

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

Federal employees and their communities, but he is recklessly firing scientists and endangering the health and safety of every American. His actions are dangerous and cruel.

CELEBRATING PHILADELPHIA EAGLES SUPER BOWL CHAMPIONS NOLAN SMITH, JR., AND DARIUS SLAY, JR.

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Nolan Smith, Jr., and Darius Slay, Jr., the two Super Bowl champions from the Philadelphia Eagles from Georgia's First Congressional District.

Linebacker Nolan Smith's football journey began in Savannah, where he often played football at Daffin Park before joining the team at Calvary Day School.

Cornerback Darius Slay's journey also started in the First District, where he excelled on the football field at Brunswick High School.

Before becoming Super Bowl champions, both men had impressive football careers.

During his senior year at Mississippi State, Mr. Slay led the SEC with five interceptions.

Mr. Smith now joins the elite group of players who have won both a National Championship and a Super Bowl, as he was part of the University of Georgia—go Dawgs—team that won back-to-back National Championships in 2022 and 2023.

Throughout their careers, both men have exhibited an exceptional work ethic and dedication. Mr. Slay and Mr. Smith have worked very hard and played with excellence on the football field, culminating in an impressive victory against the Kansas City Chiefs in the Super Bowl.

District One is proud to be the home of two new Super Bowl champions.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Nolan Smith, Jr., and Darius Slay, Jr., two fine young men, two Super Bowl champions, and two natives of the First Congressional District of Georgia.

FIRE BY PRESIDENT TRUMP

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

Mr. WHITESIDES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share the story of two Federal scientists who, in their own words, were fired by President Trump.

I am a biologist and was a postdoctoral researcher at the EPA Office of Research and Development. Most of my research focused on clean water and human health, such as drinking water, recreational water, and efforts to prevent pollution. My research projects included the impact that wildfires have on drinking water quality. My work is not political, and my career should never

have been politicized. This was my dream job.

Another scientist, in their own words, said:

I was a biologist for the U.S. Geological Survey. I conducted wildfire and fuels-related research in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, working closely with park managers to improve the fuel management plan.

Science is the foundation of American leadership and security. These firings must be reversed.

ONE BIG, BEAUTIFUL BILL

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

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, the budget resolution passed yesterday sets the stage for President Trump's one big, beautiful bill.

This bill is going to deliver dominant energy policy and border security, stopping human trafficking and the rampant drug flow that is occurring. This bill will continue the tax relief that gave us a great and strong economy. It is also providing savings to the American people by rooting out waste, abuse, and fraud.

Despite this, the media and the left want to malign this resolution, stating, for instance, that Medicaid is going to be reduced. That is absolutely not true. That is a false claim.

Let me say it from the not-so-cheap seats: No Medicaid or Medicare benefits will be reduced.

The only cuts will be to waste, abuse, fraud, and ineligibility in the system if found, which I believe 98 percent of Americans do support.

Look, we are overspending by nearly \$2 trillion a year. Clearly, any business, any company, any family, any government with such a spending problem must make corrections, which is what we are doing and what President Trump said he would do upon being elected.

This resolution will help usher in the golden age in America, and I am very happy to be supportive of it.

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FIRE BY PRESIDENT TRUMP

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

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a Ph.D. physicist in Congress, who spent most of his career in the national laboratories of the Department of Energy, to share the story of a research engineer at a national lab who was recently fired without cause by President Trump and Elon Musk.

This engineer's job was:

Co-leading a project developing software for critical mineral and rare earth element extraction, while also playing a lead technical role in computer modeling of desalina-

tion and water treatment processes and supporting U.S. industrial partners to use these tools to deploy and modernize their systems.

Mr. Speaker, our country cannot afford to lose the talent of civic-minded scientists like this.

Moreover, if Donald Trump thinks that he is going to strike a deal with Ukraine on rare earth minerals, then he is going to need real experts in our government on critical mineral extraction. We don't get that by firing them.

RAPID RESPONSE SUBGROUP

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

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, President Trump has falsely suggested that Ukraine was responsible for the war with Russia and should have resolved the conflict years ago. This claim is not only unfounded, but it dangerously misrepresents the facts.

Russia is the invading nation, the aggressor, and the perpetrator of war crimes. Louisiana's own Republican Senators agree. Senator KENNEDY went further, calling Russia's dictator, Vladimir Putin, a gangster with a black heart, a figure responsible for unprovoked war and atrocities on a sovereign nation.

It was Russia's invasion that shattered Ukraine's peace, beginning with the invasion and annexation of Crimea in 2014 and through the full-scale invasion that began just over 3 years ago. Russian forces are committing horrific and documented war crimes against Ukrainian soldiers and innocent civilians. Senator CASSIDY called it out for what it was: A war of aggression initiated by Putin, not Ukraine.

Senator KENNEDY also rightly emphasized that negotiating with Russia without Ukraine at the table is problematic. Republicans are saying this. They are speaking up because they recognize that these are lies and that we should stand firm in our support and push back against communism and against the hate of Russia and support Ukraine.

Mr. Speaker, I urge us to do the right thing.

AMERICA HONORS ITS FALLEN HEROES

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the brave men and women who have given their lives in service to our country.

I had the privilege of sitting down with Kathy Moore, a Gold Star mother whose son, Ryan Russell, was killed on March 5, 2007. Kathy shared her stories about Ryan's service and why she continues to advocate for the Honor and Remember flag. She spoke about his eagerness to serve as a medic despite his initial fear of blood.