

were able to buy houses for their families, put their kids through school, and earn a ticket to the middle class.

That is the way it is supposed to be in this country. If you work hard and play by the rules, you ought to be able to have a stable life, a comfortable retirement, and provide opportunity to your children.

We all know that has gotten harder. That American Dream of economic mobility has broken down for many families, and it was never fully afforded to others to begin with. There are a lot of statistics to back this up, but the Rhode Islanders I talk to don't want to see data. They feel it in their gut. They know that they are working harder and harder, but they feel that middle-class lifestyle slipping further out of reach.

This has to change. As a Representative for Rhode Island's Second District, I am determined to restore the promise of the American Dream so that everyone who is willing to do the right thing and work hard can get ahead.

That starts by going to bat for working people against the powerful interests and their well-funded lobbyists who stand in the way of better wages, better benefits, and good-paying jobs. We must fight for the right to organize because you cannot have a broad middle class without healthy labor unions. We have to take on Big Oil and Big Pharma, which are keeping record profits for themselves while overcharging Rhode Islanders at the gas pump and at the pharmacy.

We have to invest in childcare and universal preschool because no child's future should be limited by whether or not their parents have a lot of money.

I will advocate for vocational training and apprenticeships so that we have more people, like my Grandpa Bob, who can make a living by making things in this country.

I will partner with anyone on either side of the aisle to bring back more manufacturing jobs and transition to a clean energy economy.

I will always fight to defend the freedoms and democratic ideals that make us the greatest nation on Earth.

This is my commitment to the people of Rhode Island. There is no question we have a lot of work ahead of us, but together, I am confident that we can deliver real change to Washington so that all Rhode Islanders and all working Americans can have the opportunity to succeed.

□ 1045

CONDEMNING SOCIALISM

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand in support of the House concurrent resolution to denounce socialism in all its forms.

For decades, the embrace of socialist ideas around the world has led to evil regimes denying their people of their

fundamental human rights and subjecting them to imprisonment and abuse.

Countless Cubans, Venezuelans, Russians, Chinese, Cambodians, and Koreans have escaped from murderous regimes to come live a better life in America. They are all a true testament to the promise of the American Dream and the hope of prosperity.

These survivors are members of our family, our friends, and our neighbors, like Pablo Cuevas from Rockingham County.

Born and raised in Cuba, Pablo worked on his parents' farm, which was apparently dispossessed by the Marxists. Pablo fled Cuba in 1958 during the Cuban Revolution and resettled here in America. He served on the Rockingham County Board of Supervisors in my district for 30 years and continues to be a leader in our community.

Mr. Speaker, socialism has led to painful human tragedies such as starvation, torture, and mass murder, taking more than 100 million lives around the world.

As oppressive and violent regimes still exist today, this resolution reaffirms our support for freedom, democracy, and human rights. May we always ensure that dangerous socialist, un-American policies are never brought to pass here in our great country.

WOODSTOCK FIRE DEPARTMENT CELEBRATING 200TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 200th anniversary of the all-volunteer Woodstock Fire Department.

Tracing its history back to 1823, the department has served the Shenandoah Valley as one of the oldest departments in the Commonwealth and the Nation.

Today, the department has 40 active volunteers who selflessly risk their lives every day to ensure the safety of their neighbors and the preservation of the community.

The department is led by Captain Zach Hottel, a third-generation volunteer himself, and truly represents the spirit of service. Captain Hottel and the volunteers' dedication to serving others, who are sometimes experiencing the unimaginable, defines what it means to serve your neighbor. It is an example we should all strive to follow every day.

The Woodstock Fire Department is commemorating its founding of February 8, 1823, with a bicentennial birthday bash at the Woodstock fire station.

Congratulations again to the Woodstock Fire Department on this incredible milestone. I wish them another 200 years of success in serving the people of the Shenandoah Valley.

TOP ISSUES IMPACTING OREGON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon (Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss the top issues im-

pacting Oregon and the Fifth District that we have to address in the 118th Congress.

We need to get our economy back on track, secure the border, support safe immigration, and reduce homelessness and drug overdoses.

A report from the National Drug Helpline ranked Oregon worst in the Nation for drug problems. Oregon is number one in drug use, but number 50 in drug treatment.

This crisis in Oregon starts at our southern border and is exacerbated by the lack of leadership, including the lack of commonsense security measures that have allowed dangerous drugs like fentanyl to enter our communities.

I frequently hear from moms and families who are begging their leaders to please pay attention to this fentanyl crisis. The drug cartels have insisted on taking our children from us.

We have also seen an increase in violent crime. Mr. Speaker, 2022 was the deadliest year in Portland metro history with over 100 homicides. We are already on track to break that record this year, a record that we should never want to break.

Rising crime rates have forced businesses to close their doors, further weakening our economy. We have seen businesses leave the metro area for suburbia or leave the State altogether.

Tackling the drug crisis will, in turn, begin to help Oregon's homelessness crisis. Oregon had at least 18,000 homeless people living on the streets every day in 2022.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with my colleagues across the aisle to address these issues in the 118th Congress.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LOWELL MILES

Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to say the name of a gentleman I heard passed from Happy Valley, Oregon. He was a pillar of the community, and I want the families back home to know that we will miss Lowell Miles from Miles Fiberglass.

He was a pillar of the community, not only in Happy Valley, Oregon, where I reside, but in Clackamas County.

Mr. Speaker, the family has my support here in Washington, D.C., and I look forward to coming home this weekend and paying my respects.

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 49 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 (Mrs. BICE) at noon.

PRAYER

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

Lord of our lives, may we approach You this day with earnest and truthful hearts. May we be eager to obey Your laws, desirous for Your company among us, and committed to remain loyal in our service to You and to this Nation.

Enable us to keep Your commands ever before us, like lenses through which we look to determine our steps; like reminders written on our hands, so that we cannot ignore them.

And when we walk these halls or take our seats in meeting rooms or rise to speak in these Chambers, may we pause to realize that You are here in our midst. Thus, may we not be hasty in word or impulsive in thought, but prudent in employing the opportunities You have entrusted to us.

Always and with sincerity, may we devote ourselves for Your intent for our lives, not with lipservice, but as ones totally beholden to You for all that we have. Today and every day, may we strive to do Your will with our whole heart.

In Your sovereign and 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 New York (Mr. HIGGINS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HIGGINS 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.

OUR VETERANS DESERVE ACCESS TO CARE

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

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today because our veterans deserve access to care at every corner of the country as they have selflessly defended this country.

After Express Scripts, who manages the TRICARE benefit on behalf of the

DOD, instituted network changes that cut out thousands of community pharmacies last year, my office received dozens of calls from veterans who are unable to access their prescriptions.

Our local pharmacies have the drugs these veterans need now, but unless there are changes from the DOD that provide access that is actually adequate, our veterans cannot access the medications they need from community pharmacies.

While the DOD drags their feet, veterans are being refused lifesaving medicines and offered unacceptable alternatives to the care they used to be able to receive.

Mr. Kimsey, a veteran from Warner Robins, Georgia, is one of the many patients in my district who this new rule affected. Mr. Kimsey is a cancer patient at Central Georgia Cancer Care and is taking a chemo drug. He has been on this medication for about a year and was told that TRICARE would no longer pay for the medication at the local pharmacy. He called my office after trying to fill his prescriptions and only had five pills left of this critical drug.

The new DOD-approved pharmacy said they could mail the drug to him in 10 days, but he couldn't wait 10 days. This is just one example of why community pharmacists are so vital to patients, especially in rural areas.

MASS SHOOTING IN BUFFALO, NEW YORK

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, on May 14, 2022, a racist mass shooting took place at a supermarket in my home community of Buffalo, New York.

Armed with an assault weapon, the shooter killed 10 people and injured three more in just 2 minutes and 3 seconds; one shooter.

We continue to mourn, and we continue to struggle to move on. Sadly, we are not the only community facing this challenge. Horrific mass shootings have taken place in Uvalde, Texas; Highland Park, Illinois; Colorado Springs; Raleigh, North Carolina; Monterey Bay and Half Moon Bay, California.

Last year we passed the bipartisan Safe Communities Act. This was an important step, but more needs to be done. As we mark National Gun Violence Survivors' week, we must honor those impacted by shootings by continuing to deliver legislation that will save lives.

I am proud to support a Federal assault weapons ban, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO FRANKLIN GUTIERREZ, JR.

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MOYLAN. I would like to take this time to honor and wish Franklin Gutierrez, Jr., a happy birthday.

Over the weekend, Frankie G., who is one of Guam's legendary musicians, turned the big 5-0.

For decades, Mr. Gutierrez has not only entertained many with his vocal gifts, but he has also nurtured a future generation of musicians in Guam. His band, Rumblefish, is an island icon. Frankie G. is more than just a musician. He is a proud husband, a father, a grandfather, and a friend.

Frankie G. has also served his island as an officer with the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency. He has proudly protected our borders while putting himself in harm's way. From the Halls of the United States House of Representatives, I wish Frankie G. a happy 50th birthday.

END HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, my two sisters are public school teachers. They taught me that school breakfast and lunches are every bit as important as a textbook or a laptop to that child's ability to learn.

During the pandemic, Congress wisely provided 30 million kids free meals at school, but last spring that provision expired.

Most schools had to go back to onerous paperwork and millions of kids stopped getting free meals. I urge USDA to make it easier for States to adopt universal school meals, including by lowering the threshold for community eligibility.

California, Maine, and soon Colorado already made universal school meals permanent. Three other States, including Massachusetts, have extended universal meals through this school year.

Massachusetts is working to make the program permanent with legislation recently introduced by State Rep. Andy Vargas and State Senator Sal DiDomenico.

Madam Speaker, we have a sacred responsibility to keep kids fed, and I am hopeful that one day soon we can pass a universal school meals bill here in the United States Congress. Together, we can end hunger now.

THE PANDEMIC IS OVER

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I have breaking news: The pandemic has ended. It seems that everyone knows the pandemic is over, except the White House.

Despite the fact that the President said in an interview last September on "60 Minutes" the pandemic has ended,