

the well to protest the fact that after a murder, a terrorist act killing six citizens at the Covenant Presbyterian Church, there was no response from the supermajority Republicans in the general assembly, nor at the time from the Republican Governor.

They went to the well, while the galleries were full of people protesting the lax gun reform laws or gun laws in Tennessee, to protest and say, we should have some gun laws to protect our children and to protect people all over our country who are victims of mass shootings.

They expelled two of the members and tried to expel three for simply raising an issue that otherwise would not be raised by a supermajority and that was favored by a majority of the people in Tennessee by far—red flag laws.

No more weapons of war should be sold, the weapons that people used to do mass shootings at Covenant Presbyterian Church; in Louisville, at the bank; and almost everywhere where there are mass shootings in this country.

That was shameful for the Tennessee General Assembly to try to expel three and to expel two, and not to take up gun reform.

Governor Lee later took up gun reform and said he was for red flag laws, but a red flag law was proposed this week, and it didn't even get a motion or a second.

In New York, the House Judiciary Committee adjourned to New York, a recess there, to have a hearing yesterday allegedly concerning a State official, the DA, Mr. Bragg, and his record that they call pro-crime and anti-victim.

What they really went to New York to do was to act as Donald Trump's public relations firm and defense firm, something the United States Congress is not empowered to do for any individual. They are not empowered to go into another jurisdiction where federalization laws say that the States have their own prosecutors, and the Federal Government is not supposed to go in and ask for information that they can then give to the defense, and attack Mr. Bragg.

The facts were well-pointed out that New York is a safe city, and safer than most of the major cities in Mr. JORDAN's State of Ohio. They attacked Mr. Bragg and said he was supported by George Soros.

What does that have in common with Tennessee?

The people they went after were minorities.

Mr. Bragg, the first African-American-elected DA in the borough of Manhattan and in Tennessee the two youngest members of the general assembly who happened to be African American, a minority group by far in Tennessee and the Tennessee General Assembly.

They accused Mr. Bragg of being supported by George Soros, which he was. We know that is a trope for anti-Semi-

tism. They go after a minority religion, a minority DA, and try to appeal to their base and try to help Donald Trump. That is shameful, as well.

Shame on the Judiciary Committee of this House. Shame on the General Assembly of Tennessee.

Do your job. Protect your citizens. Pass meaningful laws to restrict weapons of war and impose red flag laws, so we can stop people from committing crimes—mass murders in this country, which have become too commonplace. Let's uplift our political dialogue to where we don't attack minorities to get away with obfuscating our real purpose, which is supporting Donald Trump, who committed two of the worst crimes in this country: one, trying to steal the 2020 election and telling people it was a steal, fraudulently, and getting campaign contributions; and, two, in 2016—if Mr. Bragg is right—covering up payments to a porn star to win the 2016 election illegally.

Madam Speaker, the worst crime in New York was 9/11. Then there was the Central Park Five. Five Black youths who were alleged and convicted of killing a jogger in Central Park. This was back, I think, in the 20th century.

Mr. Trump took out full-page newspaper ads in three papers and said all of those five should get the death penalty. They got sentences, they didn't get the death penalty. Later they were exonerated, and it was shown that somebody else committed the crimes—but not after they spent 41 years in prison, an average of 8 years a piece, and not after the State had to pay \$41 million for their time in prison.

Did Donald Trump apologize?

No, he doesn't apologize. Shameful.

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 56 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:

Today, most merciful God, we remember those 6 million Jews and other minorities who cried to You, fearing that in the face of the horrendous genocide of the Holocaust, You had forsaken them. For years You seemed so far from saving them, so distant from their cries of anguish.

Yet, amidst the horrific experiences, the heartbreak of innocent lives lost,

the threat of torture and cruel suffering, nevertheless, they held fast to You and to their Jewish faith. They did not disavow their divine heritage, even in the face of death. Even now, as the Jewish community recites Kaddish for the generations lost, they proclaim their belief in the Sun even when it isn't shining.

Use this annual commemoration to inspire in us such faith in the face of adversity, but at the same time remind us, warn us, how seductive is the desire for power, how natural the inclination toward hate, how insidious the culpability of apathy. Lead us not into the hands of our enemies, neither allow us to perpetuate or ignore the injustice to our neighbor.

Remind us that You will not forsake Your people. You will not hide Your face from us, for in You do we find strength to live justly. In You do we find reason to live rightly.

In Your most holy and merciful 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 gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BALDERSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BALDERSON 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.

PROTECTING WOMEN AND GIRLS' SPORTS

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

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a former female athlete, mother of two daughters who are athletes, lifelong runner, and former coach of girls' sports teams. This week we will vote on a bill to protect women and girls' sports. I led a similar bill in the Virginia Senate and look forward to supporting this measure in the U.S. House.

I feel passionately about this issue and want to convey how important it is to protect women's sports for future generations.

This bill is not about discriminating against any group of people, but rather protecting the benefits of allowing biological girls to push themselves and bond over a shared physical goal. Allowing women to excel in a physical activity promotes teamwork, sportsmanship, and self-confidence. Women's sports offer opportunities for young girls to discover their strengths and teach them that hard work pays off.

Title IX protected these opportunities and allowed young women in this country to compete and win in fair fields of play. Biological men and women are physically different and should be respected for those differences.

Failing to acknowledge these differences takes away opportunities for girls and women to succeed on the playing field. We cannot allow this to happen.

I am proud to support the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act, and I strongly urge all of my colleagues to do the same.

GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO CORRECT A MISTAKE

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise and I rise today, again, in the name of liberty and justice for all. More specifically, liberty and justice for Ralph Yarl and Kaylin Gillis as promised in our Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Speaker, earlier today in making a floor speech concerning these two persons who were victims of gun violence, I incorrectly indicated that both lost their lives.

Miraculously, Mr. Yarl did not lose his life for which I am grateful and for which I want to make the RECORD clear. I want people to know that if I make a mistake, I am going to correct my mistake in the same venue where I made it. I made a mistake, and I am grateful that I have had the opportunity to correct it.

A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

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

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of legislation I am introducing today: A balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution. This is the first bill I am introducing as a Member of Congress, and it is because I believe we need to get our fiscal house in order as it is the issue of our time.

For the first time ever, we risk passing off to our kids and grandkids a country with fewer opportunities and less freedoms than the ones we inherited, and our out-of-control debt is the reason why.

What was a problem a decade ago is quickly becoming a full-blown crisis.

We didn't get into this mess because anyone thinks that the path that we are on is sustainable. We got here because Congress has lacked the political will to do anything about it. That is why we need to fundamentally reform how this place operates in order to get the outcomes that Americans deserve.

States across America are required to balance their books. In Indiana, we make responsible spending choices and exercise fiscal discipline every single day. It is high time we brought that same Hoosier common sense to Washington, and a balanced budget amendment is the way to do it.

I encourage my colleagues to support my legislation and join me in the fight to restore fiscal responsibility.

UNSAFE CONDITIONS FOR POSTAL WORKERS

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, day in and day out, our dedicated letter carriers and postal workers deliver to America for America, but processing and delivering the mail should never leave these workers stranded, threatened, or at risk of losing their lives.

However, that is what appears to have happened during a massive winter storm that hit Buffalo and western New York in December. After numerous personal accounts of unsafe conditions for postal employees, we are calling on the Office of Inspector General in coordination with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to investigate.

Weather emergencies happen, especially in Buffalo in the wintertime. We need a clear process to protect America's postal workers when they do.

100 DAYS OF VICTORIES

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, last fall the American people voted for a Republican-led House majority to reverse course from the failures of the Pelosi-led House of the 117th Congress.

In just the first 100 days, House Republicans have kept our promises by passing the Parents Bill of Rights and the REIN IN Inflation Act, repealing funding for Biden's IRS army, and unleashing American energy with H.R. 1, while preserving our SPR and protecting it from China.

We have also restored the people's House back to its rightful owners and ensured our colleagues show up for work by ending proxy voting, held the government accountable, defended life, and forced the President to end the COVID National Emergency once and for all.

As a catalyst for these results and continued victories, we have secured

the most transparent, open, and Member-driven rules package in the House's history.

Change has come to the people's House, and it is here to stay.

CONFRONTING AN UNPRECEDENTED FOOD SECURITY CRISIS

(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, the world is confronting an unprecedented food security crisis. The World Food Program reports that a record 349 million people across 79 countries face acute food insecurity.

The COVID-19 pandemic flattened economies, fractured supply chains, and caused huge spikes in inflation. Then came Russia's invasion of Ukraine, one of the world's most important breadbaskets.

During Global Child Nutrition Month, I am not just hopeful that tackling these challenges is possible; I am confident that we can. That is because the U.S. Government, our farmers, and NGOs have responded to the crisis with historic investments, expanding global food, nutrition, and agricultural programs, including Food For Peace, McGovern-Dole, Feed the Future, USAID's nutrition, maternal and child health programs, and the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust.

Mr. Speaker, it is easy to turn on the news and become overwhelmed, but the U.S. has not only been ready to provide support to those who are hungry, we have been at the forefront. Each of these proven programs deserves our support, and I call upon my colleagues to increase funding for these programs in the annual appropriations bills. There are lives in the balance. We can end hunger now.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DELAWARE COUNTY SHERIFF RUSS MARTIN

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

Mr. BALDERSON. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to pay tribute to my dear friend, Delaware County Sheriff Russ Martin, who officially retired this week from his post as Delaware County Sheriff after nearly 34 years of dedicated public service in law enforcement.

Sheriff Martin first began his career in law enforcement as a dispatcher while attending Bowling Green State University. He later became a police officer for the city of Delaware and then served 8 years as the city's chief of police.

In 2012, he was first appointed to the Delaware County Sheriff. As Delaware County Sheriff, he added police body cameras, restored the department's cold case unit, and advocated for life-saving equipment to empower citizens and to support first responders.