

before we stop the flow into our communities?

In Pennsylvania, over 5,000 people lost their lives in drug overdoses last year. We have seen fentanyl is easy to get, and it is fast to kill. We must put an end to the crisis and refuse any attempt to stop the Department of Homeland Security from enforcing our laws and ending this crisis on our southern border.

HONORING MARGIE RICE

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of the Honorable Margie Rice, former mayor, council member, and community leader of Westminster, California, who passed away this past Sunday, July 25, 2021, at the age of 92.

Margie had dedicated her entire life to public service, including 22 years on the Westminster City Council, with 12 of those years as the city's elected mayor. She also served as a Westminster School District trustee for 17 years.

Up until her passing, Margie served on the Midway City Sanitation District, ending her 30 years of service on that board this past Sunday. Madam Speaker, in 2019, I was honored to join Margie and other board members in celebrating the 80th anniversary of the Midway City Sanitation District.

As an active community leader and a public servant, Margie Rice was passionate, dedicated, focused, hard-working, and, above all, outspoken.

Margie achieved many results for the residents of Westminster and among her legacy is the building of the Westminster Rose Center Theater, a performing arts center for the whole community to enjoy.

Margie was born in Alabama, but she called Westminster her home for more than 60 years. She is survived by two of her four children, 19 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren, and 12 great-great-grandchildren.

I will always remember Margie Rice as a pioneer and a leader who loved and cared for the Westminster community with all her heart.

She will be missed.

PRESIDENT BIDEN'S SURGING CRIME CRISIS

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

Mr. NEHLS. Madam Speaker, crime is up across the country.

Cities that defunded their police are now facing the consequences. Police chiefs have gone on national TV to literally beg for more support and assistance. What started as a far-left political slogan ended up impacting real-world policy in numerous Democrat-run cities.

Now, crime is surging across America. Just the other day, there was a

brazen shootout a mile away from the White House.

The facts and the numbers do not lie. This is President Biden's crime crisis.

Rather than face the radical elements of their own party, the Democrats are deflecting responsibility.

Defunding the police means less law enforcement officers on the streets, less crimes getting solved, and less criminals getting arrested. The only people who benefit from defunded police are the criminals themselves.

We are a nation of laws and law and order. We owe it to the American people to do what we can to keep them safe, even if the Biden administration won't.

HONORING JOHNNY VENTURA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and work of the most prominent merengue artist in the world who, sadly, passed away yesterday, the great Johnny Ventura.

Johnny Ventura started his career in the 1960s with his Johnny Ventura El Combo Show. His career quickly flourished both nationally and internationally with his contagious music.

He also embarked on a life of public service as the mayor in Santo Domingo and a member of the Congress of the Dominican Republic.

Just last February, we honored him here in Washington, D.C., as part of the yearly event, Dominicans on the Hill.

He prided himself in being the ambassador of merengue and, as such, of the Caribbean and the world.

We will always remember him for his contagious songs, including "I am the Merengue," "If I am born again," "Tobacco," and "Patacon Pisao"; "Yo soy el Merengue," "Si vuelvo a nacer," "El tabaco," y "Patacon Pisao."

(English translation of the lyrics spoken in Spanish is as follows:)

The sound of the bass drum stops today

The sound of the saxophone rests

The guira also rests today.

El sonido de la tambora para hoy

El sonido del saxofon descansa

La guira tambien descansa hoy.

We will always remember him for his great service to people, and for his music and dedication to music. He will always be present in our hearts through his songs that often were funny and sometimes melancholic as he sang to the diaspora.

Madam Speaker, as you know, folks from all over the world find themselves in an economic exile and, at times, think of the family they left behind. They think of the wonderful beaches, rivers, and mountains that they left behind, and they could only claim that feeling through songs like the songs that Johnny Ventura often played for all of us.

He had a contagious smile and a wonderful rhythm of music with African bass instruments.

Adios, Johnny Ventura.

Good-bye, "Merengue Artist to the Bass Drum"; adios, "Merenguero Hasta la Tambora."

Good-bye, "Oldest Horse"; adios, "Caballo Mayor."

WORSENING FENTANYL CRISIS

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

Mr. FITZGERALD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about a recent trip to McAllen, Texas, where I had the opportunity to tour the southern border. What stuck out to me most was hearing from border agents about the sheer volume of fentanyl that is being seized right now.

In fact, U.S. Customs and Border Protection reported that 1,053 pounds of fentanyl was seized at the southwest border in June alone. That is more than the last three Junes combined.

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Following my trip, I introduced an amendment at a Judiciary Committee markup to ensure that penalties are maintained for criminals convicted of fentanyl possession. This amendment should have been a slam dunk, but it was not adopted.

I question or challenge my colleagues who voted against this. We must find a way of stopping the flow of fentanyl. However, I suspect because most do not want to confront this issue at the border, that they are not going to address this issue.

In the absence of action, there is going to be no winners on this issue, only families who continue to grapple with the consequences firsthand.

SPENDING BILL WITHOUT THE HYDE AMENDMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK) for 5 minutes.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the appropriations package we will pass this week because this document respects the dignity and humanity of women in this country and around the world.

For the first time in over 40 years, the Appropriations Committee passed a spending bill without the Hyde amendment. For decades, the Hyde amendment has prevented women of color and low-income people from receiving basic healthcare. Hyde forces one in four women under Medicaid to carry a pregnancy to term.

Twenty percent of the women in this country rely on Medicaid, including half of all American people living below the Federal poverty line, and millions of women of color. Yet, they are denied their constitutional right to healthcare, including an abortion.

This is discrimination. The legal right to an abortion is meaningless if

you are unable to afford one. Abortion is healthcare. The legal right to an abortion is based on access, and that should not be denied based on your income or insurance coverage.

Budgets are documents that represent our values, and that is why I am so proud to put forward a spending package that rejects Hyde, and also provides a directive to the VA to implement a comprehensive sexual assault and harassment policy, \$1.2 billion for maternal and child health, a repeal of the restrictive Helms amendment and global and domestic gag rules, and so much more.

This is a good day for women here and around the globe. I thank Chair DELAURO and I thank the millions of activists who fought to make this moment a reality. We will continue our march for equity shoulder to shoulder with you.

CELEBRATING KANSAS COUNTY FAIRS

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

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate one of my favorite times of the year, county fair season in Kansas. This summer, all 63 counties in the big First District will host at least one county fair, featuring FFA and 4-H livestock shows, rodeos, demolition derbies, science demonstrations, fair food, and most importantly, people coming together to celebrate their communities.

County fairs are special because each one is unique to that county. Some county fairs rally volunteers to build barns for farmers in need, some hold premium livestock auctions for 4-H and FFA members, driving economic opportunity for those students and their futures.

Other fairs serve the world's most famous root beer floats or host family fun nights where young and old participate in sack races and play horseshoes. County fairs teach hard work, respect, and humility. They are emblematic of conservative values, and it is certainly where I learned them as a child.

Growing up in Quinter, Kansas, I attended the Gove County Fair every year with my family. I still remember the excitement we all had when our hard work culminated and my siblings and I entered our 4-H projects for review. Those summers taught us lessons we still use today. Last weekend, I found myself reliving the childhood excitement with my son, Austin, at the Riley and Wabaunsee County Fairs.

At the Riley County Fair, 4-H members Peyton and Genayla, showed us their market steers and purple ribbon show pigs. The joy and satisfaction of accomplishment on their faces was proof that county fairs serve a critical role in the lives of our youth.

At the Wabaunsee County Fair, I met with Alex Gnadl and the county fair board. We toured their brand new live-

stock facility, constructed by volunteers with donations from county agriculture businesses. Communities rally to support county fairs because they know the substantial impact they have on the entire community.

I plan to visit several more county fairs this summer, and I am grateful for communities who prioritize these time-honored traditions. If you attend a Big First county fair, you will see Kansas conservative values on full display: hard work, responsibility, generous giving, and positive attitudes.

You will see strong communities, strong leaders, and you will see a bright future. I am proud to be a product of the county fair, and I look forward to celebrating them for years to come.

BLOATEDBUS LEGISLATION

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the partisan appropriations bill House Democrats are forcing through Congress this week.

With a 50/50 split in the Senate, and a margin of just a few votes separating Democrats and Republicans in the House, American voters clearly want Congress to work together to produce a bipartisan spending plan. In response, Democrats have ignored the American people and produced one of the most partisan budgets in history. Their bloatedbus contains nearly \$600 billion, a funding increase of more than 21 percent from the last fiscal year.

This bill is a progressive wish list. It boosts funding for the White House by nearly 40 percent and the Vice President's office by 22 percent. It rewards the most liberal agencies like the EPA and IRS, with massive budget increases, only furthering their presence in our lives. It contains more than 1,500 earmarks, returning us to the corrupt practice of pork barrel spending.

It contains harmful regulations to Kansas farmers and ranchers by no longer exempting producers from greenhouse gas reporting requirements and reverting to old regulations that decrease meat processing capacity, further suppressing the price of live cattle.

The worst part of H.R. 4502, however, is the absence of the Hyde amendment, a traditionally bipartisan provision protecting taxpayers from forced financial complicity in elective abortions. In the bloatedbus, Democrats purposely omitted the Hyde amendment, and instead took the opportunity to voice their support for radical abortion policies.

I cannot support legislation that mortgages the future of our children and grandchildren. I oppose H.R. 4502, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

RECOGNIZING KATHERINE THOMAS

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, lastly, I rise today to recognize and thank Katherine Thomas for her tireless and selfless work for all Kansans.

In the last 8 years, Katherine has championed Kansas farmers and ranchers in the Halls of Congress, working

on food and agricultural issues for several Members of the Kansas congressional delegation.

In 2018, Katherine helped usher the farm bill to completion under the direction of Senator PAT ROBERTS, then Chairman of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee. Most recently, knowing how important agriculture was to me, Katherine helped establish my new congressional office and prioritize farmers and ranchers in the big First Congressional District.

I am proud to have had Katherine on my team, and I wish her the best of luck in her next adventure back in the Senate. Thank you, Katherine.

LEGISLATION TO INVEST IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. OMAR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, this week we are considering critical legislation to invest in America and Minnesotans. We are investing in childcare, education, healthcare, housing, and so many other basics that my district so desperately needs.

In the Fifth District alone, we secured over \$46 million in transportation and community project funding. That includes the skills training for clean energy careers, funding for updated sprinkler systems, a new healthcare clinic on Lake Street, a new park in Brooklyn Center, and so much more.

How we choose to invest our resources is a reflection of our priorities, and we, as House Democrats, are making our priorities clear: American jobs, opportunity, and working families.

BLOATEDBUS SPENDING BILL

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

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition today to the bloatedbus spending bill that is being jammed through the House this week by the majority.

Instead of working to craft bipartisan legislation, Democrats have put forward appropriations bills that are based on unrealistic and irresponsible spending levels and include partisan policy provisions that will only delay its final passage.

Further, rather than holding a vote on each individual appropriations bill, the Speaker has lumped together seven separate spending bills that include nearly \$600 billion in discretionary spending, a 21 percent increase over just last year.

Twenty-one percent. That is almost as high as some of the price increases families in my district are seeing in their daily lives, thanks to the flood of deficit spending President Biden and Speaker PELOSI have forced through this Congress already.