

Mr. Parks was a devoted Christian, husband, father, and grandfather who was dedicated to the service of his family, his community, his church, and many other things, including his country.

Philip served our country valiantly in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam war as a linguist in Taiwan. He was a schoolteacher for over 30 years, a principal for many schools throughout the area, and an extremely active member of the First Baptist Church and other organizations, including the Rotary Club and VFW—even serving as a volunteer firefighter.

We will never know the number of lives he impacted over the course of his own life. I had the privilege of meeting Mr. Parks right here in Washington, D.C., on his last flight when he traveled here with the Permian Basin Honor Flight. What an honor it was to see the service, the dedication, and the leadership.

I am sending my deepest condolences to his beloved wife, Lois, who shared 52 years of marriage, and his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Parks for his service.

SOUTHERN BORDER

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask a simple question: When will this administration recognize the crisis at our southern border?

Late last night Customs and Border Protection released their record-shattering border crisis numbers. Once again, in the month of October, more than 164,000 illegal immigrants were apprehended.

This is the worst October in DHS history, and these are only the numbers of those who were apprehended, not to mention the got-aways. Drug trafficking and human trafficking is surging. It is confirmed that MS-13 gang members are crossing into the United States and hundreds of thousands—in fact, over 2.1 million—have entered this country illegally with more advancing towards our southern border right now.

Meanwhile, the administration is considering nearly half a million dollars in payments to illegal immigrants who broke the law while they are not paying contractors to build the wall and they are leaving already paid for materials in the field to rot. All this is made worse by the fact that the President is forcing our brave Border Patrol officers who are woefully understaffed and lacking the resources they need to choose between their livelihoods and a vaccine mandate. We have seen reporting by the Border Patrol that nearly half of its agents could be fired in less than a week due to the administration's November 22 COVID-19 vaccine deadline.

It has never been more clear. The President has abandoned Texas and every other border State, and he is cutting his own Border Patrol agents off at the knees. It is long past time to

admit that there is a crisis at our southern border and that the men and women of the United States Border Patrol are overwhelmed and they need their Commander in Chief to support them.

This crisis is not slowing down.

Mr. President, we urge you to secure the border, to not abandon Texas, and to come to our rescue.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

HONORING OFFICERS CHRIS OBERHEIM AND JEFFREY CREEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, some Members of this body have called to defund the police. Sadly, while crime is on the rise, we have Democrat Governors across the country who are implementing anti-police policies.

In Illinois, our Governor signed legislation to eliminate bail and put offenders right back on the street. He released dangerous inmates because of COVID and refuses to work with ICE to deport illegal immigrants. The result, as we all know, is that our neighborhoods are less safe and the job of law enforcement is more dangerous. People want and need police protection. Americans appreciate and support our police.

Tragically, this past year we lost a brave officer from Champaign, Illinois. In the line of duty, Officer Chris Oberheim was killed and Officer Jeffrey Creel, his partner, was shot three times while returning fire. He survived. Like so many law enforcement officers around our country, Officer Oberheim and Officer Creel put the people of their community first ahead of their own safety.

Officer Oberheim's life and service will not and should not be forgotten. I cannot imagine the loss and the pain that his family suffers day by day. They continue to be in my thoughts and prayers.

Misguided policies from ignorant politicians have turned Chicago into a war zone and are making our communities less safe. Criminals are allowed to steal thousands of dollars of merchandise and many are not being charged. Soft-on-crime policies embolden criminals.

I promise to always back the blue and stand with our police. May God bless our law enforcement.

□ 1045

HOUTHIS' LATEST ACT OF AGGRESSION

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

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring much-needed attention

to the Houthis' latest act of aggression.

Back in February, President Biden naively removed the Houthis, the Iranian-backed proxy force in Yemen, from designation as a foreign terrorist organization and from the specially designated global terrorist lists.

Taking full advantage of President Biden's foolish decision and complete lack of leadership, the Houthis stormed the U.S. Embassy in Yemen last Wednesday, using the raid to take hostages and equipment. After years of brutal tactics, this latest act of hostility confirms again that the ruthless Houthis must be designated as a foreign terrorist organization.

In June, I proudly introduced legislation to do just that. H.R. 3965, the Standing Against Houthi Aggression Act, would reinstate the sanctions that the Trump administration placed on the Houthis, and redesignate the group as a foreign terrorist organization.

I am deeply concerned for the safety of the Yemeni locals who were kidnapped while protecting our embassy. And again, I call on the Biden administration to provide an immediate briefing to Congress regarding that dangerous situation.

I also implore all of my colleagues to support H.R. 3965, and I urge Speaker PELOSI to bring this legislation to the floor for immediate consideration.

We have already witnessed devastating impacts of the administration's botched Afghanistan withdrawal. We cannot allow President Biden's void in leadership to develop additional disasters in the Middle East.

In fact, at this very moment, our adversaries are defiantly gearing up to cause destruction. From China aggressively preparing for a potential invasion of Taiwan, to Russia successfully testing an anti-satellite weapon in space, numerous emerging international crises present additional leadership tests for President Biden. So far, the silence has been deafening.

For the sake of the American people and our allies, Mr. President, lead from the front.

AMERICA'S SOARING INFLATION

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the soaring inflation that continues to burden Americans across this great Nation. There are plenty of reasons to be thankful this holiday season, but Biden's Thanksgiving tax is not one of them.

Prices of common grocery items are skyrocketing, just in time for folks to gather around the table with loved ones. The price of a 15-pound turkey is up 27 percent. Apples are up 6.7 percent. Potatoes are up 13 percent. Cranberries are up 5.2 percent. And the list goes on and on. In fact, this year's Thanksgiving is expected to be the most expensive holiday meal in history.

But it doesn't just stop at the grocery store checkout line. Consistent with months of increasing gas prices, holiday travelers will face sticker

shock at the gas pump, where the cost of a gallon of gas is up 61 percent from this time last year. Gas is up 61 percent.

Purposely moving forward with another massive multitrillion-dollar spending package, Democrats continue to ignore these very troubling inflation concerns. American workers, families, and small businesses deserve better.

In the face of a volatile economy, we should prioritize fiscal responsibility and offer solutions to the inflation crisis, not make it worse and fan the flames of inflation by injecting trillions of dollars of borrowed Federal money into the economy.

CELEBRATING MARS WRIGLEY FLOWERY BRANCH PLANT'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Mars Wrigley plant in the city of Flowery Branch, in the Ninth District of Georgia.

The plant opened back in 1971, becoming one of the very first confection factories in northern Georgia. Now, it is the manufacturing hub for the company's iconic gum brands, producing 75 percent of the chewing gum volume for the North American market.

Currently, the plant employs over 920 associates, of which 250 have been with Mars Wrigley for over 20 years. Due to their hard work, this factory is one of the fastest growing manufacturing plants in the State of Georgia, and has been recognized as such by the chamber of commerce for its impact on the Hall County community.

In fact, Mars Wrigley continues to go the extra mile by giving back to the local community, regularly volunteering in clean-ups, Christmas gift donations, and food banks.

Congratulations, Mars Wrigley, on 50 productive years in northern Georgia, and best wishes for another prolific half century.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

RECOGNIZING AARON CLAY, TENNESSEE SECONDARY SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION'S ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Aaron Clay, who was named the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association's Athletic Director of the Year.

Aaron Clay is the athletics director at the Washburn School. He graduated from Washburn in 1997. His brother, Greg, hired him shortly after graduating to help the school's basketball team.

Since returning to coach the basketball team, Director Clay led several of Washburn's athletic teams to success. He coached two basketball teams to the substate tournament, won two dis-

trict titles in basketball, and sent a cross-country student athlete to the State championship meet for five straight years.

Mr. Speaker, under Director Clay's leadership, the school recently completed a new gymnasium. Away from athletics, Director Clay also leads Washburn's academic curriculum as an assistant principal. In his academic role, he once again teamed up with his brother, Greg, who is Washburn's principal.

The TSSAA Athletic Director of the Year award celebrates an athletic director who builds up students on and off the field and, clearly, he does this, Mr. Speaker.

Director Clay's work throughout his career as a school administrator and athletic director positively influenced hundreds of Washburn students. Our community is proud of the impact he has had on young people.

Congratulations, Director Clay, and keep up the good work.

HUGE VICTORY FOR INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, individual freedom just scored a huge victory. Last weekend, a court of appeals ruled what we already know. Joe Biden overstepped his authority with his vaccine mandate. No more jobs will be threatened by the administration over coronavirus vaccination status, for now.

I applaud those who stood up to Biden's vaccine mandate in court. But the fight isn't over, Mr. Speaker. It is clearly not over. Biden's far-left Justice Department is plotting a legal assault to revive the mandate. Those of us who value personal liberty cannot be content with one court ruling.

More action is necessary, Mr. Speaker.

My bill, the Keeping our COVID-19 Heroes Employed Act, which is sponsored in the Senate by Senator MARSHA BLACKBURN, also from Tennessee, would further protect American workers by forbidding certain employers from firing unvaccinated employees.

We need to ban Biden's vaccine mandate because it is unconstitutional, Mr. Speaker, but also because of the crippling effect it will have on our economy.

For example, supply chain jobs will be lost if Biden's vaccine mandate takes effect. A labor shortage in the supply chains means it takes longer to move products to America's storefronts, Mr. Speaker. The costs of keeping up with demand is passed to consumers in the form of higher prices.

If Biden gets his way, it will devastate our struggling economy and steal paychecks from hardworking Americans, Mr. Speaker. Congress can't wait for the Biden administration's next attack on the unvaccinated. Let's protect the civil liberties of the workers by passing the Keeping our COVID-19 Heroes Employed Act, Mr. Speaker.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 54 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Equip us, O Lord, this day with the full armor You provide, that we would be confident to stand for whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right and pure.

May these, Your divine intentions, be the principles we strive to preserve this day. In everything we do, with Your steadfast love as our foundation, may we stand unwavering.

Gird us then with the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness. Prepare us to give testimony to Your peace and to hold high a defense of faith in Your gracious plan.

Protect us with the covering of Your deliverance and attune our hearts to the piercing insight of Your word.

May Your confidence in us not be in vain, but may we prove worthy in wielding the power of Your mercy.

Then may all those who seek to undermine decency, who rejoice in rancor and capitalize on conflict, may they all fall defenseless before Your throne of grace.

For it is only in Your grace that we find hope and by the power of Your name are we able to pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ESPAILLAT 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

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