

CONGRATULATING MS. DEE HEARD ON WINNING THE CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of last week's Teacher Appreciation Week to congratulate my constituent and winner of the Clark County School District Teacher of the Year Award, Ms. Dee Heard.

Ms. Heard is a sixth-grade teacher at Sedway Middle School and an innovative leader who is constantly thinking of ways to engage her students outside the textbook.

When students struggled after the pandemic, she designed a schoolwide math competition, complete with pep rallies and digital workspaces, to create learning incentives and help students track their progress and goals over time.

Ms. Heard also leads outside the classroom. She regularly collaborates with school staff to assist with everything from bus tickets to emotional support to food for her students.

I could not be more proud to represent teachers like Ms. Heard, and to know that our next generation of leaders is in such great hands. I thank her for all her hard work, and I congratulate her on her well-deserved honor.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all the incredible southern Nevada teachers who deserve our appreciation, not just this week, but every week.

#### SECURE OUR SOUTHERN BORDER

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud that my House Republican colleagues and I passed H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act, last week.

President Biden's open border policies have created chaos at our southern border and the resulting crime surge and fentanyl crisis. I urge my Senate colleagues to also pass this commonsense legislation, which would finish the border wall, add Border Patrol agents, end catch and release, protect children from human trafficking, and stop the fentanyl crisis.

The border crisis is getting worse and worse every day. People on the terrorist watch list are being apprehended regularly, and there is no telling how many have snuck in illegally. I have been to the southern border, and what I saw was shocking. I saw human heartbreak, scared children, overcrowded facilities, overwhelmed Border Patrol agents, and evidence of human and drug trafficking being committed by the Mexican cartels.

Mr. Speaker, I saw whole giant sections of the unfinished border wall, with the materials to finish these sections lying in piles in the sun. We need to fix this humanitarian crisis now, and we have done our part in the House to do just that.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the U.S. Senate and the President will step up to the plate, as well.

#### NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, this is National Police Week, and I am proud to use my voice and my vote in Congress to honor the brave men and women who wear the badge and put their lives on the line to protect all of us.

Since President Biden took office, crime rates have skyrocketed. In the last 3 years, the number of officers shot in the line of duty is up 52 percent; in major American cities, homicides are up 13 percent; rapes are up 23 percent; and aggravated assaults are up 33 percent. Meanwhile, Federal arrests are down 35 percent. These numbers confirm that we need to do a better job supporting our law enforcement officers and ensure that they have the resources they need to do their job.

I support law enforcement officers. This week, as a part of my commitment to the Big First, I am honored to support commonsense reforms to issues affecting police, oppose any efforts to defund them, and memorialize law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.

I am going to memorialize four of those officers from the great State of Kansas now, who paid the ultimate price while protecting their fellow Kansans: David Leroy Ingle from Iola; Stacy Annette Murrow from Linn County; Robert Price Craft from Marion County; and Sidnee Taylor Carter from Sedgwick County. May they rest in peace.

Mr. Speaker, I ask everyone to join me in praying for law enforcement and in thanking your local police officers this week for their service.

#### HONORING DR. MARTY VANIER

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great Kansan and member of the Kansas State University family, Dr. Marty Vanier, who is receiving the Jay Dillingham Award for Agricultural Leadership and Excellence this week.

The Agricultural Business Council of Kansas City selected Dr. Vanier as a recipient of this year's award for good reason. She has deep roots in Kansas agriculture, having grown up on her family's ranch where they raised commercial and registered Hereford cattle. She has held several leadership positions in the fields of veterinary pharmaceutical and food safety. She is now the director of the National Agricultural Biosecurity Center at Kansas State.

Dr. Vanier received her undergraduate degree from Kansas State. She began her career in Washington, D.C., serving with the Animal Health Institute and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In 1987, she returned to Kansas State and has since worked for the university's Department of Animal Sciences, the Office of Strategic Partnership Development for the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility, and the Kansas State Agricultural Biosecurity Center, which she now directs.

Dr. Vanier has the unique ability of bringing her diverse experiences to bear as an educator. She is a student,

professor, veterinarian, advocate, scientist, and philanthropist all at the same time.

Her thoughtful, systematic approach to leadership has made her a favorite in the classroom and among so many others.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Dr. Vanier on this well-deserved award.

#### NEGOTIATE IN GOOD FAITH ON THE NATION'S DEBT CEILING

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

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, Republicans aren't being honest when they tell you they are trying to negotiate in good faith on the Nation's debt ceiling.

First, this shouldn't be a negotiation; it is paying our bills we have already spent. We have lifted the debt ceiling over 80 times before, including three times during President Trump's tenure because you have to pay your bills.

Second, the legislation they passed, as an alleged negotiation, shows how drastic they would like to cut spending but can't because they can't even put specifics on paper, like the President and the Democrats have. They would love to cut programs drastically, but the cuts would hurt so many Americans they can't actually do it. That is why they haven't released a budget.

I serve on the Appropriations Committee—let me explain what the Republicans want to do. They passed a bill to cut spending to fiscal year 2022 levels. That sounds innocuous enough, but here is what it actually means. Deep cuts.

We have discretionary and nondiscretionary spending. We can't cut nondiscretionary spending like Social Security and Medicare because, well, it is your money that we hold on to as a public trust. By law, we can't cut nondiscretionary spending. That only leaves discretionary funds that can be changed.

Discretionary funds are eligible for cuts or increases, but the GOP majority further limits that by saying they won't cut Pentagon spending, amounting to over half of the discretionary funds.

That leaves a much smaller portion of the total budget to absorb all the cuts they propose, adding up to a 22 percent cut of all remaining funds. That is 22 percent of the funds that help veterans, 22 percent of the funds to protect the border, funds for Meals on Wheels programs, funds for railroad safety inspections, education, housing, and healthcare, all cut.

Think about those levels of cuts and what that effect would have on you and your family. They talk a tough game on the border, but they would cut 22 percent of the funding going to protect the border. Cutting Border Patrol and Customs officers could increase the flow of people coming into the country and cut back on searches for fentanyl and other drugs at our points of entry.

They say they want to back the blue and support our police, but 22 percent cuts to Federal law enforcement and grants to local police departments are hardly the support they need.

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They say they support our veterans—but cut veterans' food assistance programs and housing choice vouchers, hurting tens of thousands of veterans who have bravely served. Even the PACT Act that finally made it through Congress to help veterans exposed to toxic chemicals wouldn't get the funding needed to help those who served our Nation.

It keeps going. 180,000 fewer children would have access to childcare; 10,800 fewer OSHA inspections of plants would expose workers to unsafe conditions. Drug treatment courts would lose funding, and 29,000 fewer people would be able to get treatment for opioid addiction.

There is a reason why they can't put out a full budget. It is because these types of cuts aren't workable.

It is worse. If they do fund some areas, then other areas will see even deeper cuts—30 percent or more cuts in some of the areas I just mentioned. If they don't get these cuts, then they won't pay our Nation's current bills and will force our Nation into default.

When you sign a mortgage, you can't decide whether or not you are going to send your monthly check. If you default, then you lose your house, and your credit is shot. The same is true for the Federal Government.

You would also be directly affected by Republican default. Millions of people would lose their jobs. Interest rates for home buyers and small businesses would go up overnight. Stocks would tank, sinking your retirement investments.

Congress has to pay its bills like you do, responsibly, and you do that by lifting the debt ceiling now. If not, then, Mr. President, invoke parts of the 14th Amendment to pay our bills and not damage the economy.

Enough messing around. Get the job done, House Republicans. Your constituents deserve it.

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

#### NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, America's law enforcement officers are the best among us.

As we celebrate National Police Week this week, I am proud to join my colleagues and millions of Americans in saying thank you to the brave men and women who wear the badge.

Every day, law enforcement officers courageously save innocent lives, stop criminals, and help our communities. Yet tragically, since 1776, more than

26,000 police officers and sheriff's deputies have made the ultimate sacrifice, and in just the last 3 years alone, we have lost 1,397 officers in the line of duty. That is 26,000 too many.

Despite the countless sacrifices that our police officers and sheriff's deputies across the Nation make every day, the far left has pushed to defund the police for far too long, and our police and sheriff's officers have been under relentless attack.

With crime running rampant in communities across the country, defunding and demoralizing our law enforcement has only made communities less safe. Unfortunately, instead of taking action to give law enforcement more resources and support, liberal politicians have doubled down on soft-on-crime policies that have gotten us into this mess.

Despite this, local law enforcement officers in communities across Virginia's Sixth District and across our Nation go to work every day to protect each and every one of us, and we cannot convey our gratitude enough.

This week, House Republicans will be voting on a resolution that expresses our continued support for law enforcement officers and condemns the far left's efforts to defund the police.

We will also be voting on H.R. 2494, the POLICE Act, which will make assault on a law enforcement officer by an alien a deportable offense and important legislation that establishes a program for Federal law enforcement officers to purchase retired handguns at fair market value.

Mr. Speaker, House Republicans will continue to proudly back the brave men and women who wear the brown and the blue across America. As we honor National Police Week, I urge all of my colleagues to join us in support by passing these bills.

#### JOHN HANDLEY HIGH SCHOOL 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 100th anniversary of Winchester, Virginia's, own John Handley High School, an endowed public school located in the heart of Shenandoah Valley.

The school's funding was launched by an 1895 grant from Judge John Handley—hence the school mascot, the "Judges," because of Handley's love of the town and its people that grew through his friends and acquaintances—and construction followed beginning in 1922.

Despite never having lived in Winchester, Judge Handley's generosity made it possible for generations of students to enhance their knowledge.

More importantly, it created an environment, a culture of support, and appreciation for public education.

With state-of-the-art facilities, cutting-edge academics, a dedicated athletic program, and an award-winning fine arts program, the John Handley High School truly sets itself apart. The school was even recently named the most beautiful high school in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Today, under the leadership of principal Susan Braithwaite, John Handley High School's thriving active student body and dedicated staff truly embody the meaning of Handley Pride.

Congratulations to John Handley High School and all the students, alumni, teachers, and staff, past and present, on this incredible milestone, and I wish the school another 100 years of success.

#### DEBT CEILING

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, the greatest threat to America's economy is our debt crisis. Even according to former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Admiral Mike Mullen, the most significant threat to America's security is our national debt.

Our financial instability today has spiraled out of control because of President Biden and the Democrats' reckless spending to fund their radical agenda.

Now our Nation faces an unsustainable \$31.7 trillion in debt.

Earlier last week, President Biden met with Speaker MCCARTHY and congressional leadership to discuss legislation to raise the debt ceiling, and to no one's surprise, Biden and Senate Democrats continued to avoid their responsibilities to negotiate.

House Republicans have already worked toward a deal by passing a sensible debt ceiling bill that will limit government spending, grow the economy, save taxpayer dollars, and protect vital benefits.

We have also done our job to stop the chaos at our southern border by passing H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act. The security of our border is inextricably linked to the fiscal security of our Nation.

A recent cost estimate of the Secure the Border Act by the Congressional Budget Office has confirmed that Federal taxpayers are spending tens of billions of dollars on benefits for illegal immigrants like health care, nutrition, and refundable child tax credits due to Biden's current border policies.

Taking into account costs at the State and local level, American taxpayers pay \$182 billion annually for services and benefits to illegal immigrants.

At the end of the day, blank government checks got us into this debt crisis, and a no-strings-attached debt ceiling increase will only serve to push our already fragile economy off the fiscal cliff.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to act, and I urge the President to join us at the table.

#### NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

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

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to thank the men and women who work every day to keep our communities safe and to honor those