

Every day, our policies hurt the Cuban people. One thing the United States can do to provide relief is to remove Cuba from the State Sponsors of Terrorism list.

There is absolutely no reason for Cuba to be on that list, none. And its impact affects nearly every global, financial, and economic institution. Many European nations and U.S. allies want to help relieve the suffering of the Cuban people, especially in the areas of health and basic needs. But their hands are tied because of the SST list and its onerous financial restrictions and punishments.

Our policy is a relic from the Cold War, and quite frankly, it is cruel. It drives increased migration to our southern border, and it makes no sense. It is an embarrassment.

Madam Speaker, I voted for Joe Biden, not Donald Trump. The President needs to do better. He could begin by removing Cuba from the State Sponsors of Terrorism list today.

#### HONORING SERGEANT RICHARD M. SHARROW

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Sergeant Richard Sharrow of Marienville, Pennsylvania.

Army Sergeant Richard M. Sharrow was reported missing on July 25, 1950, at the age of 22. Sergeant Sharrow was deemed missing after his unit sustained heavy casualties while defending against the North Korean army's advance near Yongdong, South Korea.

Last week, Sergeant Sharrow's remains were returned home. On Monday, with full military honors, he was laid to rest in Marienville.

Madam Speaker, we still feel the pain of those missing from conflicts fought generations ago, and we are forever indebted to their service. My prayers are with Sergeant Sharrow's family during this solemn time. It is my hope with his return his family is able to find peace and solace in knowing their loved one died a hero in service to the Nation.

#### FUNDING THE GOVERNMENT

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

Ms. McCLELLAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my Republican colleagues to stop the partisan brinkmanship and join House Democrats and Senate Democrats and Republicans in our efforts to fully fund the government.

Back in April, Speaker MCCARTHY and House Republicans negotiated a deal with the White House to avoid a catastrophic default on our national debt, which stipulated fiscal year 2024

spending levels remain at 2023 levels. It passed with bipartisan support 314-117. Now Speaker MCCARTHY is reneging on this agreement as the extreme MAGA Republican wing of his chaos caucus drives us towards a government shutdown.

Realizing that their extreme agenda cannot pass on its own merits and does not align with the wishes of the American people, they are attempting to load down must-pass pieces of legislation with their harmful policy riders and severe cuts. The American people deserve better.

In Virginia, we have the second highest number of Federal employees. We have over 130,000 Active-Duty military personnel who will be wondering if they can get paid. It is a very big deal. They deserve better, and I urge my Republican colleagues to stop their games and stop holding the appropriations process hostage.

#### CZESTOCHOWA

(Ms. DE LA CRUZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate a milestone of endurance in the heart of Texas. In 1854 a brave community of Polish families planted their roots in Karnes County, founding the settlement of Virgin Mary, or Panna Maria, in their beloved Silesian dialect.

Through droughts and hardships, they built churches. They built schools, and businesses. With resilience they flourished and enriched the Lone Star State. Residents in the surrounding areas had to travel miles across creeks and open prairies in order to attend church.

In 1873, a group of these original immigrants and descendants decided to venture a few miles up the road to establish a new church and parish. The land was donated, and funds were raised to begin the project. Initial construction was completed in 1878.

The residents renamed and christened their community Czestochowa, honoring their roots. The church dedicated to the nativity of the blessed Virgin Mary stands as a testament to their faith and unity.

As Karnes County proclaims October as Polish American Heritage Month, we honor these pioneers, and may their story continue to inspire us.

#### PAY WORKERS WHAT THEY'VE EARNED ACT

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

Mr. HORSFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce my legislation, the Pay Workers What They've Earned Act.

As we face this extreme MAGA Republican shutdown caused by Speaker MCCARTHY's unwillingness to work in a

bipartisan fashion, we must remember the lessons of past shutdowns.

The Republicans are hell-bent on shutting down the Federal Government, harming thousands of Nevadan workers and small business contractors, wreaking havoc on our economy, and impacting essential services for women and children, our military, and causing delays to Medicare and Social Security payments to seniors. It is wrong. It is unacceptable. It is why I am committed to supporting a bipartisan solution to keep government working for my constituents in Nevada.

Madam Speaker, my legislation would reimburse Federal employees for fees and interest and fines charged through no fault of their own during a government shutdown. The bill would also reimburse State and Tribal Governments for costs incurred during government shutdowns. As thousands of Federal employees and small business contractors learned in previous sessions, simply reopening the government doesn't help them pay their credit card fees or their overdue rent notices.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. HORSFORD. This is something you may not understand, but the hard-working people of Nevada's Fourth do.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is no longer recognized.

#### MICRONESIA MALL 35TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and celebrate a remarkable milestone, the 35th anniversary of the Micronesia Mall. This celebration is a testament to the vision, dedication, and hard work that have shaped the mall, their businesses, and the island of Guam into what it is today.

Since 1988, the mall, under the leadership of the Goodwind Development Corporation, has been a beacon of economic success in the region, providing goods and services to locals and tourists alike as the largest shopping center in Micronesia. As I speak here today, I look back at an incredible 35 years, while also looking forward to seeing what the mall will establish in the future with new opportunities, challenges, and accomplishments on the horizon.

I am confident in the mall's dedication to the island, and I wish the mall a sincere congratulations and may the legacy of the mall continue to shine in our hearts and in our community.

#### EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY AIR FORCE ROTC

(Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, today I rise to highlight East Carolina University ROTC Detachment 600's 75th anniversary.

As a former commandant of cadets at this remarkable detachment, it was a privilege to participate in this celebration to see former cadets who are successful with their careers.

During the celebration, a true American hero, our most decorated graduate, retired General Gary North, shared a message that resonated deeply with everyone.

He reminded us that our Air Force stands as the finest in the world today because of the unwavering service of those who came before us and the dedication of those who serve today. His charge to us was simple, but profound: Always remember your oath. This oath is our commitment to protecting our Constitution, our values, our great Nation, and our way of life. May God bless our Air Force and Detachment 600. Go Pirates. May God bless America.

#### FARM BILL IMPACT SERIES 23 REAUTHORIZATION

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

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the urgency of reauthorizing the farm bill. This is my 23rd speech about the importance of this legislation going back a year and a half. American consumers deserve the strongest possible farm bill as do the American farmers, ranchers, and producers who face endless hurdles as they work tirelessly to feed, fuel, and clothe the world.

Mother Nature is a fickle business partner, markets fluctuate, and overly burdensome Federal regulations only make things more difficult. We are seeing drought, high interest rates, and high input costs wreak havoc on the American family farm. And the farm bill is our chance to protect the future of American food and agriculture.

I said all along that my top priorities for the farm bill in order are: one to strengthen and maintain crop insurance; two, to promote trade; and three conduct rigorous oversight of the executive branch. This farm bill must invest powerfully in research innovation if America is going to remain the undisputed world leader in food science technology. Producers are working tirelessly. We need to work just as hard to pass something as soon as possible to ensure the strongest safety net possible for farmers, ranchers, and agricultural producers across Kansas and the country.

#### PAY OUR TROOPS ACT

(Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand up for the men and women serving in America's armed forces. I am working day in and day out to prevent a government shutdown in just over 48 hours. If Congress can't reach deal on government funding before Saturday night, those serving in our military will not receive their paychecks.

I will not allow the men and women who put their lives on the line to protect our country to go without pay.

That is why I introduced the Pay Our Troops Act, which would ensure our troops, including the Coast Guard, will be paid on time no matter what. As we continue working to avoid a government shutdown, my bipartisan legislation would give our troops the financial reassurance they deserve.

Our servicemembers shouldn't suffer because of Washington dysfunction, especially not at a time when inflation and interest rates continue to hurt our military families.

I am a Navy veteran, a Navy spouse, and a Navy mom. I know first hand that far too many of our service families live paycheck to paycheck. In fact, one in three families have less than \$3,000 in savings. For the sake of those families and all of our military families, I am committed to getting our economy back on track by cutting wasteful spending. I am also committed to ensuring our servicemembers get a paycheck, no matter what is happening here in Washington.

Mr. Speaker, if there is anything that can unite us, it should be taking care of our troops. I believe that we can make commonsense spending cuts, while still responsibly funding our government and maintaining our national security. While we continue working to prevent a government shutdown, I urge my colleagues to join me in providing financial certainty to our military families by supporting our Pay Our Troops Act.

#### DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 4665, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOORE of Utah). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 723 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4665.

The Chair appoints the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. KIGGANS) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

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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 consideration of the bill (H.R. 4665) making appropriations for the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, with Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Chairwoman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, I am proud to speak on the fiscal year 2024 Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs appropriations bill for floor consideration today.

Anybody who has read the bill knows that it is pretty straightforward. If you are a friend, an ally of the United States, this bill supports you, but if you are an adversary or you are cozying up to the adversaries of the United States, then, frankly, you are just not going to like this bill.

I am extremely proud of this legislation, which was carefully and thoughtfully developed over many, many months. In my judgment, it reflects the values and the interests of most Americans. We carefully reviewed all the organizations and programs that receive U.S. taxpayer dollars in this bill. And among the key factors—let me be very blunt—it is whether investments advance our national security interests, whether they can show demonstrated results and our need to reduce the national debt and to reduce spending in a responsible way.

So the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs bill totals \$51.5 billion. It cuts \$8.2 billion; that is a 14 percent reduction, below the 2023 enacted level, and \$17 billion or 25 percent below the President's request. In fact, it is \$2.7 billion below the fiscal year 2019 enacted level, and it is even \$288 million below the fiscal year 2015 enacted level.

So because of those cuts, of those responsible reductions, we are now able to prioritize funding for the national security threat posed by the Chinese Communist Party.

Look, it is time that the U.S., that we get serious about that maligned destabilizing negative actions of the Communist Chinese Party around the