

We, in North Carolina, support our veterans. Just last week, Raleigh, in my district, was named the best place in the country for veterans to live.

Mr. Speaker, let's strive to make every community an incredible place for our veterans to call home.

AMERICA FIRST

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, recently we saw yard signs across our Nation proclaiming "America First."

To put America first should mean defending our people against all enemies, foreign and domestic. That is a daunting task, indeed. No nation, including ours, is an island in a world where nuclear weapons, predatory armed submarines, cyber warfare, and space technologies encircle our globe and are ever-present threats.

Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine reminds all of us that no freedom-loving nation can fold its tent. Liberty threatened by known expansionists and fervent regimes threaten world order. Russia is testing the resolve of NATO and our free world.

I am old enough to have lived during an era in which Russia's historic aggression into territory that was not its own extended as far west as East Berlin, Germany.

Russia is repeating its brutal history yet again on the European Continent, a continent in which our Nation's World War II war dead reached 183,588 and globally over 416,800.

Our Nation cannot retreat from our alliances that protect us here at home and the rule of law the world around. Victory to Ukraine.

REMEMBERING THE LIVES OF LAVEL DAVIS, JR., DEVIN CHANDLER, AND D'SEAN PERRY

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

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I stand here as a Virginian, a UVA alumna, and a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives to remember the UVA football teammates who were shot and killed earlier this week.

For the University of Virginia, it has been an unimaginable loss for their families, and it has been an unthinkable reality.

This week, we remember Lavel Davis, Jr. We remember Devin Chandler. We remember D'Sean Perry.

Both on the field and off the field, their classmates, their coaches, their professors, and their loved ones saw their commitment to success. They saw their selflessness, their curiosity, and their determination to make the University of Virginia, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and our Nation a stronger place.

Please join me in remembering their lives, honoring their memories, and standing strong as their families mourn. We also stand with the University of Virginia student body, professors, the community, the entire football team, and all those who are impacted by this horrific loss.

We also pray for the recovery of Michael Hollins, Jr., as he and his family continue on the long road to healing.

This week has demonstrated the resilience of the UVA community. May we forever remember the lives that were lost: Lavel Davis, Jr., Devin Chandler, and D'Sean Perry.

RECOGNIZING THERESE MCMILLAN

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

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of a friend and a dedicated public servant, Therese McMillan, who is retiring as executive director of the San Francisco Bay Area's Metropolitan Transportation Commission.

Therese began her work with MTC in 1984 and then moved to the Federal Transit Administration, most notably as the acting administrator from 2014 to 2016. In 2019, Therese returned to the MTC as its new executive director.

Under her leadership, MTC established an Equity Platform to advance policies and make investments that will ensure all residents of the San Francisco Bay Area are considered when discussing the bay area's transit needs. She also helped to establish minimum housing density targets near transit stations to foster ridership.

I have had the pleasure of working with Therese over the years. She has always been smart, kind, and dedicated to doing what is best. Please join me in congratulating Therese on a magnificent career of public service and wishing her the best on her retirement and her nearly three decades of service to our community.

CERVICAL CANCER ELIMINATION DAY OF ACTION

(Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Cervical Cancer Elimination Day of Action.

Two years ago, the World Health Organization launched a global strategy to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer by 2030. Last year, the WHO announced a partnership with Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, part of the University of Miami's Health System, designating it the first WHO Collaborating Centre for Cervical Cancer Elimination.

Across the globe, one woman dies every 2 minutes from cervical cancer, even though the disease is preventable, treatable, detectable, and curable.

Here at home, according to the CDC, 13,000 new cases of cervical cancer are diagnosed, and 4,000 women die of this preventable and treatable cancer every year. Cervical cancer disproportionately affects Hispanic and Black women.

Social determinants of health such as income, lack of access to the internet, race, geographic location, and limited access to transportation often impact women's ability to obtain needed prevention, screening, and treatment for cervical cancer. This is why I wanted to highlight Sylvester's work on developing new cost-efficient tests for HPV, improve treatment options to prolong survival, and increasing screening through mobile outreach campaigns.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Sylvester's focus on decreasing cancer disparities across South Florida and beyond.

ABORTION RIGHTS ARE A KITCHEN TABLE ISSUE

(Ms. JACOBS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACOBS of California. Mr. Speaker, the debate is officially over: abortion rights are a kitchen table issue.

Last week, abortion rights were on the ballot in five States. Abortion rights went five for five, not only in what are considered blue States, like California and Vermont, but in a battleground State like Michigan, and red States like Montana and Kentucky.

Abortion was one of the top issues that motivated people to vote. That is because, for me and for millions of women, reproductive healthcare is our healthcare. That is why women showed up at the ballot box to defend abortion rights. That is why we need to do the same in Congress.

The House has already passed legislation to protect the right to access an abortion and contraception and protect those who cross State lines to access an abortion.

We need to do more. The House needs to pass the My Body, My Data Act, to create a new national standard to protect reproductive and sexual health data. The Senate needs to step up and abolish the filibuster so we can finally protect abortion rights at the Federal level.

Mr. Speaker, the voters spoke loud and clear. It is time to hear them and to act.

NEW MEXICANS VOTE TO INVEST IN THEIR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

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

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today after a historic election in New Mexico and across the United States in which voters voted to not only uphold our democracy, our basic rights, but the continued fight to serve our communities. That includes the passage of

Constitutional Amendment 1 to invest in New Mexico's children and ensure that every single child across our State has access to early childhood education and care.

Last week, New Mexicans showed up across the State in every city, in every county, in every community. From Mescalero to Mountainair, from Albuquerque to Anton Chico, from Sandia Pueblo to Santa Rosa, and from Rio Rancho to Roswell and Ruidoso, over 70 percent of New Mexicans voted to invest in early childhood education and care.

New Mexicans believe in our people, they believe in our communities, and they believe that every single child should have what they need to thrive. But we have one more hurdle to cross to make this a reality, and that sits with our body here in Congress.

Because of antiquated laws that were put on the books over a century ago, we must provide concurrence so that our communities are able to tap these funds and make historic investments in our kids.

Today, I urge every single Member of this body to hear our voices, to hear the voices of New Mexicans and our children. New Mexicans want our kids to be able to access the resources they need. They are ready to lead the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to pass this concurring language now without delay and invest in New Mexico, our children, and our future.

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MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 8454. An ACT to expand research on cannabidiol and marijuana, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 94-201, as amended by Public Law 105-275, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, appoints the following individual to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees of the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress:

Natalie Anne Merchant of New York.

THE END OF AN ERA

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

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, the House will be leaving town today, heading back to our States, heading back to our districts. Obviously, this will be a week of thanksgiving and, obviously, I wish all of my colleagues well and safe travel. We have much, of course, for which to be thankful in this great country.

But there are great concerns that we face. Today, obviously, we had the speech and the news about the future of Speaker PELOSI. The outgoing Speaker has had a long career in this body, and I wish her well. I wish her the best in the next chapter of her life.

Some are saying it is an end of an era; and I would say that it is only an end of an era if we choose to make it so.

Speaker PELOSI ran this Chamber not terribly unlike her Republican predecessors, and I don't necessarily mean that to be the right way to do things; bills that are cooked up in small rooms among leadership staff and Members of leadership; thousands of pages of legislation dropped on Members at the 11th hour; key pieces of legislation that are shuttled through committee without significant debate and then dropped on the floor.

Sometimes we have what is called suspension votes, where we suspend the rules and we have votes on the floor with no Members here to debate it or discuss it; just take the word of the committees on which I don't serve; amendments on the floor of this body restrained since May of 2016, under both parties' leadership.

Some people refer to this as a cartel. Some refer to it as the swamp. What it is, regardless of branding, we know that it takes power away from the legislators and, thereby, takes power away from the people who sent their legislators here to represent them.

The only way we are going to make this the end of an era is if we change the way we do things, and we should. I am saying this now that there is a Republican majority about to take the gavel. I believe we have to change the way this town works. I believe we have to change the way this body works.

The reason that I introduced the Article I Act in the first Congress that I served in this body, while President Trump was in office, to reclaim power from the executive branch, to say that we must have a voice in these ongoing emergency declarations, some of which date back to the 1970s. The reason that I did that was because I believed it, even though it would have taken power away from a Republican President.

I am wondering now if some of my Democratic colleagues will think, well, maybe that is not a terrible idea if we look ahead. I don't know.

Here, in this Chamber, I am, as a Republican, calling on a fundamental change in the way we do things here; how bills get to the floor.

Most people might not understand that the default rules that would go back to the Jefferson Manual and the basic rules of parliamentary procedure would be that I have the right to be able to offer a bill; and that then you would have the right to amend the bill here on the floor of this body; this being the floor of the House of Representatives.

But what the American people don't know is that every Congress we come

in and we vote on new rules, and we vote on rules that, then, restrict the power of every Member of this body to be able to represent their constituents.

We restrict the power of a Member to offer a bill, to bring that bill to a vote, to have debate on that bill, to amend that bill here on the floor of the House of Representatives. That is the way it works.

Then we even go further. Every week, we fly in and then we have votes on rules, rules that are cooked up among 13 Members of the House of Representatives who sit up in a committee up here, behind these walls, and they vote a new rule, and send it down here; and then the body votes on the rule that then structures debate for the week.

Then can I offer an amendment here on the floor? No. You know why? Because people are afraid to vote.

Members of this body, sent to vote on legislation and to represent their constituents, are afraid to vote. Can you imagine, in the founding of this country, the establishment of this body, the people's House, to go get reelected every two years, to go seek re-election, that we are afraid to vote?

Do you know how many times if I bring up opening the process and opening up the floor of the House, colleagues on my side of the aisle, the other side of the aisle go, well, you know, don't you know that means somebody could bring up a really tough vote.

Well, if you vote "no" on a whole lot of tough votes, like I tend to do, you get kind of used to it, and you get used to what you have to do, which is go explain to your constituents why there ain't no free lunch.

This isn't the United States House of free stuff. You can't just keep passing bills to spend money we don't have to buy off votes. You can't keep voting for bills that have a nice title so that you don't have to go back and explain why you voted, as I did, against burn pit legislation for veterans who need support and help for burn pits. But you vote against it because you don't need another \$675 billion mandatory spending item.

Yet, bipartisan support for a bill because nobody wants to go say no. Nobody wants to go look in a veteran's eye and explain the hard reality of what we need to do in this body.

Nobody wants to say no to a bill that says ALS research. Nobody wants to say no to a bill that says something about helping animals or helping old people or helping kids. You put a nice title on there, then everybody has got to vote for. It doesn't matter which side of the aisle you are on; you have got to vote for it because there is no spending limit. There is no restraint. There is no responsibility.

There is no leadership. There is no check on unrestrained power of the executive branch by this body because this body keeps funding the very tyranny of the executive branch that many campaign against. That is the truth.