

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This morning, I am praying for the family, friends, and colleagues of Trooper Rougeau, another person in law enforcement who died while responding to help others in danger.

STANDING UP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. SANTOS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, in March, I introduced H.R. 1736, also known as the Equality and Fiscal Accountability Protection Act of 2023.

This bill will cut off the cash faucet the U.S. Government gives away to countries such as Uganda that persecutes, criminalizes, or discriminates against individuals based on their sexual orientation.

Since June is Pride Month, I thought this bill would be a great way to remind the American people and this body that the best way to celebrate the history and achievements of gay rights is to stand up to countries actively oppressing the LGBT community. Many countries are light-years behind everything we have worked for to be treated civilly and humanely in this country.

In fact, many countries are still persecuting their citizens for the simple fact that they are gay. Uganda is just one of many countries executing and prosecuting its people based on their sexual orientation; however, they received hundreds of millions of dollars in 2022 alone from President Biden's emergency plan for AIDS relief, or PEPFAR.

While waving rainbow flags and changing corporate logos is pleasant enough lipservice and virtue signaling, we need to send a clear message that the United States will not offer Federal aid to countries that habitually violate basic human rights based on sexual orientation.

We, as a Nation, have a responsibility to stand up for the human rights of all people, regardless of race, religion, or sexual orientation.

□ 1045

CONGRATULATING HARDIN VALLEY ACADEMY AEROHAWKS

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Hardin Valley Academy AeroHAWKS for their achievements at the American Rocketry Challenge.

AeroHAWKS Team 1 came in first place, and Team 2 came in 10th place. Both teams scored high enough that they were invited to participate in NASA's Student Launch Initiative, and Team 1 has just headed to Paris, France, to represent the United States in the International Rocketry Challenge.

I say "Paris, France," because many of you realize there is a Paris, Tennessee, and that is home to the world's largest fish fry. I wanted to clarify that.

This was Hardin Valley's first appearance in this competition, and they competed alongside nearly 800 teams from 45 States. The fact they did so well demonstrates their intelligence, dedication, and teamwork abilities. They rose to the challenge and brought pride to east Tennessee.

My office gave these students a tour of the U.S. Capitol before their competition here in Washington, and it is clear these students are passionate and bright and will do great things with their future.

I congratulate everyone from Hardin Valley Academy who competed in the American Rocketry Challenge. I wish the best of luck to Team 1 as they compete in Paris for the world title. They are making east Tennessee and the entire Nation proud.

Mr. Speaker, on a personal note, from my days of rocketry with my Estes rocket, I believe my V2 rocket is still in the tree of my neighbor's house. I will state for the record that if any of these young people would like to climb up and get it, I would gladly reward them.

HONORING CORPORAL JOE ALLEN VINYARD

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an American hero who has finally been laid to rest in Blount County.

Corporal Joe Allen Vinyard was part of the 774th Tank Battalion during World War II. He tragically lost his life in the Battle of Hurtgen Forest, an important battle on the European front right before the Battle of the Bulge. Many of the men who sacrificed their lives for our freedom that day were not identified, including Corporal Vinyard.

In 2021, folks working at the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Agency figured out one set of remains could have been Corporal Vinyard's. Thanks to DNA testing from samples the family provided, scientists were able to identify his remains. By September 2022, the family had been notified that he would be brought back to Blount County.

Corporal Vinyard was laid to rest in Grandview Cemetery in Maryville this past weekend. He is buried beside his parents, just a few miles from his home. After almost 80 years, Corporal Joe Allen Vinyard has finally come home.

HONORING SERGEANT DANIEL CLIFFORD BRITTON

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Sergeant Daniel Clifford Britton, who served our country during the Gulf war.

Daniel graduated from Temple Baptist Academy in 2006. He went on to the University of Tennessee and participated in the Army ROTC program and enlisted in the Army on September 3, 2008.

Sergeant Britton attended his initial Active-Duty training at Fort Benning,

Georgia. After graduation, he was assigned to the 15th Infantry Regiment. He graduated from the air assault course in September 2009, and in 2010, he deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he earned his Combat Infantry Badge. During his service, he was awarded the Iraq Campaign Medal with two stars, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal twice, and many others. He was a patriot and loved this country to its core.

Sergeant Britton passed away in May and left behind a daughter who he loved with his whole being. I offer my condolences to his daughter and all his friends and family who knew and loved him.

It is my honor to recognize Sergeant Daniel Britton as the Tennessee Second District's June 2023 Veteran of the Month. His service to this country, his community, and his family will never be forgotten.

On a personal note, Mr. Speaker, as a Christian, I am not a very good one, but I owe everything in my life, except for my salvation, to the men and women who wore our country's uniform. I thank you for this opportunity. I appreciate your testimony here on the floor about that man, one of our brave officers, who lost his life. I thank the people in the gallery for standing up and showing him that respect.

This is a great country we have, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, brother, for your friendship.

RECOGNIZING 10TH DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN'S DISTRICT OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. JAMES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JAMES. Mr. Speaker, we had a slogan in Army aviation: "High Above the Best." It was a reminder that the American people entrusted us, me and my men, to provide air support for the soldiers fighting for their lives on the ground each and every single day. Likewise, in Congress, our constituents, our customers, have entrusted our staff and myself to provide air support to the good people in our district fighting for their livelihoods each and every single day.

I stand here to say that my district staff has exemplified this slogan, "High Above the Best." In under 6 months in this office, my team has already delivered on a monumental constituent casework milestone in a freshman office.

Earlier this month, my team surpassed \$100,000 in Federal casework dollars returned to our constituents, to our customers. They are providing that air support to Michigan's 10th Congressional District, just like Army aviators.

It is a lot of work setting up a congressional office. Both our D.C. and district teams have burned the midnight oil to get everything up and running so

that we can serve you, our constituents, and deliver on the promises we made.

On top of all the work that had to be done getting our district office up and running, this staff delivered for the constituency and has returned over \$100,000 in Federal dollars and about a trillion-and-a-half passport requests.

I recognize each and every single member of my district staff by name, in alphabetical order: Russ Cleary, Lisa Damon-Brown, Phil Rode, Linda Torp, and Kris Zrinyi.

I thank them all for helping me serve Michigan's 10th Congressional District, the greatest district in the United States of America.

Of the many cases my district team has closed this year, there are a couple that I reviewed that really stuck out to me.

We got a call from a veteran in our district who hadn't received his VA benefits in nearly 2 years. Together, my staff elevated this case within the VA and got them to act. Now, this veteran in my district has thousands in backpay and a monthly payment of roughly \$2,000 that he earned serving our country in uniform.

My team also helped a single mother of two get her tax return from all the way back in 2015. This young mother is currently attending nursing school to better the future for herself and her two children and to serve her community. Between being a single mom and a student, she didn't have enough time in her busy schedule to work with the IRS, but she had time to give us a call. That is all that mattered. My diligent team was able to step up for her and help her to retrieve \$9,000 from her tax return.

These are just two of the many stories and constituent cases that our district office worked so diligently to close over just the past 5 months—in under 6 months, under half a year. I am so grateful for all the work they have done for our constituents.

I am a combat veteran, but I am also a businessman, and I believe that constituent services, customer service, is why I am here.

Customer service, serving constituents, is my number one priority in Congress. I have served my country in combat, but the chance to serve this community is the honor of my lifetime. We are ready to continue to serve the good people of Michigan's 10th Congressional District. I thank them for trusting me to be High Above the Best.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 52 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Sovereign God, we look to You to receive guidance in our lives, strength in our battles, comfort in our sorrows, and peace in our world. We appeal to You on behalf of those at war in Ukraine and those who are making decisions affecting this grueling conflict and impacting countless lives. Grant them the belt of Your truth that their leadership would be bound in integrity and faithfulness.

To the men and women on the front lines so violently uprooted from their families and communities, now fighting a battle to preserve the livelihoods they once enjoyed without fear, grant Your breastplate of righteousness. Protect and defend them from the feelings of anger, betrayal, and vindictiveness. Safeguard them from any deed that would bring dishonor or disgrace. May the justness of their actions be undisputed.

Comfort the grieving with the shield of faith. Preserve their souls and spirits from the fiery arrows of heartache and despair. In You may they find the strength and comfort that transcends our finite grasp of Your steadfast and eternal love.

Your work, O God, is powerful. Speak into the warring chaos that threatens our world and wield Your word of peace.

In Your saving name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

BIDEN'S IRAN DEAL

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, appeasing Iran endangers America and the world, according to Matthew Continetti of the American Enterprise Institute, as reported in the June 17 edition of National Review.

"For President Biden is on the verge of betraying Congress and the American people by rewarding the Islamic Republic of Iran for various misdeeds.

"According to news reports, Biden is prepared to authorize billions of dollars in payments to Iran in exchange for the release of U.S. prisoners. . . . Biden will say this perverse arrangement is necessary to free innocents. . . . What he won't be able to do is call it a deal. "Biden can't call the agreement a deal because he wants to avoid congressional review. The Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015 forbids the President from relieving nuclear-related sanctions . . . without congressional approval.

"Notice that the deal-that-is-no-deal says nothing about Iran's deadliest proxy, Hezbollah, or about Iran's drone traffic," to attack Israel and murder Ukrainian civilians.

In conclusion, sadly, the insulting plea deal for Hunter Biden exposes the Biden crime family has shamefully corrupted the Federal judicial system.

DEADLIEST FORM OF CANCER

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, lung cancer is the deadliest form of cancer in the United States, taking more lives than prostate, colorectal, and breast cancers combined.

The United States Preventive Services Task Force recommends annual lung screenings for adults ages 50 to 80 who are at risk, but currently just 6 percent of eligible Americans are screened each year.

That is why we are introducing the Increasing Access to Lung Cancer Screening Act. This bipartisan bill will reduce barriers to preventive care by requiring public and private insurance to cover annual screenings for those who are eligible.

Early detection is our best protection against all cancer deaths, and this legislation extends coverage for those who are at greatest risk.

I ask my colleagues to join me, along with Representatives CASTOR and FITZPATRICK, in supporting this life-saving legislation. Together we can take another step toward ending cancer as we know it.

HONORING DON WALTON ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of Nebraska's finest journalists, Don Walton.