

through executive action, like forgiving more than \$400 billion in loan debt with the stroke of a pen.

They never intended for a Federal agency to be able to circumvent the people's Representatives and use their regulatory authority to advance so-called progressive ideas. The judicial branch is doing its part to curb the rogue—often unconstitutional—actions of this President, but the American people can count on this half of the legislative branch to conduct its critical oversight function, just as our Founders intended.

#### RECOGNIZING SUSAN RENNINGER

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

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to lift the story of McClure, Pennsylvania, native Susan Renninger, or as her family calls her, Sue.

Sue is a loving mother and grandmother. She was diagnosed with lung cancer 6 years ago, yet she refused to let that hold her back. In the face of three rounds of chemo, eight rounds of radiation, Sue, an avid traveler, completed a remarkable feat seeing all 50 States, and she did not do it alone.

Sue's children, Heather and Eric; and her stepchildren, Kelly, Paula, and Karla, often joined her, filling this difficult time with adventure, memories, and an abundance of love.

Now, her 9-year-old granddaughter wants to do the same.

We as lawmakers have so much to learn from Sue: her resilience, her perseverance, her fight. We have an obligation to fight for the millions of Americans waging the battle with this devastating disease.

Now, in the midst of this budget season, there is no better time to dedicate funds to beat cancer once and for all. That is why I am advocating for more than \$140 million in research to end cancer.

Let's support research. Let's support screenings early and often. Let's win this fight for Sue and everyone in all 50 States.

#### IN REMEMBRANCE OF DEB SLATTEN

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

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Deb Slatten who tragically passed away recently.

Deb served honorably for both the Carlton County Sheriff's Office and St. Louis County Sheriff's Office for 36 years, eventually retiring as a sergeant. She was the first female sheriff's deputy on patrol in Duluth and the department's first female sergeant in Duluth.

Following her retirement, she continued to selflessly give her time and tal-

ents to our community as a member of the St. Louis County Sheriff's Volunteer Rescue Squad. This squad is one of the very best in the Nation because of Deb and others' commitment to our region.

Please take a moment to reflect on how precious life is and how critical these local heroes are to our communities.

Rest in peace, faithful servant.

#### KEEP OUR WORKERS SAFE

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to sound the alarm about the extreme heat in Texas that is putting people's lives in danger.

Workers in agriculture, construction, mail delivery, and landscaping are in danger and at risk for heat-related injuries or even death every day.

Many workers in my district are working outside at a heat index that is well above 100 degrees.

Heat is the number one cause of weather-related deaths in the United States—more than floods, tornadoes, and hurricanes.

Just last month, Felipe Pascual, a construction worker in the Houston area, collapsed on the jobsite and later died due to hyperthermia.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I introduced the Construction Injury Prevention Act to provide paid 15-minute rest breaks for workers every 4 hours.

This bill puts people over profits, it puts people over politics, and will literally save lives. We need to act to keep our workers safe, and we must act now.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO WAYNE PARKER

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

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend and dedicated public servant. Last week, Wayne Parker, Provo City's chief administrative officer for two decades, announced his retirement.

Having served with Mr. Parker for 8 years, I know firsthand how impossible it is to fully grasp the positive impact of Wayne Parker on Provo City. His touch for good can be found in everything we like about Provo.

For many years he has worked without fanfare or attention. Those of us that know his work best know that everything from our vibrant economy to our fun downtown and so much more have been blessed by Wayne's hard work and dedication to Provo City.

Because of his great leadership skills, Wayne was awarded the 2020 Award for Career Excellence from the International City/County Management Association. This award was a recognition of Wayne's impact on the quality of life in Provo.

I hope that his retirement brings joy and happiness. Those of us that call Provo home will never forget all he has done for us as a city. I know I will never forget all he has done for me.

#### CELEBRATING JACKIE ROWE ADAMS' 75TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the birthday of Jackie Rowe Adams.

This week, our communities, northern Manhattan and Harlem, celebrate Jackie, who is a powerhouse in northern Manhattan and Harlem.

Jackie is not only a union leader but Jackie is also a community advocate. After tragically losing two of her sons to gun violence, Jackie cofounded Harlem Mothers S.A.V.E., an organization dedicated to ending gun violence in our community, for which Jackie has worked tirelessly. She continues to be a force of change for our community, particularly advocating for young people.

Let me tell you something, Mr. Speaker, her voice is the window to her soul. She has a tremendous soprano voice, and everybody enjoys her singing in the community.

We wish Jackie a happy birthday, and we look forward to hearing her singing in the community.

#### FIGHT TO PASS THE NDAA

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

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, we worked a little late last night. We voted to get rid of this leftwing socialistic woke agenda that has not only been crammed down the throats of the American people but crammed down the throats of our military.

That is right. We got rid of DEI and CRT. It is gone. Now we can get back to protecting the citizens of this country. We also are protecting the citizens of the unborn. We got rid of abortions that are paid for by taxpayers in our military.

We did one more thing, Mr. Speaker. We gave those serving a needed pay raise and increased their lethality so that they can stay ahead of China.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to pass the NDAA today. Hold the line, negotiate, and fight for this bill when it comes back from the Senate.

#### GUN VIOLENCE EPIDEMIC IN AMERICA

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

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the epidemic of gun violence

in America, which continues to inflict bloodshed and heartbreak on our communities.

Last week, Americans were supposed to be celebrating the Fourth of July, but big cities and small towns across the country were once again devastated by senseless gun violence.

In October, my own Raleigh community joined the long line of American communities forever changed by a mass shooting. We should not have to live this way.

While we took a momentous step forward last summer by passing bipartisan, commonsense reform, we must do more. I am proud that the Raleigh Police Department is leading the charge through education, awareness, and prevention.

June was Gun Violence Awareness Month, but the call for action shouldn't end then. Today and every day, we must work together to end gun violence once and for all.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 583 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2670.

Will the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER) kindly take the chair.

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#### IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2670) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, with Mr. STAUBER (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Thursday, July 13, 2023, amendment No. 62, printed in House Report 118-142 offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BURLISON), had been disposed of.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 63 OFFERED BY MR. BANKS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 63 printed in House Report 118-142.

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title V, insert the following:

#### SEC. 5. PROHIBITION ON USE OF QUOTAS BASED ON RACE OR ETHNICITY IN SERVICE ACADEMY ADMISSIONS.

None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for the military service academies for

fiscal year 2024 may be used to discriminate or to use quotas in admissions on the basis of race or ethnicity.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 583, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, this amendment would prohibit the use of funds to discriminate on the basis of race and ethnicity in admissions to the military service academies.

Currently, all of the military service academies use race and ethnicity as selection criteria for admissions. Not only is this a violation of the Constitution, as recently affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court, but it is a violation of the military's longstanding meritocratic principles.

The military service academies are elite universities that train and educate the future leaders of our armed services. We need the best and the brightest, the most fit cadets and midshipmen, regardless of their skin color and ethnicity. To consider immutable characteristics like race and ethnicity is blatantly discriminatory.

For our national security, we must uphold the ideals of our country and put hard work, dedication, and service above all.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Washington is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, Mr. BANKS' amendment to prohibit our Nation's service academies from promoting diverse experiences and backgrounds as part of its missions policy will do nothing but weaken our military.

The Supreme Court recently recognized in its decision to leave service academies out of its ruling on affirmative action that our academies are not laboratories for ideological gerrymandering. They are institutions that are foundational to our national security.

Our service academies are responsible for providing a higher education but also for training our Nation's men and women to serve as global leaders. Many graduates will serve in the highest levels of our military and government, where success depends on maintaining an open mind, building diverse coalitions, and drawing on broad experiences. They will lead as part of a military that has never been more diverse, more capable, or more lethal. Soon, nearly half of our servicemembers will be people of color, but only a fraction serve as officers and even a smaller fraction as senior leaders.

We learned bitter and painful lessons in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam,

when leaders neither understood nor looked like the formations they led.

It is 2023, not 1952. If my colleagues across the aisle knew more about the painful history of this country, perhaps last night one of them would not have referred to Black servicemembers as "colored people."

Let's not move our country backward. I oppose this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman from Indiana for introducing this amendment.

I think it is a commonsense amendment. Right now, there are all sorts of rumors out there that when people are admitted to the service academies—who, after all, are going to wind up running our military, the one part of our government that cannot fail—preferences are being given and they are not always taking the best people that they can.

I want to point out something that is a little bit offensive about this whole diversity thing. Diversity for people like the Democratic Party, sadly, is solely determined by your genetics or your DNA or where your ancestors were 200 years ago.

I will give you an example to show the foolishness of it and that the real goal here, I think, is to divide Americans.

If I am one-quarter Peruvian, I can identify as Hispanic. I can identify as Hispanic despite the fact I have never spoken a word of Spanish and never been south of the border in my life. The people who just want to divide America would say that I have a unique perspective growing up in a Milwaukee suburb, despite the fact that I am one-quarter from a different part of the world.

This is preposterous on its face, and it will inevitably lead to division as we are educating our military that they should look at people by where their ancestors came from, not as individuals.

This true racism, which is what it absolutely is because that is how they determine which silo you fit into, has to be ripped away from our society and the military, in particular.

The idea that we have different viewpoints because of where our ancestors came from despite the fact that we have not been there and know nothing of them is preposterous.

Like I said, in addition to the divisiveness, you are going to wind up with people who are not necessarily the best people to lead our military. Anybody familiar with military history knows the important decisions that have to be made during wartime. We want those decisions made by the brightest people we have, not by people who have been picked based upon where their DNA was 2,000 years ago.

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. KIM), the ranking member