

AMERICA MUST STAY THE COURSE

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, we have less than 10 hours left until we go home for the holidays, less than 10 hours when we leave the field, and less than 10 hours before we act responsibly.

The men and women of Ukraine will not go home for the holidays. They will not leave the lines in eastern Ukraine. They will not have a Christmas dinner without the fear that they will be bombed in Kyiv or assaulted in eastern Ukraine.

Why is that?

I ask that to both Chambers: Why are we going home and leaving our Ukrainian allies unarmed?

Why do we shrink from our responsibility to confront those who would undermine democracy, freedom, and international law?

Why, Mr. Speaker, do we retreat from the field while our Ukrainian allies are at risk?

Mr. Speaker, we have 1 day left. We can accomplish the goal of passing Ukrainian dollars.

We can achieve the goal of giving aid to our ally, Israel.

We can achieve the goal of making Taiwan a little bit stronger.

Or we can send a message to Mr. Putin, to Mr. Xi, to Iran, and to Hamas that America is unable to stay the course.

I am told that the reason we can't do that is because it is absolutely essential to have border security addressed. It is. I am for doing that.

Nevertheless, I want to call to the Speaker's attention, so that he can remember that in the 115th Congress, as a Member of Congress, he cosponsored a bill, H.R. 395. Some others cosponsored that bill who may be at least hearing me, Mr. Speaker, or maybe even on the floor. That bill said that it was incumbent that we "end the practice of including more than one subject in a single bill by requiring that each bill enacted by Congress be limited to only one subject."

Was that situational ethics, situational principles, or just temporary principles to be thrown away when they are not convenient, perhaps?

That bill was sponsored by Speaker JOHNSON; by Mr. Meadows who became Chief of Staff of Donald Trump; by Mr. EMMER, the majority whip; and by Mr. DeSantis, candidate for President. It was a temporary, perhaps just political, piece of rhetoric.

Mr. Speaker, America is better than that. America needs to be a more reliable ally than that. America needs to create confidence, not undermine confidence. America needs to be reliable. America needs to confront the criminality, the venality, and the murderous acts of Vladimir Putin.

Yet we are scheduled to go home in just a few hours.

John Kennedy wrote a book, "Why England Slept." It was about why they

thought that Hitler was going to stop. It just involved, after all, the mainland, not England, and they paid a terrible price for that negligence, and the free world paid a terrible price for that negligence.

Mr. Speaker, let us not go home, let us do our duty, and let us be the kind of America that we say we are.

NEBRASKA LOVES ITS LAW ENFORCEMENT

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

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, as National Law Enforcement Day approaches, I rise today to salute our men and women who keep our communities safe each and every day.

It wasn't long ago that law enforcement was almost universally respected in America. The blue uniform was a symbol not just of law and order but also of community peace and harmony. Policemen and policewomen belonged among the most trusted community members, alongside nurses, teachers, firefighters, and postal workers.

However, something happened in 2020. Antipolice riots erupted in communities across the country. Places like Seattle, Minneapolis, and Chicago were besieged by violence. Violent protestors set up a law enforcement-free zone in Seattle known as CHAZ.

Civil unrest in Minneapolis led to one-half billion dollars' worth of damage while city leadership failed to keep order after George Floyd's death. Folks looked at the Magnificent Mile in Chicago while the world watched America burn.

Nevertheless, this destruction wasn't tolerated in Nebraska.

When disorder erupted in two of our major cities, then-Governor Pete Ricketts cracked down. He deployed State patrol and National Guard members to assist communities and protected businesses and homeowners.

Since the national unrest in 2020, Nebraska has doubled down on our commitment to supporting our men and women in blue. While some States have repealed traditional protections for law enforcement, Nebraska has maintained qualified immunity. This is critical to ensuring law enforcement officers can do their jobs without the threat of frivolous lawsuits or complaints.

Last year, before I came to Congress, I was the proud cosponsor of the Law Enforcement Attraction and Retention Act in the Nebraska legislature. This bill provides a variety of cash incentives for individual officers to help law enforcement agencies retain their workforce. It received almost unanimous approval from that body.

This year—and I want to double down on this—the legislature in Nebraska passed the First Responder Recruitment and Retention Act. It covers 100 percent of tuition for law enforcement officers, firefighters, and their children who want to get a college degree from

a community college or a State college or university. We are the first State in the Nation to give police officers, their families, and their children free college, recognizing that what they do is important and that it is needed.

If someone is living in one of those places where law enforcement is under attack, I want them to look at Nebraska. Look at what we can do for them and their family. We have a variety of opportunities available in law enforcement. The Nebraska State Patrol is the finest statewide agency in the Nation led by an outstanding colonel, John Bolduc.

Our two biggest cities have fantastic large agencies that provide lots of opportunities to advance. If someone likes to hunt, we can help them there, too.

We have lots of opportunities in smaller agencies, mid-size communities, a plethora of opportunity.

There is truly an opportunity in Nebraska for every law enforcement officer, and it comes with a low cost of living and competitive salaries. Our communities need police officers. Rural communities need police officers. We are doing what we can in Nebraska to make it as attractive to people across the country as humanly possible.

As we honor our peace officers on Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, I invite anyone working in the profession to consider my great State as they think about their career and what is best for their family and know that Nebraskans support them. We salute their work; we wish them all the best as they continue to protect communities and the good life across our country.

May God bless our law enforcement, and may God bless the United States of America.

THE VALUE OF WATER

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, it can't be overestimated the value and the need for water in our lives, in what we consume foodwise and what it provides in flood control, what it provides in hydroelectric power, just water at the tap, and even environmental water.

As a Representative from California, we certainly go through a lot of gyrations and a lot of fights over water. Mark Twain is quoted as saying: "Whisky is for drinking, and water is for fighting over." There is plenty of that in California.

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What is going on?

Back in the 1930s and the 1960s, two major projects were built to turn California into the blooming land that it is of so much bounty, so much great agriculture, so much opportunity, with the Federal water project started in the 1930s and the State water project conceived in the 1950s and much of it built in the 1960s.

In my own district, we have two very large dams—Shasta Dam at 4½ million acre-feet and Lake Oroville at 3½ million acre-feet. Those have made so much possibility for people in California, but not just California. It has helped the whole country.

I will tell you why. Because agriculture is a key element of the sustainability for this country. It is strategic for being able to feed itself, defend itself. You can't overestimate how important that is as well.

What we currently have happening in California and in the Western States is the extreme environmental left is moving to remove more and more dams as we speak. Right now in the Klamath River, up in the north end of my district, there are four dams in the target sites for that. They make hydroelectric power.

Now, as a sidebar here, what do we hear constantly in this Chamber? Almost every conversation is filtered through climate change. When you have sources of power that are zero CO₂, such as hydroelectric power, as well as nuclear power, and very clean efficient power such as natural gas, which is being phased out or pushed out by the Biden administration as we can't explore or build pipelines for it, where are we going to get the power if you tear these dams out?

Why would you take all of these inputs for producing electricity in this country, while at the same time, you are forcing more and more things to be powered by electricity, vehicles, big trucks?

I see on the internet there is a major cargo carrier saying we need to electrify our aircrafts. How heavy will an airplane be when you load it up with batteries? Will it have any cargo capacity remaining? A big semi-rig for the highways is 80,000 pounds GVW. By the time they electrify it and add two 8,000-pound batteries to that, that is 16,000 more pounds of cargo you will have to take off. That means five trucks will have to now do the job of four trucks. This is where we are going.

Hydroelectric power is extremely important to fuel whatever levels of electricity we are going to be using. They want to ban gas stoves. They want to ban gas heaters. If we are going to have more and more of a reliability on the electric grid, which I hope we don't go through with these crazy policies, we are going to continue to need this power.

Why are we tearing dams out? They want to tear them out in the State of Washington. We just visited the Colorado River, the Western Caucus, over the weekend. The Hoover Dam, what a mighty structure that is, with eight great big power plant turbines in there. Above that, Lake Powell; they are talking about maybe we don't really need Lake Powell anymore because we are in the middle of a drought situation. We are in a tough drought, but what if we didn't have those to begin with? We wouldn't have stored that

water that has helped us sustain through many years of drought, actually.

Back in my own district with a full Lake Shasta and a full Lake Oroville, under the regional conditions, that would get you through 5 years' worth of drought. Still storing water for agriculture, for people at the tap, for hydroelectric power, and even recreation.

What is the agenda? They want to force more and more electric vehicles and electric everything, but at the same time, they want to rip out the means to make the power. It doesn't make a lick of sense.

I just see where Ford Motor Company lost about \$4½ billion last year electrifying. They had the original influx of people buying those electric vehicles, but now that has fallen off because once the incentives go away or once you can get a sticker to drive it in the fast lanes in certain areas in California, the rest of the market probably isn't too interested in that.

Their F-150 Lightning, they are pulling back production by at least half, maybe more, because people aren't buying these vehicles like they supposedly are projecting.

Stored water is an incredibly good thing. Why it matters to the rest of the country as well is California has grown so many amazing crops over the years with the innovation and ability to farm the lands that we have had in the San Joaquin Valley. We would not have the food that the whole country eats since 90 percent to 99 percent of these crops are grown in California.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OFFICER ALLEN BRANDON ON HIS RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officer Allen Brandon for his retirement following 30 years of service in public safety.

Officer Brandon has served the Fifth District of South Carolina in many roles. In each, he displayed incredible leadership, bravery, honoring his community with incredible work and dedicated service throughout his career.

In 1983, he began his service as a patrolman at the Tega Cay Police Department and was quickly promoted to a supervisor in 1985. He then moved to the York County Sheriff's Office where his work proved to make a true impact in the community. He held many roles, operating in the narcotics department for many years before being promoted again to the patrol lieutenant and the captain of the Uniform and Field Services Division.

Officer Brandon's service is reflective of the values that the police force holds most important: accountability, integrity, honesty, and courage.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take the time to recognize Mr. Bran-

don's family—his wife, Melanie; and his two children, Sarah and William. Working in the police force requires sacrifice and support from the entire family.

In addition to his service on the police force, Officer Brandon has served the community as an elder at Forest Hills Church, a Keystone Board member, member of the Palmetto Boy Scouts Board, and a leader for the United Way of York County.

Officer Brandon has set the gold standard for representing his community with pride and prioritized fairness and justice. Please join me in honoring Officer Brandon for 30 years of impactful service to the Fifth District of South Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to offer Officer Brandon Godspeed in his retirement.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. ANNE SKLEDER

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

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Brenau University's 10th president, Dr. Anne Skleder, who tragically passed after bravely battling cancer at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta.

Born in Pittsburgh, Anne studied psychology at the University of Pittsburgh and later earned her doctoral degree from Temple University. Dr. Skleder then incorporated her passion for people and learning into a successful career in academia—mentoring, teaching, and serving students for years.

Breaking glass ceilings, Anne went on to become the 10th and 1st woman president of Brenau University in Gainesville, Georgia. Yet it was not the title that she cherished, but rather the opportunity to improve the lives and futures of Brenau University students.

Her leadership extended beyond the campus, as she served on the executive committee of the Atlanta Regional Council of Higher Education and was a board member for numerous organizations, including the Women's College Coalition, National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce.

Our sincere condolences are with Anne's family as they mourn her loss. While her leadership and impact on our community will surely be missed, we cherish Dr. Skleder's legacy and find comfort in knowing that she has found eternal peace with her beloved parents and brother in the presence of our Heavenly Father.

Georgia's Ninth District will always remember the incredible impact that Dr. Skleder had on students at Brenau University and on our community as a whole.

HONORING EXCEPTIONAL BUSINESSES IN LUMPKIN COUNTY

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional businesses in Lumpkin County. The