

PARENTS PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. KAMPLAGER-DOVE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAMPLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against attacks on parents across our Nation.

Parents and adult guardians play a critical role in children's lives as nurturers, providers, and confidants.

However, how can they protect or provide for their children when their elected officials choose time and time again to disregard the will of the people, ignore legislation that could save lives, slash funding to critical programs for our children and families, and then defame them for being who they are.

Let me tell you who they are. In the United States, there are over 200,000 foster parents. Forty percent of married couples with children are stepcouples. Sixteen percent of children live in blended families. There are over 100,000 adoptions each year, and 4 million Americans are adopted. All of these statistics represent parents, and it is not up to any of us to define what a parent is.

As a mother, I am appalled by the state of our country. MAGA Republican legislation confuses guidelines around abortion care, threatening the lives of mothers across the country.

Our children aren't safe to go to the grocery store, school, houses of worship, or the mall. They can't turn around in a driveway or retrieve a basketball. Our children go hungry when the government decides to cruelly slash programs like SNAP and WIC that put food on our families' tables.

This Sunday is Mother's Day, and I will be celebrating with my family, but the voice in the back of my head will ask me, what kind of world are they growing up in? This is not what our country is meant to look like.

Every bio-parent, stepparent, adoptive parent, foster parent, or guardian who loves their child is a parent, and we are all scared about the world our children are set to inherit.

CONGRATULATING STATE CHAMPIONS JOHNSON KNIGHTS BOYS SOCCER TEAM

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

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2023 Georgia High School Association 4A State Champions, the Johnson Knights Boys Soccer Team.

Last week, the Knights became back-to-back State champions, defeating the Westminster Wildcats, boasting a final score of 4-2.

Combined with their 5A championship titles from last year and 2018, this latest victory marks the Knights' third title in the last five completed seasons.

Fueled by adrenaline, filled with talent, and led by Coach Frank Zamora,

these gifted young men continue to dominate the competition and make the 9th District proud.

Congratulations, Johnson High School Boys Soccer Team, on an exciting win and becoming back-to-back Georgia State champions.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 11 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 50 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1100

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 11 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Gracious and generous God, every good and perfect gift comes from You. We need only pause and reflect on how our lives have been blessed with family, children, loved ones, and friends, and our hearts are filled with deep gratitude that You allow us these loves in our lives.

So, too, is Your munificence bestowed on us with every skill, every talent, every opportunity that we exercise here in this place and enjoy sometimes without thinking how blessed we are. We need only stop and remember that these qualities which have brought us success in our careers and comfort in our circumstance have been afforded to us by Your kind provision.

In times of growth and grief, faith and fear, accord and acrimony, we need only turn to You in whom there is no variation and whose steadfast love never fails. We need only remember You are always the provider of every gift and, without fail, the answer to our every concern.

All good gifts around us are sent from Heaven above. We need only take the time to thank You, O Lord. Hear our prayers as we offer them in appreciation for all that we have and all that You have allowed us to enjoy.

We offer our prayers in the strength of Your name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY) come

forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TIFFANY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING WISCONSIN'S FALLEN HEROES

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

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend, my district tragically lost the life of another police officer in the line of duty. We mourn the loss of St. Croix County Sheriff's Deputy Katie Leising.

No amount of words can express the loss that Wisconsin has felt for our fallen heroes this year. Katie Leising, Emily Breidenbach, Hunter Scheel, and Peter Jerving dedicated their lives to protecting us, and my prayers are with the friends and family of the fallen.

This cannot continue. In spite of these tragedies, many lawmakers still continue to vilify police at every turn and even call to defund them while allowing criminals to stay on our streets.

Let me be clear: Our law enforcement needs our support now more than ever.

I thank all of Wisconsin law enforcement. These past few months have been tough, but we will get through them together.

Violence toward our police officers is something that we will not tolerate, and please know that Wisconsin's Seventh District stands behind law enforcement.

CALLING FOR GOP BILL ON GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, every day 30 people are killed by someone using a gun. Gun violence is the leading cause of death for children in the United States. When will you be bringing a bill to the floor to help put an end to this carnage?

Mr. Speaker, our country is averaging 1.5 mass shootings every day. There are over 70 suicides and accidental shootings every day. When will you bring a bill to the floor to help put an end to this?

Mr. Speaker, every day our cops are on the street protecting Americans, and they are confronted by criminals who have access, easy access, to guns that they shouldn't have. When will the Republicans be bringing a bill to the floor to help put an end to this, Mr. Speaker?

It is sad. It is sad that there is not even no word but there is no action on this. When will the Republicans work with us Democrats to help put an end to gun violence?

THANKING CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION

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

Mrs. BICE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise and thank the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and Chairman Rocky Barrett for their response to the storm damage in late April throughout central Oklahoma.

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation dispatched more than 20 emergency management units and agencies and even began working to anticipate community needs before the tornado hit Potawatomi County.

The widespread destruction suffered in Shawnee and its surrounding community was devastating. At least 1,800 structures in Shawnee were affected, with 300 heavily damaged and 42 completely destroyed.

My heart goes out to the community, and I am proud of the way Oklahomans have come together as we continue rebuilding and look forward to the future.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

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

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, St. Louis and I rise today in honor of National Nurses Week and to honor the life and legacy of America's first professionally trained Black nurse, Mary Eliza Mahoney.

Today, I am proud to introduce a resolution supported by the National Black Nurses Association and National Nurses United to uplift and celebrate the timeless contributions of Mary Eliza Mahoney.

Mary Eliza advanced the nursing profession by confronting issues affecting professional nurses, such as poor working conditions and racial discrimination.

She was one of the founders of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses, whose mission was to improve access to educational and nursing practices for all Black Americans.

Her legacy lives on in the hearts and minds of Black nurses across this country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating America's first Black nurse and in honoring Black nurses who are saving lives across our country every day.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF STAND UP FOR AMERICA PARADE

(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 recognize my hometown of Port Wentworth, Georgia, and to honor them for celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Stand Up for America Day Parade.

For 50 years, on the last Saturday in April, residents of Port Wentworth and the surrounding areas have gathered to pay homage to members of the Armed Forces, both past and present.

When the parade first started, America was still embroiled in the controversy of the Vietnam war. It was started by then-Mayor P.B. Edwards, who was permanently wounded in the Battle of the Bulge during World War II.

The people of Port Wentworth decided to put on this parade in honor of those Vietnam veterans and all veterans who served in armed conflicts abroad.

After a 3-year hiatus, this year's parade drew over 50 entries, ranging from bands to golf carts, all with one purpose in mind: to honor those who have served us.

I thoroughly enjoy attending this event every time I am able. It reminds me of just how great our Nation is and how grateful we are for our servicemen and—women.

I thank everyone who has helped continue this tradition, from local officials to the community, and wish them the best of luck for the next 50 parades.

BIDEN BORDER POLICY HARMS FAMILIES

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Biden border policies jeopardize national security and endanger all American families everywhere from terrorist attacks by illegal aliens.

According to The Washington Times editorial of April 4, "The effects of the President's policies have been glaringly apparent, particularly to citizens residing along the northbound thoroughfares into the Southwest."

U.S. Customs and Border Protection reports 212,266 border encounters in February, bringing the figure thus far in fiscal year 2023 to 1.3 million illegal aliens.

The cause of the border chaos can clearly be traced to Biden administration policies. Title 42, a Trump-era policy allowing rapid deportation of border crossers, expires May 11, today. There is every reason to anticipate a larger surge of eager recipients.

For Mr. Biden, immigration reform is to be achieved without the bother of

congressional approval. Rather than lifting civilizations to new heights, he is splintering its foundations.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years, as the global war on terrorism continues moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America.

In the real world, if guns are outlawed, only outlaws will have guns.

CELEBRATING TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

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

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, as Teacher Appreciation Week draws to a close, I am thrilled to recognize one of the many educators who has made an incredible impact on the lives of kids in my community: Mr. Mark Lavine from the Panther Valley School District.

A sixth grade math teacher, Mr. Lavine has been a Panther Valley educator for 21 years. His love for teaching and mentoring extends beyond the classroom as the high school football coach, adviser for the academic quiz challenge, and organizer of school spirit day.

Hardworking and compassionate, Mr. Lavine doubled the size of his math class to cover for a colleague on a leave of absence—twice.

He is known as the big brother on staff as a mentor to new teachers, and his energy inspires a loving curiosity for math in his students.

Mr. Lavine epitomizes the dedication of so many educators across Pennsylvania-07 who foster a lifelong love for learning in our kids.

This week and every week, thank a teacher who made a difference in your life, your child's life, or a loved one's life, someone like Panther Valley's Mr. Lavine.

PROHIBITING SALE OF BODY ARMOR

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago, a racist, hateful individual traveled to my community of Buffalo, New York, to commit mass murder at a supermarket on Jefferson Avenue.

Armed with an AR-15 assault weapon, he shot 13 people, killing 10 of them in less than 2 minutes.

It is often said that the best way to stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun. Retired Police Officer Aaron Salter, Jr., the security guard on duty that day, was a good guy with a gun, but he was outgunned by the bad guy with a bigger gun, and his weapon was no match for the military-grade body armor the shooter wore. Body armor designed for war zones has no place in our neighborhoods.

The Aaron Salter, Jr., Responsible Body Armor Possession Act prohibits