

team, 675 wins, two national championships, six Final Fours, and a stream of conference championships, all Americans, NBA standouts, Hall of Fame. Legend.

That is on the court. In a town where college basketball is king, Denny Crum was an absolute rock star. After 600,000 hands shaken, autographs signed, and pictures snapped, Denny Crum was just as nice as if you were the first person he ever met. We were all Denny Crum's friends. Legend.

If you thought Denny was good to new people, you should see what the guys who knew him forever thought. He was inclusive before it was ever cool.

Guys going back 50 years still call him coach, mentor, friend. Everyone from Dr. Dunkenstein to guys you have never heard of got the same treatment. They were all Denny's guys, Cardinals. Legend, on and off the court.

Today, we all join Scott and Susan, a city in mourning, and forever a community grateful for Coach Denny Crum.

EARTH DAY FOUNDERS KNEW LITTLE

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, in all the hubbub over the significant legislation and the debt limit last week, I think this body let the founding of Earth Day pass.

Of course, the father of Earth Day was none other than Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson. I am sure all of Wisconsin's little schoolchildren are taught that.

Given that we are celebrating the 73rd anniversary of Earth Day, I think we should go back and look at what some of the founders of Earth Day said at that time.

Gaylord Nelson said that within 25 years of the first Earth Day, which was in 1970, 75 to 80 percent of the species of the Earth would be extinct.

Paul Ehrlich, biologist and author of the best-selling book "The Population Bomb," predicted that 100 to 200 million people would be starving per year in the 1980s and that 65 million Americans would die in the 1980s.

George Wald, a well-known Harvard biologist, predicted that civilization would end within 15 to 30 years unless action was taken quickly.

Barry Commoner, another windbag who was on television all the time in the 1970s, also predicted that all the oxygen would be used up in America's freshwater rivers.

The lesson is: Go back and see what those founders of Earth Day said and see how little they really knew about what the future held for us.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. HAGEMAN). Under the Speaker's an-

nounced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield the remainder of my time to the Honorable SHEILA CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, and I yield back the balance of my time.

LOOMING DEBT LIMIT CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the minority leader.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK. Madam Speaker, for the next 60 minutes, I have a chance to speak directly to the American people on issues of great importance to the Congressional Black Caucus, Congress, the constituents we represent, and all Americans.

I rise today, Madam Speaker, to underscore how a failure to lift the debt ceiling would impact low-income Black families' access to healthcare.

On the other side of the aisle, my colleagues are attempting to rip healthcare coverage away from the American people through burdensome Medicaid work requirements. Under MCCARTHY's proposal, more than 10 million people in Medicaid expansion States would be at significant risk of losing coverage, more than one in five enrollees.

Medicaid is a crucial tool for promoting healthcare equality. It covers about 3 in 10 Black Americans, American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islanders as adults. It is a major source of coverage for people of color and provides financial protection from skyrocketing healthcare costs.

Despite what Republicans say, Medicaid work requirements are unnecessary. Most adults already on Medicaid are working. What work requirements do is create new barriers to accessing healthcare equality and quality healthcare.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, mandatory work requirements will cause 2.2 million people to lose healthcare insurance in just 1 year. These healthcare cuts are extreme and have the potential to be catastrophic for vulnerable communities.

Medicaid expansions have worked for Americans. Ever since the enactment of the Affordable Care Act, 16.8 million

Americans have gained healthcare coverage because of Medicaid expansions. At least 19,000 lives have been saved as a result. Medicaid expansions have reduced devastating out-of-pocket medical costs that can be debilitating for many families already struggling to make ends meet.

The debt ceiling proposal that Speaker MCCARTHY has floated would put healthcare out of reach for many Americans and drive them further into poverty. Medicaid enrollees cannot afford this brinkmanship of partisan politics. Their lives are quite literally depending on it.

It is our time to act as a Congress to protect the American people and ensure everyone has access to quality healthcare.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS).

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, right now, the United States economy is being held hostage by Speaker MCCARTHY and extreme MAGA Republicans, who have issued a series of radical demands. In their demands, they are saying that if they are not met, they will force the United States Government into bankruptcy for the first time in our Nation's history.

Madam Speaker, this fate is exactly 16 days away. The clock is ticking. Instead of taking action to avoid this fate, Republicans are doubling down on their threats.

While communities everywhere will suffer enormous harm, no community will bear the brunt of this looming economic catastrophe more than the Black community. A default on our Nation's debt will discontinue crucial programs like Medicare and Social Security.

In my district alone, a default will jeopardize Social Security payments for 59,000 families and threaten the retirement savings of 89,600 people near retirement. A default will dramatically increase borrowing costs for auto, home, and personal loans and hinder access to credit for Black communities, which are already paying more for credit because of predatory lending practices, which still exist today.

For example, a default would increase mortgage interest rates above 8 percent and increase monthly mortgage payments on a median home in California by \$254, pushing the total cost of homeownership up by over \$91,000. This would further decimate the American Dream of homeownership for far too many families.

While we have made considerable progress in strengthening Black employment under President Biden, a default would significantly reverse this progress by throwing 780,000 people out of jobs, including 7,200 jobs in my district alone.

As with most economic crises, Black Americans will not only bear the brunt of a recession but will also have the most difficult time recovering. We have seen this in the past.

Let's be very clear. The brinkmanship over our Nation's debt is not only a direct attack on our economy but also on Black communities everywhere. We are running out of time to save our economy and our most vulnerable communities from a crisis of epic proportions.

Madam Speaker, I urge my Republican colleagues to put an end to this needless political theater and raise the debt limit, as they did three times with no problems under twice-impeached and indicted former President Donald Trump. Not only must they raise the debt limit, but in the midst of a worsening housing crisis, they must do so without cutting a single penny from critical housing funds.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON).

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today in the Chamber of this hallowed institution to raise my voice, echoing the deep concerns that reverberate from the hardworking, dedicated, and patriotic citizens of this great Nation.

Specifically, I stand before you to amplify the anxieties of Black Americans, who for far too long have been subjected to the harshest winds of economic hardship.

Today, we find ourselves on the precipice of a financial abyss. I must underscore the severe impact that the failure to lift the debt ceiling would have on the lives and livelihoods of Black Americans and their families across this country.

Our Nation stands on the brink of a financial crisis, our coffers threatening to run dry as soon as June 1. The hard truth, my colleagues, is that we have already reached our debt limit of \$31.4 trillion, yet we have not reached an agreement to raise the ceiling. This failure to act is not just a legislative oversight. It threatens the very fabric of our economy, our society, and, most importantly, our people's lives.

The debt ceiling, for those unfamiliar, is the total amount the Federal Government can borrow to meet existing obligations, ranging from Medicare and Social Security to loan repayments. If we fail to raise this debt limit, we risk default on our national loans, leading to a catastrophic fallout for our credit rating and potentially triggering a deep recession. The ripple effect of such a financial debacle would not only be felt within our borders but would also potentially destabilize the global economy.

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Now, you may ask, why should Black Americans be particularly concerned?

The answer lies in the cruel and persistent reality of our socioeconomic landscape. A deep recession does not impact all demographics equally. Black Americans are typically among the first to feel the brunt of economic downturns, often being laid off first and, tragically, the last to recover.

A default would strike an even harsher blow to the backbone of Black communities: our elderly. As of 2017, 35 percent of elderly married Black couples and 58 percent of unmarried Black older adults depend on Social Security for 90 percent or more of their income. If the debt ceiling is not lifted, and we default on our obligations, the fallout would disproportionately harm the Black community and shred the already thin safety net many rely upon.

The current crisis we face extends beyond Social Security, Medicare, and essential Federal services. It reaches into the realm of higher education, ensnaring young Black Americans in the tightening grip of student loan debt.

The bill that my colleagues across the aisle have brought to the floor would effectively dismantle President Biden's student loan debt relief, a plan that promises to lift the yoke of debt from those earning less than \$125,000 annually, forgiving up to \$10,000 in student loan debt, and even more for lower-income borrowers. The Republican argument that this plan misuses taxpayer dollars to pardon the debts of some Americans is not just misguided, it is a grievous misrepresentation of the realities faced by our young citizens, particularly those of color.

Black college graduates bear the brunt of this student debt crisis. Over 80 percent of Black bachelor's degree recipients are shackled with an average debt of over \$34,000, according to The Institute for College Access and Success. Not only are they borrowing more, but they are also defaulting at higher rates because they are not able to go into higher-paying jobs. These are not merely statistics, Madam Speaker. These are the dreams of our youth being crushed under the weight of financial obligations.

In the shadow of this impending catastrophe, we ask: Why has Congress not acted?

It is the same answer that has plagued institutions for centuries: politics.

While the Republican-controlled House has passed a bill to raise the debt limit, it is fraught with spending cuts and new work requirements for those receiving government benefits, making it an untenable solution.

Over 85 percent of those persons who are receiving these benefits now have an elderly person or child or are unable to find public or private transportation to meet these work requirements. We must think of the whole continuum in order to fix the problem and not lay blame on the backs of the poor.

During the Presidency of Donald Trump, Congress raised the debt limit three times—in 2017, 2018, and 2019—with bipartisan support, and no precondition on budget cuts. Since 1959, the debt ceiling has been raised 89 times. A financial crisis was averted because both sides of the aisle recognized the need to act swiftly and responsibly to protect the interests of the American people.

Now, as we face a similar situation, the Biden-Harris administration has drawn a clear line in the sand. They have rightly insisted that fiscal budgets and the debt ceiling should be separate issues. Again, fiscal budgets and the debt ceiling should be separate issues. The former is a debate about the future. The latter is a commitment to paying our bills for debts we have already incurred. Mixing these two distinct aspects would be akin to confusing our aspirations with our responsibilities.

A default would wreak havoc on Federal services that Black and Brown communities disproportionately rely upon, such as food assistance and Social Security. It would cause the government to prioritize debt payments over the well-being of its citizens, leading to a potential halt on these critical services. The impacts of a default are largely unknown and could be far-reaching, potentially exacerbating existing racial disparities in healthcare, veteran services, and the labor market.

A default would also have a chilling effect on consumer borrowing costs, with interest rates likely to skyrocket for home, auto, and personal loans. Furthermore, the increased credit risk of the Federal Government could significantly hinder credit access for communities of color, who are already more likely to have weaker credit profiles and also the history of redlining.

Our Nation is at a crossroads. We cannot allow political brinkmanship to lead us into an economic downturn that would disproportionately devastate our most vulnerable communities. A failure to lift the debt ceiling is not just an economic misstep, it is a failure of our collective moral responsibilities to all Americans, especially those who have historically been marginalized and disadvantaged.

Black unemployment has been decreasing, and we have made strides toward a stronger, more equitable economy. Yet, if a recession were to happen due to our failure to raise the debt limit, the unemployment rate for Black Americans would rise again, faster than for other demographics. This potential economic downturn threatens to wipe away the progress we have made and plunge us back into inequality and hardship.

We must not allow a crisis of our own making to unravel the hard-earned progress of our people. We must raise the debt ceiling, not just because it is economically prudent, but because it is morally right.

The dignity and welfare of our people, especially Black families who have far too long borne the brunt of economic hardship, hang in the balance. Let us act not out of fear but out of hope; not out of division but out of unity; and not out of despair but out of the belief in the promise of a more equitable and prosperous America for all.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, let me thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON) for gathering us this evening.

As I have often said, this is National Police Week. Today, we honor those who have fallen in battle. That is why I think this debate on the debt ceiling is so crucial, and it is really important to have the American people recognize, particularly those impacted in the African-American community, as the Congressional Black Caucus rises today to specifically focus on the, if you will, economic infrastructure around a community that has in its history in this country been deprived of economic wealth and has a wealth disparity between Anglo Americans of \$174,000 versus about \$17,000, which leads us to understand how important it is to have a stable economic structure and for the country to pay its bills.

Madam Speaker, what is the debt ceiling?

It is simply a procedure that has been designated as required for the Nation to pay her bills. Every single family, independent, working person, and people who are in need understand the need to pay bills. They understand the crisis of not paying bills.

Tonight, I just want to briefly discuss some of the challenges that will be faced by poor people, people of color, but also by our law enforcement. Tragically, we see circumstances when law enforcement on the front lines are in jeopardy. As we see that, we are hearing about who is for the police and who is not for the police.

Let me tell you what the default on America bill that has been passed by my Republican friends will do. Frankly, that bill is what we are being held hostage for. They want to move the default on America bill before we do the right, constitutional, and definitively important act of raising the debt ceiling simply to pay the bills, simply to have America continue to be rolling on all wheels, simply to make sure that the military is paid, and the massive numbers of law enforcement are paid.

With this bill, the Department of Justice budget will be cut by over \$8 billion and threatens nearly 30,000 law enforcement jobs.

The default on America bill cuts nearly \$1 billion in grants for State, local, and Tribal law enforcement. That includes \$150 million in the bill that I wrote, the Violence Against Women Act, and it cuts the programs created by the Violence Against Women Act, which will especially harm women in Native communities.

The bill cuts \$1 billion in FBI funding that the agency uses to conduct background checks to solve violent crimes and combat terrorism. This is protecting individual family members and neighborhoods. By cutting these dollars, you are putting them in jeopardy.

It eliminates \$564 million in funding for the Drug Enforcement Agency. We are trying to stop fentanyl which, by

the way, has been brought in by U.S. citizens through legal points of entry.

It eliminates \$384 million more from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. We have seen what guns can do to law enforcement officers on the front lines. I am stunned that we are where we are today. It has already been noted that, in fact, under the past administration, the Trump administration, if I might say, the debt ceiling was raised in a collegial, responsible way by former Speaker NANCY PELOSI and the Democratic majority with the Trump administration doing what is right.

The only thing that undermined a strong economy was the major deficit and debt that was created by the Trump tax cuts.

So, here we are today. Why, I ask, are we, in essence, being stumbling blocks instead of building for eternity, instead of working together, instead of finding common ground?

If we voted today, we would be voting to honor those who have fallen, we will be voting to honor those who serve. We need to provide those funds to local, State, and Tribal Governments to ensure that we have law enforcement, that 800,000 police are not diminished but they are enhanced with skills, training, and funding that we are able to do in the Federal Government.

Let me add, this will be making poor people poorer. Food stamps and other nutritional programs will be cut by \$14.7 billion in August and September; Pell grants that cover higher education—which is the underpinning of creating a new America, an America that is an opportunity for all of us—for low-income students will be cut \$8.8 billion. Educational programs designed to improve academic achievement for disadvantaged children, will be cut \$2.5 billion by August and September; early childhood development services for low-income children—these are lifelines for these children—will be cut by \$1.3 billion. All of these are very special and close to my heart, but job training programs for dislocated workers, youth employment services—which directly relate to young people having an opportunity in the summer, not being distracted, not being subjected to potential violence or loss of life because they are not being constructively engaged—will be cut by \$800 million.

I am wondering, can we not work together as we did under the Democratic majority, working with a Republican President?

Can't we work with a Democratic President and a Republican House and do what is right for the American people and ensure that the poor don't get poorer, and that people of color don't get thrown, not just off the rails but out of the train and out of the bus to be rolled over?

We have got to be able to respond to our early histories, many of us know what being poor is, but most of us know what it is to come up without much, but because of education and op-

portunities, we are here in this Congress today. I see that in my constituents. I see that in the high schools I go to. The graduating classes I went to over the weekend where I saw the graduates who individually had stories where their original beginnings were not the best, but look at them, graduating with an undergraduate business degree, graduating from law school, graduating with associate degrees, making life better because part of that was funded by Federal resources.

We need to raise the debt ceiling, not by being held hostage, but by doing the responsible thing. We need to pay America's bills and to make sure that the American people who are pulling themselves up by their bootstraps have the shoes to be able to pull themselves up. We need to make sure during this very special week that we honor police officers by providing those local police departments, State departments, Tribal departments the resources that they need, and particularly that we don't underfund the Violence Against Women Act—some of the most violent calls are domestic violence calls—by \$150 million. We need to make sure that we do not take money away from police officers, \$8 billion, with 30,000 law enforcement officers lost.

How outrageous are we going to be?

Raise the debt ceiling and do what is right for the American people and our children.

Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the Congressional Black Caucus, and on the House Budget Committee, it is my duty to speak on the Republican manufactured debt crisis and the devastating impacts of the failure to lift the debt ceiling would have on Black families.

Breaching the debt limit would provoke unprecedented economic damage and instability in the U.S. and around the world.

Every single American would feel the effects of a first-ever default:

An estimated 8 million people would be out of work and the unemployment rate would double;

Social Security checks would be halted to 67 million Americans;

Medicaid services would be in doubt, affecting 75 million people's health coverage;

The average worker close to retirement could see their retirement savings decrease by \$20,000 due to Republican brinkmanship impacting the stock market.

Republicans suspended the debt ceiling three times under President Trump.

In fact, the massive Republican tax cuts over the last 25 years have cost \$10 trillion to date and are responsible for 57 percent of the increase to the debt ratio since 2001.

Instead of investing in America, Republicans would rather focus on holding our economy hostage to advance unpopular and dangerous right-wing priorities.

Their plan would expand so called "work requirements" in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Everyone needs enough resources to afford the basics including food, a roof over their heads, and healthcare.

Taking food, health care, or income support away from people who do not meet work-reporting requirements causes harm and does not increase work.

SNAP already has a requirement for some participants and it's a failure—it takes basic food assistance away from people who need it and doesn't boost their employment.

Most people who get help affording food or health coverage do work. But this proposal will cause many working people to lose assistance.

Not only would their unpopular policies negatively impact millions of people across America, their proposed spending cuts would specifically have devastating impacts on thousands of hardworking families across Texas.

Republicans are threatening food assistance for up to 855,000 Texans with their proposals for harsh new eligibility restrictions in SNAP. This proposal would also mean 139,000 women, infants, and children would lose vital nutrition assistance through the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), increasing child poverty and hunger.

This proposal would not only eliminate Pell Grants altogether for 6,800 students in Texas, but it would also reduce the maximum award by nearly \$1,000 for the remaining 581,100 students who receive Pell Grants—making it harder for them to attend and afford college.

Under this proposal, 39,700 families in Texas would lose access to rental assistance, including older adults, persons with disabilities, and families with children, who without rental assistance would be at risk of homelessness.

Under this proposal, people applying for disability benefits would have to wait at least two months longer for a decision. With fewer staff available, 5 million seniors and people with disabilities in Texas would be forced to endure longer wait times when they call for assistance for both Social Security and Medicare.

This proposal would mean 46,100 fewer veteran outpatient visits in Texas, leaving veterans unable to get appointments for care like wellness visits, mental health services, and substance disorder treatment.

The proposal would mean 17,500 children in Texas lose access to Head Start slots and 9,900 children lose access to childcare—undermining our children's education and making it more difficult for parents to join the workforce and contribute to our economy.

The proposal would deny admission to opioid use disorder treatment for more than 1,100 people in Texas through the State Opioid Response grant program—denying them a potentially life-saving path to recovery.

More specifically, the impacts on my home district, Texas-18, would be catastrophic:

Kill 7,300 jobs in TX-18;

Jeopardize Social Security payments for 61,000 families in TX-18;

Put health benefits at risk for 242,000 people in TX-18 who rely on Medicare, Medicaid, or Veterans Affairs health coverage;

Increase lifetime mortgage costs for the typical homeowner in Texas by \$50,000;

Threaten the retirement savings of 81,400 people near retirement in TX-18, eliminating \$20,000 from the typical retirement portfolio.

There never has been and never will be anything fiscally responsible about refusing to pay America's bills, risking millions of jobs, or threatening economic ruin.

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Ms. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Madam Speaker, you have heard from my distinguished colleagues about our topic today, which is raising the debt

ceiling, all issues of great importance to the Congressional Black Caucus, our constituents, Congress, and all Americans tonight.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

BACK THE BLUE

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

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I appreciate this time as we have our bipartisan Special Order hour to honor law enforcement officers all across America to talk about our back the blue.

This evening, as we begin, I am joined by so many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who truly do support our law enforcement community. We are here to celebrate the lives and also honor the deaths of many of these officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Madam Speaker, as a career law enforcement officer, I know what our officers go through every day when they put on their uniforms, say good-bye to their families, and head out to do the important work of protecting their communities. They step into that breach between the good citizens that they have sworn to protect and that criminal element out there that would do them harm.

Unfortunately, over the last few years, we have seen an uptick in violence specifically directed at law enforcement officers, especially in the form of ambush-style attacks. These violent attacks have been fueled by antipolice rhetoric, which has left our officers demoralized and delegitimized.

In fact, according to the National Fraternal Order of Police, just this year, just in 2023 so far, 135 officers have been shot, 15 of those killed by gunfire. The number of officers shot in the line of duty is up 52 percent from this time 3 years ago.

Madam Speaker, there have been 38 ambush-style attacks on police officers, 38. In these attacks, 43 police officers have been shot. This country cannot tolerate this violence. We must respond with action to prevent further attacks against our police officers. I am grateful for my bipartisan colleagues who join me on this floor this evening to send a message that we have the backs of those officers who serve our communities.

This Congress, I am proud to have reintroduced three bipartisan bills to further support our law enforcement officers: The Invest to Protect Act, which will make critical investments in small police departments with fewer than 200 officers to help them with recruitment, retention, mental health support for their officers, and officer training. The Protect and Serve Act, which creates enhanced Federal penalties for individ-

uals who deliberately target law enforcement officers in the line of duty. So if you target the police, Congress is going to target you. Then finally, the HELPER Act, which will help our law enforcement officers and other first responders buy homes within the community that they serve.

I am going to continue to advocate for legislation that supports and equips our men and women in blue. While we continue to work to support officers still on the job, we must also remember those who have laid down their lives in service to their communities.

Last week, I had the honor of commemorating Florida's fallen officers, including two in my own district. Paul Matthew Patrick was an Atlantic Beach police officer whose watch ended on September 12. He is a legacy. He died in 1932. Coby Brandon Seckinger is a St. Johns County deputy whose watch ended on December 14 of 2020.

Madam Speaker, it is vital that we never forget those who choose to walk out that door each day and face an unknown danger so that we don't have to. Ralph Waldo Emerson once said: "The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well."

This week we remember their sacrifice and use it as an inspiration to better support law enforcement officers across this Nation. I pray each and every person across America would live the rest of our lives worthy of their sacrifice.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL), my good friend across the aisle, who is also co-chair of the Law Enforcement Caucus. I thank him for being here, and he knows about service. He has served in the Army, and he is now serving on the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I associate myself with Mr. RUTHERFORD's words.

Madam Speaker, I am always proud to stand in support of our brave law enforcement officers, those officers who suit up every day. That is especially true during National Police Week.

Our heroes do not just protect the safety of us and our neighbors, they defend the institutions that are fundamental to the well-being of our great society.

Thousands of law enforcement officers and their families are in Washington to pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice. The names of 556 officers will be added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Among these fallen heroes are Matthew Vogel of the Hudson County Sheriff's Office in New Jersey and Robert Miller of the Clifton Police Department.

Lieutenant Vogel and Sergeant Miller are missed tremendously in our north Jersey communities. I pray for their families, and I know my brother across the aisle feels the same way.