

them to purchase 20,000 pounds of beef, 10,000 pounds of flour, 200,000 eggs, and \$100,000 worth of dairy products. They have delivered 600 live sheep to the Navajo Nation and donated to numerous food pantries throughout Northern Utah.

Utah routinely leads the Nation in volunteering. Farmers Feeding Utah is the latest example of how Utahns come together to protect lives and livelihood and to overcome adversity.

HONORING THE CITY OF SOUTH JORDAN'S PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL

Mr. McADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of South Jordan, Utah, its public safety personnel, and also its residents for showing tremendous leadership and courage during a recent public safety crisis.

On Pioneer Day, July 24, 2020, approximately 600 people were quickly evacuated from their homes and their businesses after public safety officials discovered explosive material in a nearby home. Officials determined that the substance had to be neutralized through controlled detonations.

Our State's official holiday, Pioneer Day, is usually reserved for festivities and gatherings with family to remember a legacy of overcoming hardship. Instead, South Jordan city officials and residents had their holiday interrupted and were called to react quickly, work together and demonstrate courage and leadership. They did so valiantly, and they did so bravely. The detonations were completed with very minimal damage caused to nearby homes and no injuries whatsoever. Given the circumstances, the outcome could hardly have been better.

I applaud these Utahns who came together in the face of adversity to support one another. South Jordan has much to be proud of on this Pioneer Day.

OPIOID CRISIS EPIDEMIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to appear before you today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring awareness to the public health crisis that continues to devastate communities in Ohio and across the country while we grapple with the unprecedented challenges caused by the coronavirus pandemic—the opioid crisis.

I have been proud of Congress' bipartisan work over the past several years to not only advance recovery and treatment efforts, but also to prevent the trafficking of lethal, illicit opioids, like fentanyl. I was even prouder when, in 2018, those efforts resulted in our Nation's first decline in drug overdose deaths in nearly 30 years. Tragically, our progress is slipping away.

The CDC's preliminary 2019 overdose death data shows that fatal overdoses hit a record high last year, accounting for the deaths of 70,980 Americans.

More than half of those deaths, 36,500 to be exact, involved synthetic opioids, such as fentanyl. In total, 37 States saw their number of fatal overdoses increase or remain stable from 2018.

That deadly trend is ongoing this year as the coronavirus pandemic continues to impact the mental health and economic security of Americans across the country. An analysis released by the White House last month found that overdose deaths were up 11.4 percent from January to April this year when compared with the same period in 2019.

Mr. Speaker, these are more than just statistics. These are real people—mothers and fathers, sons and daughters—and their deaths are causing real pain in communities across our Nation. Back home, a young man who had been sober for nearly 2 years—2 years—relapsed after the pandemic began and the place where he worked had to close its doors. Michael died at the end of March at just 31 years old, with both fentanyl and carfentanil in his system.

I saw Michael's mom, Cathy, on the local news the other night speaking out about her son's death, trying to bring awareness to not only the lack of attention focused on the opioid crisis right now, but the limited resources available to combat addiction during this pandemic and the continued rise of synthetic opioids, like those found in Michael's system when he died.

We have to act now to stop this crisis in its tracks. We have to redouble our efforts now if we want to prevent other families from enduring the same kind of loss that Michael's family is currently suffering. Having met with those on the front lines of the opioid crisis in my district, ranging from drug court judges to directors of rehab facilities to law enforcement officers on local drug task forces, I know that battling this epidemic requires an all-of-the-above approach that includes prevention and education efforts, promotes treatment, cracks down on illegal distribution, and enhances resources for first responders and law enforcement.

That is why I introduced the Comprehensive Opioid Program Extension Act. My bill, better known as the COPE Act, would help us implement an all-of-the-above approach by increasing the authorized resources available for the Department of Justice's comprehensive opioid abuse program. These grants will help local communities battle the opioid epidemic by:

Providing training and resources for first responders on opioid overdose reversal drugs and devices, like Narcan;

Improving collaboration between State criminal justice agencies and substance abuse agencies;

Enhancing law enforcement efforts to combat the illegal distribution of opioids;

And developing or expanding programs to prevent youth opioid abuse, drug take-back initiatives, or for treatment alternatives to incarceration.

The harsh reality is that everyone in this Chamber knows someone who has been impacted by this opioid crisis.

□ 945

With the coronavirus pandemic already causing an increase in fatal overdoses from last year's record high, action is long overdue.

We must advance legislative solutions that allow Democrats and Republicans to join together in a bipartisan effort to defeat this opioid crisis. I stand ready to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to find a bipartisan solution like the COPE Act that will help us stop the opioid crisis from causing more death, wreaking more havoc, and resulting in more tragedy.

This crisis has been breaking apart families and threatening the safety of our communities for far too long, and the American people are ready for us to help them stop it.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE FELICIAN SISTERS LOST TO CORONAVIRUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) for 4½ minutes.

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to memorialize the beautiful lives of 13 nuns taken from Michigan's 11th District by the scourge of coronavirus between April and June of this year.

We honor the memory of:

Sister Mary Luiza,
Sister Celine Marie,
Sister Mary Estelle,
Sister Thomas Marie,
Sister Mary Patricia,
Sister Mary Clarence,
Sister Rose Mary Wolak,
Sister Mary Janice,
Sister Mary Alice Ann,
Sister Victoria Marie,
Sister Mary Martinez,
Sister Mary Madeleine,
And Sister Mary Danatha "Lottie."

These righteous women spent their days working and living together as members of the Felician Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary convent in Livonia, Michigan, some for more than half a century. At the time of their deaths, they ranged from age 69 to 99 years old, still wholly committed to serving the most vulnerable among us. They would call it "from the womb to the tomb," the dedication of their service to the community.

Prior to the pandemic, the Sisters could be found working in our local schools, libraries, and medical facilities, providing enrichment to our students and care for our sick. Many of them pursued degrees in higher education during their lifetimes, always seeking new ways to instill a sense of peace, justice, dignity, and truth in the world around them. My heart aches for the harm done to the soul of our community and with the loss of these incredible lives.

Since this news has broken and spread throughout the world, they have heard from the world. From Alaska to Arizona, to as far away as Taiwan, people reaching out and sending them masks, sending them Hershey chocolate bars.

This distinguished group has been responsible for the founding of multiple schools and care centers in Michigan's 11th District, including our beloved Madonna University, which has become one of the Nation's largest Franciscan universities, with a student body of approximately 3,000 students. We, in Michigan's 11th District, are forever indebted to these beloved nuns for their mission and their impact. We grieve for the virtuous lives lost, and we hold their extended community in our prayers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues today to join me in reflecting on the indelible mark left by these Sisters on our community, our country, the soul of our country, and this world. May the grieving find comfort in the extraordinary legacies of faith and service that they leave.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SHARON ERICHSRUD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER) for 30 seconds.

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sharon Erichsrud, who passed away in March at the age of 79. She was a loving mother, devoted wife, and lifelong Minnesotan.

Sharon was born in 1941 in Frost, Minnesota. She attended Frost High School, where she met Butch, her husband of 60 years. After graduation, she went on to work at 3M and several banks in the Blue Earth area, eventually becoming bank manager at Albert Lea Savings and Loan.

Sharon and Butch are parents of three children, Beth, Shelly, and Mark of St. Michael-Albertville, who gave them five children and four great-grandchildren.

Sharon was adored by her family, who remember her as a voracious reader and a pillar of her community at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Sharon was a beloved member of our Minnesota community. May her memory be a blessing.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 50 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GOMEZ) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Lord God, thank You for giving us another day.

On the day our Nation says its final good-bye as Your servant John Lewis returns to You and joins the beloved community in its fullness in eternity, we bring our petitions to You using some of his final words.

Bless the Members of this people's House, and those in authority on all levels of society, with wisdom and courage to address the unholy oppression that awaits so many of our brothers and sisters of color. May there be a new, creative way of establishing something like community policing, that peace and security might be enjoyed where we live.

O Lord, do we dare to consider the power of nonviolence in our homes, our communities, our Nation, and, perhaps, in leadership for our world? Might we truly be called, if not challenged, to beat our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks, so that nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall we learn war anymore?

And, as we are reminded, the greatest expression of nonviolent challenge to injustice is the vote. Bless all efforts to secure access to the ballot for all American citizens.

Help us, O Lord, to answer the highest calling of our hearts, to carry forward the mission of John Lewis, our mission as one nation under God, under You, to bring to fruition the beloved community here on Earth. You, Lord, know what that might be. Help us to find our way to it.

May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 967, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

POST OFFICE DELAYS

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as our Nation reels from COVID-19 and over 150,000 deaths, millions of Americans depend on the U.S. Postal Service for access to medicine, stimulus payments, small business support, and trustworthy door-to-door service upon which Americans rely. Yet, recently appointed Postmaster General and major Trump donor Louis DeJoy has instituted a deeply misguided policy that puts American lives at risk.

In a disturbing memo, it reads: "late trips are no longer authorized or accepted . . . we may see mail left behind or mail on the workroom floor or docks."

The United States Postal Service has served our Nation ably for over two centuries, delivering at the most cost-effective rate. Letter carriers walk through rain, sleet, snow, dark of night to ensure the mail gets delivered. That is why Congress already provided \$10 billion in financing to the Postal Service during this pandemic, and, tragically, the Trump administration continued to hold it up, causing backups in mail across our Nation.

I demand the Trump administration release the funds Congress provided to our Postal Service. We must act now to ensure our people have access to medications they need, protect our small businesses and democratic institutions, and end these senseless delays.

SAVE OUR STAGES

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, Austin, Texas, is known as the Live Music Capital of the World, and every year millions of people come from around the world to my district to enjoy concerts and events.

Venues like Songbird Live in Cleburne, Hudson's on Mercer Street in Dripping Springs, and Mohawk in Austin play a crucial role in our culture. During COVID-19, these venues have faced devastation as they were the first to close and will be among the last to open.

In order to provide relief, I am proud to introduce the bipartisan Save Our Stages Act with my colleague, PETER WELCH, to create a grant program that will ensure they have the resources needed to survive.

American music legends that rose to fame once graced their stages that are currently empty and motionless. They moved the young and old alike and inspired the next generation of artists.

It is my hope that our venues, with the help of Congress and our communities, will be able to once again welcome their next act to the stage. I urge consideration and passage of this vital bill.