

For example, my amendment would have removed the claim that leftist activists and progressive politicians actively encouraged resentment toward law enforcement, which casts a wide, unfair, and erroneous net.

It would also eliminate the claim that language regarding funding police vilifies and harms local law enforcement.

We can all agree that we need law enforcement. Of that, there is no doubt. But defunding the police means different things to different people.

From completely abolishing or disbanding law enforcement agencies—as some of my Republican colleagues have proposed we do to ATF, FBI, and even DOJ—to adding resources to other programs or services that might have been neglected in the past or to lighten the load of officers who are called upon to respond to too much.

That is why I believe my amendment would have allowed Congress to come together on this Resolution, using language on which we all can agree—that does not accuse, disparage, or attempt to shame.

Resolutions like this one make it difficult for us to commence the truly difficult work of making policing safer for law enforcement officers and the communities they serve.

I have worked for decades to adopt reasonable gun violence prevention legislation and to institute transformative policing reforms.

All too often law enforcement officers are taken by the violence we expect them to prevent. And increasingly, officers and agents are losing their lives to gun-related violence—often times with handguns.

Although the number of law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty decreased by more than 30 percent over the first six months of 2022 compared to that same period in 2021, the number of officers killed by guns increased by nearly 20 percent.

And, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, for the whole of 2022, the number of officers killed decreased by roughly 61 percent—that is from 586 federal, state, tribal and local law enforcement officers killed in 2021 down to 224.

Despite this dramatic decrease in line-of-duty deaths, due almost entirely to the significant reduction in deaths resulting from COVID-19, by the end of 2022, the same number of officers died by gunfire as in the previous year—reflecting a 21 percent increase over the historical average of firearms-related deaths between 2010 and 2020. This is unacceptable.

Let's get back to the real work of Congress instead of engaging in partisan gamesmanship.

Lastly, in speaking on the Rule for H.R. 3091, the Federal Law Enforcement Officer Service Weapon Purchase Act.

Rather than destroying retired, surplus handguns, this legislation would allow federal agencies to sell those handguns to federal law enforcement officers in good standing—promoting public safety, reducing waste, and recouping taxpayer funds.

Although I support this underlying legislation, I would point out that the previous version of this bill, introduced by former Congresswoman Val Demings, included a requirement that any law enforcement officer making a purchase must pass a background check as part of the transfer. But this version does not.

Congresswoman Demings's bill also wisely advised via a sense of Congress that pro-

ceeds from the sale of these handguns should be used to fund gun violence prevention or gun safety programs.

These are both excellent ideas that we should add back into this legislation.

While we might assume that no problems could arise in the sale of a handgun to an officer in good standing, a background check or records check of some kind would ensure that vital information has not been missed, overlooked, or fallen through a gap in reporting.

Questions still remain and law enforcement continues to investigate the mass shooting that occurred in Allen, Texas.

But we know that a Defense Department official said that Army staff “quickly identified” that the shooter “was a problem.”

And the Pentagon confirmed that the shooter was terminated from the Army for mental health reasons—after only three months and without completing basic training.

And yet, years later, he completed several firearms proficiency courses for his work as a security guard, amassed a cache of firearms and 13 large capacity magazines, and no one caught that this person probably should not have guns.

Even law enforcement officers purchasing firearms for official use must provide a federal firearms licensee with a certification on agency letterhead that the officer will use the firearm in their official duties and that a records check establishes that the purchasing officer has no convictions for misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence—despite there being no requirement to undergo a background check.

Background checks, and records checks in limited circumstances, are important because they help promote public trust.

By ensuring that only responsible, law-abiding individuals, including law enforcement officers, can purchase firearms and are willing to undergo background checks to do so, this program could set the example and promote safer, more secure communities across the country.

We can and we must do more when it comes to buying, selling, and trading firearms. That is why the proceeds derived from the sale of these retired, surplus handguns would be best spent on programs focused exclusively on gun violence prevention and gun safety education and training.

The money earned from these sales could help us find solutions to end the bloodshed because far too many people have died.

RECOGNIZING THE MEN AND WOMEN IN LAW ENFORCEMENT WHO GAVE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the men and women in law enforcement who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. On Friday, May 19, 2023, Sheriff James Allard and the Steuben County Sheriff's Department will host its annual Law Enforcement Memorial Service to honor those who stood on that thin blue line that keeps our families safe and our communities strong across New York's Southern Tier.

Most of us expect our loved ones to come home from work at the end of the day, but there is no such guarantee for Law Enforcement Officers as they take their post. We as a nation must come together to support our Law Enforcement and recognize the inherent danger and sacrifice that these men and women endure to keep the rest of us safe.

I also want to recognize the spouses, children and friends left behind. The pain of losing a loved one never truly goes away, and my heart goes out to those who share in that burden of service and sacrifice.

John 15:13: “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

It is my humble honor to ask my colleagues to join me in remembering these brave, dedicated, and courageous men and women who were lost in the line of duty.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY HEAD START

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate a remarkable milestone in our Nation's history—the 58th anniversary of Head Start. The Head Start Project launched in 1965 as a comprehensive, anti-poverty, child development program. Since then, more than 37 million children and their families have enjoyed the benefits of Head Start.

Early in my professional career, I worked as a Head Start teacher at the Nettelhorst School in Chicago. Today, Head Start serves almost 29,000 children and their families in Illinois alone. As I reflect on my experience there and on the history of Head Start, I am still in awe at the impact it has on lifting families out of generational poverty. Head Start has proven itself to be an invaluable program, empowering children from low-income families, those suffering from homelessness and those in the foster care system, and setting them on a path towards success.

As we celebrate the 58th anniversary of this extraordinary program, let us reaffirm our commitment to Head Start, and ensure that every child in America has access to a bright future. Happy Birthday Head Start.

CONGRATULATING THE SPRING GROVE AREA HIGH SCHOOL ROCKETRY TEAM FOR THEIR VICTORY IN THE NASA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Spring Grove Area High School rocketry team for their victory in the national championship hosted by NASA.

The team has been working meticulously since last August perfecting their design, and to great effect. Despite their team's small size relative to the competition, they worked closely as a team to win against all odds, beating out 800 students from 21 states.

Team captain Alex Fiorillo said it best: “take every opportunity you have and . . . you might end up making history.” This group certainly did.

To the team members: Alex Fiorillo, Dylan Tichy, Max Trimmer, Wyatt Amspacher, Sage Dewall, Haley Hake, and Eli Hoke—congratulations on this incredible feat. I wish them all continued success in all their future endeavors.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF SUBA’S RESTAURANT

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 25th anniversary of Suba’s Restaurant, located in Mountain City, Tennessee. For a quarter of a century, this exemplary establishment has been a cornerstone of the local culinary scene, delighting patrons with its delicious food, exceptional service, and warm atmosphere.

Suba’s Restaurant, owned and operated by LuAnne and Richard Suba, along with their partner Debby Reece, first opened its doors in 1998, quickly becoming a beloved gathering place for friends, families, and visitors alike. Over the past 25 years, Suba’s has been particularly renowned for its amazing desserts, which have become a highlight of the dining experience. The creative and mouthwatering desserts crafted by their talented team have left patrons returning time and time again.

Their commitment to the local economy extends beyond their menu. Suba’s Restaurant has created numerous job opportunities for the residents of Mountain City and the surrounding areas. Their dedicated staff are a testament to the restaurant’s inclusive and nurturing work environment.

In recognition of their outstanding contributions to the community, Suba’s Restaurant was nominated as Johnson County’s Best in the 2023 Readers’ Choice Awards. This accolade is a testament to the unwavering dedication of the owners, staff, and everyone involved in making Suba’s a cherished part of our community.

In these 25 years, Suba’s Restaurant has truly become an indispensable part of Mountain City, Tennessee. It is with great pride that we recognize and celebrate this milestone, and extend our heartfelt congratulations to LuAnne and Richard Suba, Debby Reece, and the entire team at Suba’s.

As we honor their unwavering dedication to our community, we also wish them continued success and growth over the next 25 years.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SERVICE OF CLYDE JOHN STANLAKE

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who wore many hats, and wore all of them with a smile. Clyde John

Stanlake of Laingsburg was a public servant, a pillar of the community, and a beloved face around town. His death leaves a void in the hearts of the Laingsburg community where his kindness and example of selfless service will never be forgotten.

To say that Clyde loved Laingsburg is an understatement. To say that he served Laingsburg is woefully inadequate as well. For more than 30 years, he literally put his life on the line for this community, serving as a firefighter, a medical first responder, and a lieutenant with LSW Emergency Services from 1987 to 2017. After a long shift of fighting fire’s and saving lives, Clyde continued to give of himself in service with his other responsibilities: he was elected to multiple terms on Laingsburg City Council, served on the Planning Commission, and was president of the Library Board. As if that wasn’t enough, Clyde devoted whatever spare time he had to community organizations. He was a lifelong member of the Lions Club, and the only member in the club’s history to have been chosen to serve as president not once, not twice, but four times. Clyde chaired the annual Springtime Festival—Laingsburg’s biggest community event—for many years, and was grand marshal of the parade on several occasions.

If you didn’t know Clyde from the fire station, City Hall, the festival, or the Lions Club, you most certainly knew him from the grocery store. A faithful employee of the Sage Market for 40 years, no shopper walked through the door during Clyde’s shift without receiving a friendly smile and a sincere welcome. Beloved by his coworkers, his managers, and shoppers alike, his honesty, integrity, and reliability were legendary.

Clyde was the embodiment of community goodwill in virtually every form. He upheld his oath to serve and protect, ran for office to represent his community, volunteered for every cause, and never stopped trying to make a difference in people’s lives. And he did it all with his signature smile. In the polarized, divided world we live in, Clyde’s faithful service was all the more rare, and his absence is all the more painful.

The Laingsburg community lost a bright light when Clyde passed away in February 2023, but his lessons call to us from every corner of the community if we’re willing to listen, to learn, and to try to use our lives as he used his: in service to each other. Mr. Speaker, I send my condolences to the Laingsburg community and ask that Clyde John Stanlake forever be remembered here, in the People’s House, as someone who changed the world with a smile.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN WILLIAM J. “BILL” DIEHL, USCG (RET.)

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Captain William J. “Bill” Diehl after serving 13 years as the president of the Greater Houston Port Bureau.

Captain Diehl was born and raised in Olean, New York, as one of nine children. Of those, 6 served in the military, each retiring with more than 20 years of service. He is a 1982

United States Coast Guard Academy graduate with a master’s degree from the University of Michigan in Naval Architecture, Marine Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering.

Before working at the Port Bureau, Captain Diehl spent 31 years in the U.S. Coast Guard. In his final assignment, he commanded the Coast Guard’s largest operational unit: Sector Houston-Galveston. During Hurricane Ike, Captain Diehl served as the Coast Guard Incident Commander, leading 2,600 Coast Guard personnel who saved 235 lives. He also directed the clean-up of 240 oil spills and spearheaded the most substantial waterway restoration effort in the branch’s history. In 2008, he retired with two Meritorious Service Medals, three Coast Guard Commendation Medals, the 9–11 Medal, and the Coast Guard Achievement Medal, among many other awards.

Captain Diehl joined the Greater Houston Port Bureau after his career in the Coast Guard. This organization serves more than 260 member companies in the Houston region and supplies its members with detailed vessel traffic information, market analysis, and maritime expertise on safety, security, and environmental issues. Under Captain Diehl’s leadership, the Port Bureau dramatically increased in membership, expanded its business, and hosted countless port education sessions. He also worked with the Houston Congressional Delegation to advocate for dredging, coastal protection, and Project–11, an initiative to deepen and widen the Houston Ship Channel.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to honor Captain Diehl, who has exemplified the Coast Guard’s motto, “Semper Paratus,” throughout his career—both in and out of uniform. A special thank you to his wife, Annette; their children, Rachel, Daniel, and Michael; and 2 grandchildren, Avery and John—without their support, his accomplishments and service to country would not have been possible.

Congratulations to my friend. Bravo Zulu.

CELEBRATING 58 YEARS OF HEAD START

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today, I recognize and celebrate 58 years of quality Head Start programming. I am grateful for Head Start and its dedicated staff that go above-and-beyond to meet the needs of children and families in Chicago and across the nation.

Since its establishment in 1965, Head Start has provided comprehensive early childhood education to over 35 million American children and families. Head Start was specifically designed to help break the cycle of poverty for low-income families by delivering targeted services to meet the emotional, social, nutritional, physical, and mental health of program participants. Having started out as a volunteer-based, eight-week, summer, bridge program back in the 1960’s, Head Start now serves as the primary means by which pre-school children living in poverty receive school readiness support and services. Further, Head Start has assisted lower-income families, pregnant woman, infants, and toddlers through the introduction of the Early Head Start Program since 1995.