

As a young child, Steven was inspired by his grandfather and made the decision to serve.

In May 2005, Steven gave his life in Balad, Iraq, while serving during Operation Iraqi Freedom, for which he was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

Steven is remembered for his incredible service and deep love and commitment to his family. He loved playing video games with his son in his lap, hunting and fishing, and chatting about military history.

Steven is survived by his mother, Joyce; his son, Blake; and his wife, Cayssia. Cayssia serves as the Gold Star Congressional Fellow in my Killeen, Texas, district office and honors Steven's legacy daily by serving our veterans, Active-Duty servicemembers, and other Gold Star families at Fort Cavazos and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, Camille and I thank Cayssia, Joyce, and Blake for their incredible sacrifice, and we join them in remembering Steven.

END DEBT CEILING MADNESS

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

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it should not be partisan or political to pay our bills because raising the debt ceiling is simply honoring our word, our commitments. In fact, the Constitution demands that the validity of the public debt shall not be questioned.

Congress has a duty, an obligation, embedded in the very framework of our being to raise the debt limit so the world knows that America will never default.

Republicans want to skip out on this bill because they don't like how Congress spent it. We spent it helping the poor, helping veterans, helping seniors. Skipping out is not an option.

Since 1960, Congress has renegotiated our debt ceiling 78 times. Under President Trump, and without any fanfare, we raised the debt ceiling three times. Now, under President Biden, House Republicans are playing arsonist with the financial well-being of all Americans and threatening to cut SNAP, create roadblocks for Medicaid, and jeopardize funding for veterans.

Mr. Speaker, real leaders would not do this. Mr. Speaker, we should end the madness.

TITLE 42 EXPIRATION WILL WORSEN CRISIS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, President Biden will be removing a critical border enforcement mechanism from our Border Patrol agents' arsenal.

Title 42 is a Trump-era public health order that allows us to quickly deport illegal immigrants that are abusing our asylum system. Without this order in place, the crisis at our southern and northern border would be even worse than it is now.

This impending end of title 42 is public knowledge. Already, border towns are experiencing yet another surge of illegal immigrants as the end gets closer.

Allowing title 42 to expire is allowing an already catastrophic situation to get even worse. It is unconscionable that neither the President nor Secretary Mayorkas is treating the border crisis with anything close to seriousness.

Thousands of people violate our Nation's laws and our sovereignty every day by illegally entering the United States. Drug smuggling and human trafficking are rampant, and Mexican drug cartels are growing richer and more powerful.

Only America's foes benefit from the utter chaos at our border. It is time for the administration to get busy and do the work that needs to be done. Finish building the border fence.

Sending your press agents out to tell us this is fine? Well, we are not falling for the Jedi mind trick.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

(Mr. MRVAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate National Teacher Appreciation Week, I rise today to recognize and honor the hardworking educators in Indiana's First Congressional District.

I am grateful for all of our teachers who show up each and every day with the sole commitment to inspire and provide students with lifelong skills. Teachers' dedication and commitment to guiding our next generation through their educational journey and into thriving career paths is heroic.

All teachers deserve to be adequately compensated for this tremendous work, and that is why I am a proud cosponsor of the American Teacher Act, which would support efforts to increase teacher salaries.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with all of my colleagues to advance this legislation, and I ask my colleagues to join me today in expressing gratitude to all educators in north-west Indiana and across our country.

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AMERICA'S IMMIGRATION STORY

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

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, as a Texan, I rise today to speak on the expiration of title 42, but our immigra-

tion story neither begins nor ends there.

As a child, I was taught songs like "America the Beautiful," but today I can honestly say that beauty must really be in the eye of the beholder because the inhumanity that is playing out around migrants is far from beautiful.

Congress needs to pass humane, substantive, and sustainable, bipartisan immigration reform that provides for an orderly, transparent, and efficient process for asylum seekers, clears out the decades-long backlog, and keeps our communities safe.

For years, House and Senate Democrats have worked to pass immigration reform with little to no support from our Republican colleagues.

I am left asking: Is this what America the beautiful looks like?

Republicans are constantly fanning the flames of hate instead of offering help to a country that is craving more leadership and less lies. Republicans have essentially decided that immigrants make for great political pawns. The problem is, we aren't playing chess. This is real life, with radical rhetoric that has real-world consequences and getting people killed.

Just this weekend a man in Brownsville, Texas, used his truck to plow through and kill eight people sitting at a bus stop. We have got to do better. America really needs to be beautiful.

I ask unanimous consent to revise and extend my remarks.

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Just this weekend a man in Brownsville TX used his truck to plow through and kill 8 people sitting at a bus stop next to a shelter for migrants. And four years ago, a man radicalized by republican rhetoric walked into a Walmart in El Paso and murdered 23 people he believed were invading the border as part of the so-called "great replacement".

America, the beautiful? Not so much, but we can be. We used to be. And so with that maybe we need a little history. This country

was founded by and is made up of immigrants. It is within the very fabric of who we are to do what the greatest speaker for this house always reminds us to do—recognize that our diversity is our strength and our unity is our power.

So let's ask ourselves, is America's continued inhumane treatment of immigrants beautiful? Does it live up to our values.

I yield back.

NATIONAL AMERICAN BIRDING WEEK

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight a bipartisan resolution introduced with my Ohio colleague, BOB LATTA, proclaiming May 5 to May 14 as the National American Birding Week.

Birding in our abundant Great Lakes region's western basin of Lake Erie draws environmental stewards from around the world during this time of year.

Birding generates over \$40 million in economic benefits annually, and events such as the Biggest Week in American Birding sponsored by the Black Swamp Bird Observatory in Oak Harbor, Ohio, leverage public-private partnerships to promote conservation of migratory bird populations and economic development through nature tourism, research, education, and outreach.

In fact, these little creatures can teach us a great deal about the health of Mother Earth.

American Birding Week will send a strong endorsement from birders around the world who flock to our region of northwest Ohio every year. Birders worldwide who attend events such as the Biggest Week in American Birding support efforts to preserve migratory bird populations and what they teach us about our fragile ecosystem.

NATIONAL DAY OF SILENCE

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

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the students and allies who marked the National Day of Silence. On this day, people around the country and in California's 19th Congressional District stand in solidarity with the LGBTQ community by taking a vow of silence.

By doing this, students raise awareness on the challenges and the hurdles that continue to face our LGBTQ youth and their fellow classmates.

One inspiring young leader in my district is Latisha Vivian Chen Gladney from Santa Cruz High School. Latisha explained that it is still a struggle to get their voices heard in their fight for equal rights. Yet, it is through their act of silence that they can represent their community, recognize the people

before us who fought for LGBTQ rights, and be reinvigorated to continue our fight to educate future generations.

So thanks to Latisha and others who, through their silence, are giving a voice to so many people and inspiring us in Congress to empower students in our communities, protect them from discrimination and harassment, and to provide the LGBTQ community with the support that they need to feel safe and secure in our classrooms, out in our community, and all across our country.

FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA AT BEDDINGFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

(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, food security is national security. The late House Committee on Agriculture chair, Harold Cooley, once said: "Bread and butter rather than bullets and bayonets are the most powerful weapons in our arsenal."

We must ensure that the next generation of agricultural leaders know how to advocate and make their voices heard for the future of eastern North Carolina and rural America.

In that spirit, I held a 2023 farm bill listening session with FFA students at Beddingfield High School in Wilson, North Carolina, to discuss agriculture's most pressing needs.

Each student sat down with me and addressed their top priorities, ranging from biomedicine research to nutrition, rural development, and everything in between. They completed surveys to be submitted to the House Committee on Agriculture to be a part of the official RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, bread and butter are indeed our most important arsenal, along with our students who are our future. We are only as great as the next generation.

THE BRAVE UKRAINIAN PEOPLE

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, this weekend, I had the honor of going to Kyiv, Ukraine, with the chairman of the Helsinki Commission, JOE WILSON. I am the ranking member.

Our commission is responsible for the security and cooperation of governments in Europe. The sovereign country of Ukraine is threatened in every part of the Helsinki Accords which created our organization. All violations were committed by Russia, which is a member of the group but not a participating member in terms of following its precepts.

The Ukrainian people are courageous and show great valor. They have defeated the Russians in every military aspect that exists except for airpower. The Russians have the sky.

Our allies and our country must do all we can to get Ukraine sufficient additional weapons to protect the skies, to protect their soldiers, to protect democracy, to protect freedom, and to protect the rule of law in that country and in the rest of Europe because Putin will not stop at Ukraine.

"Slava Ukraini." "Glory to Ukraine."

ISSUES OF THE DAY

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KILEY. 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. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), who is the chair of the Education and the Workforce Committee.

RECOGNIZING MARCUS SMITH

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from California for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Marcus Smith, who is the president and CEO of Speedway Motorsports and the owner of the North Wilkesboro Speedway.

Marcus and his family have helped lead the charge to restore the 75-year-old racetrack so that countless racing enthusiasts can experience and celebrate the history of stock car racing.

The entire Wilkes County community is buzzing with anticipation over the upcoming NASCAR All-Star Race which will be hosted at the North Wilkesboro Speedway on May 21.

Thanks to the dedication of Marcus and his family in seeing this project through to fruition, a piece of North Carolina's history is back in the spotlight for the entire country to see.

This is no small feat, Mr. Speaker.

Congratulations to Marcus Smith and the Smith family on this monumental accomplishment.

RECOGNIZING TERRI PARSONS

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Terri Parsons, an exemplary North Carolinian and someone who has played an important role in restoring a piece of our State's rich history.

Thanks to Terri's staunch advocacy and support, the North Wilkesboro Speedway will be hosting the 2023 NASCAR All-Star Race on May 21.

Benny Parson, Terri's late husband and a NASCAR Hall of Famer was very fond of the North Wilkesboro Speedway. His dying wish was to have NASCAR return to Wilkes County and to this historic location.

Mr. Speaker, his wish has come true.