

was over a year into his term, and prices were already rapidly rising.

Then, he actually pretended it didn't exist. While Americans were suffering, he wanted to just sweep this self-made economic crisis under the rug.

Finally, this week, he claimed that combating inflation was now his top priority.

Oh, but wait. It is the Republicans' fault that inflation is so bad. This is under his party's rule here in Washington, D.C.

The economic crisis actually started his first day in office when he launched a full-fledged assault on domestic energy production that catapulted energy prices.

We know energy is tied to just about every aspect of our lives, from growing crops to delivering them to the store, from the mined products that turn into materials that we use every day, whether it is metals, electronics, what have you, batteries for the pie-in-the-sky idea that we are going to have to convert everything to electric, and on and on.

Electricity and fuel are extremely important to our economy, yet they are doing everything they can to squash American-produced energy. Do we want to import all that, too?

The pain of the gas prices have hit transportation, food production, and, as we know, the grocery stores. With record partisan spending bills like the failed American Rescue Act and the Build Back Better effort, inflation is crushing the American Dream for many.

We must address the root cause of Biden inflation, and, indeed, it is his policies. We must produce ample domestic oil to bring down the prices and help our economy be sustained by our own energy. We are self-sustainable.

We can also be helping our European allies instead of having them be dependent upon Russian natural gas. How crazy is that? We see what the effects are for Poland, and we will see it for Germany if we don't turn the tide.

We can do that. We can be there for them. We actually produce cleaner natural gas, by far, than what Russia does.

The evidence is all around us: expensive food, fuel, electricity, housing, and even bare shelves in our stores in the land of plenty. We see our small towns, their economies being devastated because the water is being taken away from farms, and the high cost of doing business for driving tractors, combines, trucks, mining equipment.

Our forests, we should be producing forests. Our wood and paper products, instead, are getting burned down due to the policies of inaction by the Forest Service and others.

We need to take the initiative, and we need to turn back the Biden plan, which has been failing America, and put an American plan forward that puts us first, that puts the people first and production here for our own economy first.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. I think we are going to get that opportunity

after this next election cycle, and we cannot wait. It cannot get here soon enough.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman, my dear friend from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Thank you, Congressman JOHNSON, for hosting tonight's Special Order.

This week marks National Police Week, where we honor the heroes who put their lives on the line every day to keep us safe and remember those who, sadly, have been lost in the line of duty.

This National Police Week, my Republican colleagues and I are standing with all of law enforcement, including our U.S. Border Patrol. A country without a border is not a country at all, and we will not stop fighting until our border is secure.

To all of our law enforcement officers, thank you for the sacrifices you make to protect our communities. Americans appreciate you.

Unfortunately, over the past couple of years, we have seen some Democrats support the defund the police movement and policies that are soft on crime. As a result, crime across the Nation is on the rise, and nine U.S. cities had a record-breaking number of homicides in 2021.

I thank, and encourage others to thank, all the police officers who protect and defend our communities every day.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. It has been amazing to see the turnabout in those who are advocating for us to defund the police. They recognize the great results of that, and now they are on our side, aren't they?

They are proclaiming that we need to fund more police, and they are certainly right now. Unfortunately, we have to live with the results of those policy choices, as with all of these.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER).

Mr. KELLER. I thank the gentleman from Louisiana for having this time.

Madam Speaker, the Biden administration spent the better part of last year trying to convince American families facing higher prices that inflation was transitory. Yet, new inflation numbers show that the cost of everything is still on the rise, including gas, which just hit record highs this week.

Prices are increasing rapidly at an unsustainable pace, but President Biden isn't changing course. In fact, he said that his administration's policies help, not hurt, inflation.

That is a bold statement for an individual that came to Washington, D.C., when I was 8 years old, almost 50 years ago. That is a bold statement from a President that perpetrates Big Government spending and has done everything in his power to destroy American energy.

To President Biden, inflation is just a number. But for working American families, it is the crushing result of

this administration's failed policies—failed policies that must be overturned to get our Nation back on the right track.

That is why, this week, along with 22 of my Republican colleagues, we introduced a resolution calling for greater American oil and natural gas production. Our resolution reaffirms that American energy is the answer to lowering energy costs, curbing inflation, and putting America first once again.

During his State of the Union, President Biden stood right in this room and said that we need to buy American and build American. Well, I will tell you what, I have news for the President. It takes American energy. It takes American energy because we do it better than anybody on the face of this Earth.

The American people, not President Biden, have the capability and resolve to rebuild our economic engine. President Biden must get on board with the American people. He must put the American people first or get out of the way.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. From one energy State resident to another, we know and can say clearly that energy security is national security.

Mr. KELLER. Absolutely.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. This White House just doesn't get it. Thank you so much for reminding us of that.

Madam Speaker, I am truly grateful again to my many colleagues who were here tonight from all across the country to join us as we discuss the importance of the battle for the sanctity of every single human life and the myriad number of crises facing our country because of these Democrat policies that are plaguing every arena, every area of the economy, every part of the country, and every single policy issue.

Madam Speaker, we cannot wait for an end to this and a change in the levers of power in Washington, and we do expect that that will happen in a big red wave in November. Hopefully, the country can survive until then.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE NORMAN Y. MINETA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CHU. Madam 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 subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today, I rise in honor of Norman Y. Mineta, an Asian-American pioneer, political giant, and my dear friend. Norm was a trailblazing leader, often referred to as the godfather of the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community.

Norm passed away last Tuesday, May 3, at the age of 90, and our communities are mourning this immense loss.

I owe Norm so much. You see, he was the founder of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus over 20 years ago, which I have the privilege to chair right now.

Without Norm founding CAPAC, we would also not have our sister organization, the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies, which provides internships and fellowships to cultivate our next generation of AAPI leaders in public service. We would not have so much of the critical infrastructure that organizes and holds our community together today.

Norm's story is so inspirational. It is a story of sacrifice and hardship, but also of perseverance and triumph in the face of great adversity.

He was born to immigrant parents from Japan who came to America for a better life. But during World War II, when Norm was only 10 years old, he and his family were rounded up, forced out of their home, and sent to a Japanese-American internment camp after President Roosevelt signed Executive Order No. 9066.

Due to the war hysteria, racial prejudice, and failure of political leadership at the time, about 120,000 individuals of Japanese ancestry were stripped of their basic civil rights and incarcerated in desolate camps.

To this day, the incarceration of Japanese Americans remains one of the most shameful chapters in our Nation's history.

□ 1945

Despite the harrowing experience he faced, Norm never lost faith in America. Instead, he decided to join the Army after graduating from Berkeley and served as an intelligence officer in Japan and Korea. This strong draw toward public service never left him, and he began his political career in 1967, starting on the San Jose City Council before being elected mayor of San Jose. With this election, he made history by becoming the first Japanese American to serve as the mayor of a major U.S. city. From there, he ran for a congressional seat and became the first Japanese American from the continental U.S. to be elected to Congress, where he served for 21 years.

In Congress, he spearheaded efforts to pass the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which granted reparations to Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II. He also cofounded the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus to ensure that AAPIs have a voice in

Congress, and he served as the caucus' first chair. He made history again by becoming the first Asian American ever appointed to a presidential cabinet when President Bill Clinton selected him to be the Secretary of Commerce. He was then appointed by President George W. Bush to be Secretary of Transportation and played a critical role in overseeing the Department's response during the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Norm was such an incredible inspiration to many, including myself. I remember meeting Norm when I was a lowly elected official in local government and he was a Congress Member. He was so kind, so gracious, and so encouraging. Then he climbed to higher positions as Cabinet secretary, not once, but twice, and I marveled that no matter how high the heights, he never stopped being kind, gracious, and encouraging.

Then I was elected to Congress, and I got to interact with him even more. I loved hearing stories about his early days as an Asian American in Congress. He told me that there were so few Asian Americans, they could have fit into a phone booth. One day, he tried to get a meeting of the Asian American Members of Congress at the White House. They asked what group do you represent and refused to meet. That is when he got the idea of starting the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus. As an official caucus, he got that meeting with the White House.

We owe a debt of gratitude for all he did to uplift and empower the AAPI community. Despite all he accomplished, he always prioritized opening doors for future AANHPI leaders. He showed us how much we could achieve and pulled us up with him. Norm especially valued mentoring young people, like students and interns, who were interested in advocating for our communities. There is no doubt that we are a stronger community and a stronger nation because of Norm's leadership.

I am proud to be joined tonight by many of my colleagues who join me in honoring Norm during this Special Order.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), my friend and CAPAC's second vice chair.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative CHU for her very personal memories of Norm Mineta. We knew Norm each in our own very special way, and he was a very warm and down-to-earth person, never really infected by Potomac fever. Perhaps it was because he never thought that someone like him might rise to be a President, but he was able to focus all of his energy and attention on being a Member of Congress.

I know he loved this institution. He served here for 20 years, 20 extraordinary years, where he rose to become chairman of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

He was a Japanese-American pioneer and a great public servant, and he left us earlier this week.

I first met Norman Mineta at a leadership development and candidate training conference in Los Angeles in the 1980s. I am getting old enough now where the 1980s and 1990s all kind of blend together, and it is hard for me to say which year of the 1980s it was, but I think it was the 1980s. I remember it was an organization called LEAP, Leadership Education for Asian Pacific Americans. They held this leadership training conference, training potential candidates for office. Norm showed up at the office as a Member of Congress, and he just gave of his time because he believed in mentoring people.

He was very supportive of my very first run for Congress in 1992 and my second run in 1994. He did become a mentor of mine, and he gave up generous amounts of his time.

I remember there was one time when I was hanging out in his office. I think it was 1992. I can't remember which run it was. But I realized that I was going to miss my flight, because he was just so relaxed and he just spent literally hours with me talking. I had to actually leave to catch my flight, and I had to get my luggage sent after me because I wasn't even able to get my luggage together. That was the kind of guy Norm was.

But in 1994, his true character shone through when he called me at the end of a very long day that I had been through. Earlier in that day in 1994, I was outed on the front page and above the fold of my hometown newspaper as gay. By evening time—this is in the days before there was the internet—the newspaper article had been faxed to Washington, D.C., and made its rounds around here. He knew what was on my mind.

He called me that night, and he told me that he had spoken to the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee's chairman, Vic Fazio, and he had gotten Vic's assurance that the DCCC would not diminish its support of me. Norm had already been a few steps ahead of me. He anticipated the fear that I had about being abandoned, and he promised that he would remain steadfast behind me.

By my third and ultimately successful run for the House of Representatives in 2012, Norm had yet to waver from that promise he made 18 years before. On January 3, 2013, when I entered the House Chamber for the very first time to take my oath of office, I was standing right over there to my right, in that section over there. I felt a tap on my shoulder and behind me was a voice that said: "Mark, Norm Mineta."

How fortuitous could that have been, that this wonderful man, this wonderful Member of Congress, was the first person that I would actually have a conversation with in the Chamber. And former Members of Congress are allowed back in the Chamber, and that was a very special moment on my first

day of office to have that tap on my shoulder.

There are many more stories I could tell about how he brought me to see Senator Dan Inouye before the election and made sure we had contact. It was my regret that Senator Inouye would pass away before I would take office.

But Norm remained a friend and mentor all these years. He had a profound impact on my life and the lives of so many other people, many who are in elective offices today and many who aren't. He just believed in cultivating and bringing up so many other AAPIs. But it didn't matter if you were AAPI or not. He believed in cultivating younger people into opportunities.

He personally encouraged countless AAPIs to get involved with politics. He would generously give of his time. He inspired so many Japanese Americans, especially niseis, to understand how imperative political participation was to defend civil liberties for all Americans. That was rooted in his own experience of what happened, and my colleague JUDY CHU recounted some of those experiences.

He played a key role in the effort to pass the Civil Liberties Act of 1987, which formally apologized to Japanese Americans interned during World War II, compensated them \$20,000 each, and established an education fund to teach Americans about this terrible chapter in history.

He was an early supporter of LGBTQ equality, signing on to the very first version of ENDA, introduced by Bella Abzug. He used his moral stature to persuade the Japanese American Citizens League, in a meeting in 1994, in its convention in 1994, to be the first non-LGBTQ civil rights organization to embrace same-sex unions. That was very important, because the State of Hawaii, which has a sizeable Japanese-American electorate, was the place where same-sex unions were being taken seriously for the very first time. So that endorsement was really important, and Norm played a key role in persuading those delegates to do the right thing.

About the same time, Norm introduced me to one of his openly gay staffers, Chris Strobel. Because Chris became especially close to Norm and the Mineta family, I just want to mention his name now, because I have also learned that Chris has also sadly passed away. And I know from Norm's wife, Deni, that Chris' passing has profoundly deepened the sense of loss coming so soon to the Mineta household after Norm has left us.

As Transportation Secretary during the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Norm not only gave the orders to ground all commercial flights, but he is also credited by President George W. Bush for being a voice of restraint against any reprisals against Muslim Americans in cabinet-level meetings.

President Bush was quoted as saying: "One of the important things about Norm's experience" . . . in internment

. . . "is that sometimes we lose our souls as a Nation. The notion of 'all equal under God' sometimes disappears. And 9/11 certainly challenged that premise. . . . In some ways, Norm's example inspired me. In other words, I didn't want our country to do to others what had happened to Norm."

Norm Mineta channeled his own personal history into making America a better country. His public service career has left an important and enduring legacy on our Nation.

He will be missed, but his contributions to our country will not soon be forgotten.

May he rest in peace.

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, I thank Congress Member TAKANO for sharing those wonderful memories.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI), my friend and fellow Californian.

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of my dear friend, Norm Mineta, who I feel like I have known almost forever.

Just a little fact of history. I remember meeting him first when my late husband, Bob Matsui, decided to run for Congress. Norm was obviously the first one on the phone to Bob saying, go for it and the first one to write a check to him. You remember those things.

He has been someone who has always encouraged people all the way and never forgetting. My colleagues here, especially Congressman TAKANO, mentioned how he was impacted by Norman Mineta.

Norm's compassionate spirit, hard work on behalf of the people of San Jose and our Nation, and advocacy for the Japanese-American community were evident to all those who had the privilege of knowing him. He simply made America a better place, a more hopeful place.

We know the immense impact he had across his career. His advocacy, passion, and legislative acumen, his leadership in both good times and bad.

□ 2000

Norm's life was full of trailblazing accomplishments and achievements. He was the first Asian-American mayor of San Jose—and he always talked about being mayor; he absolutely loved it—the founder of CAPAC, and the first Asian American to serve in a Presidential Cabinet. Yet for all those who knew him, it was his character, his generosity, and his tireless drive to speak out for the underrepresented that truly impacted everyone around him.

We all know he was a gifted legislator and perceptive leader. He championed hundreds of pieces of legislation on everything from economic development to transportation to civil rights. He transformed our transportation sector and adeptly led us through some of the toughest times.

He had a remarkable career, yet we all know his childhood was full of un-

certainty. He was only 10 years old when he was incarcerated alongside tens of thousands of fellow Japanese Americans. He was a Boy Scout.

Because of those painful memories, he became a fierce advocate for justice and civil rights. He became a champion of the Japanese-American community. Together with my late husband, Bob Matsui, and their colleagues, Senator Danny Inouye and Senator Sparky Matsunaga, they worked to pass the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, fighting tirelessly to educate Americans about the terrible prejudices and injustices that led to the Japanese-American incarceration during World War II.

People from the Japanese-American community were at first reluctant to come forward to tell their stories because they had gone through this, and they had survived, and they are truly Americans going back to their communities. But with the telling of the stories which he so encouraged, the healing began in the community, which is so important.

All of us take what is in us, what we have learned, and we forge our own path. We don't know where the journey will take us, but along the way we find what is best in ourselves.

Norm Mineta truly exemplified that. He broke barriers. He excelled at every step of his career, yet he was always driven by the need to improve the lives of those he served. He made sure our priorities stayed in line, that our ambitions for change and justice came directly from the people we serve.

He saw our country in all its potential and fought tirelessly to give others the opportunity to succeed as he did. He wanted everyone to succeed, from every walk and place in life.

You see, Norm's story is an American story. It is a Japanese-American story, but it is everyone's story who is an American. He showed us that the American tapestry shines brightest when it includes all of us equally, that we can all lead with compassion and understanding. That ethos is sewn into the fabric of his legacy.

We can continue to honor his memory by following his beacon of light and learning from the courage he carried and promoted in others. All of us can follow the example of Norman Mineta.

At this difficult time for all of us, my prayers are especially with all of Norm's family and friends. I know they are hurting, as we are, but we recall the wonderful person he was and will carry with us his legacy. We will all truly miss him.

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman MATSUI for those wonderful words. There are others who wanted to be here but had conflicts, and they wanted me to read their statements.

From Majority Leader STENY HOYER: "After I was elected to the House in 1981, Norm and I quickly began becoming friends. He was a colleague one could turn to for sage advice, for a good laugh, and for a reassuring word.

I will always remember his genial nature, his intellect, and his wit. And I will never forget the love he had for his native California and for the people who put their trust in him, again and again, to be their Representative in Congress.

“Norm believed in the power of our democratic institutions of government to safeguard our rights and make opportunities more readily available and accessible to Americans.

“The most fitting tribute I can think of is for us to cherish the critical role of the Congress as much as he did. And we ought to keep making the best use of our time here as we can, as he did, to serve our constituents and govern responsibly for their benefit.”

And then there is a statement from Representative BARBARA LEE. She says: “I rise today with a heavy heart to honor and mourn former Secretary Norman Y. Mineta. My thoughts and sympathies are with his wife, Deni; his children, Stuart, David, Mark, and Bob; and his family and friends.

“He was a truly remarkable, trailblazing individual who became one of the most prominent Asian-American figures in our country. His legacy included many firsts, and his life was a source of inspiration, a testament to the American spirit of fighting for justice and equality.

“I met Norm when I was working for the late, beloved Congressman Ron Dellums. Norm was very kind to me, taught me a lot, listened to my ideas, and was a close friend of Ron’s. In many ways, he was a mentor to me. Later, when I became a Member of Congress, he always sought me out to tell me how proud he was of me. Such support coming from this giant of a man always humbled me. I always told him how much he influenced my life, and I was deeply grateful for his friendship.

“His success did not come without sacrifice. When Secretary Mineta was 10 years old, our government forcibly removed him and his family from their home in San Jose to a World War II Japanese-American incarceration camp, the Heart Mountain camp in Wyoming. Decades later, he led the passage of the 1988 Civil Liberties Act, which granted reparations and a formal apology to Japanese Americans wrongfully incarcerated by our government solely on the basis of race due to President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s issuance of Executive Order 9066.

“Having endured such blatant racism and discrimination against Japanese Americans, he understood the importance of fighting for people who never had a voice in our political process. Throughout his career, he was the first Asian-American mayor of San Jose, the first Japanese-American Member of Congress from the lower 48 States, and the first Asian-American Cabinet member, serving as both the Secretary of Commerce for President Clinton and Secretary of Transportation for President Bush. In 2006 he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his achievements.

“During his time in Congress, Secretary Mineta cofounded the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and its sister organization, the Asian Pacific American Institute of Congressional Studies, to advocate for issues concerning the AAPI community. It is because of his efforts that the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community has a greater voice in this Chamber.

“My prayers are with his family, friends, and the AAPI community. We have all lost an icon. Madam Speaker, I urge the entire House to continue to honor Secretary Mineta’s legacy through our commitment to justice and equality for all.”

And, finally, we have a statement from our CAPAC whip, Congressman TED LIEU. He says: “Former Secretary Norman Mineta was a trailblazer in our community. He committed his life to public service, serving as a mayor, a 10-term Congressman, and Cabinet Secretary in two administrations.

“During his time in the House of Representatives, he cofounded the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and led efforts to secure an official apology and compensation for Japanese Americans who were wrongfully interned during World War II.

“As Secretary of Transportation, he created the Transportation Security Administration in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. Incarcerated during World War II just because of his race, Secretary Mineta knew what it was like to face injustice and discrimination firsthand and how important it was to defend the civil liberties of all Americans. His commitment to public service and dedication to American ideals made him a true patriot.

“Norman Mineta showed us all what it meant to be a public servant, and his legacy will continue to inspire future generations of AANHPI leaders. I am grateful for the work he did for our communities and join my colleagues in mourning his passing.”

As this Special Order comes to a close, I thank my colleagues for joining me today in honoring Norm Mineta, a truly remarkable community leader, passionate advocate for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities, and a genuine, kind man. His legacy of public service will certainly not be forgotten.

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

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I want to thank Chairwoman CHU and Members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus for hosting this tribute tonight for our friend and former colleague Norman Mineta.

I had the honor of serving alongside Norm for fourteen years in this House. I had the opportunity to watch him in action as a legislator, working hard every day to deliver for the people of San Jose—a continuation of his service to them as mayor. The thing that stood out to me about Norm was how much faith he had in our democratic institutions to deliver a better life for the people they served. He had that faith even after those institutions failed him as a child.

When Norm was eleven years old, he was detained along with his parents and four siblings at the Heart Mountain internment camp in Cody, Wyoming—more than 800 miles from his native San Jose, California. They had committed no crime. Norm and his siblings were natural-born citizens, not foreigners. They were detained because of their race. And our government and courts allowed that detention. The more-than three years the Mineta family spent at Heart Mountain—along with nearly 14,000 other Japanese-Americans held there during the Second World War—did not diminish the pride Norm had in America and his unwavering belief that our democracy would ultimately do right and do good, even if it stumbled along the way.

That’s why he joined the U.S. army after he graduated from the University of California, Berkeley. He wanted to wear the flag of our country on his uniform and defend the Constitution—the same flag he had seen on those who kept him and his family in detention during the war in an act of ignoring our Constitution. It’s what Norm did when he ran for Mayor of San Jose at a time when no large city in America had ever been led by a Japanese-American before. And it’s what he did when, after a successful mayoral term, he ran for Congress in 1974 and won.

An avid institutionalist throughout his time in government, Norm saw his work on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee through this same lens, working hard to ensure that the Committee—and the House—was delivering results for communities that helped them grow and their people access opportunities. As Secretary of Commerce and Secretary of Transportation, serving under presidents from different parties, he brought this same commitment to making sure government works for the people.

He never forgot the experiences that shaped him in his youth. He joined forces with Sen. Alan Simpson of Wyoming to enact legislation in 1988 apologizing for Japanese-American internment and providing restitution to detainees. In 1994, he founded the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and served as its inaugural Chair. And he was very proud to be the first Asian-American member of a president’s cabinet.

Atler I was elected to the House in 1981, Norm and I quickly became friends. He was a colleague one could turn to for sage advice, for a good laugh, and for a reassuring word. I will always remember his genial nature, his intellect, and his wit. And I will never forget the love he had for his native California and for the people who put their trust in him, again and again, to be their Representative in Congress.

Norm believed in the power of our democratic institutions of government to safeguard our rights and make opportunities more readily available and accessible to Americans. The most fitting tribute I can think of is for us to cherish the critical role of the Congress as much as he did. And we ought to keep making the best use of our time here as we can—as he did—to serve our constituents and govern responsibly for their benefit.

I join in offering my condolences to his wife Danielle, to his children, to his grandchildren, and to the extended Mineta family. May his memory guide and inspire us for many years to come. Godspeed, my friend.

HONORING THE LIFE OF  
MARGARET MUELLER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, tonight one of the first things I will address is to talk a little bit about one of the heroes of Wisconsin's Sixth Congressional District, a woman by the name of Margaret Mueller, who passed away late last year.

One of the things we do in this job is we sometimes try to advise young people on what they should do with their lives. A lot of times those conversations revolve around occupations, and that is perhaps as it should be. I recently attended an event at a local high school where I talked about encouraging children to go into the STEM-related fields and go into an occupation there.

Margaret Mueller was a farmer's wife. When that farmer died, unfortunately, at a relatively young age, she, of course, wound up having to run the farm and ran the farm for a little under 40 years. Of course, being a farmer is one of the most important occupations because they provide us with food, but not only that, one of the most difficult occupations because not only did she have to be a businesswoman, but she had to know how to handle all of the chores that you have to do on a dairy farm. That dairy farm was in Manitowoc County, Wisconsin.

She, as many people were, was a pillar of her church, St. Gregory's of St. Nazianz, Wisconsin. I knew her because she was a pillar of the Republican Party and a delegate to the 2008 convention in Minneapolis.

But the reason I am bringing this up tonight is I always feel when people plan out their lives, they should have certain goals, and I wonder how many of the young people today will succeed in having such a huge impact that Margaret Mueller had on Manitowoc and Sheboygan Counties.

She wound up having 11 children. Six of them were still minors at the time her husband passed away. Not only did she have 11 children, but she left behind 33 grandchildren, 47 great-grandchildren, and 9 great-great-grandchildren. If you add it up, that is right on the button 100 living descendants.

It occurred to me that while she didn't go to college that I know of, the impact her life had on the people of Sheboygan and Manitowoc Counties was greater than virtually every young child has on their community today.

□ 2015

I look at the names of all the grandchildren and great-grandchildren and such in the obituary. I know there are many of them because as I get around my district again and again, people come up to me and say: You know my mom. You know my grandma.

They are all great people. I asked them what they were doing. It seems

that not only did she have 100 descendants, but 100 descendants of people you would be proud to have as your children.

Again, when I think of Margaret Mueller and people like Margaret Mueller, I think very, very few young people today will have the impact on society that she had of raising 100 descendants who get out and about the community, who are good, hard-working, honest citizens of this country. They impart the values that Margaret carried in the church in St. Nazianz and that she instilled on her children. What a legacy.

Margaret, you are so missed.

DOBBS VERSUS JACKSON WOMEN'S HEALTH

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, while we were gone on break, there was leaked a potential opinion in the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* court case, and I think us politicians are supposed to weigh in on it.

I have been, in the last 25 years as a public official, somebody who has been active in the pro-life cause. I don't remember reading a lot about that cause growing up. In 1973, I think a lot of Americans were caught off guard when abortion was ruled to be, apparently, a constitutional right by then—what I would consider—a very liberal court. At the time, I think the churches and the pro-life movements, which had not really gotten going yet, were surprised and caught off guard. Nevertheless, it is important that right now we decide how America is going to view abortion.

Decisions are going to be made in district attorneys' offices.

Decisions are going to be made in attorney generals' offices.

Decisions are going to be made by women and their partners as to what is right and what is wrong on abortion.

Now, I feel that though this was a court decision, and a properly decided court decision, I think it is somewhat horrific that it took over 49 years between *Roe v. Wade* and the decision that so many of us were waiting for. But that decision is only the first decision. Like I said, there are going to be decisions in State legislatures. There are going to be decisions made in district attorneys' offices, whether they decide to prosecute or not, whether they are going to make public statements that they don't intend to enforce these laws anyway. In Wisconsin, abortion will be made illegal right away, one of the few States that abortion is still legal on the books. There are going to be decisions made by the individuals themselves and their partners.

What determines how people make up their mind? It has been my belief as a pro-life legislator for the last over 25 years, that while there are pro-life organizations which are doing a good job of taking out ads and putting up billboards, and while there are pregnancy counseling centers which are doing a very good job, collectively the clergy in this country have kind of dropped the ball.

This is a very important decision for the last 49 years—I think it is now a little bit below it—but a lot of those years, there have been close to a million abortions a year in the United States.

It would seem to me that as a clergyman, one of the problems you would have is you are supposed to think of 52 different speeches to give every year, and it would be hard to cover 52 different topics. If you are a clergyman in an individual parish or church for 5 years, that means you have to come up with over 250 interesting things to say. I think a lot of clergies would be looking for more things to say.

Nevertheless, I would bet in an average year, most clergy, even in churches that are nominally pro-life, manage to go all year without discussing this topic. It is a topic that should be easier to discuss now than it was over 50 years ago. For one thing, we have ultrasounds.

In 1973, when abortions were ruled legal in the United States, we did not have ultrasounds. I am sure everybody listening out there has seen the picture of the ultrasounds. Nowadays, if a woman is going to have a baby, it is relatively normal at three, four months to show everybody the ultrasound. It is so wonderful. You can no longer pretend, as you could in 1973, that that is just a piece of tissue.

Madam Speaker, I have toured abortion clinics as part of my research. When I was in the Wisconsin legislature, I authored a bill that required a 24-hour waiting period. And to my surprise, the local abortion clinics let me go through there. And I discovered going through the abortion clinics that the employees of the clinics made a point of always describing the pre-born baby as—not a fetus, they wouldn't use the word fetus—as tissue. And I always thought that the employees were probably educated to use the word tissue because it made it sound like it wasn't an act that it was, that you weren't ending the life of a little baby. It made it sound like something less than that.

Madam Speaker, we can no longer call it tissue. Nobody would look at a baby three months after conception and call that tissue today. We all know because of an ultrasound that we have a little human being in there. Given that, it should be so easy for the clergy to alert or to instill the appropriate values in their flock as to people who have to make a decision about abortion.

Nevertheless, I do believe that to this point, the American clergy have been pretty wimpy and pretty out to lunch—not all of them, but way too many of them. I think because of the lack of stepping up to the plate on this issue, polls do not show America as appalled with abortion as they should be.

Madam Speaker, the purpose of this speech is to ask any clergy, who happen to be listening at home, or in case you are a parishioner of a church and your clergyman has never broached