

majority of Americans who actually pay their bills, the majority of Americans who actually believe that if they have a right, they actually have a responsibility.

Unfortunately, President Biden just announced that by the stroke of his pen, he is going to forgive \$39 billion in student loans, this morning.

Now, let me be clear. This is in direct violation of the Supreme Court's decision just 2 weeks ago that blocked his student loan forgiveness plan. I guess the President has no respect for the constitutional authority of the Supreme Court.

Apparently, he has no respect for hardworking taxpayers that are going to foot this bill. Education isn't free. Someone pays for it. Last I checked, the teachers don't work for free. It is you, the taxpayer, who actually paid your student loans, who is now going to pay for somebody that doesn't want to pay their student loans. Every American who has paid off their student loans now gets the opportunity to pay somebody else's.

What comes next, Mr. President? Are you going to forgive mortgages and credit card bills? Where does this forgiveness end?

Rest assured, come hell or high water, I will fight this till the end.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

HONORING ALBERT VANN

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

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a New York City icon, the honorable Albert Vann.

After four decades of service as a progressive New York State and New York City legislator, Councilmember Albert Vann passed away 1 year ago today.

His contributions have enshrined him as a multigenerational champion of equity and justice for those needing it most.

He understood the importance of progress and the fight for justice. He understood what it meant to challenge the White-male-dominated political machine of his day. He understood where real power comes from. It comes from the beloved community.

This led him to becoming the first president of the African American Teachers Association, the first Black teachers' union in New York State.

He was a friend, a colleague, a mentor, but most importantly, he set the standard for what it means to serve your community.

To those who are underprivileged, overlooked, left out, or marginalized, it is with great honor that I stand as a direct beneficiary of a great man, Councilmember Albert Vann, a true trailblazer in New York State politics.

THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE NDAA

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

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, the National Defense Authorization Act is vital to the national security of the United States, as is border security and energy dominance. I am very pleased we are making strides into these areas with the passage of the NDAA and continue to strengthen and have a dominant military.

This NDAA includes significant resources to counter China in the Indo-Pacific, requires the DOD to identify and mitigate land purchases near military installations, and makes certain the United States continues to have the world's superior fighting force.

This legislation also funds the National Guard's border security deployment mission and rejects the Biden administration's plan to shrink our U.S. Navy.

This bill includes language to require allies to provide proportional levels of funding for the Ukraine conflict, alleviating the burden on U.S. taxpayers, yet fortifying the Ukraine freedom fighters.

Importantly, it supports our servicemembers with a 5.2 percent pay increase, the largest raise in 20 years.

This NDAA strengthens the national security of the United States as well as the world, and I am pleased to have supported it.

WHY I VOTED NO ON THE NDAA

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

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, America's national defense has historically been a source of bipartisan agreement, not a battleground for divisive, extreme partisan politics.

Unfortunately, House Republicans chose to use the NDAA to advance controversial and harmful amendments rather than work in a bipartisan way to bolster our national defense, strengthen our national security interests, and protect our servicemembers.

Through the amendment process, House Republicans inserted extreme anti-abortion, anti-LGBTQ, and anti-DEI amendments that infringe upon the rights of individuals, notably those who serve in our armed forces and their families, threaten their liberties, and undermine their principles of freedom and autonomy that they work every day to defend.

With these poison pills, I could not vote to advance this year's NDAA, as amended.

I will work tirelessly with my Senate counterparts and reasonable Republicans to ensure that damaging anti-abortion, anti-LGBTQ, and anti-DEI amendments are not included in the final text of this legislation.

ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE 988 HOTLINE

(Mrs. KIM of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, July 16 marks one year of the 988 hotline. This nationwide number is available 24/7 to provide confidential support to Americans facing mental health, substance use, and suicide crises.

Nearly 5 million Americans have called 988 in the last year to talk to someone about an issue they face. As we celebrate this progress, we acknowledge there is more to be done. A recent poll by the National Alliance on Mental Illness found that only 17 percent of Americans are aware of 988. That means more than four in every five Americans are unaware of this resource at our fingertips.

No one should feel alone. Whether it is strangers, friends, and foes alike, we never know what someone is going through.

I am proud to support the 988 hotline that can be a lifeline for those struggling. I will also do my part to promote kinder communities in California's 40th district and across the Nation.

A TROUBLING AMENDMENT TO THE NDAA

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

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to point out just one of the very troubling and extreme amendments in the NDAA, specifically Mr. GREEN's amendment which would effectively cut all Federal Government support to filmmakers who distribute films in China.

This amendment takes a page right out of 1950s McCarthyism, and it will devastate the film industry. It requires the DOD to create a blacklist of studios that often, by necessity, have made changes to films in anticipation of distribution in China.

It would decide, without any evidence necessary, to withhold assistance for filmmakers who edit sexual or violent scenes to make films more appropriate for children. Further, it would ensure that these American filmmakers can no longer film on U.S. public lands or access resources paid for by American taxpayers.

Filmmaking is a First Amendment right, and this amendment attacks that right by allowing the DOD to censor content and editorial viewpoints of American films. The Green amendment could also push film production overseas.

In my home State of California, this amendment would devastate an industry that brings in \$226 billion alone in jobs and economic activities.

Sadly, this amendment is just one of many dangerous and extreme MAGA

amendments attached to what has been a historically bipartisan bill. This amendment would hurt American industries and workers, and it does not belong in the NDAA.

PREVENTING RADICAL GREEN NEW DEAL POLICIES IN THE NDAA

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

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, we have had a lot of debate on this year's NDAA. Our goal is simple: To strengthen and modernize our military so they can be prepared to meet any national security challenge that this great Nation might face.

Our House majority authored and passed a strong NDAA that prevents the radical Green New Deal policies from weakening our fighting forces. It blocks burdensome requirements on defense contractors, allowing them to focus on delivering critical capabilities to our military.

This legislation also ensures that military ranges in the Gulf of Mexico remain open for necessary training programs, enhancing our troops' readiness. Additionally, it cuts funding for questionable combat vehicle electrification research programs and prohibits funds for DOD advisory committees dealing with environmental justice.

I am proud that we put forward a bill that focuses on the right priorities, safeguarding our national security and guaranteeing the continued defense of our great Nation instead of woke politics.

REMEMBERING DETECTIVE DELBERTH PHIPPS, JR.

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today on behalf of slain Virgin Islands Detective Delberth Phipps, Jr.

Detective Phipps was killed in the line of duty on July 4, 2023. He and his fellow officers rushed to the scene of an active shooting where a gunman, armed with an AR-15 rifle and bullet-proof vest, opened fire. He gave his life in service to his community.

My prayers and deepest condolences go to his family, his son, Demel Phipps, along with his loved ones and fellow Virgin Islands Police Department officers.

According to the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, arms trafficking is a major factor as to why the U.S. Virgin Islands, my home, has had a homicide rate nine times higher than on the mainland. The Virgin Islands does not manufacture guns, yet we have one of the highest per capita murder rates in the world.

It is no secret that with open land, there is drug trafficking through our

corridor. The weapons that continue to flood our shores are a byproduct of the lax, if not nonexistent, gun laws throughout the continental U.S., particularly Florida.

The daughter of multiple generations of law enforcement officers, I understand the commitment of not just officers but their families to protect and serve.

I stand with Officer Phipps and all of the Virgin Islands Police Department. You have my commitment to fight for you all.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL FOREST WEEK

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, this is National Forest Week across this country. I encourage everybody to partake and enjoy your national forests. Our Nation indeed was blessed by God with some truly inspiring natural beauty. It is our job to preserve it and utilize it for future generations.

Unfortunately, many of our national forests are under threat not from the usual climate change nonsense but actually wildfire caused by overcrowded forests, too many trees.

We haven't been tending to the forests for 50 years. The Federal Government has refused to properly thin and manage our forests, largely because of the lack of funding or, in a lot of cases, frivolous lawsuits—preventing the work that needs to be done—by extreme environmental groups.

They are now overgrown, overcrowded tinderboxes. All it takes is one lightning strike, a cigarette butt, or a spark from a flat tire going down a rural highway. Once they catch fire, they become infernos, such as the million-acre fire I had in my district a couple years ago called the Dixie fire.

A healthy forest has about 40 to 70 adult trees per acre. We have a situation where we have 500 or more trees per acre, a recipe for disaster. We need to do better and manage our forests.

□ 1130

CELEBRATING FRANCISCO SANDOVAL

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the service of Francisco Sandoval, a Fullerton educator honored as one of Orange County's Teachers of the Year.

Francisco began teaching at the Orangethorpe Elementary School over 10 years ago, where his students have ranged from kindergarten through sixth grade. He teaches with the belief that each and every student has their own set of strengths and the ability to succeed.

For Francisco, he is both an educator and caregiver for each and every one of his students. He begins every day by checking with his students on a one-to-one basis to ensure that they are doing well both in school and at home.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Francisco for the job he's done for each and every one of our students and for our community as a whole. We congratulate Francisco on being named as one of Orange County's Teachers of the Year.

NDAA REMARKS

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

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman MIKE ROGERS for his leadership and for including language to improve the safety of U.S. servicemembers in the NDAA.

My provision would establish new Joint Safety Council requirements for each military branch to develop a plan to identify corrective and preventative actions following major accidents and mishaps.

Earlier this year, I introduced the Military Equipment Quality and Safety Reform Act, or MEZR Act, which includes a similar mandate.

My effort to improve safety and transparency in the wake of major accidents is motivated by the tragic death of my constituent and F-16 pilot First Lieutenant David Schmitz, whose call sign was MEZR.

Just over 3 years ago, Lieutenant Schmitz was killed during a training exercise when his ejection seat malfunctioned while he attempted a nighttime landing.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ROGERS for including this language in the bill and working to protect our men and women in uniform.

HONORING NEWARK FIRE-FIGHTERS AUGUSTO "AUGIE" ACABOU AND WAYNE BROOKS, JR.

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two Newark firefighters who last week made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

Firefighters Augusto "Augie" Acabou and Wayne Brooks, Jr., were some of the first responders to an incredibly devastating fire at the Port of Newark in New Jersey.

With the instinct that only the men and women who proudly serve in fire departments across the country have, they went straight to the heart of the battle encountering a scene unlike any they have ever experienced in their careers, but they never hesitated.

They put it all on the line, and they made the ultimate sacrifice. They leave behind their families. They leave