

handling the ending of title 42, but remarkably, not one of them acknowledged that they voted to lift it in February.

Enactment of H.R. 2 would do nothing to keep fentanyl out of our communities or protect unaccompanied children.

□ 2045

Just for the record, in our section of the bill, fentanyl is not even mentioned. I would hope at some point the other two discussions tomorrow might talk a little more directly about fentanyl if it is in there. It is not in our section at this point.

For the record, the information that we have about 90 percent of the fentanyl coming into the country comes from the Chief of the Border Patrol. It is his information. We can only take him at his word.

Those five ports of entry that the chair talked about, that was not what he said. He said it was in Mexico, not in the U.S., in terms of being controlled by the cartels. I think we all will admit the cartels do not control the border within the boundaries of the United States. It is a play on words, but at least we can be accurate with that.

In terms of how we determine who comes, who is captured, and how the fentanyl is collected, I suggest that you talk to the FBI, Homeland Security Investigations, or DEA. They are the persons who interview the people who are caught at our ports of entry.

More importantly, most of the people who we catch at our ports of entry are American citizens. They are not, for the most part, immigrants or aliens, or whatever you want to call them, trying to come into this country illegally. They are American citizens.

In terms of guns, the cartels are a violent operation. There is no question about it. We need to do everything that we can to stop them. We can't keep American guns from going to Mexico unless we come up with an enhanced policy to do that.

We have to acknowledge that the majority of the guns that the cartels are using are coming from the United States. As the record will reflect, there is only one gun store in the entire country of Mexico. It takes months for an individual to even get cleared to buy a gun. We just want the record to reflect the truth.

Enactment of H.R. 2, as I said, would do nothing to keep fentanyl out of our communities or protect unaccompanied children. What it will do is penalize communities and religious organizations that care for vulnerable people.

Section 115(b) is so broad that a non-profit hospital that admits an undocumented migrant would be deemed as facilitating unlawful activities. Cartels and smugglers are champing at the bit to see this bill enacted into law.

H.R. 2 would create conditions where desperate people will be left with few

options but to try to enter the U.S. illegally between ports of entry. It would be a boon for smugglers' illicit business.

We should be coming together to enact sensible border and immigration policies that support our communities and economy. We can do better than the child deportation act.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "no" vote on this extreme MAGA bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, the American people cannot wait any longer for secure borders and safe communities. Securing the border should not be a partisan issue. It is an American issue. It is the Federal Government's responsibility to do so. When they fail, Congress, a co-equal branch of government, should step in and hold them accountable. That is what we are doing here today.

The Biden administration produced the catastrophic humanitarian tragedy we are seeing today, dismantling all semblance of law and order and sending a clear message to the cartels that our border is open.

We have all seen what has been happening in the past few days as title 42 comes to an end. It is a fact that the border is in shambles.

Frontline law enforcement personnel are overwhelmed and overworked as they are stretched physically and mentally amid this crisis. State and local resources are quickly depleting as they attempt to do the job that this administration has not done since its first day in charge: secure the borders and enforce the law.

The current situation at the border is unsustainable. Yet, over the past 2-plus years, my colleagues across the aisle have refused to hold the Biden administration accountable for its ineffective policies, have watched the border fall into the hands of violent cartels, and have completely ignored the disaster that has only gotten worse by the day.

That must end today. The American people are fed up with inaction.

The Biden-Mayorkas border crisis is a national security threat that must be addressed immediately. I encourage my colleagues to join House Republicans in passing this very important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I will close by addressing the patriots serving on the front lines of this crisis with no support or appreciation from this administration. Many of us have visited the border on several occasions, across multiple sectors, and have seen firsthand the work our Customs and Border Protection officers and agents do every single day to risk their lives for this great country.

To the officers and agents on the ground dealing with this crisis, on behalf of the American people, we appreciate you. We support you, and we have your back.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2, and I yield back the balance of my time.

## SECURE THE BORDER ACT OF 2023

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2) to secure the borders of the United States, and for other purposes, is postponed.

## HOURLY MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow for morning-hour debate and 11 a.m. for legislative business.

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

There was no objection.

## CELEBRATING THE SERVICE OF DOUGLAS J. ERICKSON

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement and longtime service of Patton Township Manager Douglas J. Erickson, who has served the Centre County community for over 25 years.

Douglas Erickson began as township engineer and director of public works in 1998 before becoming township manager in 2006. While 18 township supervisors have come and gone since his first day as a township employee, Erickson has remained committed to public service.

In his time, Doug oversaw the rapid expansion and development of the State College suburb and left a long legacy of accomplishments.

Under his leadership, Patton Township has seen unprecedented growth, including adding thousands of new residents and the construction of nearly 3,000 new homes.

The township government has grown to include more than 15 employees in police, public works, administration and finance and engineering, and planning and zoning departments. Doug has secured an incredible \$30 million in grants for township projects, helping to improve the quality of life for all the township's residents.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Douglas J. Erickson for his commitment to serving his community of Patton Township, and I wish him a very happy retirement.

## REPUBLICANS' CALLOUS ATTITUDE TOWARD DEBT CEILING

(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 discuss the unnecessary debt ceiling crisis.

The MAGA Republicans want to hold the American economy hostage to

their political agenda. They want to force cruel cuts to the budget to hurt working-class Americans—all for cheap political points.

If enacted, their budget would deny healthcare to millions of Americans and lay off thousands of teachers and emergency medical personnel. It would take away food from children and seniors.

MAGA Republicans do not think the lives of children and seniors are important. They would rather give tax dollars to billionaires and help them take tax write-offs on private jets, et cetera.

Thankfully, House Democrats are putting people over politics to solve real problems.

President Biden's budget supports children, seniors, and American workers. It will create new jobs and lower costs to help families. It is the budget America needs right now.

#### RECOGNIZING AIR FORCE TECHNICAL SERGEANT WILLIAM H. GONZALEZ

(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, I rise during Military Appreciation Month to highlight an eastern North Carolina native and a true American hero.

United States Air Force Technical Sergeant William H. Gonzalez of my hometown, Snow Hill, North Carolina, was on the way home after picking up his mother from the airport when he saw a woman lose control of her vehicle and veer into a pond off Interstate 587.

Mr. Speaker, as a fearless airman with 9 years of service, Gonzalez didn't hesitate and leaped into action. He dove into the pond, brought the woman back to consciousness, and helped her safely escape from her submerged vehicle.

This Military Appreciation Month, we salute all of our brave men and women in uniform. Today, I ask for people across America to join me in saluting Technical Sergeant William Gonzalez.

#### BACK THE BLUE: NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CAMMACK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, as National Police Week gets underway and we prepare for the coming days of solemn tributes and remembrances of our brave men and women in blue and green here in our Nation's Capital and across the country, it is more important than ever that we stand here united as House Republicans and share our appreciation for all that our heroes do every single day to keep us safe.

National Police Week is a time to remember and honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our safety and security and to express our gratitude and support to those who continue to serve and protect our communities across the country.

□ 2100

As the proud Representative of Florida's Third Congressional District and the wife of a first responder, I have witnessed firsthand the courage and dedication of our local law enforcement officers.

They are the ones who respond to emergencies, prevent crimes, and uphold the laws in our communities. They are the ones who face danger and uncertainty every time they put on their uniform. They are the ones who leave their families behind not knowing if they will return home safely.

Like so many spouses, when my husband puts on his SWAT medic vest for a callout, I feel that twinge of uncertainty, and I hug him just a little tighter.

It is a unique feeling to us—the people who love those who serve—and, of course, we all pray that our loved ones return home safely.

Before my colleagues take the floor and share their appreciation for our men and women in blue and green, I briefly want to share with you, Mr. Speaker, some of the stories of the fallen heroes from my district in Florida who have touched our lives and our hearts with their service.

In Alachua County, we remember Deputy Sheriff Kenterous Taylor who was killed in a single-vehicle crash while responding to a domestic violence call on March 12, 2020. He was only 27 years old and had served with the Alachua County Sheriff's Office for less than 1 year. He is survived by his fiancée, his son, his parents, and his siblings.

In Gilchrist County we remember Sergeant Noel Ramirez and Deputy Taylor Lindsey of the Gilchrist County Sheriff's Department who were brazenly attacked and killed while on a lunch break in Trenton, Florida, on April 19, 2018. Sergeant Ramirez had served with Gilchrist County for 7 years and is survived by his wife and two children. Deputy Lindsey, who was only 25, is survived by his parents and his grandparents.

In Bradford County, we remember Sergeant David Lashon Goodson who died from complications of COVID-19 on August 18, 2020. He was 48 years old

and had served with the Bradford County Sheriff's Office for 22 years. He is survived by his wife, his daughter, his son, his mother, and his brother.

In Marion County, we remember Deputy Sheriff Craig Heeder Riley II who died from complications of COVID-19 on December 16, 2020. He was 53 and had served with the Marion County Sheriff's Office for 25 years. He is survived by his wife, his two daughters, his son-in-law, his grandson, his parents, and his sister.

Finally, just this year, we lost Deputy Nick Tilliman. He was 30 years old and had served our Nation in both the Army and the Navy. He was a friend to all and known as a goofball who could keep a smile on your face. Tragically, the smile that he so frequently donned couldn't hide the pain that he felt, and on February 15 of this year, he took his own life.

It is not popular nor is it very easy to talk about the mental strain on our first responders, but it must be said both here on the floor of the United States House of Representatives and in the departments around this country that mental health matters.

Our men and women in blue and green are responding to the most violent, disturbing, and tragic scenes that not only stay with them for the rest of their lives but force them to compartmentalize their work for the rest of their time on the force and beyond.

No man or woman should have to bear that burden alone or in silence. It is well past time we prioritize mental health training and treatment for our LEOs and all of our first responders.

Again, I am proud not just as a wife to a SWAT medic but as a Representative of some of Florida's finest.

We are here to honor those who have served our communities with distinction as well as those who continue to do so. Today, Mr. Speaker, you will hear the stories of many who have served.

I am especially honored to lead this Special Order along with my good friend, Sheriff JOHN RUTHERFORD, and giving thanks for recognizing their service. These are just some of the names of the fallen heroes from our districts. There are many more who have given their lives in other counties and cities across our State and Nation.

Each one of them has a story to tell. Each one of them has a family to mourn. Each one of them has a legacy it is our duty to honor. We owe them a debt of gratitude that we can never repay, but we can do our best to support their families and colleagues who are left behind. We can do our best to ensure that they have the resources and equipment they need to do their job safely and effectively. We can do our best and will do our best to respect and appreciate their work and sacrifice.

We can and we will stand up for our men and women in uniform in the face of attacks from those who wish to vilify our hard working LEOs.