

The United States offers more legal immigration than anywhere in the world. The individuals entering illegally are not all coming with hopes of living out the American Dream. They are helping China bring more than 26,000 pounds of fentanyl across the border. They are trafficking an all-time high number of vulnerable women and children. They are known terrorists on the FBI watch list and more.

U.S. taxpayers are the ones footing the bill to cover emergency care, housing, shelter, and more for these illegal immigrants.

It is imperative the President and Senate pass the Secure the Border Act to fortify the safety of our country and protect our citizens.

CELEBRATING 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF CENTRAL AVENUE FARMERS' MARKET

(Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 20-year anniversary of the Central Avenue Farmers' Market.

The Central Avenue Farmers' Market in Los Angeles is run by Sustainable Economic Enterprises of Los Angeles, SEE-LA, which has been a driving force in advancing regional food sustainability in California's 37th District. SEE-LA works hard to promote regional and local food vendors that offer a variety of fresh fruits, vegetables, juices, eggs, and an assortment of prepared foods.

Back in August, I was fortunate to visit the Central Avenue Farmers' Market after a tour of a local WIC facility. I loved walking through the market and speaking to vendors as they discussed the importance of fresh produce and local business.

The market is open to everyone, accepts CalFresh EBT, and has helped expand access to fresh produce for families on WIC and SNAP.

While House Republicans continue to push for devastating cuts to programs like these, SEE-LA has been a lifeline for so many families in need.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me in celebrating the 20 years of SEE-LA's Central Avenue Farmers' Market.

REGARDING THE SALE OF U.S. STEEL

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

Mr. DELUZIO. Mr. Speaker, I represent many of the people who made the steel that built this country and who still make the steel this country relies on.

We are seeing today, unfortunately, corporate executives, egged on by Wall Street, selling off U.S. Steel to a foreign company.

U.S. Steel has benefited from strong action in this country: tariffs from President Biden and President Trump, the Inflation Reduction Act, defense spending, the infrastructure bill, and more, while chasing the biggest, fattest bid and blowing off the steelworkers whose work made them rich.

Profits matter, don't get me wrong, but other things matter, too: our workers, our jobs, our communities, and this country.

We need an economy that reflects that, that says that hard work matters, not just greed. Let's keep fighting for all that.

LET'S NOT BE ENEMIES

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

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, here we are in a new year, a new opportunity to actually do something for our people back home.

It is discouraging and frankly embarrassing that this has been the least productive Congress in U.S. history. The chaos and dysfunction in this Congress under Republican leadership has caused legislative paralysis and has prevented us from focusing our attention on the critical needs of our constituents.

More than that, the chaos, the fearmongering, and the dehumanizing rhetoric have dragged us ever closer to a crippling cynicism.

We are sent here to act in service of our communities and our constituents. We can't do that when we demonize each other, when we dehumanize each other, when we dehumanize our fellow Americans. We can't do that when we don't treat ourselves with basic human dignity.

This isn't some naive notion. It is reality. The nihilism and cynicism is threatening our democracy. It is eroding our communities. It is killing us.

Let's get back to being spirited political opponents and move away from being enemies.

PATHWAY TO RESIDENCY FOR CUBAN NATIONALS

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

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, my hometown of Louisville is the fastest-growing Cuban community in the entire U.S.

Mr. Speaker, 14,000 Cubans have arrived in our city in just the last 2 years, enriching our social fabric by building families, contributing to our economy, and adding pasteles and cafecito to our menus in the process.

The Cuban Adjustment Act creates a clear pathway to residency for Cuban nationals who immigrate to the United States, but court rulings threaten the ability of Cubans recently issued an I-220A form to remain in the U.S.

This is wrong. It robs Cubans of the rights guaranteed them by the Cuban Adjustment Act. No one should have to live in this legal limbo, including the thousands of individuals who live in my district.

Today, I am sending a letter to DHS Secretary Mayorkas, urging him to correct this situation by granting parole in place status to any Cuban issued an I-220A. I know he is committed to ensuring no one is wrongly or arbitrarily removed from our country, and I will continue to work with him and my colleagues here until this is fixed.

PRICE CAPS FOR EPIPENS

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

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I introduced the EPIPEN Act to cap the cost of any two-pack epinephrine auto-injector to \$60 for folks with private health insurance.

A few years ago, I had a life-threatening allergic reaction and had to use an expired EpiPen that I hadn't replaced due to the sky-high cost. If it wasn't for the EMTs, I would have died that night. They can cost more than \$650, even after insurance.

I am not alone. I heard from an American who can't afford to purchase enough EpiPens so that way her kid can have one in all the places they need it: their backpack, the school nurse, at daycare, at home, and in the car.

I heard from an American who keeps four expired EpiPens in the hopes that they will have enough active medication to save his life one day.

I heard from an American who hasn't filled a prescription in the past decade despite having severe allergies. She works in the medical field.

Folks, it is plain and simple: It doesn't have to be this way. We need Congress to step in, look out for working families, and cap these prices for lifesaving medications.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF COACH JIM HLAFFKA

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

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Bunker Hill basketball Coach Jim Hlaffka, who passed away last month at 90 years old.

The love and respect Coach Hlaffka had for his players and the game was truly immeasurable. Under his leadership from 1959 to 2002, Bunker Hill teams had a record of 754-347.

During that time, he not only coached the Minutemen to six regional championship wins, but he also made lifelong impressions on countless young people.

Coach was known for his brilliant coaching and humility. He was always proud to talk about his players' accomplishments more than his own.

Jim Hlafka's unwavering dedication to the game of basketball and his leadership will never be forgotten throughout the Bunker Hill community. May his leadership, passion, and wisdom live on for generations of athletes to come.

CONGRATULATING RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible students and faculty from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute for their stellar first-place ranking in the 2023 National Cyber League competition.

The National Cyber League is a cybersecurity skills competition that reinforces learning, encourages collaboration, and develops students' necessary skills for future careers within the cybersecurity field.

The students at RPI, coached by Dr. Brian Callahan, placed first in the Nation out of a pool of more than 8,500 students and more than 500 colleges and universities around our great country.

Their achievement is truly remarkable, and I offer my hearty congratulations to these students and my thanks to the dedicated coaches and professors whose support and encouragement enabled this terrific success.

I congratulate Team RPI, and I appreciate the great work they have done.

SUPPORTING STRIKES ON HOUTHI REBELS INSIDE YEMEN

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the strikes on the Houthi rebels inside Yemen.

Last night, the U.S. and coalition partners conducted strikes against numerous targets in Yemen used by Houthi rebels to endanger U.S. and international shipping vessels.

For months, Iranian-backed fighters have attempted to disrupt global commerce and wreak havoc in the Red Sea. These unprovoked attacks not only risk the lives of our servicemembers and innocent civilians; they threaten to disrupt the international economy.

When the circumstances demand it, we must rise to the occasion and act.

As a member of the House Committee on Armed Services, I will always support swift action to defend our national security interests.

SALUTING THE LATE CAROLYN MIDDLETON HALL

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, with sadness but yet with the joy of her life, I rise today to salute Carolyn Middleton Hall, who passed away in December 2023.

Carolyn Middleton Hall was married to our beloved Anthony Hall, a pilot, a great civic leader, a former member of the Houston City Council, and a champion of opportunity and equality for our community. She is the mother of Anthony and Ursula, two successful young people who are also contributing to this community.

I rise to salute the late Carol Middleton Hall for all she has done to make Houston a better place for all of us to live. She was a great educator and a lover of improving the lives of young people. She came from a political family. She spent her life with her father and uncle fighting for workers' rights and making sure that unions were strong in our community.

As her husband ascended to public life, being one of the pioneers as an African American serving in Houston, Carolyn was right there. You can always say that she was his best advocate for getting votes, with her smiling face, her willingness for service, and her unselfishness. Carolyn was right there helping to generate votes for her daughter, who is now serving as a judge.

She was also generating friends. You could not help but be a friend to Carolyn Middleton Hall.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to remember her and be reminded by our moment of silence that we will take as I conclude in order to honor an American whose name you may not know at every dinner table, but you should know of her kindness, her love, her belief in America, and her championing of the civic system of government, voting, and equality.

I champion and honor the late Carolyn Middleton Hall. May she rest in peace, and may she rest in power. I thank my dear sister, a Link and an AKA.

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FORT MOSE GROUNDBREAKING PROJECT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Fort Mose Historic State Park in beautiful St. Augustine, Florida.

Fort Mose, a national historic landmark, is the site of the first legally sanctioned free Black settlement in the United States.

In the 1600s, enslaved people in the British Carolinas made their way south to freedom in St. Augustine, which at that time was under Spanish rule.

Next week, the park, along with the Florida State Parks Foundation and community partners will break ground on a full-scale reconstruction of the original fort that once stood there.

You can see the updated renderings of the fort here beside me. It is really going to be an amazing site.

This project is the realization of decades of dreams, dedication, and hard work from hundreds of individuals who share a love for the Fort Mose history and rich, rich story.

Thanks to the partnership of the Florida State Parks Foundation, the Fort Mose Historical Society, and Florida State Parks, the fort will be completed this winter, and it is expected to draw visitors from around the world to northeast Florida.

The reconstructed Fort Mose will have lasting impacts for St. Johns County, our State, and our Nation for generations to come.

So congratulations from Florida's Fifth Congressional District, to, again, the Fort Mose Historic State Park, and to all who have been involved in bringing this amazing story to life.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

VISIT TO THE TEXAS SOUTHERN BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is our first week back from what I guess we refer to as Christmas or winter break, and at least 60 of us Republicans spent a couple days down at the Texas border to analyze one more thing, the complete disaster that we have going on with regard to what I will refer to as illegal immigration.

I will summarize one more time for the American public and for my colleagues what we find when we go down there.

First of all, it is apparent, in December of 2023, we will one more time hit an all-time high in the number of people who are let into our country. We are going to clear 300,000.

I remind the body that, as recently as 3 years ago, that number, the monthly number, may have been 5,000 or 10,000. So we have gone up by a factor of 30 times as many people crossing the border.

Sometimes comments out there made by the President imply that it is going to be very, very difficult to find a way to prevent 300,000 people from crossing the border every month. I remind the American public, without Congress doing anything, the prior administration had that number under 10,000.

I also want to point out these people are coming from all around the globe.