

where the people lead and the politicians follow.

Mark these words as my first here in this Chamber.

PRAYER WORKS

(Mr. VAN ORDEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to thank the Lord Jesus Christ, my constituents, and my colleagues for your thoughts and prayers and tender mercies that you have showed my family over these last trying months.

I am here today to report to you that prayer works. As of yesterday, our daughter's cancer is in remission.

Mr. Speaker, I will never forget the kindness shown to me by both sides of this aisle, and I humbly remain your servant.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS AWARENESS WEEK

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Gun Violence Survivors Awareness Week.

A decade ago, in this spot, I gave my first speech in the House about the epidemic of gun violence in our Nation. I could not then have imagined two things: First, that Congress would fail to take significant action to address gun violence in our Nation; and second, that mass shootings would continue to grow as an epidemic. Last year alone, there were 647 mass shootings in our country, including in my community of Highland Park.

For all the hundreds of communities that are affected and part of this tragic union from the devastation of gun violence, the effects are permanent.

Seven months ago, in my community, at 10:14 a.m. on July 4 at the Independence Day parade in Highland Park, a monster with an assault rifle climbed a ladder and fired 83 bullets in less than a minute into the festive crowd below. He murdered seven wonderful people, wounded dozens more, and traumatized an entire community.

The devastation and damage to a human body from these weapons are inconceivable. We have to address gun violence. We have to pass an assault weapons ban that was introduced this week. I call on our communities to act.

PUNXSUTAWNEY PHIL SAW HIS SHADOW

(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, today is a big day in the

15th Congressional District of Pennsylvania. Specifically, in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, our most famous resident had his day in the sun, literally.

To quote Bill Murray: "It's Groundhog Day, again."

Early this morning, Punxsutawney Phil, our weather expert groundhog, saw his shadow. For those of you who know the old German legend, this means we are in for 6 more weeks of winter.

Punxsy Phil has been forecasting the weather since the 1800s. Records going back to 1886 show that Phil has forecasted a longer winter 107 times and an early spring just 20 times.

Crowds gathered on Gobbler's Knob before sunrise today for the 137th celebration.

Phil has proven himself a devoted prognosticator year after year and is a true icon in the world of weather forecasting.

For these reasons and many more, Phil was inducted into the 2023 Meteorologists Hall of Fame by the Weather Discovery Center.

So don't pack up your winter gear just yet. Phil says we have 6 more weeks. Happy Groundhog Day.

A REPUBLICAN POLITICAL STUNT

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, once again, House Republicans are prioritizing extreme political stunts over problem-solving for the American people.

Speaker MCCARTHY's purely partisan move to strip Representative OMAR from her committee is not only a political stunt but a blow to the integrity of our democratic institutions and solves no problem.

In modern American history, the punishment of stripping Members of Congress of their committee assignments has been reserved only for the most egregious wrongdoing, including threats to colleagues. Congresswoman OMAR has neither threatened a colleague, nor has she committed any egregious wrongdoing.

If Republicans want to degrade the integrity of the House and its committees, it will be up to Democrats to stand up against these efforts. We will always stand for integrity in our House.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose the efforts today by the extreme MAGA Republicans in this political stunt that solves no problems.

FENTANYL CRISIS AT THE SOUTHERN BORDER

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

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the dangerous crisis

our Nation is experiencing on our southern border.

Two weeks ago, on a tour of my district, I had the honor of meeting law enforcement officers in Clay, Madison, and McDowell Counties. These counties are in very different parts of North Carolina's sprawling 11th Congressional District, yet these officers all shared with me that the number one problem they face every day—number one—is the flow of fentanyl into our mountains.

Keep in mind that western North Carolina is a thousand miles away from the southern border. Yet, because of the Biden administration's lax border policies, every State is now a border State, and we are all suffering from the consequences.

Since day one, this administration has ceded control of our southern border to drug cartels and dangerous gangs.

In addition to fentanyl, we have seen a flow of unlawful migrants and illicit contraband pour into our country at rates never seen before, and China is a key source of the ingredients used to make fentanyl that is killing our children and fueling this crisis that is affecting so many. There needs to be a change.

NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WEEK

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the survivors of gun violence during National Gun Violence Survivors Week.

Sandy Hook, Parkland, Buffalo, and, yes, even Detroit, and Chicago. So many now are impacted—various names and memories of loved ones seared into our memories—in places where gun violence has traumatized our communities and taken far too many of our loved ones.

Every day in our country, more than 110 people are shot and killed and more than 200 people survive gunshot wounds. We are 33 days into the new year, Mr. Speaker, and there have already been 54 mass shootings. To every survivor of gun violence, from classmates who have witnessed their friends die to families who have dinner at the table with an empty seat there, we honor you always with action.

So I call on my colleagues to stand up to the corporate gun lobby and send the assault weapons ban to President Biden's desk. There is no reason to have weapons of war in our communities. There is no reason that anyone needs a weapon of war that can fire up to 60 shots per minute.

IT IS TIME TO GET BACK TO WORK

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to express my support for H.R. 139, the SHOW UP Act, which was introduced by my good friend from Kentucky, the chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, Mr. COMER, and passed on this floor yesterday.

Millions of Tennesseans show up to work every day. However, more than half of Federal Government workers, who are expected to serve the American people, still aren't showing up for work. This has led to extremely long wait times and delays in services.

Veterans who showed up to work and served our country can't get their proper VA benefits. Families are waiting months for their passports. In my district, a father waited for more than 8 months to receive his tax return. The entire time, he was left in the dark by the IRS.

Tennesseans deserve better, Mr. Speaker. The pandemic is over, and it is time to get back to work.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support like-minded measures.

DENOUNCING THE HORRORS OF SOCIALISM

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 83, I call up the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 9) denouncing the horrors of socialism, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 83, the concurrent resolution is considered read.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 9

Whereas socialist ideology necessitates a concentration of power that has time and time again collapsed into Communist regimes, totalitarian rule, and brutal dictatorships;

Whereas socialism has repeatedly led to famine and mass murders, and the killing of over 100,000,000 people worldwide;

Whereas many of the greatest crimes in history were committed by socialist ideologues, including Vladimir Lenin, Joseph Stalin, Mao Zedong, Fidel Castro, Pol Pot, Kim Jong Il, Kim Jong Un, Daniel Ortega, Hugo Chavez, and Nicolás Maduro;

Whereas tens of millions died in the Bolshevik Revolution, at least 10,000,000 people were sent to the gulags in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), and millions more starved in the Terror-Famine (Holodomor) in Ukraine;

Whereas between 15,000,000 and 55,000,000 people starved to death in the wake of famine and devastation caused by the Great Leap Forward in China;

Whereas the socialist experiment in Cambodia led to the killing fields in which over a million people were gruesomely murdered;

Whereas up to 3,500,000 people have starved in North Korea, dividing a land of freedom from a land of destitution;

Whereas the Castro regime in Cuba expropriated the land of Cuban farmers and the businesses of Cuban entrepreneurs, stealing their possessions and their livelihoods, and exiling millions with nothing but the clothes on their backs;

Whereas the implementation of socialism in Venezuela has turned a once-prosperous nation into a failed State with the world's highest rate of inflation;

Whereas the author of the Declaration of Independence, President Thomas Jefferson, wrote, "To take from one, because it is thought that his own industry and that of his fathers has acquired too much, in order to spare to others, who, or whose fathers have not exercised equal industry and skill, is to violate arbitrarily the first principle of association, the guarantee to every one of a free exercise of his industry, and the fruits acquired by it.";

Whereas the "Father of the Constitution", President James Madison, wrote that it "is not a just government, nor is property secure under it, where the property which a man has in his personal safety and personal liberty, is violated by arbitrary seizures of one class of citizens for the service of the rest"; and

Whereas the United States of America was founded on the belief in the sanctity of the individual, to which the collectivistic system of socialism in all of its forms is fundamentally and necessarily opposed: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress denounces socialism in all its forms, and opposes the implementation of socialist policies in the United States of America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The concurrent resolution shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services or their respective designees.

The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

□ 0945

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHENRY. 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 thereon.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution is a simple one. It states that the Congress denounces socialism in all its forms and opposes the implementation of socialist policies in the United States of America.

It is a statement that I would hope all elected leaders in the United States could support. Despite my Democratic colleagues' claims, there is nothing in this resolution about entitlement programs or banning social services or anything of the like.

In fact, I would encourage anyone who has doubts to actually go and read the resolution—it won't take long. It outlines the pain and hardship experienced by millions around the world who have suffered under a socialist regime.

This is something the sponsor of the resolution, Ms. SALAZAR of Florida, can

speak to personally. Congresswoman SALAZAR is the daughter of Cuban exiles and was born in Miami's Little Havana.

H. Con. Res. 9 is not just messaging or a waste of time—as some of my colleagues across the aisle said—it speaks to people who have known all too well the atrocities of socialism, and it gives voice to their pain.

I thank Congresswoman SALAZAR for her work on this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose H. Con. Res. 9, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the Committee on Financial Services, we organized and considered the committee's oversight plan. We debated homelessness and the lack of affordable housing, how to best protect consumers, and the need to strengthen diversity and inclusion across the financial services industry.

We also discussed the threat to our Nation's future if our country is forced to default on our debt 4 months from today. We don't always agree and, honestly, none of the Democratic amendments were adopted, but it was a civil debate about the merits of policy.

I believe all of our committee members recognize that the legislation that comes out of our committee has the potential to support wealth creation, grow small businesses, support affordable housing, and build a stable financial system and economy.

It is the contrast with the intentionality and seriousness of the debate today that makes it so hard to understand why the very first piece of legislation to come to the floor under a rule is not a proposal to address the needs of any of our constituents, to provide support to struggling small businesses, or the community banks and credit unions that finance them.

It certainly doesn't provide our markets with certainty that our country won't act recklessly and default on its debts; a situation that will bring untold harm to all of us in America.

No, Mr. Speaker, this resolution today, in fact, does nothing except spread lies and fear about a threat that does not even exist. The rightwing extremists who are running this House have forced my committee to consider as its very first piece of legislation a bill that tries to say that our country will collapse in ruin because of—wait for it—Social Security.

The resolution suggests that because we support seniors with health insurance, our democracy will crumble. They think that because Congress and the President have provided disaster relief to communities that have been burned by historic wildfires or flooded by once-in-a-generation hurricanes that we will fall into ruin.

No, Mr. Speaker, Americans take pride in the ways that we come together to do everything from building schools to sending a man to the Moon.