

interest. At a time when tuition continues to rise exponentially, countless students and graduates are being crushed by tens of thousands of dollars in student loan debt.

President Biden's cancellation would be transformative for millions of Americans who sought to build intergenerational wealth and improve their economic circumstances through education. While House Republicans try to make it harder for young Americans to survive, my Democratic colleagues and I will continue to fight for much provided relief.

HAPPY 235TH BIRTHDAY TO THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish the Palmetto State, South Carolina, a happy 235th birthday.

On May 23, 1788, South Carolina became the eighth State to officially join the United States of America.

From the stunning coast of the Grand Strand to the rich farmlands in the Pee Dee, to the rolling hills of the Midlands, to the historic charm of the Lowcountry, and to the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the upstate, I cannot think of a better place to call home.

Our \$29 billion tourism industry drives our State's economy. People flock from all over to witness our rich heritage and our incredible atmosphere. We welcome over 40 million visitors each and every year. I have lived in South Carolina my entire life, and I wouldn't have it any other way. Happy birthday to my favorite State, the Palmetto State, South Carolina.

LET'S RESPONSIBLY PASS A DEBT EXTENSION

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans have claimed that they responsibly passed a debt extension proposal. They did not. They passed a default on America act, which they wrongly called the Limit, Save, and GROW Act. It was, however, a fraud on America act.

Today, the Republicans canceled the scheduled markup on the bills pretending to carry out their pretended policies.

Today, Republicans demonstrated what they have displayed so very often that they are unable to govern and simply use political demagoguery to propose policies that are harmful, unreasonable, and unpassable by their own party. The country needs a responsible and honest opposition party. It does not have one.

The inability of Republicans to move forward on their appropriation bills

proves that point. I urge our Republican colleagues to stop pandering, pass the debt extension. Be responsible. Give confidence to the American economy.

□ 1645

REPUBLICANS' MANUFACTURED DEBT CRISIS

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

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, as we stare down a completely manufactured economic crisis, I sure hope we can come together to avoid a default, but the proposal from the far-right wing of the GOP, one that holds our economy hostage to enact extreme budget cuts, would hurt veterans most of all—veterans in my district, across Pennsylvania, and across the United States.

Pennsylvania has the fourth highest veteran population, so I am not talking hypotheticals when it comes to how VHA cuts would impact our veterans.

If they get their way, more than 272,000 Pennsylvania veterans' medical care and outpatient visits would be at risk due to slashed Veterans Health Administration funding. The 29 percent of Pennsylvania veterans who live with disabilities will face more red tape and longer wait times, undermining their much-needed medical care.

This is not what keeping our promises to those who served us, who protected us, looks like. Our veterans and the American people deserve better.

DEMOCRATS ARE THE ONES DEFUNDING VETERANS

(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, it is not the Republicans who want to defund veterans. It is the Democrats.

We have marked up the MILCON-VA bill in subcommittee, and it doesn't have cuts. I don't know where the people on the other side of the aisle suggest we are not supporting veterans. As a veteran myself, I am proud of the work we do.

It is the President who suggested that we decrease from the fiscal year 2023 numbers across the board. Mr. Speaker, that is defense, veterans. That is across the board.

It is the President who wants to cut the defense budget. It is the President who wants to defund our veterans. Shame on the President.

COMMEMORATING THE LEGACY OF LEE WILLIAMS

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the legacy of

Lee Williams, a legendary track and field coach at Oscar Dean Wyatt High School in Fort Worth who died at the age of 71.

Mr. Williams began his track and field career as a Poly Parrot and then went on to TCU, where he set the school record for the 400-meter run and mile relay and was a member of the first two relay teams to qualify for the NCAA championship. For these accomplishments, Williams was inducted into the 54th class of the Athletics Hall of Fame for TCU just last year.

Williams went on to begin a legendary career as a track and field coach at Oscar Dean Wyatt. One of his greatest achievements as a coach came in 1998 when his 4-by-100-meter relay team set the national high school record of 39.76, a record that still stands to this day.

Throughout his coaching career, Williams coached 15 all-Americans and won 15 district championships, four regional championships, and two State championships. He was selected to the Texas Track and Field Coaches Association back in 2019.

I will end by highlighting Williams' dedication to the success and mentorship of his students on and off the track. He will always be known as a legend.

I am praying for his wife, Carolyn, his two daughters, and his grandchildren.

MARKING A YEAR SINCE ROBB ELEMENTARY MASSACRE

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

Mr. ALLRED. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, May 24, marks 1 year since the massacre at Robb Elementary in Uvalde, 1 year since 19 children and 2 teachers were murdered, leaving a community forever scarred and parents all across the country holding their little ones closer.

I know my heartbreak won't pass new legislation, but like many parents, I am heartbroken.

I know my outrage won't bring these kids back, but like many Texans, I am still outraged.

I also know that we don't have to live like this. Last year, we finally ended 30 years of inaction by passing gun violence prevention legislation.

We can build on that. We can strengthen background checks, pass red flag laws, and raise the purchasing age of an assault-style rifle to 21. All of these policies are overwhelmingly supported by the American people, but we have to work together.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to join us in looking for common ground because I know I am willing to work with anyone to save lives. The people of Uvalde and all Americans deserve no less.

CALLING FOR INVESTIGATION OF DEATHS OF ALFA BARRIE AND GARRETT WARREN

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, "There is no fair in life and death. If it were, no good men would die young," said acclaimed author Mitch Albom.

Eleven-year-old Alfa Barrie and his friend Garrett Warren, age 13, vanished on Friday, May 12, in my district.

In what would become every parent's worst nightmare, their bodies were recovered from the Hudson and Harlem Rivers late last week and over this past weekend.

Our community is devastated and heartbroken over this tragedy. We draw on our faith during times of tragedy such as this and seek comfort and peace.

I extend my heartfelt condolences to Alfa's and Garrett's families, friends, and all those who knew them.

Today, I stand on the House floor and ask for a full and thorough investigation of this horrible event.

CONGRATULATING RICK BUCHER

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

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise today to congratulate Mr. Rick Bucher, assistant director for District 7 of the United Steelworkers, on his retirement.

Rick began his career as a pipefitter with the Steelworkers Local 6103 in Portage in 1978. Throughout his 45-year career, Rick consistently demonstrated his commitment to our union brothers and sisters as he held multiple union leadership roles, including grievance chairman, international staff representative, and District 7 Sub 5 director.

Rick is the embodiment of the unwavering dedication, loyalty, and hard work exemplified by the incredible members of the United Steelworkers.

For his lifetime of exceptional service and outstanding leadership, Rick is worthy of the highest praise, and I wish him all the best in his retirement.

SUPPORTING 4-H CLUBS

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

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, "I pledge my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to larger service, and my health to better living for my club, my community, my country, and my world."

If it wasn't clear, I am a 4-H'er.

A few weeks ago, I had the privilege of meeting with 4-H student ambassadors from across California. They shared how the 4-H program has empowered them, from building water fil-

ters from reusable materials to developing public speaking and organizational skills.

4-H doesn't discriminate between urban, suburban, and rural communities. I am here today representing Orange County because of my experiences from this 4-H program.

As Congress begins consideration of the farm bill, let's continue to invest in our Nation's young people with robust funding for the 4-H program because our future leaders might be 4-H'ers themselves.

DEBT DEFAULT NOT AN OPTION

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, defaulting on our debt is not an option and would only cause economic uncertainty for eastern North Carolina and rural America at a time when most are just trying to break even.

According to recent reports, a default would kick nearly 96,000 families across the First District off of food and health programs at a time when they can least afford it. It would also jeopardize benefits that support nearly 50,000 veterans in my district, causing delays in the delivery of care and poor health outcomes for our Nation's heroes.

A default that lasts as little as 6 weeks would result in nearly 7 million jobs lost, doubling the unemployment rate to 8 percent.

Mr. Speaker, we must focus on keeping America's full faith and credit intact.

DEFAULT WOULD HAVE CATASTROPHIC CONSEQUENCES

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

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, June 1, that is when the Treasury estimates that we will no longer be able to fulfill our financial obligations if Congress has not acted.

Defaulting would have catastrophic consequences on our economy. It would shake financial markets, send interest rates skyrocketing, risk millions of jobs, and create higher costs for working families.

We can't allow the full faith and credit of the United States Government to be called into question by defaulting.

I am encouraged by ongoing conversations and discussions that are moving us in the right direction, but we need to get this done.

I am committed to being at the table and being ready to work in a bipartisan way to find short-term and long-term solutions to avert a crisis and get our fiscal house in order.

DOUBLING SENIOR POVERTY

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

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I can see some of the faces going, oh, God, they are going to let him speak for an hour. I saw those faces, but there is a lot to share.

First, I tried to cut back on my coffee this evening, so, hopefully, my shared annoyance will be somewhat under control.

First off, to my brothers and sisters on the left, please buy a calculator. It is that simple.

Some basics I want to walk through here. Let's do Democrat math here for a moment. I am sorry. I often try not to be a partisan this brutal, but math is math.

If we have a world where you can't raise taxes on people who earn \$400,000 or less—the Democrat mantra, part of their platform, is no tax hikes for \$400,000 or less income earners, right? You do realize that is 98 percent of taxpayers, meaning there are only 2 percent left that make income over \$400,000. That is how they are going to balance the budget? The math is absurd.

Start to work through how this actually works. You can do a 100 percent tax rate on all of those \$400,000 and over, and you get nowhere near—a fraction of a fraction of a fraction—what is required to handle the shortfalls, the requirement for Social Security and Medicare.

That is the plan the left has given us. It is a great political talking point. It gets you cheers at the neighborhood townhall, and you are lying to them. The math will always win.

Let's walk through this a little bit more. Do you understand the scale, the cruelty, and the immortality of this place and its avoidance? In less than 9 years, the Social Security trust fund is gone.

Many of us on the Republican side spent the previous year trying to find a moral way, working with Democrats, to save Social Security. Instead, the Democrat plan, right there from that podium, when President Biden got up during the State of the Union, and said: Promise me you won't talk about or touch Social Security or Medicare. The room all applauded.

You just sentenced American seniors to the doubling of poverty. In 9 years, the United States doubles senior poverty because those seniors take a 25 percent cut in their checks.

That is the plan. Does anyone see the cruelty?

□ 1700

Mr. Speaker, is this what we have become?

It is an idea that is saying, well, this polls really well if we blame Republicans for wanting to talk about it.