

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

local and global community shines through in everything she does.

She is known not only as the matriarch of her family, but also as a mentor for many women of color serving in public service. She is one of our legacy legends of the O'Hair Park community, and we absolutely adore her.

Mother Pat never shies away from a challenge, Mr. Speaker. Her compassion and kindness toward others have had a lasting impact on those around her, including myself. We are grateful for her tireless energy and outstanding example.

Please join me in recognizing Mother Pat Braxton for her advocacy, hard work, and dedication as we celebrate her 75 years of life.

RECOGNIZING THE EPOCH TIMES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, when John Tang was earning his doctoral degree in physics at Georgia Tech in 1999, he never imagined that some 20 years later he would be heading the fourth largest American newspaper by subscription count.

At the time, the Chinese Communist Party, the CCP, had just started persecuting the spiritual discipline Falun Gong, practiced at the time by roughly 1 in every 12 Chinese. People would practice the slow-moving exercises in the morning in parks before going to work.

Just like any other persecution campaign by the CCP, the regime relied on the media it controlled, both the state media and the private media, to demonize and isolate the group. In an attempt to demonize Falun Gong and justify its persecution, the media played nonstop hate propaganda attacking this peaceful meditation group.

John, who had immigrated to the United States, watched from afar in horror as friends were persecuted for their beliefs.

John decided to take action. Despite having no experience or investment, he started Dajiyuan, the Chinese edition of The Epoch Times, in the basement of his home in the suburbs of Atlanta, Georgia.

John was driven by a wish to provide uncensored information to not only people in China but to people around the world. Soon, other Chinese Americans left their well-paying jobs to help John with this seemingly impossible endeavor.

The Epoch Times' first reporting group was established in China in the year 2000, covering key events with a main focus on the CCP's human rights abuses. The CCP, however, sees any kind of independent reporting on its brutal human rights abuses as a threat. Within a few months, Chinese police raided the underground newsroom, arresting every reporter and every editor. They were imprisoned, specifically

Zhang Yuhui and Shi Shaoping, who received sentences of 10 years where they faced frequent torture.

The Epoch Times' China operation went underground, yet the Chinese edition quickly became a leading website on Chinese current events with millions of readers. Its print newspaper is now distributed nationwide as well as in 30 other countries around the world. Every day, many Chinese break through the CCP's internet firewall to read The Epoch Times' website.

All of this has not been easy. Since the newspaper's founding, the CCP has waged a nonstop campaign to totally destroy it. The party has threatened the newspaper's advertisers, they have launched incessant cyberattacks on its website and IT systems, and threatened relatives of staff members back in China.

The harassment has not been limited just to China. In 2006, the home of then-chief engineer Peter Li was broken into by assailants, who tied him to a chair and beat him before stealing two computers.

Meanwhile, in Hong Kong in 2019, assailants started a fire in the newspaper's printing press, and in 2021, armed men entered the building and used sledgehammers to smash printing equipment.

The Epoch Times also inspired the Tuidang, which means "Quit the CCP" movement. As a result of The Epoch Times' publication of this special series "Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party," which provides the most thorough interview to date of the true nature of the CCP, more than 410 million Chinese people, and counting, have sought to sever their membership in this party and its affiliated organizations.

Realizing that the CCP had put enormous efforts into infiltrating the United States of America, especially media organizations, resulting in many U.S. media carrying the communist regime's propaganda, The Epoch Times launched in English in 2003 and started a print edition in New York in 2004.

The Epoch Times' independent reporting has attracted a large readership in the United States, now ranking as the fourth largest newspaper in the country by subscriber count. Its website is read by tens of millions of people each month.

Just like its Chinese companion, The Epoch Times prides itself on being independent and serving the interests of the readers. Under its slogan "Truth and Tradition," The Epoch Times adheres to the best practices and highest principles of journalism and seeks to highlight the best of humanity.

The Epoch Times now has editions published in 36 countries and in 22 different languages.

This is all about one word: Freedom.

REPUBLICANS CHOOSE CULTURE WAR OVER NATIONAL SECURITY

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

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, later today we will begin voting on the NDAA, the National Defense Authorization Act, the Pentagon budget.

Moving this legislation forward has almost always been a bipartisan issue in Congress. It takes on the responsibilities of funding our military. It protects our national security. It has been a bipartisan effort for nearly six decades.

But last night, after midnight, Republican leadership decided to bring to the floor dozens of partisan divisive amendments. If adopted, these amendments would transform this bill and transform our military. It is quite literally a wish list of the rightwing extremist colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

There is an amendment to end all affirmative action in our officer corps, something even our Supreme Court refused to do just a few weeks ago. There is an amendment to full stop, end all aid to Ukraine, at the very moment we are expanding NATO and working on protecting democracy abroad on behalf of all democracies.

Another one that they passed was a divisive amendment that prevents female servicemembers in the military from accessing the reproductive care that they need and they deserve. Plain and simple, last night, they chose culture war over national security, and they are doing so as part of a clear effort to prevent every single American woman from accessing care. It is part and parcel of a larger campaign to impose a nationwide ban on abortion.

Last night, like I said, in the dead of night, the Freedom Caucus passed this amendment to stop the military from paying for a bus ticket or a plane ticket for any woman who needs an abortion, and it is proof of this bigger plan.

In addition to this amendment that passed last night, we have amendments in the Appropriations Committee that are the same thing.

We have a single Senator, Senator TUBERVILLE, who is holding and blocking 250 military promotions right now, the head of the Marine Corps, the head of the Army, the head of the Navy, because he objects to the fact that a woman might get a paid bus ticket to get an abortion.

If blocking these nominations continues, we will have no Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, no commandant of the Marine Corps for the first time in 134 years, no Army chief of staff. His colleagues, who claim to care about national security, are letting him get away with it. Now, they have used this bipartisan bill in order to make their point.

Forty-six percent of Active Duty servicewomen are stationed in States that now either ban or very severely restrict abortion. They have no choice. They are based there. They have signed up to serve their country. They have been put on a base in Texas or Alabama. That is not their choice. That is their duty.