

which includes a wall structure, and we need ICE to achieve its public safety mission.

To the Democrats: Stop these last-minute games and let's do our job for the American people.

SUPPORTING OUR AMERICAN HERITAGE

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

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of American tradition and heritage, American law enforcement, and the sovereignty of our Nation.

I stand here in the Chamber of the people's House, a 57-year-old American man who has never witnessed such division and insanity as I have observed here in D.C., where right is wrong, where American traditions are rejected, where Christian principles are ridiculed, where many of my colleagues across the aisle envision an America with no sovereign borders, no fossil fuels, and no Second Amendment, a land where no airplanes fly, where police cannot arrest, and where jails do not exist.

I remind my colleagues that we are here to serve the best interests and security of the American people. We were not elected by citizens of foreign soil, nor should we allow our bicameral, bipartisan Congress to become infected with anti-American sentiment.

GOLD JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE AWARD

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, for the eighth consecutive year, the Juniata Valley Council, Boy Scouts of America, achieved the Gold Journey to Excellence Award.

It was an honor to celebrate this outstanding achievement yesterday with the council as well as volunteers at the unit, district, and council levels, as well as the Scouts and parents in Centre, Huntingdon, Juniata, and Mifflin Counties in central Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, the Journey to Excellence Award measures a council's performance in a range of areas; including fiscal management, membership growth and retention, and program excellence; including camping, advancement, and community service, among other areas.

These key performance areas are directly related to producing successful, growing, and sustainable Scouting programs. I am incredibly proud of the Juniata Valley Boy Scout Council, which I have been a member of for four decades. The annual recognition dinner is a time to celebrate achievements, and I was pleased to see Jonathan Long of my hometown recognized as the Howard Cub Pack Leader of the Year.

Scouting makes a difference in the lives of so many youth. I congratulate the Juniata Council on this outstanding achievement.

HR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUNNINGHAM). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

BORDER SECURITY

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise to address the dangerous proposal being put forth by Democrats in the ongoing negotiations to secure our border and fund the government.

Talks on this issue are now stalled because Democrats are demanding a cap in the number of beds allocated to detain illegal criminals. But this new initiative blatantly contradicts what our leaders on the ground are asking us to do on this issue.

Just this weekend, the National Sheriffs' Association and the Major County Sheriffs of America both stated: "Any legislation that reduces ICE's detention capacity would hinder its ability to perform its national security and public safety missions. . . . In order to meet the cap being tentatively proposed by Congress, ICE would be compelled to release thousands of aliens from custody."

The sheriffs went on to say that if the Democrats' plans were approved, then 9,000 illegal immigrants would have to be released by the end of the fiscal year. That is 9,000 criminals.

We need to focus on securing our border, funding the wall, and making our country safer, not protecting criminals and sending them back onto the streets to endanger our citizens.

We need to listen to these recommendations.

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BORDER SECURITY

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to finally come to the table for a meaningful discussion around securing our Nation's borders.

The Democrats' leadership would have the entire country believe that our President and the Republicans are the ones holding up negotiations to avoid another unnecessary government shutdown, but it is the President and

the House Republicans who have come to the bargaining table in good faith.

Just this week, there were rumors that a deal was near with less border funding than the President and my party wanted. That is what happens in negotiations: We give, and they take.

Now that we are close to a deal being cut, the Democrats are moving the goalpost, Mr. Speaker. This brand-new cap on ICE detention beds came out of thin air and is proof that the Democrats are willing to do anything to keep from making a deal with the President and the Republicans.

What is worse, the move by the Democrats would make our country less secure. It is just a backdoor attempt to get rid of ICE entirely.

The citizens of this country deserve better, Mr. Speaker. They deserve a government that works. Let's do the job our constituents sent us here to do.

BORDER SECURITY

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

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Mr. Speaker, sheriffs from across the country are in D.C. this week, and they have a simple message for Congress: Secure the border.

These sheriffs know that border security will help stem the flow of illegal drugs and human trafficking which affect communities all across the country.

The sheriffs warn that a new demand from my colleagues across the aisle could mean over 8,000 criminals would have to be released by authorities.

They wrote: "This dangerous Congressional proposal not only jeopardizes the risk of our national security, but hinders our law enforcement officers from effectively enforcing and upholding the law and protecting their communities."

In other words, this demand does not make our country safer.

We need to empower law enforcement to hold criminal aliens, when appropriate, to protect our communities. The last thing we should do is release dangerous criminals from custody.

I urge negotiators to come to an agreement to secure our border, build the wall—a barrier, a fence, a partition, a panel. I am less interested in semantics and more interested in supporting the law enforcement officers who are on the front lines every day protecting our communities.

BORDER SECURITY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, instead of working in good faith to secure our borders and reach a compromise to

avoid another shutdown, House Democrats have other ideas.

They argue that allowing ICE to increase adult detention beds from 40,000 to 52,000 is actually a bad idea—unbelievable.

Is there any solution the Democrats pose for securing our borders and our sovereign Nation?

They don't want the agency to have the capacity to detain more illegal immigrants who cross into the United States. Instead, just flow right in, increasing the risk to our citizens, as we see time and time again, especially in my home State of California.

Right now, there are 48,000 illegal immigrants detained thanks to the increased enforcement of our sovereign border laws under this administration.

Our county sheriffs are greatly concerned, however, that the new numbers that the Democrats are posing for us will release up to 10,000 illegal immigrants—criminals, even—onto our streets, into our country.

Instead of providing additional beds and allowing our Border Patrol agents to do their jobs, they have actually proposed to knock that number down to 35,000.

It appears my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would rather release illegal immigrants into the community, many of them traffickers, endangering our public.

BORDER SECURITY

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

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, what do we think would happen in this country if we said we were only going to lock up 1,000 people, total, for murder? Well, probably, after the thousandth person was arrested and locked up, you would have a lot more murders, not less, because people would think they could get away with it.

The caravans that are forming in Central and South America and coming toward our southern border aren't shrinking; they are growing. That is why Democrats don't want us to be able to lock up all the people who commit the crime of unlawful entry into the country, because they want to induce that illegal immigration.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we want to stop it, and our negotiators are operating in good faith, but now Democrats are adding new issues.

Here is my challenge to Speaker PELOSI: If she has got a bill that can pass with Democratic votes to secure the border, put it on the floor, because we are tired of negotiating when the goalposts keep moving, when the terms keep changing, and when Democrats do not appear sincere about securing our border.

It is like we are negotiating against a ghost. We are tired of it, and the American people are tired of it.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO UNITED STATES GROUP OF THE NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 1928a, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Members on the part of the House to the United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly:

Ms. SANCHEZ, California
Mr. LARSEN, Washington
Mrs. DAVIS, California
Mr. MEEKS, New York
Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE, Pennsylvania
Mr. COSTA, California

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend our deepest sympathies, prayers, and certainly our thoughts to the family of John Dingell and WALTER JONES.

I did not know Mr. Dingell and only came after and served with his lovely wife, DEBBIE DINGELL, but certainly wish all of their family our extended prayers.

And the same goes for one of our North Carolina delegation members, WALTER JONES, and his family, Joe Anne and Ashley, who served faithfully for North Carolinians for a quarter of a century.

Certainly, we will remember those, as we already have tonight, in our Prayer Caucus in praying for both families.

I don't really have any speeches written out tonight but do want to talk about a couple of areas that I believe are continuing to impact our country, maybe two of the foremost areas: border security, and then I want to talk a little bit about where our country stands in the pro-life movement.

Let me start with border security. This seems to be happening in real time. In fact, just last night, Mr. Speaker, I received a phone call from a local sheriff who is part of the 3,000 sheriff representatives in the National Sheriffs' Association. You see, they are becoming more and more concerned as we get less and less, as a body, concerned about border security.

They reached out to me last night and said: Fifty of us would like to de-

liver a letter to the Capitol to Members of Congress, specifically Chairwoman NITA LOWEY and Ranking Member KAY GRANGER. Our plans weren't to arrive until this afternoon, but we quickly made arrangements to be here this morning.

If these 50 sheriffs were going to travel all over the country, States from Massachusetts to Arizona to Washington to Texas, the least we could do would be to be here and to greet them, which we did.

On a very cold, rainy morning this morning, we met these 50 sheriffs on the Capitol steps, at which time they handed to me this letter, and I would like to read it this evening. It says:

Dear Chairwoman NITA LOWEY and Ranking Member KAY GRANGER:

On behalf of more than 3,000 sheriffs represented by both the National Sheriffs' Association and the Major County Sheriffs of America, we write in opposition to Congress' most recent deliberation to place an artificial cap on Immigration and Customs Enforcement's detention capacity.

Now, I am going to explain this in just a little bit and get into detail.

Capping the number of detention beds utilized by ICE not only jeopardizes the integrity of the immigration system, but would cripple ICE's ability to detain criminal aliens and other aliens who pose a risk to public safety or are a flight risk.

They continue:

Any legislation that reduces ICE's detention capacity would hinder its ability to perform its national security and public safety missions but, also, impact local law enforcement's ability to protect the communities they serve.

You know, we have heard a lot from some of our Democratic colleagues who say the people who should be making these decisions or the people who should be informing us of these decisions are the people with the most experience. Well, here is our National Sheriffs' Association, 3,000-strong, sitting representatives here.

They go on to say:

In order to meet the cap being tentatively proposed by Congress, ICE would be compelled to release thousands of aliens from custody.

Now, listen to this data point:

To achieve the 16,500 adult average detainee population—ADP—caps for the remaining 7 months of the fiscal year, a net reduction of 9,264 adults by the end of this fiscal year would be required.

Now, what does that mean? It means, if you are not meeting the caps, these folks, these criminal aliens, are going to get released.

You say, well, are these criminal aliens? Here is the number:

Approximately 72 percent of ICE's current detention population is subject to mandatory detention due to the alien having certain convictions or having committed certain acts.

So, of that number, 72 percent we know of, we are just going to say, or the Democrats want us to say, Mr. Speaker, that we just need to release these because we want to put a cap, just pick a number out of the air because we don't think we should have