

them to succeed on the field and in their communities.

In fact, from 2011–2012, Special Olympics of Pennsylvania conducted more than 9,000 screenings. For some, these screenings are the first time they have seen a doctor.

The programs build on the success of the PATH program to further improve the health status and increase access to community health resources.

Mr. Speaker, Special Olympics and the Special Olympics Pennsylvania chapter wouldn't be possible without community volunteers.

The PA chapter has more than 30,000 coaches and volunteers assisting athletes during all levels of competition.

This program touches countless people in numerous ways, and its impact reaches far beyond the sphere of sports.

It was a privilege to work with the State College chapter, and I am proud to share the 2023 Paterno Family Beaver Stadium Run was the most successful run ever, that day raising more than \$448,000 for Special Olympics of Pennsylvania athletes.

#### DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, in 1 week, on June 1, the country and the world is going to witness something that we have never seen before.

There will be an office in the United States Treasury, less than a mile from here, in which a group of people will decide: Are we going to pay the soldier deployed in Syria to combat ISIS, or are we going to send out Social Security checks?

Are we going to pay air traffic controllers, or are we going to support the Medicare program that provides healthcare for retirees?

That is tragedy in and of itself, but the world is going to see something it has never seen before. It is going to see that the United States is no longer trustworthy; that we don't pay our bills; that we don't abide by the obligations that we freely took in this Chamber.

Even worse, Putin and Xi and the leadership of North Korea and Iran are going to say, look, democracy does not work. The supposedly greatest country in the world won't pay its bills.

Now, are we in this place because we don't have the money? Of course we are not. We have the money. We are the richest, most powerful country in the world.

We are in this place because my Republican colleagues have figured out that they have a perfect hostage situation; that if this Congress—and make no mistake—it is the Congress' obligation to raise the debt ceiling.

It is not the President's obligation under the law. It is the Congress' obligation to raise the debt ceiling. They understand that if we don't raise the debt ceiling, catastrophe ensues.

They have a list of ransom demands, and we saw it because it passed in this House 2 weeks ago. It would require veterans with mental illness to work in order to receive food stamps.

It would reverse the historic measures that the Congress took to turn around the tragedy of climate change.

We know what the ransom demands are. Now, I happen to disagree with those ransom demands, and we have a mechanism by which the Republican majority could pass those.

Anybody who ever watched "Schoolhouse Rock" knows what that mechanism is. You pass it in the House, you pass it in the Senate, the President signs it, and you get your way.

Of course, they can't get their way because they understand that that list of ransom demands is deeply, deeply unpopular with the American people.

Instead, they are saying, unless you do this stuff, Mr. President, Mr. SCHUMER in the Senate, we are going to destroy the global economy and the reputation of the United States of America.

Now, am I being unfair and saying that it is a hostage situation? My colleague from Florida said yesterday: "I think my conservative colleagues for the most part support Limit, Save, Grow"—that is, by the way, the ransom list—"and they don't feel like we should negotiate with our hostage." A Republican Member of Florida: "They don't feel we should negotiate with our hostage."

Now, Democrats, because we feel some sense of obligation and responsibility to the full faith and credit and the dignity of the United States, didn't do this under Donald Trump.

Three times Democrats acceded without a ransom list to a raise in the debt ceiling when Donald Trump was President.

Donald Trump, when he was President, said this about the debt ceiling. "That is a very, very sacred thing in our country, the debt ceiling. We can never play with it."

Let me quote the Speaker of the House yesterday. The Speaker of the House says, when he is asked, What do the Democrats get in this negotiation?

You get reversing climate change. You get work requirements for Medicaid and food stamps. What do the Democrats get?

The Speaker said, "We are going to raise the debt ceiling." The quiet part is being spoken out loud. This is a hostage situation.

The implications here, and I try to make this case to my Republican friends, eventually we Democrats will learn from this level of irresponsibility.

The next time there is a Republican President, we will have a ransom list. Is this the way we want to legislate in the greatest country in the world? I don't think so.

To illustrate how corrupt this enterprise is, how corrupt the reasoning is, here is what is happening. The Repub-

licans passed the Trump tax cuts, \$2 trillion in deficit addition.

By the way, a quarter, a full quarter of the national debt was accrued under one President, Donald Trump. A quarter.

This country has a 245-year history. One quarter of the debt was accrued in the 4 years of Donald Trump. Here is what is happening.

We have a big old dinner. We order the appetizers. We order the hors d'oeuvres. We order expensive wine. We order four courses.

This is the spending and the tax cuts that this institution likes, and then we say, we are not paying the bill. My friends, that doesn't work. Let's get past this debt ceiling insanity.

□ 1030

#### BRONZE STAR AWARDED TO DANIEL HOLIHAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize one of my constituents, 100-year-old World War II veteran Daniel Lawrence Holihan of Staten Island, New York, who tomorrow will be awarded the Bronze Star from Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro for his heroic achievement.

In January, the members of the VFW Post 7172 on Staten Island, led by Captain Timothy Forsyth, contacted my office about a veteran who they believed should be recognized for his achievements on Iwo Jima in February of 1945 as a member of the Underwater Demolition Team Thirteen.

Five days before the historic battle of Iwo Jima, the USS *Barr* was ordered to the eastern side of the island where Team Thirteen was ordered to erect a navigational light on Higashi Iwa, an islet about 4,000 yards offshore.

Despite the heavy artillery fire of the enemy, 3 officers and 15 men assigned to the task, including Petty Officer Daniel Holihan, were miraculously successful in carrying out their mission without a single casualty. These men worked tirelessly for 5 days to clear the water's edge and make way for the historic battle of Iwo Jima.

Petty Officer Holihan, along with several other enlisted members of his team, was initially recommended for the award of the Bronze Star Medal; however, because Mr. Holihan was transferred to the East Coast at the end of the war, he was not able to participate in the presentation of this prestigious award.

Earlier this year, I wrote to the Secretary of the Navy highlighting Mr. Holihan's contributions and asked that his service receive the honor it deserves from our grateful nation. In response to my request, tomorrow, Secretary of the Navy Del Toro will award Mr. Holihan the Bronze Star for Valor for his heroic actions and his selflessness.

I, like those who I represent in New York's 11th Congressional District, am very proud and grateful for Mr. Holihan's service to our great nation and the bravery that he displayed nearly 80 years ago.

As we head into Memorial Day weekend to honor those who did not return from war, those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, I also want to give thanks to our servicemembers like Daniel Holihan who were willing to give their lives, but thankfully returned home.

#### DEADLY FENTANYL MUST BE CONTROLLED

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the HALT Fentanyl Act. This is the Drug Enforcement Administration's top legislative priority.

If we do not take action to permanently schedule fentanyl-related substances, we will see many fentanyl-related substances becoming street legal, we will see law enforcement lose their authority to seize these extremely lethal drugs, we will see drug traffickers continue to be empowered to push these deadly drugs on our children, and we will see our U.S. Customs and Border Protection lose their authority to seize these substances crossing the border.

In 2022, last year, more than 109,000 people died from fentanyl overdoses, with the majority coming from illicit fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances. It is the number one killer of young Americans aged 18–49.

In addition to that, it is important to note that the DEA has announced results of a years-long national operation, Operation Last Mile, which specifically targeted fentanyl traffickers run by the drug cartels operating right here in the United States.

According to the Department of Justice, there are two cartels who use multicounty distribution networks, violent local street gangs, and individual dealers across the U.S. to drive addiction.

The DEA's operation led to the arrest of over 3,300 individuals and the seizure of nearly 44 million fentanyl pills, more than 6,500 pounds of fentanyl powder, more than 91,000 pounds of methamphetamine, 8,500 firearms, and more than \$100 million. The fentanyl powder and pills seized alone equate to nearly 193 million deadly doses of fentanyl removed from our communities across the United States.

It is so incredibly important that we not only pass the HALT Fentanyl Act to keep DEA having the tools they need to do their job, but we also pass House Republicans' border security package. We know that the drug traffickers are raking in \$13 billion a year from human trafficking and drug trafficking over our southern border.

According to the DEA, the Mexican criminal organizations are now the most prominent wholesale-level heroin traffickers in the DEA Chicago, New Jersey, Philadelphia, and Washington field division areas of responsibility; and they have greatly expanded their presence in New York City.

We must pass our border security bill in the Senate, and we must pass the HALT Fentanyl Act here in the House and in the Senate, as well.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF GEORGE PATRICK EVANS

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

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the extraordinary life and legacy of a trailblazing public servant and educator, Selma Mayor George Patrick Evans, who passed away at the age of 78 on May 15.

A native of Selma, Alabama, Mayor Evans overcame great diversity and adversity to break down barriers for generations of leaders like myself to follow.

An educator, coach, basketball referee, principal, superintendent, city council president, and mayor, Evans wore many hats; but the common thread was service. He loved our hometown of Selma, Alabama, and he served her well.

He dedicated over 40 years to the Dallas County Public School System, cultivating an impactful career molding, teaching, coaching, and mentoring the youth of Selma and Dallas County.

In 1994, he made history again as the first African-American superintendent of Dallas County Public Schools.

He began his career in electoral politics in the Selma City Council. In this role, he brought the same passion, love of people and community, making history as the first African-American president of the Selma City Council.

In 2008, he earned more distinctions, as the second African-American mayor of the city of Selma in its 192-year history. During his two terms as Selma's mayor, Evans led the Queen City through the recession of 2008, the implementation of the city's optic fiber network, and helped address the lingering impact of segregation within Selma's community. I was proud to partner with Mayor Evans to bring vital Federal resources home to Selma and Dallas County.

From his demonstrated efforts to revitalize downtown Selma to his commitment to making our community safer and stronger, Mayor Evans fought hard to improve the lives of the people he served. His foresight propelled the city of Selma forward and cemented his legacy as a trusted leader in our community.

On a personal note, I have known Mayor Evans all my life. I even served as his family's babysitter during my youth. Mayor Evans has always been a man of great character and honor whose love of God, family, and community has been his guiding principle.

Through all of his accomplishments, he has led by example through his hard work, perseverance, grit, and kindness. His public service has left an indelible imprint on the city of Selma, and we will miss him terribly.

Let us not weep, but find comfort in knowing that his incredible legacy will live on in the many people he touched.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating the extraordinary life and legacy of Selma's mayor, George Patrick Evans, for his decades of service to the city of Selma, Dallas County, and the entire State of Alabama. May he rest in peace and power.

#### SKIN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Skin Cancer Awareness Month to raise awareness of the most common and often avoidable form of cancer, nonmelanoma skin cancer. Nationwide, 3.3 million cases are reported annually, including over 13,000 in Pima County alone.

Sun exposure on unprotected skin is the primary cause of skin cancer, and it is a year-round threat. Other risk factors include the use of tanning equipment, family history, and increasing age.

Typically, this type of cancer is treated with Mohs surgery, but today I am pleased to note a nonsurgical alternative is available in Arizona, which means those afraid of surgery can now seek treatment.

I congratulated Tucson dermatologist Marc Epstein for being the first in southern Arizona to provide this new standard of care. This method avoids all potential complications of surgery, using a low-level x-ray precisely targeted through the use of ultrasound imaging, with a rate of cure of over 99 percent.

Given that most States now offer this nonsurgical treatment, and more than 50,000 patients have been treated successfully with it, no one should avoid timely treatment for this common skin cancer.

This month and always, I hope all Arizonans will take the simple skin care precautions necessary to prevent skin cancer.

#### PROTECTING UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to shine light on yet another tragedy unfolding at our southern border.

We have all seen the surge of border crossings, fentanyl trafficking, and migrant deaths brought about by President Biden's mishandling of the border.

Recently, The New York Times investigated the treatment of migrant children by the Department of Health and Human Services. They found that the Department had lost contact with over 85,000 migrant children after placement with sponsors.

What is even worse, hundreds of these children have been found in work environments that defy child labor laws, some working 12-hour days in hazardous conditions.