

covered the MLB Hall of Fame induction ceremony and interviewed an Olympic medalist, an NFL official, MLB general managers, and more—and where she highlighted the importance of Title IX and the contributions of women in sports.

For these achievements and more, Anna received the Congressional Gold Medal. She is well deserving of this highest national honor. I am so optimistic for what the future of journalism looks like, thanks to young people like Anna. She has a bright, bright future.

On behalf of all of Pennsylvania's Seventh District, we congratulate Anna.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

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

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, this week is National Police Week, and we recognize the bravery of our law enforcement officers and honor the lives of those tragically lost in the line of duty.

Whether they are keeping deadly drugs off our streets, combating crime in our communities, or acting as emergency responders, our local police do lifesaving work each and every day. They have been asked to do more with less, often taking on additional responsibilities without additional resources.

In my district, I recently toured the local police department which currently operates out of an attic because they lack the funds to upgrade their facilities. Other departments struggle to recruit and retain officers and upgrade aging equipment. This is unacceptable. Congress must step in to invest in our local departments.

We have to deliver sufficient funding to our local law enforcement that will ensure they can do their jobs keeping our communities safe.

I am grateful for the brave men and women of law enforcement who put on the uniform to serve and protect, and I am thankful for their family members who serve alongside them.

CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE

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

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the winners of the 2022 Congressional App Challenge from my district: Jessica Nguyen, Henry Vu, and Jasmine Chau.

These constituents created a MnewNote study app that improves their classmates' productivity and academic performance while preventing mental burnout.

These students are part of the Garden Grove High School's first AP computer science group where they learned coding and design skills.

Together, these students combined scientifically proven study techniques,

psychological studies on motivation and productivity, and the result: The MnewNote app.

Madam Speaker, we are proud of Jessica, Henry, and Jasmine. Keep up the good work.

DEFEND AMERICAN WORKERS AND STEEL MANUFACTURERS

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

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today as vice chairman of the Congressional Steel Caucus to highlight a recent letter I wrote with Chairman CRAWFORD to the administration.

Specifically, we requested that the Department of Commerce and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representatives take action to address a recent surge of steel imports from Mexico.

The letter highlights how recent reports reveal significant volumes of steel that were melted and poured in countries such as Brazil, South Korea, and Russia have entered our market through Mexico.

This development is very concerning to us, as it is occurring when the American steel industry is making significant investments in new state-of-the-art, low-emission steel facilities.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to continuing to work with the Steel Caucus and the administration to address this matter and defend American workers and steel manufacturers.

DANGER OF DEFAULT ON AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the mothers, fathers, children, sons, daughters, beloved friends, and community members whose livelihoods, dignity, and in some cases, survival is under attack by Republicans in Congress who are threatening to crash our economy if we don't bend to their pro-hunger, antifamily, antisenior, antiworking-class agenda to pay for handouts for their billionaire donors.

Like so many of the folks I proudly represent, I was raised by a single mother in a working-class home. When times were tough, we depended on food assistance from SNAP and healthcare

from Medicaid. I became the first in my family to go to college because I received a Pell grant, and I am still hundreds of thousands of dollars in student debt because I had the audacity to attend law school.

I am able to be in Congress uplifting the voices of poor and working-class folks in my community and across the country because of the lifelines Republicans are hell-bent on tearing away.

So let's not get it twisted. Right now, Republicans are trying to fool you into thinking that they genuinely care about spending. They hurt everyone with their giveaways to the price-gougers that fund their campaigns, and they turn around and blame Black folks, Brown folks, poor folks, and immigrants for the mess they created.

They claim that if we don't strip away food from the struggling, subsistence from seniors, and earned benefits from the elderly to give billionaires the benefits of a tax break, you and your family will pay the price.

They are lying to you. You deserve the truth. The truth is that this isn't about balancing the budget. This is about attacking working class, middle class, poor and marginalized Americans to serve themselves and their filthy rich friends.

The truth is that if Republicans get their way, in Pennsylvania alone, almost 100,000 women, children, and seniors will lose access to food assistance. Over 15,000 children and parents would lose access to preschool and childcare. Housing costs would increase for over 20,000 people already struggling to keep a roof over their heads. College would get more expensive or out of reach entirely for nearly 200,000 PA students.

Madam Speaker, 310 rail safety inspection days would be cut, just months after western Pennsylvania, right next to Ohio, suffered from the train derailment in East Palestine.

□ 1900

Half a million Pennsylvanians would be at risk of losing lifesaving healthcare coverage under Medicaid.

The truth is that if Republicans don't get their way, they are threatening to default on our Nation's bills, crash our economy, and unleash economic catastrophe that would kill at least 7 million jobs—7,000 in my congressional district alone.

They are threatening Medicare, Social Security, and veterans' health coverage for nearly 300,000 people in the two counties I represent. They are threatening to increase lifetime mortgage costs by \$37,000, and they are threatening the retirement savings of 100,000 soon-to-be seniors, eliminating \$20,000 from the typical retirement portfolio.

This isn't about statistics. This is about people's lives. This is about the single mother who, like mine when I was growing up, is paid wages so low at her multiple jobs that she needs food assistance to make sure her kids don't get on the schoolbus hungry.

This is about the nurse who is in medical debt to the hospital she works for where the CEO is paid millions of dollars but she is paid so little she depends on Medicaid for healthcare for her and her children.

This is about the student who has no choice but to take on so much student debt that they know it will be impossible to ever pay it off and might not be able to start a business or buy a home or start a family or build the life they deserve.

It is about the student whose great-grandparents were enslaved who today's Republicans are hell-bent on keeping shackled by hundreds of thousands of dollars in student loans to the point where their dream of becoming the first in their family to go to college will be torn away entirely.

This is about the child getting ready to start preschool whose parents will now have to choose between putting gas in their tank, getting their car repaired, and giving their child the head start we know could determine their future and ability to thrive.

It is about the moms and dads who want to work but know they won't be able to because this Republican majority wants to raise childcare costs that are already so high that it makes more sense to just stay home.

It is about your parents, Madam Speaker, who could lose their ability to retire in dignity and the veteran who could lose access for treatment for PTSD after spending their life serving this country.

It is about our grandparents who won't be able to afford the medication they need to stay alive to meet their grandchildren if Republicans cause a default.

Let's not forget that this is also about the billionaire CEO who is bankrolling the Republican politicians behind this attack on working families to win themselves yet another handout that will be paid for by tearing food and shelter away from all the folks I just described, millions of families, just to buy another shiny new yacht or another vacation home or another fat check to those same politicians as a thank you for the favor.

By forcing a choice between agreeing to their authoritarian tactics or default, Republicans are erasing the voices of millions of people in this country who oppose default, who oppose economic catastrophe, and who oppose tearing away food stamps, healthcare, Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare. Republicans are using the threat of default to override the will of the majority of the country and bury poor and working-class Americans.

Madam Speaker, we cannot and we will not let them.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. STANSBURY).

Ms. STANSBURY. Madam Speaker, I stand before you today to defend the very survival of New Mexicans; fami-

lies like my own, working families, who work hard every single day and still struggle to make ends meet, who still struggle to put food on the table, and who still struggle to put a roof over their head. These are families who depend on vital services and programs like mine that enabled me not only to survive but to go to school and to stand here today as your Congresswoman.

These programs save lives, and yet the GOP is attempting to hold the entire country, New Mexico, our families, and our economy hostage if we do not gut these vital, lifesaving programs or they will tank the economy to achieve their political ends.

In return for upholding the full faith and credit of the United States and paying our bills as a Nation, right now Republicans are demanding that we cut funding for food, for housing, for Tribal programs, for education, and for countless other lifesaving programs that our families depend on.

I am here today with my colleagues from the Progressive Caucus to say that we will stand and we will defend these programs because our families' lives are not bargaining chips in this crusade to cut government programs and services. Their lives and dignity matter.

Just 2 weeks ago, I was home in our community and stood with members of our community at the Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless memorial wall. This wall is covered with tiles with names of members of our community who have been lost to homelessness: mothers, grandmothers, fathers, children, aunts, and uncles. These are people who were loved and people who were lost. They are people whose lives mattered in our community and were lost to the senseless impact of homelessness.

Make no mistake, Madam Speaker. The programs that the GOP is currently proposing to slash will impact thousands of New Mexicans who are currently facing housing insecurity and millions of lives across this country, gutting programs around housing and food insecurity.

These are families who could face eviction from their homes because they no longer have support. This includes families with children, our elders, veterans, and those with disabilities. This is not only wrong, it is immoral because housing is not a luxury. Housing is a fundamental human right.

I also cannot believe that I am standing here today in defense of veterans' programs as well because the GOP is currently proposing to cut our veterans' programs by double digits. These are programs that serve our heroes who have dedicated their lives and put their lives on the front line in the defense of our country, our national security, and the freedoms that all of us enjoy.

We not only have a sacred obligation to help and preserve those programs, but to ensure that the countless veterans who have already served our country can access the care that they deserve.

These cuts could impact 81,000 healthcare professionals within the VA system. That means putting our Nation's heroes' lives at risk and creating even longer lines to see healthcare professionals. That is 30 million less visits affecting over 60,000 veterans in New Mexico alone.

Our veterans bravely served our Nation, and it is our responsibility to defend these programs because their care is not up for debate.

Republicans are not only proposing to slash these programs, they are also proposing to cut other healthcare programs. In fact, more than 60 percent of New Mexicans depend on the lifesaving care that they receive through Medicaid and Medicare or both. If the GOP were successful in putting through these draconian cuts in the default for America act, more than 280,000 New Mexicans would be at risk of losing their health insurance, and more than 21 million Americans would be without access to care.

This won't just affect healthcare. It will affect the ability of our elders to get access to their Social Security.

For all of you out there who are listening, you know how vital those Social Security payments are to making sure that our elders can eat and put a roof over their head and also because you paid into that system, and it is yours.

Growing up, my family experienced many of the same challenges that so many countless New Mexicans and Americans struggle with today. The programs that we are talking about that would be gutted through these heartless cuts would not only have affected families like mine and my ability to survive and stand here today, they will affect millions of Americans. So this is very personal to me.

Lifting the debt ceiling should not be a crisis. It has been routine for decades. In fact, under both Republicans and Democrats, we have raised the debt ceiling, we have paid our bills, and we have made good on our responsibility and our fiscal responsibilities as a country.

It is dangerous to play games with the full faith and credit of our Nation and our economy, but it is heartless to propose to gut these programs.

As the Congresswoman for New Mexico's First Congressional District, I ask my Republican colleagues to consider what these programs mean, the millions of lives that are standing at risk, the millions who will be impacted, those who could lose their housing, and the children whose mouths will not be fed.

This is what is at stake in this hostage situation, and we will not stand idly by because we are fighting. We are fighting not only for the full faith and credit of the United States and our economy, but for the working families of this country to ensure that we do not balance the budget and make good on our fiscal responsibilities on the backs of working people because we

were elected to serve our communities and to serve our country.

Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GARCÍA).

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today because a couple of months ago, a freight train derailed in my district. Thankfully, the cars that derailed were not carrying any hazardous materials and no one was hurt. Earlier this month, another passenger train derailed nearby as it left the station.

Madam Speaker, 25 percent of the Nation's trains pass through the Chicagoland area, and many of the country's largest freight lines pass through my district.

There are children in my district who hop over mile-long trains that block their path to school.

So why am I talking about rail safety when we are supposed to be talking about the default?

Because in Illinois alone the Republican default on America act would take away more than a year's worth of rail safety inspection days—470 to be exact.

If they get their way, Republicans will make rail more dangerous in my district and across the country, and when accidents happen, communities like mine pay the price. For that reason, and for the many reasons that my colleagues are here to bring up, we continue to reject the Republicans' default plan.

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

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

ISSUES OF THE DAY

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my special order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, House Republicans are here, yet again, to urge President Biden to avoid the impending default crisis and strike a deal with House Republicans. We have to do this.

For over 100 days now, Joe Biden and Democrats have wasted valuable time refusing to offer a reasonable solution to raise the debt ceiling and prevent our Nation from default.

House Republicans did our job. We did it here. We passed the Limit, Save,

Grow Act almost 3 weeks ago. Our bill is a really important measure because it will do a number of things. It will save taxpayers nearly \$5 trillion. It will set commonsense caps on future spending levels. It will grow the economy, it will increase American energy production, it will lower prices on working families, it will defund this administration's aggressive expansion of the IRS, and it lifts the debt ceiling.

This is responsible legislation. We got together, and we did our job. The bill has not changed, and neither has our position. We will not, under any circumstances, accept a clean debt ceiling increase. We can't do that. We have stewardship responsibility.

Our fiscal house is not in order here, and this negotiation may be the only real opportunity that Congress has to address Washington's spending obsession and begin to get our debt under control until the next election cycle.

We are \$31.7 trillion in Federal debt. Inflation is sky high, interest rates are only continuing to rise, and, yet, what does this President do?

Joe Biden can barely be bothered to address the threat of collapse of our financial system.

□ 1915

The entire debate is symptomatic of the unmitigated rot that has afflicted Washington. Our constituents know the parties have to negotiate; the markets know we need to negotiate; and until a decade ago, Joe Biden did himself.

We have all these quotes on record. I mean, as recently as 2011, when he was in charge on the Senate side, he was over here negotiating with the House. He said over and over how important this was, how important it is to the process, and how anyone who says it is only my way or the highway was being irresponsible.

Do you know what? He was right. We are just asking him to live by his own mantra. Look, I am confident that the White House will come to its senses soon. It has to. If not, Americans know there is only one person to blame. It is President Biden.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, while we are dealing with that, we also recognize and are delighted to celebrate National Police Week.

It is my honor to lead this group of speeches tonight honoring the men and women who risk their lives daily to keep our communities safe.

I am the son of a first responder who was critically injured and permanently disabled in the line of duty.

My dad was the assistant fire chief in Shreveport, Louisiana, in 1984. September 17 of that year, he was burned over 80 percent of his body, third-degree burns.

He had about a 5 percent chance to live. He miraculously survived, and he struggled with those injuries for decades longer.

I lost him just 3 days before I got elected to Congress. I know personally the risk that first responder families face every single day.

Madam Speaker, we aren't just on the floor speaking tonight. We have work product to back up what we are saying. House Republicans have made support for law enforcement a central part of our agenda in this Congress.

This week, we passed multiple pieces of legislation to support these brave men and women. Today, we passed the POLICE Act, which makes assaulting a law enforcement officer a deportable offense for those in the country illegally.

This bill's passage could not come soon enough because, as we know, both illegal immigration and assaults on police officers continue to rise. Increased penalties like these will help deter future attacks against officers.

We also passed the Federal Law Enforcement Officer Service Weapon Purchase Act, which gives officers the option to purchase their service weapon at fair market value once they retire. It is just commonsense legislation.

Tomorrow, we are going to pass H. Con. Res. 40. This resolution condemns efforts to defund or dismantle local law enforcement agencies, and it also condemns attacks against police officers.

Just today, we watched sadly as Chicago laid to rest Officer Areanah Preston, who was tragically shot and killed outside of her home this month in a targeted attack.

Officer Preston was just 24 years old, fresh-faced and idealistic, eager to serve the people of Chicago, but her life was cut short due, in part, to dangerous antipolice rhetoric, rhetoric often used in these Halls, and it is a shame.

Madam Speaker, one would think that a resolution condemning attacks on police officers would pass through this House, of course, unanimously. Do you know what? That wasn't the case last night. Two Democrats in this body, one of which has paid astonishing sums of money for armed personal security, voted against this measure.

This problem goes far beyond just those two Members in question. As I have recounted multiple times in our House Judiciary Committee, dozens of members of the House Democratic Caucus have publicly called to either defund or dismantle police departments when America lost its collective mind during the summer of 2020.

This is exactly why it is so important that House Republicans lead the charge in support of law enforcement, and we will.

After 4 years of inaction and demonization of these heroic officers, the people's House now decisively backs the blue.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to be joined by a number of my colleagues, some of the stars of the House, and I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAWLER).

Mr. LAWLER. Madam Speaker, this week, we commemorate National Police Week. It is a time for us to honor