

ANTONIO GREENE'S ACT OF KINDNESS

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a local Amazon driver named Antonio Greene, who learned that someone living along his route was undergoing chemotherapy.

When Antonio learned this, he thought back to his own family. He lost his parents and grandmother over the last couple years, and occasionally he would buy cards and flowers for members of his family to offer encouragement and support.

Greene, a North Charleston native, did the same last summer for another individual in South Carolina's First Congressional District who had been immunocompromised during the pandemic.

Antonio's act of kindness has landed him among seven people to be recognized by the JFK Foundation, and I applaud all of those individuals carrying out small acts of kindness during the pandemic. I commend Antonio and anyone who has risked their own health and safety to protect others during COVID-19. Those who showed compassion in ways like this always deserve this kind of recognition.

RESTAURANTS OVERCAME UNCERTAINTY DURING PANDEMIC

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to restaurants and the resilience of so many in this industry; specifically, Vintage Lounge, Butcher & Bee, Harold's Cabin, and Chasing Sage in South Carolina's First Congressional District.

These restaurants did not take any aid or receive any relief during the COVID-19 crisis. They were even closed during the beginning of the pandemic and they were unable to receive any restaurant relief funds as well, but they survived despite these challenges.

Every restaurant owner with hopes of making it through the COVID-19 crisis had to choose a survival strategy that worked. I would like to bring attention to all four of these restaurants, which are now open or in the process of reopening post-pandemic. This is a major feat worth celebrating, especially since they faced unprecedented challenges to an already vulnerable industry.

In Charleston, in South Carolina's First Congressional District, our hospitality and restaurant industry has been critically hit. These companies and restaurants had to prompt guests to wear masks, in line with city regulations; and if they weren't out by 11 p.m., they had to go, by State order.

But so many were determined to uphold the same hospitality standards they had in place prior to the pandemic. Vintage Lounge, Butcher & Bee, Harold's Cabin, and Chasing Sage, among hundreds of other restaurants, are now open for business again. I commend their stories of success during the pandemic.

RECOGNIZING TEE YOUNG AND PRESTON WHITE

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great honor and pride to bring awareness to two constituents in South Carolina's First Congressional District

for their fantastic effort they put forth in our community.

Tee Young and Preston White helped facilitate the First Annual Crosstown Basketball Tournament, which was held in Hampton Park this last Saturday, just next door to my alma mater, the Citadel.

These young men arranged the tournament as a way to bring the east and west sides of the city of Charleston together and provide a nice evening for the community filled with food and basketball.

I cannot be more proud of Tee and Preston showing Charleston and South Carolina and all of our communities how we are stronger and better together and showing how strong Charleston is.

God bless these young men, the State of South Carolina, and the United States of America.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS CAN REBUILD INFRASTRUCTURE EFFECTIVELY FOR LESS MONEY

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

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the importance of our Nation's infrastructure and how to rebuild our transportation system the right way.

While we are hearing about the various proposals from Congress and the administration that would raise taxes or add to the deficit to spend hundreds of billions of dollars and even trillions of dollars on infrastructure, I would suggest that this body take a closer look at how frequently infrastructure can be built effectively without further burdening the taxpayer or our children for generations to come.

As a member of the House Financial Services Committee, I hear routinely from the private sector, the financial services industry, banks, insurance companies, asset managers, pension funds, private equity firms, life insurance firms, and the like that trillions of dollars of private capital is readily available to efficiently rebuild our Nation's infrastructure without undermining American competitiveness through higher taxes.

Public-private partnerships utilize the best features of the public sector and the private sector to finance, design, build, and even operate our critical infrastructure necessary to support safe and efficient channels of commerce, grow our economy, and sustain our quality of life.

The best example I have seen comes from my own State of Kentucky, where the small community of Brandenburg partnered with a contractor, The Walker Company, and GRW Engineers, to design, build, and finance a new wastewater treatment plant for Brandenburg. This project had significant urgency due to the announcement that Nucor Steel intended to build a new \$1.7 billion steel mill on the property

that included the site of the existing treatment plant.

The P3 delivery method, authorized by Kentucky statutes passed in 2016, was utilized to cut \$3.5 million in cost from the \$8.3 million project and to save at least one year over the normal taxpayer-financed, design-bid-build process.

Relocating this plant in a timely and cost-effective manner allowed Nucor Steel to begin construction of its facility, which soon will bring over 400 good-paying jobs to the region.

Mr. Speaker, whatever infrastructure bill emerges from this Congress, I would urge my colleagues to reject the Biden administration's call for growth-destroying tax increases and instead look to America's deep and liquid capital markets as the solution and use public-private partnerships as a significant feature of the legislation.

RECOGNIZING OUR NATION'S POLICE OFFICERS

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our Nation's police officers and honor the sacrifices that many brave men and women of law enforcement make every single day.

We mourn for Detective James Kirk, Officer Martez Hughes, and Special Deputy Sheriff Lee Daniel Manns from Kentucky, as well as the hundreds of other law enforcement officers from across the country who have given their lives in the line of duty over the last year.

Beginning in 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed into law a proclamation designating May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day, and the week in which that date falls as National Police Week. Republicans and Democrats continued the tradition of honoring officers who serve and officers who died in the line of duty each year since.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, President Biden broke this tradition in his proclamation on May 7 and politicized this year's National Police Week and Peace Officers Memorial Day by criticizing police for the distrust that some Americans have of law enforcement.

Mr. Speaker, blaming the police for the increase in antipolice sentiment is not how we honor those who swear an oath to uphold public trust, even though the officers may become targets for senseless acts of violence.

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According to the FBI's Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted database, fatal felony attacks on officers spiked 31.6 percent in early 2021. This comes on the heels of our Nation's major cities, Chicago, New York, and Los Angeles, all vowing to defund their police departments. It is no wonder why these cities have tragically seen a devastating and dramatic increase in homicides and shootings in 2021. This is what you get when you call for defunding the police.

To our brave law enforcement officers who protect and serve our communities, I stand with you, and I am grateful for all you do to keep us safe.

I will always defend and fight against defunding the police.

HONORING SHEILA CURRANS

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a dedicated leader in rural healthcare.

After 48 years, Sheila Currans retires as the CEO of Harrison Memorial Hospital. Mrs. Currans' service began as a high school candy striper. She served as a medical-surgical nurse, an ICU/CCU head nurse, and supervisor of nursing. She led for 5 years as COO and then was named CEO in 2009.

Harrison Memorial Hospital, located in rural Cynthiana, Kentucky, serves people from a seven-county region and is one of the few remaining independent, not-for-profit hospitals in Kentucky.

The people of Harrison County and the surrounding counties have been fortunate to have a great leader in Mrs. Currans and her passion for healthcare excellence, leadership experience, and understanding of rural healthcare needs. She will be missed, and I wish Sheila Currans all the best in her well-deserved retirement.

PRESERVE HYDE AMENDMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss our most fundamental God-given right, our right to life.

Enshrined in our Declaration of Independence is life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Our government should reflect this commitment to life, but the continued practice of abortion-on-demand across the country runs contrary to this commitment. Abortion deprives innocent, defenseless, unborn babies of their right to life.

Thankfully, there are certain legal protections, like the Hyde amendment, in place to safeguard hardworking Americans' tax dollars and save lives. The Hyde amendment simply prevents the taxpayer funding of abortions. Since 1976, the Hyde amendment has saved 2.5 million lives.

According to a Marist poll taken this year, the vast majority of Republicans and Independents, and nearly a third of Democrats, believe that tax dollars should not be used to pay for abortions.

Since 1976, Republican and Democrat Members of Congress have found agreement in keeping the Hyde amendment. President Biden himself publicly supported the Hyde amendment for decades. In a 1977 letter to constituents, which I have right here, Senator Biden wrote that voting to support the Hyde amendment "is the position which I have consistently supported."

He goes on to say: "The Senate, however, passed a broader definition of the circumstances under which Medicaid funds could be used to pay for an abortion. I did not support this version." Those are Senator Biden's words.

Furthermore, in 1994, in another letter to a constituent at the time, Sen-

ator Biden upheld his support of Hyde protections, saying: "Those of us who are opposed to abortion should not be compelled to pay for them."

But today, President Biden has kowtowed to the radical left and has removed Hyde protections from his budget proposal. President Biden is turning his back on innocent life in their mother's womb.

The Hyde amendment has saved millions of lives and has stopped Americans who are morally opposed to abortion from being forced to pay for it.

I call on President Biden to return to his previous position, which opposed the taxpayer funding of abortion, abide by the teaching of his own self-professed Catholic faith, and follow the lead of his predecessors from both sides of the aisle who preserved the Hyde amendment in their Presidential budget proposals.

HONORING KENNETH C. THAYER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible life and military career of one of New York State's most decorated World War II veterans, U.S. Army National Guard veteran Private First Class Kenneth C. Thayer, the handsome man you see pictured behind me.

Mr. Thayer is part of a distinguished National Guard unit that displayed heroic and patriotic service in defense of the United States. In recognition of his unwavering service to our Nation, I recently had the opportunity to present Mr. Thayer with the Presidential Unit Citation, one of the highest honors a military unit can receive. Here is the picture of me meeting Mr. Thayer this weekend.

The Army has requested this Presidential Unit Citation for the 30th Infantry Division since 1946. It wasn't until last year, nearly 75 years later, that President Trump recognized this unit and the well-deserving group of men for their selfless acts of bravery and devotion to our country.

Mr. Thayer was a soldier in the National Guard's 30th Infantry Division, a unit known for their exemplary conduct in both World War I and World War II. The 30th Division was formed in 1917, soon after the United States had entered World War I. They fought heroically in France against the German Army, and once the war ended, they returned to their prewar status in the National Guard.

Then, on September 1, 1939, Hitler invaded Poland, initiating World War II. The 30th Division was quickly reinstated by 1940 and called upon to fight. They first saw combat on Omaha Beach on June 11, 1944.

Mr. Thayer entered Active service on December 9, 1943, just 2 years after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. A Utica native, Mr. Thayer was sent to the 30th after recovering from an in-

jury he sustained in 1944. His division was nicknamed "Old Hickory" because the majority of the men were from Southern States closely associated with President Andrew Jackson, and Mr. Thayer would grow very close with many of them.

The 30th would go on to become one of the most important forces in the United States' European Theater Operations. The 30th Division was in active combat from June 1944 to April 1945, a total of 282 days.

One of its most challenging battles was fought at Mortain, France. From August 6, 1944, to August 12, 1944, the 30th Infantry Division was faced with continuous attack from German forces, who were attempting to break through Allied lines.

Over 2,000 men in this division alone died while fighting to drive Germans from France, but the courage of this division helped turn the tide of the war and will be remembered for generations to come.

Mr. Thayer coauthored two volumes titled "The Young Liberators: From Civilian to Soldier"—I have the book here, a wonderful account—with historian Allan Foote, whose father also served in the 30th Infantry Division during World War II, Master Sergeant Arthur A. Foote.

Writing about one of the artillery barrages during that period, Mr. Thayer states in his book: "I kept on scrambling around in a futile attempt to find someone, anyone I could help. . . . Out of 220 men, I was the only survivor. It was an absolute nightmare."

It is almost impossible to imagine the atrocities that these men witnessed. As Americans, we remember the bravery and sacrifice that Mr. Thayer and so many of the 30th endured.

Between June 1944 and May 1945, the men of the United States 30th Infantry Division participated in every major Western European campaign, from Normandy to the Elbe River. Known as the "Workhorse of the Western Front," the 30th was ranked as the top infantry division by a team of historians who worked under General Eisenhower. His chief historian, Colonel S.L.A. Marshall, declared the 30th "the finest infantry division in the European Theater of Operations."

The reputation of Old Hickory is that of resolute dedication and valor. They are viewed as heroic not only to Americans but to those whom they saved overseas.

For instance, in the Netherlands, where the 30th Division liberated the town of Maastricht, the townspeople created a cemetery for these lost souls. To this day, the community continues to place American flags at the gravesites every May in their memory. The town officials still keep in touch with Mr. Thayer even though he is living in assisted living.

For this service, Mr. Thayer has been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, two Bronze Stars, and three Purple Hearts.