

I especially recognize and thank our Federal law enforcement officers on the island and the almost 12,000 members of the Puerto Rico Police Bureau, as well as all municipal police officers across the island of Puerto Rico.

Their courage, dedication, and tireless efforts to serve and protect our communities are truly admirable and do not go unnoticed.

I also honor the memory of all law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty. We will never forget, and we are in debt to their sacrifice and that of their families.

As we commemorate National Police Week, I am committed to continue working with my colleagues to ensure Congress is providing our law enforcement officers the necessary support and resources, including through grant programs such as the COPS hiring program, Operation Stonegarden, and the Byrne Justice Assistance Program.

HONORING SENATOR AND COUNCILMAN BILL PERKINS

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the life and legacy of my dear friend and colleague, Harlem's own, New York State Senator Bill Perkins.

Senator Perkins was not just an elected official but a giant and a community leader.

I extend my deepest condolences to his wife, Pamela Perkins, and the entire Perkins family during this time of grief.

Senator Perkins never forgot where he came from. I had the honor of serving with him in the New York State Senate. I had the opportunity to watch him very closely firsthand. He was a force of nature and a champion for working people. He made a difference with his leadership using his powerful voice to bring about change and give back to the city that saw him grow up.

Early in his life of public service, he became a champion in defense of the Exonerated 5 and took on Donald Trump. He never backed down from a righteous fight and was a fearless advocate for the vulnerable and underserved. He treated all with respect.

May Bill's legacy inspire all of us as we move forward.

Rest in power, Senator Perkins.

□ 1215

HONORING FIRE CONTROL SEAMAN SECOND CLASS ROBERT L. LUTTRELL

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Fire Control Seaman Second Class Robert L. Luttrell, an American

hero who served during World War II to fight the evil empire of Japan.

Luttrell graduated from Central High School in Knoxville and enlisted in the Navy in 1943. He was assigned to patrol gunboat PGM-18.

In March 1945, the PGM-18 was sent to Okinawa to protect minesweepers and destroy mines as they floated to the surface. Oddly enough, Okinawa is one of the islands my father served on.

On April 8, 1945, his ship struck a mine, and the blast lifted the 280-ton ship out of the water and ripped a giant hole in the starboard hull.

Seaman Luttrell was able to launch a life raft and help nine other sailors into the raft, including his commanding officer, but the raft was still tied to the ship and couldn't be untied.

Fortunately, Luttrell was able to cut the raft loose with a knife he had made from a hunk of metal he found in Hawaii.

He saved the lives of fellow servicemen and showed true courage and quick thinking in the face of danger.

Too many times, Mr. Speaker, we call people heroes, and maybe they dribble a basketball, throw a football, or catch a baseball, but our true heroes are the men and women who wore our country's uniform and continue to do so like yourself, Mr. Speaker.

It is my honor to recognize Fire Control Seaman Second Class Robert Luttrell as Tennessee's Second District May 2023 Veteran of the Month.

DEBT CEILING SHOWDOWN JEOPARDIZING ECONOMY

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

Mrs. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, the current debt ceiling showdown is jeopardizing not just the United States' economy but that of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Yesterday, the Virginia Senate Finance Committee presented an analysis of what a debt default would mean to our Commonwealth. In a word, it would be catastrophic.

An extended debt ceiling battle would cost our Commonwealth nearly 200,000 jobs and slash payrolls by 4.7 percent, and it would inevitably throw our economy into a recession.

Even a brief default could cost Virginia an estimated 34,500 jobs and slash payroll by 0.83 percent, not to mention the impact on Federal grant reimbursements, federally funded State employees, and the millions of Virginians who receive monthly payments and depend on Federal healthcare programs.

The United States is not a deadbeat nation. For the sake of hardworking Virginians and Americans across the United States, we must raise the debt ceiling without delay.

CELEBRATING BEEF MONTH IN NEBRASKA

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

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our beef producers, feeders, and processors as we celebrate Beef Month in Nebraska.

Nebraska is the Beef State. We are the top processing State, number one for cattle on feed, and the biggest State for beef exports to the European Union, South Korea, Kuwait, and Colombia.

Nebraska has more than three times the number of cows than people. From the Lone Creek Cattle Company in Lincoln to Oak Barn Beef in West Point, we raise the best beef in the world right in the First District of Nebraska.

It is all because of our abundant natural resources, great cattle genetics, and a rich heritage that has been passed on for generations.

As we celebrate Beef Month, I give a sincere thank-you to all the producers, feeders, and processors who raise and make the best beef in the world on our ranches and in our feed yards for consumers around the globe.

HONORING IRENE ALVAREZ

(Ms. PETTERSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the hard work, leadership, and resilience of one of my young constituents, Irene Alvarez.

She is finishing up her junior year at Salida High School and is the winner of the 2023 Chaffee County Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year award.

When Irene was in sixth grade, her father was deported. Her mother was forced to raise her as a single parent, working tirelessly cleaning houses to support their family.

Despite all the trouble she faced at home, Irene chose to dedicate herself to helping others. In her 10 years at the Chaffee County Boys & Girls Club, she has become a leader, mentoring the kids around her, especially those who do not speak English.

She teaches art, assists kids with their homework, and helps them translate when necessary. In Irene's own words, we help ourselves by helping others.

In the face of adversity, Irene triumphed. I can't express how proud our whole community is of her strength and perseverance.

I congratulate Irene, and I congratulate the Chaffee County Boys & Girls Club for being there to support and inspire leaders like Irene.

INTERNATIONAL TRIP CANCELED

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, once again, Americans are waking up to another embarrassing headline from another self-inflicted wound from President Biden.

President Biden delayed almost 100 days to begin good faith negotiations with Speaker MCCARTHY. In the meantime, House Republicans passed a bill that is a reasonable, sensible, and responsible solution to the default Democrats' debt ceiling crisis.

Unfortunately, because of President Biden's unnecessary delay, the President has to cancel part of his international trip to Japan, Papua New Guinea, and Australia.

The cancelation is extremely disappointing for Papua New Guinea, which spent 6 months preparing for its first-ever visit from a sitting United States President. They even designated the day of the President's visit as a national holiday.

Now, after this embarrassment for our country that is sure to result in a waste of taxpayer dollars, Americans can only hope the President has started to take this self-made crisis seriously. If not, he will be to blame for a default on our Nation's debt.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF WICOMICO COUNTY DEPUTY SHERIFF GLENN HILLIARD

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

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I will take a few moments today to honor the memory of Wicomico County Sheriff Deputy Glenn Hilliard, a brave Eastern Shore police officer who was killed in the line of duty while trying to arrest a wanted criminal on probation.

Officer Glenn Hilliard lived his life as a devoted husband, father, and police officer who was commonly referred to as a hero by his fellow officers on the police force.

On June 12, 2022, just a little under a year ago, Officer Hilliard was shot and killed by a fugitive who had committed multiple felonies and was running from justice.

As we honor National Police Week, both Glenn Hilliard's life and death are a testament to why we should support and fully fund police officers as they risk their lives daily to keep us safe.

Officer Glenn Hilliard served Wicomico County with honor, valor, and distinction. In the end, Officer Hilliard's memory is most treasured not by how he died but by how he lived as a selfless and heroic police officer who put the safety of his community above his own.

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OF- FICER SERVICE WEAPON PUR- CHASE ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FRY. Mr. 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 H.R. 3091.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 398 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 3091.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from California (Mr. MIKE GARCIA) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1223

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 3091) to allow Federal law enforcement officers to purchase retired service weapons, and for other purposes, with Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees.

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. FRY) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. FRY).

Mr. FRY. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I rise to call on my colleagues to support H.R. 3091, the Federal Law Enforcement Officer Service Weapon Purchase Act.

This week is National Police Week, and I applaud the majority's dedication to supporting and celebrating our Nation's law enforcement officers who risk their lives every single day to keep us safe.

This bill is just one legislative commitment we are taking to support our brave men and women in blue. This legislation would allow current Federal law enforcement officers in good standing to purchase a retired service weapon at market value from a Federal agency.

Current Federal regulations require all Federal agencies, such as the U.S. Secret Service or U.S. Customs and Border Protection, to destroy weapons after they have been retired from Federal use. That means that these retired firearms must be crushed, cut, broken, or deformed to ensure that they are rendered completely inoperable and cannot be used again.

According to the Fraternal Order of Police, multiple law enforcement agencies are currently in the process of replacing their service weapons.

This means that 20,000 firearms would be destroyed, an \$8 million cost to the taxpayers. Taxpayers are paying for those weapons twice—when they go into circulation and when they are retired.

Not only does this legislation have the potential to save millions of dollars in waste, but it would offset the cost of purchasing new weapons and fund other agency expenses.

I thank the cosponsors of the bill and strongly urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 3091.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, Federal regulations for the management of Federal property currently prohibit an agency from disposing of functional or repairable firearms by selling them. Under these regulations, when an agency no longer has a need for a firearm, it can transfer it to another law enforcement entity or destroy it.

This regulation has served the important goal of ensuring that federally owned firearms do not fall into the wrong hands, but it also misses an opportunity to save money by selling an unneeded firearm to the law enforcement officer who has been using it.

Last Congress, our colleague and former Orlando Police chief Congresswoman VAL DEMINGS recognized the opportunity for improvement in these regulations. She introduced the original version of this legislation, which allows a Federal agency to sell a retired handgun to the law enforcement officer who had been using it, transferring it from a service weapon to a weapon in the hands of a responsible gun owner who is trained to use it.

Congresswoman DEMINGS' legislation included two improvements that, unfortunately, have been removed from the current version of the bill.

Her version required the law enforcement officer who was purchasing the gun to undergo a background check. This is a commonsense requirement, given that an officer would undergo a standard background check to purchase the weapon from any other sellers.

Most background checks are practically instantaneous, often about 30 seconds. I do not think that 30 seconds is too long to wait to ensure that a gun does not fall into the wrong hands.

While I think it is notable that the majority stripped this reasonable and effortless requirement, the current version of the bill does require a purchasing officer to be in good standing.

While this is not as thorough as Congresswoman DEMINGS' legislation, the good-standing requirement should prevent unlawful transfers in most cases.

Ms. Demings' bill also included a sense of Congress that the funds received by the government from selling a retired service weapon should be used to support evidence-based gun violence prevention or gun safety education and