

senior citizen community centers saying: When are we going to get the ability to have a cost of living so that we can live because we have been the ones who have helped build this Nation?

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want my colleagues and the administration to be unafraid of moving forward on H.R. 40.

Isn't it time that we assess the impact of slavery in this country?

Over 200 years it has never been addressed. It has never been addressed. H.R. 40 needs to pass on the issue of studying slavery and developing reparation proposals.

RECOGNIZING THE BEST OF THE FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Charleston in South Carolina's First Congressional District.

For the 10th consecutive year, the Holy City has been recognized as the best city to visit in the United States by Travel and Leisure magazine.

It is easy to see why. Charleston's tremendous natural beauty, rich history, and friendly faces make it a magnet to visitors from across the country.

To quote Travel & Leisure's article: "The city expresses the perfect balance of Southern charm, knockout food and drinks, and walkability."

When they say drinks, they mean some of the best cocktails in the South.

I want to commend our tourism and hospitality industry, our mayor, and every resident of the city of Charleston for this decades-long recognition.

SAVING SEA TURTLES

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the Hilton Head Island Sea Turtle Patrol and their sister group, the Turtle Trackers.

From the beginning of May until the end of October every single year, hundreds of sea turtles return to Hilton Head Island to lay their eggs on 14 miles of sandy beaches.

These turtles are a crucial part of our ocean environment, and each nest is critically important for protecting their future as they are still endangered.

For over 15 years, Amber Kuehn, has led the effort to protect the island's sea turtle nests. When she began the Turtle Trackers program, it was just Amber and about six other women. Today there are over 500 volunteers across Hilton Head Island who work hard to remove obstacles from the beach. They fill holes, and they make it easier for the mother turtles to return safely and return to the water every year.

Her elite corps of 18 expert volunteers forms the Hilton Head Island's Sea Turtle Patrol. They travel the whole length of the beach every morn-

ing in search of sea turtle nests. Since they began their work, the number of sea turtle nests on Hilton Head Island has increased by over 300 percent. In 2021 they tracked and maintained approximately 423 nests.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in commending Amber and her team for their incredible conservation efforts.

BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND OSTROH, UKRAINE

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the city of Beaufort on raising three-quarters of a million dollars for their sister city, Ostroh, in western Ukraine.

After the invasion of Ukraine began, Mayor Stephen Murray was looking for ways to help so he began looking for a sister city. There are many very strong similarities between Beaufort and Ostroh. They are very similar in size, both have centuries of rich history, and both have some of the oldest universities in their respective regions.

After connecting with Mayor Yurii Yahodka in Ostroh, which currently houses thousands of refugees from the eastern part of the country, Mayor Murray and the residents of Beaufort spent the next 4 months raising money and raising awareness across the Lowcountry.

Beaufort's famous Thibault Gallery sold Ukrainian flag pins, and they raised over \$40,000. Community groups, businesses, and citizens from all walks of life raised almost \$150,000 through raffles, fundraising drives, and several large anonymous donations to represent and assist their sister city.

Mayor Murray did not stop there. He worked tirelessly with members of the city council to secure MREs, grits, and cornmeal from local South Carolina businesses to bring approximately \$600,000 worth of food and supplies to the people of Ukraine.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Mayor Murray and all of the residents of Beaufort for this incredibly generous effort.

HONORING SARA CATHEY

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sara Cathey, a paramedic who lost over 125 pounds to donate her kidney to her niece Natalyn. Natalyn had both of her kidneys removed at only 1½ years of age due to a devastating genetic condition.

As a healthcare professional, Sarah understood the difficulty of securing a donor kidney and had herself tested. She was a perfect match. But one thing stood in the way. When Sara learned her weight could prevent her from saving Natalyn's life, she was more determined than ever to get in shape. She got to work changing her habits and her lifestyle so that little Natalyn could have a chance at life.

Through grit and determination, she reached her goal and was cleared for surgery. The hard work and effort she put forth shows the love and compassion she has for her family and everyone in the Lowcountry whom she selflessly serves each and every day.

CONGRATULATING THE CHARLESTON RIVERDOGS

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Charleston RiverDogs, our Lowcountry minor league baseball team, on clinching their second consecutive league championship finishing the post season with a 4-0 record.

I have twice had the privilege of throwing out the first pitch. The RiverDogs is an integral part of the Charleston community and has created lasting memories for our community and in the Lowcountry for the better part of the last 40 years.

This year's team also tied the franchise record for the number of wins in a season, and I want to congratulate the RiverDogs on a terrific season and wish them all the best of luck in the next season.

GOOD MORNING TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I wish a very good morning to you and to the House of Representatives.

I am AARON BEAN. I am one of the new guys. Aside from a motion to adjourn earlier this week, this right now is the very first time I am speaking on this floor, and I want to say what an honor it is to be with everyone in this body.

To the people of northeast Florida—and specifically the brand new Fourth District of the free State of Florida—I say that I am humbled and grateful that you sent me here to be your voice on this floor.

I am keenly aware of the amazing opportunity it is as well as the responsibilities it comes with.

I am also, Mr. Speaker, keenly aware that our country and Nation have challenges—lots of them. The border and our growing deficit are just the tip of the iceberg.

So I say to all the Members here, I look forward to working with you, tackling these challenges, and making America more secure, safer, and stronger.

Mr. Speaker, let's go get 'em.

STRONG NATIONS NEED TAX COLLECTION

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

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, for most of my life, I have been a student of history. As a CPA, a tax lawyer, and a former head of the second largest tax agency in this country, I focused on the fact that if you look at empires, republics, and kingdoms, the ones that succeeded were those that were able to collect taxes. And when they were unable to collect taxes, they fell.

I have seen patriotic anarchists come to this floor. They want America to be

strong, but they want our ability to enforce our financial laws to be weak.

There are those who say correctly that we should not defund the police because we have crime in the streets. But we also have to prevent crime in the suites.

Yet every time a billionaire successfully cheats on his taxes, a member of the Freedom Caucus earns his wings. There are two threats to our ability to collect taxes. Both of them seem to be supported by many on the Republican side.

The first of these is the underfunding of the IRS. For 3 days and 3 long nights, we heard each faction of the Republican Party say how they wanted procedures that would eventually lead to reducing our national debt, and then the first thing they bring to the floor is a bill that increases the national debt by \$1.6 trillion according to six bipartisan Secretaries of the Treasury.

Frankly, I think that estimate is way too low because I have seen tax collection from every side; as a legislator, as a tax administrator and auditor, and as an adviser to private businesses.

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When you conduct audits, you not only bring in money from that taxpayer, but you create an image in that social circle that tax returns need to be filled out accurately and even conservatively. That will no doubt lead to far more tax collection than the \$1.6 trillion that has been estimated.

Keep in mind that working people really can't evade taxes. They get W-2s and 1099s. It is those with complicated tax returns and our large corporations that we are talking about.

Now, with the additional funding the Democrats have provided the IRS, we can finally put "service" back into Internal Revenue Service. Hopefully, they will answer the damn phones.

We need to see one IRS employee for every 2,000 tax returns that are filed. As you can see on this chart, that is what Ronald Reagan had back in 1988. Now, we are close to 3,500 tax returns for every IRS employee. That is untenable. That is why Donald Trump could take outrageous positions in his tax returns. He counted on light audits.

Ronald Reagan paid his taxes and staffed the IRS. Stand with Ronald Reagan and stand with adequate funding for the Internal Revenue Service.

There is a second threat to our ability to collect taxes—it is longer term—and that is the possible rise of cryptocurrency. When somebody tells you what they are, believe them. Cryptocurrency tells you what it is or aspires to be in its name. Cryptocurrency literally means hidden money.

Now, I am the only Member of this House to get a grade of F from the only organization dedicated to crypto advancement that rates Members of this House because I have been trying to ban crypto for over 5 years.

No one has helped me more in that effort than Sam Bankman-Fried, but some will view Sam Bankman-Fried as just one big snake in a crypto Garden of Eden. The fact is, crypto is a garden of snakes.

From the outside, it looks like it is just a token, an electronic pet rock, something to bet on, not because it has any value or use but because you might be able to sell it for even more to somebody else. But longer term investors in crypto are investing in it because they hope it becomes a currency.

How does crypto compete with the dollar, the existing U.S. currency? It is right there in the name. Cryptocurrency means hidden money, and the market for cryptocurrency is tax evaders trying to hide their assets from the IRS.

SHERIFF JOHN D'AGOSTINI SERVED HIS COMMUNITY WELL

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, if you want to understand successful law enforcement, the first place to look is the career of El Dorado County Sheriff John D'Agostini.

It is not hard. It was under his leadership—in fact, it was because of his leadership—that the day-to-day operations of his department became the subject of the popular TV series "Sheriffs: El Dorado County" that ran from 2014 to 2019.

It is the very definition of successful policing, pioneered by Sir Robert Peel and perfected and practiced by Sheriff D'Agostini. Ideal police departments are run as extensions of the communities they serve. They work in partnership with local citizens, and this was the heart of Sheriff D'Agostini's success.

I have seen it over and over in action. During the devastating King fire, I watched him at his post even when his own ranch was imminently threatened. During the Caldor fire, he opened that same ranch to the stream of evacuees who had fled the devastation with only the clothes on their backs. I can't tell you the number of times I watched him during these terrifying disasters—always calm, always focused, always reassuring, and omnipresent.

He is loved by his community and his department because he loves them, and that caring is what binds the community to the sheriff's department and exemplified and, indeed, defined his successful record of modern policing.

He was first elected in 2010 by a razor-thin margin of 1,300 votes, but as he proved himself, he became a beloved institution in the community and won reelection overwhelmingly in 2014 and 2018 and would have won by acclamation in 2022, but for the fact that he chose to retire back into the community he has so faithfully served and protected.

They were not all easy years. He lost a deputy to an illegal alien in a marijuana grow in 2019 and became a national figure warning of the dangers that our porous border and sanctuary policies present to communities across America and to those who risk their lives to protect us.

When State bureaucrats ordered businesses to shut down during the COVID hysteria, Sheriff D'Agostini stood up for the constitutional rights of his constituents and refused to destroy their livelihoods. His courageous stand has since been affirmed by the mounting evidence that the lockdowns cost lives, destroyed livelihoods, and did nothing to slow the spread of the disease.

Sheriff D'Agostini worked his way up through the ranks, first graduating from the Sacramento County Sheriff's Academy in 1993. Throughout his career, Sheriff D'Agostini served in numerous positions, including patrol deputy, detective, SWAT team member, narcotics investigator, rangemaster and firearms instructor, and investigator for the Amador County District Attorney's Office.

Sheriff D'Agostini is well known for his many accomplishments and contributions to the community, including his leadership in constructing a new public safety headquarters located in Placerville. This building now provides local law enforcement with emergency operations services, a 911 dispatch center, a morgue, an evidence building, and a special operations and training building, as well as an indoor shooting range and armory.

Mr. Speaker, without law enforcement, there is no law, and without law, there is no civilization, which is why it is impossible to overstate the necessity of our local police departments and the law and order they uphold within our communities.

I am proud today to congratulate John on his numerous accomplishments and his exemplary leadership, and, on behalf of the grateful citizens across El Dorado County, thank him for his extraordinary service.

El Dorado County has been extremely fortunate to have had his leadership for these past 12 years. Although he isn't going anywhere—he is retiring right back into the community that raised him—and although his successor is well prepared under his tutelage to carry on his successful policies, that won't stop us from missing him anyway in the role that he defined and the responsibilities that he discharged so well.

COMMITMENT TO THE BIG FIRST

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, in my first remarks before the 118th Congress, I rise today to share with you what I learned from my first term representing the Big First District of Kansas and how I will respond over the next 2 years.