Coding and technological skills will only become more important in the economy of the future. These students blew us away by creating apps that would make a difference, tackling real-world challenges and reflecting their commitment to making our world a better place.

I thank and offer my congratulations to all the students that participated this year, and I wish every single one of them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

QUESTIONING REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP

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

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, under the American Rescue Plan passed by Democrats and signed by President Biden, more than 7.4 million jobs were created in the first 14 months of the Biden administration, the most in U.S. history.

During that time, unemployment dropped to its lowest in over 50 years. Democrats are building a better America for the people.

What are Republicans doing? I don't know. But I do know that Republican Congresswoman MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE recently stated that the Catholic Church is controlled by Satan. She has not yet apologized for her bigoted remark.

Republican Congressman MADISON CAWTHORN tried to board a plane with a gun for a second time. What has Republican leadership done? Nothing.

DANGEROUS OPEN BORDER POLICIES

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the utter failure of President Biden's dangerous open border policies.

In March, there were over 221,000 illegal encounters at our southern border, a 542 percent increase, bringing the total under Biden's watch to more than 2.4 million. Forty-two of those apprehended were on the terrorist watch list. This can't happen.

Illegal migrants are being dispersed into communities throughout country, making every State a border State, Mr. Speaker.

Meanwhile, my constituent, an American citizen, has been told his wife and daughter, who have fled war-torn Ukraine, must wait up to 2 years outside the United States for a visa interview.

This is wrong. These policies reward those who violate our laws and punish those trying to do the right thing.

They also put law enforcement officers in serious peril, as evidenced by the death of Texas National Guardsman Bishop Evans. May his memory be eternal. He tragically drowned last week while courageously working to save individuals trying to cross the Rio Grande River illegally.

This insanity has to stop.

JUSTICE FOR THOMAS RAYNARD JAMES

(Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the recent freedom of Thomas Raynard James and the crucial work of his attorney, Natalie Figgers.

One of the most paramount pillars of our legal system is the concept that everyone is innocent until proven guilty. But how does the system react when even those who are innocent are deemed guilty? This Wednesday, the Nation was able to witness the legal system right one of these wrongs.

Thomas Raynard James was wrongfully convicted of murder and sentenced to life due to a case of mistaken identity in 1991. His preliminary conviction was based on an eyewitness account.

Three decades later, this wrongful conviction has been overturned based on revised testimony, new evidence, and lack of physical evidence. Due to persistence and faith in the legal system, Ms. Figgers succeeded in freeing Mr. James, who was an innocent man.

We applaud the work of his attorneys and all the leaders who continuously fight the good fight for justice to make sure that everyone has a chance at justice.

RECOGNIZING DENNIS JONES UPON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great Kansan, Dennis Jones, on the occasion of his retirement.

In 1982, Dennis moved from Colorado to Kansas to begin working at the Tyson Fresh Meats plant in Holcomb. He started out as an hourly employee on the harvest floor and worked his way up. Soon after proving himself to be knowledgeable and committed to his job, he moved up to the role of department head.

Dennis spent time at the Amarillo plant, learning about different departments and operations within the business, after which he came back to Holcomb in 2006. He quickly became the new operations manager and then moved up again to his current role as complex plant manager.

I love Dennis' story because it exemplifies hard work, tenacity, looking for open doors, and staying committed to a calling that requires skill, intuition, attention to detail, and relationship-building.

Dennis is the type of guy that embodies grit, agriculture, and conservative Kansas values.

On his last day at Tyson, Dennis plans to return his computer in the morning and then spend the rest of the day with the hourly employees on the harvest floor.

This is a great man whose career and legacy I am proud to honor here today.

Congratulations on your retirement, Dennis.

NATIONAL DAY OF SILENCE

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

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize those who participated in the National Day of Silence.

This day allows students and allies to take a vow of silence as a way to speak out against any harassment and discrimination experienced by LGBTQ people in our schools.

In my district on the Central Coast of California, Luka Chavez, who attends Watsonville School of Arts, took his vow last week. Luka told me that he wanted to take the vow so that he can make all the difference for all of those who don't have a voice in our own community.

Luka felt that his silence for 1 day was the least that he could do to speak up for those who feel isolated and excluded every day.

Luka, you may have taken your vow last week, but this week, on this day, on this floor, your voice is not only heard but, more importantly, your message is received by teachers, counselors, administrators, parents, and all who support you but also, most importantly, those who don't.

Luka, your vow of silence allows me to speak for you and inspires Congress to continue its fight for LGBTQ students in our community and equal rights for our democracy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YARMUTH). Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

RECOGNIZING THE WEATHER CHANNEL'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Weather Channel for 40 years of exceptional weather journalism, public service, and high-quality educational content.

Since 1982, The Weather Channel has provided accurate, by-the-minute live coverage of weather events, ranging from the mundane daily rain shower to catastrophic hurricanes and tornadoes.

Today, The Weather Channel reaches more than 80 million households across the United States. It has consistently been ranked the most trustworthy cable news network in the country and has received nationwide acclaim for its high-quality reporting and programming.