

At the end of July, a group of Girl Scouts traveled to northern Minnesota to experience the beauty and magnificence of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Their trip unexpectedly hit a rough patch when severe thunderstorms rolled in and lightning struck close to their campsite. A few of the girls reported feeling something from the ground, potentially a ground current, and needing precautionary medical attention.

The Boundary Waters Canoe Area is very remote, making any rescue attempt more complex and rigorous. Nevertheless, the St. Louis County Volunteer Rescue Squad members immediately sprang into action, navigating five portages by motorboat and then canoe, escorting the girls back to safety.

Mr. Speaker, I am thankful that the Northland has such a capable and well-trained group of individuals dedicated to the safety of our neighbors and visitors. Due to their hard work over the years, many emergencies have been averted and lives have been saved.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MARCA BRISTO

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, we lost my dear friend, Marca Bristo, an inspiring civil rights activist from Chicago.

Marca had a diving accident when she was young that left her paralyzed from the chest down. She never allowed her disability to define her. Instead, her disability became her superpower.

Marca dedicated her life to changing laws and bringing attention to the disparities faced by people with disabilities in the most basic services. She was instrumental in bringing wheelchair ramps to Chicago public buses.

She didn't do this by just writing letters or holding meetings. Marca went as far as chaining herself to a bus to force the Chicago Transit Authority to make mass transit more accessible.

She worked with the broader civil rights communities to pass key legislation like the Americans with Disabilities Act. The organization she founded, Access Living of Metropolitan Chicago, will carry on with her legacy.

I send our heartfelt thoughts to her son and her daughter.

Rest in power, Marca Bristol.

HONORING THE SIMPSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Simpson County Historical Society and its long-reaching influence on Simpson County and the surrounding communities.

Since its founding in 1959, Simpson County Historical Society has been a

valuable asset to the First District of Kentucky. Through the collection and preservation of historical property and genealogical records, the society has been able to maintain an extensive archive for the benefit of future generations.

I applaud the work the society has done over the last 60 years, and I am pleased to say that, as of Thursday, September 12, they will have expanded to a newer, larger facility enabling them to increase their research capabilities and broaden their effect on local education and cultural development.

I join with the residents of Simpson County and the local community, as well as those who have benefited from the work of the Simpson County Historical Society, in honoring their incredible dedication to the preservation and promotion of history. I wish the historical society the best as they begin a new phase of their own history and express my gratitude for their service to the First District of Kentucky.

WE NEED A RESET

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, we have a crisis in housing, in homelessness, growing wealth inequality, and it is all not an accident. It is the result of deliberate discrimination and policy failure.

The Federal Government, for years, intervened in housing for White veterans, for middle-class homeowners, for developers and property owners, but shut out poor and, especially, people of color—African Americans, most notably. Trump is making it worse.

Tonight, 550,000 people will go to sleep homeless. We have a gap of 7 million affordable rental units, and income inequality grows. We need a reset.

Last week, I released this report, "Locked Out: Reversing Federal Housing Failures and Unlocking Opportunity," which details solutions for our most vexing housing policy challenges. It is available on blumenauer.house.gov website.

We must be bold, transformative, and ambitious in solving these challenges. We can't afford another generation of small-scale thinking and large-scale failure.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JEFFERSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Jefferson County Courthouse in Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District.

Since its opening in 1869, the Jefferson County Courthouse has undergone serious renovations and changes, but its impact on the community remains steadfast. County Commissioner Jack Matson said: "You really can't be a resident of Jefferson County and not have the courthouse affect your daily lives."

Tomorrow, the Jefferson County community will come together to celebrate this milestone on the courthouse grounds in Brookville. The programming will include tours of the courthouse, a performance by the Punxsutawney Area High School marching band, a reenactment of the trial of abolitionist Judge Elijah Heath, and the dedication of a World War II monument. The evening will conclude with the lighting of the bell tower and a special rig designed by students at the Jefferson County-Dubois Area Vocational-Technical School.

Jefferson County Commissioner Jeff Pisarcik said it best when he said: "It's not our building; it's everybody's building that lives in Jefferson County."

HONORING THE SERVICE OF TOM FERRARESE

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

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my longtime friend and Monroe County Board of Elections commissioner, Tom Ferrarese, as he begins his retirement.

For more than two decades, Tom has served our community with distinction at the Board of Elections, working tirelessly to expand access to voters, safeguard our elections, and uphold the democratic process.

Tom has been a passionate political and community activist, working diligently to advance the ideals of the Democratic Party, not just through his work at the board, but through his extensive volunteer and community advocacy on behalf of LGBTQ individuals.

It has been a true privilege to work alongside Tom, and our entire community is grateful for his many years of service. I wish him nothing but a well-deserved rest, relaxation, and best wishes in retirement.

□ 0915

RECOGNIZING U.S. SPACE COMMAND

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

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our newest combatant command: U.S. Space Command, which was stood up on Monday in Colorado Springs.

President Trump's decision to stand up SPACECOM could not be more timely. In recent years, Russia and China have reorganized their militaries and

pursued capabilities to threaten our space assets. Fortunately, our Nation has no shortage of innovative and brilliant men and women in uniform.

Our newest combatant command will harness the creative dynamo of these space warfighters. Congress will give them the authorities and funding they need to triumph in this newest contest of arms. With the infrastructure, industrial base, and personnel already located at Peterson and Schriever Air Force Bases in Colorado Springs, SPACECOM can seamlessly transition into a fully functioning combatant command immediately. This is a great and exciting milestone for our Nation.

ARCTIC CULTURAL AND COASTAL PLAIN PROTECTION ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 1146.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 548 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 1146.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CASTEN) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 0916

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1146) to amend Public Law 115-97 (commonly known as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act) to repeal the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge oil and gas program, and for other purposes, with Mr. CASTEN of Illinois in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall be confined to the bill and amendments specified in section 2 of House Resolution 548, and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources.

The gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) and the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today the House of Representatives will take a historic vote to roll back one provision of the Republican tax law that was rammed through the last Con-

gress on a party line vote. In addition to the tax breaks to millionaires, billionaires, and multinational corporations, there was a provision that mandated oil and gas development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Today we will take up bipartisan legislation to repeal this drilling mandate, protecting, not just the Arctic Refuge, but the wildlife and the indigenous people who depend on this sacred natural landscape.

I introduced H.R. 1146 earlier this year with my Republican colleague BRIAN FITZPATRICK because we believe, as do 182 other cosponsors of this bill, that there are some places that are simply too important, too special, too sacred to be spoiled by oil and gas development. This is the same basic proposition that we were presented with yesterday when the House passed bipartisan legislation to protect our coasts from offshore drilling. Because the north coast of California is too special to have its fisheries and coastal economy put at risk for the profit of big oil. Because places like the Lowcountry of South Carolina are too special to be spoiled by oil spills. Today we are here to show that the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the largest wildlife refuge in the United States is also too special.

The refuge is home to more than 200 different wildlife species, and that includes the Porcupine caribou herd that is a vital source of subsistence for the indigenous Gwich'in people. The refuge is a special place where veterans recovering from PTSD find themselves again. We have heard these voices and many others during Natural Resource Committee deliberations on this bill in a hearing earlier this year. And I thank all of those who testified and have spoken out to help us bring this bill to the floor today.

The question before us is: Will the Federal Government protect this special place and the communities that depend on it or will our Federal Government be responsible for its destruction by auctioning it off to big oil? During this debate, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are going to ask us and ask the American people to trust this administration to do the right thing.

They are going to say that drilling can be done responsibly. They will ask us to trust a Secretary of the Interior who the GAO has determined violated Federal spending laws during the Trump government shutdown. A secretary who violated his ethics pledge by meeting with his former clients at the U.S. Oil and Gas Association as they were pushing for more drilling on American public lands. And a secretary who continues to shill for his former lobbying clients at every turn.

They will ask us to trust this administration where the leading Department of the Interior official pushing for drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge just left public service days ago to start a new job at an oil

and gas company with interests, believe it or not, in Arctic oil and gas development in Alaska. You can't make this stuff up. They will ask us to trust a President, who, armed with a Sharpie, overrules scientists and threatens the jobs of scientists when they speak out.

We need to reject this agenda of big oil and protect America's Arctic from oil and gas drilling. It is time to pass H.R. 1146 and repeal the Trump administration tax laws drilling mandate.

Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. YOUNG asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. Chairman, I listened to the presentation of the author of this bill. I have been in this House 48 years. We have been arguing about this ANWR for 40 of those years. We have passed it out of the house 14 times. And by the way, it was established by a Democrat President and a Democrat House to allow the 1002 areas to be explored if Congress said so. And that is what we have done.

Now we have a sponsor from California who doesn't know beans about this business talking about big oil and about Trump. This has been a policy of this Nation to allow drilling there if the Congress spoke, and we did so. Under the tax bill, yes, but 13 times before that this House passed the legislation to have the 1002 explored.

Just keep in mind, we are talking about an area of a 19-million-acre refuge and areas left inside, the 1002 area—the map behind me, if anybody can see that little tiny red dot, 2,000 acres, less than the size of Dulles Airport, less than the size of the Capitol grounds. And yet, we are trying to say, no, no development. We are trying to say that is not right, this is the last pristine area. May I say again, it is not the last pristine area.

We have had approximately 30 years of development in Prudhoe Bay, the same type of terrain, same species of animals, same amount of caribou. In fact, we have more now than we had before after we started drilling. So this bill is a sham. And I listened to this with great interest. I always understand what they are trying to do, and it is also a sham to this Congress. This Congress spoke. It is a sham to this Nation. We are taking time away from what should be done in this Nation. We have sat, frankly, 2 years in this House and have done nothing.

Unfortunately, we have heard also this is a cultural bill, and the Gwich'in supposedly is all this gentleman listens to, doesn't listen to the Inupiat. That to me is important. The people that live there want the drilling. The people at least 150 miles away don't want the drilling, but that is who they are listening to.

So, again, my colleagues, this bill is the wrong step forward for this Nation.