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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

THE TIME IS NOW TO PROTECT OUR SOUTHERN BORDER

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, since President Biden took office and put a stop to the construction of a wall along our southern border, more than 1.3 million illegal immigrants have entered our country and avoided apprehension.

Now, as title 42 is set to expire, a mass of migrants from Central America have formed at our points of entry from McAllen, Texas, to San Diego, California. This represents both a security and a humanitarian crisis, as resources are strained and migrants overwhelm our Border Patrol agents, allowing more deadly drugs to continue to spill into our great United States.

In March, fentanyl seizures increased by 25 percent just from the prior month. We have seen the deadly toll that fentanyl-related substances have on our communities. In the past 2 years, more than 14,000 pounds of this deadly drug have been seized, enough to kill every man, woman, and child in America.

The problems on the border are widespread, and so far in 2023, 80 people whose names appear on the terrorist watch list have been apprehended at our southern border. These statistics show the danger of this administration's failed and negligent border policies.

Our Commitment to America means offering an alternative that, once again, puts Pennsylvania families first. It is time to pass the Secure the Border Act. It is time to end catch and release. It is time to increase the number of Border Patrol agents. It is time to finally complete construction of the border wall on our southern border.

What Americans need right now is a Nation that is safe, not more hand-wringing from the Biden administration. The time is now to finally protect our southern border.

PROTECTING THE VALUES OF OUR NATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MEUSER). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, as vice chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I will highlight some of the ongoing work my colleagues and I from the CHC's Working Group on Migrant Families are doing.

Last month, in anticipation of the elimination of title 42, a Trump-era measure, our working group sat to work and develop recommendations that were subsequently submitted to Secretary Mayorkas outlining the CHC's proposal to protect the values of our Nation. These include the rights of immigrants, asylum seekers, the rights of families to enter our country and make their case before government as they flee political violence, as they flee gang violence, as they flee food insecurity, as they flee environmental crises that forces, perhaps, a mom to take her

three children and walk for thousands of miles to our border.

Mr. Speaker, immigration is not a matter that is exclusive to the United States of America; it is a worldwide matter. Mothers and families across the planet are often forced because of violence, because of war, because of environmental crisis, and because of food insecurity to seek a better life for them and their children.

We submitted a series of recommendations to Secretary Mayorkas, among them was not to resort back to the family detention model that was perpetrated during the Trump administration. This model we know, and experts feel, scars children, some of them for life. We saw the photos and the images of children incarcerated in cages during those days and those children, experts feel, could be scarred and traumatized for life.

We asked Secretary Mayorkas not to resort back to the family detention model, and we were happy to see that he did not.

Next, in our series of proposals, was to grant and continue to grant the parole program for Cubans, Nicaraguans, Haitians, and Venezuelans.

Mr. Speaker, there is a crisis of democracy in the Western Hemisphere and in this chapter of our history, it is not characterized by a left-leaning government crisis or a right-leaning government crisis.

It is impacting countries on both ends. Therefore, it is prudent and appropriate to grant those that are fleeing political violence, whose lives are in danger, as we grant to Ukrainians that come to the border and other folks that are fleeing political violence and escaping murder, the opportunity to make their case for asylum.

We were happy to see that that program will continue and provide a legal pathway for those seeking asylum. Though several elements of this parole program may not necessarily be the

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best, it is one that provides a legal path of access to the United States Government to make their case for asylum.

I further applaud Mr. Mayorkas' efforts to implement a new program that basically applies to citizens of El Salvador, Colombia, Honduras, and Guatemala. It provides the ability to have family reunification. We often hear, time and time again, how family values are an integral part of America and that when families are together, our Nation is stronger; when families are divided, our Nation is weaker.

So this particular program will assist, again, in—through legal pathways—providing family reunification efforts and the abilities for citizens of El Salvador, Colombia, Honduras, and Guatemala. These are both very good programs.

Mr. Speaker, I think this is a step in the right direction.

CONGRATULATING GENERAL STEPHEN E. OSBORNE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate General Stephen E. Osborne for being appointed by Governor Kim Reynolds as the 28th Adjunct General of the Iowa National Guard.

General Osborne is a native of Daventry, Iowa, and enlisted in the Army in 1984, actually 10 years after my own enlistment in the Army. He went on to commission as an infantry officer through the University of Alabama in 1990 before transferring to the Iowa National Guard in 1992.

General Osborne deployed to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in 1991 during the Persian Gulf war. He then deployed to Kosovo in 2004 in support of Operation Joint Guardian and Iraq in 2009 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

He has served as the Iowa National Guard's deputy adjunct general since 2018 and will now manage more than 2,000 full-time employees and nearly 9,000 part-time soldiers and airmen in his new role as adjunct general.

Iowans can trust the National Guard will be in great hands under the leadership of General Osborne. I wish him the very best as he transitions into this important role.

CELEBRATING IOWA VIETNAM VETERANS RECOGNITION DAY

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Iowa Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day, which was held yesterday, May 8, and to recognize our veterans' service to this great Nation. The commemorative ceremony is held annually to honor our 115,000 Iowan Vietnam veterans for their service and remember the 868 Iowans who made the ultimate sacrifice during the war. This year's ceremony was held at the Iowa Vietnam Veterans Memorial, dedicated to those who died in combat

or after the war as a result of their service.

The Vietnam war was one of our country's most painful times, and our veterans were often not welcomed home. My brother was one of those. I take this chance to thank all of them for their bravery, sacrifice, and strength.

During last week's recess, I had the privilege of visiting with veterans across the First District. As an elected official and as chair of the Subcommittee on Health of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I felt it was my duty to reassure them that the Limit, Save, Grow Act would not cut veterans' benefits or resources. As long as I am in Congress, I will always fight to improve and protect our veterans' benefits.

It is important that we always take the time to recognize the patriotism, dedication, and willingness of our veterans to fight for our liberties and our way of life. Our servicemembers dedicate their lives to protecting our Nation, and it is our duty to honor those commitments both during and after their service.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DEB HAYS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of New Hanover County Commissioner Deb Hays.

All who knew Deb knew her steadfast devotion to her family, her faith, and to her community. Born and raised in Louisville, Kentucky, she later made Wilmington, North Carolina, home, where she was a pillar in the community and her pride for New Hanover County was unmatched.

As a New Hanover County commissioner, Deb served with the utmost integrity and honor. She loved nothing more than giving back to the citizens of Wilmington and New Hanover County and was continually improving the lives of those around her in every way. She was proud to serve as the chair of the Wilmington Planning Commission and as a member of the Wilmington Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee.

Beyond Deb's work and influence as a county commissioner, she was involved in multiple charities and community organizations, including the Airlie Gardens Foundation, the North Carolina Azalea Festival, the Wilmington Airport Authority, the Community Leaders Task Force, Lump to Laughter, Habitat for Humanity, and the Wilmington Area Rebuilding Ministry.

Now, some of her greatest charitable accomplishments include building more than 20 Habitat for Humanity homes, as well as 10 homes in Guatemala while on a mission trip, participating in the rebuilding of post-hurri-

cane New Orleans, and helping to rebuild our own communities in southeastern North Carolina after Hurricane Florence hit.

Deb also enjoyed a very rewarding and successful career as a Realtor and will be forever loved and missed by her Intracoastal Realty family.

Now, I have no doubt Deb's spirit and love for our community will be felt for many years to come. She was a fierce and gracious force for good, always bringing so much enthusiasm and love for every facet of life. The lives that have been and will continue to be impacted by her legacy are countless. Hers truly was a great life lived.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DONNA LEE GIRADOT

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Donna Giradot. Donna was a fixture in the Wilmington community and will be remembered as a talented business leader, dedicated public servant, and a great friend and mentor to so many.

After moving to the Wilmington area in the late 1990s, Donna led a successful career and served New Hanover County in many different capacities. She began her career in southeastern North Carolina by working for Cape Fear Realtors. She then went on to serve as executive director of the Wilmington-Cape Fear Home Builders Association and founded the Business Alliance for a Sound Economy, also known as BASE.

Beyond her successful business endeavors, Donna held numerous leadership positions in our community, including four terms as chair of the New Hanover County Planning Board and four consecutive years as chair of the Wilmington International Airport Authority, making her the first female to chair an airport authority in North Carolina.

Donna always stood firm in her faith and enjoyed serving her fellow man through her church, as well. As a testament to her commitment to serving others, in 2020 Donna was a recipient of the Order of the Long Leaf Pine award, the State's highest civilian award for service.

Donna was a generous and great leader who will be sorely missed. Her numerous contributions to the Wilmington community will never, ever be forgotten. Hers is a tremendous legacy that will be felt for many years to come.

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HONORING MARY JEAN GRECO

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 honor the life of Mary Jean Greco. Jeannie was born in 1955 in Hazelton, Pennsylvania.

As the daughter of two medical professionals, she always knew she wanted to devote her life to the service of others. Her professional career consisted