

tests, more than any other place in the country. Throughout the 1950s, visible mushroom clouds often rose over the desert and could be seen in the distance by people who came to enjoy all Las Vegas had to offer.

These tests were conducted to better understand the powers and effects of nuclear weapons, and the site played a major role in shaping national and international policies involving nuclear testing and nonproliferation.

The radiation, however, given off by the more than 100 atmospheric tests had devastating impacts on those downwind. The fallout caused cancer and premature deaths for thousands across the Southwest. That is why earlier this year, I introduced the PRESUME Act, which would ensure that radiation-exposed veterans who had been exposed to this radiation would receive their rightful benefits from the VA.

In addition, the 800 underground tests sometimes vented, letting out radioactive contaminants into the air and the groundwater supply. These are problems we are still dealing with today. Radioactivity levels in the water are declining over time, but elements such as plutonium and uranium are likely to pose risks for thousands of years.

You may remember in 2020, the first Trump administration called for a resumption of nuclear testing at the Nevada Test Site. This was in breach of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. Back then, in response to that, I led the charge to the FY21 NDAA process to ensure that nuclear testing would not be resurrected in the U.S., but “the more things change, the more they stay the same”; “plus ça change, plus c’est la même chose.”

On October 29, just this year, Trump announced that he is directing the Department of Defense to resume nuclear testing in a disastrous but not surprising policy reversal. This is because it is mentioned in Project 2025.

On page 399 of Project 2025, which is the blueprint for the Trump administration, you see a call for the rejection of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. This would not only allow nuclear testing here at home but will give the green light to countries around the world to resume and do the same.

The result would put us on a collision course of catastrophic proportions with Russia and China. It would undermine the entire arms control regime, and it would allow proliferation of these weapons into nonnuclear states. At the same time, it would, again, put the health of Nevadans in jeopardy.

In fact, we have already seen that Putin has directed his forces to prepare to resume nuclear testing. Just this week, The Washington Post reported that China is rapidly expanding and modernizing its infrastructure at the nuclear testing site in Xinjiang province.

There is no technical, national security, or political reason for the U.S. to

resume nuclear testing. At the test site, we already do groundbreaking experiments and simulations with our existing stockpile to make sure our arsenal is safe, secure, and reliable. All this is done without any explosion. It is a scientific experiment called subcritical and is far more helpful to understanding how the weapon will perform than setting off an explosion in the desert.

Our leadership on arms control and nonproliferation has clearly come to an end, and the world is becoming a more dangerous place. Note: For the first time ever, the U.S. was the only country to vote “no” on a recent U.N. resolution supporting the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. You know, not even North Korea voted “no” on this provision, so what kind of signal does that send?

Amidst all this nuclear testing saberrattling, the New START Treaty, which is the only remaining arms control agreement between the U.S. and Russia, is set to expire in just 77 days.

For these reasons, I have introduced the Renewing Efforts to Suspend Testing and Reinforce Arms Control Initiative Now, the RESTRAIN Act. This would prohibit the resumption of nuclear testing. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this and getting this passed before we begin another arms race.

#### CONGRATULATING ST. THERESA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

(Mr. GIMENEZ of Florida was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of St. Theresa Catholic School, a pillar of faith, education, and community in the heart of Coral Gables, Florida.

In 1925, the Sisters of St. Joseph opened a school with 70 students, planting the seed for one of south Florida’s most distinguished Catholic schools. In 1991, the Carmelite Sisters began administering and teaching, a mission that they continue today.

For a century, St. Theresa has remained true to its calling: faith formation, academic excellence, and service in a nurturing Christ-centered environment. Over the years, the school has grown, embraced innovation, and prepared generations of students to face the future while remaining rooted in their faith.

St. Theresa continues to shine as a beacon of excellence in Catholic education, with its enduring legacy carried forward by a community that fully embodies its mission. Congratulations to St. Theresa Catholic School on a century of service.

EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary achievements of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, the third largest school

district in our Nation, serving more than 335,000 students.

Under the leadership of School Board Chair Mari Tere Rojas, Vice Chair Monica Colucci, and board members Roberto Alonso, Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Mary Blanco, Danny Espino, Dr. Steve Gallon, Joseph Geller, and Luisa Santos, along with Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Jose Dotres, Miami-Dade has once again earned an A rating, the largest district in Florida to do so.

This success reflects the tireless work of our students, parents, teachers, administrators, and the entire workforce, and it remains a source of pride for our community.

In 2025, 99 percent of Miami-Dade County Public Schools earned school grades of A, B, or C, and the district achieved a record-breaking graduation rate of 95.2 percent.

Miami-Dade also received the prestigious 2024 Cognia School/Systems of Distinction award, and the district earned 59 Magnet Schools of Excellence Merit awards, and 32 Magnet Schools of Distinction awards.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools continue to lead the Nation with a total of 51 National Academy Foundation distinguished career academies and 3 model career academies, and numerous schools have been designated as National Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence.

For the 41st consecutive year, the district was awarded the certificate of excellence in financial reporting by the Association of School Business Officials International.

These accomplishments and the strength of Miami-Dade County Public Schools’ educational programs in a safe and conducive learning environment reaffirms the district’s role in preparing students to thrive in the global and technological marketplace.

I am proud to celebrate their success and the bright future they are building for the next generation of Miami-Dade County residents.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o’clock and 7 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. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida) at noon.

#### PRAYER

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

God of all wisdom and power, justice and mercy, in faith we offer You our

hopes for the outcomes of our deliberations and ask for the assurance that You have this day and our work well in hand.

In faith, we hope for Your will to be done, that You who are sovereign over all nations and rulers will direct our efforts. Grant us the assurance that Your perfect plan will prevail, even though in these fraught moments, we cannot see how it will unfold.

In faith, we hope to discern how we are to honor both You and address the needs of those whom we serve. Grant us the assurance of the guidance You offer even while we may not have eyes to see the path on which You lead us.

In faith, we hope for justice that is enriched with mercy. Grant us the assurance that Your compassion will inspire our actions in ways we cannot presently perceive.

In faith, we hope that in every conflict, You are reconciling; in every division, You are healing wounds; in every uncertainty, You are present in ways that not only can we not see but in ways that we cannot possibly imagine.

Assure us of the things we hope for. Give evidence of all that we cannot see, except when we hold fast to our faith in You.

In the strength, assurance, and faith of Your 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.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Ferrari, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1512. An act to amend the Taiwan Assurance Act of 2020 to require periodic reviews and updated reports relating to the Department of State's Taiwan Guidelines.

H.R. 4405. An act to require the Attorney General to release all documents and records in possession of the Department of Justice relating to Jeffrey Epstein, and for other purposes.

#### LAYING ON THE TABLE H. RES. 581

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 8 of House Resolution 879, H. Res. 581 is laid on the table.

#### 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.

#### TRUMP MAKES ENERGY AFFORDABLE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that, under the leadership of President Donald Trump, Energy Secretary Chris Wright, Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman David Wright, and Speaker MIKE JOHNSON, House Republicans are working to increase American energy production. This will, in turn, make energy prices affordable and reliable, creating jobs.

Last night, we voted to pass bills which will:

Unleash nearly 19 million acres of land for oil and gas leasing, and energy infrastructure, leading to lower prices;

Overtake restrictions and ensure access to over 48 billion tons of coal, enough to meet American coal needs for the next 116 years, lowering prices and creating jobs; and

Repeal the Biden-era restrictions on oil and gas development for more than 1 million acres in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Promises made, promises kept of the all-of-the-above energy policies programs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Trump is reinstituting peace through strength, revealing war criminal Putin lies, insulting Trump, mocking Trump, mass murdering Ukrainian civilians, and sacrificing his own Russian and North Korean troops.

#### HONORING SHARON LOVING

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

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sharon Loving, a remarkable leader whose more than four decades at our Longwood Gardens has helped shape one of the most treasured gardens in the world.

Sharon began at Longwood in 1982 as a part-time display gardener and, through exceptional talent and dedication, she rose to become the chief horticultural and facilities officer.

She has been the standard-bearer for Longwood's horticultural excellence, mentoring thousands of aspiring gardening professionals and elevating Longwood as a leader among public gardens worldwide.

Under her guidance, Longwood completed transformational projects, from the restoration of the main conserv-

atory and historic indoor spaces to expansion of beautiful landscapes and, most recently, the visionary Longwood Reimagined initiative.

Sharon's leadership, creativity, and stewardship have left an indelible mark on our community, and we are deeply grateful to her.

#### HONORING LIFE OF DISTRICT DIRECTOR KATHY REGISTER

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the remarkable life of my longtime friend, my wife's lifelong best friend, and also my district director, Kathy Register, who passed away unexpectedly last month.

When I first took office in 2007, I promised the people that I would take care of home first, as Kathy did as district director, and that is exactly what we did. She is largely responsible for the citizens of the Fourth District returning me to Congress since 2007.

Kathy has been deeply appreciated by all who she served and all who she worked with. We are going to miss her so very much, but her life had been a life of service, not just to the citizens of the Fourth District but to her family. Her mother, Jennie; and her two sons, Anthony and Tito, survive her, along with her friends and colleagues in my office, both in D.C. and in Decatur, Georgia.

I thank Kathy for her friendship and tireless service. May she rest in peace.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MIKE DOYLE

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

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Mike Doyle, a dedicated public servant from Danville, California, in my district.

Mike left his Pennsylvania hometown at just 17 to join the United States Air Force and was stationed in Germany, where he provided aid to U.S. airmen and displaced citizens after World War II.

After being reassigned to a nearby Air Force base in northern California, Mike moved to Danville in 1955, and he was elected to the town council in 1991. He played a crucial role in Danville's growth, spending 25 years serving the town on the town council, including five terms as mayor of the town of Danville.

Sadly, Mike passed away in October. He will be remembered for his outstanding leadership, honesty, and for his indelible mark that he left on our community and on this country.

Please join me in honoring Mike Doyle for his invaluable contributions to the United States of America and the community he so loved and served.