

### PROTECT THE FULL FAITH AND CREDIT OF THE UNITED STATES

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, America must pay its bills and must not default. Failure to do so would trigger massive job loss, a recession, and rising costs.

Congress must raise the debt limit, as previously done on a bipartisan basis. This cannot and should not fall on the backs of eastern North Carolinians, rural Americans, and the American people.

Mr. Speaker, we must not engage in the politics of division and uncertainty. We must always protect the full faith and credit of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I hope we can come to a bipartisan resolution to deliver for eastern North Carolina and America.

### BUILDING AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR AMERICA

(Ms. BROWNLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BROWNLEY. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans' ineffectual and outright wrong economic policies are bringing our country to the brink of default and opening the door to crippling financial hardships for America's working families.

In addition to catapulting our Nation into economic instability, the House Republican default on America bill will cause unemployment to double, the stock market to crash, and mortgage and student loan rates to skyrocket.

The Republican budget cuts vital funding to schools, forces communities to lay off thousands of first responders, and increases housing costs.

Rather than discuss the budget in good faith, Republicans are intent on holding the full faith and credit of the United States hostage.

Under the guise of responsible spending, Republicans are destroying our economy and putting the lives and livelihood of millions of Americans at risk in the process.

House Democrats stand united in working for the people and building an economy that lowers costs, creates good-paying jobs, and makes communities safer.

□ 1645

### CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF BUD STACK

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Bud Stack, a decorated military veteran, loving father, and servant to his community.

A native of North Carolina, Bud joined the U.S. Navy, where he became

a career pilot and officer and graduated from George Washington University. He served in Vietnam as an A-6 pilot based on an aircraft carrier and received many military honors for his service.

After retiring from the U.S. Navy, he worked with Grumman Aeronautics, Saudi Arabia Civil Air Safety, and later returned to Savannah with Gulfstream and FlightSafety International.

Always dedicated to his family, Bud made frequent trips to Brazil, where his sons lived and grew up.

Bud shared his love for Christ with stints in the nursery and as a Sunday school teacher at Bull Street Baptist Church. He also assisted in the college ministry, as well as ministering through meals to the elderly. He participated in several mission trips, with one to Israel being particularly special.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends. Bud will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

### VALENTINE'S DAY BANDIT REVEALED

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

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize a Mainer whose acts of kindness and love touched the lives of so many, even though most never knew his name until now.

On every Valentine's Day since 1979, Kevin Fahrman of Falmouth, Maine, anonymously papered the greater Portland area with red hearts with the help of family and friends.

Known as the Valentine's Day Bandit, he would blanket the city with hearts large and small in an enduring love letter to Portland, Maine. Every morning on February 14, Portland residents and visitors would wake up and walk the streets of the city covered in reminders of unconditional love handed out without any expectation of recognition or thanks.

The identity of the Valentine's Day Bandit remained a mystery that confounded and delighted Mainers for decades—until now. Kevin passed away unexpectedly this past weekend, and his family decided it was finally time to unmask the man who had left an indelible mark on the city of Portland.

Kevin never wanted recognition during his life, but his family wanted to honor him in his passing.

I thank Kevin's family for sharing him with us for so long and for allowing us the opportunity to say thank you and honor him now in his passing.

May his legacy of love transcend his life and continue to inspire us to show kindness to one another every single day of the year.

### PRAISING BOBBI WILSON AND CONDEMNING RACISM

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise Bobbi Wilson and her attempts to rid our neighborhoods of the invasive spotted lantern flies.

Bobbi Wilson is 9 years old and a young lady from Caldwell, New Jersey. When she learned about the dangers of spotted lantern flies, she made it her mission to collect and kill as many of them as possible.

This invasive species is so dangerous to local plants and trees that ecologists urge residents to squash them on sight.

Unfortunately, a local Republican Party leader called the police on her. He said that he was scared when he saw a young, 9-year-old Black female in his neighborhood.

I am livid that even Black children doing good deeds are subjected to the abject racism that infects this country.

Luckily, Bobbi Wilson was praised locally and nationally for her efforts. She earned recognition during a city council meeting and even from Yale University. No child in America should have to face the police for doing good deeds in their community.

### U.N. DELEGATION TO VISIT MINNEAPOLIS TO ADVANCE RACIAL JUSTICE

(Ms. OMAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the U.N. visit to my Minnesota district to advance racial justice and equality in the context of law enforcement and address the historic oppression of Black and Brown people in our country.

It has been nearly 3 years to the day since George Floyd was murdered at the hands of the Minneapolis Police Department. Sadly, since then, the number of Black people killed by police has only increased—with over 1,000 police shootings a year in 2021 and 2020.

This is a systemic issue that requires systemic solutions. That is why, in the wake of the killing of Daunte Wright and George Floyd, I introduced a package of bills, including the Protecting Our Protesters Act, the National Police Misuse of Force Investigation Board Act, and the Global Police Brutality Resolution. Following the murder of Amir Locke, I introduced the End Deadly No-Knock Warrants Act.

We can and must fight systemic racial injustices in our criminal justice system, from the disproportionate arrest and incarceration rates Black and Brown people face to the marijuana laws that criminalize Black people and remain on the books.

### CELEBRATING UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL'S SCIENCE BOWL VICTORY

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

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the University High School's Science Bowl team.

Recently, University High School competed in the National Science Bowl's regional competition, hosted annually at the NASA Jet Propulsion Lab. Over 100 students from southern California took part in this intense, "Jeopardy!"-style tournament. It is a marathon, not a sprint, but these students were ready to run it.

The team spent months mastering the curriculum, which included everything from natural sciences to advanced mathematics, and their hard work paid off. Against 19 of the brightest teams, University High School prevailed.

This is now the school's fifth victory at the regional Science Bowl in the past 6 years. I am honored to celebrate these students' achievement and cheer them on as they head to nationals.

Keep making Orange County proud.

#### CONTINUING FIGHT FOR ERA

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, for as long as I have been here in the United States Congress, which is more than two decades, we have been fighting to add to the Constitution a perfectly sensible amendment, one that does not offend the American people.

It simply says that the equal rights amendment declares that women are equal in this Nation from the early suffragette days to the days of Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, and Susan B. Anthony. That is only a fair statement, that the rights of women should be considered part of the Constitution.

Unfortunately, today, the United States Senate voted it down when 51 of our Senators, including Senator ELIZABETH WARREN, whom I met outside the Senate Chambers, wanted to make sure that the Constitution stood on its four points of equality, justice, opportunity, and democracy.

We will continue to fight until the equal rights amendment is passed fairly in this Nation and for the world to see, as they have admired us for our principles of freedom, that we believe in freedom for all the people of this Nation, men and women and families. That is extremely important. It is sad that it was voted down today by our friends on the other side of the aisle.

#### END THE REGRESSIVE AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CISCOMANI). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from California (Mr. MIKE GARCIA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that

all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because all levels of government need to do a better job of getting taxpayer dollars to the classrooms and teachers instead of bureaucrats in Washington, D.C., and the capitals of our respective States.

From Washington, D.C., to Sacramento to county governments, far too much educational money is squandered on administrators and central planning bureaucracies.

I see a path, Mr. Speaker, to paying our teachers up to 12 percent more without spending an additional dollar from current Federal or State budgets.

This week, I am introducing a bill that I hope eases the pain for teachers and students in the classroom. My Cash to Classrooms Act will ensure States are not allowed to use a backward, regressive formula for school funding called average daily allowance, or ADA.

In California, statewide data for the 2021-2022 school year shows an ADA-to-enrollment ratio of 91.4 percent. That means that 8.6 percent of what should be the average school's budget is withheld because of absentee rates at the State level.

That is an 8.6 percent reduction to their full funding because of a metric that, frankly, the schools and teachers can't control. The teachers and principals largely can't control who comes to school on a given day.

In many cases, the students and parents themselves can't control when they come to school. In California, there was a waiver that allowed schools to be fully funded despite absences because of COVID, but that waiver itself is now gone.

Also in California, many schools still today require students to stay home if they test positive for COVID, regardless of the symptoms. So, students aren't allowed to come to school, but the schools are forced to eat the costs.

I have heard from parents in Lancaster, California, and Palmdale, California, in my district, that they actually won't let their kids walk to school on certain days because they would have to walk there alone. The neighborhoods aren't safe enough for them to do so, and there are not enough busing options for them. So, on the days when the parents are unable to drive their kids to school, they keep them home.

Again, this is not within the control of the schools or teachers, so we can't blame the parents or the teachers or the students for any of this. That is a policy failure on the part of Sacramento.

Part of this is making sure that we keep our communities safe and give our communities busing options. How-

ever, again, schools pay the price when kids don't show up for school.

In reality, this average daily attendance policy is actually very regressive. It is particularly regressive for disadvantaged groups. It hurts the underfunded districts, the poorer neighborhoods, and the schools with higher percentages of minorities the most. These are the schools that need the funding the most, the schools that have the highest ratios of students to teachers, and the schools that have the toughest challenges with recruiting and retaining teachers in the classroom. These are especially the districts that can't afford to pay for the buses and additional costs to adequately provide for special ed children.

These poor teachers and principals are calling parents nonstop after school to try to get their kids to come back to school. They do so many times on their own dime and their own time, and some schools have even gone so far as to put extra people on the payroll for the sole purpose of ensuring accurate attendance counts, not for the student's sake but to prevent more money from being lost from the capitals. This, in turn, pulls even more resources and funding that could be used for teacher pay or class enrichment.

Schools are having attendance competitions in the classrooms now. I have seen it firsthand at my own child's school. Having attendance competitions as a teacher is like having passengers have an on-time departure competition on a commercial airline. You can root for an on-time departure as a passenger, Mr. Speaker, but, in reality, you have no say whether the flight takes off on time.

Teachers and principals can root for higher attendance rates, but the reality is that they can't really control it. Yet, they pay for it when there are absences.

Mr. Speaker, if you want better quality teachers and more of them, don't defund school budgets because of attendance. This is actually an evil practice.

Only seven States, including my State of California, unfortunately, utilize this average daily attendance, or ADA, method. There is a reason why 85 percent of the States don't do this. It is because it aggravates the problems of attendance in our public schools and because it doesn't make sense.

Let's pay our teachers more, not less. Let's get more resources into the classroom, not fewer. Let's not let bureaucratic agencies pocket the cash on underruns that are created as a result of absentees in the classroom.

In my district alone, local schools are getting only about 90 percent of their funding because of this archaic way of funding schools. We can give the teachers a 10 percent pay raise with that money if we didn't fund schools this way. This would actually attract more talent and a better quality workforce and keep that talent in the classrooms longer.