

the guidance of the public health professionals, that is how we have been operating.

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I think he has yielded the time to me, so I can yield it back to him at the appropriate time.

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time.

The President ended the pandemic, declared that it was over. If that is the case, shouldn't we be going back to normal, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, again, we are going to follow the public health guidance.

Out of courtesy, we are having this colloquy, but we can't have a colloquy if the gentleman is dissatisfied with my answers and such that he is consistently not permitting me to respond. I will be happy to respond to any questions if we are going to have a colloquy.

I think what is clear, if the point is, are we leading, correct, we are leading. As I mentioned, we are leading on the American Rescue Plan. We are leading on infrastructure investment. We are leading on standing up for our veterans, leading on public safety, leading on passing gun safety legislation, leading on—

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time.

Clearly, we see some of these important issues differently. Just sticking to the main question of proxy voting and why Members of Congress should not show up to do their job. American businesses are. We can campaign in person. Certainly voting in person seems reasonable to me.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the caucus chair, for his time today and for setting the schedule, and I yield back the balance of my time.

CONDITION OF THE FREIGHT RAIL INDUSTRY

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the urgent need to address freight rail delays.

Across the Nation, manufacturers and farmers are finding it impossible to get their goods to market via rail. Rail service delays cause disruptions to flour and feed mills, livestock producers, power companies, and many other industries.

To make freight rail a truly competitive and stable industry, we need to make sure that shippers can address these service disruptions without government intervention.

I have introduced the Freight Rail Shipping Fair Market Act to establish a level playing field for freight rail. My subcommittee solicited feedback from

shippers, the freight rail industry, and railway workers.

Mr. Speaker, I am committed to working with Members from both parties, and I encourage all Members to work with us to pass this bipartisan bill that will help freight railroads, their customers, and the American consumers.

COMMEMORATING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE HISTORIC RESPONSE TO THE SHOOTING IN COLLIERVILLE, TENNESSEE

(Mr. KUSTOFF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUSTOFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 1-year anniversary of a tragedy that stunned our community in Collierville, Tennessee.

On September 23, 2021, a gunman opened fire at the Kroger in Collierville, shooting 15 people and killing one woman, Olivia Kiee.

We will never forget the courage of the law enforcement officers, firefighters, and first responders who sprang into action.

One example: In an extraordinary act, Collierville firefighters wore bulletproof vests and rushed into the grocery store along with police officers to save lives before the active shooter was neutralized.

The quick response of our heroic first responders truly exemplifies the strength and resilience of the town of Collierville.

We will forever be grateful for the men and women who protect and serve our communities each and every day. I am proud to say that today and always we are Collierville strong.

CONGRATULATING THE HONOLULU LITTLE LEAGUE

(Mr. KAHELE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KAHELE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Honolulu Little League on winning the 2022 Little League World Series.

This is Hawaii's fourth Little League World Series, and it is a true privilege to represent the team, their coaches, families, and fans.

The Honolulu Little League played their first season in 1954 and is one of the oldest Little League teams in the State. This particular team's character and sportsmanship will be remembered long after their victory this year. Their enthusiasm and love for baseball is contagious, and all of Hawaii couldn't stop watching as they hit home runs, struck out batters, and invoked the mercy rule over their opponents.

I extend special commendations to Coach Gerald Oda, the team's manager and coach. I also congratulate the families of the players who have undoubtedly made their own sacrifices to pro-

vide this team with the opportunity to succeed.

This team represents Hawaii's values of unity, teamwork, and resilience. These Little Leaguers have become role models to our larger community, and I am sure the next generation of Little League World Champions in Hawaii watched this team and will be inspired by them. I know I speak for all of Hawaii, Mr. Speaker, when I say how so very proud we are.

RECOGNIZING THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CORONA

(Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the First Baptist Church of Corona on its 100th anniversary.

First Baptist is the bedrock of Corona, Queens. It provides a food pantry, tax preparation, summer youth employment, and more. The church's service extends well beyond its congregation to all of Corona, one of the most diverse immigrant communities in the world.

First Baptist is led by Pastor Patrick H. Young. Pastor Young's commitment to service is unfailing. When Corona became the epicenter of the pandemic in early 2020, he and First Baptist community members stepped up the church's food distribution, serving hundreds of families each week. He also hosted multiple mobile testing and vaccination sites. Now, the church seeks to start a medical clinic to help their community recover and thrive.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in recognizing the First Baptist Church of Corona. In their century of service, they have modeled the true values of welcoming the stranger and loving thy neighbor. It is my privilege to represent them.

PROTECTING MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as we stand here today, there are women approaching doctors and nurses with a medical condition. Through no fault of their own, they need OB/GYN services.

In the State of Texas, with horrific and antiquated and really vicious legislation, the doctors and nurses and medical professionals are made criminals.

I have introduced H.R. 8838, the SHIELD Act, to protect doctors and nurses and medical personnel from frivolous and dangerous litigation so the medical industry can do their job. They can do a procedure that a woman may need. They can help if a woman is in the midst of aborting because of the issue of health. They can help women who, to save their life, have to have a medical procedure if they are pregnant.

They can do their job and the oath they have taken.

I am sad to stand on the floor today in 2022 to note we live in a Nation that would condemn the healers of our land, the ones who helped us in the pandemic.

Support H.R. 8838. Sign on, cosponsor it, and let's protect the medical professionals.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARTER of Louisiana). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD).

BRAIN ANEURYSM AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from Texas for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Trinity Love Hoblit and the Hoblit family. I rise today to recognize and bring to the attention of our country a horrible condition.

Trinity Love Hoblit was born with a rare form of primordial dwarfism and at age 9 was diagnosed with multiple brain aneurysms. Despite undergoing numerous surgeries to treat and prevent future symptoms, Trinity suffered a fatal aneurysm on June 30, 2015, at only 14 years of age.

Throughout her young life, Trinity underwent a variety of medical treatments, leading to several hospital visits. Her mother remembers that during those long hospital stays, Trinity would always think of the other children first. It was her love for others and her desire to make a difference within her community that now lives on through the foundation in her name.

In 2016, Olivia and Phil Hoblit established the Trinity Love Hoblit Foundation, located in Amelia Island, Florida. It is for the purpose of raising awareness, support, and funding for neurological research, training, and treatment for those like Trinity who suffer from brain aneurysms and other cerebrovascular conditions.

Most recently, the foundation began research on determining if medical history and genetic markers increase a person's risk of developing these brain aneurysms.

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Brain aneurysms affect an estimated 30,000 Americans each year and can occur at any age and without any pre-existing conditions.

Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month, this month, is a time to raise awareness for the signs and symptoms that can help with early detection, like:

- Severe headaches,
- Pain above one or both eyes,
- Blurred or double vision,
- Difficulty speaking or swallowing,

A numbness or weakness on one side of the body, and

Painful seizures.

These are all signs that can be symptoms and help with early detection.

Thanks to higher levels of awareness and research developments, we are one step closer to finding a cure.

On behalf of Florida's Fourth Congressional District, I thank Olivia and Phil Hoblit and the Trinity Love Hoblit Foundation for their lifesaving work in northeast Florida and across the country.

MAKING HOMEOWNERSHIP MORE ACCESSIBLE TO HEROES

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, as inflation takes a toll on families throughout our Nation and housing costs soar, many of our first responders and educators struggle to find affordable homes in the communities that they serve.

For this reason, I introduced H.R. 3172, the HELPER Act, which would establish a new one-time-use home loan program for law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMTs, paramedics, and pre-K-12 teachers.

Modeled after the successful VA home loan program, the HELPER Act would make homeownership more accessible to our local heroes by removing the downpayment and mortgage insurance premium requirements that can put homeownership just out of reach.

The HELPER Act has strong bipartisan, bicameral support from over 90 Members in both Houses of Congress and more than 225 different organizations across the country, including 108 mayors from different cities around the country.

As we all know, everything is more expensive these days, and the HELPER Act would prevent our first responders and educators from being priced out of home buying in the very communities they are sworn to protect.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Florida for those words and comfort that they will hopefully bring.

I think most Americans, especially those that knew anybody who fought for our country in Afghanistan, are aware of how poorly things went a year ago when the Biden administration, it appeared, tried to emulate the disastrous leaving of Vietnam when so much was left behind, including our allies.

Like in Vietnam, allies were left there, many of whom were killed. Of course, 13 of our servicemen were killed that never should have been and did not need to be if we had left properly, as some of our Northern Alliance allies, a part of the Afghan people who fought for us and with us beginning in October 2001, about a month after 9/11—many died fighting for us and with us.

We helped provide them weapons, and we had about 300 or so Special Operations people who were embedded with them, and they took the fight to the Taliban. Within 6 months, there was no organized Taliban left in Afghanistan.

Some of them fled to Pakistan or other surrounding countries, but they had been defeated with the great help of General Dostum, who was the commander who was the overall commander of the Afghan forces fighting against the Taliban.

President Biden and his advisers, for whatever reason, decided it was better to leave tens of billions of dollars of equipment and weapons for our enemies to use against our allies and probably one day use against the United States itself.

We saw this kind of disastrous exit from Vietnam. An estimated 2 million or so people who helped us and were sympathetic to us were killed in Southeast Asia. I just thought surely we would never be that stupid and that callous to allow allies to be harmed like that.

I met with some of our Northern Alliance allies, along with a few other Members of Congress, numerous times. Of course, there was the great Afghan hero of the war between Afghanistan and Russia. Unfortunately, our intelligence agencies here in the U.S. did not pick up on the importance of Shah Massoud, Lion of Panjshir, being assassinated by the Taliban within a day, day-and-a-half or so of 9/11 about to occur. Had they been awake and not asleep at what was going on, they would have anticipated the Taliban was about to do something to cause great harm to the United States.

They knew once we realized that the attack originated from Afghanistan that we would be coming and looking for allies, and we would certainly want Massoud and his brother and all those others who wanted the Taliban gone, we would be using them and working with them to eliminate the Taliban. So, the Taliban eliminated that great Afghan hero before 9/11.

In numerous meetings with our Afghan allies for a decade or more, going back to the Obama administration days, they were telling a few of us: Look, we know you have to leave at some point. We know that. But what we are begging is that you help us amend the Constitution that you forced on us. We like it; it is based on sharia law. But this is a country that is perfectly suited for the federalist system where you have so much power in your country in the States and our country, they said, in the provinces. But right now, the Constitution that you gave us, forced on us, the President appoints the governors, the mayors, the chiefs of police, and it is a system made for corruption.

It sounded to me like the way things were going over there, the times I went to Afghanistan, and you are hearing the reports of what was going on, whether it was Karzai or Ghani, that they may well have taken a great deal of money, like the old Roman days, and whoever gave the most money would get the best governorship.

They were appointing governors that didn't even live in the province that