

never asked the United States Congress to authorize, a war that the people of the United States of America never asked for. As indicated by the gentlewoman from Washington, 70 percent of Americans are against this war.

But you know what, Mr. Speaker, the House and the Senate have spoken. They have already voted in a bipartisan way to end this war. Today, let's vote again, and I believe we will get an even greater margin in this House.

Let's not give this President another blank check to wage an illegal war. This is not what the Constitution demands of us. This is not what our constituents expect of us. They expect us to do our jobs. They expect us to abide by the Constitution of the United States of America. They expect us to stand up and tell this President that this illegal war must come to an end once and for all.

Vote "yes" on this War Powers Resolution, and let the American people know that we will not be altered from doing our job.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to begin by agreeing with something that my colleague said. We didn't ask for this. We didn't ask for Iran, again, as I have said already, to attack us over 350 times in just the 30 months prior to Operation Epic Fury. We did not ask for that.

I want to read from the concurrent resolution offered by my colleague from Washington: "Remove United States Armed Forces from hostilities with Iran," with the exception of forces that would "prevent the United States from defending itself, its Armed Forces, its diplomatic facilities, or allied states, from imminent attack."

Mr. Speaker, I yield 10 seconds to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL) to tell us which units, which ships she would like removed.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, how I would like to respond to the gentleman is: We actually need a strategy.

Have you seen a strategy of which ships are where? What are we planning to do? What is our end goal? How do we intend to achieve a mission?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARIDOPOLOS). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. JAYAPAL. We have had no classified briefings, not a single classified—The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida is now recognized.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I would read from the resolution again: Remove United States Forces from hostilities against Iran, except for those that are tasked with defending it, its armed forces, its diplomatic facilities from imminent attack.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 10 seconds to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL) asking what forces she would like removed.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I would again respond to the chairman by ask-

ing: When will we have a single classified briefing, a single hearing in the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on this war?

Is the chairman prepared to say that we will have that hearing on this war?

Why are we so afraid of having a public hearing on the issue of whether or not we should be at war in Iran? Where is the chairman's commitment to the American people?

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, again, we have an author of this bill that is demanding U.S. Forces be removed, and the author of this bill has absolutely no clue what forces she wants to remove. That is beyond irresponsible, to say the least, to write a resolution, bring it to the floor, demand something with the weight of this issue, a nuclear-armed Iran, an Iran that has been attacking us, killing our people for years—350 attacks, 4 dead, 200 wounded just in the 30 months before Epic Fury began. She says remove all forces—that is the legislation before us—and has no clue what forces she wants to remove.

There are a lot of adjectives I could use, but my words will be taken down if I start to use them, so I am going to close.

My colleagues keep saying that this is a war of choice. The Islamic Republic has made their choice. They chose to attack Americans every day. I read off for 15 minutes the attacks that have been coming against us. They chose to support terrorist proxies, killing of Americans and our allies to develop weapons of mass destruction and missiles to reach out and touch our homeland and our allies.

They also chose to scrap the MOU that President Trump put in place when he ended Epic Fury and to again engage in hostilities and attempt to export the world for shipping through the Strait of Hormuz.

We do have a choice, Mr. Speaker, and sometimes the only choice is whether you are going to hit back when you, yourself, are getting hit. We have been hit, day in, day out—I read it off—and for the first time, we are finally responding.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the previous question is ordered on the concurrent resolution.

The question is on adoption of the concurrent resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

□ 1950

CELEBRATING SARAH FINCH

(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 celebrate Sarah Finch of Vance County, the winner of North Carolina's First Congressional District Art Competition.

Her remarkable painting, "Bloom After Abandonment," portrays a Ford Ranger left in Mother Nature's care, reminding us that even after something is forgotten, beauty and new life can still emerge.

Sarah's artwork reflects not only extraordinary talent but also the creativity, resilience, and promise of the next generation in eastern North Carolina.

May her achievement encourage other young artists to pursue their dreams, to share their unique stories, and to never underestimate the power of their creativity.

I congratulate Sarah and thank her for reminding us that hope can bloom in the most unexpected places.

HONORING KATE SHISHKOVSKY

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, my dear friend, Kate Shishkovsky, passed away earlier this month after a long battle with cancer.

Kate was an absolute powerhouse. She served as the Livonia Democratic Club president where she promoted Democratic values and progressive policies. She revitalized the club, transforming the organization into one of the largest, most active in the State of Michigan. It became of local force, just like her.

It is weird not to see Kate at the meetings anymore, but her legacy and presence is still felt in the room.

Beyond her volunteer work and service, Kate balanced a career as an attorney while raising two daughters. She returned to school to follow her passion for nursing.

Instead of resting in retirement, Kate worked every single day to defend our democracy and the rights of all residents, especially those who were historically marginalized in the city. Not even a cancer diagnosis slowed her down.

I will miss Kate dearly. I will miss Kate's calm presence, her subtle sense of humor, and her warmth that radiated every single day and everywhere she went.

AMERICA 250

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Ms. MALOY of Utah was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MALOY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Ms. MALOY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY).

LARGEST TAX INCREASE IN CALIFORNIA HISTORY

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Utah for yielding.

Many Californians have been shocked to learn that our State legislature and Governor just imposed what the California Tax Foundation calls “the largest tax increase in State history.”

For a State that already has the highest taxes in the country and the highest cost of living, that is really saying something.

As part of this, the Governor and legislature in Sacramento have imposed a massive tax increase on healthcare that is going to cause California families to have to pay up to \$400 more for healthcare premiums.

This is something that Californians simply cannot afford, and it is all the worse given that California voters already said that this kind of tax increase is barred. It is a double blow to democracy and affordability.

Fortunately, there is a way that we can fight back to stop it. I am writing a letter putting forth a formal request, joined by my colleagues in the California delegation, for the Department of Health and Human Services here at the Federal level to block this tax increase, which does require Federal approval.

We will be sending this request out by the end of this week, and it is my hope that California taxpayers can be spared yet another increase in our cost of living that so many Californians simply cannot afford because of the extreme policies coming out of Sacramento.

RECOGNIZING CHILD ACTION

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Child Action for celebrating 50 years of service to the Sacramento community.

Child Action is a nonprofit organization that has been supporting children and families since 1976. Rooted in the qualities of compassion, community, and support, Child Action has provided affordable and quality childcare to over 19,000 children throughout Sacramento County.

When childcare is affordable, educational, and accessible, it greatly benefits the whole regional economy. As chair of the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, I know full well the impact that Child Action's subsidy program and eligibility lists provide to deserv-

ing families with the necessary financial support. These forward-looking initiatives allow parents to seek employment or educational opportunities while still being able to support their families.

In addition to the programs for families, Child Action also provides support and training to other childcare providers in the Sacramento region, raising the quality of care in the field while growing local businesses in the process.

Partnering with like-minded stakeholders is just another way that Child Action enhances the quality of life in our community. They are, indeed, a pillar of compassion and care by supporting other childcare providers and guiding children and families toward brighter futures.

I was honored to attend Child Action's Golden Gala in the city of Rancho Cordova. The evening was filled with connection, care, and support as guests raised awareness for programs that continue to provide high-quality care to those who need it most in our community.

Therefore, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I am honored to recognize Child Action for 50 years of service to the Sacramento region.

RECOGNIZING AMY VAN DER MOLEN

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, in the spirit of National Zookeeper Appreciation Week, I rise today to recognize an outstanding zookeeper in my district, Folsom City Zoo Sanctuary Zookeeper Amy Van der Molen.

Amy has been a zookeeper at the Zoo Sanctuary since 1994. Prior to that, she worked as zookeeper at the Fairytale Town Park in Sacramento and is an educator at the Sacramento Zoo Interpretive Center. During her career, she has cared for birds, reptiles, omnivores, and carnivores.

During her tenure at the Folsom City Zoo Sanctuary, Amy has overseen the care of many animals, including 13 bears, 8 mountain lions, 2 tigers, 5 wolves, and many others.

As part of her zookeeping job, Amy participates in vet procedures for the animals in her care, creates behavioral and environmental enrichment, performs positive enforcement training, participates in keeper chats for guests to educate them about animals, and shares the Zoo Sanctuary's mission of teaching responsible behavior toward all animals.

Amy has created the Annual Art Program where animals use their feet, nose, or other body parts to paint with nontoxic washable paint on a canvas. These paintings are sold in the zoo gift shop and have even been part of art shows at a local art gallery in Folsom and have sold at various special events and fundraisers to benefit the Zoo Sanctuary.

Amy's love for her work and for the animals under her care is evident as she has been quoted as saying: “During my career, I have loved every single

animal that I have worked with, but of course there are a few that I will never forget and will always be a part of me. I have been eligible,” she said, “for retirement since January of 2025, but I love my job and my animal family. I don't see myself leaving anytime soon.”

Therefore, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I am honored to recognize zookeeper Amy Van der Molen for her service to the Folsom community.

□ 2000

HONORING KEN CUSANO

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate former City of Folsom Fire Chief Ken Cusano on the occasion of his retirement, following 28 years of service and dedication to protecting the Folsom community.

Chief Cusano attended Folsom High School and received his bachelor's degree from Sacramento State.

Since joining the fire department in 1998, Chief Cusano climbed the ranks, starting his career as a firefighter paramedic and eventually taking the title of chief in October 2020, which he held until his retirement.

Throughout his time as chief, he led a team of over 90 professionals and was known for strengthening the department during a time of unprecedented growth in the city.

During his tenure, Chief Cusano lent his expertise in the design and construction of Fire Stations 39 and 34 and the remodel of Station 38. In addition to the new fire stations, Chief Cusano also played a key role in creating a medic unit and hiring extra personnel to keep up with the rapid growth of Folsom.

Under the chief's steady hand and leadership, the mental health of the men and women in the department became a priority. The forward-thinking approach was evident when the department introduced the region's first peer support dog and other proactive approaches to support the resilience and mental well-being of all department employees.

The chief's dedication to the quality of life in his community could also be found with new initiatives, such as helping to implement a social host ordinance to deter illegal fireworks, as well as the seasonal closure of certain open spaces which posed fire risks.

Chief Cusano has played a vital role in helping to shape Folsom's future. He faced his job and its challenges with a spirit of doing everything he could to keep the community safe. He will undoubtedly be missed by the city's grateful residents, businesses, and the men and women in his department that he called home for almost three decades.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives and California's Third Congressional District, I am honored to join the community in recognizing Fire Chief Ken Cusano's retirement. I thank him for his 28 years of

exceptional service and leadership, and wish him well in retirement.

HONORING BRAD TATUM

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I solemnly rise today to honor the life of Brad Tatum, who passed away earlier this year.

Brad will be known not only as the publisher of the Orangevale View, but as someone who cared deeply for small businesses, youth athletics, and his family and friends.

Known as the heart behind the Orangevale View, Brad took pride in sharing the good news that enhanced the quality of life throughout his beloved Orangevale. This free, biweekly newspaper's stories were not only insightful but brought people together with a common touch.

Brad's gift for selecting stories that reflected his sense of pride for the community could be seen through the ways that he highlighted local heroes, businesses, and the Casa Rams athletic program. His prose and choice of which stories to feature positively impacted Orangevale and the surrounding communities.

Brad will undoubtedly be missed by his children, grandchildren, siblings, friends, and the more than 37,000 readers who enjoyed learning about the latest FFA achievements, breakfasts at the Grange, and all the other happenings that make Orangevale a special place. His dedication to his community will not be forgotten. The impacts he made will live on in the lives he touched and the stories he wrote.

Therefore, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives and California's Third Congressional District, I am honored to recognize Brad Tatum for his many contributions to the Orangevale community.

Ms. MALOY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS).

HONORING ANDREW DAVID

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and express gratitude for my dear friend and chief of staff, Andrew David, who is seated next to me here.

Andrew has served by my side for over 9 years. We have toiled together to serve we the people.

I have great sorrow in my heart that Andrew is leaving the office. He has accepted a beautiful and meaningful position in our home State of Louisiana, and I have an odd mixture of tremendous joy that Andrew is embracing the illuminated path before him and that he and his beautiful, amazing wife, Holly—who is seated in the gallery; also a native of our beloved Louisiana—are returning home, having served their country with honor here in this, the people's House.

I rise, Mr. Speaker—unscripted, through only the words that the Lord has etched upon my heart—to speak in gratitude of what this man has brought to me and my family and my congressional service for nearly a decade.

Andrew has been an unwavering counselor for me through some very difficult and challenging times and decisions. He has never strayed from the deepest core principles that we attempt every day to embrace as we conduct the business of our congressional service.

As a man, Andrew through the years became perhaps my dearest and most trusted, most immediately available source of sound counsel. I have no doubt—good sir, good lady—that I would have failed to perform my service for we the people time and again had it not been for the quiet, calm, and steady counsel of Andrew David.

I am reminded, Mr. Speaker, as I see the words that we who are honored to serve in this Chamber gaze upon every day in the stone above your podium: In God We Trust. We effort to be worthy of what it is to be His child and to serve in this, His anointed house.

I am reminded this day of His words in Genesis 7:1, when the Lord said to Noah, “Come into the ark, ye and your household.” “Come,” Mr. Speaker, He said. He didn't say, “Go into the ark.” He said, “Come.”

This is understood to mean that the Lord was already present there. The goodness of the Lord was present there before Noah entered that challenge of entering the ark and traversing the storm to begin anew.

When I came to D.C., I had no experience, no political background. I had a clear understanding of what I thought perhaps should be a servant to we the people in the House of Representatives. When I was elected in 2016 and I came here to this august body, I did not know that the Lord had already placed His goodness. It awaited me. The Lord had prepared a counselor for me, His unworthy son. That man, that goodness, is Andrew David.

We shall continue to serve. We will endeavor every day to be worthy of service to we the people in His Chamber of what it is to be children of God, the most high.

I will strive to be worthy of being called David's friend and brother. I thank him for his decade of service by my side. God bless him as he embraces the illuminated path before him. I wish him luck. I know that great joy awaits him and his beautiful family in our beloved Louisiana.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. MALOY for yielding.

□ 2010

Ms. MALOY. The Fourth of July fireworks are over, and the barbecue leftovers are long gone. Now we have the rest of the year to continue to reflect on America's founding 250 years ago.

John Adams believed that independence should be celebrated with solemn reflection. In that spirit, I sponsored a speech competition for the high school students in Utah's Second Congressional District and asked teenagers to write about what America means to them.

Tonight, I will read the two winning speeches as well as a little bit about the two students who wrote them. These speeches were selected out of a pile of speeches with blind reading, so I didn't know who had written them.

Kambree Giles is a student at Millard High School in the Second District. She is entering her senior year. She lives in Meadow, Utah, a town with fewer than 350 people, where she is an active member of her school's FFA chapter. After graduating, she plans to serve an 18-month proselytizing mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

This is her speech:

George W. Bush said, “For we are given power not to advance our own purposes, nor to make a great show in the world, nor a name. There is but one just use of power, and it is to serve people.” I love this quote because it shows just how America should be. I ask you: What are you doing to help the people around you, and therefore to help this country?

I believe that this country is a country of love and freedom. Each of us has the unique opportunity to help those around us. If we love those around us, we can make someone feel better. Love is the first thing I think of when I think of what this great country is. This country means being able and willing to be a helping hand. We all have the freedom to help those around us. We never know just how much of an influence that can be.

When people think about this country, they should be inspired and feel proud to call it home. I want everyone who hears this to be inspired to show kindness and feel the sense of pride that this country brings. Every time I stand up to say the pledge or when I hear the national anthem, I feel a sense of pride to be able to call this country my home. I get teary-eyed because I know what this country stands for and the lengths kindness has gone to keep it free. The most important thing this country stands for, for me, is kindness.

If anything is taken from my speech, I hope everyone that hears this leaves feeling a stronger sense of pride for our country. If we want America to stay great, we must choose to keep it great by treating all of its people with kindness, lifting others up instead of putting them down. This country immediately needs more kindness.

Thank you, Kambree.

The second one is from Rylee Moore. Rylee is the second winner of our America 250 speech contest. She is also from a small town, Delta, Utah, where she attends Delta High School and is entering the tenth grade. Rylee's words reflect love for our Nation's history and faith in its future.

This is Rylee's speech:

America means so much to me because it is a place where freedom meets opportunity, where people from all over the world, not just America, can come together to live, work, and dream. In my opinion, America represents being able to make a difference

and choose your own path. The country is so diverse with so many cultures, ideas, and traditions, it is amazing.

To me, America is also about standing up for what is right, working hard to make things happen, and better the world around us.

It is far from perfect, but with the freedom to speak our mind and fight for justice, great communities are created. I am proud to live in a country that supports freedom and opinion.

In conclusion, America brings hope, opportunity, and a place where I can imagine and create a bright future for myself as well as others.

Thank you, Rylee.

Kambree and Rylee are young, and their words reflect well on them, their families, and Utah, where they were raised. Like them, I am grateful for our country and excited about the next 250 years of American goodness and freedom. I thank each of the high school students who rose to the challenge and wrote a speech. I sincerely hope that each of them learned something new and that their love for this country grew even just a little bit.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you very much, and yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING CASSY DORNBUSCH ON HER RETIREMENT

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Ms. KAPTUR of Ohio was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, this evening, I have real pleasure to send positive messages forward on so many of the phenomenal citizens that I represent here and their life stories.

I rise today to celebrate an extraordinary Ohio educator, Cassy Dornbusch, from Ottawa County, Ohio, Congressional District 9. She was honored by the Coalition of Rural and Appalachian Schools as the Outstanding Elementary Teacher for the 2025–2026 School Year, this year.

For 33 years, Cassy has been a reading specialist at Benton-Carroll-Salem and a builder of futures. With patience, compassion, and unwavering belief in every child who walks through her door, she has helped students discover how to read, yes, but more importantly, how to believe in themselves.

In every word of encouragement, Cassy shapes the confidence, curiosity, and resilience of young minds. Her impact lives on in the voices, dreams, and successes of her students.

As she starts her well-earned retirement, we thank Cassy for her dedication, her heart, and the lasting difference she has made in each and every life. Our rocket future is brighter because of her.

HONORING LIFE OF PAUL HOLLENBECK

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Paul Hollenbeck, an architect, mentor, and rare lifelong community builder. His precious insights to build progress forward in every corner of our city of Toledo is unparalleled.

Paul was an astounding, creative, humble citizen, and he embodied the community's hopes in every nook and cranny, and he rarely got attention. He was very, very humble. He didn't look for notoriety. He believed deeply that places matter because people matter. He spent his life proving that belief brick by brick, neighborhood by neighborhood, project by project. He was unrelenting.

I knew Paul as a friend and as a doer. He didn't just talk about civic responsibility. He lived it, and he set an example for others to follow.

Through his leadership in creating the Toledo Design Collective, his vision for downtown Toledo, or his quiet mentorship of young architects and community leaders, he reimagined the redevelopment of urban spaces and neighborhoods, literally rebuilding America in this new century. He breathed new life into every corner of our community.

Paul always demonstrated a focus on the future, and that good design for people is about dignity, access, opportunity, and respect for our built environment. He understood that cities are living places, shaped by generosity and care, and he gave Toledo both.

□ 2020

Paul brought people together, listened closely, and always asked how we could do better for the next generation.

He leaves behind the Design Collective, The Collaborative building, and revitalized neighborhoods. More importantly, he leaves behind a grateful family, grateful friends, a grateful community, and a civic spirit we all can carry forward by innovating and caring for the precious legacy of our built environment in the largest fresh watershed in the entire Great Lakes. Paul Hollenbeck's legacy will live on in the voices, the dreams, and the successes that have happened across our region.

I say to his family, to his friends, and to the architects with whom he spent so much of his life: Congratulations. Job well-done, Paul Hollenbeck.

THANKING TEACHER ANDRE COWELL

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, our northwest Ohio region is lucky to have countless educators who guide our young people and help them grow into strong leaders of tomorrow. One of these educators is Andre Cowell.

A retired Toledo detective now teaching criminal justice at Washington Local School District's Whitmer High School, he brings 25 years of field experience to the classroom.

Mr. Cowell's deep compassion extends to every student he encounters. A former student at Whitmer, Alivia Garcia, who wasn't even a student of Mr. Cowell's, spoke so highly of the impact he made on her life, I thought it was worth sharing here in the Halls of Congress. There are such good people everywhere, and he showed her true kindness in the wake of a difficult time in her life following the passing of her boyfriend.

Mr. Cowell welcomed her into his classroom when she needed an ear to listen. He let her know if you ever need anything, I am always here, and you know where to find me.

He kept his word and stays in touch with Alivia to this day.

Mr. Cowell is a shining example of someone worthy of congressional recognition.

The Whitmer community in northwestern Ohio is blessed to have an educator like Andre Cowell. He is a model of a man for others, sharing empathy and integrity for the generations to come.

ST. URSULA ACADEMY VISIT

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to return to my alma mater, St. Ursula Academy in Toledo, Ohio, earlier this year to join the students at a sports rally that featured student-athletes—a lot of them. The event recognized the senior young women for their achievements.

Special recognition was lauded on the 22 members of the dance team who, once again, prevailed as State of Ohio champions this year. These Arrows well represented our State and the academy at the UDA National Dance Team Competition earning a silver placement in jazz and a bronze placement in pom.

I was able to present a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol to Coach Morgan Losby and her team of extraordinary dancers—boy, are they precision dancers—as our community honored their stellar performances this season.

Mr. Speaker, please allow me to applaud all these disciplined student-athletes at St. Ursula Academy including those in—get ready—basketball, gymnastics, swimming and diving, crew, lacrosse, tennis, track and field, soccer, softball, volleyball, and golf, in addition to the dance team.

Congratulations to them all for their hard work and perseverance as they enjoy their hard-won plaudits and pursue their passions into the future. We know they will do well.

CANADIAN WILDFIRES

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, a serious issue is facing our continent. Right now, wildfires are ravaging our neighbors in the Canadian Province of Ontario which Ohio adjoins through Lake Erie. Many First Nation communities have been forced to evacuate. Hundreds of thousands of hectares of forests have burned.

However, our northern neighbors were not the only ones who suffered. Just last week, in my hometown of Toledo, Ohio, hazardous air quality ranked among the highest levels in our Nation. As winds blew the smoke into northwestern Ohio, our community was at risk for the grave health concerns that accompany wildfire smoke: asthma attacks, heart attacks, and weakened immune systems.

Burning forests remind us that environmental challenges like air pollution and wildfires, which will continue to be exacerbated by climate change, do not