

we want to ruin the lives of millions of Americans? That is not the only choice.

We have a third option. The third option is that we can let the adults come back in the room. We can take our jobs seriously. We can pass a clean debt limit bill.

Governing is hard, but it is especially hard when you let the clowns drive the car.

Please, Mr. Speaker, let the adults take the wheel.

DEBT CEILING NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOTHING NEW

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, Joe Biden and House Democrats should listen to what former Speaker NANCY PELOSI had to say about debt ceiling negotiations back in 2019, according to *The Washington Post*: “Pelosi, the California Democrat, said the idea of raising the debt ceiling on its own and not in conjunction with a budget agreement was not ‘acceptable to our Caucus’ and, therefore, did not stand a chance of passage in the House of Representatives.”

Debt ceiling negotiations are nothing new. President Biden has a long history of engaging in and supporting negotiations over the debt limit, as do other House Democrats.

House Republicans are committed to a reasonable, responsible, and sensible solution to our Nation’s debt crisis that would limit Washington’s irresponsible spending, save taxpayer dollars, and grow the American economy.

President Biden and the extreme Democrats’ inflationary spending spree has worked to increase our national debt to unsustainable levels, over \$31.6 trillion, with annual deficits of \$1.5 trillion.

While Joe Biden has no plan to avoid debt default, House Republicans are committed to sensible debt ceiling negotiations.

CONGRATULATING STUARTS DRAFT FFA TEAM

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Stuarts Draft High School team for winning the Virginia State Future Farmers of America forestry championship at the Mountain Gateway Community College in Clifton Forge. These outstanding students exemplify leadership and are model representatives of the organization.

The forestry competition included being able to identify tree types and disorders, pinpoint wood products, as well as pass a knowledge exam and identify and navigate maps.

Led by Coach William Monroe, as well as advised by agriculture teacher Lindsey Baber, these champions include freshman Kelli Weaver and seniors Anna Grace Henderson, Will Monroe, and Steven Ramsey.

As Virginia’s Sixth District is the number one agriculture district in the Commonwealth, I am always proud to

see the next generation of agriculture leaders participating, excelling, and winning in competitions like this one.

Congratulations to the Stuarts Draft students, Coach Monroe, parents, and staff on this well-deserved victory.

RECOGNIZING CLARKE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS’ BASKETBALL TEAM

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Clarke County High School girls’ basketball team for their Virginia Class 2 State championship victory. These impressive young ladies stepped up big and beat the defending State champs, Central High School of Wise County, 45-41, for their second State title in the program’s history.

Junior guard Selene Good cemented the Eagles’ lead by nailing a dramatic 3-pointer to put the team up by 5. In the final minutes, the Eagles knocked down 10 of 12 free throws that helped seal the victory.

These champions include: Selene Good, Kayia Williams, Emma Nelson, Devin Simmons-McDonald, Keira Rohrbach, Willow Oliver, Alainah McKavish, Bailey Beard, Hailey Evans, and Emily Emmart, led by head Coach Regina Downing and assistant Shadd McCaw.

Congratulations to all of these talented athletes, coaches, staff, and parents on this well-deserved State championship.

FIX AMERICA’S GUN PROBLEM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because we have a gun problem in the United States. This problem has been ongoing for years, but the continued events make this reality all the more stark.

Kaylin Gillis was shot and killed for turning around in a driveway, something so many of us have done.

Heather Roth and Payton Washington, two cheerleaders, were shot for mistakenly getting into a car they thought was theirs, something so many of us have done.

Kinsley White and her parents were shot for retrieving a basketball in a neighbor’s yard, something so many of us have done.

Ralph Yarl was shot for ringing the wrong doorbell when picking up his siblings, something so many of us have done.

All of this violence, not to mention the mass shootings in Dadeville, Louisville, and Nashville this month, reminds us that going about your daily life can quickly turn deadly in this country.

Death should not be a consequence for simply living our lives. We cannot continue to look away from the thousands of lives taken by gun violence every year that barely register in the headlines.

This past weekend, 17 people were shot in Chicago, including a 3-year-old from Calumet Heights and a 6-year-old

from Woodlawn. The weekend before, 10 were killed and 26 wounded. Four were killed and 21 injured the weekend before that.

Whether it is from a fight gone too far, an accidental discharge, a stray bullet, or death by suicide, guns make our communities more dangerous and restrict other people’s freedoms. Walking down the street or playing with your kids on the front porch shouldn’t be dangerous activities.

I am sick and tired of gun violence only being acknowledged in Chicago to say that gun laws don’t work. This is simply not true.

According to trace data from the ATF, only 49 percent of crime guns used in Illinois are from Illinois. Illegal gun trafficking from States with fewer gun protections makes my constituents less safe.

Whether it is background checks, consumer safety laws, community violence intervention, or cracking down on gun trafficking, gun safety laws work. States that have fewer gun laws have higher gun deaths.

Already in 2023, 13,000 people have died because of a gun, and another 10,000 have been wounded. These numbers include homicides, suicides, mass shootings, and daily gun violence.

One thing these incidents all have in common is that access to a firearm made them more deadly.

This is a public health crisis that is painfully American. Unlike our peer countries, life expectancy in this country is not rising after the worst of the pandemic has abated. Life expectancy continues to decline because our young people are dying, and too many of those deaths are from guns.

The data shows that violence begets violence begets violence. More violence means fewer job opportunities, fewer education opportunities, and fewer opportunities to build a healthy family.

The solution is not cutting Social Security, not cutting Medicaid, not adding onerous work requirements, not cutting school funding. The solution is better gun safety laws, and we must invest in our communities to stop the cycle of violence.

We must dispense with the false choice between better gun safety measures and what some dare to call freedom. A constant, slow-motion massacre is not the price of freedom. This is a farce.

What about our freedom to go to the grocery store and church, to go to school, to ride on the bus, to play in the park, to come out of choir practice, to get coffee from a coffee shop without fear of getting shot?

No matter who they are or where they grew up, someone being shot to death is not an inevitability. They died because we failed them. We failed their family. We failed their community.

I am tired of failing. We have the tools to stop this senseless violence. We just need the courage to use them.

I have been fighting for stronger gun safety laws since my first day in Congress, and I am not going to stop. I

can't imagine looking at a mom who has lost her child or a brother that has lost his sister and telling them to calm down, to stop asking for something to change.

We all deserve the freedom to live without fear. Thoughts and prayers are nice, but they won't save lives. Doing nothing is not an option.

□ 1015

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOE KEJR

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Joe Kejr, a great Kansan who passed away on April 8 at the age of 64. Joe was a third-generation wheat farmer, a passionate advocate for agriculture, and a follower of Jesus who was committed to building and fostering deep relationships in the agricultural community.

Wheat harvest was Joe's favorite time of year. He loved spending long hours with family and friends, racing to beat a storm, and enjoying the quiet peace and camaraderie of supertime in the field, and sharing the entire experience with younger generations.

He and his crew loved the challenge of trying to be the last truck to go through the elevator each night. At the end of harvest, Joe would hold court and share stories at the big "last supper" that he and his wife Geena would host at their house for everyone who came to help.

Joe served on the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers board of directors from 2002 to 2010, serving as president in 2007, and as the president of the National Wheat Foundation in 2022.

First and foremost, however, Joe was a follower of Jesus who served in the Kansas legislature on various ministry boards, including At Stake Ministries and church committees, and he was passionate about sharing the Gospel and he led mission trips to and made many friends in Guatemala.

Mr. Speaker, Joe is now at rest with his Savior. I am praying for Geena and Joe's family as they mourn his loss and celebrate his life.

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARIES OF THE CHISHOLM TRAIL AND WESTERN CATTLE TRAIL

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversaries of the Ellsworth Route of the Chisholm Trail and the Western Cattle Trail through Dodge City and beyond. The American cowboys who used these trails were the original pioneers who ventured West in search of new opportunities with nothing more than their horses, their dogs, their ropes, and their prayers.

I grew up on a cattle operation in Quinter, Kansas. There are more than 4.4 million cattle and calves on ranches and feed yards in our district, which means that plenty of cowboys called The Big First home.

Kansas has been the first frontier for cowboys since the 1860s when cattle were driven from Texas to places like Abilene and Dodge City to be sold near the closest railroads.

The cowboys would drive about 3,000 head of cattle on their thousand-mile journey at a pace of about 15 miles per day, so it took 2 months. They would look after their cattle 24 hours a day, sleeping under the stars in shifts in the land that would later become Oklahoma.

By the late 1870s, so many cowboys were making this trek from Texas to Kansas that half a million head of cattle were being shipped out of Dodge City alone every year.

These long drives disappeared at the end of the century, but the modern cowboys of today still embody the courage, dedication, personal responsibility, and traditional methods from their pioneering history.

Cowboys remain a constant in an ever-changing world. They know how to break a horse without breaking its spirit, and they put in a 40-hour workweek by the time Wednesday morning rolls around. Cowboys know that they can't take shortcuts or do the bare minimum if they want to succeed. They are resourceful multitaskers who do things the right way, which is often the hard way, and their reward for all their hard work isn't public accolades, but simply providing for their families, caring for their stock, and keeping America fed.

It is exciting to see all the local celebrations of Kansas' history around these trails.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Dennis Katzenmeier, president of the International Chisholm Trail Association; Michael Grauer, president of The Western Cattle Trail Association; Ron Wilson, and many others for their dedication to preserving the history of these trails and the cowboys that use them.

THANKING EMILY WOODS FOR HER SERVICE TO KANSANS AND THE BIG FIRST DISTRICT

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Emily Woods for her service to me, my office, Kansans, and The Big First District.

Emily served on my team since my first day in Congress, and she consistently brought a caring, professional, and attentive approach to building relationships, providing thought leadership, and connecting with Kansans and her coworkers alike. Emily established herself as a resource for everyone in the office, always offering helpful advice and solving problems with a creative perspective.

This scripture comes to mind for Emily, Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight."

I am so excited to see what lies ahead for Emily and her move back to the Sunflower State. I know that with her many skills, her passion, and her work ethic, she will go very far.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank Emily for her dedication to The Big First District. My time in Congress wouldn't have been the same without her. We will miss her and wish her well with all of her future endeavors.

DESIGNATING LEBANON FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to renew our fight to designate Lebanon for Temporary Protected Status to prevent Lebanese nationals in the United States from being forced back to the dangerous crisis facing their home country.

Between the pandemic, the aftermath of the Beirut Port explosion, economic devastation, and the ongoing political crisis, Lebanon is experiencing one of the worst humanitarian crises globally, resulting in widespread lack of access to medical care, clean water, food, and electricity.

According to the United Nations, Mr. Speaker, over 3.5 million Lebanese people are estimated to live in poverty and 1.38 million people are experiencing extreme poverty. The Presidency has been vacant since last October and the parliament just extended the terms of local officials without elections to avoid a complete collapse at the local level.

Mr. Speaker, 40 percent of the doctors there in Lebanon have left the country and we continue to see huge amounts of illnesses spreading throughout on top of the pandemic.

Our country must not retreat from its long tradition of providing a safe haven for those that need it the most. Temporary Protected Status for our Lebanese neighbors is critical to prevent more hardship. I call on my colleagues to support this legislation.

CELEBRATING LEE VERNON NEWBY, JR.'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lee Vernon Newby, Jr. He is a veteran of World War II, and a longtime resident of Detroit in Michigan's 12th District Strong. He is celebrating 100 years of life.

Mr. Newby is a United States Marine Corps veteran who served from April 1, 1943, until January 8, 1946. He served and was wounded during World War II, where Mr. Newby was one of our courageous Montford Point marines and one of the first barrier-breaking African Americans to enlist in the United States Marine Corps.

He fought against prejudice and hostility while serving our country. Mr. Newby, Jr., proudly serves as a member of the Montford Point Marines of America, the Detroit chapter, and was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest civilian award in the Nation, under President Obama's administration.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending Mr. Lee Vernon Newby, Jr.,