

A safe and effective immigration system is essential for the United States to lead in a 21st century economy. It is a critical national security component, essential for protecting human rights, and fundamental to our identity as a land of prosperity and opportunity.

I have worked on all aspects of immigration from enforcement to advocacy and across party lines. I believe we can have an immigration system that keeps our country safe and honors human dignity because I have done it. I have worked on it, and I know I have colleagues in both parties who agree with me. I have already spoken with many of you who have expressed the same ideas.

I know that my colleagues across the aisle care as deeply about children as I do. I know that as they have stood with righteous indignation to fight for the sanctity of life, I believe now they also have the courage and moral fortitude to stand and protect children from life-threatening harm and exploitive work.

Let's come together and get this done.

#### EAST PALESTINE TRAIN DERAILMENT DISASTER

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a crisis that President Biden refuses to acknowledge: the derailment of a train in East Palestine, Ohio, that has left a community traumatized and families afraid to drink the water that comes through their faucets.

Instead of compassion, these families received nothing but a cold shoulder from President Biden. Instead of certainty, these families received a rushed process to test the water that they drink and the air that they breathe.

What we need is a full accounting of events.

As a doctor, I urge the EPA to continue to repeat their tests and to provide an accurate assessment of the risks posed to our communities' air and drinking water.

An administration that fails to provide for the safety of its people is a failed administration. I stand here to urge President Biden to visit East Palestine and finally support those Americans who are hurting.

We need transparency, we need accountability, and we need to address this head-on; not with shrugs and handwringing, that is what we have seen so far from President Biden.

We need to see compassion, we need to see thoroughness, and we need to see diligence in addressing this problem.

ORIGIN OF COVID 19

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, 3 years ago, as a new and dangerous virus caused by the Chinese Communist Party began to spread, they shut down internal travel but allowed international flights to continue.

The Chinese Communist Party was attempting to stop COVID-19 from spreading within its own borders while allowing it to come to the shores of America.

This weekend, the Department of Energy finally confirmed what we have all along suspected: that this leak did not come from a wet market and that it escaped from a lab in central China.

This virus and the related government policies led to vaccine mandates, lost jobs, supply chain problems, and the isolation of our Nation's young people.

It is time today to hold the Chinese Communist Party accountable. What we need now is to predict, prepare, and prevent another such disaster from occurring.

The American people want and deserve answers, and they deserve accountability for the hardships that this virus, unleashed by the Chinese Communist Party, has caused. Now we need to ensure that a crisis like this can never occur again.

#### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the role of the National Park Service in the Virgin Islands of the United States. While the National Park Service plays a vital role in preserving the natural and cultural resources and facilitating outdoor recreation throughout the Nation, I must acknowledge that the relationship between the people of the Virgin Islands and the National Park Service has not always been and is not the best.

On St. Croix, the park sits on some of our most sacred ground, and it is incumbent on them to appreciate and preserve that, of course, which is important, but also to make it accessible to those of us who are living there. On St. John especially, St. Johnians are concerned and have a history in which Laurance Rockefeller was able to take so much land. There are questions even today about who owned what land, how was it taken, and how did it become part of the National Park Service.

I have continually expressed concern about the National Park Service's hiring and staffing practices in the Virgin Islands. I have encouraged the recruitment of native Virgin Islanders who understand the historical context of park spaces and possess a greater degree of cultural awareness. While there have been some hires, I have yet to see meaningful progress, and extended vacancies of National Park Service positions are a concern.

Additionally, for the past 3 years, I have suggested the formation of just a community garden within the Virgin Islands National Park Service boundaries. Such action is authorized by the

National Park Service management plan of 2006.

In fact, the Virgin Islands National Park Service general management plan of 1983 included the development of an approximately 2-acre garden plot.

The park comprises 7,259 acres, and to not have a plot for the people who live on that island to be able to garden, people who are locked around water, who have an inability to be able to get fresh fruit and vegetables to their families, it would also foster a better relationship between the community and the national park.

Last week, my office hosted a meeting to ensure that Virgin Islanders' voices—not just written comments—were received by the Department of the Interior, the National Park Service, and the Government of the Virgin Islands about the proposed Government of the Virgin Islands National Park Service St. John land exchange for the construction of a K-12 school on St. John. During this meeting, my office learned of the barriers and difficulties to submit a written statement during the final comment period.

Thankfully, the park allowed us to extend this until March 15.

While my office can advocate for the people of the Virgin Islands—presently my office and Congress is not a party to the agreement—the land exchange between the Governor of the Virgin Islands and the National Park Service seems to be going through.

While I may not always agree with our Governor, in this instance I recognize that he is between a rock and a hard place presently as Virgin Islanders are quickly approaching their deadline for using Federal funding to rebuild the school. As we all know, the National Park Service process takes time.

Indeed, Senator ANGUS KING, who last Congress headed up the Natural Resources Committee in the Senate, was only able to get the National Park Service to donate land in Maine after 30 years of advocacy.

The children of the Virgin Islands do not have that time.

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Additionally, we are approaching the end of the Caneel Bay Redevelopment and Management Environmental Assessment public comment period. The National Park Service owns 70 percent of the island of St. John, making it one of the most pristine islands not only in the Virgin Islands but in the Caribbean.

The path forward for a resort at Caneel Bay must consider the socioeconomic and environmental impact on the Virgin Islands. Caneel Bay contains some of the best beaches in the world, and to not utilize the property as a world-class, five-star resort would put the Virgin Islands at a disadvantage for tourism dollars.

The path forward for Caneel Bay impacts not just St. John but the entire territory. If Caneel Bay is relegated to

a third-rate facility, it will have a cataclysmic impact on the Virgin Islands economy. From reluctance to place plaques at sacred places to rangers stopping people in public parades, among other things, the National Park Service has to do better in terms of how it deals with native Virgin Islanders.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF BILL PRESTAGE

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

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a dear friend of mine and so many others, William Harold Prestage, a true gentleman whom we all loved and knew as Bill.

Bill is survived by his wife, Marsha; his three sons, Scott, John, and Ron; and multiple grandchildren, who were his greatest joy and with whom he had his most cherished days.

I first met Bill Prestage when I was a staffer for U.S. Senator Jesse Helms. After that first encounter, I would see and talk with him many times over the years at more community, agriculture, and political events than one could ever imagine. He was always a delight. He would cut to the chase in a very charming and direct way, and there was never any question of what he liked or what he didn't like. You always knew right where he stood on a matter. He was a lion of a man with a heart of gold.

He was well known as a devout family man and an exceptional member of his community, one who would give you the shirt off his back if you needed it. Starting from very humble beginnings in the 1960s and with no agriculture experience, Bill pioneered what is now one of the country's largest family-owned and family-operated animal protein production companies.

The foundation of this family enterprise was laid when Bill joined his good friend Otis Carroll, whom he met upon moving to North Carolina. These two great entrepreneurs joined together and helped transform pork and turkey production, bringing significant economic development to southeastern North Carolina.

In 1983, Bill, along with his wife, Marsha, and his sons, established what is known today as Prestage Farms. Today, with each generation of the family involved in the business, the Prestage Farms and Prestage Foods companies have five divisions across seven States, with three processing plants collectively employing more than 2,300 people and contracting with more than 450 farm families.

The company's multigenerational success is a true testament to Bill's entrepreneurial spirit and work ethic, as well as his devotion to his family and his employees. He was truly beloved by his family and friends, the agriculture

community, and the hardworking employees and growers who make up the Prestage family of companies.

His people were his passion, and they loved their leader tremendously. Those outside of the family business loved Bill, too. Though he was far too humble to think it, Bill was, in fact, a very well-known and very well-liked celebrity wherever he went, not just in Sampson County but throughout the State and country, particularly in agriculture, wildlife, and conservation circles.

Beyond Bill's impact on the agriculture community, he is well known for his love of nature and the outdoors. As a result, he was an avid conservationist. Upland bird hunting, boating, and fishing were among his greatest joys, especially when his family would join him.

There is no doubt that Bill not only made a name for himself as a pioneer in agriculture, but he also made our State and country a better place to live. He leaves behind a great legacy that will have an everlasting impact, as well as many great memories. Everyone who knew Bill loved Bill, and that, in and of itself, is arguably one of the greatest legacies one can have.

I know I speak for countless others when I say Bill is deeply missed. His was a life of a great American and patriot, well lived, and an example of the best of humanity.

#### CONGRATULATING NICOLA "NIKI" DENNIS UPON HER RETIREMENT

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the career of Niki Dennis, who recently retired as Bladen County Clerk of Superior Court following 43 years of distinguished public service.

Niki is a proud lifelong resident of Bladen County, and in 1979, she started her career at the Bladen County Courthouse, working as a deputy clerk.

Thanks to Niki's hard work, determination, professionalism, and kindness, she advanced quickly through the ranks and became an integral team member in the clerk's office. In 2006, Niki was elected high clerk and served in this capacity until her retirement recently.

Over the years, Niki has been a mentor and friend to so many. She managed multiple clerks while navigating the everyday challenges of the clerk's office with respect, grace, and professionalism, setting an example for public service that all should strive to emulate.

On behalf of the citizens of Bladen County and the entire Seventh Congressional District, I thank Niki for her many years of service to Bladen County. I wish her great health and joy as she embarks on this next chapter of life. May God continue to bless her path.

#### RECOGNIZING EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS WEEK

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

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise on Mental Health Monday to recognize Eating Disorders Awareness Week. This year's theme is "It's Time for Change," and indeed, it is.

After opioid use disorder, eating disorders are the second deadliest psychiatric illness, yet they remain widely misunderstood, so I would like to address some myths around them.

Myth number one: Eating disorders are a choice. An eating disorder is an illness often diagnosed with other mental illnesses. No one chooses to have an eating disorder.

Myth number two: Only females have eating disorders. Eating disorders actually hurt people of all genders, ages, races, religions, sexual orientations, and body shapes.

Myth number three: You can't recover from an eating disorder. This, perhaps, is the most important myth to dispel. Recovery and treatment are possible. The National Eating Disorders Association offers free helplines and more information on their website, [nationaleatingdisorders.org](http://nationaleatingdisorders.org).

Every 52 minutes, someone dies because of an eating disorder. It is time for change. Let's break the stigma. Let's invest in care. Let's send a message to all those struggling: You are not alone.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF THE HONORABLE JAMES T. BROYHILL

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a North Carolina legend, former U.S. Senator and Congressman James T. Broyhill, who passed away on February 18 at the age of 95.

Jim Broyhill will be remembered as one of the political giants in the history of North Carolina, especially for those of us from the western part of the State that he so ably, with distinction, represented for over two decades.

A native of Lenoir, Broyhill served in several executive capacities at his family's furniture business, Broyhill Industries, prior to entering public service.

He was first elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1962 as a long-shot candidate. Broyhill, a Republican, pulled off a narrow 1-point victory at a time when North Carolina politics were dominated by the Democratic Party. He quickly won the hearts of his constituents and served the people of western North Carolina in this House until 1986.

Broyhill liked to tell a story from his first election, an occurrence that had an impact on him and taught him an