

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 unsettles 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

provide training to school personnel and students.

Codification of the SchoolSafety.gov clearinghouse, which provides evidence-based resources to improve school safety and prohibits use of funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to train or equip any person with dangerous weapons in schools.

I also think we must do more to address the mental health challenges that officers inevitably face, due to the harrowing nature of their work.

We cannot expect qualified officers to remain in such a dangerous profession if we do not give them the resources, they need to address the toll that police work takes on them.

It is time we come together and truly support law enforcement through legislative efforts that will provide resources and tools to address the myriad of issues facing law enforcement, rather than politicizing what has traditionally been a bipartisan effort.

And so, during this special week and every day in the work I do here in Congress, I am proud to support and recognize law enforcement officers for the tremendous work they do each day, and to uplift in special reverence the names of all those men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for us and the Nation.

It is equally just as important to acknowledge those officers we have lost—our fallen heroes who have given their last full measure of devotion to the communities they swore to protect and serve—some who gave their lives as far back as 1857.

How excellent it is that the stories of these courageous individuals have been brought to light and were not left untold.

#### RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2024 PATHFINDER SCHOLARSHIP FIRST PLACE WINNER SHANIA GRANT IN THE HISTORY AND POLITICAL 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. Shania Grant, the first-place winner of the prestigious Pathfinder Scholarship in the History and Political 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.

Shania, a student at FAU High School, is a shining example of academic excellence and community engagement. Her dedication has earned her a place on the FAU President's Honor Roll three times, a role as managing editor for FAU's law journal, and an internship at the school district's General Council office. As a first-generation student, she aspires to use her passion to make a difference in the legal realm, with plans to attend law school and specialize in immigration or employment law.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing Ms. Shania Grant as an excellent student and notable contributor to the fields of history and political science.

#### RECOGNIZING LEVI SAENZ

#### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2024*

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

Levi 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 Levi, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Levi's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Warren Tech North and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Levi Saenz on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

#### HONORING DR. DOROTHY SIMPSON-TAYLOR

#### HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2024*

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to present Dr. Dorothy "Doty" Simpson-Taylor, founder of the Sister Soldier Network, with the Sheila Corcoran Hoosier Hero Award for her service to country and community. Inspired by its namesake, this award was created to highlight exemplary Hoosier women veterans whose service to their community and nation is unparalleled.

Well-known throughout the Indianapolis and surrounding communities, Doty's service began in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War and has continued over the span of five decades as a former American Legion Indiana District 11 Women Veterans Representative and Commander of AMVETS Post 99 in Indianapolis. A retired psychologist and former faculty member and administrator at multiple universities, Doty uses her unique blend of skills to give back to the community.

Doty is guided by her belief that "everybody ought to provide some service to the community of humanity." With this in mind, she has always been an outspoken trailblazer for the Black community. In 2010, Doty founded the Sister Soldier Network, a veteran organization that helps women transition from the military back into society. Combining her passion to uplift others with tangible actions, the Sister Soldier Network sheds a well-deserved light on women veterans, while also serving as a resource to help guide her peers in topics such as homelessness, discrimination, and community involvement.

In 2019, Doty was presented the Jefferson Award in recognition of her community service. In 2022, she was inducted into the Indiana Military Hall of Fame. She also received the Congressional Black Caucus Award for leadership in veteran issues with the Congressional Black Caucus Brain Trust and is a member of the Cedar Valley Coalition of Black Veterans.

Doty's commitment to service has led her to be an impactful leader, mentor, and wise

counsel. She has created a legacy of compassion, care, and healing for her fellow veterans and has served as a voice of her peers in the military and veteran communities.

Doty continues to uplift the incredible women veterans around her, and it brings me great joy to commemorate and uplift her in the same manner. As we celebrate National Military Appreciation Month, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Dorothy "Doty" Simpson-Taylor. We celebrate her legacy of outstanding accomplishments and advocacy.

#### POLICE OUR BORDER ACT

SPEECH OF

#### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 16, 2024*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise to speak in opposition to H.R. 8146, the "Police Our Border Act".

As the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Crime Subcommittee and as Senior Member of the Homeland Security Committee, I am deeply disappointed in this harmful and misguided bill. Yet again, House Republicans are wasting time with another bill that does nothing to solve any issues at the border.

Instead of trying to pass thoughtful and bipartisan legislation to address the problems in our immigration system, they have once again brought forward a bill that has no chance of becoming law and accomplishes absolutely nothing.

This legislation is purportedly a reporting bill that simply requires the Attorney General to submit a report to Congress on the impact the number of migrants coming to the border is having on law enforcement officers at the Federal, State, local, and Tribal level.

Upon closer inspection however, this bill seeks to codify Republican attacks on the President's immigration policies and the fearmongering and demonization of immigrants.

For example, the bill requires the Attorney General to submit a report to Congress on the impact the "Biden border crisis" is having on law enforcement officers at the Federal, State, local, and Tribal level.

Additionally, the report must include information on the exposure of law enforcement officers to fentanyl as a result of encounters with illegal aliens."

Both of these reporting requirements contain politically motivated rhetoric disguised as fact.

This bill is also very poorly drafted.

Despite the fact the entire bill is focused on reporting requirements related to the "Biden border crisis," this term is not defined in the legislation.

The failure to define this key term provides little guidance to the Attorney General on the required report, and it is further evidence that this bill is more about messaging than congressional oversight of the executive branch.

Additionally, the Secretary of Homeland Security would almost certainly be much better situated to assess issues related to border security.

However, it appears Republicans chose to request this bill's report from the Attorney General to ensure the Judiciary Committee would have jurisdiction over this bill, so they