

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.

In an effort to rush migrants out of government custody, HHS' lack of vetting has put vulnerable children directly in harm's way.

As an immigrant myself, and especially as a father, it is heartbreaking to imagine the neglect that these innocent children have endured, first as a casualty of the border crisis and now by the agencies tasked with rescuing them. It is a national tragedy and an embarrassment to allow this exploitation to continue.

I am proud to be a first-generation American who has benefited from the freedoms and opportunities of this country. This is not the best that America has to offer. What is happening at the border is not part of the American Dream my family pursued and thousands of other families continue to pursue.

We have seen babies abandoned in rivers, migrants dying in deserts, and high-speed car chases through our neighborhoods.

Last month, I led 75 of my colleagues in a letter to Biden administration officials demanding accountability for this terrible neglect. We carried out our constitutional duty of oversight and set a deadline for Secretary Mayorkas and Secretary Becerra to provide transparency. The deadline was 12 days ago. With the Biden administration refusing to take action to prevent another surge at the border, it is hard to see what exactly these officials are preoccupied with.

This must be a top priority. Focusing on border security isn't just about keeping Americans safe, it is about stopping an ongoing humanitarian crisis.

As we speak, lives are being put at risk, migrants are being exploited, and the only people winning are the cartels leveraging this administration's weak border policy.

I urge President Biden and his Cabinet to accept accountability for this disaster and implement the border security measures our country desperately needs. There is no time to waste.

CUBAN PEOPLE ARE SUFFERING

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep frustration with the Biden administration, especially the State Department, and its indifference to the suffering of the Cuban people.

I was in Cuba in December. I have traveled there often over the past four decades. I have deep ties to many ordinary Cubans, small entrepreneurs, and people of faith. I have never seen the Cuban people suffer such hardship as they are at this moment.

The main drivers of Cuban migration right now are hunger and a despair for a better future. There are many rea-

sons for this desperation: The economic collapse of the tourist economy during the COVID-19 epidemic, rigid economic controls by the Cuban Government that change too slowly, a harsh crackdown on protests, and the denial of basic rights and freedoms.

However, a significant factor contributing to the suffering are the policies of the United States.

Despite promises made as a candidate, President Biden has failed to undo the economic and financial restrictions imposed by his predecessor. He has failed to remove Cuba from the State Sponsors of Terrorism list against all reason, information, and analysis that should have led to its immediate removal upon his taking office.

These restrictions have strangled ordinary people's daily activities, financial transactions, the Cuban private sector, activities by other Western governments, and even the delivery of humanitarian aid.

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In December, young entrepreneurs were begging me to remove Cuba from the State Sponsors of Terrorism list. The Governments of Colombia and Mexico, and many others, have asked the Biden administration to remove Cuba from this list. They have received the same response as many Members of Congress: an indifferent silence.

No doubt, the Biden administration will tinker around the edges, announcing limited reforms that might allow a few small entrepreneurs to survive another year or two, but they won't thrive. Such measures will hardly alleviate the suffering of the Cuban people as a whole.

Until this administration takes a hard look in the mirror and gets serious, until it removes Cuba from the state sponsor of terrorism list and ends the economic and financial restrictions imposed during the Trump administration, the United States will continue to contribute to the suffering of the Cuban people every single day, every single hour.

The Biden administration has had nearly 2½ years to undo the Trump restrictions. It has purposely decided to keep them in place, even to embrace them, no matter the cost to the Cuban people. These policies are no longer President Trump's policies. They are Biden's.

Cuban migration is just a symptom of the suffering. It won't stop until U.S. policy changes and starts working on behalf of the Cuban people rather than sitting back and continuing the harsh policies that have driven thousands to abandon their homes.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am angry. I am frustrated. I am past making excuses for this administration on this issue. We need to change U.S. policy toward Cuba. Today couldn't be soon enough.

BIDEN'S DEBT DEFAULT

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans are the only ones that have done their job to pass legislation that raises the debt ceiling in a reasonable, responsible, and sensible way.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen tells us that the United States may run out of funds to pay our bills in just 8 days. Yet, the Democratic-controlled Senate has yet to put forward a proposal or even hold a single vote.

Unfortunately, the President has wasted valuable time refusing to negotiate. In fact, it has taken more than 100 days for him to even come to the negotiating table, despite Speaker MCCARTHY's repeated calls to the White House to just have a meeting—President Biden declined at each and every turn until recently—inching our Nation toward a Democrat-induced default.

With only 8 days left until our Nation potentially drives off the fiscal cliff, thanks to Democrats' wasteful and out-of-control spending, you would expect the President would be at the negotiating table each and every day, around the clock, until we get a deal done to avoid the disastrous default. Instead, he spent the weekend traveling overseas.

To me and many of the Tennesseans I represent, the President seems to be neglecting his duties during these most critical moments. Republicans have done everything we can to avoid this scenario. Like I mentioned, the House is the only body to pass legislation that responsibly raises the debt ceiling and does so while also saving American taxpayers trillions of dollars.

President Biden's actions remind me of a child who doesn't get their way. Unfortunately, the President's temper tantrum will have much more dire consequences than that of a toddler.

There is an easy solution to this problem. If the President were serious about avoiding default, he could instruct his counterparts in the Senate to pass our bill, the House-passed Limit, Save, Grow Act, which raises the debt ceiling in a reasonable, responsible, and sensible manner.

Sure, maybe the President and Senate Democrats didn't get their homework done by the due date, but they are more than welcome to copy ours and turn it in for full credit.

Mr. Speaker, if a Democrat President delays negotiations, and if a Democrat-controlled Senate doesn't pass anything, what do you get? You get the United States' first-ever default that will lie squarely on Democrats' shoulders—a Democrat default.

It is a shame that after all of these years the President spent in the Senate, a body known for its bipartisanship and ability to compromise, the President has brought us this close to default.