

He continued to say, “I fell to the ground from my seat and tried to act as if I were already dead. As he panned the room with his handgun, I pled for my life and screamed, ‘Please don’t shoot me.’ We were met face to face with pure evil.”

No person, Madam Speaker, or child should ever have to go through what Troy and the countless others continue to experience in our country of being gunned down while learning, gunned down while praying, gunned down while shopping, gunned down, gunned down over and over again.

This is the reality of the United States of America, where gun violence is the number one cause of death for our children.

How is this acceptable?

We must pass comprehensive gun reform immediately. Enough of the bloodshed.

DERELICTION OF DUTY

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

Ms. BALINT. Madam Speaker, this week I have heard from grandfathers, moms, students, and even from my Uber driver the other night, all asking some version of the same question, which is, how can we continue to allow our children to get murdered in their schools?

This week, six Nashville families are heartbroken. The parents of three 9-year-olds are grieving. They will join the families of thousands and thousands and thousands and thousands of American families who have lost loved ones to gun violence. Four hundred American children have been gunned down this year already.

It is unbelievable that it is happening in this Nation.

I do not accept that this is the cost of freedom in this country. Americans have said overwhelmingly that they want us to do something about it. We in Congress actually could do something about it. We can vote on the floor of this Chamber for background checks and to ban assault weapons.

Throwing up our hands and saying there is nothing that we can do is a dereliction of duty.

I stand with the children of America.

□ 1215

CONGRATULATING SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY'S MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Ms. JACOBS. Madam Speaker, I rise today as an incredibly proud San Diegan and the proud daughter of an SDSU alum to congratulate San Diego State University for making it to the Final Four for the first time in program history.

After the tournament was canceled in 2020 during one of SDSU's best seasons, our dreams of a championship appearance were dashed.

This team has risen to the challenge, and this year's tournament has been electric for SDSU, defying the odds and expectations set against them.

Led by Coach Brian Dutcher, they have been focused, steady, and resilient. They beat No. 1 seed Alabama 71-64 in the Sweet 16. They beat Creighton 57-56 after senior Darrion Trammell sank a free throw with 1.2 seconds left in the game.

Out of 363 Division I men's basketball teams, SDSU has outlasted all but three. They will face off against Florida Atlantic this weekend.

With more than 400,000 alumni, our entire community and all of California are behind you and rooting for you.

Let's go, San Diego State.

PREPARING CHILDREN FOR LIFE

(Mr. LIEU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LIEU. Madam Speaker, extreme MAGA Republican policies on education resulted in the following: A Florida principal lost his job because they wanted to teach classical artworks like Michelangelo's classic, “David.” A school in Florida banned “Ruby Bridges,” a Disney movie that talks about desegregation. You have textbooks with Rosa Parks but not describing her race.

What is going to end up happening is that MAGA students are going to be so sheltered and unprepared for life. When they start work or go to a 4-year college or a trade school, they are going to be made fun of. They are going to be disrespected because they would have been kept ignorant.

Don't keep your kids ignorant. Teach them classic works of art. Teach them about civil rights. Teach them about slavery. Teach them about desegregation.

They are going to learn it anyway when they grow up. Don't shelter them.

BUDGET MUST RESPOND TO AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, in a Budget Committee hearing yesterday, I could not restrain my pain to raise the question of three little babies and three adults killed in Nashville with assault weapons.

Does anyone know the costliness—over \$200 billion of gun violence in America. I raised that in the Budget Committee because the witnesses were trying to blame all of the deficit on President Biden.

I believe in a balanced budget for States and cities like Houston. We can do that. Please understand that the

Federal Government is the umbrella on a rainy day.

A disaster in Mississippi—the Federal Government comes. A disaster in Ohio, in East Palestine—the Federal Government comes. Raging hurricanes—the Federal Government comes. Raging fires.

As a member of the Budget Committee, I can assure you we will look to the President's \$6.7 trillion budget, but we are looking to also bring down the deficit as we responsibly need to do.

I will not support eliminating Medicare payments for those who need it, Social Security payments for those who need it, education funding that the Federal Government does through Pell grants, climate change dollars, or being able to ensure that we are the umbrella on a rainy day.

The budget of the American people must respond to the American people. We will get the right budget and lift the debt ceiling.

RESTORING AMERICA'S ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. KIGGANS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to highlight the passage of H.R. 1, the Lower Energy Costs Act, which I voted for today, and this Chamber passed only minutes ago.

Over the past 2 years, we have seen record increases in energy prices coupled with inflation cause countless hardships for families in my district and across the country. In fact, gas prices have risen nearly every single month of President Biden's term, long before Putin's invasion of Ukraine. That is not to mention the fact that, in 2021, U.S. imports of Russian oil nearly tripled.

Despite these facts, this administration has consistently opposed American energy development.

Rather than restricting domestic energy and mineral production, we need to unlock American resources to provide energy security here at home and for our allies abroad.

H.R. 1 allows our domestic energy industry to flourish and puts us back on the path to energy dominance by removing unnecessary, complicated permitting regulations and modernizing outdated laws.

Many of the problems America's energy industry faces today stem from burdensome permitting requirements, the outdated NEPA process, and endless litigation over already leased lands and projects currently in progress.

H.R. 1 tackles these challenges head-on, unleashing American energy, reforming our broken permitting process, and imposing filing deadlines on litigation concerning energy and mining projects.

By doing so, this bill not only helps us slash energy costs for working families but also reduces our dependence on foreign fuel sources, which, in turn, benefits our environment and bolsters our national security.

America continues to be one of the cleanest energy producers in the world. For example, Russian natural gas exported to Europe has a lifecycle emissions profile 41 percent higher than U.S. liquefied natural gas exported to Europe. In fact, if the European Union switched all of their natural gas imports in 2021 from Russian to U.S., it is estimated that global emissions would have been reduced by over 218 million tons.

That is not to mention that the U.S. is at least 50 percent import reliant for 48 different mineral commodities, 24 of which come from China and 6 of which come from Russia.

Our energy security is national security, and it allows our Nation to deliver greater global emission reductions that substantially lower energy prices.

Madam Speaker, I am glad to say that not only will this bill benefit the people of my district at the pump and on their energy bills, but thanks to my amendment, I have guaranteed that it also protects the beautiful coastal waters that southeast Virginians call home by ensuring the existing moratoriums on drilling off the coast of Virginia are not affected.

We have worked very hard on the Natural Resources Committee to ensure this bill will directly benefit the American people.

We must restore strength in our economy, and that starts with restoring America's energy independence. Republicans are leading on this issue, and it is my hope that this bill will make its way to the President's desk and be signed into law so all Americans can benefit.

HONORING THE GALLAUDET ELEVEN

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Gallaudet Eleven and highlight their important yet seemingly unknown contributions during the space race, contributions that led to invaluable scientific knowledge and, eventually, the successful Apollo 11 Moon landing.

Before NASA could send humans to space, the agency needed to better understand the effects of prolonged weightlessness on the human body.

So, in the late 1950s, NASA and the U.S. Naval School of Aviation Medicine established a joint research program to study these effects. They recruited 11 deaf men from Gallaudet University: Harold Domich, Robert Greenmun, Barron Gulak, Raymond Harper, Jerald Jordan, Harry Larson, David Myers, Donald Peterson, Raymond Piper, Alvin Steele, and John Zakutney.

All but one of these men had lost their hearing early in their lives due to spinal meningitis, which damaged the vestibular system of their inner ear in a way that made them immune to motion sickness.

Now known as the Gallaudet Eleven, these men underwent extensive testing over the course of 10 years, pushing their bodies to the limits to advance our space program.

The testing and experiments included living 12 days straight inside a 20-foot slow rotation room, which remained in a constant motion of 10 revolutions per minute, a 200-mile journey on the choppy seas off the coast of Nova Scotia, and a series of zero-G flights in the notorious "vomit comet" aircraft.

The decade's worth of experimentation gave researchers critical insight into how the body's sensory system works when gravitational cues from the inner ear aren't available, as in the case of space flight. This insight helped give researchers the information they needed to safely send other men to space.

We cannot ignore that the space race played a significant part in the Cold War. Americans and Soviets competed to prove their technological and intellectual superiority by becoming the first nation to put a human into space.

When we landed on the Moon, our astronauts were seen as the ultimate American heroes, a distinction they would not have enjoyed without the contributions of the Gallaudet Eleven.

The service of these 11 men to the United States embodies a legacy of bravery, dedication, and love of country.

Madam Speaker, please join me in expressing gratitude to the Gallaudet Eleven for their honorable service to our Nation.

I hope that by highlighting the critical contributions of these unsung heroes, I have helped ignite an effort to provide them with the recognition and credit that they are due.

PROBLEMS CAUSED BY NAVY DRY DOCK CLOSURES

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address my grave concerns with the recent closure of four Navy dry docks that are responsible for maintaining our Navy fleet and sustaining our Naval seapower and maritime strength.

Approximately 7 weeks ago, the U.S. Navy closed three dry docks at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton and another at the nearby Trident Refit Facility in Bangor, Washington.

One of these dry docks that was closed was the only dry dock on the West Coast certified to repair a nuclear aircraft carrier.

Without this vital infrastructure in place, our aircraft carriers in the Pacific are left completely vulnerable. We are now left with one dry dock on the East Coast that has the capacity to repair an aircraft carrier.

Combined, these shipyards used to have 22 dry docks. With 4 out of commission, we are down to 18 and have lost 22 percent of our critical Naval support infrastructure. We are now left with one dry dock on the East Coast that has the capacity to repair an aircraft carrier.

As a result of significant divestment in the 1990s, our Nation has only four public shipyards: Puget Sound and Pearl Harbor on the West Coast and Norfolk and Portsmouth on the East Coast.

As you can see here in this graph, the U.S. now has the fewest public shipyards than any other time since the end of World War II. Additionally, we now have 36 percent of the Navy's attack submarine fleet either in or waiting for maintenance.

This backlog is due to a multitude of factors, including workforce challenges, but having fewer shipyards and dry docks is a significant part of the problem.

This problem impacts the readiness of our submarines and aircraft carriers and our entire Navy fleet, the men and women who crew them, the defense industrial base, and our national defense as a whole.

Without the basic infrastructure needed to support our Navy, how can we possibly provide adequate defense capabilities if called upon to engage with our adversaries.

If we were to engage in conflict with a near-peer adversary such as China, we need to have infrastructure at the ready to repair damaged vessels in a timely manner and return them to their area of operation.

□ 1230

Increasing our maritime industrial base, including dry docks, is absolutely critical for our Navy to be able to effectively defend the United States and must be prioritized in our national defense budget.

I came to Congress to restore Americans' strength. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the House Armed Services Committee from both sides of the aisle to ensure that we support and invest in our public shipyards in order to protect and defend our great Nation.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

MILITARY PAY MUST BE INCREASED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from California (Mr. MIKE GARCIA) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GARCIA of California. Madam Speaker, I thank my fellow naval aviator from Virginia for this precious time.

Madam Speaker, today I rise as a formal naval officer who is concerned for our enlisted troops, and particularly our junior enlisted troops within the Department of Defense, the soldiers, the sailors, the airmen, the marines, the space guardians.

As a massive government rolls forward spending more and more and gathering more and more debt, our enlisted troops continue to do the tough