

On this day, the unspeakable happened in Uvalde, Texas. It happened on the 24th. That weekend, I immediately went to Uvalde, simply wanting to embrace and to be able to understand what the parents could not speak.

We worshipped in a church. We walked amongst the flowers. We hugged children. We saw 9-year-olds crying in utter pain because they lost their playmates.

I remember the viciousness of the scene. The loved ones of these children and teachers have never gotten justice. There have been no answers. They have gone day after day asking what happened.

They watched as children scrambled out of windows, looking to see if their child would come. No one helped in the midst of that crisis.

I want us to look at those faces today. Let us mourn and seek justice for these families. I mourn them. I will take my moment of silence in honor of these beautiful children and teachers who died viciously on May 24.

□ 1215

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER CHRISTOPHER ERAMO

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

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Chief Warrant Officer Christopher Eramo, an Army officer from Oneonta, New York, who tragically lost his life in a helicopter crash in Alaska.

Chief Eramo exemplified the bravery and selflessness that is required of our men and women in uniform. He knew the dangers that came with his service, and he dedicated his life to protecting our country and safeguarding our freedoms.

As we mourn his passing, we also recognize the sacrifices all of our servicemembers make every day. They put their lives on the line every day to protect us, and we are forever grateful for their service.

May we always honor the bravery and sacrifice of Chief Eramo and all those who have given their last full measure of devotion to a grateful Nation.

DEFAULT IS NOT AN OPTION

(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, our Nation is just 8 days away from a potential debt default, while House Republicans continue to hold the American economy hostage.

As one of less than 7 percent of the Members of Congress who have children under the age of 18, I am particularly concerned about the impact that

a default would have on our children, as Federal funding for crucial government programs that impact them runs out.

In the Commonwealth of Virginia, 1 in 12 rely on SNAP benefits to put food on the table, and a default would jeopardize those payments, as well as access to free and reduced lunch programs.

Default is not an option, but the Republicans' extreme ransom note is not a viable alternative, either. It would slash funding for our school systems and leave 200,000 children without access to Head Start slots and 100,000 without access to childcare programs.

In the Commonwealth, almost 6,000 children would be impacted. This would severely undermine our children's education and make it more difficult for parents to join the workforce and contribute to our economy.

We must raise the debt ceiling now.

FENTANYL DEATHS IN OREGON TRIPLED SINCE 2019

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

Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 467, the HALT Fentanyl Act.

Oregon teenagers are dying from drug overdoses at a faster rate than any other State. In fact, adolescent overdose deaths have more than tripled in Oregon since 2019. It is because dangerous amounts of fentanyl and fentanyl-laced pills are flooding our streets.

Last year in my district, law enforcement seized enough fentanyl powder to kill the entire population of Oregon in just one single drug bust.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we must take a two-pronged approach to tackling the fentanyl crisis: Support law enforcement and enact tough-on-crime policies.

That is why I am proud to cosponsor the HALT Fentanyl Act, which accomplishes both of these goals by permanently classifying fentanyl-related substances as schedule I drugs.

I urge my colleagues to support this lifesaving legislation.

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE MUST CHANGE COURSE

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

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, the United States Postal Service is the only agency specifically mentioned in the Constitution.

It is essential for delivering everything from medicine, tax documents, and in Oregon, where we proudly vote by mail, ballots. USPS is a pillar for rural communities and communities without high-speed internet.

Under Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's leadership, workplace and revenue

challenges at the Postal Service have caused a drastic decline in public trust.

One of the most significant issues facing the USPS is staff shortages. Issues like branch closures are forcing seniors and families in rural communities to travel further for postal services.

DeJoy's 10-year plan will only make things at the U.S. Postal Service worse. His plan includes downgrading service standards, reducing person-to-person interactions, cutting air delivery, and slowing mail. Unfortunately, efficiency and quality are being sacrificed.

The U.S. Postal Service must change course. Slashing services and raising prices harms their mission and diminishes the United States Postal Service popularity.

CLARION COUNTY 911 CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during National EMS Week to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Clarion County 911 and recognize its founder, Jim Cumberland.

Clarion County's 911 was the very first 911 center in Pennsylvania when it opened in 1973. Founded as the Clarion County Communications Center, the 911 center was housed in the historic Clarion County Jail, built in 1875. Jim Cumberland established the center following his experience as the East Brady Police Chief and the Clarion County Sheriff. He also served honorably in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Fifty years later, Clarion County 911 remains one of the most advanced 911 centers in the State and is one of ten northern tier 911 centers using Next Generation 911.

In April, Mr. Cumberland's contributions were celebrated at an anniversary event at the new Clarion County complex, which houses state-of-the-art public safety and emergency management departments.

As a former healthcare worker and firefighter, I understand the critical importance of the 911 system. For this reason, I congratulate and thank Jim Cumberland and the Clarion County 911 on this special 50th anniversary.

FENTANYL CRISIS DEEPENS

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

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 467, the HALT Fentanyl Act. Every day an average of 14 Pennsylvanians die as a result of drug overdose.

In 2021, Pennsylvania recorded 5,449 overdose deaths, which is the fourth

largest amount in the Nation. Preliminary data shows that in 2022, roughly 110,000 Americans died from drug overdoses in the U.S., which is a new record, as the fentanyl crisis deepens across this country.

Just for perspective, fentanyl kills more Americans under age 50 than any other cause of death, including heart disease, cancer, homicide, and suicide.

We must ensure law enforcement has all the tools necessary to prosecute and seize all dangerous addictive and deadly forms of fentanyl substances. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DESMOND T. DOSS

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

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, as we prepare to honor the brave men and women who sacrificed their lives for our freedom this coming Memorial Day, I rise to honor the life of Lynchburg, Virginia, native Private First Class Desmond T. Doss.

Doss served the United States Army as a medic, becoming the first conscientious objector to be awarded the Medal of Honor in 1945 after fearlessly saving 75 wounded men under fire at the Battle of Okinawa in World War II.

The popular movie "Hacksaw Ridge" was based on Doss' story and accurately captures the valor and heroism he displayed during that deadly battle. Desmond Doss demonstrated true sacrifice and conviction, standing firm in his faith and for his love of country.

This week I plan to introduce legislation to rename the Lynchburg VA clinic after Private First Class Desmond T. Doss, to memorialize his outstanding legacy for generations to come.

We are forever grateful as a Nation for the sacrifices made by those who fight and have fought to keep our country free.

QUALITY-OF-LIFE ISSUES IMPORTANT

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

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, over the past 2 years, our Hampton Roads and Navy communities have been devastated by multiple sailor suicides, in particular aboard the USS *George Washington* and at MARMAC.

As a former Navy helicopter pilot and nurse practitioner, it frustrates me that the number of sailors who die by suicide continues to rise. It is clear for anyone to see we have to do better to serve those serving our great country.

That is why last week I introduced the Sailor Standard of Care Act. This important bipartisan legislation would increase mental health resources and require mental health screenings for

sailors assigned to limited duty, address challenges servicemembers and their families face accessing quality mental health care through TRICARE, implement a system to track quality-of-life programs and their success rate, and expedite the Navy's medical separation process that impacts limited-duty sailors.

It is imperative that we address the mental health and other quality-of-life challenges facing Active Duty servicemembers and veterans. This is exactly why I came to Congress. We speak so much about providing our military men and women with the necessary equipment, technology, training, et cetera, to be ready to fight tonight, and rightfully so, but we must take care of our people, too.

It is time for Congress to focus on quality-of-life issues for our men and women in uniform and their families—not only mental health care, but housing, childcare, and spouse employment support. There is so much work to do.

By doing so, we will not only do right by the men and women who make up our world's finest fleet, but we will also keep our Navy the best in the world.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RELATING TO "WAIVERS AND MODIFICATIONS OF FEDERAL STUDENT LOANS"

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 429, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 45) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to "Waivers and Modifications of Federal Student Loans," and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCCORMICK). Pursuant to House Resolution 429, the joint resolution is considered read.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 45

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress disapproves the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to "Waivers and Modifications of Federal Student Loans" (including the website announcement entitled "One-Time Federal Student Loan Debt Relief" and the Federal Register document entitled "Federal Student Aid Programs (Federal Perkins Loan Program, Federal Family Education Loan Program, and William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program)" 87 Fed. Reg. 61512 (Oct. 12, 2022)), and printed in the Congressional Record on March 22, 2023, on pages S903-S906, along with a letter of opinion from the Government Accountability Office dated March 17, 2023, that the Waivers and Modifications are a rule under the Congressional Review Act, and such rule shall have no force or effect.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The joint resolution shall be debatable for

one hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, or their respective designees.

The gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX).

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. 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 the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.J. Res. 45, which would block the Biden administration's debt transfer scheme and prevent any further extension of the student loan repayment pause.

For Democrats, there is a specter looming over this debate, an incontrovertible truth that disproves all their supposed principles and contradicts all their virtue signaling.

Student loan cancellation is regressive. Let me repeat that for the Progressive Caucus. Student loan cancellation is regressive.

Two-thirds of this debt transfer plan would go to the top half of earners. It takes from those in the lower half and gives to the upper half. It redistributes wealth, but from the bottom of our socioeconomic ladder to the top.

For example, the repayment pause has provided \$65,000 in de facto loan cancellation for the average lawyer. This is a professional-class bailout. More specifically, it is a professional-class, graduate-degree holder bailout. Of the loans that will be disbursed in 2024, 70 percent will be borrowed for graduate school. Nearly 40 percent of those people will go on to make over \$100,000 annually in their careers. Those are the data absent partisan spin provided directly from the Department of Education.

The spin comes from the left when they use words like "forgiveness." There is no such thing as forgiveness. The Biden administration is simply transferring the debt from borrowers who willingly took out student loans to hardworking taxpayers who did not. The 87 percent of Americans who hold no Federal student debt are paying for the 13 percent who do.

□ 1230

On top of that, the bailout is inflationary, which is always and everywhere a regressive working-class tax.

According to the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, inflation could rise by as much as 27 basis points if mass student debt cancellation is implemented. Enacting mass student loan