

“woke indoctrination,” but what he really wants to do is to deny the truth by making bigoted relics and policies more digestible for future generations.

It is only when we acknowledge and learn from our past that we can embrace the present and confidently shape our future.

This blatant attack on the importance and value of African-American history and culture fails to move our States and our country forward. It is these theatrics and schemes by the GOP that cripple our Nation's growth and exemplify a poor reflection of who we are as a nation.

America's diversity is, in fact, its greatest strength, and every culture has to be respected and celebrated.

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 53 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

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

Intercede in our lives, O Lord, even as we offer prayers of intercession for others. While we offer our petitions and thanksgiving for our leaders and all who are in authority, with our voices we also pray for those who have no voice, for those who have no hope, and for those who don't know how or what to pray in the moments they are now enduring.

Hear our prayers for the individuals we know and name in our hearts who are grieving loss or suffering illness. For too many who are mute with pain and despair, may the prayers from our lips reach You on their behalf.

Hear our prayers for our communities and our country who are fractured by the tragedies of violence in all its forms. For the many cities and neighborhoods disrupted with animosity and distrust, may the prayers we offer together in this place bring forth a comity to be found only in You.

Hear our prayers for the war-torn countries around the world and for their citizens who suffer from abuses of power, the deprivation of religious liberties, and the brutal oppression of human rights. For these who are prohibited from praying, may our prayers be louder and stronger than the adversary who seeks to silence them.

You alone are sovereign, O God. May our faith be found righteous before You

that our prayers would be powerful and effective on behalf of Your people.

In the strength of Your name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the Chamber the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas 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

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

CONGRATULATING PENN STATE UNIVERSITY'S WORLD CAMPUS

(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. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Penn State University's World Campus on 25 years of online learning.

In 1998, Penn State World Campus launched its first online courses. Since then, those initial courses have expanded to more than 175 degrees and certificate programs, and almost 34,000 students have graduated with a Penn State degree they earned online.

Through the past 25 years, the leadership of World Campus has remained dedicated to helping students to reach their goals. The creation of World Campus allows students to find success in a flexible way. Students who wanted a Penn State degree but could not go to a campus have access to an extensive selection of associate, bachelor's, and master's degree programs.

In fact, Penn State World Campus is ranked number five on Military Times "Best for Vets" list and named "Guard-Friendly" by the Pennsylvania National Guard Associations.

Mr. Speaker, as a proud Penn State alumnus, the World Campus gives students of all backgrounds and ages the ability to be able to find success and join the extensive Penn State community.

Congratulations, Penn State World Campus, we can't wait to see what the next 25 years have in store.

We are.

RAISING THE NATION'S DEBT CEILING

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about what has been and should always be a bipartisan issue, raising our Nation's debt ceiling.

Raising America's debt ceiling ensures we do not default on our financial obligations to those we have borrowed from and prevents economic catastrophe in the process. Don't take my word for it.

Listen to American businesses, economists, and financial institutions who know the drastic consequences a debt default would have for the U.S. economy and working Americans.

The business roundtable, which represents the CEOs of some of the Nation's largest companies, has said about raising the debt limit: "Failure to lift the Federal debt limit to meet U.S. obligations would produce an otherwise avoidable crisis and pose an unacceptable risk to the Nation's economic growth, job creation and financial markets."

If you don't want to take their word for it, I recommend heeding these words:

"The full consequences of a default—or even the serious prospect of a default—by the United States are impossible to predict and awesome to contemplate." Those are the words of President Ronald Reagan.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S PR STUNT TO TOUR SMALL BUSINESS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week, the Vice President traveled to North Carolina to tout the Biden administration's so-called accomplishments in helping our Nation's small businesses.

Well, the American people can see through the Vice President's PR stunt and know sky-high inflation, worker shortages, and supply chain disruptions are nothing to celebrate.

I have been a small business owner for 52 years and still am, and I know these economic headwinds job creators are facing firsthand.

The reality is small businesses are worse off due to this administration's disastrous policies and out-of-control Washington spending.

As the chairman of the Small Businesses Committee, I welcome anyone who wants to celebrate entrepreneurship and recognize our great small businesses.

However, no amount of media events will change the dire reality Main Street continues to experience under

this administration's 2-year crackdown on job creators.

More needs to be done to unleash the full potential of Main Street, and the direction must change before anyone goes on a victory lap or asks for a trophy.

In God We Trust.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, the first day of Black History Month to honor Black history as American history.

Black history is about the sung and unsung Black heroes and sheroes who have contributed to our Nation's progress—from the Revolutionary War to the fight against COVID and everything in between.

Therefore, we say thank you to the Black Americans who stand for justice, for voting rights, for women's rights, for saving Black lives, for better healthcare, climate reform, and education. I believe whether it is teaching AP Black history courses or standing on this House floor—that when we acknowledge the unique struggle of Black Americans through history—we grow closer to our Nation's highest ideals.

Mr. Speaker, I hope everyone will take time this month to learn and truly understand Black history is American history.

FENTANYL CRISIS

(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, as we all know, deceptive drugs made of fentanyl are killing young people and destroying lives in southern California and across our Nation at an alarming rate.

In California, fentanyl is responsible for one out of every five youth deaths.

The top source of fentanyl is the U.S.-Mexico border, and last year, 60 percent of fentanyl found in 2022 was at southern California ports of entry in San Diego and Imperial counties near my district.

The Orange County Sheriff's Department seized more than 400 pounds of suspected fentanyl, and nearly 400,000 pills suspected to contain fentanyl during the first 10 months in 2022.

I will keep fighting for solutions to secure our border and prevent these drugs from entering our schools, streets, neighborhoods, and homes.

ADDICTION CRISIS IN EVERY COMMUNITY

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

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the addiction crisis that continues to impact just about every community and every family across this country.

Many of us have lost neighbors, friends, and loved ones. Despite significant efforts at all levels of government, recent statistics show the problem is worsening.

My hometown of Manchester saw a 22 percent increase in opioid-related overdoses last year and a 41 percent increase in opioid-related deaths. We must do more to confront this crisis to support those who are suffering from substance use disorder and to stop the trafficking of fentanyl and its analogues.

These substances, which authorities are now finding in nearly all illicit drugs, have only made this crisis more and more deadly.

That is why last week, alongside Representatives DAN NEWHOUSE and TONY GONZALES, I reintroduced the Save Americans from the Fentanyl Emergency Act. Our bill would permanently schedule all fentanyl-related substances as Schedule I drugs. This would ensure that law enforcement retains an important tool to get these deadly drugs off the streets and hold traffickers accountable. It will help save lives.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE GREATER OKLAHOMA CITY ASIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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

Mrs. BICE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the launch of the Greater Oklahoma City Asian Chamber of Commerce, which will empower businesses and support the economic growth of the Asian community in Oklahoma.

The Asian community is one of the fastest growing populations in the Nation and in Oklahoma, with nearly 50,000 Asian residents and more than 5,300 businesses in the greater Oklahoma City metro area, resulting in \$203 million in payroll and \$1.2 billion in sales.

Clearly, the Asian community has fostered great innovation and boosted our local economy. I am proud to serve such a vibrant community and am grateful for their remarkable contributions to the district.

Thank you to the incredible leaders and entrepreneurs who have created this new chamber that will benefit the community and beyond.

I am particularly grateful for the leadership of Scarlet Le-Cao and her vision in starting the Greater Oklahoma City Asian American Chamber of Commerce. Her leadership will be vital for years to come.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF PAUL WOODS

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the incredible life and service of World War II veteran Paul Woods.

Mr. Woods joined the United States Army in 1941. During the war, he bravely fought for America's freedoms abroad and racism at home.

Mr. Woods is known to say: "A bullet knows no race, rank, or status. We were all brothers on the battlefield."

On February 20, Mr. Woods will celebrate his 100th birthday. It is my honor to celebrate this American hero and to thank him for his selfless service on behalf of a grateful Nation.

RECOGNIZING SHARON JOHNSON'S 35 YEARS OF SERVICE

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

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today to honor an incredible woman, my deputy chief of staff, Sharon Johnson. Today marks Sharon's 35 years of service to Mississippi's Third Congressional District.

Sharon was born and raised in Louisville, Mississippi, and began her career in Washington, D.C., under the legendary G.V. Sonny Montgomery and has served our district under all three Members of Congress since: Congressman Chip Pickering, Congressman Gregg Harper, and now I am blessed that she has been a member of my team since day one.

Over the past 35 years, Sharon has proven to be a true asset to the people of Mississippi's Third Congressional District. Her unwavering commitment to service and community has earned her the respect and admiration of those who have had the privilege of working with her.

Today, we honor Sharon and celebrate her service. I am hopeful that Sharon's record of public service will inspire future generations of young women to consider this important work.

On behalf of Mississippi's Third Congressional District, I extend my sincere thanks to Sharon Johnson for her 35 years of unwavering service.

□ 1215

HONORING GREENSBORO FOUR

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

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, on this day 63 years ago, four courageous North Carolina A&T students, Franklin McCain, Jibreel Khazan, Joseph McNeil, and David Richmond, staged a sit-in at the Whites-only lunch counter