

gain a foothold not only in Cuba but also within our territories across the Pacific and Indo-Pacific regions.

To combat this hostility, our bipartisan team was assembled to support our territories and friends in the Freely Associated States to counter the communist influence.

Protecting our territories and our friends is paramount. I ask Congress to engage in this effort fully, heed the suggestions of the Indo-Pacific Task Force, and work together to strengthen our territories and deter Chinese influence in the Pacific and here at home.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER PARSONS

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a very heavy heart to pay tribute to St. Paul firefighter, my friend, Captain Christopher Parsons, who was just 48 years old when he sustained a major medical event shortly after completing his shift and passed away last week.

Christopher's untimely passing is a deep and profound loss for his loved ones, fellow firefighters, our entire city, and, in fact, the entire State.

After joining the department in 2000, he was promoted to captain in 2007. He served in leadership roles for the IAFF Local 21, the Minnesota Professional Fire Fighters, and the Minnesota Fire Service Foundation, and he took his expertise and passion for public safety to our State capital, where he improved public safety for so many.

Chris was a guide for me. I learned so much from him about firefighting and the needs of those who fight fires.

Captain Parsons had an impact on so many lives. He fought to save lives during his time on Earth, and he continues to do so through the gift of organ donation.

I extend my deepest condolences to Chris' family, and I express my gratitude for all those who put their lives on the line day after day to keep our communities safe.

RECOGNIZING ALEX MEDINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Alex Medina, a man who demonstrates the spirit of giving that is a model for all of us.

Alex is a bone marrow donor, and thanks to his generosity, he was able to provide Egerton Burroughs, a man whom he had never met, with a second chance at life.

Mr. Speaker, donations like Alex's, whether they be bone marrow, blood, or other precious resources, help save the lives of countless Americans every day.

Mr. Medina and Mr. Burroughs were brought together by a wonderful program, Be The Match, which matches viable bone marrow donors to patients across the country.

We are blessed in North Carolina that both Duke University Hospital and Wake Forest Baptist play pivotal roles in bone marrow and stem cell transplants. Dedicated professionals there and at other institutions perform life-saving work.

Mr. Speaker, across North Carolina and our entire Nation, the kindness and generosity of donors like Alex Medina should not only be celebrated but also encouraged.

We can all play a positive role in the lives of others, and donating blood and other critical resources is one way of doing so. The simple actions we take can go on to make a profound impact upon people we know as well as those we do not know.

Proverbs 11:25 reads: "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."

Let us never forget how we can serve as forces for good and give to others the gifts that God has bestowed upon us.

RECOGNIZING BILL FISHER

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Bill Fisher, a familiar voice to many within the High Country in North Carolina's Fifth District and someone I consider to be a dear friend.

After nearly 50 years of being on the radio and keeping the High Country informed on all the news of the day, Bill, or Fish, as many of his friends and colleagues refer to him, will be hanging up his headset one final time and retiring.

For years, I have been fortunate to join Bill on the radio to talk about issues ranging from the local to the national levels.

Mr. Speaker, one of the most important duties that we have as Americans is to be an informed citizen, and I cannot overstate how much Bill embodies that role. No matter the topic or issue of the day, Bill always takes the time to inform people of the developments that matter most. He knows how to read the pulse of the community he proudly serves.

As Bill enters this new and exciting chapter of his life alongside his wonderful wife, Sheryl, family members, friends, and loved ones, I hope he knows that he has left an indelible mark upon his community that will be felt for many years to come.

Those who tune in to Bill's show on the commute to work, the grocery store, and everywhere in between are grateful for his work. In my eyes and in the eyes of many, Bill is the best that western North Carolina has to offer. May God continue to bless Bill and his family in his well-deserved retirement.

RESTORING AMERICANS' FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FOXX). The Chair recognizes the gentle-

woman from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, Saturday marks 1 year since the U.S. Supreme Court announced its now infamous decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, and for the first time in our Nation's history, it took away one of America's most fundamental rights: the right to privacy.

In overturning *Roe v. Wade* and taking away Americans' right to abortion care, the U.S. Supreme Court has rolled back the clock on women's rights in this country and put the health and lives of millions of women at risk.

Everybody in this country deserves the freedom to make their own healthcare choices. Nobody should have to experience the pain and trauma that countless women in this country have now suffered as a result of the GOP's efforts to criminalize abortion care in this country.

While poll after poll shows that an overwhelming majority of the American public supports women's rights to abortion care, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle remain intent on outlawing it once and for all.

We may not have the majority in this Chamber just now, but there is no doubt that we have the majority of Americans on our side in this fight. If my colleagues on the other side of the aisle aren't willing to stand up for the people they represent, then we must.

Today, Representatives LEE and CHU and I announce that we have filed a discharge petition to bring the Women's Health Protection Act up for a vote so that we can restore Americans' fundamental rights to abortion care.

This is legislation that was passed by the Chamber not once but twice last year. There is no reason why any Member who doesn't have their head in the sand shouldn't be ready to support it a third time.

Now is the time to end the devastation that too many Americans have already experienced. Now is the time to let the American public know exactly where every Member of this Chamber stands.

I urge my colleagues to sign this petition that is now at the desk. Madam Speaker, 218 of us is all it takes to bring this bill to the floor and take us one step closer to ending this nightmare.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, never before has this country marked the day that a fundamental freedom was taken from us. This Saturday, for the first time, we will.

Almost 1 year ago, the Supreme Court's shameful and unprecedented *Dobbs* decision stripped a constitutional right from all Americans, and the harm it triggered has only grown in the year since.

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We are here to say enough is enough. Extremist Republicans around the country created this reproductive healthcare crisis against the will of the people with their out-of-touch, anti-choice agenda.

People should have the right to make decisions over their own bodies, especially healthcare decisions, not this body, nor politicians, nor Justices. That process has been now aided and enabled by Republicans in this Chamber, so it is time for some accountability right here and right now. Time to put our Speaker and the Members of his party on the record in front of their constituents. It is time, really, to restore the right to abortion.

One year after the fall of Roe, we refuse to back down from the fight for reproductive freedom.

Our bodies, our choices. That is what this, in essence, is about: freedom. We are here using every single tool at our disposal to force action on this issue.

I am proud to join with our fellow Pro-Choice Caucus leaders, our membership, Representative DIANA DEGETTE and Representative JUDY CHU, in leading this discharge petition on the Women's Health Protection Act and demanding that the Speaker let us vote.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to sign it.

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU), the author of the Women's Health Protection Act.

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, it has been a year since the Supreme Court ripped away the rights of millions of Americans in an instant by overturning the constitutional right to abortion care. It has been nearly 1 year since American women were forced to live in a country where they possessed fewer rights than their grandmothers.

House Republicans are out of step with the American people when it comes to abortion access, but instead of working to restore these fundamental freedoms, they have worked to further restrict abortion access in this country. That is why we are here today, to take action.

I am proud to present this discharge petition to force accountability for Republican inaction.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

CONGRATULATING DICK JAMES

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dick James of St. Simon's Island on his induction into the Ranger Hall of Fame.

Mr. James served in the Army for 22 years, including two tours of duty in Vietnam and retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel.

In his first tour, he acted as an adviser for a Vietnamese battalion with 750 soldiers. This battalion suffered a high casualty rate, with two-thirds being lost in the 9½ months he served with them. He later returned to Vietnam as the commander of the 75th Ranger Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade, where he fearlessly led his Rangers in 450 missions, with 229 of them being fights with enemy troops.

Mr. James has been the rightful recipient of many awards, including four Bronze Star medals, a Vietnam Service Medal, Superior Service Medal, and a National Defense Service Medal, among many others.

I thank Mr. James for his service and congratulate him for his induction into the Ranger Hall of Fame. His extraordinary dedication to his country and his fellow Rangers makes him the perfect addition.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF STARLING SUTTON

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and the legacy of Mr. Starling Sutton, a dedicated servant to his country and a community activist.

During the Vietnam war, Starling cross-trained in four different areas, airborne, special forces medic, combat engineer, and infantry officer.

His work in the Army's 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg led him to pursue a degree in criminal justice, which he then applied to professional and volunteer efforts devoted to helping homeless and marginalized people.

Mr. Sutton created two programs for the Atlanta Rotary Club to help inner-city youth learn about the camaraderie of the military, and his work with the Golden Isles Rotary helped homeless veterans find homes.

Professionally, he helped create affordable housing in Atlanta and converted two major warehouses into public art spaces.

Starling's service to our country and his impact on our State will continue to be felt for years to come, and we mourn his loss immensely.

CONGRATULATING GLYNN ACADEMY BOYS AND GIRLS GOLF TEAMS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Glynn Academy boys and girls golf teams on their recent 6A State Championship wins.

Both teams took a big lead on day one, and they never looked back. After day one, they had to fight through harsh weather conditions that plagued the rest of the tournament, but even that could not derail their efforts.

The Glynn Academy boys shot an impressive score of 591 overall to secure their first win since 2001. The Glynn Academy girls finished with a score of 480 to win their second championship in a row.

These impressive scores, and the fact that this is the second championship in a row for the girls, speaks volumes. These young adults are true athletes, and I am inspired by their amazing performance on the golf course.

I look forward to seeing what these great teams do in the coming season, and I know they will continue to make the First District of Georgia proud.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL GEORGE ALLEN TINDLE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of retired Lieutenant Colonel George Allen Tindle of the U.S. Army National Guard.

Mr. Tindle was born in Chicago, Illinois, on September 12, 1941. He was a proud member of the Chicago Police Department for 10 years, until he transferred to the Federal Protective Service in 1974, right here in Washington, D.C.

George began his career at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Georgia, in 1986. He was the Director of Management Training for U.S. Customs until his retirement in 1999. After his retirement, George began his favorite career as an instructor in the Behavioral Sciences Division.

George was an avid fan of the FredERICA Academy football team and a beloved member of the Community Church on St. Simons Island.

George was an animal lover with a quick wit and a compassionate heart.

George Tindle passed away on April 3, 2023, at the age of 81 in Brunswick, Georgia. He is survived by a son, a nephew, and nieces, along with the legacy he left behind in the Brunswick community.

GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BEAN). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, firearms are now the leading cause of death for our children in the United States. This is the reality that we are living with, and it is one that we should refuse to accept.

Every day, over 100 Americans are killed from gun violence and more than 200 people are shot and wounded. These are not just statistics, Mr. Speaker, they are human beings with lives and futures, with mothers, friends and loved ones.

It is sickening that the NRA and the gun lobby have bankrolled many of my colleagues in this Chamber into silence and inaction on this issue.

Many of these deaths involve the accidental discharge of a firearm, often by a child, including a number of recent tragic incidents in southeastern Michigan. Just this month, there was a horrific incident where a 2-year-old gained access to an unsecured gun and was tragically killed.

It is alarming that 4.6 million children in our country live in homes with loaded and unlocked firearms.

This is Gun Violence Awareness Month, and I am proud to introduce the Safe Storage Saves Lives Act with