

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.,

for his outstanding service to our country as we celebrate his 100th birthday.

CONGRATULATING KRISTY GRIFFIS ARNOLD

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kristy Griffis Arnold on her appointment to the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board by the USDA.

Kristy has been involved with farming and agriculture her entire life. She was born into a farming family, growing up on her family's 465-acre farm which has been passed down through multiple generations. It was on her family farm that she learned the tools of the trade related to cattle farming.

In addition to her recent appointment, Kristy has also been awarded the Georgia Producer of the Year Award in 2010 by the Georgia Cattlemen's Association.

In 2012, Kristy and her family won the 2012 Wayne County Farm Family of the Year Award. In 2014, they won the Georgia Beef Quality Assurance Award.

Kristy has proven time and time again that not only is she one of the most accomplished and knowledgeable farmers in the district, but she is also one of the best in the country.

Kristy's expertise in agriculture speaks for itself, and I believe she will be an excellent addition to the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board.

CALLING ON THE FDA TO REVERSE RESTRICTIONS ON ALZHEIMER'S TREATMENTS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand with the 6.7 million Americans who are living with Alzheimer's disease, their family members, and their caregivers.

One in three seniors dies of Alzheimer's or a form of dementia. These are our sisters, our brothers, our mothers, our fathers, our neighbors, our fellow Americans, who are living with this heartbreaking disease.

Thanks to bipartisan efforts in Congress, we have made great progress advancing research on Alzheimer's and dementia, providing hope to families struggling with this tragic disease.

However, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services recently declined to cover an entire class of FDA-approved Alzheimer's treatments for Medicare patients. This has significantly reduced access to care for our most vulnerable patients with no other options to treat the disease.

Unfortunately, this administration continues to put patients last and this decision of restricting Medicare coverage of FDA-approved Alzheimer's treatment is just the latest example.

I ask my colleagues to join me in calling on this administration to reverse this restrictive decision and provide those living with Alzheimer's access to FDA-approved treatments.

To all the patients, families, and caregivers out there who are struggling

with Alzheimer's, I stand with them, and I will continue to fight for them.

CONGRATULATING THE CAMDEN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING TEAM

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Camden County High School wrestling team on their ninth consecutive State championship.

It seems like winning a State championship is just part of the yearly routine for the wrestlers at Camden County, but it was not always that way. When Coach Jess Wilder took over the program in 2006, the school had not won a State championship since 1984. Some even called Camden the land of no chance, in reference to its State title aspirations.

Coach Wilder and the wrestlers of Camden County did not let that discourage them, and after 2 years of hard work and determination, Camden County won a State championship in 2008. The team took championships home in both 2012 and 2015. Their 2015 win marked the beginning of a yearly State championship run that still continues today.

I congratulate the team and Coach Wilder on their hard work and determination. They continue to make their school and the First District proud.

CONGRATULATING INGA CASHON AND BRITTANY NEARHOOF

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Inga Cashon and Brittany Nearhoof for being recognized as 2024 Georgia Teacher of the Year finalists.

State school superintendent Richard Woods, who surprised the finalists with their selection throughout the month of March, said each one of them is a shining example of the profession. I could not agree more.

Inga Cashon is a science, technology, engineering, and math teacher at North Tattnall Middle School. In 2020, she received the Georgia STEM Scholar Award for her efforts to integrate effective STEM education in the classroom.

Brittany Nearhoof is an art teacher at McAllister Elementary School in Bryan County in the First District. She is also a leadership team member and chair of the Fine Arts Night Committee.

I congratulate Inga and Brittany for their hard work and their dedication to their students. They are very deserving of this honor.

RAISING THE AGE TO PURCHASE SEMIAUTOMATIC CENTERFIRE RIFLES

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

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Raise the Age Act.

This bill would protect the public by raising the minimum age to purchase semiautomatic centerfire rifles to 21 years old. Currently, the buyer only needs to be 18 years old, even though

the minimum age to purchase a handgun from a dealer with a Federal license is 21 years old.

The Raise the Age Act would apply the 21-year-old minimum age standard to buyers of semiautomatic centerfire rifles just as it applies to buyers of handguns.

Imagine the agony that Alexandria Rubio's parents felt last May when they learned that their 10-year-old daughter's life was cut short at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas.

On that horrific day, 21 beautiful spirits were stolen from us: 19 precious young children and 2 beloved, dedicated teachers.

The halls of the grade school were forever robbed of their innocence due to the gruesome actions committed by an 18-year-old who used a semiautomatic weapon that he purchased shortly after his 18th birthday.

On May 14th, 2022, 53-year-old Andre Mackneil went to the Tops grocery store in Buffalo, New York, to purchase a birthday cake for his grandson. He never returned home for his grandson's birthday due to the heinous acts of an 18-year-old mass shooter with an assault weapon.

That 18-year-old ended the lives of 10 innocent souls that day. Had a 21-year-old age requirement been in place, that 18-year-old shooter would not have been able to legally purchase that firearm just a few months earlier and the tragedy and trauma that occurred that day might have been avoided.

Some of the most horrific and heart-breaking mass shootings in our history were committed by 18-, 19-, and 20-year-olds using assault weapons, including the massacres at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, in 2012; at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, in 2018; and at Columbine High School in Colorado in 1999.

According to CNN, in November of 2022, up to that point, at least 3,179 people had been shot in mass shootings, resulting in 637 deaths and more than 2,500 people wounded. Already in 2023, there have been more than 170 mass shootings.

Some of my colleagues insist on choosing the Second Amendment over second graders. They insist on banning books in schools instead of banning assault weapons in schools. They talk about the weaponization of our government, but they are silent when actual weapons are used to lay waste to our schoolchildren.

□ 1030

Instead of supporting commonsense reforms to address our country's gun epidemic, some Members offer bills that would make the problem even worse, such as eliminating the ATF, the lead Federal law enforcement agency that fights against gun violence.

Time and time again, our communities are devastated by these mass killings. Some politicians send thoughts and prayers, but we should all