

to maintain order, we rely on police officers, our sheriffs, and our troopers to keep us safe.

The bravery that they show in the face of evil—rushing toward an emergency is what stands between lawlessness and order on our streets, and ultimately safety in our homes.

Sadly, we are so often reminded that there are those in this Congress who have looked to defund our law enforcement—actively working to strip them of the tools, the training, and the equipment that they need in order to allow us to remain safe.

So far this year, 135 officers have been wounded by gunfire, 38 by ambush-style attacks, with 15 officers losing their lives in the line of duty, the ultimate sacrifice.

While crime continues to rise in our cities, it is unconscionable that anyone would seek to take away the resources and support for those who have the courage to serve and protect us every day and every night.

Matthew 5 says: “Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.”

The officers across Pennsylvania embody this scripture.

This week, please join me in praying for the men and women who wear the badge. Join me in praying for their safety.

Let's recommit ourselves to standing with our law enforcement officers. Let's pledge to never defund the police. In this Congress, let's promise to always back the men and women in blue.

WORKING TOGETHER TO SECURE THE BORDER

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

Mr. NICKEL. Madam Speaker, North Carolina is a hub of innovation and diversity. People with roots from all over the world have come together to build a prosperous and growing community in our State.

My district is stronger because of its diversity, and we need an immigration system that reflects North Carolina's needs and values.

I believe it is possible to have a fair and efficient immigration system while also protecting our national security and ensuring the safety of American citizens.

That is why I was discouraged that, with title 42 set to expire, the majority chose to advance partisan legislation rather than bipartisan solutions that can pass the House, Senate, and get signed into law.

Likewise, while the administration announced several short-term steps leading up to the expiration of title 42, it was too little too late, and now Congress must act.

It is unfortunate that addressing the situation at the southern border has become a political issue. Border security is not a Democrat or Republican

issue. It is an American issue that we must address.

I was proud to join a bipartisan coalition of Members to introduce legislation that will secure the southern border while giving us more time to enact meaningful, long-term reforms to our overburdened immigration system.

The legislation is the House companion to the one introduced by North Carolina's own Senator THOM TILLIS and Arizona Senator KYRSTEN SINEMA. I am proud to join this effort with Congressmen GOLDEN, CISCOMANI, DON DAVIS from North Carolina, FITZPATRICK, VALADAO, and NUNN.

This legislation grants the Biden administration a 2-year temporary expulsion authority for migrants who enter the U.S. illegally and serves as a proactive measure to tackle the expected surge of migrants at the southern border.

Importantly, this legislation also ensures that migrants facing persecution or torture due to their membership in social, political, or religious groups will not be subject to expulsion. Furthermore, border agents will have the discretion to exempt migrants on a case-by-case basis.

The urgency of decisive action at our southern border cannot be overstated, and this legislation will help in both the short term and the long term.

In the short term, it would effectively extend title 42 restrictions. It would equip the U.S. Customs and Border Protection with the tools and resources to secure our borders and keep Americans safe.

In the long term, this legislation grants more time for Congress to take up and address our overburdened immigration system.

Right now, there is strong bipartisan support for this, and we can work together to find commonsense solutions that can pass into law.

I believe in strong border security and improving technology at our ports of entry. I also believe people who wish to come to our country seeking a better life deserve a pathway to visas or citizenship that doesn't take decades to complete.

North Carolina's economy relies on immigrants to come here on skilled work visas, and I will work to find solutions to address the visa backlog and expand processing. We should address the root causes of migration with a comprehensive approach that includes not only immigration policy but also economic development, humanitarian aid, and diplomatic engagement.

As a member of the Problem Solvers Caucus and member of the New Democrat Coalition's Immigration and Border Security Task Force, I remain focused and committed to working across the aisle to secure our border and advance comprehensive immigration reform.

A solution to our broken immigration system is long overdue, Madam Speaker. Let's work together to secure our borders and ports, create a path-

way to legal status for undocumented immigrants already in the country, and reform our visa system so we can strengthen economic development.

PRIORITIZING ETHANOL

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the importance of prioritizing ethanol as we move toward a cleaner, more renewable energy future.

Today, I am introducing the Fuels Parity Act legislation that would allow ethanol from cornstarch to qualify as an advanced biofuel. Removing legal barriers that limit the use of corn-based ethanol will bolster American energy production and support our agriculture industry, all while lowering emissions.

The Biden administration continues to tout its focus on clean energy, yet routinely leaves ethanol and other biofuels out of the equation. Transitioning to 100 percent electric vehicles is simply not feasible at this point in time. Our energy demands as a Nation are increasing every single day, and our grid cannot support this transition.

Instead of naively pushing for a change without considering the potential side effects, the Biden administration should be promoting all kinds of renewable energy, whether wind and solar to support our power grid, or advanced biofuels to reduce carbon emissions without forcing the purchase of expensive EVs while not having the grid to support them.

My bill is proof that Republicans and Democrats from all different regions are supportive of a cleaner energy future. I am proud to be joined by Representatives BICE, HUNT, SORESENSEN, and BUDZINSKI, and I look forward to continuing our efforts to prioritize American energy production.

□ 1215

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Police Week.

Our officers do their job because they are committed to serving and protecting their communities. It is a selfless profession filled with brave men and women who put their lives on the line to protect others and keep order in society. They deserve recognition for their tireless efforts, yet are oftentimes met with hatred.

Maintaining public safety is the key to thriving communities and our Nation as a whole. In the last few years, our officers have been constantly attacked and defunded in many major American cities. Progressive district attorneys are contributing to the problem by refusing to prosecute crimes, leaving criminals on the street who are highly likely to re-offend. We have all

heard stories far too often about serious crimes committed by people who have been arrested countless times before being let back out on the streets. Unfortunately, this has become the norm in too many cities.

Our law enforcement officers have been left with policies that leave them feeling powerless to do the job they selflessly dedicate their lives to. Whether on the border or in major cities, we need serious bipartisan police reform that holds bad officers accountable and dedicates resources to help good officers do their jobs.

I am grateful for the men and women in law enforcement for their commitment to keeping us safe. I thank them for all they do.

CONGRATULATING THOMAS GIBSON OF IOWA CITY

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Thomas Gibson of Iowa City for winning a Congressional Bronze Medal. I had the pleasure of presenting the award to Thomas last week in front of his friends and family at Iowa City West High School. Thomas is an outstanding young man, deserving of the award given to him to recognize the dedication to service and achievement in our Nation's youth.

In order to earn a Congressional Bronze Medal, participants must set and achieve goals in public service, personal development, physical fitness, and exploration. Thomas fulfilled his goals by restoring a native prairie to its original beauty, volunteering at a community garden that gave all of the food to people in need, and becoming a senior patrol leader for his Boy Scout troop, serving as a role model for younger Scouts and learning valuable lessons in leadership.

Thomas is also a member of Iowa City West's most advanced jazz band and spends his free time working at a local ice cream shop. His peers speak very highly of him and recognize him as a valuable member of the community.

Madam Speaker, I wish Thomas the very best of luck as he continues to be a leader and role model in the community. He represents the very best of Iowa and the rest of the country.

CONGRATULATING HAILEY WHITTERS OF SHUEYVILLE, IOWA

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Hailey Whitters of Shueyville, Iowa, for being named the Academy of Country Music Awards' New Female Artist of the Year.

Hailey had a farm-town upbringing before moving to Nashville to pursue a career in music. She spent the next 10 years honing her craft and finding her true voice before her breakout album "The Dream" caught national attention and The Washington Post called it 2020's "deepest country album."

Hailey's next album titled "Raised" drew inspiration from her upbringing in Iowa and focused on her childhood adventures in Shueyville. This album introduced the world to her own,

unique brand of Iowa country music. Her song "A Beautiful Noise" was a 2022 Grammy nominee for Song of the Year, and she solidified her spot in the country music scene with her Academy of Country Music Awards' New Female Artist of the Year title earlier this month.

Hailey's success is a testament to her hard work and dedication to her craft. I wish her the best of luck as she goes on tour to showcase the new album. I know she will continue to make the people of Shueyville and Iowa proud.

WORLD BEER CUP

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Backpocket Brewing Company from Coralville, Iowa, for winning first place for their Pumpkin Ale at the 2023 World Beer Cup. They have set the bar for excellent beers worldwide. They already had a gold coin. Now they have a gold medal.

When I first put together my draft remarks, I knew any praise I heaped on Backpocket would pale in comparison to their actual accomplishments. So I will let their beer speak for itself and simply say: congratulations.

I also encourage all the breweries who won silver or amber: Do not be sour. You were stout competitors.

CELEBRATING ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Madam Speaker, while there are certainly many important issues to celebrate and recognize during the month of May, one that definitely hits home to me is that May is when our Nation celebrates Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage month. I stand with honor and pride to celebrate my district, my community, and my home, the beautiful island of Guam.

Guam is an island community proudly displaying an American flag in the midst of the Pacific region. Guam is home to a diverse and vibrant community. We are a melting pot consisting of Chamorros, Filipino Americans, Asian Americans, Micronesians, and so many other beautiful ethnicities.

In Guam, we embrace the spirit of inafa'maolek, which is to make good, or in the larger scheme of things, to restore harmony or order.

We are an island of respectability, from taking care of our elders to ensuring our neighbors are okay. We are also a welcoming community, as service-members assigned to Guam can proudly share their stories of being invited to village fiestas.

This month we honor and reflect on our island's unique history, culture, diversity, and contributions to our Nation's history and development.

We are an island of patriots and proud Americans, many of whom have served in the U.S. Armed Forces during

wars and conflicts. On a per capita basis, we have among the highest number of enlistments in the Nation.

Guam is also proud to be home to veterans, once again, among the highest per capita. Our proud veterans hope to be provided the same care that their brothers and sisters receive on the mainland.

In fact, the island remains one of the Pacific's most strategic assets holding key military installations and is also a vital component of the INDOPACOM theater.

As a Pacific Islander, I am proud to be continuing a tradition of holding a seat in the sacred Halls of democracy where I can proudly stand and represent my community. It is a tradition which started with the late Delegate Antonio Won Pat and continued through the works of the late Delegate and General Ben Blaz, Delegate Robert Underwood, Delegate Madeleine Bordallo, and my predecessor, Delegate Michael San Nicolas. Each did their job ensuring that Pacific Islanders were represented with honor and dignity.

As we will certainly have many discussions over this term to discuss the inequities our community faces as American citizens, today I wanted to rejoice in the celebration that I represent Pacific Islanders who are proud, welcoming, and who always display the Hafa Adai spirit.

I want to reflect on the hardworking islanders who have contributed to the growth of Guam and our region, from the levels of commerce, education, farming, healthcare, public service, engineering, and so much more. Many of them have relocated throughout the Nation to become integral contributors of so many districts represented by many Members of Congress.

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month reminds us of the immense contributions to the Nation's history and culture while encouraging us to learn more about their extraordinary and diverse stories, stories I look forward to sharing with my colleagues throughout this term.

Happy Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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