

and their mother were injured when their family car came under fire.

My district was not the only one that was the scene of such horrors during the holiday week. There were mass shootings in Baltimore, Fort Worth, and Wichita.

From sea to shining sea, on a day when we should have been celebrating the greatness of our Nation and the blessings of liberty, we saw senseless, needless death and destruction.

□ 1015

With the memory of the Highland Park shooting last July Fourth reinforced by more recent shootings, people across the country decided to skip parades and public celebrations because they were afraid of being shot.

Today is the 175th day of 2023, and so far this year, there have been over 370 mass shootings.

The bloodshed is daily. American families are scared and traumatized.

Americans are tired of living in fear at the grocery store, church, school, community celebrations, and parades. It does not have to be like this.

There are commonsense laws that can stem the bloodshed of gun violence, and House Democrats are committed to passing them.

On June 13, House Democrats introduced three discharge petitions that would ban assault weapons like the one used by the Kingsessing shooter last week; require universal background checks, which have been proven to prevent shooters from obtaining weapons; and close the Charleston loophole.

Those bills should get a vote, and Members of this House should be willing to put on the record where they stand.

We have other bills that would ban ghost guns, which the shooter also carried, and implement red flag laws, which have been proven to save lives by preventing suicides and allowing law enforcement to remove weapons from troubled individuals—again, like the Kingsessing shooter—before they kill someone.

These are bills that we know have the power to save lives, and they are popular, too.

Republicans in Congress just need the courage, the guts, to act. Anyone without the guts to act allows this unending epidemic of mass shootings to continue.

Americans do not and should not have to live like this. We don't need more neighborhoods with devastated families, abandoned children's bicycles, and people afraid to leave their homes.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue fighting to protect your families and mine, and I urge every Member of this body to join me.

#### RESTORING NATION'S SAFETY AND SECURITY

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, one of the key tenets of House Republicans' Commitment to America was restoring our Nation's safety and security. That means passing a strong and fiscally responsible National Defense Authorization Act, otherwise known as the NDAA, which is our country's primary legislation authorizing spending levels and providing substantive policy directives for the United States Armed Forces and the Department of Defense.

Thankfully, that is exactly what House Republicans will be doing this week when we consider and pass the fiscal year 2024 NDAA. The NDAA for the coming year being considered by the House this week includes many priorities and provisions that middle Tennesseans can be proud to support.

For starters, it ends the radical woke ideologies being forced on our service-members by prohibiting funding for teaching critical race theory. It repeals the authorization for the Department of Defense's unnecessary chief diversity officer and eliminates funding for drag shows and similar events.

Along with these commonsense measures that passed the House Armed Services Committee by a 48-1 vote, the National Defense Authorization Act gives our military the tools they need to counter the Chinese Communist Party's aggression, increases oversight of the Biden administration after their disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan, and saves taxpayers \$40 billion by cutting inefficient defense programs, obsolete weapons systems, and unnecessary Pentagon bureaucracy.

All in all, I believe this bill contains good provisions that return our military's focus back on readiness and the defense of our Nation, not wokeness and progressive posturing.

#### LET'S GET SERIOUS ABOUT SPENDING LEVELS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I couldn't disagree more with my distinguished colleague who just spoke.

Even with 1,500 proposed amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act, it remains a disgrace. The majority talks big about cutting money, but they fail on some of the most fundamental opportunities.

They reject commonsense solutions and have failed to support meaningful cost-saving reforms. They have held the global economy hostage over spending levels, but I hope they will take advantage yet to make some adjustments, including my amendment with Representatives MCGOVERN and GARAMENDI to end the wasteful funding of the outdated, ineffective B83-1 bomber that the 2022 defense posture laid out. It was unnecessary and wasteful.

If they wanted to get serious about addressing spending levels, we should

stop wasting taxpayer dollars on weapons that don't work, on ships the Navy doesn't want, and nuclear weapons that are outdated and increasingly costly to maintain.

Adding even more money to an all-time record defense spending regime does nothing to improve American security or strengthen our allies, including the valiant Ukrainians in a fight for their very survival.

At a time of renewed security threats to the United States, a war raging in Ukraine, tensions in Asia and the Pacific, so much controversy over government spending, this legislation falls so painfully short of the mark.

It is funding battleships that don't work after spending billions to develop the Freedom-class littoral combat ships that marked their initial run with engine failures. The Navy doesn't want them. Retiring them would save \$4.3 billion over the next 5 years, but Republicans continue to protect it to have jobs in Florida.

This bill leaves unfinished business in the work of protecting our troops, their families, and their neighborhoods from military toxins and explosives. Congress has long failed to make UXO and toxin cleanup a priority, and our servicemen and civilians continue to pay the price.

The United States is the largest energy consumer in the world. We should be focusing on ways to make them even more energy efficient.

The Department of Defense has appropriately been a leader in clean energy, water protection, and disaster preparation. These are not arts and crafts projects. It is all about readiness. Improving efficiency and energy resilience makes our troops safer and saves critical money.

The newly empowered Republican majority has decided to throw money at mismanaged priorities in terms of taking the culture wars to the Department of Defense, stripping away protections and programs that deal with the diversity of our military.

Social issues are defense issues, and the continued onslaught of restrictions against people of color, those who are LGBTQ, or those whose healthcare is under attack causes America to lose potential servicemembers we need most.

We are not meeting our recruitment objectives now, and taking the culture wars against the Department of Defense, fighting against diversity, makes us less ready.

Recruitment and retention are serious challenges plaguing our military, and the Republican attacks on those they don't like make us more vulnerable. These are honorable people, and the military needs them.

The good news is that most of the sideshow we will be dealing with today and into the night will never be enacted into law, but making these attacks and forcing these votes on readiness is not harmless. Even though they are ineffective does not mean that damage is not being done.

Look at the charade from Alabama's junior Senator paralyzing the orderly function of the military command structure over an ill-advised, unpopular, wrongheaded crusade against giving American military personnel the healthcare they deserve.

Denial of healthcare is another way we are driving qualified people out of the military. It is a travesty to deny them the same option, for instance, for medical cannabis that Americans enjoy in most States.

With so many of our veterans and servicemembers suffering from wounds, visible and hidden, the record is clear that medical cannabis can be transformative. It will help our servicemembers save money and improve the quality of their care.

I am pleased that my colleague BRIAN MAST and I have been able to develop bipartisan legislation to remedy the situation, and I hope this Congress will relent and allow us to enact it.

While I may disagree with the spending priorities and the massive increase in spending, I remain impressed with our men and women in uniform, from the brave recruits to the senior officers. They reflect so much of what is good about America. We should embrace our responsibilities for today and into the future by respecting the differences and strengthening opportunities to serve.

Mr. Speaker, we have a duty to them and our national security to do so.

#### ENDING WEAPONIZATION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, for years, Americans have watched their television or read their newspapers and seen the FBI constantly in the headlines—and not for the good.

Under Director Christopher Wray's leadership, the FBI has become weaponized, and the American people's trust in the institution has been severely damaged. We have seen the agency launch an entirely unwarranted investigation against Donald Trump to prove nonexistent collusion with Russia.

We have seen the agency use the Steele dossier to abuse the FISA process and spy on conservatives.

We have seen the agency label parents concerned about what their children are learning in schools in Northern Virginia as domestic terrorists.

We have seen the agency target whistleblowers who expose corrupt behavior and political bias.

We have seen the agency target Catholics in Richmond, Virginia, who are simply exercising their First Amendment right to express their faith.

The Republican-led House Judiciary Committee is demanding that Director Wray accept responsibility for the agency's abusive overreach of power,

and the Appropriations Committee is taking action, using the power of the purse to rein in the abuses that have occurred in this agency.

There is no place for politics within the FBI, and we will not stop working to bring an end to this weaponization of our law enforcement agencies and the use of these agencies against law-abiding Americans.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO GLENVAR HIGH SCHOOL MEN'S TENNIS TEAM

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Glenvar High School men's tennis team for winning the Class 2 State title.

This victory marks the program's first championship since 1996. By training hard to ensure that they are at their best and by encouraging each other, the Highlanders left it all on the courts and dominated the Bruton Panthers.

These talented young men include Blaine Bishop, Alec McIlwain, Marco Gustafson, Logan Garner, Beckett Wilkinson, and Ian Kelley.

Leaving the singles match, the Highlanders were out to a strong 4-2 lead, needing just one more win to get the State title.

Blaine Bishop, alongside his doubles partner Alec McIlwain, clinched the championship after Bishop dominated the Panthers' doubles team, securing the championship for the Highlanders.

For the last three seasons, Head Coach Bob Haynie has brought the team together, becoming not just teammates but a family they can rely on both on and off the court.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Glenvar High School men's tennis team and the parents, faculty, and staff on this incredible achievement.

#### MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR SERVICEMEMBERS AND VETERANS

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, here is a heartbreaking fact about the reality of war: Every single day in our country, about 17 veterans die by suicide. That is 17 families whose lives will never be the same.

I am thinking of one of our mothers in the 12th Congressional District, Lisa Hicks-Clayton, who mourns her son, Damon, every day.

We must work harder than ever to ensure that no veteran is left behind and those serving in our military receive the mental health support that they need to survive.

We know that our servicemembers face mental health crises that are heightened by their experiences at war. The forever wars, Mr. Speaker, of the past decades have left behind immense trauma. Far too often, our own government and this Congress fail to provide our servicemembers and veterans with the support they need and deserve.

If we cannot provide the necessary care and support for our servicemem-

bers and veterans, then we should not be sending them off to war.

□ 1030

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline offers free confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for those experiencing a mental health crisis or contemplating suicide. Veterans can use this new option by dialing 988 and pressing 1 to contact the Veterans Crisis Line.

We must break the stigma surrounding mental health issues and create an environment where our veterans and servicemembers feel supported asking for help.

My amendment ensures that information about the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is posted in commonsense locations to maximize awareness about this lifesaving resource among our servicemembers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to please support this amendment. Suicide prevention should not be a partisan issue.

If you are a veteran or a servicemember in crisis, please reach out for the support you need. You are not alone.

#### CELEBRATING HEROES' ALLIANCE

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the achievement and historic accomplishment of these wonderful young people who are part of the Heroes' Alliance Vehicle Technology Team. This group of high school students from our district just won the 2022 National Solar Car Challenge within their division.

Heroes' Alliance was founded in 2009 by the late Pastor Reggie Lane who established the organization to engage and create opportunities for underserved youth in Detroit. This vision now is being led by the dynamic Anika Smith. Right now, these young people are going to Texas to drive the vehicle from Texas to California and compete in the 2023 national competition.

The Heroes' Alliance is a STEM program that challenges students to develop innovative technology focusing on renewable energy and automotive engineering.

Today, the project serves as a capstone for students who participate in the Heroes' Alliance Cooperative Learning Center, which utilizes vehicle technology for the basis of bringing together education, innovation, and industry as students work together to design and engineer a solar vehicle.

I am so proud of this hardworking, talented, group of young people from various schools all across the city of Detroit and want to congratulate them on their achievements.

Please join me in recognizing them as we also cheer them on to victory.

#### RECOGNIZING MOTHER PATRICIA "PAT" BRAXTON

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Mother Patricia "Pat" Braxton, as we call her, "Mother Pat," a legacy of our community, as she celebrates 75 years of life.

In all the years I have known Mother Pat, she has been an active public servant and advocate. Her passion for our