

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Bartlett has left us for his eternal reward, but he has left behind a legacy of love, faith, and warmth to the people of his community. We will miss him forever.

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

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

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and uplift Small Business Saturday this year.

Every year, our country celebrates Small Business Saturday the weekend after Thanksgiving. This year that will be November 29, and I encourage my constituents in California's 31st District and all Americans to participate by shopping small business and supporting our local businesses.

Coming from California's 31st District, I am proud to represent a thriving and diverse community of small businesses in the San Gabriel Valley. From cafes and restaurants, to bookstores, toy shops, party supply stores, and many more, our district is fortunate to have an abundance of locally owned small businesses bringing life and community to our cities.

Mr. Speaker, as we approach Small Business Saturday and the holiday season, I encourage everyone to shop small and take some time to support your local businesses. By doing so, you are supporting your neighbors, growing your local economy, and making your community stronger.

RECOGNIZING MR. KENNETH SINGLETON

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary military servicemember now serving our public schools.

Mr. Kenneth Singleton has dedicated decades of service to our community. From serving in the U.S. Army and completing several tours, including in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Saudi Arabia, his commitment to service earned him the Meritorious Service Award five times.

For Mr. Singleton, public service didn't end after the uniform came off, though. His second mission serving our next generation began in the Monrovia Unified School District as the director of food service.

He has been a vital part of the school district, ensuring our students have healthy, nutritious meals every day to focus and thrive on their studies.

Mr. Singleton has brought discipline, leadership, and a commitment to service to our schools in Monrovia Unified. Our community is fortunate to have a dedicated public servant like him.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Singleton for his military service and his exemplary public service to our students and schools.

RECOGNIZING PENNY STEVENSON

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding community member, veteran, and leader in California's 31st District in the city of San Dimas.

Penny Stevenson is the board president of the San Dimas H.E.R.O.E.S. Organization, whose mission is to honor all San Dimas veterans by engraving their names on a permanent monument at Freedom Park in San Dimas, California.

As a U.S. Marine veteran herself and with a family of veterans, Penny has shown incredible commitment, sacrifice, and leadership serving as president to this organization dedicated to honoring our veterans and servicemembers. This is Penny's last year serving as board president, a position she has held since 2009.

Mr. Speaker, I thank her and commend her for all the work she has done to recognize our servicemembers for the past 16 years. Just this past Veterans Day, I was honored to visit the H.E.R.O.E.S. monument at Freedom Park, and I can attest to the honor it brings to our veteran community. I, again, thank her for her leadership and tireless efforts.

HONORING 2026 TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exciting achievement of two dedicated educators in California's 31st District.

Mr. Rene Romero and Dr. Heather Povinelli were both named 2026 California Teachers of the Year.

Mr. Romero is an 11th and 12th grade international baccalaureate language and literature teacher at South Hills High School in the Covina Valley Unified School District. He has been teaching for 21 years and has developed an outstanding reputation for his creativity, compassion, and dedication to his students.

His inclusive and supportive classroom has exemplified good teaching, and he has well-earned the title of Teacher of the Year.

Dr. Heather Povinelli is a second grade teacher at Bradoaks Elementary Science Academy in the Monrovia Unified School District.

For 25 years, she has dedicated her career to teaching in elementary classrooms. Living with dwarfism, Dr. Povinelli uses her own lived experience as an opportunity to empower students and teach about disabilities, inclusion, and equity.

Not only is she an incredible teacher, but she is an inspiration and a trailblazer to students of all backgrounds.

Mr. Speaker, I thank both Mr. Romero and Dr. Povinelli for their commitment to teaching our future generations and congratulate them on these immense achievements.

□ 1045

RELEASE OF EPSTEIN FILES

(Mr. KEATING of Massachusetts was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, the House and now our Senate have finally acted to release the files and all the information regarding the criminal ac-

tivities of Jeffrey Epstein and all who enabled, all who knew and did nothing, and all who participated in some of the worst sexual abuse and trafficking crimes our country has experienced.

This will expose the rich, the powerful, and the self-entitled who were involved in these crimes and who did it for the worst possible reason, because they thought they could.

This necessary legislation should not have been necessary because this White House, this administration, this President could have merely released these files. Instead, they withheld, dismissed, and covered up. They even had their Justice Department's two highest officials try to coerce a House Member to take their name off the discharge petition that finally triggered the approval of this legislation.

It was only because of the actions of courageous survivors coming forward, coming to the Capitol, and speaking truth to power that we are able to advance this legislation.

As a Massachusetts district attorney, I oversaw specialized sexual assault police units, specialized sexual assault prosecutors, and specialized sexual assault victim-witness assistance units. I founded a child advocacy center to treat and reduce trauma for child victims of sexual assault.

I know from this one thing. The survivors want one thing and one thing only: that no child, no young girl, will ever have to go through the trauma that they went through, a trauma so great that one survivor took her own life.

Now, a warning to this White House, this administration, and this President. Never again say these crimes did not occur. Never call them a hoax, and don't attempt to abuse and pervert what this legislation does by invoking a sham active investigation as a disingenuous excuse to withhold a complete release of the Epstein files. Don't do this because the brave survivors will not stand for it, and they will not stand alone. The majority of this House will stand with them. The majority of our Senate will stand with them. Most importantly, the American people will stand with them.

HONORING LOUISVILLE COMMUNITY AND VICTIMS OF PLANE CRASH

(Mr. MCGARVEY of Kentucky was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, on November 4, Louisville was rocked when a UPS cargo plane taking off from Louisville's Muhammad Ali International Airport bound for Honolulu, Hawaii, crashed shortly after takeoff.

Mr. Speaker, 38,000 gallons of jet fuel erupted. A normal Tuesday sunset all of a sudden turned Louisville's skies into an apocalypse. Jet-black smoke swirled overhead as fear enveloped our entire city. People were sheltered in place everywhere. Debris and ash were

falling for miles. There was an anxiety as families and loved ones were waiting for the worst news. As the smoke cleared, we found out that we lost 14 of our neighbors.

Today, I want to honor those victims of the UPS plane crash.

Their names, including the crew on the plane: Captain Dana Diamond, Captain Richard Wartenberg, and First Officer Lee Truitt.

We also lost 11 people on the ground that day: Angela Anderson; Carlos Fernandez; Louisnes "Lou" Fedon and his 3-year-old granddaughter, Kimberly Asa, who was with him at the time; Trinadette "Trina" Chavez; Tony Crain; John Loucks; John Spray; Matthew Sweets; Ella Petty Whorton; and Megan Washburn.

Our prayers continue to be with all of them.

As tragic as this day was, we also saw the best in people in Louisville, and our first responders did not shy away from this. You can train for it, but you can't ever be ready for a tragedy like this. It was said of this inferno that it was hotter than anything you can imagine and raining oil, but our firefighters rushed into the scene.

The first on the scene was the Okolona Fire Department, but fire departments from all over joined them: the Louisville Fire Department, the Airport Authority Fire Department, the Shively Fire Department, the Anchorage-Middletown Fire, St. Matthews Fire, Fern Creek Fire, Jeffersontown Fire, Fairdale Fire, PRP Fire, Shepherdsville Fire, Zoneton Fire, and even Fayette County, Lexington Fire, came to assist.

Our police officers also rushed to the scene: Louisville Metro P.D.; the Airport Authority P.D.; Jefferson County Sheriff's Office; Audubon Park Police, who operate in the shadow of the airport daily; Middletown Police; St. Matthews Police; the University of Louisville Police; and Alcohol Beverage Control.

We also received EMS responders from Louisville Metro, Anchorage-Middletown, St. Matthews, Fern Creek, Jeffersontown, Okolona, PRP, and Bullitt County.

Among other first responders who immediately jumped into action were the Kentucky Air National Guard Fire and Emergency Services, the Kentucky Air National Guard 41st Civil Support Team, the Metropolitan Sewer District, the Louisville Metro Emergency Management System, American Synthetic Rubber Emergency Response, and the National Weather Service.

Our local and State partners also all came together. Mayor Craig Greenberg and his entire team from the Louisville Metro Government were incredible. Our Governor, Andy Beshear, and all the State emergency personnel rushed into action, including our Federal delegation, everyone.

It doesn't matter, Democrat or Republican, where you are from, everyone came together because this is what we

do in Louisville, and this is what we do in Kentucky. We come together. We help people. We help our neighbors when we see they are in need.

Long after the television cameras are gone and this story fades from the daily news, our community will still be hurting, but we will still be helping each other, lifting each other up, wrapping our arms around each other, there for each other today and every day going forward. That is what we do in Louisville, and that is how we help those impacted.

Mr. Speaker, I give praise for our first responders. I give prayers and love to everyone impacted.

HONORING DANIEL "POGO" POGORZELSKI

(Mrs. RAMIREZ of Illinois was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the life of Daniel "Pogo" Pogorzelski, a proud Polish-American uplifting his heritage, community, and the city that I love.

The son of Polish immigrants, Pogo's pride in his heritage and love for his community drive him to fight for a thriving, multiracial, and multicultural Chicago.

Because of his advocacy and his partnership, in Illinois, we recognize Milwaukee Avenue as the Polish Heritage Corridor to celebrate Polish culture, support a vibrant economic center, and keep communities together.

Across various roles, Pogo has demonstrated his commitment to seeing his community rise, including as executive director of Avondale's Chamber of Commerce, where he developed initiatives to attract visitors to the community and help generate revenue for local small businesses, or connecting Polish neighbors who speak English as a second language to resources that help them thrive.

Pogo is the embodiment of public service and commitment to diversity and unity.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, it is my honor to commend Daniel Pogorzelski, better known as Pogo, for his dedicated public service and advocacy, which reminds us that heritage is both a legacy and a force for change.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Pogo.

HONORING CAROLINA CARCHI

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Carolina Carchi, an inspirational Latina who has gone above and beyond to help her "classmates"; "companeros de escuela" succeed.

Raised in West Humboldt Park by immigrant parents from Mexico and Ecuador, Carolina once again demonstrated her exceptional courage and perseverance as she was battling leukemia as a child.

As a teen, Carolina once again demonstrated her leadership when her high school faced severe staffing shortages. Due to those shortages, Carolina

stepped up to provide peer-to-peer education in algebra and chemistry. She designed lesson plans during free periods, printed materials at a local FedEx, and even used her own money to buy school supplies for her classmates.

In her senior year, Carolina served as a Chicago Board of Education's honorary student board member, advocating for more than 300,000 students across the district.

Carolina is now studying at Northwestern University, where she is pursuing a degree in teaching, something that she has some experience in already.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, it is my honor to commend Carolina Carchi for her perseverance and dedication to quality, culturally competent education that helps our Latino community break the glass ceilings.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Carolina.

HONORING PAUL LEVY

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of Paul Levy, a Chicagoan who cultivated unique spaces for artists and entrepreneurs to strengthen partnerships, build community, and thrive.

Paul possessed the ability to see beauty and potential in overlooked, abandoned spaces and buildings. Paul used his skills, resources, and vision to rehabilitate and revive two notable industrial buildings in Chicago, the Bridgeport Art Center on the South Side and Rockwell on the River, in Illinois' Third Congressional District.

Each stands as a notable achievement, transforming industrial space into inviting, thriving, multidisciplinary hubs for artists and entrepreneurs working across boundaries and disciplines.

Rockwell on the River in Illinois' Third Congressional District transformed what was once a century-old, vacant tannery into a space to gather, eat, and celebrate. Each building is an ecosystem of art and a bridge between Chicago's industrial history and its creative future.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, it is my privilege to submit this commendation into the record to honor the creative legacy of Paul Levy.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Paul, and may he rest in peace and power.

□ 1100

NUCLEAR TESTING OPPOSITION

(Ms. TITUS of Nevada was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my opposition to President Trump's announcement that the United States will resume explosive nuclear testing.

Nevada was the focal point of nuclear development during the Cold War. Over four decades, the Nevada Test Site, which is located just 100 miles north of Las Vegas, hosted over 900 nuclear