

more importantly, she has helped individual constituents, who needed a fierce champion for their cause, help navigate a bureaucracy that can seem arcane and senseless at times.

Elizabeth is a native Californian, the daughter of Wilbert and Ellen Beck.

Her large family is comprised of her husband, Steve; sons, Jesse and Sean, who tragically prematurely passed away; adopted Tongan children, Malia, Angela, Michelle, Joshua, and Jacob; and over a dozen grandchildren.

She will be missed in our office and by our constituents beyond measure, and I cannot thank her enough for her service.

I ask all Members to join me in thanking Elizabeth Jean Beck Vuna for her unwavering dedication to public service and wish her good health and prosperity in retirement.

#### PULLING BACK THE PRO-CHOICE CURTAIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, the pro-abortion lobby cheered last week as House Democrats rushed through H.R. 3755, the abortion on demand until birth act.

Throughout the course of the debate last Friday, I listened as my colleagues across the aisle took to their bully pulpit and sang the praises of the abortion industry in America.

The talking points that afternoon were so distorted from reality that it was as if members of the abortion lobby were the ones that wrote them.

Some Members claimed that passing this bill was a duty that must be fulfilled to restore the rights of women. Others claimed it was a duty that upheld the oath they took to defend the Constitution.

Madam Speaker, no matter the justification that was given, the American people can see that this is yet another elaborate smokescreen coming from the majority.

But what really shook me to my core was how abortion was being normalized in those moments. Women's health was being used as a euphemism for abortion, as if the health of the baby that is destroyed is inconsequential, not to mention that half of the babies that are aborted are female. You cannot claim that this issue is one of "women's health" when that is the case.

The same sentiment applies to the phrase "reproductive freedom" that was thrown around multiple times. Explain to me how the process of destroying an innocent baby resembles freedom for the baby. It is outrageous to link abortion and the concept of freedom together.

These are the kinds of deliberate spin tactics that attempt to hide the horrors of abortion from the American people. No set of elaborate talking points from pro-abortion advocates can

truly mask the societal ill that is abortion.

Unfortunately, that only skims the surface of how abortion is being advertised. The left's narrative on abortions has evolved to the point where this immoral procedure is now associated with pride. Abortion is not prideful. It is not a form of empowerment. Abortion is robbing a human being of God's most precious gift: life.

While the left's narrative grows only more devious, the voices of those who survived abortions, or whose parents chose life, continue to be silenced. The stories of these men and women are invaluable, and they deserve to be heard by everyone. That is the truth of the matter.

Madam Speaker, Republicans fundamentally understand that life begins at conception and ends at natural death. We believe that life is a precious and sanctified gift that God has bestowed upon us.

I am proud to stand alongside so many constituents of North Carolina's Fifth Congressional District, as well as my Republican colleagues in the people's House, in fighting to protect life.

The unborn deserve nothing less than unwavering advocates who stand for them. I will always serve as a strong voice for the unborn, and I do not plan on stopping anytime soon.

#### RECKLESS AND SHORTSIGHTED RECONCILIATION PACKAGE

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

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I rise to discuss this reckless and shortsighted reconciliation package and what I believe to be its worst effects on the American people.

The budget reconciliation process exists to reduce the national deficit with a majority vote, not to let the majority party jam partisan legislation through this Congress. Since January, Speaker PELOSI and House Democrats have not used reconciliation for its intended purpose but rather to pass the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan on party lines and now the \$3.5 trillion budget blueprint. Here, we see the opposite of the intended use for the reconciliation process and the opposite of the word "reconciliation" itself. This is division.

Senator BERNIE SANDERS, chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, said that under this budget, no middle-income family would pay more in taxes. That is not true. The reconciliation bill includes damaging tax increases, falling largely on the shoulders of middle-income families, small business owners, and family farms. This bill would be the largest tax-and-spend measure in America's history and would increase the national debt to \$45 trillion by 2031. In addition to the devastating spending and tax hikes, it would allow the Federal Government to intervene even more in our daily lives and kill countless jobs.

Unfortunately, the Senate version of this package could be even worse. Right now, the House version of the bill keeps stepped up basis intact, which protects family farms from being taxed out of existence, and it does not include the requirement that banks report to the IRS all transactions over \$600, which is patently ludicrous. I am prepared to offer an amendment on the final bill if either of these two provisions, amongst others, are changed.

This is the largest tax-and-spend bill in the history of the country. Only 1 percent has even been scored by the Congressional Budget Office. It would result in a whopping \$10,600 per American in new spending. We are spending money we don't have on things that we don't need, and I urge this Congress to join me in opposing this horrible legislation which will weaken our great Nation and reduce our freedom.

#### A PATH TO HEALING AND RECONCILIATION

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss what I see as the path to healing and reconciliation in our country.

We have a promise from God about how to heal our Nation. It is very simple, and it is from II Chronicles. The Lord says: "If my people who are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

It is almost as though God crafted this message for our present moment. I am proud to be part of the crew of people on this Earth who strive to live by God's promises: those who follow Jesus. You can find us throughout Kansas and from Austin, Texas, to Hamilton, Montana, to Simmons, Kentucky, to Thompson, Connecticut.

In this country, so many people advance against one another in jealousy and pride, they rush to judgment and they rob each other of the dignity and respect we owe our fellow citizens when we should be carrying each other's burdens. If we don't stop this behavior, we will incur the punishment it deserves: enmity, discord, and separation.

I think of my daughter when I tuck her in at night and my son when we go fishing. I don't want them to live in a country that is playing the dangerous game of division and hatred for the next 99 years, but a world of hope, peace, and love. If our country keeps rejecting God, we will only make it harder for ourselves to accomplish this.

#### COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF DR. BARRY FLINCHBAUGH

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of a truly great Kansan, Dr. Barry Flinchbaugh, who died last year at the age of 78.

Dr. Flinchbaugh taught my ag policy class at Kansas State University, which is the best class I took at college. He had a larger-than-life demeanor; was committed to production agriculture; was involved, at some

level, in every farm bill going back over 50 years; and was sharp, witty, and hilarious. Dr. Flinchbaugh did more for Kansas farmers than possibly anyone else during his lifetime.

His expertise in ag policy led him to meet every President from Harry Truman to George W. Bush. But he wasn't interested in notoriety. He was passionate about his family, his field of study, and his students, who were his legacy and his pride and joy. I was one of the 5,000 students Dr. Flinchbaugh taught over the span of 49 years, and I can picture him now, cigar in hand, holding court in his classroom or in his office, surrounded by transfixed young people, many of whom would later go on to become leaders in the very field they learned from him.

I would like to close with one of his quotes that I think we all need to hear, especially in this deliberative body at the present time. He said: "There are two ways to make public decisions: compromise or dictatorship. There's nothing in between."

#### RECOGNIZING JULIAN STANFORD

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the resiliency and the courage of Julian Stanford. Julian is a 17-year-old high school student who was recently involved in a life-changing accident.

While driving home after work on August 21, Julian attempted to avoid an oncoming vehicle, resulting in paralyzing injuries. Julian was transferred to the Shepherd Center in Atlanta, Georgia, where his treatment has been centered around healing and prayer.

Prior to his accident, Julian was an honor roll student and an active leader in his high school's Republican Party. Known throughout his community for his laughter and his love of music, Julian's passion for life is truly inspiring.

Despite the extent of his injuries, Julian continues to fight daily with his mom by his side. Julian is a living miracle whose determination is remarkable.

I am praying for Julian and his family, that he makes a full recovery, and I know he will go on to achieve great things.

Julian, we love you and you inspire us. Keep up the good fight.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize September as National Suicide Prevention Month. This important month is an opportunity to remember those who have lost their lives to suicide and share resources to fight the stigma surrounding mental health challenges.

As the tenth leading cause of death in the United States, suicide affects Americans from all walks of life. The challenges surrounding mental health

can be complex, but we owe it to our constituents to utilize every resource to better understand the factors contributing to suicide.

A critical part in suicide prevention is equipping ourselves and our communities with the resources needed to fight this tragic occurrence. From engaging in open conversations about mental health to checking on our neighbor, there are steps we can all take to help those in crisis.

September may be Suicide Prevention Month, but community engagement and prevention efforts should be maintained year-round.

I encourage everyone to educate themselves on the warning signs of suicide, as it could save a life.

#### REMEMBERING DON AND MARGIE VARNADOE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember and honor Don and Margie Varnadoe of Glynn County, Georgia, who tragically passed away on September 25. Don and Margie were aboard Amtrak's Empire Builder train when it derailed near Joplin, Montana.

Don and Margie were known throughout the community for their service to the Glynn County school system. Margie was a teacher, a principal, a personnel director, and assistant superintendent. She was loved by her students and peers for her dedication to educating our future generations.

Don was a retired St. Simons real estate agent and school board member for four years. During his term, Don focused on improving the school system so that all students in Glynn County could have a positive learning experience.

Both cared immensely for their community, and I am thankful for Don and Margie's impact on Georgia's First Congressional District. Their irreplaceable presence will be missed by all.

#### SERIOUS PROBLEMS ARE GETTING WORSE

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, Joe Biden preached vague, feel-good messages to voters, like healing our country and pursuing bipartisanship, during his campaign for President. In his victory speech, he ripped off a line from Barack Obama and said: "I pledge to be a President who seeks not to divide but to unify, who doesn't see red and blue States but a United States."

Madam Speaker, these messages were blatant lies. His record 8 months into his tenure proves his only intention is to govern on behalf of the Democrat Party's far-left base.

Look at the ongoing farce on our southern border. The Department of Homeland Security just released thousands of unvetted Haitian migrants into this country, no questions asked. Even worse, the President turned his back on Border Patrol agents over that bogus horse photo.

Our government wouldn't behave this way unless it was worried about backlash from leftists who want to open our borders and defund the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency.

The border has been out of control from the moment Joe Biden stepped foot in the Oval Office. Month after month after month, we hear about Border Patrol agents encountering hundreds of thousands of migrants attempting to illegally enter our country. President Biden put Vice President HARRIS in charge of fixing our southern border, but whatever she is doing to "address the root cause of migration" obviously isn't working.

Last week, the White House press secretary whined about Republicans giving floor speeches about the crisis at the border. I say to the press secretary: We wouldn't need to be down here raising Hades if your boss would quit being so soft, start doing his job, and enforce the dadgum border laws.

□ 1030

Chaos at the southern border is just one of the many crises of Joe Biden's own creation. I could stand down here for hours talking about inflation caused by reckless government spending, a failed exit from Afghanistan that left 13 American servicemembers dead, including one of my constituents—his family lives in my neighborhood—and much more.

But my point is this, Madam Speaker, Americans across the political spectrum see Joe Biden standing idly by while this country is being destroyed. They think this President is grossly incompetent and incapable of responsibly running the executive branch. I have even talked to Democrats here in Congress who are extremely concerned about these very issues.

Serious problems are getting worse, yet Joe Biden doesn't show any interest in solving them. Given this President's lack of interest in serving as Chief Executive, I can confidently say this President is mentally unwell and unfit for office.

It is time for Joe Biden to step down. We need a leader who cares about the future of this country, not one who isn't even aware of the damage he is causing.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

#### WE MUST SECURE OUR BORDER

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the ongoing border crisis.

Last week, President Biden's Homeland Security Secretary, Alejandro Mayorkas, told Congress, "The border is secure." The facts indicate that this statement was absolutely false.

The Biden administration has embraced policies to open the southern