

who have given their lives in service to our communities.

As the daughter of a retired career law enforcement officer and as a former Federal agent, I know the responsibilities, the pressure, and the stress that can come with putting on the badge.

I stand here today during this National Police Week to honor Virginia's Seventh District and the officers who call it home.

Across our Commonwealth, we reflect on the service and the sacrifice of our community's law enforcement officers. As the Representative for Virginia's Seventh District, it is my great privilege to represent so many public servants: the men and women who have answered the call to serve their fellow Americans, their neighbors, and our communities.

This week and every day, we remember their colleagues and friends—those who never returned home. In their absence, our communities, our Commonwealth, and our country have felt tremendous loss.

Today, on the floor of the United States House of Representatives, I am honored to read the names of fallen officers from Virginia's Seventh District. May they never be forgotten and may their service and their sacrifice inspire their fellow law enforcement officers to continue to serve and protect.

From the Prince William County Police Department: Police Officer Ashley Marie Guindon, Police Officer Chris Yung, Police Officer Philip Michael "Mike" Pennington, and Police Officer Paul Thomas "Pete" White, Jr.

From the Prince William County Sheriff's Office: Deputy Sheriff David William Myers, Jr.

From the Stafford County Sheriff's Office:

Deputy Sheriff Jason Edward Mooney and Deputy Sheriff Ford T. Humphrey.

From the Fredericksburg Police Department:

Police Officer Todd Allen Bahr, Officer William Franklin Mines, Sergeant Roy Glen Wright, and Officer Ellsworth Alexander Moore.

From the Culpeper County Sheriff's Office: Captain James Anthony Sisk and Deputy Sheriff George Robert Lillard, Jr.

From the King George County Sheriff's Office: Deputy Sheriff Craig Lamont Brooks.

From the Caroline County Sheriff's Office: Deputy Sheriff Strother W. "Ted" Lewis, Sr.

From the Greene County Sheriff's Office: Investigator Chadwick Alan Carr and Sergeant Rodney Lee Davis.

From the Orange County Sheriff's Office: Sheriff William B. "Willie" Young and Sheriff Willie C. Bond.

From the Spotsylvania County Sheriff's Office: Deputy Sheriff Bryan Marshall Berger, Deputy Sheriff Dean Ridings, and Detective Richard Lee Samuels.

This week, we remember these officers, these Virginians, and these he-

ros. They are someone's loved one, fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, children. Their names are not only remembered here in the U.S. Capitol and throughout the Halls of Congress, but their sacrifices are honored throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

These officers were dedicated public servants. They were valued loved ones across our communities, and they represented the best of Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, during National Police Week, I thank the public servants who protect the U.S. Capitol every single day, those who stand watch over the very function of our democracy.

I know I stand with my colleagues expressing gratitude and appreciation for the U.S. Capitol Police.

On January 6, 2012, their heroism alongside that of the Metropolitan Police Department protected Members of Congress, Capitol employees, staff, and our very democracy. More than 150 police officers were injured that day, and yet they still stand strong, committed to their duty.

As the Representative for Virginia's Seventh District, I am proud to represent many of the men and women of the U.S. Capitol Police in Congress, and I am committed to making sure that they have the resources, support, financial security, and retirements they deserve and have earned through their selfless sacrifice.

It is the least we can do in return for their professionalism, their fervent commitment to duty, their devotion to our country, and their work every day in the Halls of Congress.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

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

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, during National Police Week, we honor our men and women in blue for their courage, dedication, and commitment to preserving law and order in our communities. We also remember the fallen, those who made the ultimate selfless sacrifice in the line of duty.

On this National Police Week, Congress has the unique opportunity to not just say we back the blue but to actually take a stand against a misguided law that severely hinders the ability of police officers in this very city from protecting and serving the American people.

The D.C. City Council's so-called police reform bill—the Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Emergency Amendment Act—creates very serious undue burdens on the Metropolitan Police Department. Amidst the raging crime crisis terrorizing the streets here in our Nation's Capital, this law, which for 2 years has been in effect under emergency legislative powers, puts criminals first and MPD officers last.

MPD officers overwhelmingly oppose the D.C. Council's anti-police law, and they are making it known with their

feet. Since this legislation has been in place, the MPD has lost more than 1,100 officers and currently operates at a 500-officer deficit. As officers are leaving the force in droves, faster than they can be replaced, the Metropolitan Police Department has drastically shrunk to a historic half-century low.

Due to my commitment to our Constitution and passion for restoring law and order in our Nation's Capital, I introduced a resolution, H.J. Res. 42, to repeal the D.C. Council's harmful law.

Last month this body passed my commonsense measure by a bipartisan vote garnering the support of 14 House Democrats. By passing my resolution, the House firmly rejected the council's anti-police law, reaffirming our support of heroic law enforcement officers and underscored the importance of protecting Americans' safety here in Washington.

It is now up to the Senate to act before it is too late.

Thankfully, today Senators will vote on H.J. Res. 42 as Senator J.D. VANCE is leading the fight to repeal the D.C. Council's anti-police law. During this vote Senators will face a very simple question: On National Police Week do they stand with the officers of the Metropolitan Police Department, or do they embolden violent criminals who continue to torment and attack Americans in our Nation's Capital?

Earlier this year when Congress was confronted with a similar question as we considered my previous D.C.-related resolution, H.J. Res. 26, to block the D.C. Council's soft-on-crime Revised Criminal Code Act, we had 31 Democrats in both the House and the Senate join our effort to strike down this radical law that would eliminate minimum sentences and reduce maximum penalties for numerous violent criminal offenses.

I now call on these same 31 Senate Democrats to join our fight, yet again, by passing H.J. Res. 42 because failure to do so will only drive out more Metropolitan Police Department officers and deter officers from joining the force, meaning Washington will have fewer police officers on the streets to combat the dangerous crime crisis plaguing our Nation's Capital.

While D.C.'s local leadership shamelessly refuses to admit there is a crime crisis in Washington, the data reveals that the crime crisis is not only real, but that it is getting worse. Compared to last year, violent crime is up 13 percent as the city has already faced more than 80 homicides in just the first 4½ months of 2023. Property crime has increased by a whopping 30 percent, and total crime overall is up 27 percent.

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Clearly, the crime crisis in our Nation's Capital is dire, which is why residents, small businesses, visitors, and the brave officers of the Metropolitan Police Department are counting on Congress to act. They are depending on

us to use our authority outlined in Article I, Section 8, Clause 17 of the Constitution to prevent our Nation's Capital from becoming the next New York City, Chicago, or San Francisco. They are calling on us to support MPD officers, help them restore law and order, and improve public safety in Washington.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Senate to put people over politics. Join our effort to repeal the D.C. Council's antipolice law and send this commonsense bill, H.J. Res. 42, to the President's desk.

I implore President Biden to abandon his senseless veto threat so we can take another crucial step in bolstering the ranks of the Metropolitan Police Department and boosting public safety in D.C.

We shoulder the responsibility and the authority to make our Nation's Capital a safer place for all Americans, and we cannot take this duty lightly. It is time for the Senate to take a stand in not only protecting Americans in Washington but in protecting MPD officers who risk their lives to defend law and order in D.C.

On this National Police Week, fulfilling our constitutional duty to strike down a law that will continue to severely damage the Metropolitan Police Department is the least we can do to show that we do, in fact, always back the blue.

RECOGNIZING MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize May as Mental Health Awareness Month.

One in six students is experiencing childhood mental health disorders. Among adults, that number jumps to one in five.

Our Nation is facing a mental health crisis, and it requires urgent action. For too long, mental health has been a topic that people have been afraid to openly discuss.

It carries with it a stigma that has prevented people from getting the care they need. I know this firsthand. Having been raised by a single mom with undiagnosed depression, I know the challenges that many families face. While grateful for her love, I knew the struggles that she lived with.

Talking about mental health simply isn't enough. We must work hard to break down and break through barriers and encourage more people to seek the help they need.

That requires us as a nation and as communities to invest more and to help ensure anyone who needs mental health treatment can access it.

I spent much of the last 12 years as a local elected official building up the most comprehensive community-based mental health model in the country. It is now, today, the model that New

York State uses, and it is critically important that we expand the reach and the ability of individuals to access community-based mental health treatment.

In upstate New York, we have incredible providers like the Mental Health Association of the Southern Tier. Unfortunately, these providers are stretched thin and face growing demand. They need our help.

That is why we must increase Federal commitment to mental health programming and incentivize mental health education to boost the pipeline of qualified practitioners.

As we recognize Mental Health Awareness Month, we must increase our commitment to addressing the mental health crisis in our communities.

This is an issue that transcends party and politics. By working together, we can build communities where everyone has the support they need to live out a full, healthy, and fulfilling life.

HONORING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with many of my colleagues in honor of National Police Week. I join Members across this country in recognizing the brave men and women who serve in Federal, State, county, and local law enforcement.

I especially acknowledge and recognize the men and women of law enforcement throughout upstate New York, the county, State, and local men and women who put their lives on the line every day to protect our communities.

Sadly, however, they don't get the recognition that they deserve, and appreciation, while well deserved, is simply not enough.

New York State passed cashless bail reforms that have allowed dangerous criminals to be released and remain in our communities and on our streets, reoffending, creating new victims, undermining law enforcement, and diminishing public safety.

These laws make it harder and more dangerous to be a law enforcement official or a police officer. It is no wonder our police officers are leaving the profession in record numbers.

Here in Congress, we are moving this week to pass bills to show our support and appreciation for law enforcement and to prove again that we have their backs. We defend those who defend us and vigorously oppose the defund and defame the police movement, not just because it is the right thing to do but because it will further protect our police officers and enhance community safety.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize all of those men and women who serve and sacrifice every day, and we are grateful to them and their families.

May they always come home to a family that loves them and a community that supports them.

OPPOSING A BAN ON LEAD

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

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife proposal regulating and banning lead ammo and fishing tackle from our public lands across this country.

So many of us grew up hunting and fishing with our parents, our grandparents, and our friends. Some of my best memories are with my kids and grandkids when I have taken them hunting and fishing in those quiet moments that we have together when we can talk about life lessons and about the things that, as families, we need to pass on.

These traditions will cease to exist if we allow this proposal to come into effect by U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

In my opinion, enjoying the great outdoors with our friends and families is one of the most important and special parts of the American Dream. Unfortunately, the Biden administration is planning to impose more rules and regulations even on our most basic rights.

I have huge concerns over these actions. Low-cost lead for ammunition and fishing gear made of lead is commonly used by all of us. Banning them will essentially be the same as putting a "no hunting" sign on millions of acres of land and kicking people off waterways across this Nation.

Access to hunting and fishing on public land is important in this country, and we cannot allow the Biden administration to take away these rights because they would rather listen to the far-left environmentalist groups than trust the science and leave law-abiding Americans alone.

Whether they are attempting to ban gas stoves, force expensive electric vehicles on everyone, or tell us what kind of ammunition we can hunt with or what type of fishing lures we can use, this administration seems determined to chip away at our constitutional rights.

Many years ago, I took a hunter safety course from a blind gentleman who could no longer see to hunt and fish, but his way of reliving all of those memories was teaching a hunter safety course. He taught me that you will never control guns because you can make a gun out of virtually anything.

The way to control guns, by an old gunsmith who is living his dreams through his blind eyes, is ammunition. Don't think for a second this lead bill is about wildlife. This bill is about controlling the lead that we use in our guns and not controlling the guns themselves. This man had wisdom. This was 30 years ago. It has just taken them a little while to get to it.

What is the next step? Will the next step be banning all lead from being used in hunting? How is that going to limit our hunting? Who is that going to limit that can afford to hunt?