

Madam Speaker, come together and join us to protect Social Security.

CELEBRATING INDIANA'S FAIR SEASON

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, it is summer, and Hoosiers all over the great State of Indiana are renewing our proud and longstanding tradition of attending our great county fairs.

County fairs are a time for communities to gather, to celebrate, and to encourage young Hoosiers in agriculture. My team and I have spent our summer attending county fairs across Indiana's Sixth District. I encourage all Hoosiers to attend their local county fair and the Indiana State Fair, which runs from July 29 through August 21.

DECATUR COUNTY BICENTENNIAL

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Decatur County and its county seat, Greensburg, Indiana, in its bicentennial celebration.

Decatur County and the wonderful city of Greensburg were founded in the year of 1822 by veterans and war heroes of the War of 1812, and it still stands today as a model county and city. Decatur County and the city of Greensburg will long stand as a beacon of hope from the communities filled with hospitality to the famous Tree City courthouse.

So, Madam Speaker, I ask that all Hoosiers and Americans join us in celebrating Decatur County's grand bicentennial.

HENRY COUNTY BICENTENNIAL

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the bicentennial of Henry County, Indiana. Henry County was officially founded on June 1, 1822. Henry County is home to the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame and served as the home court to the movie "Hoosiers" in Knightstown. A museum and the birthplace of Wilbur Wright also finds its home there. Henry County includes the Old National Road, the oldest of the great crossroads of America.

So, Madam Speaker, I ask that all Hoosiers and Americans join us in celebrating Henry County's grand bicentennial.

HONORING STATE REPRESENTATIVE TOM SAUNDERS

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor State Representative Tom Saunders. Representative Saunders is retiring after nearly three decades of public service, and I am proud to join Hoosiers in celebrating a friend who has had an immeasurable impact on our beloved Indiana.

Representative Tom Saunders has long served as a distinguished voice on behalf of the people of Henry County and our entire State; therefore, Madam Speaker, I wish him an enjoyable retirement, and I thank him for his many years of service.

FIGHTING FOR HOOSIER FARMERS

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today because Hoosier farmers are struggling under Democratic leadership here in Washington, D.C. While many of us understand the cost of inflation on our pocketbooks, we often forget that inflation is clobbering farmers who produce our food and fuel. Under President Biden's policies, farmers are struggling to just break even as input costs outpace commodity prices.

So, Madam Speaker, after many letters I have written to multiple agency heads, I regret to report that Democrats are not, in fact, the party of all Americans. I will never stop fighting for Hoosier farmers and the agricultural industry here in the Nation's Capitol.

THANKING GREENWOOD FIRST RESPONDERS

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to say a hearty thank you to the brave and courageous first responders who serve the community of Greenwood, Indiana. When tragedy hit their community last week they were the first on the scene to respond. We commend local and Federal authorities for their swift and coordinated action. I thank the Greenwood Police Chief James Ison and Johnson County Sheriff Duane Burgess for their leadership, and I thank all of those who serve with them.

INFLATION, INFLATION, INFLATION

Mr. PENCE. Inflation, inflation, inflation.

Madam Speaker, inflation is costing the average family \$6,000 per year—\$6,000 per year.

For Hoosiers, this is gas and groceries, college tuition, and car repairs. Despite Democrats' denial, we all know where this is headed: a recession. We are in it. Hardworking Hoosiers cannot afford Democrats' policies any longer.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to stop crushing the American Dream with their out-of-touch policies.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF U.S. ARMY RET. SPECIAL FORCES MAJOR JOHN J. DUFFY

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

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the heroic service of U.S. Army Retired Special Forces Major John J. Duffy.

Recently, Major Duffy was recognized as a recipient of the Medal of Honor—not just for his service, but for his gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty.

A resident of my district in Santa Cruz, California, Major Duffy served four combat tours in Vietnam, often-times operating well behind the enemy lines. Throughout his time in the military, he was the recipient of 64 awards and decorations, 29 of which are for valor.

Recently at a ceremony at the White House, Major Duffy received the Medal

of Honor from President Joe Biden. The medal was in recognition of his actions on April 14 and 15, 1972, when Major Duffy was the adviser for the 2nd Brigade of the 11th Airborne Division for the Republic of Vietnam.

Over those 2 days, Major Duffy valiantly defended Fire Support Base Charlie against an attack from a battalion-sized group of the enemy. During the battle Major Duffy took charge after his CO was killed in action. Despite constant attacks by the enemy and being shot multiple times, he refused to leave, and he returned enemy fire as he tended to his wounded soldiers. During the eventual evacuation of the base, he led the operation and continued to tend to his soldiers who were wounded in action. He finally left the base, but he was the last man to do so.

Major Duffy exemplifies the heroism that is required to earn this award and represents the type of service and sacrifice that is at times necessary in combat for our brothers in arms and for our country. That is why we in our community, on the central coast of California, are so proud to call Major John Duffy our neighbor, a veteran, and our countryman of the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF DIANE PORTER COOLEY

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of Diane Porter Cooley, a pillar of the Pajaro Valley and Santa Cruz County community.

Born to a family that settled in Santa Cruz County in the 1850s, Diane was raised on Las Lomas Ranch in Watsonville. Diane had a deep connection to the land and to the people of the central coast of California. Her father, Tom, was one of the four founders of Driscoll's Berries, and Diane continued her involvement with agriculture until her passing earlier this year.

A deeply passionate civic leader, Diane worked tirelessly to protect and preserve the environment and was an outspoken advocate for the people of the Pajaro Valley. She was a dynamic agent of change who championed the creation of the Elkhorn Slough Foundation, the Pajaro Valley Arts Council, the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County, and the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County.

Madam Speaker, Diane Cooley's outreach and philanthropy extended far and wide throughout our community. As Santa Cruz County bids farewell to its beloved daughter of 95 years, may her legacy of giving continue to inspire all of us for generations to come.

CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFTS

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

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, today I rise to address an issue plaguing my constituents, my fellow Hoosiers, and Americans across the country: catalytic converter thefts.

From the outside looking in, catalytic converter theft may seem like a small problem, but law enforcement, auto dealers, and the growing number of victims of these crimes will tell you otherwise. In communities across the country, thieves are targeting families, schools, and businesses, disrupting transportation plans and leading drivers to shell out hundreds or even thousands of dollars in repair costs.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with catalytic converters, this auto part is required to reduce the potency of toxic emissions from internal combustion engines and is usually made up of precious metals like platinum, rhodium, and palladium, which can be sold to scrap dealers for hundreds of dollars on the black market. The value of these materials, combined with a thief's ability to remove them from a car in a matter of seconds, makes them a prime target for criminals looking to earn cash with little risk.

My bill takes a multipronged approach to tackling this epidemic and by including traceable identifying features on catalytic converters, addressing how parts are purchased, and strengthening enforceability of catalytic converter thefts. By creating a system where law enforcement can link stolen catalytic converters from their vehicles of origin, prohibit the purchase of disassembled catalytic converters, and codify catalytic converter thefts as criminal offenses with criminal penalties, it is my great hope that we can curb these costly thefts.

I am deeply concerned about the costly impacts that these thefts have on Americans, especially at a time when American workers are taking home less and families are paying more for everything thanks to soaring inflation rates. I recognize the strain this has put on so many victims of this crime, and I want to do all I can to empower law enforcement so we can address this problem.

Americans have enough to worry about. Spending their hard-earned paycheck to replace stolen car parts shouldn't be one of them.

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I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have joined me in this effort to empower law enforcement and deter future theft by joining the PART Act. I believe that this widely bipartisan issue can be an easy win for Congress by offering a straightforward and impactful solution for law enforcement struggling to address these rampant crimes across the country. I hope you will join me in putting an end to this issue by supporting H.R. 6394, the PART Act.

MATHEMATICAL AND STATISTICAL MODELING EDUCATION

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about H.R. 3588. This is an important piece of legislation that I was proud to introduce with my friend from Pennsylvania, Congresswoman CHRISSY HOULAHAN.

The Mathematical and Statistical Modeling Education Act provides a much-needed solution to improving the quality of STEM education in America. This legislation advances mathematical instruction by incorporating modern tools and context, including data, statistics, and computation.

Mathematical modeling is currently taught on a limited basis yet is the foundation for the important work our Nation is addressing within research, development, and technological innovation.

In addition to being both a bipartisan and a bicameral piece of legislation, this bill has the support of several organizations, including the American Mathematical Society, and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics; and I am proud to lead this effort in providing for the security of America's global competitive edge.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to support this bill.

REMEMBERING THE 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACK AT THE OAK CREEK SIKH GURDWARA

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

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 10-year anniversary of the horrific attack at the Oak Creek Sikh Gurdwara on August 5, 2012. I rise to honor the memory of those we lost in that attack.

On August 5, 2012, a shooting took place at the Sikh Temple of Wisconsin, killing seven worshippers.

I also rise to honor Lieutenant Brian Murphy, who responded to the scene and was shot at 15 times at close range.

This senseless act of violence should have never occurred and, in particular, in a house of worship. Nonetheless, the Oak Creek community came together. The Sikh community responded with compassion and stayed true to the Sikh principle of Chardi Kala, translating to relentless optimism.

I join the Oak Creek community to remember and honor the victims of this tragedy.

IMPACT OF RISING PRICES

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, every day I am home in Wisconsin, I hear about the impact of rising prices and the impact that they are having on families' budgets. Wisconsin's families and seniors have continued to share their concerns with me about rising costs.

A 79-year-old woman in Janesville, Wisconsin, told me: BRYAN, I drive less and am more careful about what I buy in the grocery store because I am on a fixed income.

A woman in Oak Creek said: BRYAN, I am on a fixed income and with the increased cost of medication, groceries, and gas, it is difficult to stretch money until the next month's payment.

A 68-year-old woman from Kenosha, Wisconsin, said: BRYAN, I am delaying

my retirement. Food costs and energy costs are out of control.

Madam Speaker, we need to change course. It is time we unleash American energy, get spending under control, and address the issues American families are facing every day.

PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES FROM ILLICIT FENTANYL

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, illicit fentanyl is devastating our communities. In Racine County last year, 68 people died from an illicit fentanyl overdose. In Kenosha County, 48 people died of an illicit fentanyl overdose death.

Illicit fentanyl is the leading cause of death for individuals aged 18 to 45. We must keep working to keep these drugs off our streets.

I am pleased to announce two of my amendments passed the House last week.

The first amendment will support funding to combat fentanyl from entering the country and strengthening border security. The second amendment will support funding for high intensity drug trafficking areas. This will be used to combat the increase in overdose deaths from fentanyl and related substances. These amendments are an important step in keeping these dangerous substances off our streets.

In order to stop the illicit fentanyl flow, we need to secure the border, fund law enforcement, and make fentanyl-related substances a permanent schedule I drug.

I encourage Congress to take the steps necessary to protect our communities from this illicit substance.

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, the COVID-19 shutdowns exacerbated a worsening crisis in our country. What I am talking about is our children's mental health.

I recently sent a letter to the CDC regarding our youth's mental health. The CDC has not released data on suicide rates among children. Why?

The data on suicide rates in children is an important tool needed to strengthen our mental health infrastructure across our country.

As we approach the coming school year, this critical data will help us make informed decisions to support our children and improve their mental health. I urge the CDC to release this important data regarding our children's mental health.

QUALITY HEALTHCARE FOR VETERANS

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I will discuss an issue impacting veterans in my district. I am continuing to hear stories from families in Wisconsin about the quality of care at the State-run Wisconsin Veterans Home in Union Grove.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported in May that the State-run veterans home ranks among one of the worst State-run veterans homes in the entire country. This is unacceptable. The substandard care veterans have