

keep our communities fed and our cars fueled.

I am eager to advocate for the heroes who put their lives on the line to protect our families and our future. I look forward to bringing voices from all of our communities to Congress as we tackle the most important issues facing our country.

Mr. Speaker, I thank them for trusting me to represent them.

#### GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because our Nation continues to have blood on its hands. This week, we, once again, bore witness to the senseless murder of dozens of innocent people where States like California experienced three mass shootings in just 44 hours.

How many more sisters, brothers, siblings, parents, grandparents, and loved ones have to be senselessly shot and killed?

That doesn't sound like freedom to me. Our people deserve the freedom to live without the fear of gun violence, the freedom to go to the grocery store, to school, and to live life for God's sakes.

When will we stop valuing guns more than human life?

Can anyone in this Chamber look a parent in the eyes who just lost a child due to gun violence and tell them that their child isn't worth meaningful action?

Because I won't.

Yet, here we are today, another shooting, another day, and another community devastated due to senseless gun violence.

#### SUPPORTING WORKING FAMILIES

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

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today gravely concerned about the passage of H.R. 21.

Texas' hardworking families sent me to Washington to represent them in good faith, and dozens of them fear the passage of this bill.

My constituents are working every single day to make ends meet and took time out of their day to share their fears of this bill becoming law.

Why?

Because this Republican bill will raise costs on working families across the country.

When Hurricane Gustav hit my home State of Texas, key energy supplies went offline, and we relied on the quick response from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to avoid catastrophe.

The SPR has been used countless times to keep the lights on during emergencies. H.R. 21 will make it im-

possible for our government to quickly respond to emergencies, leaving Americans abandoned in the dark when they are most in need.

After going a week without electing a Speaker, I think Congress should get its own House in order before trying to claim the powers of the President or interfere with the energy market.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, over 65 million Americans rely on Social Security benefits. They shouldn't have to choose between essentials like medication, food, or housing. That is why it is our job to expand and shore up Social Security and not gut it.

Cutting these programs hurts the poorest and most vulnerable among us. We must support seniors to age with dignity. We must ensure that Americans with disabilities receive the security they depend on. Social Security is an essential tool that lifts up 9 million American women out of poverty.

Two-thirds of my home State, Vermont, are middle-aged or older. We need to expand the infrastructure and funding to fully support them in their retirement. We owe them this.

I want Vermonters and all Americans to know I will not stop fighting to protect their hard-earned benefits.

#### MOMENTS IN TIME THAT IMPACT THE REST OF TIME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise.

Today, I would like to thank the Speaker of the House, Speaker MCCARTHY, and the leadership on the Republican side as well as Minority Leader JEFFRIES and the leadership on the Democratic side for affording me this opportunity to be heard.

And still I rise, Mr. Speaker, and I rise today because there are moments in time that impact the rest of time. January 27 of 1945 was such a time.

January 27, 1945: It is said there are days that will live in infamy. This has to be at the top of the list of such days because today we will commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day because of an event that took place on January 27, 1945.

Please allow me to share with you, Mr. Speaker, some information that I have from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

On January 27, 1945, the Soviet Army entered Auschwitz and liberated more than 7,000 remaining prisoners who were mostly ill and dying. It is estimated, Mr. Speaker, that at minimum,

1.3 million people were deported to Auschwitz between 1940 and 1945. Of these, at least 1.1 million people were murdered.

One person who survived—whose name I shall not reveal but is available to me for those who might want to make a further inquiry—indicated: "So I was hiding out in the heap of dead bodies because in the last week when the crematoria didn't function at all, the bodies were just building up higher and higher."

Another person indicated: "And they said, 'From now on you do not answer by your name. Your name is your number.' And the delusion, the disappointment, the discouragement that I felt, I felt like I was not a human person anymore."

This is what happened to people at Auschwitz—human beings being reduced to numbers and sentenced to death, innocent people.

Another article from the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust in the U.K. indicates:

27 January 1945, liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

On 27 January 1945, Soviet soldiers liberated Auschwitz-Birkenau the largest Nazi concentration and extermination camp.

Mr. Speaker, many people focus on the concentration aspect of what happened there, and we should. But the horrific occurrence included extermination. This means in everyday language the murder of innocent people.

□ 1330

This article goes on to indicate:

"When Soviet soldiers arrived, they found several thousand emaciated survivors and the smoldering remains of gas chambers and crematoria after the Nazis had attempted to destroy evidence of their crimes."

An article from "This Day in History" on history.com indicates, on January 27, 1945, Auschwitz is liberated.

"On January 27, 1945, Soviet troops enter Auschwitz, Poland, freeing the survivors of the network of concentration camps—and finally revealing to the world the depth of the horrors perpetrated there.

"Auschwitz was really a group of camps, designated I, II, and III. There were also 40 smaller 'satellite' camps."

This was a commercial operation, as it were, wherein there was a systemic means by which persons were being put to death. These are my words.

Continuing with the words from the article:

"It was at Auschwitz II, at Birkenau, established in October 1941, that the SS created a complex, monstrously orchestrated killing ground: 300 prison barracks; 4 'bathhouses' in which prisoners were gassed; corpse cellars; and cremating ovens."

Stepping aside for a moment, it seems that it is difficult for some people to believe what actually occurred. It is so horrific that some human minds refuse to accept what occurred.

Now, there may be others who for reasons associated with malice aforethought have just decided they won't agree. But there are many people who just cannot, with their human mind, conceive of such a thing happening.

I want to comment on something that I saw this morning on television and compliment Joe of "Morning Joe." He went to Auschwitz, and he was reporting from Auschwitz. I compliment him because, too often, we don't allow the actual place where these things occurred, the venue, to be properly exposed to the public. I thank him for going there because he has inspired me to believe that this is a place that I have to add to my bucket list. I want to go and see for myself the facility that facilitated, with the hands of evil persons, the murder of millions of people. I want to see what actually happened in those facilities, actually see the facilities where these horrors occurred: 300 prison barracks, 4 bathhouses in which prisoners were gassed.

"Thousands of prisoners were also used for medical experiments."

I have been to Yad Vashem in Israel. It breaks your heart. For many people, it is impossible to go there and not have tears well in your eyes. It is impossible to see the depictions of persons who were used as human guinea pigs, experimented on. It is impossible to see the horrors depicted and not leave feeling the sorrow and the hurt and the pain associated with knowing that human beings were tortured and experimented upon.

Continuing on: "Thousands of prisoners were also used for medical experiments overseen and performed by the camp doctor, Josef Mengele, the 'angel of death.' . . . In anticipation of the Soviet arrival, SS officers began a murder spree in the camps, shooting sick prisoners" in their efforts to destroy the evidence. No more ovens. If they couldn't get to them, just take your weapon and kill, kill sick people. Just kill to destroy the living evidence of the horrors and evils that were being perpetrated. ". . . shooting sick prisoners and blowing up crematoria in a desperate attempt to destroy the evidence of their crimes. When the Red Army finally broke through, Soviet soldiers encountered 648 corpses and more than 7,000 starving camp survivors. There were also six storehouses filled with hundreds of thousands of women's dresses, men's suits, and shoes that Germans did not have time to burn."

They valued the clothing. They valued the paraphernalia more than they valued the lives of the people. They saved the material things and destroyed the human beings. What kind of people were they? Evil is not a sufficient label for persons who would do such dastardly things.

Mr. Speaker, in the United States, Days of Remembrance for Victims of the Holocaust were formalized when President Carter signed the estab-

lishing resolution. The Days of Remembrance will occur in April. President Carter signed the resolution. The resolution was signed for April 28 and April 29. It passed the House on April 17, 1978. It passed the Senate on April 25, 1978, and President Carter signed the resolution on September 18, 1978, the Holocaust Remembrance Day Resolution designating April 28 and 29, 1979, as days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

Here are words from the resolution:

"Whereas, 6 million Jews and millions of other people were murdered in concentration camps as part of a program of extermination carried out by the Nazi Party during World War II;

"Whereas, the people of the United States should recognize"—this is what the resolution said; I would add "people of the world should recognize"—"that all acts of bigotry are rooted in the cruelty of spirit and the callousness that led the Nazis to commit atrocities against millions of people, and should dedicate themselves to the principle of human equality."

Speaking aside for a moment, the world should recognize, not just the United States but the world, that those who tolerate bigotry perpetuate bigotry. The acceptance of bigotry, the toleration of bigotry, is the perpetuation of bigotry, and we should all devote ourselves to the principle of human equality.

This is from our resolution, the dedication and devotion of ourselves to human equality. I am proud of the House of Representatives for passing this resolution.

It continues:

"Whereas the people of the United States should recognize that tyranny creates the political atmosphere in which bigotry flourishes, and should be vigilant to detect, and ready to resist, the tyrannical exercise of power."

Let me step aside for a moment and remind us that not only should we resist the tyrannical exercise of power; we should also resist the voices that verbalize power. We should resist those who would march through the streets of an American city carrying torches, shouting, "Jews will not replace us." Our failure to resist and to announce, to state without question, without hesitation, or reservation, that such persons are persons who are perpetuating bigotry and hatred, the kind of bigotry and hatred that can lead to the death of people, our failure to do so is a means by which our inaction causes the perpetuation of bigotry and violence.

Inaction is unacceptable. Every person has a duty, a responsibility, and an obligation to speak up and speak out against such demonstrations by people in this country.

The unfortunate circumstance is that, in this country, there is at least one person who would proclaim that among those who were screaming, "Jews will not replace us," there is at least one person who found some "nice

people" to be among the ranks of those who would say such a thing.

"Whereas, on April 29 of 1945 the Armed Forces of the United States liberated the surviving victims of Nazi internment in the concentration camp in Dachau, Germany, and revealed to the world evidence of a tragic human Holocaust that must never be forgotten. . . ."

To never forget is to do more than to recite what happened. To never forget requires that we also denounce those who would do dastardly deeds today. It is good for us to say that those who perpetrated deeds in the past should not be forgotten, but we must also denounce those who would perpetrate such dastardly deeds today.

These deeds include statements that some people see as harmless, what they see as just name-calling. When you call a person who happens to be of a certain ancestry the name "Coco Chow," that is just name-calling to some people. When it comes from a person who has held the highest office in the land, it is more than name-calling. It gives some people a belief that people of a certain ethnicity, of a certain ancestry, are not as worthy of human life as others.

We have a responsibility to call out these things. We cannot allow this kind of name-calling, which can eventually conclude in the loss of life, to go unchecked. We have to check it. I am here today to check it.

□ 1345

Ours is a great country. I love my country. I salute the flag. I say the Pledge of Allegiance. I sing the national anthem. I stand. I place my hand over my heart. I love my country. But that doesn't mean that I won't criticize those who would do things that would cause harm to others within the country.

It also doesn't mean that I won't defend those who choose not to salute the flag, who choose not to say the Pledge of Allegiance or sing the national anthem. That is a right that they have in this country.

We also have to recognize that all of us, we have to denounce people who say things, who use words that according to Emily Dickinson when she indicated to us: "A word is dead when it is said, some say. I say it just begins to live that day." Those who give life to these words can cause some people to harm other people.

Whereas the Nazi concentration camp in Dachau, Germany, is not only a shocking symbol of Nazi brutality and destruction, but also a symbol of the danger inherent in tyranny, the pernicious quality of bigotry, and the human capacity to be cruel: Therefore, now, be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled that April 28 and 29 of 1979 are designated as "Days of Remembrance of Victims of the Holocaust," and the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon

the people of the United States to observe such days with appropriate ceremonies and activities. Approved September 18, 1978.

Today, we commemorate the liberation of Auschwitz.

Later on, we will commemorate these days of remembrance. I have lived long enough now to know that if we fail to remember the Holocaust, a great human tragedy, a crime against humanity unlike any other, there is no other crime against humanity that can be compared to the Holocaust, just as there is no other crime against humanity that can be compared to slavery.

If we fail to remember the crimes against humanity committed in Auschwitz, I believe, unfortunately, that humankind is capable of repeating the horrors of the Holocaust. It is our eternal vigilance that will prevent this from ever occurring again. Our failure to be vigilant will create days that the human mind cannot conceive of occurring again.

I am here today as a Member of Congress to make sure that my record reflects that I will not forget, that I will stand with my Jewish brothers and sisters against all who would claim that the Holocaust never occurred, against all who were to proclaim that Jewish people have done things that would merit this kind of horrific behavior. I stand with them. They are my brothers and sisters. Their lives are important to me, and the lives that were lost are important to me.

I want my record to reflect that when I had the opportunity as a Member of Congress to stand before the world and take a stand, Mr. Speaker, I want my record to reflect that I took a stand against the evils that took place at Auschwitz and the evils of the Holocaust.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### GRAVE CONCERNS FOR TRICARE BENEFICIARIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, during my Special Order today, my colleagues and I will express grave concerns about the impact that our servicemembers and their families are facing as a result of the Defense Health Agency's decision to proceed with Express Scripts pharmacy network contract.

We are going to address how TRICARE beneficiaries are no longer guaranteed access to their medication at their local pharmacy of choice. This decision by Express Scripts has severely impacted those who serve or have served our country honorably by reducing patients' access to quality healthcare.

We continue to hear from pharmacists and patients across the country who are expressing concerns about these changes.

Let's keep in mind that Express Scripts is currently under Federal investigation by the Federal Trade Commission for their role in increasing prescription drug costs and unfair and deceptive practices towards pharmacies.

Servicemembers and their families who rely on their local pharmacist for critical care, such as cancer treatments or knowledge of their medical history, are now forced to seek that treatment elsewhere.

It is our responsibility to ensure that their access to affordable, quality healthcare is not hindered.

The Biden administration has tools at their disposal to stop this, but instead, they are turning a blind eye.

Express Scripts, Inc., a pharmacy benefit manager, PBM, for the TRICARE program while serving as a mail-order and specialty pharmacy itself, made the pocket-lining move of reducing the number of TRICARE's in-network pharmacies by almost 15,000 last October.

Luckily, there are some businesses, like EPIC Pharmacy Network in my district, that decided to continue filling these prescriptions despite the loss.

On top of that, Kroger has announced that their pharmacies will no longer be able to serve TRICARE beneficiaries. As a result, hundreds of thousands of men and women of the United States Armed Forces, military retirees, and their families are at risk of losing access to necessary prescription drugs and treatment.

Since that date, beneficiaries in rural communities have been left with no local options for filling their prescriptions.

I used to own and operate a local pharmacy. In fact, I used to own and operate three local pharmacies. Understand that no matter how badly we want to help people, at the end of the day you are running a business, and that business needs to be profitable so that it can keep its doors open.

The sudden and wrongful reduction goes far beyond simply reducing access to care for TRICARE beneficiaries.

For those who need specialty medicines, the mail-order pharmacy used by Express Scripts threatens the medical integrity of the medicine and places the beneficiaries at risk of receiving the medications late, damaged, or missing.

Of greater concern, it eliminates the crucial role pharmacists play in protecting beneficiaries' health, especially those requiring multiple medications

where contraindications are always a concern.

Overall, these pharmacy network changes will put servicemembers and their families at risk in receiving the prescription drugs and treatments they need.

These brave men and women dedicated their lives to defending our freedoms, and one of the things we promised them when they signed up is quality healthcare while they served and when they retired from the military, as well.

We are repaying them with a healthcare system that profits off of sick military personnel, family members and retirees.

Luckily, there are some businesses, like EPIC Pharmacy Network in my district, that decided to continue filling these prescriptions despite the loss. I applaud that decision, but they never should have been put in this position to begin with.

It is a pain for pharmacies, but it is detrimental to our military servicemembers and their families.

These brave men and women dedicated their lives to defending our freedoms. We are repaying them with a healthcare system that puts profits ahead of people.

I brought this to the attention of the Defense Health Agency back in October to discuss how we could restore local pharmacy access to these patients.

As a pharmacist myself, whose Congressional District is home to every single branch of the military and a large veteran community, I was dumbfounded by their response: No one cares about losing access to their local pharmacy? You have got to be kidding me.

It is one thing to make that claim to me; it is another to make it to the nearly 800 men and women who sent me their personal story detailing how losing access to their medicine is impacting their health and their well-being.

Hunter, a servicemember from South Carolina, saw the cost of his prescription go up by almost 600 percent after Express Scripts made changes to the TRICARE pharmacy program.

Is this how we want to treat our heroes who have given everything for our country, by increasing the cost of their medication by 600 percent? Seriously?

Or Jacqueline, who says this move "has made the difference between stopping to get medicine on the way home or going an additional hour or more to the nearest base pharmacy before going home."

For patients like James, a retired Air Force veteran, this move was more than just a frustration. It was a direct attempt to undermine small business. "Why would the Federal Government choose large chains over supporting small businesses," he asks?

"In my neighborhood store, I am not just a number. The service I receive is far better than the big box pharmacies—once again, the large companies are trying to squeeze out the little ones. When will the Federal Government stop supporting this?"