

North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the president of Johnson C. Smith University, Clay Armbrister.

JCSU is Charlotte's own HBCU and the only accredited historically Black college or university in the 12th Congressional District.

The Golden Bulls have a rich legacy in the Biddleville neighborhood in Charlotte that extends all the way back to 1867. President Armbrister has helped preserve and extend that legacy during his tenure.

I have been so very proud to work with President Armbrister to grow Johnson C. Smith University. For 5 years, President Armbrister has been a transformative leader, not only for JCSU but for the West End and the entire Charlotte community.

Under Clay's leadership, JCSU has modernized its campus, overcome a pandemic, and led a historic fundraising drive to raise \$80 million to support the university's academic and career-ready programs.

He courageously excused student loan debt for hundreds of students.

Last year, I said President Armbrister is one of the true heroes behind America's progress during the pandemic, and he has continued to earn that compliment with his leadership in our community.

I am so very proud to call him a friend. I wish him and his incredible wife, Denise, the very best in their future endeavors, and I congratulate him on his retirement. May God bless him.

STOP MASK MANDATES AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS CLINICS

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

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, after 3 years of government overreach, which was blamed on COVID-19, we can all agree that the pandemic is over. The fact is, this very body passed H.R. 382 to end the national public health emergency, the Senate agreed, and the President signed it into law.

The Biden administration is going so far as to allow title 42 to end at midnight tonight, removing the ability of our Border Patrol agents to turn immigrants away due to public health concerns.

Yet, every week, I receive calls from veterans who are being denied care at VA health clinics across Montana over mask mandates. Let me repeat that. The pandemic is over, yet veterans are being denied medical care over mask mandates.

Denying anyone, particularly a veteran, medical care over a personal decision is outrageous and violates the Hippocratic Oath.

In March, I had the opportunity to question the individuals from the VA

and sent them multiple letters over their mask mandates. They responded by allowing each clinic to set its own guidelines.

Unfortunately, instead of eliminating masks, the Montana VA healthcare system doubled down and has dictated that every clinic in the State requires masks.

In Billings, Iraq war veteran Travis Norby has consistently been denied care every time he walks into the local VA clinic. Is this the respect that we show our veterans after they have put their life on the line to protect our freedoms?

First and foremost, we have a duty to ensure that our veterans have access to the medical care they need. It is not just a matter of obligation; it is a matter of respect and gratitude for the sacrifices that they have made. Denying veterans access to medical care over mask mandates is a betrayal of our Nation's core values.

If we can agree that the pandemic is over, to the extent that the Biden administration is allowing title 42 to expire, then we must stop turning our back on our Nation's heroes and stop mask mandates at the VA health clinics.

CONGRESS NEEDS TO ACT ON IMMIGRATION REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA) for 5 minutes.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act of 2023, scheduled for a vote on the House floor today.

This bill is extreme and wrong. This bill in no way secures the border. In fact, it would only make security worse.

It is an assault on asylum seekers and those who flee poverty, hunger, and violence, including unaccompanied minors and families with children. It exploits challenges on our border for political points. It adds to the human suffering of those who come to our country seeking safety and a better life. It is also about putting politics over people.

We all expect our government to effectively manage our borders and thoroughly vet those who seek to enter as refugees, to join their family already in the country, or to work. We all agree on that.

Instead, what we see is children are in danger, families are separated or detained, and people are dying.

We need reform and we need it now.

The last time Congress passed immigration reform was in 1996, 27 years ago. This Republican-led bill eliminates several legal immigration pathways, essentially making fewer people eligible for legal status while making more people deportable.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is extreme and wrong. Again, session after session, we talk about reform but nothing ever passes, not a single immigration law update, again, since 1996.

Time and time again, Republicans block meaningful legislation for safe and legal immigration from moving beyond this floor. Our job as public officials is to serve and protect our constituents, but we have been failing them for 27 years.

House Republicans focus solely on immigration as a border issue, providing billions of dollars in so-called border security, building walls, increasing personnel, and rapid expulsion policies. That hasn't worked, has it?

The promised security involves a militarized border, wasting the taxpayers' money, and increased violence for those seeking asylum.

Since 1988, at least 8,000 undocumented immigrants have died attempting to cross the border from Mexico to the United States. People are dying every day while we wait on Republicans to budge.

While rightwing media and extreme MAGA Republicans call immigrants "illegals," seeking asylum is a legal right. It is in our immigration law. They are following the law. This law and this right would be denied to thousands under this bill.

The administration and Congress must act. Again, this bill is simply extreme and wrong and does nothing to secure our border.

Meanwhile, we continue to see the violence at the border and violence in my home State of Texas. I was born and raised in South Texas. I am not from Long Island or Boston or somewhere else talking about the border. I am from South Texas. I am talking about our South Texas border.

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Over the weekend, it was heart-breaking to see that 8 people were killed and 10 injured when a vehicle was driven into a group of people waiting in line at a migrant shelter in south Texas.

We all know that there will be a surge of migrants coming in as of tonight, and cities like Brownsville, where this occurred, are preparing. We are preparing in Houston because we know we will get some of the impact, too.

We must keep in mind that since migrants will no longer have the protections they have been afforded in the past—this bill will eliminate all that. People are losing their lives as they wait, even at this shelter. People are losing their lives on their way over.

Now more than ever, safe and legal immigration reform is necessary. We must protect all God's children. We must always put people over politics and rhetoric.

Now more than ever, we need safe and legal immigration reform. Now more than ever, we cannot wait another moment.

Mr. Speaker, I oppose this bill and ask my colleagues to do the same.

RECOGNIZING DETECTIVE CHRISTOPHER DRURY OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer congressional recognition to Detective Christopher Drury of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department.

Detective Christopher Drury began his career in 2011 and was hired as a deputy sheriff on call. He was assigned to the Sacramento County Main Jail. Detective Drury was hired as a full-time deputy sheriff in 2013, where he remained assigned to the main jail.

In February 2015, Detective Drury was transferred to the Court Security Division, where he remained until he was transferred to the North Patrol Division in December 2015.

Detective Drury was selected to the Rancho Cordova Police Department in 2017. The Rancho Cordova Police Department is a contracted city that is fulfilled by the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office. While assigned there, Detective Drury regularly interacted with the community during his shift and answered numerous calls for service.

Detective Drury quickly became known for his tremendous work ethic and commitment to the community. His proactive enforcement of violent crime prevention was highly appreciated and noticed by his supervisors.

In 2019, Detective Drury was selected to be a narcotics detective in the Impact Bureau. The Impact Bureau focuses on large-scale drug trafficking, which operates from Kern County to the Oregon border. Additional duties include the dismantling of drug clandestine labs.

While assigned to the Impact Bureau, Detective Drury has worked several major narcotics investigations, which have led to the seizure of hundreds of pounds of methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, and fentanyl. He continues to dismantle large-scale drug trafficking organizations and positively interacts with the community in numerous ways.

Despite having this very demanding position, in his off time, Detective Drury actively contributes to the community. He was a regular volunteer at his children's elementary school. He also volunteers for Sacred Heart Home Tour, which is an organization that raises charity proceeds to help individuals attend private Catholic school. The organization raises roughly \$200,000 a year for the charity.

Finally, Detective Drury is involved with the nonprofit Sponsoring True Advocacy for Challenged Youth, or STACY. This nonprofit is an organization advocating for children with special needs and their families through diverse programs and partnerships in the greater Sacramento area.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons and more, I am honored to include Detec-

tive Christopher Drury of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office in the Third District of California's Police Honor Roll.

GUN VIOLENCE IN OUR COUNTRY

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

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, in the 10 years since the Sandy Hook shooting, the NRA has spent more than \$100 million to help elect Republicans who will make it easier to sell more guns so we can kill more kids—\$100 million.

They have gotten what they paid for because we have had 189 more school shootings and 279 people killed on school grounds since Sandy Hook.

Some of my colleagues may be happy about that, but I am angry, and my constituents live in trauma.

Mr. Speaker, I had a student in my district who wrote in to tell me: "We are tired. We are exhausted. We are sick of going to class and any public area and forming an escape route."

I had another constituent who asked me: "How many children and teachers are going to have to be killed by guns before our government takes action?"

The honest answer is that I don't know. In the wake of these shootings, I have to tell them that I work with people who wear AR-15 lapel pins on the floor of the House, people who send holiday cards where their whole family cosplays as Rambo. They actually believe that our Founders envisioned and designed a country where you have a right to shoot innocent strangers dead, but no American has the right not to get shot.

Five months into this year, America has already had 199 mass shootings. Sometimes, we have a moment of silence on the floor afterward, but quite frankly, there are too many to keep up. I am not proud of this, but we ignore most of them. The American people can't.

I had a mother who wrote to me saying: "Each day, as I send my two children off to school and daycare, I find myself fearing that it may be the last time I will see them."

Another wrote to say: "I am the parent of a 5-year-old. I cannot believe that we are living in a country where 5-year-olds die like soldiers at the mall and where another mother will come home today without her child. I do not feel safe in public places. I have no peace while my child is at school, and because I am a teacher, I don't feel safe at work either."

Five months into this year, we have had 15,166 deaths due to gun violence. Yet, my colleagues across the aisle have not allowed a single bill to come to the floor to address that risk.

After the shooting at Covenant Elementary in Tennessee, I got this message from Meaghan, a student teacher. She said:

"After working in over five schools now, I have loved every moment of my

teacher education experience, meeting so many amazing students and faculty members that have shaped my mind the way I hope to for my own students one day. And each day I have gone in, I have to admit, I have silently wondered if I would come out, if our kids would come out, if my peers would come out, if my teachers and mentors would come out.

"I have caught myself dozing off and imagining what I would do if someone came into our room with a gun. I have imagined every person in that room with bullets in them and blood splattered from the walls to the floors.

"I know you all get these messages in your offices. Do you read them? Do you understand the fear, the trauma, and the death that your inaction has caused? Is it worth the NRA money? Do you even care?"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

HONORING MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS ON GUAM

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, as we observe National Nurses Week, I rise to honor our medical professionals on Guam and the incredible work they do for our island community.

Nurses are an integral part of our healthcare system, providing patients with compassionate care and support. Shown next to me are some of Guam's nurses tending to the well-being of our island residents.

As the backbone of our healthcare system, nurses work tirelessly around the clock to ensure everyone receives the best possible treatment.

Oftentimes, they sacrifice their own well-being and comfort to provide excellent care to their patients. This can mean working long hours, dealing with difficult individuals, or managing stressful situations.

Not to forget, on Guam and everywhere else, nurses were at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19, putting their own lives at risk to save others.

Today and every day, we honor our nurses for their hard work and dedication.

Happy National Nurses Week.

CELEBRATING GUAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S 99TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, the Guam Chamber of Commerce celebrated its 99th anniversary. That is nearly a century of promoting the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the island of Guam.

The Guam Chamber of Commerce has taken the initiative in extending and fostering trade and commerce on island, developing and protecting the many industries that call Guam home, advocating for probusiness policies, and providing forums for business entities to grow.