

bill that has no chance to become law while trying to target and scapegoat migrants as criminals.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote no on this bill.

**RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF 2024 PATHFINDER SCHOLAR-
SHIP FIRST PLACE WINNER AVA
ALLWARDT IN THE SCIENCE
CATEGORY**

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Ava Allwardt, the first-place winner of the prestigious Pathfinder Scholarship in the Science category. This scholarship is awarded to Palm Beach and Martin County students who have displayed excellence in their academic and communal endeavors in a multitude of categories.

Ava, a student at Saint Andrews School, is driven by a passion for biomedical engineering and a desire to leverage computer science in the discovery of biologically complex diseases. Her research, already published in two prestigious science journals, has earned her a place as a finalist in the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair. She has also collaborated on projects with renowned institutions such as Harvard Medical School and UF Scripps Biomedical Research. Beyond her academic achievements, Ava has made a significant societal impact through her volunteer work, dedicating over 750 hours of service to the International Youth Neuroscience Association and establishing chapters in more than 35 countries.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me today in recognizing Ms. Ava Allwardt as an excellent student and notable contributor to the field of science.

HONORING LT. TYLER FAGGARD

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Clay County, N.C. Lieutenant Tyler Faggard in recognition of his service.

Lt. Faggard, a Clay County native, began his career in law enforcement as a Clay County Telecommunicator before becoming a commissioned Justice Officer. He went on to serve the citizens of neighboring Cherokee County as a Patrol Deputy before achieving the rank of Detective.

In 2021 Lt. Faggard returned home and accepted a position with the Clay County Sheriff's Office as Patrol Lieutenant.

Lt. Faggard's hard work ethic and commitment to his service led him to be recruited to his current position as a Clay County Task Force Officer attached to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency. Lt. Faggard is wise beyond his years in law enforcement as it relates to investigative techniques. Throughout his career, he has been instrumental in reducing the flow of illicit drugs into the area.

I thank Lt. Faggard for his brave and tireless service to Clay and Cherokee Counties.

**RECOGNIZING LAYLA LEUTHY-
PECK'S GOOD DEED**

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding accomplishment and good deed from a constituent from my district, Layla Leuthy-Peck.

Layla Leuthy-Peck is a 7-year-old first grade student at Saint Andrew's School in Newtown. After listening to Monsignor Michael Picard, pastor at St. Andrew's parish, telling the children about the importance of finding a way to serve others, she immediately thought of her best friend WW2 veteran Joe Gagliardi who was about to turn 100.

She remembered Joe telling her how much he misses visiting schools to tell the students about his service and the importance of service. He especially misses receiving all the wonderful handmade thank you cards from them afterwards.

With the help of her entire first grade classmates, Layla was able to get 100 handmade birthday cards for Joe's 100th birthday. To make it a day he will remember, Layla delivered the sack of cards to Joe riding in a Newtown firetruck which was escorted by the township police and many other emergency service vehicles in a parade of lights and sirens.

Mr. Gagliardi served in the United States Navy during WW2 on a Patrol Torpedo (PT) Boat that escorted General Douglas MacArthur and remembers seeing President John F. Kennedy on his PT Boat duty near him. Layla's father Sean Peck is an also a Veteran who served in Afghanistan and is currently a police officer in Pennel. Her great-grandfather, Ray Leuthy, a Corporal in the United States Army's 82nd Airborne Division, parachuted into the Battle of the Bulge and was an escort driver for General George S. Patton, Jr.

The news story about Layla's special card delivery for her best friend has spread internationally along with her wish for more children to do a good deed for a veteran.

Layla's commitment to figuring out a creative and meaningful way to serve a WW2 veteran in a truly collaborative manner is to be commended. It is my hope that Layla will continue to find ways to serve veterans and be an example for other very young children to realize they too can make a difference. I would like to wish Layla the best in her future endeavors and once again congratulate her on fulfilling her mission to brighten the day for her best friend, Joe on his 100th birthday.

**RECOGNIZING DETECTIVE ROSCOE
WATTS**

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the service of one of my

constituents, Detective Roscoe Watts, of the Citrus County Sheriff's Office. Detective Watts has exhibited exceptional dedication, determination, and unwavering commitment to upholding the principles of justice throughout his distinguished career. Detective Watts's exemplary performance is best highlighted by his successful resolution of the attempted robbery at the Sunoco gas station. Through his diligence and unwavering work ethic, he was able to bring the perpetrator to justice, ensuring that they received a just and deserving 20-year prison sentence. His tenacity in the face of adversity and commitment to protecting the community sets him apart as a role model for his peers. Furthermore, Detective Watts's dedication was equally evident in his investigation of a battery within the Core Civic Jail, which tragically resulted in the victim's death due to their injuries.

Detective Watts meticulously conducted interviews, analyzed video surveillance, and worked tirelessly to apprehend the suspect. His relentless pursuit of the truth led to the suspect's guilty plea to manslaughter and a 20-year prison sentence, offering closure and justice to the victim's family. Outside of his professional duties, Detective Watts continues to give back to the community through his selfless volunteer work with CASA, the Key Training Center, and the Church Without Walls. His efforts, including running multiple miles to raise funds for the Key Training Center, exemplify his dedication to making the world a better place. Detective Watts's exceptional contributions to law enforcement, his relentless pursuit of justice, and his selfless dedication to community service have undoubtedly made our community more safe. He is a true embodiment of selfless sacrifice, and his legacy of service is an inspiration to us all.

These are just a few examples of the hard work, dedication, eagerness to help, and servant leadership that Detective Roscoe Watts exhibits every day he comes to work. Detective Watts is a shining example of what it means to be a Citrus County Law Enforcement Officer. His work ethic should be a benchmark for which other law enforcement officers should strive to attain. It is evident that Detective Watts has made a profoundly positive impact on our community and is qualified to be recognized as a First Responder of the Year for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

**RECOGNIZING GIOVONNI ALIJAH
GONZALES**

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Giovanni Alijah Gonzales for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Giovanni has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Giovanni, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Giovanni's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Wheat Ridge High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Giovanni Alijah Gonzales on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Law Enforcement Caucus and a senior member of the Committees on Judiciary and Homeland Security, and the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance, I rise to commemorate National Police Week.

May 15 is designated as Peace Officers Memorial Day, which falls within National Police Week since 1962 by President John F. Kennedy.

National Police Week pays homage to those who lost their lives in the line of duty, with a Memorial Service that began in 1982 to list in remembrance and commemoration all the names of those we have lost.

Sadly in 2023, Texas lost 11 law enforcement individuals in the line of duty, and in 2024 there have been 5 deaths.

To date, a total of 2,247 Texas law enforcement individuals and 30 K9s overall have been killed in the line of duty in the State of Texas.

FALLEN OFFICERS IN TEXAS—2023

Sergeant Stephen Gibson, Somervell County Sheriff's Office, TX, EOW: Wednesday, December 13, 2023, Cause of Death: Automobile crash.

Correctional Officer III Jovian Motley, Texas Department of Criminal Justice—Correctional Institutions Division, TX, EOW: Monday, November 13, 2023, Cause of Death: Unidentified.

Senior Police Officer Jorge Pastore, Austin Police Department, TX, EOW: Saturday, November 11, 2023, Cause of Death: Gunfire.

Sergeant Jon Arden Jensen, Fort Worth Police Department, TX, EOW: Saturday, October 28, 2023, Cause of Death: COVID-19.

Lieutenant Milton Resendez, San Benito Police Department, TX, EOW: Tuesday, October 17, 2023, Cause of Death: Gunfire.

Police Officer Darrin McMichael, Arlington Police Department, TX, EOW: Thursday, September 21, 2023, Cause of Death: Struck by vehicle.

Deputy Sheriff Matthew Pierson, Shelby County Sheriff's Office, TX, EOW: Tuesday, August 29, 2023, Cause of Death: Automobile crash.

Officer Bryan Holley, Hudson Independent School District Police Department, TX, EOW: Friday, August 18, 2023, Cause of Death: Duty related illness.

Deputy Sheriff David Bosecker, Eastland County Sheriff's Office, TX, EOW: Friday, July 21, 2023, Cause of Death: Gunfire.

Sergeant Joshua Lee Clouse, Cameron Police Department, TX, EOW: Thursday, May 11, 2023, Cause of Death: Gunfire.

Deputy Sheriff Jason Stuart Jones, Tarrant County Sheriff's Office, TX, EOW: Tuesday, April 11, 2023, Cause of Death: COVID-19.

FALLEN OFFICERS IN TEXAS—2024

Police Officer Kyle Hicks, Corpus Christi Police Department, TX, EOW: Wednesday, April 24, 2024, Cause of Death: Gunfire.

Investigator John Hampton Coddou, III, Harris County Sheriff's Office, TX, EOW: Tuesday, April 23, 2024, Cause of Death: Struck by vehicle.

Border Patrol Agent Christopher Luna, United States Department of Homeland Security—Customs and Border Protection—United States Border Patrol, U.S., EOW: Friday, March 8, 2024, Cause of Death: Aircraft accident, Location: Texas.

Deputy Sheriff Charles Rivette, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, TX, EOW: Wednesday, February 21, 2024, Cause of Death: Automobile crash.

Deputy Sheriff Rondald Bates, Harris County Sheriff's Office, TX, EOW: Saturday, February 10, 2024, Cause of Death: Automobile crash.

It is important that we take this opportunity to honor America's law enforcement community and recognize the sacrifices that these brave officers have made in our communities.

This should be a time of unity and a rededication of our commitment to law enforcement officers—to make every effort to make their work safer and promote the importance of law enforcement as public servants.

Unfortunately, Republicans talk about supporting law enforcement but have sought to defund law enforcement and undermine public trust in police.

Law enforcement is on the front line of fighting crime in communities across the Nation.

All too often law enforcement officers are taken by the violence we expect them to prevent. And increasingly, officers and agents are losing their lives to gun-related violence—oftentimes with handguns.

These brave men and women risk their lives to keep the peace and keep us safe, but they are too often taken by the violence they are working to prevent.

Between 2012 and 2021, 504 police officers in the United States were killed in the line of duty. Of those, 90 percent—or 456 officers—were killed by a firearm.

A study by the Center for American Progress found that between 2017 and 2021, the rate of police officers fatally shot in states with the weakest gun laws was 152% higher than in state with stronger gun laws.

Weak gun laws make everyone less safe. From 2000 to 2022, the average murder rate in States that reliably vote Republican in presidential elections ("Red States") was 24 percent higher than the average murder rate in States that reliably vote Democratic.

In fact, so-called Red States' murder rates are "significantly higher" than reliably Democratic-voting States, "even when [researchers] removed the county with the largest city in Trump-voting states (and kept them in for Biden-voting states)."

Weakening requirements to carry a concealed firearm increases gun violence and violent crime.

Every state allows individuals to carry concealed weapons in public, but fewer than half of them require a permit.

Specifically, by the start of 2023, 26 states allowed individuals to carry loaded, concealed handguns in public without first undergoing a background check, obtaining a license, or receiving any firearm training.

It is important to note that gun-involved homicide rates are higher in states with more permissive concealed carry laws.

Permitless carry laws, like those in Texas, pushed by Republican state legislatures put law enforcement officers at risk.

When Indiana was considering a permitless carry bill in 2022, Patrick Flannelly, Vice President of the Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police warned, "What we have done now is we've taken away the one tool that police officers had out on the street to be able to act quickly and efficiently for not only their personal safety but for the safety of our communities."

Law enforcement across the country similarly have warned that permitless concealed carry laws put officers at risk.

In fact, in 2021, almost 61 of 84 law enforcement officers who died from felonious assaults were killed by firearms.

Reliably Republican-voting states that have permissive gun laws, specifically permitless carry laws, are putting law enforcement officers' lives on the line by sending them into communities that are increasingly flush with firearms.

Although Republicans claim they support law enforcement, Democrats have implemented policies and reforms that will keep law enforcement and the communities they serve safer and more secure—often over Republican objections.

In June 2021, the Biden Administration unveiled its Comprehensive Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gun Crime and Ensure Public Safety. Overall, the strategy sought to:

- stem the flow of firearms used to commit violence, including by holding rogue firearms dealers accountable for violating federal laws;
- support local law enforcement with federal tools and resources to help address summer violent crime;

- invest in evidence-based community violence interventions;

- expand summer programming, employment opportunities, and other services and supports for teenagers and young adults; and

- help formerly incarcerated individuals successfully reenter their communities.

On June 25, 2022, President Biden signed into law the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA).

The BSCA was passed in the wake of the shooting in Uvalde, Texas, the state's deadliest school shooting, where 19 children and two teachers were killed.

Key provisions of the BSCA include: Enhanced background checks requiring the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) to conduct an enhanced review of purchasers under the age of 21 to determine whether juvenile records disqualify that individual from purchasing a firearm.

NICS is given 10 days to complete the investigation, and it unsets after 10 years.

State incentives for "red flag" laws: Provides \$750 million over five years that will go to states for "crisis intervention programs" including red flag laws, mental health courts, drug courts, veterans' courts, and extreme risk protection orders.

\$250 million in funding for community-based violence prevention initiatives

\$300 million in school safety funding through the STOP School Violence Act to institute safety measures in and around schools, support school violence prevention efforts and