

some fashion, or not, the controversial backing of Ukraine, we have to be able to supply them in order to have them be able to do a credible job on the field. If we are going to support that policy, we have to build our own stocks.

What does this mean for us? We are actually foraging shells and ammunition from stocks around the world, even from our allies, in order to keep the chain going into Ukraine. That is why cluster bombs, right?

The main concern for American defense really should be what does it mean if China's aggression gets much worse? What if they make a move on Taiwan that we are obligated and have promised to back up on? What about other issues that may happen in NATO? Are we ready?

We are not near ready for it. We need to produce the bombs and the bullets and the other hardware so that we have that as a deterrent and not have the idea that we are so weak that they know they can make a move on us or our allies. It is really that simple. It is really common sense.

So ramping up these domestic munitions production could run afoul of a lot of ideas the Democrats hold: climate, environment, or just a philosophy that if we don't produce the ammunition, we don't produce these arms, that we just won't have war.

We are going to have to make some very clear choices here with the Democratic policies. Is it about climate? Is it about environment, by producing these things and having them ready and available to deter war? Do they want to weaken us so much that China and others can make any kind of move they want and we just have to sit and watch?

These munitions are procured on a yearly basis. That is why when we have an orderly appropriation process in committees, instead of a last-minute continuing resolution, throwing last year's spending in the hopper, put some duct tape and baling wire on it and tuck it out for another year or whatever the period is, you can't plan for that. You certainly can't plan long-term to up your military needs and fill them when we do last-minute things like that. We have to have a better process of procuring and planning for it.

What we saw from the end of the Cold War, we scaled down military. Okay, maybe there is a dividend there. We lost one-third of it in armament production after the Soviet Union collapsed. Then in the global war on terror, procurements and production was indeed focused on smaller, low-intensity conflicts, not a wide war.

Training skilled labor takes time and building the infrastructure to do so will take time, but what we have in place we should be running 24/7 and have the will to do it.

So what does that mean for our national security? I just said it. What are they going to do? Russia is going to continue to be able to bully Ukraine if they see us as weak.

China and Iran can do what they want, and who knows what we will get out of North Korea.

We must be ready. We must get the supply chain going again and bolster our military so those who serve in it have everything they need in order to do their job and be safe from unnecessary risk.

#### LOCAL IMPACT OF THE NATIONAL BORDER CRISIS

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

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, about 20 miles outside my district, in Franklin, Tennessee, a 63-year-old is facing some of the worst charges on the books, including assault and rape. It breaks my heart to say these crimes involved children as young as 9 years old. Investigators have identified several victims, but they are asking more to come forward as some of these crimes go back more than a decade. Police say the accused predator targeted playgrounds and lured young boys under the guise that he was a soccer coach recruiting for his team.

Days after this news broke, families learned the man accused of violating their community, their children, had lived there for 20 years but had no business being there. The accused man is an illegal immigrant.

I signed a letter, joined by Members of the Tennessee delegation, led by Senator MARSHA BLACKBURN, asking the Department of Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas several questions, including why this man was able to go under the radar for so long.

This is a very grim example of the very real consequences open border policies are having on State after State, county after county, community after community.

Nearly 20,000 pounds of fentanyl have been seized at the border since this fiscal year started last October. That is already more than last fiscal year's total, and we still have more than 2 months left in this one. Furthermore, since October 1, Customs and Border Protection officials have caught more than 125 people trying to cross the southern border who are on the terrorist watch list.

No one in this body should glaze over a number like that. Let me repeat: 125 possible terrorists have tried to enter our country since last October. That is just the number we know about. That is more than fiscal years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021 combined. How many, we might ask, have managed to cross that we don't know about?

We know, for example, that 1.5 million illegal immigrants have successfully evaded law enforcement since this administration took over the border. How many of that 1.5 million were, in fact, terrorists? How many were smuggling drugs that will kill our young people? How many are sexual offenders who will abuse our children?

Yet, in May, the Biden administration announced it would be releasing a flood of immigrants into the United States with no way of keeping track of them. Instead of getting a grip on this humanitarian and national security crisis, this President and his administration have been busy fighting title 42 and the Trump-era remain in Mexico policy. To be fair, the President did make his first-ever trip to the border, in his 50-year political career, in January.

As we continue to see records being broken, crime soaring, fentanyl popping up in all corners of our country and taking the lives of an entire generation of young people, overdose deaths rising, Madam Speaker, I rise today to once again implore President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas to do their constitutional duty and secure our southern border.

□ 1030

#### HONORING WORLD WAR II VETERAN ANTHONY R. VON KLOCK

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor World War II veteran Anthony R. von Klock.

Anthony is 95 years old and was born in Waltham, Massachusetts. Anthony was drafted into the Army Air Corps, where he served as an airplane and engine mechanic. He completed his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas before he was stationed at Great Falls Air Force Base in Montana and Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii, and in Japan.

He received an honorable discharge in 1949 and earned the World War II Victory Medal and the Japanese Occupation Medal. During the Korean war, Anthony was called back to service, where he was stationed at the Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi.

After serving in the Air Force, Anthony worked for Mackey and Eastern Airlines while living in Florida with his wife, Leah, and two daughters. He received the Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award in 1996 for his accomplishments as a senior mechanic.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Anthony von Klock as the Tennessee Second District's July 2023 Veteran of the Month. I thank Anthony for his service to our great Nation.

DO NOT HOUSE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the latest scheme to house illegal immigrants in public schools.

The mayor of New York City announced plans to house illegal immigrants in gyms on up to 30 public school campuses, which is a move that poses a serious risk for the students attending those schools.

Our children's safety should come before anything else, and we need to stop

this kind of nonsensical policy in its tracks before it is too late.

This is just another addition to the long list of Democrat schemes that waste taxpayer dollars and fail to prioritize the safety and well-being of American citizens. It dries up resources that should be used to improve our students' education, and it also puts those children at risk.

Parents should not have to send their children to schools knowing that they are sharing a campus with illegal immigrants whose backgrounds we know nothing about.

We need to protect our schools' true purpose: educating our children and keeping them safe, not providing shelter for illegal immigrants.

RECOGNIZING LEO AND JUDY WHITESIDE

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Leo and Judy Whiteside for more than 50 years of dedicated service to the people of Knoxville and their continued love for each other.

These two have spent a lot of their free time doing great things for those in need in and around our community. They have delivered Mobile Meals to homebound residents, given communion to church members who were unable to attend the church service, and even advocated for a citywide class reunion at the Austin-East High School. Go Roadrunners.

When people volunteer in their communities, it demonstrates what is really in their hearts. It shows they are willing to sacrifice their free time, effort, and money to help those in need and expect nothing in return.

Madam Speaker, I am so proud to represent people like Leo and Judy, who love the people around them. They love their family and friends, but they also love strangers they have never met before and take true compassion on them.

If you want to know how to care for your community, I think you should look to Leo and Judy for an example. Leo and Judy have been doing it for over 50 years, and so many lives have been made better because of them.

Madam Speaker, I thank Leo and Judy. Their service and kind hearts have made the Knoxville community a much brighter place. I am proud to represent them.

#### EXCESSIVE AVIATION-RELATED NOISE

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

Mr. SANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about the FAA Reauthorization Act.

Since before I was elected to Congress, my district has been afflicted by excessive aviation-related noise. I campaigned on addressing this issue, and yesterday, I gave testimony on my amendments in the Rules Committee. I am following through on my commitment to offer relief to my constituents.

If enacted, the changes I proposed would lower the permissible decibel

levels from 65 to 55, reevaluate the technology known as NextGen, and put up for questioning its impact on communities all around the United States that suffer with the issue of constant flight paths.

Since taking office, I have visited with the people of New York's Third District who have begged me to take action on this matter, often with tears in their eyes.

Most people will suppose this is an exaggeration, but most people have no idea what it is like to live right next to one of the largest airport hubs in the country.

I am here today to make sure my constituents and many others around the country know that they are not alone and that their plight is not in vain. I urge this body to take these amendments into consideration.

#### MILITARY RECRUITMENT IS DOWN

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

Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, recruitment is down in the military. Fewer young people are joining, in part because unemployment is low and they have higher paying options elsewhere.

I would love to show young people that the military is still a good option for them, as it was for me. In order to do that, I need some help from my friends across the aisle. I need them to put the dog whistle down.

Each year's class of new recruits to our military is now the most diverse in the history of our Nation. Every time they blow the dog whistle against diversity, it is not just their political base that hears it, it is young people who are trying to decide whether to enlist in our All-Volunteer Force.

Last week's debate over the defense bill featured a series of very clear dog whistles. There was one for gay people, one for transgender people, one for Black people, and one for women. Don't remember? They ran amendments on Pride flags, diversity programs, books in libraries, and abortion. Those were all dog whistles for their base. Our generals asked for none of that.

One of our colleagues even went so far as to say that the military's strength "is not its diversity." Someone in this building explicitly defended white nationalism in our military.

When it comes to recruitment, I assure you, that is not helping.

Caring about the military means caring about the people who serve in it, not using them as a political punching bag. If you want to help solve the recruitment problem, the first thing you need to do is stop attacking the people we need to enlist.

#### 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 36 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FLOOD) at noon.

#### PRAYER

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

Eternal God, a wise man once said that life is short and we never have too much time for gladdening the hearts of those who are traveling on this journey with us.

May we heed his words, but more importantly, may we yield to Your own counsel to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Open our hearts to receive Your wise instruction and fill us with compassion for those who tarry with us in this place. In the days that You have given us, may we have the discernment and the desire to value the opportunities You set before us: to make someone else happy, to put someone else at ease, to share the burdens of those around us that keep them from enjoying the life You offer.

Even while the grass withers and the flower fades, may we prove swift to love and make haste to be kind.

In Your gracious name, we pray.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. ROBERT GARCIA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California 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 PRO TEMPORE

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

#### TESTIMONY OF JOHN DURHAM

(Mr. ROSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1