

I know firsthand just how important efficient and effective election administration measures are in ensuring that Americans continue to cast their ballots and participate in our democracy.

As chair of the House Administration Subcommittee on Elections, one of my top priorities is to share insight into the policies that lead to stronger elections across our Nation.

This is exactly what the ACE Act will do.

My colleagues and I have worked in collaboration with secretaries of state, local election officials, legislators, and voters across the Nation to craft this legislation—in true “by the people, for the people” fashion.

Our ACE Act leaves the primary responsibility for administering elections to the States while recognizing the important role that Congress plays as a resource and a partner.

Election officials have a saying: Elections are partisan. Election administration is not.

The American Confidence in Elections Act is a strictly commonsense measure that protects our voting processes and makes it easier to vote and harder to cheat.

Mr. Speaker, 90 percent of Americans agree that only Americans should vote in American elections. A majority of Americans support photo voter ID provisions.

The ACE Act encourages States to adopt strong voter ID laws and provides best practices and technology standards to ensure that every State in our Nation has the tools needed to conduct secure and efficient elections.

I look forward to bringing this commonsense election integrity measure forward to both strengthen and safeguard our elections.

I thank Chairman STEIL for his leadership on this bill, and I look forward to seeing it brought to the House floor for final passage.

POWER OF ONE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, in honor of the 68th anniversary of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, I rise today.

Mr. Speaker, on December 5, 1955, the Montgomery Bus Boycott began. It was a landmark bus boycott that lasted for 381 days following the courageous and bold single act of the defiance from Rosa Parks who was arrested on December 1, 1955, for refusing to give up her seat to a White person on a Montgomery bus.

Rosa Parks epitomized the incredible power of one person to change the course of history. I, along with so many others in this Chamber, benefit from her indelible legacy.

Mr. Speaker, the action of Rosa Parks propelled the challenges of the civil rights movement to the forefront of national concern, deeply influencing public opinion and ultimately contrib-

uting to important legislative and societal shifts in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I was the house leader in the State of Ohio, the first Democrat female and Black woman to do such.

As a young girl growing up, I grew up hearing about Rosa Parks. When I was on the house floor then in the State legislature, I thought I could make a difference and do something.

On the day she died, I went to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, and Democrats and Republicans came together to make Ohio the first State in the United States to have a Rosa Parks Day.

That was a proud moment for me, that I could stand in the well in the statehouse, and Republican colleague Priscilla Mead could stand in the well, and we could both declare how important this would be for the Nation.

Today, I stand in another well, asking us to take a look at H. Res. 308, the Rosa Parks Day Act, sponsored by Congresswoman TERRI SEWELL, Congressman STEVEN HORSFORD, and myself.

Mr. Speaker, we have well over 100 signatures just in the first week, and we are going to continue to try to get signatures for this important piece of legislation.

Just imagine: For 381 days, people did not get on a bus; they walked. If they rode in taxis or in cars, they were cars or taxis operated by Black Americans.

It was wrong because, you see, Rosa Parks was not tired that day. We want history to be correct. At that time in the 1950s, people of color had to sit back as far as the seventh row.

Rosa was sitting in the seat by the window in the row for people of color. When someone got on the bus who was a majority gentleman and had to stand, he went to Rosa and asked her to get up out of the seat in the section she was supposed to sit in.

Now, I can imagine that Rosa knew she was going to be arrested because she had been warned, and she was not the first to have been arrested.

She sat there so eloquently, and when they said to get up or you will be arrested, she got up. She was arrested, she was handcuffed, she was fingerprinted, and they took her mug shot.

That not only sparked her as the leader of the modern day civil rights movement, it also propelled a young minister by the name of Martin Luther King.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I would like to think this is a moment in history for us to be able to educate my colleagues and all those who are witnessing this this morning.

Lastly, it was on June 5 in 1956 that the Federal court made the decision that it was no longer constitutional to segregate the seats on public transit.

When I leave here on Thursday, Mr. Speaker, I will go back to the great Third Congressional District of Ohio. For the 18th year, I will sponsor the power of one, our Rosa Parks Day.

DEFENDING THE SECOND AMENDMENT

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in defense of the Second Amendment and in honor of Roger Theede, a freedom-loving American, gun store owner, and Kansan who has been deeply wronged by President Biden's politicized, weaponized Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

My team and I have met with Roger, his coworker Jenny, and their team in their store in Hutchinson, Kansas. Heartland Outdoor is a local, family-owned small business in central Kansas where people buy their hunting and recreational shooting supplies.

Roger has been a Federal firearm licensee for 30 years, during which time he has never had a violation or sold a gun that has been involved in a crime. He literally has decades of perfect scores from the ATF who have held his store in the highest regard, an example of how a gun store should be operated.

On ATF's most recent visit to Roger's store, however, agents found minor, unwillful, debatable issues which they called willful, serious violations. As a result, the ATF revoked Roger's license to sell firearms and effectively took his livelihood away.

Sadly, this story is not unique. It is an example of the ATF abusing President Biden's zero-tolerance policy, which he announced in June of 2021, and which resulted in a 500 percent spike in Federal firearm license revocations across the country.

Enough is enough. This week, I am introducing the Reining In Federal Licensing Enforcement Act. The RIFLE Act will hold the ATF accountable, establish separate categories for minor and serious violations, clarify the word “willful” as it applies to violations, and create an appeals process for individuals whose licenses were revoked on or after President Biden's zero-tolerance policy went into effect.

No gun store owner in America deserves to have his or her business shut down over a typo on a form. No gun store owner deserves to be forced to pay tens of thousands of dollars in legal fees just to appeal the revocation of their license.

Apparently, since the Biden administration can't just do away with the Constitution and our Second Amendment, shutting down our local gun stores has become the strategy.

My legislation will stop that, defend the Second Amendment as a load-bearing wall in our system of rights, and honor Roger and lawful gun store owners just like him.

I invite my colleagues to cosponsor the RIFLE Act to ensure that what happened to Roger and to other lawful gun store owners across the U.S. never, ever happens again.

CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAY SEASON

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

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as Christmas approaches, I rise again to share the history behind one of the most beloved carols, "Away in a Manger."

People still call this delightful song "Luther's Cradle Hymn" and believe that Martin Luther sang his own children to sleep with it in the 15th century.

None other than the song's composer, James Murray, promoted this charming fable. We really don't know who wrote the words, only that they appeared anonymously in a Lutheran publication titled, "Little Children's Book for School and Family" in 1885.

When the music first appeared in a children's hymnal 2 years later, it was titled, "Luther's Cradle Hymn." James Murray, the editor of the hymnal, wrote that the song was composed by Martin Luther for his children and still sung by German mothers to their little ones.

Murray, who was a student of Lowell Mason, composer of "Joy to the World," then added his own initials at the end of the song, thereby ensuring over a century of confusion.

The words of the hymn are as follows:

Away in a manger
No crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus
Laid down His sweet head
The stars in the sky
Look down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on the hay
The cattle are lowing
The poor baby wakes
The little Lord Jesus
No crying He makes
I love Thee, Lord Jesus
Look down from the sky
And stay by my side
'Til morning is nigh
Be near me, Lord Jesus
I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever
And love me I pray
Bless all the dear children
In Thy tender care
Take us to heaven
To live with Thee there.

Mr. Speaker, I hope we keep the history behind this beautiful song in mind as we celebrate the holiday season. On behalf of us in central Texas, I wish you a merry Christmas, happy Hanukkah, and a delightful Christmas season.

RECOGNIZING JORDAN DUNCAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. PEREZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, today I take a moment to recognize Jordan Duncan, an exceptional educator and firefighter in my district.

Jordan has been teaching in Washington State for a decade, and during this time, he has made a real impact on

the students with his innovative teaching techniques.

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From taking his students to nearby forests to teaching them the ecological importance of timber to using his firefighter experience to teach them about wildfire safety, he has continuously made his students excited to learn about STEM through real-world applications and outdoor, hands-on experiences.

Jordan's unwavering dedication to his students and contributions to the field of education have not gone unnoticed. This year, he was awarded the FieldSTEM Teacher of the Year award by the Pacific Education Institute. This recognition is a testament to his efforts in educating the next generation.

Jordan's passion for promoting outdoor learning for students is admirable, and I hope he continues to inspire and brighten the future of our youth through hands-on education.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Jordan for his hard work, and I congratulate him on this well-deserved recognition.

PLASTIC TREES ANTITHETICAL TO ENVIRONMENTALISM

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to share that I was deeply disturbed to read some antifarmer propaganda in a national news publication.

Going out and buying a plastic Christmas tree that will take 5,000 years to degrade is antithetical to the real spirit of environmentalism.

My county, Lewis County, is the number one producer of Christmas trees in Washington State, and we grow Christmas trees for a living in the State, so this is a big deal.

This terrarium view of nature, where you can buy plastic to celebrate nature, is antithetical to the true spirit of American values and environmentalism.

I applaud all of our farmers who are fighting hard to keep this tradition alive.

RECOGNIZING IMPORTANCE OF CRANBERRY GROWERS

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the hard work and the importance of cranberry growers in southwest Washington.

Washington is the fifth largest producer of cranberries in the country, and cranberry growers have been cultivating the land for more than 100 years.

Pacific County's Long Beach Peninsula in my district is one of the three main cranberry regions in Washington, with about 1,300 acres of land dedicated to production.

This year, the price of cranberries is expected to increase to an estimated \$42 per barrel, according to Malcom and Ardell McPhail, two Ilwaco-based cranberry growers.

While there was an oversupply of cranberries in 2017, the dry summer this past year caused a water shortage

that has seriously affected bog irrigation. As the effects of climate change continue to reach across agricultural industries, I commend the resilience and dedication of cranberry growers in southwest Washington.

I remain committed to fighting for policies that sustain and strengthen the agricultural sector and will continue to focus on Federal policies that support small family growers like Malcom and Ardell during times like this.

SUPPORTING UKRAINIAN REFUGEES ENRICHES COMMUNITIES

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a community effort in southwest Washington.

The ongoing war in Ukraine has resulted in countless Ukrainian citizens being forced to flee their homes, leaving behind everything they once knew. However, in the midst of all this chaos, turmoil, and pain, it fills me with hope to witness Washington extend a welcoming hand to many of these refugees, offering a safe haven and a chance to rebuild their lives.

One example of this is the School of Knowledge, a place where Ukrainian children can learn important subjects, like reading, math, music, and Bible studies, all in their native Ukrainian tongue.

For Ukraine refugees in my district, this Saturday school serves as a vital lifeline, allowing them to stay connected to their culture and heritage while forming new bonds with our community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering that as we support Ukrainian refugees in their journey to start anew, we also enrich our local communities' culture and self-sufficiency.

KNUCKLEBUSTERS PROVIDE HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE THROUGH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Skamania County Knucklebusters Association Skills Center in my district, a place that resonates with my own background as the owner of an auto repair and machine shop.

I visited the Skamania County Knucklebusters this past May, and I learned about the free auto repair program they offer to teenagers.

The diverse range of hands-on skills development classes they host include shop safety and tool usage and brakes and tires. These classes equip young students with essential life skills, like how to use a wrench.

Nobody sitting in these classes asks themselves when they will use this in real life, yet they deeply complement STEM and fields like geometry and physics.

In addition to their educational efforts, they also provide services to the community at a reasonable cost, making it accessible to all and providing teenagers with access to hard skills and self-sufficiency.

What is even more commendable is that the Knucklebusters are an all-volunteer organization, which means they are motivated by the simple desire to