

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I offer good news today. I rise to honor the extraordinary bravery of Judie Kent, a young woman and nurse from my district in Vero Beach, Florida.

This past week, Judie's quick thinking and courageous actions saved the life of a motorcyclist and father of five who was struck by a car on his way to work.

As she drove past the scene, Judie instinctively pulled over and used her incredible medical knowledge to administer critical aid. Her swift response stabilized his wounds, and she is credited with saving the man's leg and possibly even his life.

It is selfless acts like these that exemplify the best of our community, and I am honored to recognize Judie's heroism today.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to share her story, and I thank her for her amazing service and resolve.

HONORING JOHN CROMAN

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

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of John Croman, an extraordinary member of our community and a political reporter.

John retired from his role as chief political reporter for KARE 11 after nearly 27 years of dedicated service, bringing Minnesotans reliable, informative, and timely political news.

Those who worked closely with John admired his wealth of knowledge about Minnesota politics and history and refer to him as the contact, and the context, for every story.

John was praised for his commitment to reporting on policy over fleeting trends of the moment and also for his tireless commitment for reporting the truth. He also brought joy to his colleagues and injected it into his work every single day.

We will miss his reporting and wish him well in his retirement.

HONORING MARINE CORPS AIR STATION CHERRY POINT

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

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point in Havelock, North Carolina, for being named the Marine Corps Air Station of the Year.

This is the second year in the row they have received such an award, displaying their persistent and continuous excellence.

Established in 1942, Cherry Point has grown to be the largest Marine Corps air station in the United States, occu-

pying more than 29,000 acres of land in eastern North Carolina and controlling 9,000 square miles of airspace.

It is home to the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing and Fleet Readiness Center East. Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point is one of the best all-weather jet bases in the world.

This prestigious award is a testament to the performance and dedication of our marines. I am grateful to our brave servicemembers and their families, who sacrifice so much to protect us and our great Nation.

It is my honor to represent Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point and its proud community.

Practice, persistence, and preparation is what safeguards our Nation's freedom.

I congratulate the marines for this well-deserved recognition. May God bless all of those serving at Cherry Point and all our servicemembers across the globe.

FIRED BY PRESIDENT TRUMP

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

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share the story of a Federal scientist from California who, in their words, was fired by President Trump and Elon Musk.

They wrote:

I was a Pathways student intern at the EPA. I was assisting and training under the ecotoxicology group studying the effects and bioaccumulation of PFAS. I am completely devastated and heartbroken.

The EPA Pathways Program creates a pathway to a career in the Federal Government for students and recent graduates. In this case, this is a student working on complex scientific issues involving PFAS, toxic chemicals that are all around us.

As the only Latino Member with a STEM background in Congress, I know how important it is to encourage our students and young professionals to pursue careers in STEM.

Firing our future STEM workforce just as they are getting started in their careers is shortsighted and irresponsible. These firings will decimate the future Federal STEM workforce that will keep American innovation competitive.

RECOGNIZING FLORIDA LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JENNIFER CARROLL

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, we all know that when you are the best of all time, you belong in the hall of fame, like Dan Marino, Don Shula, and Jacksonville's own Tony Boselli.

Now there is another Floridian, Mr. Speaker, who has rightfully earned her

place in the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame. I am talking about Lieutenant Governor Jennifer Carroll.

Lieutenant Governor Carroll's journey began in the United States Navy as a jet mechanic, one of the very first African-American females to serve in that capacity.

Then, after her military service, Lieutenant Governor Carroll brought her leadership and unwavering service to the people of Florida. She was the first Black Republican female to serve in the Florida Legislature.

Then, Mr. Speaker, in 2010, she made history again by becoming the first Black woman ever in the Sunshine State to be elected statewide as Lieutenant Governor.

Her efforts to improve education and to ensure veterans receive the support they deserve has left a lasting legacy.

Her induction into the Veterans Hall of Fame recognizes her impact on the Sunshine State and our country. We are proud of her and her service.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating my friend Lieutenant Governor Jennifer Carroll on being inducted in the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame.

She is indeed one of the best of the best.

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REMOVING ROADBLOCKS

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

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, in President Trump's first term, facing a crowd of protesters, he asked our military: Can't you just shoot them? Just shoot them in the legs or something?

Thankfully, his former Secretary of Defense shot down that idea.

Today, the President seems to be choosing military leadership he believes will say yes. He is purging dedicated, capable leaders with no explanation other than removing roadblocks.

This is a blatant attempt to politicize our military, replacing loyalty to our Constitution with political loyalty to Trump.

Our Founding Fathers designed our military to be explicitly apolitical. They must be rolling in their graves today.

When I joined the Marines in 2001, I raised my right hand and swore an oath to defend the Constitution of the United States just like every other servicemember and veteran. That oath is sacred. We swear our lives, to kill and to die, if necessary, to the United States, not to the President.

The Trump administration must not be allowed to undermine that oath.

MEANING OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

(Mr. BURCHETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 21 Christian men who were murdered for their faith.

In 2015, ISIS dragged them onto a Libyan beach, forced them to kneel, and beheaded them on video. In that horrific moment, they did not show fear. They showed faith.

Mr. Speaker, 20 of these men were Coptic Christians from Egypt just trying to earn a living for their families. The 21st man, Matthew, who was from Ghana, wasn't even Coptic by birth. ISIS gave him a choice to walk away or die. He chose to stand with his brothers, knowing exactly what it would cost him. He knew it was better to die free than to live under tyranny.

That is faith, Mr. Speaker. That is true freedom. For 45 days, ISIS beat, starved, and tortured these men. They were offered food and money if they would just deny Christ, but they never did. Instead, as the terrorists raised their blades, their last word was the name of Jesus.

I remember my father had a Bible verse on his mirror that said if you deny me before man, I will deny you before the gates of Heaven. They did not deny their faith.

This month marks 10 years since their deaths. ISIS thought they were making a statement of fear. Instead, they showed the world what unshakeable faith looks like.

The Coptic and Catholic churches have honored these men as martyrs, as they should. Just as these men refused to abandon their faith, their faith has never abandoned them. One of the martyrs' widows said: Their blood mixed together, and as a result, we the widows are united.

These men weren't just believers. They were immovable. Their story should remind every American what real religious freedom means. May we never forget them.

FIRE BY PRESIDENT TRUMP

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

Mrs. FOUSHEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the Representative of North Carolina's Fourth Congressional District, and the home of the Research Triangle Park, to share the story of a Federal scientist, in their own words, who was fired by President Trump and Elon Musk.

I worked for the Department of Health and Human Services. I was responsible for leading technical oversight over the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network in order to ensure patient safety, maximal usage of donated organs, continued confidence in the donor system, efficient spending of taxpayer dollars, and a secure, modern technology infrastructure.

These aggressive and sweeping mass firings of hundreds of thousands of Federal employees will have profound and

devastating consequences across the country.

Our dedicated civil servants work tirelessly each day to deliver essential services, conduct critical scientific research, and ensure the safety of our communities. They deserve better.

RECOGNIZING CARL HARRIS

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

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the exceptional service of Kansan Carl Harris, the 2024 chairman of the National Association of Home Builders.

For more than four decades, Carl has made an outsized impact on the residential construction industry and communities across Kansas through his work as cofounder and president of the Carl Harris Company and managing partner of Harris Homes.

Most recently, he completed his term as the 2024 chairman of the National Association of Home Builders, where he has been relentless in advocating for policies that strengthen the construction workforce and help make homeownership, a key tenet of the American Dream, possible.

Generous in sharing his time and talent, Carl served as president of the Wichita Area Builders Association and the Kansas Building Industry Association and in numerous roles in local governments in Newton. In addition, he has promoted workforce development initiatives and outreach to high schoolers to introduce them to opportunities in the construction trades.

It is my honor to thank Carl for his dedicated career and wish him all the best with his next step.

FIRE BY PRESIDENT TRUMP

(Mr. BEYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share the story of a Federal scientist, and a constituent of mine, who has witnessed the impacts of President Trump and Elon Musk's recent firings. He wrote:

This week, 168 of my colleagues at the National Science Foundation were fired in a mass meeting and then waited for hours for an email with instructions before they were removed from NSF systems.

Two in my division were program assistants who provided crucial support for the review process—both early in their career and with tremendous promise as civil servants.

Another in my division was an intermittent expert.

National Science Foundation's work depends on bringing in knowledgeable experts from many fields, and intermittent experts are critical for this.

To lose them is an incredible loss for STEM education.

The cost of employing them to the government is small and far outweighed by the benefits of their service to NSF and the Nation.

Letting them go makes no sense that I can see.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with my constituent that this makes absolutely no sense. This will be a severe loss for American scientific leadership and scientific advancement at large.

We stand with our scientific community and condemn these firings.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF BENNET CHIOTTI

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Bennet "Ben" Chiotti, of Roanoke, Illinois, who passed away on February 9 at the age of 93.

Ben was born in Saluzzo, Italy, in 1931, where he grew up under the oppression of the Italian Fascist regime.

One of four brothers, Ben immigrated to the United States as a teenager with little money and speaking very little English, hoping to pursue the American Dream.

After immigrating, Ben went on to serve in the United States Army during the Korean war before settling in Roanoke, Illinois, outside of Peoria, where he lived for 70 years.

Ben was an active community member and local businessowner. He started Roanoke Plumbing, Heating and Cooling in 1968, a business still run today by his family.

Ben was married to his late wife, Evelyn, of Metamora, Illinois, for nearly 50 years. Ben is survived by his older brother, Louis, who is currently 100 years old, four children, and many grandchildren.

I offer my sincere condolences to the Chiotti family and their loved ones on the loss of a great husband, father, grandfather, and veteran of our Nation.

Ben's commitment to his community will leave a lasting legacy and impact on central Illinois for years to come.

FIRE BY PRESIDENT TRUMP

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

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the story of a Federal scientist who was fired by President Trump and Elon Musk.

In their own words, this researcher wrote:

I was a biologist with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. I worked to mitigate human-wildlife conflict and protect American agriculture. As a Wildlife Services biologist, I was also designated as an emergency response official and was preparing to deploy to help the efforts combating the avian influenza epidemic.

Bird flu cases are popping up across the country, including in my district, yet Trump is firing the public servants who are responsible for fighting the disease.

Donald Trump is not only jeopardizing the livelihoods of thousands of