

challenges that everyone has been through.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership and courage.

Mr. Speaker, I inquire how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JONES). The gentlewoman has 12 minutes remaining.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU).

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during a dark time in our Nation's history when the right to an abortion—the fundamental right to decide what happens to your own body—is under threat. Today, I rise to tell the stories from patients and providers in my district.

The stories I am about to tell provide a glimpse as to what life will be like if *Roe v. Wade* is indeed struck down in the final decision of the Supreme Court.

These stories come from my local Planned Parenthood Pasadena and San Gabriel Valley who offer high quality healthcare—from STD testing to contraception and abortion care. Since the Supreme Court decided to allow State-based abortion bans to remain in place, it has become such an incredible resource, not only for my constituents but for those living in other States where abortion is not as accessible.

Just last month, a mother of four and her husband drove all the way from Houston, Texas, to the Planned Parenthood Health Center in Pasadena, California, in my district because of Texas' draconian vigilante law, S.B. 8, because she was unable to get care at home because she was 7 weeks pregnant. This was just 1 week past the State limitation.

She did not have options in Texas. She and her husband knew that another child was not the right choice for them. They put all four of their children in the car and drove for 20 hours to Pasadena. They came to Pasadena because after searching everywhere in surrounding States, the appointment in Pasadena was the soonest one she could get. She was not wavering in her decision. She was sure she wanted an abortion.

She and her family spent a day and a half driving to California, a day in California when the procedure was done, and then had to spend another day and a half driving home. The time, the expense, and the time off work to have a 3-minute procedure done is an undue and egregious burden that people are already facing when trying to access safe and routine abortion care.

This mother was in and out of her appointment within 2 hours from start to finish but had to spend over 40 hours of time and money to access healthcare that should be readily available to anyone who needs it.

Another patient from Texas came to Planned Parenthood in Pasadena in March of this year. She had originally

been scheduled to go to Oklahoma for a medication abortion but felt that she needed more time to decide if terminating her pregnancy was the right choice for her.

After taking a few days to think about her decision, she lost that appointment in Oklahoma. She flew to California to receive a medication abortion at 9 weeks pregnant. She and her support person had to incur the cost of the flight to Los Angeles and an overnight hotel stay, as well as time off of work to access abortion medication.

These are just two stories out of the hundreds of patients that Planned Parenthood Pasadena sees every day, but it illustrates what we are talking about with regard to the right to an abortion. We mean real people and real women with lives and jobs and families whose right to decide what to do with their own bodies and their own futures have been taken away by politicians looking to score political points. It is wrong. It is cruel. It is unjust.

I will not stop fighting to enshrine abortion rights into Federal law and for passage of my bill, the Women's Health Protection Act, which this body passed in September of 2021 by a vote of 218-211, making it the most supported abortion rights bill in the history of Congress.

I will continue to fight for these patients, to fight for these women, and to fight for the hundreds of patients like them every single day who deserve quality healthcare.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative CHU, the founder and chair of the ASPIRE Caucus, for her leadership on this issue. She is the author of the Women's Health Protection Act, which we supported and passed in this House, and which we hope to pass in the Senate, and we will fight with all of our strength to pass eventually.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all of my colleagues for sharing their stories and the stories of their constituents. I ask the public to send us their stories so we can read them into the RECORD as we talk about the need to protect the freedom of women to make choices about their own healthcare.

I firmly believe that there is no democracy if the women in this country—half the population in this country—cannot make basic decisions about their own bodies, their own healthcare, their own choices, including reproductive healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all of my colleagues that have reached out and said they wanted to be here tonight, but they couldn't for other reasons. We hope to have future speak-outs and future Special Orders.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING THE SERVICEMEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE COMPONENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PALAZZO) for 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous materials.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Mississippi?

There was no objection.

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, today, I stand here to recognize and honor the servicemembers of the National Guard and Reserve components.

Over the last few years, our National Guard soldiers have been more in the spotlight than ever before. These men and women proved true to their motto of "Always Ready, Always There," as they face some of our Nation's toughest times.

We have seen guardsmen from all over the country help in ways we never thought would be needed or possible: a 5-month deployment to defend the U.S. Capitol; to assist in an attempt to secure the southern border; to aiding our healthcare workers in the delivery of COVID-19 vaccinations and other COVID-related assignments. These men and women leave behind their loved ones and livelihoods to assist all Americans when we most need it.

Today is an opportunity for Members of the House to thank these brave soldiers for the tremendous work and sacrifice our Guard and Reserve servicemembers have endured since the first muster of militia forces to present day.

There are a lot of issues that divide our Nation and Congress, but I know for certain that support for our National Guard and Reserve continues to be bipartisan. I am proud of the work we are doing to assist these soldiers, their families, and the mission.

Not all Members have a military base, but almost everyone has a National Guard Armory and National Guardsmen in their district.

I look forward to hearing from more of my colleagues today as we take this moment to thank them for their service.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. KAHELE), the co-chair of the National Guard and Reserve Components Caucus.

Mr. KAHELE. Mr. Speaker, mahalo, Congressman PALAZZO for organizing this Special Order to celebrate the achievements of the National Guard across the Nation. I am proud to be co-leading the bipartisan National Guard and Reserve Caucus with you this year.

I am here to recognize the Hawaii National Guard and highlight its growing role in our Nation's competitiveness and strategic level of defense priorities.

In my 21-year career of service to my State and Nation, I have seen the Hawaii Air National Guard transform from a quiet, off-the-radar, C-130, F-15, and KC-135 squadrons out in the Pacific to lethal and almost full-time composite associate squadrons.

The Hawaii Air National Guard's 154th Wing and their flying squadrons serve alongside Active Duty counterparts flying C-17s and F-22s, as well as the KC-135, each and every day. There are Active Duty pilots flying with Guard pilots, side-by-side, deploying overseas.

An important aspect of my job is to listen and hear from our men and women in the National Guard. Many of my policy proposals are the result of hearing directly from our guardsmen.

For example, members of the Guard contacted my office last year to raise their concerns about the number of days a reservist can serve on Active Duty.

□ 1730

As a result, my colleagues and I authored the "1095 Rule" Amendment Act, legislation that increases the maximum number of days that reservists can serve on Active Duty to maintain mission readiness. We are pleased that this legislation was signed into law and took effect last month. This is a huge victory for National Guardsmen across the Nation and ensures the full capability of our most talented Reserve component members without affecting end-strength limitations.

Now, I believe we can all agree that our success, the success of our National Guard, is directly linked to the strength of our leadership. The Hawaii National Guard is positioned as a key strategic defense priority for our military in the Pacific, and for that I personally thank the adjutant general of the Hawaii National Guard, Kenneth Hara, for his direction in leading the Guard in Hawaii. General Hara has been central to our State's early success with the COVID-19 pandemic. He and his team have been pivotal to the coordinated effort between our States, counties, and community organizations.

Finally, mahalo nui loa. I am grateful for the airmen and soldiers for being the best and most diverse National Guard organization in the Nation. The important work that each and every one of them does makes our country strong. I also thank their families for their sacrifice and enduring support of their important work. Their commitment and participation to the Hawaii National Guard Association and National Guard associations throughout the Nation is vital to its success and advocacy in Washington. Mahalo nui loa. Onipaa mau loa.

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I thank my cochair, Representative KAHELE, for his remarks. Also to be noted, the Representative is an Air Force veteran, and he is also a current Air National Guardsman. He has served in multiple theaters including Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. So we appreciate his service to the Nation not just as a Representative but also as a veteran.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the State of Mississippi (Mr.

KELLY), who has spent 36 years in the Mississippi Army National Guard. He currently serves as a major general throughout his deployments. He has also earned two Bronze Stars, the Combat Action Badge, and the Bronze, Silver, and Gold de Fleury Medals for his service. He also serves on the Armed Services Committee where he is a huge asset for our Nation.

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud and honored to recognize the accomplishments and sacrifices of our National Guard and Reserve component men and women.

The history of the National Guard and Reserve predates the birth of our Nation. In Mississippi we have the sixth oldest active regiment, the First Battalion, 155th Infantry Regiment—the Mississippi Rifles.

For over 250 years, brave Americans have answered the call to service to protect both our homeland and democracies abroad, and to conduct disaster response or support to civilian authorities during a crisis.

Our reservists and Guard members bring a unique skill set to our Armed Forces, leveraging their expertise and real-world experiences from the civilian workforce to bring an exceptional and innovative perspective to our national defense.

In addition to deployments overseas, Guard and reservists are employed across the broad and diverse mission set, whether it is responding to civil unrest in our Nation's Capitol, defending our borders, providing relief from hurricanes or other natural disasters, as well as responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, the Guard did a yeoman's work in the COVID response, and it was much less by building testing sites, by giving vaccinations, and by helping with all the logistics. We would not have gone as smoothly without our Guard.

As of today the Mississippi National Guard has forces deployed in support of four combatant commands around the world. During the pandemic, the Mississippi National Guard activated approximately 1,700 servicemembers who administered more than 765,000 vaccinations, 226,000 tests, and processed more than 109,000 lab samples supporting the Mississippi Department of Health.

Our logistics professionals traveled more than 665,000 miles throughout our State to deliver more than 58 million pieces of personal protective equipment to our hospitals, long-term healthcare facilities, clinics, and testing sites.

Since the global war on terror, the Guard has shifted from a strategic reserve force to an operational reserve, deploying in support of the same conflicts, fulfilling the same mission sets, and seeing the same combat against our enemies as the active component.

Within this service has come great sacrifice, and I honor the fallen Guard heroes who gave their lives in service

of our country and its ideals in the global war on terror in addition to the countless other Guard lives lost in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf.

One of these heroes is Sergeant First Class Sean M. Cooley, who I had the privilege of serving alongside in the 155th Brigade Combat Team in Iraq who was killed in action in Iraq on February 3, 2005. In his memory I introduced and had passed the House resolution that led to the Congressional Gold Star Family Fellowship Program Act named for Sergeant First Class Sean Cooley and Specialist Christopher Horton, both of whom were Guardsmen.

In closing, it has been my life's honor to have served in the Mississippi National Guard for the past 36 years. I am committed to working with my colleagues in Congress and within the Department of Defense to ensure that our National Guard components are resourced appropriately, maintain a high level of readiness, and receive the same benefits that they have earned in their service of our great Nation.

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman KELLY for his remarks and his service.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN), who is a former Texas Army Guard and U.S. Army Reserve officer. He has over seven major commands and over 25,000 guardsmen in his great State. I know he is a huge supporter of them.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from Mississippi (Mr. PALAZZO) for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize those who have faithfully served and are serving in our National Guard units.

Dating back to 1636, the Guard has a proud history and has shaped and defended our great Nation. In my home State of Texas, 199 years ago, Stephen F. Austin formed the Texas Militia, now known as the Texas Army National Guard, and 100 years later, the Texas Air National Guard was established. Since their inception, these courageous servicemembers have been first responders to many natural disasters; many in my own district where we routinely seem to have hurricanes. They have helped to maintain civil order, and they have deployed to the southern border to protect our sovereignty.

But their service doesn't stop there. The Guard augments our Active-Duty military offering complete warfighting capability at only 30 percent of the cost. At a moment's notice, they respond to the call of our country.

In southeast Texas, Mr. Speaker, you will find the 147th Attack Wing at Ellington Field where they fly the MQ-9 Reaper and are combat mission-capable and proven, ready to provide critical ISR and air-to-ground strike capability. Additionally, they have responded to the crisis at the border and played a vital role in storm preparation and recovery. The 147th is a prime

example of the benefit of the National Guard, and I have no doubt that this wing will continue to succeed and lead into the future.

Speaking of the future, we must create a Space National Guard mirroring the newest branch of our military. Focusing on missile warning, space intel, electronic warfare, satellite C2, and many other capabilities, the collaboration between Active Duty and the Space Guard would seamlessly provide ops and mission support from above.

As a former member of the Texas Army National Guard, I stand firmly behind the guardsmen who are willingly called upon at any moment with every capability to do any job, including in space, and I offer my heartfelt admiration and appreciation.

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative BABIN for his service not only in the military but also in the U.S. House of Representatives. Also I thank him for what the Texas National Guard is doing to try to secure our border in Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CAREY). Representative CAREY also is a former Army Guard officer. He represents 18,000 guardsmen. Actually, Ohio has 18,000 guardsmen and nine major commands Army and Air. So I thank my friend for his service and for his participation tonight.

Mr. CAREY. For nearly 400 years, the U.S. National Guard has served as a vital component to our Nation's warfighting and peacekeeping capabilities.

Guard members are the stewards of the equipment and resources necessary to assist in times of need, and they are always ready to respond to our Nation's challenges both at home and abroad.

As a former officer in the Army National Guard, I know that the Guard is so much more than a weekend a month and 2 weeks a year to those who serve. It is about service to our Nation and always being ready to answer the call. It is about neighbors helping neighbors, ready to respond to anything from a natural disaster, drug seizure, or even a cyberattack. Members of the Guard are essential to provide the capabilities to accomplish State and national priorities that we have.

In the Buckeye State, the Ohio National Guard is always ready and always there. Since 9/11 more than 25,000 Ohio soldiers and airmen have been deployed all over the world. Over the last 2 years, just as the Guard members across the country have done, Ohio National Guard members have been lifesavers throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

More than 2,000 Ohio National Guard members were deployed to 18 testing centers and 62 hospitals across Ohio as part of clinical and general support teams. They prevented a crisis of care by providing patient monitoring, transportation, staffing and administration, testing, vaccinations, and even food distribution.

I saw their work firsthand at a drive-through testing site in Columbus where Guard members collaborated with the Ohio State University to ensure that more than 1,000 Ohioans per day could be tested during the national testing shortage. It was an amazing operation that could not have worked without the expertise and efficiency of our National Guard members.

In conclusion, we cannot thank our National Guard members enough for what they have done to keep us safe and what they will continue to do throughout their service.

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman CAREY. I know the State is very proud of his support of the Ohio National Guard and all the military services that he has.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS). BURGESS OWENS represents Utah's Fourth Congressional District, a State that has 11 major commands and over 7,500 guardsmen. Fortunately, Representative OWENS serves on the Judiciary Committee and the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security, so I know he appreciates our guardsmen and servicemembers, and he is looking out after the homeland.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor National Guard members in Utah and across our Nation.

Since 1636 members of the National Guard have proudly served our communities and our entire Nation.

Today and every day, we are incredibly thankful for their commitment to serving others and keeping us safe. These past 2 years have been especially challenging for the airmen and soldiers of the National Guard who have stepped up when the Nation called and provided much-needed support for our communities.

From Logan to St. George, they have provided direct hospital support during the height of COVID-19, helped fight wildfires across the American West, and provided a calm and collected response to recent episodes of civil unrest.

They have performed under some of the most serious and difficult conditions in recent memory while also balancing their responsibilities as parents, spouses, employees, and even businessowners.

I have had the privilege of meeting many of these fine men and women. From the officers and NCOs of the 19th Special Forces Group to privates assigned to the 65th Field Artillery Brigade, I have been impressed by their selfless service and commitment to duty. Utah is truly blessed to serve as the proud home of Camp Williams and over 7,000 of these remarkable airmen and soldiers.

These brave men and women are always ready and always there.

Utah has a one-of-a-kind spirit of service, and the members of our National Guard are no exception. Each and every day they faithfully live out their mission to provide military

forces to assist our State and Federal authorities at times of emergency. They stand ready to protect Utahns and Americans from enemies both foreign and domestic and to react quickly in the face of natural disasters or emergencies. I am grateful to them for keeping Utahns and Americans safe.

□ 1745

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN), who is from Michigan's First Congressional District. Representative BERGMAN was a lieutenant general in the United States Marine Corps. Semper Paratus. He is also, notably, the highest-ranking combat veteran to have ever served in the House of Representatives.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my fellow marine and fellow guardsman, Mr. PALAZZO, for his dedication to being one of the co-chairs of the Guard and Reserve Caucus.

It reminds me of continued service that members of the Guard and Reserve do every day in communicating to the general public the value of what it means to have a ready Guard and Reserve, but also here in Congress, the continuing education for all of our Members so that they understand in their States the importance of maintaining a ready Guard and Reserve.

May is National Military Appreciation Month. So is June. So is July. So is August. So is September. I would suggest to you, we should be thankful continually for the men and women who always are standing by at the ready when our country needs them.

Whether it is a humanitarian assistance mission, a disaster relief mission, a border security mission, a mobilized go-to-the-fight kind of mission anywhere in the world, our Guard and Reserve stand ready.

But in that readiness comes the requirement to properly fund the Guard and Reserve, and in the military, it is always a competition for resources. I believe the combination of States, because the Governor of every State is the commander in chief of their Guard units—Reserve units, different story. They are under the command of the different services.

But the readiness and the support that is offered by each State and its Governor to ensure that their Guard units are ready to go, whether they are Army Guard, whether they are Air Guard, no matter what it is, is essential to not only the State readiness but the overall readiness we need as a country in the very complex world in which we live.

A special thanks tonight to the families of those guardsmen and reservists because those guardsmen and reservists work a Monday through Friday job, let's say. On Friday night, when a lot of their peers leave their jobs and go home to go play golf or go fishing or whatever, they are packing their kits and going to drill weekends or a 2-week annual training or whatever it is.

The sacrifice of time that the guardsmen and reservists make at the expense of their family time is something, again, we should never, ever take lightly and always remember because it is those young children who wonder why Mom and Dad are not around on Saturday and Sunday. Then they see the picture of them wearing the uniform and doing the kind of duty that we need in the United States of America. We cannot thank the family enough.

Having said that, in thanking the family, the commanders of the units know very well that good training time means that you are busy, you are doing good things, and if there is nothing to do, secure and go home and spend time with your families because it is the family that keeps everybody together.

Speaking of keeping things together, employers a lot of times don't understand the sacrifices that their men and women are making on the weekends. They just see them as good employees Monday through Friday. I thank the employers.

There is a group called the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. They have done a great job across the country to ensure that the relations between the Guard and Reserve and the employers are such that there is no misunderstanding of why a person may ask for an extra day or 2 to leave for extra Guard duty to do a longer drill weekend. My thanks to the employers as well.

On a little personal note, when it comes to Michigan, in fact, today I met with the Adjutant General of the Michigan Guard. As a State, Michigan has some very unique and productive training areas. We are a State with a lot of water around us. We have a lot of woods. Camp Grayling, in kind of the central part of lower Michigan, really is an example of what a National Guard training base could and should look like around the country.

We have multinational exercises every year, Exercise Northern Strike, and the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center. We are one of the few areas where the fighters have unfettered access to unrestricted training areas to do live ordnance.

We need to have our pilots and our aircrews and all our shooters ready to go. I am proud to represent that part of Michigan that houses Camp Grayling.

Of course, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, down kind of closer toward Detroit, it is a base with a future because it is one of the few bases that is not a joint base where you have military and civil aviation going together. The ability of the Air Guard, of the Air Force Reserve, of any of the Reserve components that fly to put capabilities at Selfridge Air National Guard Base is a win-win for not only our defense posture but, quite honestly, for the State of Michigan when it comes to providing bang for the buck in the defense dollar.

I could tell you a lot of stories over a long time. In my command, my last

command, as the commanding general of the Marine Corps Reserve, whether they are a marine, a sailor, an airman, a soldier, a soon-to-be space guardian in a Reserve component, Coast Guard, the men and women who serve, the missions that they are ready to do give me confidence in our ability as the United States military to not only go to the fight but to do the humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. We are in good hands because of the commitment of the men and women who wear the uniform.

My friend, Congressman PALAZZO, thank you for leading this. Thank you for calling attention to the fact that without our Guard and Reserve, we are less ready as a country.

Mr. PALAZZO. General BERGMAN, being over the 4th Marine Division gives you insight that many people don't understand. Being able to connect the relationships between the actual serving member, their family, and their employer is extremely important.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague from the great State of Mississippi (Mr. GUEST). He represents Mississippi's Third Congressional District. Michael also serves as the vice ranking member on the Homeland Security Committee, so he definitely takes homeland security and national security very seriously. He loves the Guard so much, he even hired a retired Adjutant General to serve on his staff. Thank you for being here.

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, the people of the great State of Mississippi are grateful for the service of the 12,500 National Guard servicemembers of our State and for the leadership of General Durr Boyles.

Our guardsmen are dedicated to keeping Mississippi safe by providing response to disasters and by serving our Nation on domestic and foreign military missions. During floods and hurricanes, our guardsmen transport and rescue civilians inundated by high waters. After the storms, National Guard engineers repair infrastructure and utilities and provide logistics support to citizens.

With 65 readiness centers statewide, the Mississippi Army National Guard can quickly respond to any number of events at a moment's notice.

The Mississippi Air National Guard, operating from the 186th Air Refueling Wing, the 172nd Airlift Wing, and the Combat Readiness Training Center, provides access to services across the globe.

On behalf of the people of Mississippi, I thank every man and woman who serves in the Mississippi National Guard for their dedicated service to our State and our Nation.

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia's Ninth District (Mr. CLYDE). Congressman CLYDE has served as a U.S. Navy officer for over 28 years, with three combat deployments to Kuwait and Iraq. We appreciate him being here to support our National Guard and Reserve components.

Mr. CLYDE. Americans are blessed to have brave men and women protecting our precious freedoms, including the more than 400,000 members of the National Guard. These servicemembers selflessly put their lives on the line in defense of our Nation. Today and every day, we honor their service and sacrifice.

Guard members serve a unique mission, safeguarding our country as a whole and protecting the individual States that make up our Nation, including my home State of Georgia.

From assisting at COVID-19 testing sites, to maintaining law and order during violent demonstrations, to helping out during extreme weather emergencies, the Georgia guardsmen always answer the call to serve.

This service regularly extends beyond the Peach State such as at the southern border, where there are over 100 Georgia National Guard troops assisting Border Patrol agents in handling President Biden's out-of-control border crisis.

Additionally, Georgia currently has combat forces at all six geographic combatant commands, serving our great State and our Nation around the world.

In fact, members of the Georgia Air National Guard's 165th Airlift Wing were deployed to Europe in response to Russia's unlawful invasion of Ukraine. Georgians are tremendously thankful for their service in this vital mission, and we continue to pray for their safety overseas.

Our Nation is forever grateful for all the past, the current, and the future men of the National Guard, and we thank you for your duty to our Nation and dedication to our freedoms.

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas' Sixth Congressional District (Mr. ELLZEY). Congressman ELLZEY is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and flew 860 helicopters, F-14 Tomcats, FA-18 Hornets, and Super Hornets, and served five combat tours in Afghanistan and two in Iraq.

If I may just note, since you are a graduate of the Naval Academy, I actually happen to serve on the Board of Visitors for the Naval Academy. My best experience was in 2011 when a little team called Southern Miss, the Golden Eagles from Hattiesburg, Mississippi, was able to travel up to Annapolis and put a beatdown on the Naval Academy. It only happened once, but once in a lifetime is good for me.

Mr. ELLZEY. Once is more than enough for us, but I am sure that it was a well-earned victory. I appreciate having my friend, Mr. PALAZZO, give me this time today.

Today, I come before the House of Representatives to honor and recognize those who have chosen to serve our country as members of their National Guard and those enlisted in military Reserve units.

The National Guard's mission began on December 13, 1636, when the Massachusetts Bay Colony organized three

militia regiments to defend its people. Since that day, they have been continuing their mission of always ready and always there.

In 1775, during the American Revolution, they were there. In 1918, during World War I, they were there. In 1941, during World War II, they were there. Of course, on September 11, 2001, they were there. They are here today.

Right now, there are over 6,500 Texas National Guard members stationed on our southern border. Why are they there? To protect us, as always. They are there to defend every man, woman, and child in this country.

We should not have to rely on these brave men and women to secure our border as National Guardsmen, but we do, and they do.

They are there to stop the cartels from trafficking drugs that are killing our young people by the hundreds of thousands—105,000 last year dead from fentanyl. They are there to save the women and children who are being brought into this country for the purposes of the sex trade, modern-day slavery.

For many National Guard members, their love for country is a calling to protect it, and that attributes to years of service, just like Red Oak resident and veteran Captain Henry Sterling.

Henry joined the Oklahoma National Guard shortly after graduating high school and marrying his wife, Billie. In 1951, Henry received orders to serve in Korea, and he answered the call to be there. He is still with us today and is still married to Billie after 73 years.

While Captain Sterling's story is a remarkable one, it is not uncommon. We have outstanding men and women all over this country who dedicate their lives to protecting those who can't.

History has always taught us that we can always count on the National Guard and those enlisted in our military Reserve units to always be there, so thank you.

Thank you for what you do for this country. What you do for this country can't be overstated. It cannot be overlooked. We would not be here without you.

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 26 minutes remaining.

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Oklahoma's First Congressional District (Mr. HERN), my good friend. He has five major commands and over 10,000 guardsmen.

From his actions and deeds, he is truly supportive of not just our Active Duty but our Guard and Reserve components. Thank you for being here tonight.

□ 1800

Mr. HERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Mississippi for hosting this Special Order tonight.

The National Guard is a special group in every one of our States. They

are the everyday citizens, your neighbors, your coworkers, and your friends who choose to use their free time to serve their community and protect their fellow Americans.

The Oklahoma National Guard is an exceptional group of men and women who have responded to the call of duty time and time again. Over the past few years, the Oklahoma National Guard has shown their dedication to our country numerous times from supplying our States with necessities as we navigated the pandemic to assisting our border agents at the southern border and even representing Oklahoma in Washington, D.C. I am proud of the work they have done on behalf of our State.

I can't mention the Oklahoma National Guard without honoring the memory of an important constituent of mine, Technical Sergeant Marshal Roberts, who served in the Oklahoma National Guard and was deployed to Camp Taji when his team came under rocket fire on March 11, 2020. He was killed in the attack, making the ultimate sacrifice for his Nation.

The day Sergeant Roberts' body landed in Tulsa was a day I will remember forever. The Nation had just shut down due to the pandemic, but that didn't stop Tulsans from lining the streets at the airport by the thousands, a solemn show of gratitude and honor for Sergeant Roberts, his wife, Kristie, his daughter, Paityn, and the entire Roberts family.

I am glad to have this opportunity to share Sergeant Roberts' story again on the floor of the United States House of Representatives and join my colleagues in honoring and celebrating the incredible National Guardsmen and women who serve us across this great country.

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, at this time I recognize a colleague of mine from Virginia's Sixth District. He has seven major commands and over 9,000 guardsmen. I would like to note he serves on the Appropriations Committee. Ninety-two percent of all funding that guardsmen receive comes from the Federal Government through his committee.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE).

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. PALAZZO for hosting this Special Order this evening and recognizing the tremendous service and sacrifice of the brave men and women of the National Guard and the Reserve components of our Armed Forces. I also thank the gentleman for his service in the Mississippi Guard.

It is also certainly fitting to honor these often unsung heroes as we celebrate Military Appreciation Month.

While the National Guard was founded in the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1636, the Virginia National Guard traces its history and tradition of citizen-soldier service to the founding of Jamestown in 1607. There has been a military presence defending Virginia ever since.

The Virginia National Guard's current strength is 7,200 soldiers, 1,200 airmen, 300 Virginia Defense Force members, and 400 Federal and State civilians. They bring more than \$250 million in annual income into the Commonwealth.

The Virginia National Guard currently has more than 2,000 personnel serving on Federal Active Duty with units conducting missions in the United States, Middle East, the Horn of Africa, and Kosovo, the most since 2007. The 29th Infantry Division has the most divisional soldiers on Federal duty since World War II, with units deployed from Virginia, Kentucky, and Maryland.

Currently, Virginia Air National Guard pilots and maintainers assigned to the 192nd Wing from Joint Base Langley-Eustis are currently supporting the 1st Fighter Wing's deployment at Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates, to provide short-notice air superiority to U.S. Central Command amid a series of recent attacks in the region.

Approximately 120 Virginia National Guard soldiers assigned to the Staunton-based 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Headquarters are on Federal Active Duty to take responsibility for the NATO-led Kosovo Force Regional Command-East, and approximately 140 soldiers assigned to the Sandston-based 2nd Battalion, 224th Aviation Regiment, 29th Infantry Division are mobilized to serve as their aviation task force. NATO KFOR troops conduct peace support operations, contributing to a safe and secure environment for all the people in Kosovo while healthy political dialogue continues between Kosovo and Serbia.

Approximately 300 National Guard soldiers assigned to the Norfolk-based 1st Battalion, 111th Field Artillery Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team are on Federal Active Duty conducting training to provide personnel and site protection using the Counter-Rocket, Artillery, Mortar System, or C-RAM, in the Central Command area of operations in the Middle East.

Approximately 1,000 Virginia and Kentucky National Guard soldiers assigned to the Lynchburg-based 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team are on Federal Active Duty as Task Force Red Dragon as a security force in support of Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa.

Approximately 80 soldiers assigned to the Virginia Beach-based 329th Regional Support Group are currently on Federal Active Duty in the Central Command Area of Operations under the operational control of Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve serving as the base operating support-integrator for multiple installations.

Finally, approximately 500 Virginia and Maryland National Guard soldiers assigned to the Fort Belvoir-based 29th

Infantry Division are currently on Federal Active Duty in the Central Command Area of Operations as Task Force Spartan to provide leadership, command, control, and in-depth staff analysis for Operation Spartan Shield.

As we celebrate Military Appreciation Month, let us never forget those who are serving and who have given their last full measure while wearing our Nation's uniform, those who are still on the front lines in places both known and unknown, and the families who are asked to carry the burden while their loved ones are away.

May God continue to bless our troops and the United States of America.

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman CLINE so much for his remarks.

At this time, I would like to introduce Congressman CARTER from Georgia's First Congressional District, where they host eight major commands in his State and over 16,000 patriotic guardsmen.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for sponsoring this Special Order tonight. It is extremely important and timely at that.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure today to recognize the Members of the United States National Guard that call our district home.

The First Congressional District of Georgia is home to every branch of the military in America. It is home to Moody Air Force Base, Kings Bay Naval Base, Hunter Army Airfield, and Fort Stewart. All of those are in the First Congressional District of Georgia.

Make no mistake about these great installations, they were placed here along the 110 miles of pristine coastline for a reason. It is because of our great weather, and it is because of our proximity to the Port of Savannah and the Port of Brunswick.

In addition to those branches of the military and to those military bases, we also are home to the Combat Readiness Training Center at the Air Dominance Center in Savannah.

The Air Dominance Center is home to the Air National Guard in Savannah. Unfortunately, the President, in his budget for fiscal year 2023, has proposed closing the most efficient, the most utilized combat readiness training center here in America, the one located in Savannah, and, oh, by the way, the one that is about to complete a \$24 million hangar built for stealth fighters. Unbelievable.

In fact, they have invited me to the ribbon cutting that is to be held in September, with the intention now of this administration wanting to close it down in April of next year. No wonder taxpayers get so upset about wasteful government spending. This is the most ludicrous thing I have ever heard.

On top of that, think about the world stage that we are in right now. Madam Speaker, do you realize that we are potentially on the brink of world war III?

Think about it. Russia has attacked Ukraine. An errant missile, a mistake, they hit a NATO country, all of a sudden it triggers NATO Article 5, and all of a sudden we are in world war III. And this President and this administration are talking about closing a combat readiness training center? You have got to be kidding me. We ought to be opening more. This is the most ludicrous thing I have ever heard.

The Savannah Combat Readiness Training Center represents the most uniquely cost-efficient taxpayer investment thanks to the shared airfield between the National Guard Bureau and the 165th Airlift Wing.

This can't be allowed to happen. This has got to be stopped, and I am prepared to do what it takes to ensure that it doesn't.

I am here today to say that I appreciate and that I value members of the Georgia National Guard and members of the United States National Guard and that we are going to do everything we can to make sure that the Combat Readiness Training Center in Savannah stays open.

God bless our country, God bless our troops, and God bless the National Guard.

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman CARTER for those wonderful remarks.

Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. STANSBURY). The gentleman from Mississippi has 16 minutes remaining.

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, as a former Marine Corps reservist and current member of the National Guard, I am proud to represent my fellow Mississippi guardsmen in Congress.

It is no secret that Mississippi has a continued history of support of our Armed Forces. The south Mississippi community understands what backing our military every step of the way truly means.

I am proud to have been able to lead the way on a project that directly benefits the guardsmen in Mississippi and across America.

The Mobilization and Annual Training Equipment Site, MATES, located at Camp Shelby, would update the current MATES facility that was built in 1984 and was designed to handle smaller models of armored vehicles. This new facility would construct 52,000-square feet of maintenance training bays and supporting facilities that are currently being utilized to maintain the equipment that supports the readiness of two heavy brigade teams.

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I am happy to have been able to assist our guardsmen in securing funding for this project in the fiscal year 2022 omnibus bill.

The MATES facility at Camp Shelby is a crucial asset to south Mississippi and our national defense. These funds will make the work of our National Guard at Camp Shelby safer and more efficient as well as boost the surrounding economy.

The National Guard and Reserve Caucus is committed to pursuing legislative and policy initiatives that ensure the National Guard and Reserve components have strong representation on policy, procurement, force structure, and utilization within the Department of Defense.

This caucus is one of the largest and most bipartisan caucuses in the House. As co-chair of this caucus, I am excited to highlight a few of the caucus' legislative priorities and recent policy wins for our guardsmen.

H.R. 3626, the National Guard and Reserve Incentive Pay Parity Act was included in the final version of the NDAA and was signed into law on December 27, 2021. This legislation would require the military to provide Reserve and National Guard servicemembers incentive and special duty pay at the same rate as their Active Duty counterparts. I am also thankful for previous Co-Chair TIM RYAN's leadership on this bill that will ensure guardsmen are receiving pay parity.

Additionally, I was proud to see current Co-Chair KAI KAHELE's 1095 Rule Amendment Act included in the most recent NDAA that recently went into effect. This law will strengthen the National Guard and Reserve by increasing the maximum days reservists can serve on Active Duty. I thank Congressman KAHELE for his steadfast work on this victory that directly benefits all guardsmen.

Going forward, the caucus will continue to push on legislative priorities that will benefit our guardsmen and reservists. I encourage all of my colleagues to join the caucus and receive monthly updates on legislation that benefits the National Guard and Reserve components and also share with the caucus success stories of their own National Guard.

Madam Speaker, I am about to close, but I have one more gentleman I would like to yield time to.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER).

A TRIBUTE TO MICKEY GILLEY

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of country music legend, Mickey Gilley. Mickey Gilley passed away Saturday, May 7, in Branson at the age of 86.

Born on March 9, 1936, Mickey was a native of Natchez, Mississippi, where he grew up around his two famous cousins, Jerry Lee Lewis and Jimmy Swaggart.

In his career, Mickey earned 39 top 10 hits and 17 number-one songs, with six Academy of Country Music Awards, a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and was a member of the 2011 Texas Country Music Hall of Fame. Gilley was also one of few artists to have received the Academy of Country Music's Triple Crown Award.

But it was the opening of a country dance club bearing his name that changed the world of country music

forever. It was 1971 when Mickey Gilley officially opened the doors of his famous honky-tonk, Gilley's.

Gilley's reputation grew so much that Hollywood even took notice with the hit movie, "Urban Cowboy"—some of y'all have probably seen it—where he even made an appearance alongside John Travolta, Debra Winger, and Johnny Lee.

Inspired by the real-life romance of a pair of the club's patrons, "Urban Cowboy" put Gilley's on the map, revived music careers, launched other careers, introduced two-stepping to a whole new audience, and created a lifestyle that has been adopted by millions.

□ 1815

Following his role in "Urban Cowboy," Mickey Gilley found himself performing in the main showrooms in places like Las Vegas, Reno, Tahoe, Atlantic City, and even traveling to Europe to perform. Gilley even performed for Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush. Over the decades, Gilley appeared in a number of popular television series, including "The Fall Guy," "Fantasy Island," "Dukes of Hazzard," "Murder, She Wrote," and "CHiPS."

Not only will Mickey Gilley's music live on in the hearts of so many who loved his music, but his cultural influence cannot be understated. "Urban Cowboy" became an American phenomenon, and it was influenced by the real-life stories of Gilley's patrons Dew Westbrook and Betty Helmer. "Urban Cowboy" told the story of a west Texas farmhand new to the area and working his job at a refinery.

This film introduced country-western dance to America and created a lifestyle adopted by millions. Even more surprisingly, it directly resulted in the most unlikely outcome of all, country-western music becoming mainstream. Once considered outdated hillbilly attire, cowboy hats and belt buckles were back in, and they became high fashion.

Recently, on Saturday, July 29, Mickey Gilley came to the Galveston Regional Chamber of Commerce's celebration: "The 50th Anniversary of Gilley's and the 42nd Anniversary of Urban Cowboy." It was a great celebration with thousands, and Mickey sang for us, delighting the crowd. We even presented him with a copy of a tribute I did to him on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives and a plaque commemorating the event.

Mickey Gilley will be missed, but his legacy will live on not only in the hearts and minds of those who loved his music, but also in America's love for country music. Wrangler jeans, cowboy boots, and pickup trucks will all be remembered because of him. Mickey Gilley has even been featured in the popular "Texas Hot Country Magazine."

Gilley was preceded in death by his wife, Vivian, who passed in 2019. He is survived by his wife, Cindy Loeb Gilley; his children, Kathy, Michael,

Gregory, and Keith Ray; four grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and his cousins Jerry Lee Lewis and Jimmy Swaggart.

Thank you, Mickey Gilley, for introducing our way of life to the world. You will forever be a legend.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF KEN CLARK

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I have one more notable who has passed in our great district, so will also commemorate him.

I rise today to mourn the loss of our great Galveston County Precinct 4 Commissioner, Ken Clark. He was Galveston County's longest-serving elected official. Ken had become a commissioner in 1998, and he has been an active member of our community for even longer.

Ken has been an instrumental community leader for several decades and a dedicated public servant. In his time, he has served on the State Republican Executive Committee, he has served as Sergeant at Arms of the Republican Party of Texas, he has served as Galveston's Municipal Utility District president, and received the Republican Party's Volunteer of the Year award. Ken also worked extensively with a wide variety of community organizations and tirelessly worked to improve the lives of those who lived in Galveston County.

I first met Ken when he worked on former Congressman Steve Stockman's campaign. Ken was a go-getter, a great conservative, and a great Republican back then and even more so now. Ken was a devoted public servant, a husband, a father, and a mentor. He loved Jesus Christ, and it showed.

Commissioner Clark, you will be sorely missed, but we will see you again. In the meantime, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your wonderful wife, Sherry, and y'all's seven children.

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks. I thank you, Madam Speaker, for allowing me to host this Special Order today. It was great to hear from each of my colleagues on the importance of our Guardsmen and Reservists. I thank all who participated, and I look forward to working together on the issues that lie ahead.

Finally, I thank all our National Guardsmen, our Reservists, and their families. The work you are doing is making America better, you are making America safer, and I yield back the balance of my time.

ABORTION IS NOT HEALTHCARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY) for 30 minutes.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, tonight we are going to be taking some time to talk about life. I know today on the floor of the people's House we observed the one millionth death from COVID.

When I came to work today, I saw that the flags were at half-mast, and I didn't know why they were at half-mast, and then I found out why. It was because we were observing the loss of life during the time of COVID-19. Loss of life is always a critical issue in the people's House and in the United States of America.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER), my good friend from the 12th Congressional District and the young man who I stood with today as we did take that moment to observe the one millionth death.

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY) for allowing me to speak on such an important issue. As my colleague mentioned, my friend, any loss of life is tragic. What is even more tragic is the loss of life that could have been prevented.

I want to make sure that there is no doubt where I stand when it comes to defending human life, especially the life of the unborn. That is why every day I wear this pin on my collar that represents the size of a baby's feet at 10 weeks after conception, a baby that has a heartbeat, a baby that is alive.

I have two children and three granddaughters, and after holding each one of them in my arms for the very first time after they were born, I know what we all know, that before they were born, they were children. They are human life, and they deserve the opportunity for that inalienable right of life.

When two healthy individuals go to the doctor for a procedure and only one life comes out of that procedure, that is not healthcare. In fact, it is the exact opposite of healthcare.

We hear a lot of people talking about reproductive rights, and I am all about people being able to exercise all of their rights, but when an individual exercises their reproductive rights, the baby, the child, deserves to be born.

The left has said many times that overturning Roe v. Wade is radical. Well, from what we have heard about the decision, it simply puts it back into the legislatures of the States. Overturning Roe v. Wade is not radical. What is radical is allowing abortions up until the day of a baby's birth. That is radical. One thing that I want to be remembered for when the good Lord calls me home is the fact that during my lifetime, if nothing else, I will be remembered that I fought for life. I fought to defend those babies before they were born.

The chart that we see over here says that there have been 327,649 abortions so far this year. That is almost 2,500—it is 2,482 abortions per day in the United States of America. I call that a pandemic. And that is one that is preventable.

I think we should be doing everything we can in the people's House to make sure all the babies in the United States of America have that constitutional right, that inalienable right to