

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING DEPUTY CHRIS
DOWNEY

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the service of one of my constituents, Deputy Chris Downey, of the Hernando County Sheriff's Office. On February 13, 2024 Deputy Downey responded, along with School Guardian Brent Coleman, to a 13 year-old student having a medical emergency in a common area at the school which is at the base of a large set of stairs. The student was found face down and unresponsive to verbal or physical stimulus. Due to the perceived method of injury (fall) the student was carefully rolled to his back while maintaining control of his head and neck. The student was found to have an erratic pulse and was not breathing. CPR was initiated and an AED and EMS was requested. Upon application of the AED, a shock was recommended. Shock was applied by the device and CPR continued. This and two additional cycles were completed before a non-shockable rhythm was established. The student was air-lifted to a children's trauma center where he underwent a procedure to correct the medical condition. Investigation revealed that the initial assumption of a fall was incorrect. The child had navigated the stairs just fine and collapsed after exiting the stairs due to a previously undiagnosed medical condition. The child has since returned to school and is in good spirits. It has been well-established that, without the swift actions of both Deputy Downey and School Guardian Brent Coleman, this child would not have survived this medical episode. This is just one example of the hard work, dedication, eagerness to help, and servant leadership that Deputy Downey exhibits every day he comes to work. Deputy Downey is a shining example of what it means to be a Hernando County Law Enforcement Officer. His work ethic should be a benchmark for which other law enforcement officers should strive to attain. It is evident that Deputy Downey has made a profoundly positive impact on our community and is qualified to be recognized as a First Responder of the Year for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING RYANN CARLSON

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ryann Carlson for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Ryann has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating

perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Ryann, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Ryann's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Three Creeks K-8 and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Ryann Carlson on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING CORPORAL WILL SUGGS

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Clay County, N.C. Corporal Will Suggs in recognition of his service.

Cpl. Suggs is a veteran of the U.S. Army who continues to serve his community as a resident and Deputy Sheriff in Clay County.

Cpl. Suggs oversees the Court and Civil Process division of Field Operations. In addition to those duties, Cpl. Suggs is a Field Training Officer and a supervisor of the Clay County Animal Control Unit.

Cpl. Suggs consistently sets an example by his dedication and professionalism to the Office of the Sheriff and the citizens of Clay County. His leadership qualities, his work ethic, and his commitment to the betterment of Clay County make him an invaluable member of North Carolina's 11th District.

I thank Cpl. Suggs for his dedicated service to our country and to Clay County.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR LOCAL
LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS
AND CONDEMNING EFFORTS TO
DEFUND LOCAL LAW ENFORCE-
MENT AGENCIES

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak on H. Con. Res. 106, "Expressing support for local law enforcement officers and condemning efforts to defend local law enforcement agencies."

It is unfortunate that H. Con. Res. 106 is simply another hypocritical, partisan attack cloaked behind a message honoring local law enforcement during National Police Week.

During a time when we are coming together and supporting law enforcement, my Republican colleagues continue to offer divisive political talking points and largely meaningless bills that will neither protect law enforcement nor enhance public safety.

It is further disappointing and disingenuous that Republicans have consistently blamed the

rise in violent crime on Democrats and have attempted to pin the "defund the police" rhetoric on Democrats—labeling Democrats as the party of "defund the police."

This bill put forth by Republican colleagues, H. Con. Res. 106, endeavors to continue those efforts—repeating almost verbatim—sentiments asserted in H. Con. Res. 40, which was introduced during National Police Week last year.

Through the American Rescue Plan, Democrats have provided \$350 billion to the states that would allow our cities to keep law enforcement on the beat and communities safe from violence, the largest Federal investment in public safety in our history.

Police departments used that funding to establish training facilities, hire more officers, and raise salaries.

In the 117th Congress, House Democrats showed their support for law enforcement and the needs faced by departments across the country by passing priority policing bills—including:

Extending death benefits to law enforcement officers with PTSD;

Providing funding to law enforcement and other first responders for interacting with people with TBIs and PTSD;

Authorizing \$300 million in grants for law enforcement agencies with fewer than 125 officers;

Making significant investments in de-escalation training; and

Providing \$100 million per year in grants to solve cold-case violent crimes—all over Republican objections.

Sadly, however, this resolution is another missed opportunity to support and honor law enforcement officers across the country, without engaging in nonsensical and damaging partisanship.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF 2024 PATHFINDER SCHOLAR-
SHIP FIRST PLACE WINNER
RYAN AOUAD IN THE WORLD
LANGUAGE CATEGORY

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ryan Aouad, the first-place winner of the prestigious Pathfinder Scholarship in the World Language category. This scholarship is awarded to Palm Beach and Martin County students who have displayed excellence in their academic and communal endeavors in a multitude of categories.

Ryan attends West Boca Raton High School, where he has further advanced his skills as a polyglot. His passion lies with the Spanish language, which led him to earn a distinguished mention on his Spanish AICE/AS test. He also maintains fluency in French while possessing the skillset to speak intermediate

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Arabic and beginner Russian. He uses his language skills to further assist those in his community, which can be seen in his volunteer work as a lifeguard and swim coach, in which he is able to dedicate his efforts to teaching non-native English-speaking swimmers. We are hopeful that Ryan's multi-lingual capabilities will pave the way for a successful career in foreign affairs, where his unique skills and perspective will be invaluable.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me today in recognizing Mr. Ryan Aouad as an excellent student and notable contributor to the field of world languages.

HONORING DR. DANIEL F. MORGAN
FOR HIS 25 YEARS OF PUBLIC
SERVICE TO THE U.S. CONGRESS
AT THE CONGRESSIONAL RE-
SEARCH SERVICE

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Daniel F. Morgan for his lengthy career of public service to the U.S. Congress. After 25 years at the Congressional Research Service, or CRS, he will retire as a specialist in science and technology policy at the end of the month. During his time at CRS, Dr. Morgan made invaluable contributions to Congress in federal and commercial space policy, federal research and development facilities and infrastructure, and the role of science and technology in homeland security.

Dr. Morgan was born in London and raised in Austin, TX, where he attended high school, excelling in mathematics. He played the cello in the high school string quartet, igniting a lifelong love of classical music, and in particular, music that allows the cello to shine. Dr. Morgan graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), majoring in physics and mathematics and minoring in philosophy. While at MIT, he was a consultant to Project Athena to produce a campus-wide distributed computing environment, which is recognized as an important historical contribution to distributed computing. He competed in the MIT Integration Bee, an annual integral calculus competition, placing second his junior year. Dr. Morgan then attended the University of Texas at Austin and earned a doctorate in physics with a dissertation on particle physics and cosmology in the early universe. His dissertation was supervised by Joe Polchinski, noted string theorist and Dirac Medal winner, and Steven Weinberg, Nobel laureate in physics, was on his committee. During graduate school, Dr. Morgan began to play bridge at beer gardens around Austin. He would go on to regularly host games, compete at regional and national competitions, and regularly play bridge during lunch with CRS colleagues.

Dr. Morgan began his career with CRS in 1991 as a contractor, covering major federal physics projects and advanced energy technologies. In 1994 he joined the staff at the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, first on Board on Physics and Astronomy and then National Materials Advisory Board, working with preeminent researchers in their fields. Dr. Morgan returned to CRS in 2002 and was instrumental in covering the

creation and evolution of the research and development activities of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), established by the Homeland Security Act of 2002 following the September 11, 2001 attacks. He consulted regularly with Congress as multiple Department of Energy (DOE) programs—such as those dedicated to chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear defense—were folded into the newly-established agency. During this period, Congress also relied heavily on his technical expertise to cover the development and deployment of explosive and radiation detection systems. For over two decades, Dr. Morgan has covered major scientific facilities at DOE, including the national laboratories, and civil and commercial space policy. He is widely recognized in Congress for his expertise on the policies, programs, and missions of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, routinely providing invaluable personal consultation to Members and staff on House and Senate committees of jurisdiction. Dr. Morgan consulted heavily with Congress as it considered the United States Innovation and Competition Act of 2021 and America COMPETES Act of 2022 and the subsequent development and enactment of the resulting CHIPS and Science Act in 2022.

Dr. Morgan is a polymath, whose advice is valued by Members, congressional staff, and colleagues. At CRS, he is relied on to provide expert leadership and coordination of complex analysis and is a sought-after reviewer and mentor. Throughout his career at CRS, he embodied the agency's mission values of providing authoritative, objective, nonpartisan, and timely service to Congress.

On behalf of the American people, I thank Dr. Morgan for his decades of service to the country.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER JOSEPH
BOLOGNA

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the service of one of my constituents, Officer Joseph Bologna, from the New Port Richey Police Department. Officer Bologna has been with the New Port Richey Police Department's K9 unit since July 2021 when he transferred from the Oviedo Police Department with more than ten years of service. He was one of the initial first law enforcement teams to respond to the Pulse Night Club shooting, and used that experience to help make him an even better officer. Officer Bologna's true passion is being a K9 handler and trainer. He has trained police K9s for approximately 13 years and is state-certified. He has assisted with ten State of Florida-certified K9 patrol schools. Additionally, he has trained with national K9 training associations throughout the United States. He feels the best part of being a K9 team is the apprehension of multiple dangerous suspects, removing large amounts of narcotics off the street, and participating in community events. He has also had the honor of assisting federal agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security. Officer Bologna is so well received in the department that he had three separate nominations

from supervisors for the department's Officer of the Year Award. Officer Bologna's performance on the street, community involvement, and city representation have been stellar. Officer Bologna is a wonderful family man who enjoys being with his wife and wonderful sons. Officer Bologna is busy learning about his latest addition to his family, the New Port Richey Police Department's newest K9, Rex. Rex is still a puppy and attending Patrol School, pending his graduation this month. These are just a few examples of the hard work, dedication, eagerness to help, and servant leadership that Officer Bologna exhibits every day he comes to work. Officer Bologna is a shining example of what it means to be a New Port Richey Law Enforcement Officer. His work ethic should be a benchmark for which other law enforcement officers should strive to attain. It is evident that Officer Bologna has made a profoundly positive impact on our community and is qualified to be recognized as a First Responder of the Year for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING LUTHER
KOZHEVNIKOV

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Luther Kozhevnikov for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Luther has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Luther, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Luther's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Wheat Ridge High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Luther Kozhevnikov on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECRUIT AND RETAIN ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak in support of S. 546, the "Recruit and Retain Act".

As a member of the Law Enforcement Caucus and the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Surveillance, I am pleased to support this bill.

This legislation will help law enforcement agencies in tangible ways by providing them with tools to help address the high rates of attrition that have plagued these agencies for years.

Our Nation's law enforcement agencies are facing an unprecedented staffing crisis.

Hiring efforts have been unable to keep pace with the high rates of attrition that we are seeing in police departments from coast to coast, and everywhere in between.

According to a report last year by the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the Office of Community Oriented Policing, factors such as community frustration with the policing profession, and concerns about officer safety and well-being, have contributed to this staffing crisis.

It is unsurprising, then, that a 2023 survey of police departments showed resignations continuing to increase every year since 2019, with responding agencies reporting nearly 50 percent more resignations in 2022 than in 2019.

In my district in Houston, Texas, the problem goes back even further.

We recently learned that staffing shortages resulted in over 264,000 cases—including 4,000 sexual assault cases—were never submitted for investigation, due to staffing shortages.

We cannot allow this to continue.

Our communities deserve more.

Victims deserve more.

The Recruit and Retain Act will attempt to remedy this problem by authorizing law enforcement agencies to use COPS grants to reduce the numerous fees that law enforcement applicants must pay.

We will not get qualified men and women in uniform if they cannot afford to even apply to a police department.

The Recruit and Retain Act also will encourage voluntary partnerships between agencies and local elementary schools, secondary schools, and institutions of higher learning, including historically black colleges and universities, for students interested in careers in law enforcement.

Partnership activities will include dedicated programming for students; work-based learning opportunities; mentoring; community liaisons; career and jobs fairs; job shadowing; and internships.

These activities will help law enforcement agencies recruit talented applicants who reflect and respect the communities they serve.

This, in turn, will help earn back the trust of those communities—making all of us safer.

I would prefer for this bill to include the minimum qualification and training standards that the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act would require.

I also think we must do more to address the mental health challenges that officers inevitably face, due to the harrowing nature of their work.

We cannot expect qualified officers to remain in such a dangerous profession if we do not give them the resources they need to address the toll that police work takes on them.

We cannot wait any longer to address the law enforcement staffing crisis.

We must act now to help police departments across the country recruit and retain the officers they need to keep our communities safe.

I invite my colleagues across the aisle to join me in this effort to support local and state law enforcement.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2024 PATHFINDER SCHOLARSHIP FIRST PLACE WINNER NIKKI LEALI IN THE COMPUTER ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY CATEGORY

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Nikki Leali, the first-place winner of the prestigious Pathfinder Scholarship in the Computer Engineering and Technology category. This scholarship is awarded to Palm Beach and Martin County students who have displayed excellence in their academic and communal endeavors in a multitude of categories

Nikki, a student at FAU High School, is a shining example of hard work and dedication. She is not only taking dual enrollment courses at the FAU Wilkes Honors College but also working towards a major in data analytics. Her future includes continuing her education at FAU and graduating in 2027 with a master's degree, with the aim of becoming a data analyst. Her experience volunteering with FAU's Privacy, Security, and Trust in Autonomy Lab, where she has gained experience interpreting research papers and using Python coding, has prepared her to launch into a career in which she hopes to become a leader in implementing and advancing artificial intelligence and data visualization.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me today in recognizing Ms. Nikki Leali as an excellent student and notable contributor to the field of computer engineering and technology.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 8369, ISRAEL SECURITY ASSISTANCE SUPPORT ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 7530, D.C. CRIMINAL REFORMS TO IMMEDIATELY MAKE EVERYONE SAFE ACT OF 2024; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 7343, DETAIN AND DEPORT ILLEGAL ALIENS WHO ASSAULT COPS ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 8146, POLICE OUR BORDER ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 7581, IMPROVING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER SAFETY AND WELLNESS THROUGH DATA ACT OF 2024; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 354, LEOSA REFORM ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 1213, RESOLUTION REGARDING VIOLENCE AGAINST LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 1210, CONDEMNING THE BIDEN BORDER CRISIS AND THE TREMENDOUS BURDENS LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS FACE AS A RESULT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to Republicans using Police Week to push divisive legislation in the House that takes away local control from communities, weakens gun safety laws, and dehumanizes immigrants.

Our constituents did not elect us to get involved in the local politics of our Nation's capital city. Yet, House Republicans think it's appropriate to waste Congress's time to limit Washington, D.C.'s ability to police itself. Congress does not have the authority to pass such a resolution for Minnesota or any other state—and we would not have that power over D.C. and its 700,000 residents if the District was granted statehood as the majority of its residents' support.

Children at schools, daycares, and playgrounds deserve to be safe from guns and gun violence. House Republicans instead pushed legislation eroding the ability for communities across America to protect these areas from guns. Overriding a community's ability to establish zones that are gun-free fails to make our children safer, it exposes them to the danger of firearms. Three million children are already threatened by gun violence each year in America. More than 20,000 are killed or wounded. The solution to the gun violence crisis in this country is not more guns, and it clearly isn't overruling the will of a community that is taking its own action to make vulnerable children safer.

Finally, House Republicans continue to dehumanize immigrants, as they have week after week in this Congress. They have presented their harmful proposals under the guise of protecting and supporting our law enforcement. Madam Speaker, I support law enforcement. I always have. These bills do nothing to support or protect the people who serve our communities. House Republicans continue to insist on

undermining Constitutional civil liberties by removing the hurdle of proving guilt before deportation. As I've said before: Where will they stop? Are American citizens next?

It is shameful that House Republicans are using our law enforcement as pawns for the Majority's extreme MAGA immigration rhetoric. House Republicans must stop their politics of division and distraction from addressing the real challenges facing Americans. They need to join Democrats at the table to find solutions.

RECOGNIZING SGT. RYAN LENNOX

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize and honor the service one of my constituents, Sgt. Ryan Lennox, of the Pasco County Sheriff's Office. On November 28, 2022, Sgt. Lennox was transferred to the Special Operation Division as a K9 Sergeant. However, during this timeframe the Patrol Division was understaffed with squad and platoon supervisors. This prompted Sgt. Lennox to be asked to take a temporary duty assignment as a Patrol Sergeant while continuing to lead, supervise and guide his K9 Patrol Squad. Sgt. Lennox willingly accepted the dual responsibilities and continued to shine in both roles. Examples of his accomplishment during this period include:

Attending a Patrol K9 School with his new K9 partner Ranger;

Passing the K9 state standards course;

Leading and Supervising a K9 squad, ensuring all administrative duties were completed;

Assisting patrol units as a K9 handler. Within a year, he successfully led the search and location of multiple suspects;

Leading and supervising a patrol squad, ensuring all administrative duties were completed;

Planning, leading and successfully executing several SWAT operations and monthly SWAT trainings;

Co-teaching SWAT school, and

Planning, leading and successfully executing several operational missions.

These are just a few examples of the hard work, dedication, eagerness to help, and servant leadership that Sgt. Lennox exhibits every day he comes to work. Sgt. Lennox is a shining example of what it means to be a Pasco County Law Enforcement Officer. His work ethic should be a benchmark for which other law enforcement officers should strive to attain. It is evident that Sgt. Lennox has made a profoundly positive impact on our community and is qualified to be recognized as a First Responder of the Year for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING SAKURA
CHENHALLS

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sakura Chenhalls for earning the

Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Sakura has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Sakura, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Sakura's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Three Creeks K-8 and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Sakura Chenhalls on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

DETAIN AND DEPORT ILLEGAL
ALIENS WHO ASSAULT COPS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise to speak in opposition to H.R. 7343, the "Detain and Deport Illegal Aliens Who Assault Cops Act."

As the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Crime Subcommittee and as Senior Member of the Homeland Security Committee, I am deeply disappointed in this harmful and misguided bill.

This overly broad legislation would result in extremely harsh and unintended consequences, subjecting people to mandatory immigration detention for merely being arrested for, and never charged or convicted of a crime.

It does not actually solve any problems with the immigration system or the border.

This bill will, however, callously, and carelessly increases the scope of those subject to mandatory immigration detention to cover many undocumented immigrants, including those in a lawful status such as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) or Temporary Protected Status (TPS), if they are arrested for assault of a law enforcement officer or first responder.

In particular, it will make it so that someone who is merely arrested for or charged with an assault of a law enforcement officer or first responder, even if they never committed that crime or hurt anyone, is now subject to mandatory immigration detention.

It is so broad and overinclusive that it would lead to truly absurd results and to the detention and removal of people who had no intention of ever committing a crime.

Indeed, consider a situation where an immigrant is wrongfully arrested for assault due to mistaken identity.

Under this bill, that individual would now be subject to mandatory detention, even though they were arrested by mistake and potentially never even charged with a crime.

Wrongful arrests are not far-fetched scenarios.

In fact, the main reason this bill was introduced was because Republicans wanted to exploit an incident involving recently arrived migrants allegedly assaulting law enforcement in Times Square.

One specific image of an arrested migrant flipping off cameras after his arraignment set off a firestorm among Republicans.

However, in March, ten weeks after the incident, charges against that specific individual were dropped.

It turns out he was wrongfully arrested and charged. He was not even at the scene of the incident.

This is a perfect example as to why this bill is absurd—if it was in effect, this individual, despite his innocence, would have been subject to mandatory detention.

Additionally, many jurisdictions have a broad definition of assault that are so broad, they can include conduct as minor as throwing a parking ticket at a ticketing officer.

This bill is a solution in search of a problem. No one in this caucus condones serious assaults against law enforcement officers.

People who admit to or are convicted of serious assault offenses against law enforcement officers are already subject to mandatory detention under our laws. This bill would not change that fact.

Instead, this bill will subject more people to mandatory detention at a time when Republicans refuse to give the Department of Homeland Security the resources it needs.

It should also be noted that Congress has never appropriated, and no administration has ever requested, sufficient resources to detain all noncitizens who fall under the "mandatory detention" categories.

Even former President Trump never tried to detain all migrants subject to mandatory detention.

If this bill were to become law, as written, it would simply lead to absurd consequences.

Consequences that do nothing to resolve the problems that Republicans claim they are seeking to resolve.

Time and again, Republicans have refused to support additional resources and personnel for the border.

In 2021, all but six current House Republicans voted against the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal, which provided additional funding to ports of entry to combat smuggling of people and drugs.

All but two current House Republicans voted against providing robust funding for border security operations in the FY2023 appropriations omnibus legislation.

That bill provided more than \$17 billion to Customs and Border Protection (CBP), including funding for an additional 300 Border Patrol agents.

The omnibus also included \$60 million to hire 125 CBP officers and \$70 million for non-intrusive inspection technology to detect narcotics and firearms at ports of entry.

In October of 2023, the Biden administration sent Congress a supplemental funding request, which included an additional \$13.6 billion for border security.

House Republicans refuse to schedule a vote on this funding request, which would provide the Biden administration the resources it needs to secure the border and provide additional support for communities receiving migrants.

More specifically, this supplemental funding would pay for an additional 1,300 Border Patrol agents; 375 immigration judges and 1,600 asylum officers to speed up processing of asylum claims; 1,000 CBP officers with a focus on countering fentanyl; new detection technology for ports of entry; additional investigative capabilities to combat fentanyl trafficking; and \$1.4 billion more in grants to help communities receiving migrants, among other investments.

By forcing a vote on this bill, Republicans are really showing they have no real solutions to address the border.

I urge my colleagues to not take the bait.

It should also be stated that immigrants commit crimes at lower rates than native-born individuals.

There are currently 45 million foreign-born people in the United States.

In any large group, there are going to be some people who do bad things.

These people do not represent the group as a whole.

Unfortunately, Republicans and Fox News want to use any crime committed by an immigrant to fearmonger and scapegoat migrants for everything that is wrong in the country.

But here are the facts: Higher immigration is associated with lower crime rates.

According to a 2015 study by the American Immigration Council, between 1990 and 2013, the foreign-born share of the U.S. population grew from 7.9 percent to 13.1 percent and the number of unauthorized immigrants more than tripled from 3.5 million to 11.2 million.

During the same period, FBI data indicates that the violent crime rate declined 48 percent—which included falling rates of aggravated assault, robbery, rape, and murder.

Likewise, the property crime rate fell 41 percent, including declining rates of motor vehicle theft, larceny/robbery, and burglary.

An NBC News review of available 2024 crime data from the cities targeted by Texas's "Operation Lone Star," which buses or flies migrants from the border to major cities in the interior—shows overall crime levels dropping in those cities that have received the most migrants.

Overall crime is down year after year in Philadelphia, Chicago, Denver, New York, and Los Angeles.

With these facts, we can see that this bill is sadly another opportunity for my Republican colleagues to score cheap political points on a bill that has no chance to become law while trying to target and scapegoat migrants as criminals.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote no on this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2024 PATHFINDER SCHOLARSHIP FIRST PLACE WINNER JAKE CHAVIS IN THE SPORTS CATEGORY

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Jake Chavis, the first-place winner of the prestigious Pathfinder Scholarship in the Sports category. This scholarship is awarded to Palm Beach and Martin County students who have displayed excellence in their academic and communal endeavors in a multitude of categories.

As a student at FAU High School, Jake has maintained a 4.0 GPA and will graduate high school with a bachelor's degree in biochemistry. He is currently enrolled at Wilkes Honors College at FAU. His school's tennis team competed in the 2023 State Championship under his leadership as captain. His pas-

sion for tennis extends into his community, where he selflessly teaches tennis at the Tenorio Tennis Academy and has volunteered hundreds of hours with the Delray Beach Open Tennis Tournament. He aspires to become a professional tennis player and hopes to attend law school.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me today in recognizing Mr. Jake Chavis as an excellent student and an incredible athlete.

RECOGNIZING VICTORIA DOMINGUEZ SALAZAR

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Victoria Dominguez Salazar for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Victoria has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Victoria, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Victoria's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Victoria Dominguez Salazar on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

CONDEMNING THE BIDEN BORDER CRISIS AND THE TREMENDOUS BURDENS LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS FACE AS A RESULT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in opposition to H. Res. 1210, "Condemning the Biden border crisis and the tremendous burdens law enforcement officers face as a result".

As the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Crime Subcommittee and as Senior Member of the Homeland Security Committee, I am deeply disappointed in this harmful and misguided bill.

This resolution is more of the same false and misleading narrative we have become accustomed from House Republicans this Congress.

This resolution, however, goes further and also claims that "Democrat elected officials prioritize illegal alien criminals over citizens and legal residents of the United States."

This is slanderous, wrong, and offensive language that should draw universal condemnation from Democrats.

Let us remember how we got here.

Last May, House Republicans passed their inhumane, unworkable border bill, H.R. 2, over bipartisan opposition.

They claimed this bill was the only way to secure the border.

That bill has since failed twice to pass the Senate, rejected both times on a bipartisan basis.

Former President Trump instructed Republicans to reject a bipartisan border compromise that Minority Leader McConnell called the strongest border bill in 30 years.

Republicans have said out loud they want to preserve the political issue for the election year.

The best way to secure the border is to expand lawful pathways and adequately fund the immigration system.

And yet, we have not updated our legal immigration system in over 30 years.

The more broken the legal immigration system is, the more people will try to come to the border as the only means of entry.

We need more asylum officers and immigration judges to ensure people have their day in court, in a fair and expeditious manner.

However, there has been a refusal to actually solve the problem.

This resolution accuses of Democrats of not supporting law enforcement when time and again, Republicans have refused to take yes for an answer and address the issues at the border.

In addition to rejecting the bipartisan Senate border bill, Republicans have consistently refused to support providing additional resources and personnel for the border.

In 2021, all but six current House Republicans voted against the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal, which provided additional funding to ports of entry to combat smuggling of people and drugs.

All but two current House Republicans voted against providing funding for border security operations in the FY2023 appropriations omnibus legislation.

That bill provided more than \$17 billion to Customs and Border Protection (CBP), including funding for an additional 300 Border Patrol agents.

The omnibus also included \$60 million to hire 125 CBP officers and \$70 million for non-intrusive inspection technology to detect narcotics and firearms at ports of entry.

In October of 2023, the Biden administration sent Congress a supplemental funding request, which included \$13.6 billion for border security.

House Republicans refuse to schedule a vote on this funding request, which would provide the Biden administration the resources it needs to secure the border and provide additional support for communities receiving migrants.

More specifically, this supplemental funding would pay for an additional 1,300 Border Patrol agents; 375 immigration judges, and 1,600 asylum officers to speed up processing of asylum claims; 1,000 CBP officers with a focus on countering fentanyl; new detection technology for ports of entry; additional investigative capabilities to combat fentanyl trafficking; and \$1.4 billion more in grants to help communities receiving migrants, among other investments.

By forcing a vote on this resolution, Republicans are showing they have no real solutions to address the border.

I urge Members to not take the bait.

Rather, let us look at the facts.

In the Fiscal Year 24 appropriations bill, Congress appropriated over \$3.4 billion for DHS to maintain and use 41,500 detention beds.

These are levels of detention similar to those during under the Trump administration. Despite the claims of this resolution, the Biden administration has significantly expanded expedited removal and in ways that many in our caucus worry violates due process.

Since the end of Title 42 last year, the Biden administration has removed or returned over 720,000 individuals, including over 109,000 individual members of family units, including children.

This is more than the number of people removed in ALL of fiscal year 2019 under the Trump administration, and more removals and returns than every full fiscal year since 2011.

We also know that immigrants commit crimes at lower rates than native-born individuals.

There are currently 45 million foreign-born people in the United States.

In any large group, there are going to be some people who do bad things.

These people do not represent the group as a whole.

Unfortunately, Republicans and this resolution, want to use any crime committed by an immigrant to fearmonger and scapegoat migrants for everything that is wrong in the country.

But here are the facts: Higher immigration is associated with lower crime rates.

According to a 2015 study by the American Immigration Council, between 1990 and 2013, the foreign-born share of the U.S. population grew from 7.9 percent to 13.1 percent and the number of unauthorized immigrants more than tripled from 3.5 million to 11.2 million.

During the same period, FBI data indicates that the violent crime rate declined 48 percent—which included falling rates of aggravated assault, robbery, rape, and murder.

An NBC News review of available 2024 crime data from the cities targeted by Texas's "Operation Lone Star," which buses or flies migrants from the border to major cities in the interior—shows overall crime levels dropping in those cities that have received the most migrants.

Overall crime is down year after year in Philadelphia, Chicago, Denver, New York, and Los Angeles.

With these facts, we can see that this bill is sadly another opportunity for my Republican colleagues to score cheap political points on a bill that has no chance to become law while trying to target and scapegoat migrants as criminals.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote no on this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2024 PATHFINDER SCHOLARSHIP FIRST PLACE WINNER BROOKE TAYLOR IN THE REACH FOR EXCELLENCE CATEGORY

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Brooke Taylor, the first-place winner of the prestigious Pathfinder Scholarship in the Reach for Excellence category. This scholarship is awarded to Palm Beach

and Martin County students who have displayed excellence in their academic and communal endeavors in a multitude of categories.

Brooke, a Spanish River High School student, has excelled academically as an AP Scholar with Distinction and an AICE Diploma recipient. Her Journey as an individual with a learning disability spurred her to found the Learning Disability Awareness Club at her school, a testament to her commitment to inclusivity and advocacy. Her future career goal of serving as an elected school board member and specializing in education law is a testament to her dedication to championing the rights of students with special needs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me today in recognizing Ms. Brooke Taylor as an excellent student and impactful member of her community.

FEDERAL DISASTER TAX RELIEF ACT, H.R. 5863

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, we are now almost a year and a half removed from the devastating tornado that hit my district and one thing is clear; the people of Selma, Dallas County and Greene County are resilient.

From the very beginning, my biggest priority has been ensuring that those impacted by the tornado get the resources they need to recover AND ensuring that our recovery is equitable.

The legislation before us today is just another example of making a valuable resource within the tax code available to all those still rebuilding after the storm.

The road to recovery is a marathon, not a sprint. The work undertaken by the Ways & Means Committee is transformative in nature and improves lives for the better.

H.R. 5863 will give my constituents and all Americans impacted by federal designated disasters yet another tool to rebuild their homes and livelihoods.

I support this legislation and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

RECOGNIZING SIMON RIVAS NIETO

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Simon Rivas Nieto for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Simon has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Simon, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Simon's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Three Creeks K-8 and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Simon Rivas Nieto on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

IMPROVING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER SAFETY AND WELLNESS THROUGH DATA ACT OF 2024

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak in opposition to H.R. 7581, the "Improving Law Enforcement Officer Safety and Wellness Through Data Act."

As the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Crime Subcommittee and as Senior Member of the Homeland Security Committee, I am deeply disappointed in this harmful and misguided bill.

Sadly, nothing in this bill makes a single officer safer or invests a single dollar in officer wellness.

By contrast, last Congress, Democrats passed the Protecting America's First Responders Act, the Public Safety Officer Support Act, the Confidentiality Opportunities for Peer Support (COPS) Counseling Act, and the Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act.

But this Congress, House Republicans are refusing to follow suit, instead offering this bill that sounds helpful, but is not.

This legislation falls far short of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, which would invest in better data collection and reporting by requiring law enforcement agencies to report uses of force by or against law enforcement officers as a condition of the receipt of certain grants.

My bill, the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act would actually provide us with new data because it would condition the receipt of certain grants on the reporting of incidents involving law enforcement officers and it would support better data collection and reporting through additional grants to reporting agencies.

The reporting provisions of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act include officer shootings by civilians, officer deaths, deaths of civilians in custody, and uses of deadly force against civilians.

In focusing only on attacks against officers, this bill turns a blind eye to uses of force by law enforcement against civilians, whether justified or not.

House Republicans are again refusing to work with police and the organizations that represent them to pass meaningful legislation.

At least seven bipartisan law enforcement bills, many led by Republicans, have been passed by the Democratic-led Senate and are awaiting consideration in the House.

These are bills that would actually improve the welfare of law enforcement officers and are priorities for the groups who represent them.

But, so far, House Republicans have only advanced one of these bills.

While House Republicans continue to prioritize messaging over meaningful legislation, Democrats will continue to work with law enforcement organizations on substantive proposals—proposals we will pursue when we take back the House.

With these facts, we can see that this bill is sadly another opportunity for my Republican colleagues to score cheap political points on a

bill that has no chance to become law while trying to target and scapegoat migrants as criminals.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote no on this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF 2024 PATHFINDER SCHOLAR-
SHIP FIRST PLACE WINNER AVA
ALLWARDT IN THE SCIENCE
CATEGORY

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Ava Allwardt, the first-place winner of the prestigious Pathfinder Scholarship in the Science category. This scholarship is awarded to Palm Beach and Martin County students who have displayed excellence in their academic and communal endeavors in a multitude of categories.

Ava, a student at Saint Andrews School, is driven by a passion for biomedical engineering and a desire to leverage computer science in the discovery of biologically complex diseases. Her research, already published in two prestigious science journals, has earned her a place as a finalist in the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair. She has also collaborated on projects with renowned institutions such as Harvard Medical School and UF Scripps Biomedical Research. Beyond her academic achievements, Ava has made a significant societal impact through her volunteer work, dedicating over 750 hours of service to the International Youth Neuroscience Association and establishing chapters in more than 35 countries.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me today in recognizing Ms. Ava Allwardt as an excellent student and notable contributor to the field of science.

HONORING LT. TYLER FAGGARD

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Clay County, N.C. Lieutenant Tyler Faggard in recognition of his service.

Lt. Faggard, a Clay County native, began his career in law enforcement as a Clay County Telecommunicator before becoming a commissioned Justice Officer. He went on to serve the citizens of neighboring Cherokee County as a Patrol Deputy before achieving the rank of Detective.

In 2021 Lt. Faggard returned home and accepted a position with the Clay County Sheriff's Office as Patrol Lieutenant.

Lt. Faggard's hard work ethic and commitment to his service led him to be recruited to his current position as a Clay County Task Force Officer attached to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency. Lt. Faggard is wise beyond his years in law enforcement as it relates to investigative techniques. Throughout his career, he has been instrumental in reducing the flow of illicit drugs into the area.

I thank Lt. Faggard for his brave and tireless service to Clay and Cherokee Counties.

RECOGNIZING LAYLA LEUTHY-
PECK'S GOOD DEED

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding accomplishment and good deed from a constituent from my district, Layla Leuthy-Peck.

Layla Leuthy-Peck is a 7-year-old first grade student at Saint Andrew's School in Newtown. After listening to Monsignor Michael Picard, pastor at St. Andrew's parish, telling the children about the importance of finding a way to serve others, she immediately thought of her best friend WW2 veteran Joe Gagliardi who was about to turn 100.

She remembered Joe telling her how much he misses visiting schools to tell the students about his service and the importance of service. He especially misses receiving all the wonderful handmade thank you cards from them afterwards.

With the help of her entire first grade classmates, Layla was able to get 100 handmade birthday cards for Joe's 100th birthday. To make it a day he will remember, Layla delivered the sack of cards to Joe riding in a Newtown firetruck which was escorted by the township police and many other emergency service vehicles in a parade of lights and sirens.

Mr. Gagliardi served in the United States Navy during WW2 on a Patrol Torpedo (PT) Boat that escorted General Douglas MacArthur and remembers seeing President John F. Kennedy on his PT Boat duty near him. Layla's father Sean Peck is an also a Veteran who served in Afghanistan and is currently a police officer in Penn del. Her great-grandfather, Ray Leuthy, a Corporal in the United States Army's 82nd Airborne Division, parachuted into the Battle of the Bulge and was an escort driver for General George S. Patton, Jr.

The news story about Layla's special card delivery for her best friend has spread internationally along with her wish for more children to do a good deed for a veteran.

Layla's commitment to figuring out a creative and meaningful way to serve a WW2 veteran in a truly collaborative manner is to be commended. It is my hope that Layla will continue to find ways to serve veterans and be an example for other very young children to realize they too can make a difference. I would like to wish Layla the best in her future endeavors and once again congratulate her on fulfilling her mission to brighten the day for her best friend, Joe on his 100th birthday.

RECOGNIZING DETECTIVE ROSCOE
WATTS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the service of one of my

constituents, Detective Roscoe Watts, of the Citrus County Sheriff's Office. Detective Watts has exhibited exceptional dedication, determination, and unwavering commitment to upholding the principles of justice throughout his distinguished career. Detective Watts's exemplary performance is best highlighted by his successful resolution of the attempted robbery at the Sunoco gas station. Through his diligence and unwavering work ethic, he was able to bring the perpetrator to justice, ensuring that they received a just and deserving 20-year prison sentence. His tenacity in the face of adversity and commitment to protecting the community sets him apart as a role model for his peers. Furthermore, Detective Watts's dedication was equally evident in his investigation of a battery within the Core Civic Jail, which tragically resulted in the victim's death due to their injuries.

Detective Watts meticulously conducted interviews, analyzed video surveillance, and worked tirelessly to apprehend the suspect. His relentless pursuit of the truth led to the suspect's guilty plea to manslaughter and a 20-year prison sentence, offering closure and justice to the victim's family. Outside of his professional duties, Detective Watts continues to give back to the community through his selfless volunteer work with CASA, the Key Training Center, and the Church Without Walls. His efforts, including running multiple miles to raise funds for the Key Training Center, exemplify his dedication to making the world a better place. Detective Watts's exceptional contributions to law enforcement, his relentless pursuit of justice, and his selfless dedication to community service have undoubtedly made our community more safe. He is a true embodiment of selfless sacrifice, and his legacy of service is an inspiration to us all.

These are just a few examples of the hard work, dedication, eagerness to help, and servant leadership that Detective Roscoe Watts exhibits every day he comes to work. Detective Watts is a shining example of what it means to be a Citrus County Law Enforcement Officer. His work ethic should be a benchmark for which other law enforcement officers should strive to attain. It is evident that Detective Watts has made a profoundly positive impact on our community and is qualified to be recognized as a First Responder of the Year for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING GIOVONNI ALIJAH
GONZALES

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Giovanni Alijah Gonzales for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Giovanni has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Giovanni, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Giovanni's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Wheat Ridge High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Giovanni Alijah Gonzales on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Law Enforcement Caucus and a senior member of the Committees on Judiciary and Homeland Security, and the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance, I rise to commemorate National Police Week.

May 15 is designated as Peace Officers Memorial Day, which falls within National Police Week since 1962 by President John F. Kennedy.

National Police Week pays homage to those who lost their lives in the line of duty, with a Memorial Service that began in 1982 to list in remembrance and commemoration all the names of those we have lost.

Sadly in 2023, Texas lost 11 law enforcement individuals in the line of duty, and in 2024 there have been 5 deaths.

To date, a total of 2,247 Texas law enforcement individuals and 30 K9s overall have been killed in the line of duty in the State of Texas.

FALLEN OFFICERS IN TEXAS—2023

Sergeant Stephen Gibson, Somervell County Sheriff's Office, TX, EOW: Wednesday, December 13, 2023, Cause of Death: Automobile crash.

Correctional Officer III Jovian Motley, Texas Department of Criminal Justice—Correctional Institutions Division, TX, EOW: Monday, November 13, 2023, Cause of Death: Unidentified.

Senior Police Officer Jorge Pastore, Austin Police Department, TX, EOW: Saturday, November 11, 2023, Cause of Death: Gunfire.

Sergeant Jon Arden Jensen, Fort Worth Police Department, TX, EOW: Saturday, October 28, 2023, Cause of Death: COVID-19.

Lieutenant Milton Resendez, San Benito Police Department, TX, EOW: Tuesday, October 17, 2023, Cause of Death: Gunfire.

Police Officer Darrin McMichael, Arlington Police Department, TX, EOW: Thursday, September 21, 2023, Cause of Death: Struck by vehicle.

Deputy Sheriff Matthew Pierson, Shelby County Sheriff's Office, TX, EOW: Tuesday, August 29, 2023, Cause of Death: Automobile crash.

Officer Bryan Holley, Hudson Independent School District Police Department, TX, EOW: Friday, August 18, 2023, Cause of Death: Duty related illness.

Deputy Sheriff David Bosecker, Eastland County Sheriff's Office, TX, EOW: Friday, July 21, 2023, Cause of Death: Gunfire.

Sergeant Joshua Lee Clouse, Cameron Police Department, TX, EOW: Thursday, May 11, 2023, Cause of Death: Gunfire.

Deputy Sheriff Jason Stuart Jones, Tarrant County Sheriff's Office, TX, EOW: Tuesday, April 11, 2023, Cause of Death: COVID-19.

FALLEN OFFICERS IN TEXAS—2024

Police Officer Kyle Hicks, Corpus Christi Police Department, TX, EOW: Wednesday, April 24, 2024, Cause of Death: Gunfire.

Investigator John Hampton Coddou, III, Harris County Sheriff's Office, TX, EOW: Tuesday, April 23, 2024, Cause of Death: Struck by vehicle.

Border Patrol Agent Christopher Luna, United States Department of Homeland Security—Customs and Border Protection—United States Border Patrol, U.S., EOW: Friday, March 8, 2024, Cause of Death: Aircraft accident, Location: Texas.

Deputy Sheriff Charles Rivette, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, TX, EOW: Wednesday, February 21, 2024, Cause of Death: Automobile crash.

Deputy Sheriff Rondald Bates, Harris County Sheriff's Office, TX, EOW: Saturday, February 10, 2024, Cause of Death: Automobile crash.

It is important that we take this opportunity to honor America's law enforcement community and recognize the sacrifices that these brave officers have made in our communities.

This should be a time of unity and a rededication of our commitment to law enforcement officers—to make every effort to make their work safer and promote the importance of law enforcement as public servants.

Unfortunately, Republicans talk about supporting law enforcement but have sought to defund law enforcement and undermine public trust in police.

Law enforcement is on the front line of fighting crime in communities across the Nation.

All too often law enforcement officers are taken by the violence we expect them to prevent. And increasingly, officers and agents are losing their lives to gun-related violence—oftentimes with handguns.

These brave men and women risk their lives to keep the peace and keep us safe, but they are too often taken by the violence they are working to prevent.

Between 2012 and 2021, 504 police officers in the United States were killed in the line of duty. Of those, 90 percent—or 456 officers—were killed by a firearm.

A study by the Center for American Progress found that between 2017 and 2021, the rate of police officers fatally shot in states with the weakest gun laws was 152% higher than in state with stronger gun laws.

Weak gun laws make everyone less safe. From 2000 to 2022, the average murder rate in States that reliably vote Republican in presidential elections ("Red States") was 24 percent higher than the average murder rate in States that reliably vote Democratic.

In fact, so-called Red States' murder rates are "significantly higher" than reliably Democratic-voting States, "even when [researchers] removed the county with the largest city in Trump-voting states (and kept them in for Biden-voting states)."

Weakening requirements to carry a concealed firearm increases gun violence and violent crime.

Every state allows individuals to carry concealed weapons in public, but fewer than half of them require a permit.

Specifically, by the start of 2023, 26 states allowed individuals to carry loaded, concealed handguns in public without first undergoing a background check, obtaining a license, or receiving any firearm training.

It is important to note that gun-involved homicide rates are higher in states with more permissive concealed carry laws.

Permitless carry laws, like those in Texas, pushed by Republican state legislatures put law enforcement officers at risk.

When Indiana was considering a permitless carry bill in 2022, Patrick Flannelly, Vice President of the Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police warned, "What we have done now is we've taken away the one tool that police officers had out on the street to be able to act quickly and efficiently for not only their personal safety but for the safety of our communities."

Law enforcement across the country similarly have warned that permitless concealed carry laws put officers at risk.

In fact, in 2021, almost 61 of 84 law enforcement officers who died from felonious assaults were killed by firearms.

Reliably Republican-voting states that have permissive gun laws, specifically permitless carry laws, are putting law enforcement officers' lives on the line by sending them into communities that are increasingly flush with firearms.

Although Republicans claim they support law enforcement, Democrats have implemented policies and reforms that will keep law enforcement and the communities they serve safer and more secure—often over Republican objections.

In June 2021, the Biden Administration unveiled its Comprehensive Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gun Crime and Ensure Public Safety. Overall, the strategy sought to:

- stem the flow of firearms used to commit violence, including by holding rogue firearms dealers accountable for violating federal laws;
- support local law enforcement with federal tools and resources to help address summer violent crime;

- invest in evidence-based community violence interventions;

- expand summer programming, employment opportunities, and other services and supports for teenagers and young adults; and

- help formerly incarcerated individuals successfully reenter their communities.

On June 25, 2022, President Biden signed into law the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA).

The BSCA was passed in the wake of the shooting in Uvalde, Texas, the state's deadliest school shooting, where 19 children and two teachers were killed.

Key provisions of the BSCA include: Enhanced background checks requiring the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) to conduct an enhanced review of purchasers under the age of 21 to determine whether juvenile records disqualify that individual from purchasing a firearm.

NICS is given 10 days to complete the investigation, and it unsets after 10 years.

State incentives for "red flag" laws: Provides \$750 million over five years that will go to states for "crisis intervention programs" including red flag laws, mental health courts, drug courts, veterans' courts, and extreme risk protection orders.

\$250 million in funding for community-based violence prevention initiatives

\$300 million in school safety funding through the STOP School Violence Act to institute safety measures in and around schools, support school violence prevention efforts and

provide training to school personnel and students.

Codification of the SchoolSafety.gov clearinghouse, which provides evidence-based resources to improve school safety and prohibits use of funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to train or equip any person with dangerous weapons in schools.

I also think we must do more to address the mental health challenges that officers inevitably face, due to the harrowing nature of their work.

We cannot expect qualified officers to remain in such a dangerous profession if we do not give them the resources, they need to address the toll that police work takes on them.

It is time we come together and truly support law enforcement through legislative efforts that will provide resources and tools to address the myriad of issues facing law enforcement, rather than politicizing what has traditionally been a bipartisan effort.

And so, during this special week and every day in the work I do here in Congress, I am proud to support and recognize law enforcement officers for the tremendous work they do each day, and to uplift in special reverence the names of all those men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for us and the Nation.

It is equally just as important to acknowledge those officers we have lost—our fallen heroes who have given their last full measure of devotion to the communities they swore to protect and serve—some who gave their lives as far back as 1857.

How excellent it is that the stories of these courageous individuals have been brought to light and were not left untold.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2024 PATHFINDER SCHOLARSHIP FIRST PLACE WINNER SHANIA GRANT IN THE HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE CATEGORY

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Shania Grant, the first-place winner of the prestigious Pathfinder Scholarship in the History and Political Science category. This scholarship is awarded to Palm Beach and Martin County students who have displayed excellence in their academic and communal endeavors in a multitude of categories.

Shania, a student at FAU High School, is a shining example of academic excellence and community engagement. Her dedication has earned her a place on the FAU President's Honor Roll three times, a role as managing editor for FAU's law journal, and an internship at the school district's General Council office. As a first-generation student, she aspires to use her passion to make a difference in the legal realm, with plans to attend law school and specialize in immigration or employment law.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing Ms. Shania Grant as an excellent student and notable contributor to the fields of history and political science.

RECOGNIZING LEVI SAENZ

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Levi Saenz for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Levi has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Levi, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Levi's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Warren Tech North and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Levi Saenz on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING DR. DOROTHY SIMPSON-TAYLOR

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to present Dr. Dorothy "Doty" Simpson-Taylor, founder of the Sister Soldier Network, with the Sheila Corcoran Hoosier Hero Award for her service to country and community. Inspired by its namesake, this award was created to highlight exemplary Hoosier women veterans whose service to their community and nation is unparalleled.

Well-known throughout the Indianapolis and surrounding communities, Doty's service began in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War and has continued over the span of five decades as a former American Legion Indiana District 11 Women Veterans Representative and Commander of AMVETS Post 99 in Indianapolis. A retired psychologist and former faculty member and administrator at multiple universities, Doty uses her unique blend of skills to give back to the community.

Doty is guided by her belief that "everybody ought to provide some service to the community of humanity." With this in mind, she has always been an outspoken trailblazer for the Black community. In 2010, Doty founded the Sister Soldier Network, a veteran organization that helps women transition from the military back into society. Combining her passion to uplift others with tangible actions, the Sister Soldier Network sheds a well-deserved light on women veterans, while also serving as a resource to help guide her peers in topics such as homelessness, discrimination, and community involvement.

In 2019, Doty was presented the Jefferson Award in recognition of her community service. In 2022, she was inducted into the Indiana Military Hall of Fame. She also received the Congressional Black Caucus Award for leadership in veteran issues with the Congressional Black Caucus Brain Trust and is a member of the Cedar Valley Coalition of Black Veterans.

Doty's commitment to service has led her to be an impactful leader, mentor, and wise

counsel. She has created a legacy of compassion, care, and healing for her fellow veterans and has served as a voice of her peers in the military and veteran communities.

Doty continues to uplift the incredible women veterans around her, and it brings me great joy to commemorate and uplift her in the same manner. As we celebrate National Military Appreciation Month, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Dorothy "Doty" Simpson-Taylor. We celebrate her legacy of outstanding accomplishments and advocacy.

POLICE OUR BORDER ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise to speak in opposition to H.R. 8146, the "Police Our Border Act".

As the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Crime Subcommittee and as Senior Member of the Homeland Security Committee, I am deeply disappointed in this harmful and misguided bill. Yet again, House Republicans are wasting time with another bill that does nothing to solve any issues at the border.

Instead of trying to pass thoughtful and bipartisan legislation to address the problems in our immigration system, they have once again brought forward a bill that has no chance of becoming law and accomplishes absolutely nothing.

This legislation is purportedly a reporting bill that simply requires the Attorney General to submit a report to Congress on the impact the number of migrants coming to the border is having on law enforcement officers at the Federal, State, local, and Tribal level.

Upon closer inspection however, this bill seeks to codify Republican attacks on the President's immigration policies and the fearmongering and demonization of immigrants.

For example, the bill requires the Attorney General to submit a report to Congress on the impact the "Biden border crisis" is having on law enforcement officers at the Federal, State, local, and Tribal level.

Additionally, the report must include information on the exposure of law enforcement officers to fentanyl as a result of encounters with illegal aliens."

Both of these reporting requirements contain politically motivated rhetoric disguised as fact.

This bill is also very poorly drafted.

Despite the fact the entire bill is focused on reporting requirements related to the "Biden border crisis," this term is not defined in the legislation.

The failure to define this key term provides little guidance to the Attorney General on the required report, and it is further evidence that this bill is more about messaging than congressional oversight of the executive branch.

Additionally, the Secretary of Homeland Security would almost certainly be much better situated to assess issues related to border security.

However, it appears Republicans chose to request this bill's report from the Attorney General to ensure the Judiciary Committee would have jurisdiction over this bill, so they

would have an immigration-related bill to offer for "Police Week."

Instead of trying to pass thoughtful and bipartisan legislation to address the problems in our immigration system, this bill fails in such endeavor and offers no viable action.

It is also important to state the fact that the border is not open.

Let us look at the facts.

In the Fiscal Year 24 appropriations bill, Congress appropriated over \$3.4 billion for DHS to maintain and use 41,500 detention beds.

These are levels of detention similar to those during under the Trump administration.

Despite the claims of this bill, the Biden administration has significantly expanded expedited removal, and in ways that many in our caucus worry violates due process."

Since the end of Title 42 last year, the Biden administration has removed or returned over 660,000 individuals, including over 102,000 individual members of family units, including children.

This is more than the number of people removed or returned in any year under the Trump administration.

Yet, time and again, Republicans have refused to take yes for an answer.

In addition to rejecting the bipartisan Senate border bill, Republicans have consistently refused to support providing additional resources and personnel for the border.

In 2021, all but six current House Republicans voted against the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal, which provided additional funding to ports of entry to combat smuggling of people and drugs.

All but two current House Republicans voted against providing robust funding for border security operations in the FY2023 appropriations omnibus legislation.

That bill provided more than \$17 billion to Customs and Border Protection (CBP), including funding for an additional 300 Border Patrol agents.

The omnibus also included \$60 million to hire 125 CBP officers and \$70 million for non-intrusive inspection technology to detect narcotics and firearms at ports of entry.

In October of 2023, the Biden administration sent Congress a supplemental funding request, which included an additional \$13.6 billion for border security.

My Republican colleagues have refused to schedule a vote on this funding request, which would provide the Biden administration the resources it needs to secure the border and provide additional support for communities receiving migrants.

More specifically, this supplemental funding would pay for an additional 1,300 Border Patrol agents; 375 immigration judges and 1,600 asylum officers to speed up processing of asylum claims; 1,000 CBP officers with a focus on countering fentanyl; new detection technology for ports of entry; additional investigative capabilities to combat fentanyl trafficking; and \$1.4 billion more in grants to help communities receiving migrants, among other investments.

By forcing a vote on this bill, Republicans are showing they have no real solutions to address the border.

I urge Members to not take the bait, and to vote no on this bill.

RECOGNIZING FREDON TOWNSHIP'S 120TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my warmest congratulations to Fredon Township on its 120th anniversary. I am truly grateful to be celebrating this monumental milestone with them. Over the past 120 years, Fredon Township has flourished into a lively town with vibrant natural scenery and rich history. As the youngest township in Sussex County, Fredon Township was formed from parts of Andover, Green, Hampton, and Stillwater Townships and is home to approximately 3,450 residents and 1,203 residential dwellings. Once a dusty, rutted, narrow dirt road on Route 94, traveling through a busy little village in the 1800s, can now be found as the core of the township. I am proud to have such a remarkable town within the 7th District, and I look forward to watching it continue to thrive in the coming decades. I wish Fredon Township a wonderful 120th anniversary. May its next 120 years be filled with as much success as this one.

HONORING UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS PRESIDENT NEAL J. SMATRESK

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor University of North Texas (UNT) President Neal J. Smatresk, PhD who has dedicated his career to advancing education and transforming institutions. President Smatresk's tenure at UNT has been marked by innovation, growth, and a relentless commitment to excellence.

President Smatresk's journey in academia has been distinguished by his unwavering dedication to fostering academic success and research excellence. Before assuming his role at UNT, President Smatresk held pivotal leadership positions at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and the University of Texas at Arlington.

Prior to his roles in Administration, Dr. Smatresk was a distinguished biologist and researcher. His scholarly pursuits focused on advancing our understanding of respiratory neurobiology, garnering substantial grant support, and resulting in numerous publications. His dedication to STEM education and outreach left an indelible mark on countless aspiring scientists and scholars.

President Smatresk's leadership at UNT has been nothing short of transformative and has propelled UNT to unprecedented heights, fostering a culture of achievement and inclusivity. Under his guidance, UNT has achieved a remarkable five-year record of continued enrollment growth, now serving almost 47,000 students; reflecting President Smatresk's dedication to expanding access to higher education and empowering students to pursue their academic aspirations. Additionally, President

Smatresk led UNT to becoming a Carnegie-ranked Tier One institution that has emerged as a top 10 U.S. public university on the rise. While his strategic vision and commitment to student success has propelled UNT to new heights, earning recognition as both a Minority-Serving and Hispanic-Serving Institution and securing its place as one of only 22 Carnegie-ranked Tier One research universities designated as Hispanic-Serving Institutions.

President Smatresk's impact extends far beyond the realm of academia. Through strategic partnerships with industry leaders and innovative program offerings, such as UNT's groundbreaking M.B.A. program in sport entertainment management in collaboration with the Dallas Cowboys, President Smatresk has positioned UNT as a pioneer in higher education. His innovative approach to fostering partnerships between academia and industry has positioned UNT as a leader in addressing the evolving needs of the workforce. Through strategic collaborations with companies such as American Airlines, Liberty Mutual, Google, and JP Morgan Chase, President Smatresk has created new avenues for experiential learning and professional development, ensuring that UNT graduates are well-equipped to thrive in today's competitive job market.

Moreover, his commitment to expanding UNT's presence in Collin County through the establishment of the UNT at Frisco branch campus underscores his dedication to expanding UNT's reach across the growing DFW region and fostering economic development through education. President Smatresk has also overseen a commitment to athletic investments and facility expansions that has transformed UNT's athletic program into a powerhouse of excellence and helped to secure UNT's membership into Conference USA. The Mean Green student-athletes and teams, under his leadership, have flourished, exemplifying the university's spirit of determination and achievement.

President Neal J. Smatresk's visionary leadership, unwavering dedication, and profound impact on higher education will leave an enduring legacy at the University of North Texas and beyond. On behalf of the constituents of the 26th Congressional District of Texas, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to President Smatresk for his exemplary service and wish him a fulfilling and rewarding retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES AT JERSEY SHORE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER AND RIVERVIEW MEDICAL CENTER

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join Hackensack Meridian Health in commemorating the 50th anniversary of Behavioral Health Services at Jersey Shore University Medical Center and Riverview Medical Center. The hospitals' vision and commitment to supporting the well-being of Monmouth and Ocean County's communities is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Since 1974, Jersey Shore University Medical Center and Riverview Medical Center

have offered a range of inpatient and outpatient behavioral health services, including psychiatry, crisis and emergency services, hospitalization, consultation, and education. Over the years, services have expanded to include addiction and children's programs.

Additionally, in 1979, Jersey Shore Medical Center began mobile services in Asbury Park under a grant from the State of New Jersey. To better meet the needs of its clients, the program, coined Park Place, moved to a facility, first operating out of the local United Methodist Church, then to a home on Sewall Avenue, and later to a property on Bond Street. The Park Place program continued to expand and adapt, integrating services and other programs until 2019 when it was merged with the Riverview Medical Center Behavioral Health Acute Partial Program.

For 50 years, Jersey Shore University Medical Center and Riverview Medical Center have been providing services, education, outreach, and support to individuals with mental health and substance abuse disorders. Their efforts to improve the quality and availability of support services are important for the health and well-being of individuals and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jersey Shore University Medical Center and Riverview Medical Center for 50 years of providing comprehensive behavioral health services and thanking its staff and members for their extraordinary service to the community.

LEOSA REFORM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in opposition to H.R. 354, the LEOSA Reform Act.

In 2004, Congress passed the Law Enforcement Officer Safety Act (LEOSA), permitting qualified active and retired law enforcement officers to carry concealed firearms and ammunition in certain places.

Every state allows the concealed carry of firearms subject to certain conditions, but the original LEOSA overrode whatever permit, training, or other requirements might be in place—with important, commonsense exceptions for National Parks, playgrounds, government buildings, private property, and other sensitive areas.

I should note that I was a member of the House Judiciary Committee when it passed the original LEOSA in 2004.

At that time, the Committee was under Republican control, but it still followed regular order.

We held a hearing on the bill in which we heard from several law enforcement organizations.

Some expressed support for the bill as a way for officers to protect themselves and be able to respond to a dangerous situation whether they were in their home jurisdiction or not, on-duty or off-duty, active or retired.

Other law enforcement organizations opposed the legislation, expressing concerns about creating confusion in the field that might even endanger law enforcement.

While some of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle expressed concerns about the original LEOSA, I was satisfied that it struck an appropriate balance.

I supported the original LEOSA because it included limits for special places.

It had exceptions so that states would still have some control over whether retired and off-duty law enforcement officers would be allowed to carry concealed weapons in places like parks, playgrounds, Gun-Free School Zones, and state and local government buildings.

States should be allowed to regulate these places consistent with the needs of the state.

Allowing them to do so protects local law enforcement by making sure they know what to expect when responding to a scene.

The original LEOSA also respected the rights of private property owners to prohibit concealed weapons on their property if they chose to do so.

And with respect to retired officers, it ensured that they would continue to receive annual firearms training so that they would know how to safely use the concealed firearm that they were carrying.

The legislation before us today, however, upsets the balance struck by the original LEOSA and it is being advanced without a hearing that would help us fully evaluate its strengths and weaknesses.

While I supported the original LEOSA, I oppose the legislation before us today because it would allow more concealed weapons in parks, playgrounds, Gun-Free School Zones, local government buildings, and on private property even when it is contrary to the judgment of state leaders and private property owners.

Today's bill also weakens the training standards for retired officers as set forth in the original LEOSA, which is especially concerning.

Marksanship is a perishable skill that must be renewed through practice and training.

By relaxing the training standards, today's bill would allow retired officers to carry concealed firearms despite it being as many as three years since they last received training—and it could be that they retired from law enforcement more years before that.

I respect the rights of lawful and responsible gun owners, including the rights of retired and off-duty law enforcement.

We should allow these individuals to carry concealed weapons into many places, provided they meet certain qualifications including regular training.

But this bill would allow concealed weapons to be carried by those who have not received recent training.

And it would allow concealed firearms in spaces where a state may have a valid public safety interest in prohibiting them.

For these reasons, I must oppose this legislation and I urge my colleagues to vote no on this bill.

CONGRATULATING LTC KELSEY ROUSEY

**HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN
RADEWAGEN**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Lieutenant Colonel Kelsey

Rousey for her dedicated service to the people of American Samoa and all the Pacific Islands as Deputy to the House Liaison Division in the U.S. Army's Office of the Chief, Legislative Liaison.

In American Samoa, our men and women of the Armed Forces are very important to us. The people of our islands take great pride in being patriotic Americans and our people are known for a high rate of service in our military. In particular, our U.S. Army recruiting center ranks number one in the nation in enlistment rate.

To that end I would like to recognize all the work LTC Rousey has done to serve our country throughout her career, so far. She received her commission through the ROTC program at John Carroll University, as Transportation Officer.

She has an extensive list of military awards and decorations including the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, and the Meritorious Volunteer Medal. She was instrumental in sharing the Army message throughout the House of Representatives and Congress.

In congratulating this outstanding officer today, we also express our deep appreciation to all who serve, including the many in uniform from American Samoa serving with distinction all over the world.

In thank Kelsey for her outstanding leadership and her commitment to our Soldiers, American Samoa, and our great Nation. Best wishes to her and her family as she departs for Pennsylvania and the U.S. Army War College. I thank her for her service and her tone dedicated to our beautiful island.

God bless you on your journey (Fa'amanuia le Atua i ou ala. Soifua).

RECOGNIZING THE UNITED STATES BORDER PATROL 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CLAUDIA TENNEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the men and women of the United States Border Patrol for the 100 years of incredible service they have provided to our country, ensuring security and sovereignty at our borders. Since its founding on May 1, 1924—the first anniversary of the signing of the 1923 Border Convention between the United States and Mexico, the United States Border Patrol has been dedicated to defending the borders of our great Nation.

The members of the United States Border Patrol work day and night, hour upon hour, in harsh conditions and dangerous circumstances to ensure that terrorists, weapons, drugs and contraband do not make their way into the United States.

Today, I wish to shine a spotlight on one of the integral sectors within the United States Customs and Border Patrol—the Buffalo Sector. Situated along the Northern border, the Buffalo Sector plays a pivotal role in securing our nation's perimeter. Sprawling across vast landscapes, from the Great Lakes to the Appalachian Mountains, its agents stand as

guardians of the gateway between the United States and Canada.

In the Buffalo Sector, CBP agents face unique challenges, navigating diverse terrain and weather conditions with unwavering determination. From bustling urban centers to remote wilderness, they remain steadfast in their mission to uphold the rule of law and protect our communities. Their tireless efforts have thwarted illicit activities, intercepted smugglers, and safeguarded our borders from potential threats.

But beyond their operational duties, the agents of the Buffalo Sector embody the swift of service and sacrifice. They forge bonds with the communities they serve, building trust and collaboration to ensure the safety of all. Their commitment to excellence and their willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty exemplifies the finest traditions of the United States Customs and Border Patrol.

The United States Border Patrol embodies the highest standard of courage and dedication to duty, exemplified by serving in the most hazardous environment with professionalism, unmatched performance, and unwavering ethics.

Today, I am joined by my Congressional colleagues to hereby recognize and applaud the United States Border Patrol for its outstanding service and commend it for its contributions to the safety and protection of the United States.

I thank all agents of the United States Border Patrol, past and present, who bravely dedicated their efforts to guarding the borders of the United States and upholding the rule of law for the past 100 years.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICE TECHNICAL CORRECTION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Public Defender Service Technical Correction Act, which would fix a drafting error in the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024. Unless fixed, this error will force the D.C. Public Defender Service (PDS) to close one day per week beginning in mid-June through the rest of the current fiscal year. I very much appreciate that Senator CHRIS VAN HOLLEN will be introducing the bill in the Senate. I also appreciate that he filed an amendment on the Senate floor to the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 to fix this error, but am disappointed that the Senate did not take it up.

PDS is independent of the D.C. government, is exclusively funded by the federal government and its employees are deemed federal employees for purposes of federal benefits. The Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 provides PDS \$53,629,000 in fiscal year 2024, the same funding level PDS received in fiscal year 2023. However, the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 requires PDS to spend \$3 million of its appropriation on office relocation expenses, even though PDS had already relocated offices before the bill was enacted. PDS needs the au-

thority to spend that \$3 million on salaries, or it will be forced to close one day per week. My bill would give PDS the authority to spend that \$3 million on salaries.

The drafting error will not only harm PDS employees, who will not be paid when PDS is closed, it will also harm the local criminal justice system in D.C. On the days that PDS is closed, PDS attorneys will not appear in any matter before the D.C. Superior Court, the D.C. Court of Appeals, the U.S. Parole Commission or other administrative or adjudicative body. The local D.C. court system is already facing a backlog of cases because of a shortage of judges, who are appointed by the president, subject to Senate confirmation. The PDS furloughs will only exacerbate this problem. This is simply an unacceptable result, especially when it will have been caused by what everyone acknowledges is a drafting error, and not a deliberate cut to PDS's funding.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on May 14th and May 15th as I had an immovable commitment. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 196; YEA on Roll Call No. 197; YEA on Roll Call No. 200; YEA on Roll Call No. 204; YEA on Roll Call No. 203; YEA on Roll Call No. 202; YEA on Roll Call No. 201; YEA on Roll Call No. 205; YEA on Roll Call No. 206; YEA on Roll Call No. 207; YEA on Roll Call No. 208; YEA on Roll Call No. 209; YEA on Roll Call No. 210; YEA on Roll Call No. 211; and YEA on Roll Call No. 212.

RECOGNIZING DR. DEV A. GNANADEV

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Dev A. GnanaDev for his decades of service as a healthcare provider in the Inland Empire and to celebrate the naming of the Dr. Dev A. GnanaDev Trauma Center at the Arrowhead Regional Medical Center.

Dr. GnanaDev started his over 40-year career serving the Inland Empire as a member of the medical staff at the San Bernardino County Medical Center, which eventually was renamed the Arrowhead Regional Medical Center. At Arrowhead Regional, he played a key role in the development of the trauma center as the Founding Director of Trauma Services until being appointed as the Medical Director of the Arrowhead Regional Medical Center in June 2000. Under his 12-year leadership, Arrowhead Regional Medical Center took critical steps to expand its patient services and physician training programs. Today, Dr. GnanaDev serves as the Associate Director of Medicine and the Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Arrowhead Regional

Medical Center, a position he has held since 1989.

Dr. GnanaDev has dedicated a lifetime to improving access to and the quality of health care in the Inland Empire. As the Founding President of the California University of Science and Medicine and as a Clinical Professor of Surgery at Western University of Health Sciences and the California University of Science and Medicine, Dr. GnanaDev has taken tremendous steps in addressing the physician shortage impacting our communities.

This week, our community is coming together to celebrate Dr. GnanaDev's commitment to a healthy Inland Empire. On Thursday, May 23rd, Arrowhead Regional Medical Center will officially be named the Dr. Dev A. GnanaDev Trauma Center. This honor will ensure that Dr. GnanaDev's profound impact on our community's health and wellbeing will be remembered for generations to come.

For his outstanding accomplishments, it is my honor to recognize Dev A. GnanaDev, M.D., M.B.A., F.A.C.S. His years of service and commitment to the people of the Inland Empire are worthy of the highest commendation.

HONORING MARINE VETERAN CONRAD C. JANOWSKI

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Marine veteran Conrad C. Janowski, who passed away on May 12, 2024.

A long-time resident of Fort Wayne, Indiana, Conrad was a respected member of the community, an accomplished architect, and beloved husband, father, and friend.

Conrad attended the University of Notre Dame, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture degree. After he moved his family to Fort Wayne, he served on the Board of Directors for the Indiana Society of Architects and was President of the Northern Chapter early in his career. One of Conrad's greatest sources of pride throughout his life was his service in the United States Marine Corps from 1956 to 1958.

We honor Conrad for his service to his country and for the civic leadership he showed across the entirety of his life. May he rest in peace.

RESOLUTION REGARDING VIOLENCE AGAINST LAW ENFORCEMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2024

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in opposition to H. Res. 1213, "A resolution regarding violence against law enforcement officers".

Sadly, H. Res. 1213 is another hypocritical, partisan attack cloaked behind a message honoring local law enforcement during National Police Week.

The resolution is full of misinformation, baseless and dangerous claims, and political rhetoric that overwhelms its intended purpose and has no place in what should be an opportunity to bring Congress together in solemn reflection.

My Republican colleagues have consistently tried to blame the rise in violent crime on Democrats and locally-elected District Attorneys and with this resolution have attempted once again to label Democrats as the party of “defund the police.”

The resolution asserts without evidence that calls to defund the police are tied to an increase in violence against law enforcement officers and further implies that locally adopted progressive criminal justice reform policies have contributed to the “negative environment” in which law enforcement officers work.

The Resolution fails to acknowledge that the number of officers killed in the line of duty decreased substantially each year from 586 in 2021 to 137 in 2023.

The resolution advances baseless political attacks against policies aimed at addressing decades of mass incarceration and overcriminalization, attempting to link policies such as decreased criminal penalties and no-cash bail systems with an increase in aggression and violence toward law enforcement.

The Resolution claims that House members are responsible for exemplifying a respect for the rule of law and for law enforcement but overlooks hypocritical anti-police Republican actions:

The failure of Republicans to unanimously vote to award the Congressional Gold Medal to all police officers who responded to the violent January 6th attack on the Capitol and efforts like H. Con. Res. 106 to marginalize federal law enforcement officers.

Republican efforts to defund law enforcement, whether by opposing grant funding that supports state and local agencies, or by calling to abolish federal agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF).

For these reasons I must oppose this fatally flawed resolution—and yet another missed opportunity to support and honor law enforcement personnel across the country and those who lost their lives in the line of duty, without engaging in partisanship on this solemn occasion.

REMEMBERING GAYLE OWEN AVERYT

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, South Carolina is recognizing the extraordinary achievements of Gayle Averyt, who is a Southern Gentleman who has been a top business and political leader. My personal appreciation is for his courage as one of the state's earliest Republicans, building the modern Party from non-existence to now super majorities with all statewide elected officials Republicans.

DUNBAR FUNERAL HOME OBITUARY

Gayle Owen Averyt of Columbia, South Carolina, was born on October 13, 1933, in

Montgomery, Alabama, and he died peacefully at his home in Columbia, South Carolina on May 13, 2024. He was the second of three children of Edwin Franklin and Asenath Murfee Averyt. Gayle's family moved into their first home in Columbia when he was five weeks old.

Gayle graduated from Dreher High School in 1951. He went on to graduate Cum Laude from Davidson College in 1955 and was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Society. He then earned an MBA from Harvard Business School in 1958.

Gayle's father, Edwin, co-founded Colonial Life & Accident Insurance Company in 1937. Gayle joined Colonial Life after Harvard, moving through the management ranks. In 1970, he became the Chairman of the Board and CEO after his father retired. He held those positions until 1993 when Colonial Life merged with UNUM Corporation. Gayle became Chairman Emeritus of Colonial Life and served on UNUM's board from 1993 until 1999.

Gayle and his wife of 61 years, Margaret “Peg” Finlay met on a blind date. This was their first time meeting despite both growing up in Columbia. Safe to say their date was a success and they were married on June 15, 1963, at Kanuga Episcopal Conference Center in Hendersonville, North Carolina.

Gayle was generous with his time, talents and resources. Being of service gave him priceless memories and enhanced his worldview and purpose. He was on many boards and committees, including the Central Carolina Community Foundation, the South Carolina State Fair Association, the South Carolina Orchestra Association, the South Carolina Ports Authority and the Cultural Council of Richland and Lexington Counties. He was an active member of Trinity Cathedral and served on the Finance Committee and in various other capacities. As a board member, he spent countless hours helping Heathwood Hall Episcopal School and Kanuga Conference Center, two places that were very special to him. Even after he retired, Gayle remained involved in numerous business, civic, political, educational and cultural organizations.

Some of the awards Gayle received were the Distinguished Alumni Award from Davidson College, Humanitarian of the Year from The United Way of the Midlands, Business Man of the Year from the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, Honorary Doctor of Public Service from the University of South Carolina, and the Order of the Palmetto from Governor Carroll Campbell. He was inducted into the South Carolina Business Hall of Fame by Junior Achievement.

Gayle led with humility and in the spirit of collaboration. He was quick to acknowledge that he would not have achieved his accomplishments without the support of Peg, his administrative assistants, the many people who were serving alongside him, and his colleagues and employees at Colonial Life. He said that Colonial Life gave more to him than he ever gave to the company.

Gayle exercised regularly and was a fore-runner in promoting healthy living. He established a wellness center at Colonial Life in the 1980s, offering exercise classes in which he often participated. He and Peg played mixed doubles in tennis and began jogging in the 1970s when it was a new fad. He took up golf in high school and shot a hole in one when he was 83. Gayle loved to dance at any occasion where music was playing. He hung upside down in gravity boots and practiced yoga. He was interviewed in an article about longevity in Smart Money magazine, accompanied by a photo of him standing on his head.

Gayle was a kind and caring husband, father and grandfather. He will be remembered

for his integrity, compassionate heart and the many contributions he made towards helping others.

Gayle is survived by his wife, Margaret Finlay Averyt; his daughters, Caroline Averyt Lord and Margaret McQueen Averyt; his sisters, Ella Averyt DuBose and Dorothy Averyt Poston; his grandchildren, William Leighton Lord IV, Owen Elliott Lord and Isabelle Finlay Lord; and his six nephews and nieces. He was predeceased by his parents and his youngest daughter, Elinor Finlay Averyt. A nephew is State Representative Kirkman Finlay.

The memorial service for Gayle will be held on May 23, 2024 at 11:00 AM at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 1100 Sumter Street, Columbia, SC 29201. A reception will follow the service in Satterlee Hall. Dunbar Funeral Home, Devine Street Chapel, is assisting the family.

In lieu of flowers, you may consider making a donation to Trinity Episcopal Cathedral (www.trinitysc.org), Kanuga Conference Center (www.kanuga.org), or the charity of your choice.

Memories of Gayle may be shared at www.dunbarfunerals.com.

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2024

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT C. “BOBBY” SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the brave and selfless members of our nation's Coast Guard. I also rise to urge my colleagues to join me in working to develop America's maritime and shipbuilding workforce to meet the growing demand of the offshore wind industry.

I am concerned that the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act, which is a critical piece of legislation, includes language that would be detrimental to the budding domestic offshore wind industry. If enacted without changes, this bill would significantly slow our transition to clean, renewable, and domestic energy. We have seen this worrisome provision before. Numerous stakeholders, then and now, have expressed concern that crewing requirements on globally rare vessels that are already in high demand would make it all but impossible for offshore wind projects to move forward in the near term.

While I certainly share the goal of expanding opportunities for American mariners in offshore wind farm construction, this jeopardizes jobs in offshore wind manufacturing as well as jobs that will last decades in offshore wind turbine operations and maintenance. While I plan to vote for this legislation due to the important work of our nation's Coast Guard, I urge my colleagues to work together and remove this shortsighted provision.

Last spring, in the interest of finding a path to empower American workers without threatening progress in the near term, I introduced the Offshore Wind American Manufacturing Act. This Act requires the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a study to inform public and private investment in shipbuilding and workforce training to support the Biden Administration's goal of deploying 30 gigawatts of offshore wind energy by 2030. The study would also identify ways that current policies could be strengthened to support

American workers, including new opportunities for American mariners interested in installing offshore wind on the outer continental shelf.

This study is a pragmatic approach that balances our responsibility to reduce emissions

and support American workers and mariners. Thanks to momentum generated by the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, offshore wind has the potential to catalyze major investments in American manufacturing and

shipbuilding. By studying opportunities to maximize the role of American mariners and shipbuilders in meeting these goals, we ensure that we do not allow the perfect to become the enemy of the good.