

With President Biden tying the hands of our agents and enabling lawlessness at our border, morale among the force has been crushed to an unthinkable low—so low, in fact, that the CBP has hired a suicidologist to help prevent further loss among its force.

Our CBP agents are overwhelmed, overworked, underfunded, and they are demoralized. They put their lives on the line every day to defend our Nation's borders while receiving no support from the top levels of our government.

In fact, the President says that there are more important things going on.

It should not come as a shock that so many are at wit's end.

While some have taken their own lives, many others have been seriously injured or have made the ultimate sacrifice while on the front lines.

In April, 22-year-old Texas National Guard Specialist Bishop Evans was swept away in the Rio Grande while attempting to save two migrants from drowning. We later found out that the two he sacrificed his life for were actually attempting to traffic illegal narcotics.

Just last week, a 38-year-old father of two, CBP Agent Raul Humberto Gonzalez was killed in an ATV crash while chasing a group of migrants illegally crossing the border.

Perhaps if the cartels were not allowed free rein on our border to smuggle drugs and to traffic humans, Specialist Bishop Evans and Agent Gonzalez would be with us today.

No one has benefited more from this country's lax open border policies than the cartels. The Drug Enforcement Agency has told us that up to 70 to 80 percent of fentanyl in the United States comes into our country over the southern border. We know the vast majority of fentanyl is being manufactured in China and brought into our country over the southern border straight into American cities poisoning our youth.

The Drug Enforcement Agency is telling us that is where it is coming from, yet we continue to have an open border policy, and this body refuses to act to secure our border.

Drug overdoses are the leading cause of death of 18-to 45-year-olds in the United States, killing 100,000 Americans last year alone; three-quarters of those deaths are from fentanyl. One American dies every 7 minutes from this deadly drug streaming over our open border, and by the time I finish this speech, there will be one more American lost.

Our babies are dying. Last month, San Francisco firefighters had to use Narcan to save the life of a 10-month-old baby boy who came into contact with fentanyl while playing in a park. In May, a 3-year-old in California died from a fentanyl overdose, and in November of last year, so did a 1-year-old child in Connecticut. In the last 3 months, there have been two fatal fentanyl exposures in western Wash-

ington State involving children no older than 2 years old.

The fact that our babies are overdosing on this poison should alarm every single person in this Chamber. The silence from many of those on the other side of the aisle and the Biden administration is, quite frankly, sickening. And if you hear anything at all, they tell you that the border is secure—a complete lie.

Biden's open borders have created full-blown national security, public safety, and humanitarian crises in the United States, not only for our law enforcement and constituents but for the migrants as well.

In fact, fiscal year 2022 was the deadliest year ever recorded for migrants attempting to cross the U.S.-Mexico border unlawfully with 853 migrant deaths. Many drowned in the Rio Grande. They perished due to dehydration from battling extreme heat and difficult terrain or taken deadly falls while climbing border barriers.

In June, 53 migrants were found dead in San Antonio after being abandoned in a tractor trailer without air-conditioning or water. In September, a migrant mother of two committed suicide in a New York City homeless shelter. Her 15-year-old son discovered her body. Think about the consequences he will have for the rest of his life.

Some have accused the Republicans who want to secure our borders of being uncompassionate. The greatest humanitarian crisis in our country is unfolding right before our eyes, and I urge our colleagues and our President to work with us to take action to secure it.

FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RYAN of New York). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, it has been an honor to represent the people of greater Cincinnati in public office for more than 35 years now. I thought I would take a few minutes to sum up those years.

I first ran for office, Cincinnati City Council, when I was 26 years old. When this, my last term in Congress, expires next month in January, I will be turning 70. 26 to 70, that is long enough. It is somebody else's turn.

I had seriously considered retiring and not running this past election cycle, but it was a redistricting year. The congressional lines were being redrawn, and I was concerned that if I didn't run, our district was going to be written off and drawn in a way that only a Democrat could win it as had been done 10 years ago in Columbus and prior to that in Cleveland.

I didn't want to see that happen to the people of greater Cincinnati who depended on me and trusted me to represent them as a commonsense conservative for so many years.

Redistricting turned out to be a pretty rocky process. I ended up with a 9-

point Biden district, making it the toughest Republican-held seat in the country outside the State of California.

□ 1045

Despite starting out in a 9-point hole, I hoped that with a lot of hard work and a little luck we could hold it anyway. I was wrong. That is water over the dam.

There is a Chinese proverb, "May you live in interesting times." My 26 years in Congress have certainly been that. I was first elected in the 1994 Republican Revolution, Newt Gingrich, the contract with America. Republicans took over the House for the first time in 40 years, which was my proximate age at the time, and 73 freshmen Republicans were elected. I am the last one in the House out of 73, and I will be gone in a few weeks.

I have been asked a number of times: What are my proudest accomplishments during my time here in Congress? At the top of the list was leading the effort to pass the ban on partial birth abortion. I fought that battle for 8 years, all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. They upheld the law, and it has been described as the most significant pro-life legislation since Roe v. Wade. It is estimated that it saves about 20,000 innocent unborn babies every year from a particularly brutal death. Some have said my strong pro-life positions were a factor in my defeat this election. If so, it was worth it.

Another accomplishment was having served as both chairman and ranking member of the House Small Business Committee. I was in the position to introduce, pass, and implement the PPP, the Paycheck Protection Program, during the recent pandemic. As a result, the First Congressional District received more money, almost \$3 billion; got more small business loans, over 27,000 of them; and most importantly, saved more jobs, over 247,000, than any other congressional district in Ohio. A lot of people's lives, both in our community and across the country, were positively impacted.

Rather than list a whole bunch of other bills I have got passed over the years—I am limited to just 5 minutes here this morning—let me just tell you this: the University of Virginia, UVA, and Vanderbilt, have together done three studies of Congress over the last 10 years in order to determine who are the most effective Members of Congress.

I am proud to say that I was rated in the top 10 most effective Members each time. When you consider that there are 435 of us, I would say that is pretty good. Of course, I could have accomplished none of this without the hard work of my tremendous staff both here in Washington and back in Cincinnati, and without the support of my family.

My wife, Donna, and I will be celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary this coming June. We were blessed with a daughter, Erica, and a son, Randy, both adults now, and the two cutest

grandchildren anywhere ever, Reed and Keira. And I thank my son-in-law, Kevin, for creating and then overseeing my blog over the years.

Finally, let me conclude with this: Despite all the rancor and controversy and partisanship that routinely goes on in this place, it was truly an honor to serve here in the people's House. This extraordinary country, the United States of America, is still the greatest country that ever existed on the face of the Earth.

Goodbye.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE
CINDY AXNE

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

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work of one of my congressional classmates, now one of my closest friends here, Congresswoman CINDY AXNE.

In 2018, less than 100 years after women gained the right to vote, we were elected as part of the largest class ever of women elected to the House—a record we broke again 2 years later. Breaking the glass ceiling was just the start.

CINDY AXNE is a true trailblazer. No issue is too big or small. As a fellow mom in Congress and a lifelong education advocate, I have seen CINDY's passion for the next generation. Even before her time in Congress, as a mom at local school board meetings, CINDY fought to make real change and to promote education equity with the implementation of full-day kindergarten across her children's school district. That passion and can-do character has followed her to Congress, too.

Congresswoman CINDY AXNE is a rare breed here on Capitol Hill. Bipartisanship is a word many of us use here in Congress, but few of us can back it up quite like CINDY. Her energy and enthusiasm are endless, and I have seen firsthand how she brings it to her work here in Washington.

As the lone Federal Democrat from the Hawkeye State, she has taken that Iowa-nice attitude to a whole new level—working with anyone, Democrat or Republican, to get the job done.

Las Vegas, Nevada, and Des Moines, Iowa, may be looking a little bit different, but CINDY and I have worked together to find common ground that transcends partisanship and works for every single American.

As the tallest woman in Congress—although Representative LORI TRAHAN might have a point of order on that—she also bears one of the tallest lists of accomplishments in her time in this House.

She personally helped her constituents recover from catastrophic flooding. She led the charge to keep our communities safe with the Invest to Protect Act. CINDY led the charge to tackle inflation with the Lower Food and Fuel Costs Act, as well.

Her legacy for Iowa lives on in the millions of dollars that she has brought home for her constituents, in the legislation she has fought to get across the finish line, and in all of us fighting to end the divisiveness and to bring the collective spirit of compromise to Congress.

I thank CINDY for everything—for her leadership, for her unwavering spirit, and, most importantly, for her friendship.

RECOGNIZING COLD WAR RADAR
STATION VETERANS

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

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tens of thousands of veterans who served on radar stations across the world during the Cold War.

From 1947 to 1991, American servicemembers faced extremely challenging climates and conditions in the most isolated locations to successfully mitigate threats from the Soviet Union to ensure the maintenance of peace.

These veterans were highly trained and from every United States military branch, including the National Guard and Reserve units. They were also supported by allied forces and civilians, as well.

These brave watch guards were on a mission of the utmost importance to detect, track, intercept, and destroy hostile airborne intruders when they entered the free world airspace.

Although the protection of allied airspace was successful following the end of the Cold War, the United States never officially recognized the countless hours of surveillance that these servicemembers provided to our country and the world.

Several years ago, a dedicated group of Air Force Cold War-era radar station veterans formed a nonprofit organization to raise funds for the construction of a monument commemorating their fellow servicemembers' sacrifices.

The monument was unveiled on November 7, 2019, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, with some 100 veterans and their family members in attendance.

Today, I thank these veterans for their service during such a tense and a turbulent time in our history. Their dedication to our security and the prosperity of peace never wavered an iota.

As a veteran stationed in Germany during the Cold War, I can relate to many of the sacrifices that these courageous individuals made, and I am forever grateful for them.

I include in the RECORD a letter by one of the United States Air Force Radar Station Veterans Monument Association founders, 1st Lieutenant James E. Muecke, which contains more information about the hard work that went into making the dream of a monument into a reality.

RADAR STATION VETERANS MONUMENT

Several years ago, three Air Force veterans who served on various radar stations during the Cold War began discussing how to honor their service and others who held the same job. A monument was suggested, but they lacked funding and a location. Washington, D.C., was thought to be the most obvious location choice, but given how long it took to construct the World War II Memorial, they decided to look elsewhere. After many discussions with their fellow veterans, they formed a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization called the United States Air Force (USAF) Radar Station Veterans Monument Association. Five veterans volunteered to serve as officers for the association, and 26 agreed to become board members.

Once the association was formed, donations were sought from many Cold War-era manufacturers and suppliers of radar equipment. Unfortunately, most were out of business or had merged with other companies. As a result, the association contacted as many radar station veterans as possible to ask for their donations for the monument. Eventually, the National Museum of the United States Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, was selected as the location for the monument's placement. The museum indicated that the project would cost approximately \$30,000. After much aid from their fellow veterans, they raised \$43,000.

When designing the monument, their goal was to educate the public in an appealing way. They decided on a monument made from black granite stone, with images of 23 radar sites etched into it. A mission statement and description of the radar station operating conditions were inscribed on the front, and a globe sat on top, symbolizing worldwide involvement. The monument was completed and placed in section two of Memorial Park at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. The dedication ceremony was held on November 7, 2019, with some 100 veterans and family members in attendance. It was an outstanding program; the Air Force honor guard members gave a flag presentation. After the program, the USAF Radar Station Veterans Monument Association members formally turned the monument over to the museum.

Following the ceremony, an evening banquet was held, and the association's officers were recognized for their work in commissioning the monument. They received a standing ovation. All officers were presented with a framed picture of the monument, the USAF Radar Station Veterans Monument Association's logo, and a statement of appreciation.

This is just one example of what it means to be a United States veteran: We are loyal, are proud to have served this great country, and can still stand tall for a monument dedicated to this purpose. We give a proud hand salute to all who attended, to those who could not attend because of distance or health, and especially to those who served but are no longer with us.

1ST. LT. JAMES E. MUECKE.

Mr. BABIN. May God bless these heroes and may history remember them.

CONTINUED DELAY OF FLOOR ACTION ON THE MAJOR RICHARD STAR ACT

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I must take the