

Jill's passionate advocacy for Tule Springs has ensured they will always be safe and that our children and grandchildren can enjoy them for years to come.

These protected lands tell a story and teach the next generation about our American values for conservation and preservation of our most precious remnants of our national history.

I thank Jill for all of her hard work to protect Southern Nevada's beautiful outdoors. The people of Nevada's Third District are eternally grateful for Jill and all that she has done. I am wishing Jill the best of luck in her next chapter.

azerbaijan's blockade

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the proud Representative of a large Armenian-American community in southern Nevada as we mark 100 days since Azerbaijan began a devastating, heartless blockade of Artsakh, cutting off 120,000 Armenians from a critical humanitarian lifeline and their main artery to the outside world.

For 100 days, Azerbaijan has denied the citizens of Artsakh basic human rights and access to food, fuel, and medicine in freezing conditions on what is on its way to becoming a humanitarian catastrophe.

As if that wasn't enough, we have seen increasingly escalatory and troubling rhetoric from Azerbaijani officials in just the last few days.

It is long overdue that our government acts to hold Azerbaijan accountable for its heartless treatment of the innocent Armenian civilians in Artsakh.

That is why I was proud to join my colleagues as an original cosponsor of H. Res. 108 in February condemning Azerbaijan's brutal blockade and calling for an end to this manmade humanitarian crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I continue to urge the administration to take action here and to respond to Azerbaijan's aggression by cutting off U.S. military assistance in line with section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act. Particularly, as we enter the thick of the appropriations process, I will also continue to work to ensure that vital humanitarian assistance is delivered to civilians who continue to suffer from the blockade and ongoing fighting.

During these difficult times, I share the serious concerns of my constituents in southern Nevada's Armenian-American community. I will continue to be an advocate for solutions to this manmade crisis.

I will always stand with the Armenian people and to work to secure much-needed relief as they face down continued threats and unjustified aggression from Azerbaijan.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 26 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

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

Holy God, we need Your presence with us this day. As a deer longs for streams of water, so our souls long for You. Our very beings thirst for You, the living God.

Be with those who intentionally fast in this season of Lent and Ramadan. Even as they wash their hands, purify their hearts, and draw near to You, draw near to them. Call us each to come closer to You and fast from all that tempts and distracts us from a right relationship with You.

Deliver us from our dependence on our physical strength and uphold us with the power You alone bestow on us. Save us from our inclination to fill our minds with disparaging thoughts and our mouths with sarcasm and gossip. Release us from anything that deters us from the good and righteous life You call us to lead.

Then may we in our deprivation be privileged to receive Your revelation of truth. May we, in our weakness, learn to draw our strength from You.

Break into our lives this season and remind us once again that who we are, what we enjoy, and all that we receive are grace gifts from You. We humble ourselves before You in the hope that You will restore us to the fullness which is found only in You.

In Your most holy name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ROSS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. ROSS 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

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

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN FLOOD COALITION

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the American Flood Coalition for 5 years of driving proactive solutions to combat flooding.

During this time, the American Flood Coalition has brought together political, military, business, and local civic leaders to build resilience against stronger storms and more frequent flooding.

In North Carolina's Fifth District, recent tropical storms have brought inches of rain in only a matter of hours, triggering destructive floods and landslides. These storms can leave behind millions of dollars in damages that burden communities for years.

The American Flood Coalition works across all levels of government, supporting process improvements and projects that directly protect against such impacts while lifting the experiences and needs of members to drive transformational adaptation policy at the Federal level.

Congratulations, American Flood Coalition, on 5 years of protecting our Nation's residents, economy, and military installations from flooding.

HONORING JULIE STIVERS 2023 SCHOOL LIBRARIAN OF THE YEAR

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

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 2023 School Librarian of the Year, Wake County's own Julie Stivers.

At the Mount Vernon Middle School, she is the librarian and has worked to create an environment where students not only learn and thrive, but also where they can express their creativity and see their identities and interests represented in literature.

Outside her library, a sign boldly reads: "In This Library, We Don't Shush, We Roar."

Children's socioeconomic status should not determine their opportunities to learn, which is exactly why the library holds two book fairs a year where students can choose new books at no cost.

As others have worked to ban books from schools across the country, Julie has fought against harmful proposals that will ban LGBTQ+ books in Wake County.

Julie cultivates a welcoming space to ensure her students feel at home.

Congratulations on this well-deserved achievement.

BIDEN WILL BE JUDGED

(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, The Washington Post lead editorial on March 10 confirmed the murderous invasion of Ukraine by war criminal Putin demands Western support of Ukraine as "... President Biden will be tested and judged by his own success in making a similar case for this country to step up by applying its military and industrial might."

Sadly, there "is a gap between the West's supportive rhetoric on equipping Ukraine ... and the pace of actual deliveries of arms and ammunition."

"It's critical that the administration perceive those interests clearly and explain them compellingly. . . .

"... for our European allies' security but also to maintain a basic principle of civilized international relations: that one state cannot invade and subjugate another. . . . It is also crucial to transmit the message to China, North Korea and other would-be aggressors that the United States will stand fast in defense. . . ."

In conclusion, it is clear "President Biden will be tested and judged" by his decisions to support the courageous people of Ukraine.

Thank you, Prince William, heir to the British throne, for visiting the British troops in Poland training Ukrainians for freedom. President Andrzej Duda is the courageous President of Poland.

END HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, any mom or dad knows that being a parent is a lifetime job. It doesn't end when your kids are 18 and it certainly doesn't end when they are 7.

That is why I was horrified when a Republican colleague of mine on the Agriculture Committee introduced a bill last week to kick parents with kids over the age of 7 and older adults, ages 50-65, off SNAP by imposing harsh new work requirements.

Let's be clear about who this would penalize: grandparents raising grandchildren, folks who can't work full-time because childcare is too expensive, and single moms and dads struggling to make ends meet.

Over 10 million people—1 in 4 SNAP recipients—live in households that would be at risk of losing food assistance under this bill, including 4 million children.

When we kick parents off SNAP, we make it harder for them to feed their children. It is as simple as that.

We have a chance to increase access to healthy and locally grown food by funding SNAP and passing a farm bill with a robust nutrition title.

Let's focus on helping families put food on the table instead of trying to figure out ways to make life harder for working parents.

Let's all commit to ending hunger now.

NATIONAL AG WEEK

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate National Agriculture Week, which kicked off March 21, also known as National Ag Day.

For 50 years, this week has marked a time to honor American farm families and the essential and often unsung role that agriculture plays in all our lives.

The safe and abundant food and fiber supply that Americans rely on on a daily basis comes from hardworking farming communities across this country.

With rising input costs, market uncertainty, increasing regulations, and global supply chain disruptions, producers are facing increased hardship.

Only 2 percent of Americans are employed in the agriculture sector, yet they successfully feed our entire Nation and the world, despite the odds being stacked against them.

During this week of education and appreciation, I want to emphasize rural America, or what I like to call essential America, as the backbone of our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, this year, we are reauthorizing the farm bill.

This farm bill will put producers first and aims to revitalize rural America by restoring the farm safety net, expanding market access, and much more.

National Agriculture Week is the perfect opportunity to highlight the hardworking Americans who have dedicated their lives to providing a safe and abundant food supply.

I honor their contributions to society and commend farmers and ranchers who add so much to our national culture.

Mr. Speaker, this is a week where I call on everyone to celebrate National Agriculture Week.

CULTURE WARS IN OUR CLASSROOMS

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, when my Lord, my savior, Jesus Christ, was on this Earth, He said: Suffer the children to come to me and do not deny them.

Unfortunately, this week, my Republican colleagues are bringing forward a bill, H.R. 5, the so-called Parents Bill of Rights, which will not teach our children to love, not teach them tolerance, not teach them the plethora of issues and ideas that extend to all Americans.

It will bring culture wars into our classrooms. It will deprive our students

of accurate and fact-based education. It will not teach them tolerance and love.

Americans everywhere overwhelmingly agree that Congress should focus on tangible assistance that will improve student outcomes, not polarizing culture wars. The pandemic has already erased years of learning from our children, and nothing in this legislation will address that issue.

We have not had one hearing on gun violence in our classrooms. Instead, we are prioritizing MAGA talking points over improving student outcomes.

Let's get back to the people's business. Let's teach tolerance and love to our children. Let parents open their hearts and their children's hearts to what needs to be done.

FIGHTING DANGEROUS FENTANYL ADDITIVES

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

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask for my colleagues' support on my new bill, the TRANQ Research Act.

This bill directs the National Institute of Standards and Technology to analyze and advance research on dangerous fentanyl additives that are putting public safety officers' lives at risk, including those guarding our borders.

Fentanyl has been entering our country at record levels over the past 2 years. Now, we are witnessing dangerous cartels adding even more harmful chemicals, like tranq, to an already deadly substance.

Tranq is a dangerous substance containing a veterinary tranquilizer, which when combined with fentanyl becomes even more deadly than fentanyl itself.

The Drug Enforcement Agency reports that between 2020 and 2021, detections of tranq in fentanyl increased 198 percent in the southern United States. From 2020 to 2022, Georgia alone saw a 1,120 percent increase in overdose deaths involving this deadly concoction.

Mr. Speaker, this issue may be even more widespread than we know. This bill is another step in fighting dangerous fentanyl additives. By understanding what these additives are, how to test for them, and how to safely handle them, we can better protect our first responders.

Mr. Speaker, this is a commonsense bill, and I ask for my colleagues' support on this bill.

ADVOCATING FOR FREE AND COMPETITIVE MARKETS

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

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask for a quick show of hands: How many of us in this room have ever had someone