelible, enduring mark honoring our Nation's history along that historic Mall of democracy—our collective memory.

Friedrich's architecture does more than commemorate. It invites reflection, on that area of the Mall, on the sacrifices of the greatest and most unselfish generation this Nation has ever seen, ensuring that their valor, unity, and sacrifice are honored for all time.

Friedrich was born amidst the throes of conflict in Graz, Austria. Friedrich's early experiences of war profoundly shaped his values and vision. His architectural design of the World War II Memorial was not merely a professional task. It stands as his personal tribute to freedom and to democracy and its cost.

He was deeply informed by his own moment of liberation at the end of World War II. How fortunate as an American he could connect that experience to our own. The memorial represents the 20th century's most valued achievement: The victory of liberty over tyranny.

As an Austrian by birth and an American by choice, Friedrich brought grace, dignity, and artistry along with his deeply held belief in the cost of liberty.

The memorial and its design stands as a testament to his commitment to honor the sacrifices of those who fought to save liberty for our generation and those to follow.

As we reflect on his enormous legacy, let us visit the National World War II Memorial as nearly 100 million Americans have done already. Let us share

the stories of those who served and what they fought for and against, and ensure that their sacrifices continue to inspire future generations.

Friedrich St. Florian's work remains a symbol of our gratitude, a beacon of hope for peace where nearly, as I mentioned, visitors from near and far have come. As the designers intended, this memorial sits between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial and was designed as a plaza where people can come and reflect on the awe-some history of our great country.

I thank Friedrich and his family and all those who assisted him for his monumental gift from the 20th century to our Nation going forward.

He will be dearly missed, but through his outstanding work with every detail, even the type of stone that was used, he will never ever be forgotten.

ARIZONA FIREFIGHTERS ASSIST IN CALIFORNIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. CISCOMANI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the bravery of and share my sincere appreciation to all the firefighters in my district and across Arizona who went above and beyond the call of duty to help our neighbors in southern California during the recent devastating fires.

In particular, I thank all of the firefighters from the Tucson Fire Department, the Northwest Fire Department, the Golder Ranch Fire District, and the Fry Fire District, who took time away from their families and communities to be deployed to California to help.

In this time of crisis, while others run away, our firefighters run toward danger, braving smoke and fire to protect life and property. Their selfless dedication, courage, and commitment to service embody the very best of our communities and reminds us of the unity that binds us all as Americans.

These brave men and women put themselves in harm's way, working tirelessly in grueling conditions to contain the flames and provide relief to those affected.

I thank the firefighters who answer the call. Their heroism does not go unnoticed. Their willingness to put themselves at risk for the safety of others is a testament to their extraordinary character.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents and a grateful Nation, I extend my deepest gratitude. We honor their service today and always.

CELEBRATING PINAL COUNTY'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a remarkable milestone in my district's history: the 150th anniversary of Pinal County, which happens to be on February 1.

Since its establishment in 1875, Pinal County has grown from its rich roots in mining and agriculture into a thriving community shaped by the hard work, resilience, and spirit of its people.

Mr. Speaker, as we reflect on this historic occasion, let us give thanks to the men and women, past and present, who built Pinal County into such a wonderful place to live, work, explore, and visit.

Representing the incredible people of Pinal County in Congress has truly been the honor of a lifetime, and I am so honored to continue serving all of them.

Whether it is working with mayors to revitalize historic streets in Eloy, improving operations at the Oracle Fire District, advocating for the expansion of I-10, working to help students and educators in Casa Grande achieve their American Dream, or spending time in the great communities in Saddlebrooke, I will never stop fighting to make Pinal County the best place it can be.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all of my constituents in Pinal County for being part of an incredible journey. The best is yet to come. Here is to another 150 years.

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CAUTIONING FEDERAL WORKERS AGAINST TAKING BUYOUTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to urge Federal workers in Pennsylvania and across the Nation to exercise extreme caution as they consider the bogus buyout plan that the White House is pressuring them to accept.

In a memo to Federal workers last week, Trump's Office of Personnel Management notified Federal workers across the country that they had just over a week, until tomorrow, February 6, to voluntarily quit their jobs in exchange for keeping pay and benefits for 8 months. The memo threatened that if they refused the offer, their jobs might no longer exist.

Tens of thousands of Federal workers in the Philadelphia region received that email and were rightly concerned. The workers impacted by the memo include those who care for our veterans, protect our ports and airports, fight corruption and drug traffickers, and make sure that our food is safe to eat, that our air is clean, and that our water is safe to drink.

The OPM memo is one in a series of directives by the Trump White House aimed at gutting the Federal Government and the critical services it provides to Americans in order to justify massive tax cuts for billionaires and wealthy corporations. We have already seen illegal firings of hundreds of career civil servants and unconstitutional attempts to shutter entire agencies.

Union leaders immediately began raising the alarm that the buyout offer could be a scam. Congress has not au-

thorized or funded these radical cuts to the government workforce and services, and employees could be left without the pay, benefits, and protections to which they are entitled by law.

The proposed workforce reductions would make it impossible for the Federal Government to deliver the services that Congress has authorized and Americans deserve. They would, however, make it easier for large corporations to take advantage of consumers and employees and to pollute the environment.

The unions have filed suit to protect their employees, and yesterday, 12 State attorneys general, including those in New Jersey and Delaware, issued a warning to Federal employees across the country that the buyout offer was misleading and should be viewed with caution.

Amidst the concern about the legality and impact of this unauthorized buyout, our colleagues from across the aisle, at both the State and Federal levels, have gone missing in action. Republicans control both the House and Senate in Washington, and we would welcome their help to stand up for the Constitution, for our constituents, and for Federal workers.

We will continue to raise the alarm and do everything possible to protect Americans and our Constitution from the worst abuses of this administration and its billionaire buddies because construction workers and contractors in our area know that the Trump corporation never kept its promises with respect to pay and meeting its obligations.

Mr. Speaker, the whole world knows that Twitter became a dumpster fire after Elon Musk tried to impact the exact types of reductions that we are seeing here, so I am issuing this warning to our constituents across the Delaware Valley.

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF NUCLEAR POWER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak a little bit about the amazing asset we have available to us in this country of nuclear power and nuclear generation. We are not taking advantage of that technology as well as we should for how efficient it is and the multiplier effect it has.

Right now, in this country, we do have 93 commercial nuclear reactors, and they generate approximately 20 percent of the Nation's electricity. We are indeed a very large producer of nuclear power in the world scheme of things, but we have some very good partners around the world, such as France, Japan, and some of the other Western countries that are really good at it, as well.

Within the U.S., we have reactors in 28 different States. Illinois leads with

11 reactors. Pennsylvania has nine. California has one. It used to have two. We are lucky we have the one, as they just had a recent 5-year extension on the life of what is called Diablo Canyon. Its usable life is 20, 30, or maybe 40 more years or beyond that with retrofitting.

I hope we can hang on to that because that alone represents in my home State, California, 9 percent of the grid with just one plant. Can we imagine knocking that out and removing 9 percent off the grid? It provides power 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. We don't have to wait for the wind to blow. We don't have to wait for the Sun to come up or the clouds to part. It is reliable electricity. Indeed, it has a capacity factor of about 92 percent, which indicates how reliable it is and how efficient it is.

It is also used extensively in our Navy, providing amazing performance for our aircraft carriers and especially our submarines. The old style of submarines used to have to surface to recharge batteries and run diesel at that point. Our nuclear submarines can stay underwater for as long as they strategically need to.

That is a great asset for carriers, as well, because those are very large craft, and the amount of fuel they would need otherwise, except for this really small ball of energy that is within that nuclear reactor, propels those for years and years at a time. It is amazing how much power comes from that concentrated area.

When we talk about nuclear power plants and this conversation about carbon dioxide, the plants we have in this country avoid the production of about 476 million metric tons of carbon dioxide. I am not going to be the guy that stands here and complains about carbon dioxide. I think it is an essential building block. For those who are, why aren't we doing more nuclear if carbon is a big concern? Why aren't we doing more in that department to make carbon-free power, which is nuclear as well as hydroelectric power?

We have a fair amount of that in northern California, in my district, and other Western States, as well, except for the fact they tore down four hydroelectric dams just during this past year because of, ostensibly, a fish issue. We have lost that source of CO₂-free power.

Moving toward the use of uranium, that amazing metal that can generate so much power, we need to do all we can here in Congress to help fund and incentivize more nuclear power for this country because it is going to be a very important part of our grid.

We are right on the cusp of the ability to expand that technology. Some of my colleagues are doing some very good work on that. The United States should move forward on that and take advantage of that, as well as develop the uranium supplies that we need for nuclear generation as well as the amazing uses that there are in medical technology.