

Since the Biden administration kicked in, the effort to continue to build the fence was frozen. We have stacks and stacks of materials lying there, many millions of dollars' worth of materials just laying there in the various spots across the border staged to be completed.

When I visited the Arizona portion, you could see where there were maybe 50 or 100 feet of fence, and there would be an area that would be contained where it would be much, much easier for the Border Patrol to do their jobs and keep whatever problems there are funneled in fewer areas, making their task much simpler to keep track.

Instead, with the deluge of immigrants, really an invasion that is happening, their job is much, much more difficult and less about patrolling the border and more about processing.

Indeed, when I was there, they have vans to go pick people up and bring them even faster to the processing center and then turn them loose in our country.

□ 1145

This is a really backwards policy, and it makes me really wonder whose side is this administration on.

The needs of the American people, or some kind of political gain by having a wide-open border?

I do not understand it. The numbers are huge.

Of course, it is the numbers of people coming across as well as the illegal drugs; the fentanyl. You have heard time and time and time again the stories. I guess the press doesn't really want to report a lot of that; we hear it here and there. But the amount of people being harmed by the fentanyl getting to everything is amazing. Yet, the border remains porous.

The only State doing something about it is Texas. All those States don't really have the rights to do Federal border patrol or closure. They are at least making an effort down there to stem the tide.

We are in a state of crisis along the border. Millions cross every year with no consequence. We expect them maybe to come back for a hearing, if indeed they are eligible for an asylum hearing, but that is really naive.

So there are plenty of tools already in the law to stop it. We don't really need reform on immigration. We need to enforce the rules we have.

Yet, what is the direction we are going?

We are going to see title 42, which is able to make limitations due to the healthcare crisis because of COVID. They want to let that go to the sidelines now, getting rid of title 42.

We already have a crisis. We already have a giant wave coming in. This is just going to exacerbate it. We already have gigantic problems that will be added to by letting title 42 expire.

Every country that is a country has borders and laws on that. Why is the U.S. different now under the Biden ad-

ministration and under Democrat rule that we are not allowed to enforce our borders?

And indeed, the issue, as you squish the balloon, now we are seeing an effect on the Canadian border, something that hasn't been talked about a lot.

Mexican nationals are finding that it is easier with the backlog we have on the southern border to be able to take a flight up into Canada, because they have lifted most of their restrictions on entry and exit, and come through from Canada into the United States. Those numbers are increasing dramatically.

The data reflects a 91 percent increase from the prior fiscal year, and going higher. So if it is easier to come as a Mexican national through Canada, then that is just going to continue to be a larger problem. But we already have enough to deal with on the southern border; if we would just do the job.

As President Biden said last spring, let's fill the gaps that we have. At least fill just the gaps, if you don't want to make miles and miles of fence. It will make the Border Patrol job much easier. But truly, we need to do the whole job because we are not a sovereign nation if we don't have a border, if we don't enforce it.

Now, we will get called racist. We will get called hateful. Because those are just the standard arguments these days for just about anything.

It is not that. We have a right and an obligation to enforce that and bring people over that want to come legally, with visas. That is the way to do things, not just a wide-open, porous border.

## RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COSTA). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at noon.

## PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, in the words of Thomas Merton, we mourn that "all over the face of the Earth, the avarice and lust of [humanity] breed unceasing divisions among them, and the wounds that tear [humans] from union with one another widen and open out into huge wars. Murder, massacres, revolution, and hatred . . ."

Forgive us, O Lord, our proclivity for division and our inclination to allow

our desires for power and our unquenched thirst for control, create discord in our families, in our communities, in our country, and among sovereign nations.

We continue to pray for the conflict in Ukraine, and we pray that the dispute for land and dominance would, by some miracle, find resolution. Remind us that such tragedy reflects our fractured human condition and our deep need for Your salvation.

Convict us each of our part in even the smallest of conflicts, that we would set aside our differences and instead strive to maintain the unity found in Your spirit. Then mend the broken bones of our families, our communities, and our country, and heal the wounds in our world.

O Lord, abolish the bow, the sword, and war from our lands, and allow all to lie down this night in safety.

In Your most holy name, we pray.

Amen.

## THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

## AMERICA'S ANCHOR, JIM GARDNER

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

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, for nearly half a century, legendary news anchor Jim Gardner has informed and guided Philadelphia, southeastern Pennsylvania, and south Jersey. Next week, he will retire, and I thank him for his incredible service.

Jim joined Action News in 1976 as a reporter before setting into his iconic role as the 6 and 11 p.m. anchor, becoming the longest-serving on-air personality in our region's history.

As the years changed and trust in our institutions eroded, one journalistic institution stood strong: Jim Gardner.

Philadelphia is a city of neighborhoods, and Jim works with character, generosity, and a deep love of all of his neighbors. He did not hesitate when asked to moderate a free library discussion about our family's book on addiction and recovery.

Jim Gardner has provided stability through uncertainty, from things electoral to environmental, and lift through our joys, like the current Eagles season.

For 45 years, Jim has been our Walter Cronkite with his signature mustache.

We will miss you in our living rooms, Jim, delivering the news with honesty, integrity, and respect. We wish you, America's anchor, a happy retirement. Thank you, Jim.

#### WELCOMING JULIAN BIDDLE PENDARVIS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to congressional foreign policy adviser Stephanie Pendarvis and her husband, Julian Hunter Pendarvis, on the birth of their first child, a boy.

Julian Biddle Pendarvis was born at 2:03 a.m. on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, at Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington. He weighed 5 pounds, 10.5 ounces, and measured 18.75 inches long.

Stephanie has long been a valued member of the congressional team and has not only been instrumental in getting important policy legislation through the House but a positive influence on the staff and those around her. I know she and her husband will pass those fine qualities to baby Julian.

Additionally, I offer congratulations to the extended Biddle and Pendarvis families on the newest addition to their team.

In conclusion, God bless Ukraine and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Putin's Iranian drones attacked yesterday the key district I visited Saturday on a codel. Fortunately, the people of Ukraine have destroyed in the last week 85 percent of Putin's missiles and drones.

#### REMEMBERING THE SANDY HOOK TRAGEDY

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 20 innocent little children and 6 brave teachers who were taken from their families 10 years ago today at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

I truthfully can't even comprehend the immense pain that these families must have felt and continue to feel every day.

I never want another family to experience this type of loss. That is why we

must remain committed to ending the gun violence epidemic that plagues our country.

Earlier this year, House Democrats passed the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, which President Biden swiftly signed into law. It will save lives by funding violence prevention programs at schools, expanding background checks for those under 21 years of age, strengthening mental health resources, and so much more, but the fight is not over.

I promise to continue fighting until we are all saved from gun violence because we owe this to the victims of gun violence, their families, and their children.

We will always put children over the NRA. We will always put people over politics.

#### RECOGNIZING CHARLIE BOURG

(Mrs. RODGERS of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Charlie Bourg.

Charlie lives in Chewelah, a small town in northeastern Washington. He is an Army veteran. He served in Vietnam, and he is a fierce advocate for his fellow men and women who have served in the Armed Forces.

Charlie also has terminal cancer. He received the devastating news months ago after a yearlong delay in receiving care from the Spokane VA due to a broken electronic health record system.

This could have been prevented. He should have more time to spend with his wife, Debi, his children, and his grandchildren. My heart breaks for them.

Charlie is here sharing his story this week, and I would like to make him a promise: No matter how long it takes, we will fix this system.

You will be the reason that it never happens again. You will not be forgotten. Matthew 28:11 says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join in recognizing Charlie Bourg. He is an incredible American and an even better husband, father, and grandfather.

#### RECOGNIZING THE KELLER FAMILY

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

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the story of an admirable family in my district who has provided decades of service to their friends and neighbors through the U.S. Postal Service.

John Keller worked at the U.S. Postal Service for 34 years, including 15 years as postmaster of the Ridley Park Post Office.

Now retired, his twin sons, Joe and Mike Keller, have worked for the U.S. Postal Service for 23 years each and are now both postmasters in Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District.

Our Postal Service is an essential part of our Nation's infrastructure. The Postal Service delivers medicine to veterans, birthday presents from grandma, and, even in this day and age, holiday greetings from friends across the world.

The Postal Service keeps us connected with our communities, families and friends, businesses, nonprofits, and public agencies all over the country, and provides jobs to over 500,000 Americans; 3,000 in Pennsylvania's Fifth District alone.

We are so grateful to the Keller family and to all of our Postal Service workers for everything they do for us every day.

#### RENEWABLE ENERGY DOESN'T DO THE WHOLE JOB

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, nuclear power, hydropower, biofuels, solar, and wind are all positive sources of energy. They take advantage of available resources and bring high-paying technical jobs to rural areas, especially.

However, forcing people into renewable sources of energy only will not help families immediately heat their homes this winter or next.

Right now, in California, renewable energy accounts for roughly one-third of our power grid, depending on whether or not you count hydroelectric power, which large power plants aren't counted, for some arbitrary reason in our State.

Each summer, we face rolling blackouts throughout the State. Each winter, mountain towns face power shortages due to snowstorms knocking down power lines.

At this moment, natural gas and oil remain by far the most efficient and affordable sources of energy, a fact that the Biden administration must accept.

Renewable energy won't do the whole job. Yet, what are they doing? They are attacking oil and gas, which is based on some idea of CO<sub>2</sub>. I remind you that CO<sub>2</sub> is only 0.04 percent of our atmosphere. It is dwarfed by all the others. Even trace gases are about equal.

Yet, we are hell-bent on getting rid of CO<sub>2</sub> and making people unable to use the energy they need, do their jobs, heat their homes, et cetera.

#### REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF SANDY HOOK

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

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, Charlotte Bacon, Daniel Barden, Rachel Davino, Olivia Engel, Josephine Gay, Ana M.