

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the winners of the fourth annual Sixth District Congressional Art Competition.

This week, I honored the winners at a reception where we displayed not only the winning artwork, but every submission, which included pieces from Guilford, Rockingham, Caswell, and Forsyth County Schools.

I was amazed by the remarkable artistic talent of these young people from across the Triad.

First, I will recognize the honorable mentions: A piece titled "Claire" by Anya and "Falling Man" by Violet, both students from Weaver Academy.

Third place was shared by two pieces: "Fish Light" by C. Hayden from Penn Griffin School for the Arts in High Point, and "Smile" by Quincy from Weaver Academy.

In second place was "The Beauty of Bodie Island" by Cate from Northwest Guilford High School.

And claiming the top honor of first place is "Spectrum" by Kayden from Weaver Academy.

I am truly proud to represent such talented young students, and I look forward to seeing all their future artistic achievements.

#### INVASION ACROSS OUR SOUTHERN BORDER

(Mr. GROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, we haven't been in Congress for 2 weeks now, but the number one issue in the country remains what it was 2 weeks ago because the President of the United States refuses to act and that, of course, is the invasion across our southern border.

Around the time we left, we had new estimates on the number of people who have come over here. They are estimates because nobody knows exactly the number. We estimate that about 40,000 to 50,000 of the people who come across every month are what they call got-aways. Due to a shortage of people in the Border Patrol, we do not even count them or interview them or know much about them. Our estimate is that in February, we had about 220,000 people come here. That was down from December, but still about 10 times the number who came across in Donald Trump's final February of his term.

We have 10 times as many. We estimate about 9,000 to 10,000 of those are unaccompanied minors. This is a crisis that demands immediate attention from the White House and, quite frankly, a little more attention from this body. It dwarfs all the other bills we have here. I hope that Congress now deals with this issue.

#### SOLAR ECLIPSE

(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, what a great amount of excitement yesterday when I left downtown Houston and went to one of our community schools to engage with young Hispanic and African-American students on the eclipse that had not been seen for years and years and years.

What an enthusiastic message we were giving them that they, too, can stand for science and the solar system.

Yet, my Republican friends want to make light of some interpretation that I gave to one of the elements of this eclipse. Rather than being excited about the idea of those seeing the eclipse, Republicans again wanted to make fun. They didn't want to talk about prenatal care. They didn't want to talk about the idea of women's rights. They didn't want to talk about school student loan reduction. They wanted to talk about a Democratic Member.

Well, I am glad I was standing with these children right here—here I am—to be able to celebrate the eclipse that will not be seen until 2044. It is unfortunate that we didn't have this picture, at least, to show that someone is looking at the Sun in 2017. That is something to laugh about.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today because it seems that I have caused a dust-up on outrage island.

Ah yes, Republicans in search of their day-to-day quest to find something to be mad at, are obsessing with the fact that I misspoke yesterday when talking about the sun.

Well, since tomorrow we know they will be looking for something else, allow me to suggest some ideas.

Let us hear the selective outrage of their dear leader staring aimlessly with his own unshielded eyes at the last eclipse.

Or maybe, let's hear the screams of disapproval over the time he told us all we should inject ourselves with bleach during the Pandemic.

Hmmm one more for good measure, the time just a few weeks ago he thought Nikki Haley who has never served in Congress, was in control of security at the Capitol on, I believe January 6, 2021.

While you all focus on the misuse of words, I'm focused on helping kids get exposed to science and expanding the rights of women that all of you are so desperate to take away.

Want a story to write? Write about that. And write about the goodness of so many Americans.

#### CELEBRATING NATIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE MONTH

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

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate National Community College Month. Each year, community colleges help over 10 million students achieve their dreams of earning a college degree.

I am so proud that the Massachusetts Seventh is home to Bunker Hill Community College and Roxbury Commu-

nity College. I am grateful for the exemplary work that they do for learners from every walk of life and circumstance. Their impact reaches far beyond the classroom. They deliver critical services to their communities, disrupt generational poverty, and strengthen our workforce.

Further, as minority-serving institutions, the students benefit from an academic ecosystem that is rooted in community and reflective of the community. They understand that education justice includes racial justice.

In Boston and throughout our country, community colleges are central to making higher education accessible for all and Congress must invest in them like the public good that they are.

That is why I was proud to secure Federal funding for Boston's Tuition-Free program to help address our college affordability crisis so students in my district can earn associate degrees and certificates at no cost. This month and every month community colleges are worth the investment.

#### COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND HONORING THE SERVICE OF MURDERED NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER JONATHAN DILLER

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

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to submit extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and honor the service of a murdered New York City Police Officer, Jonathan Diller.

I rise today also to honor his wife, Stephanie, and his 1-year-old son, Ryan. They both will spend the rest of their lives reeling from the loss of a beloved husband and father in a way that none of us can fully understand.

Jonathan Diller's death is a national tragedy. It is an indescribable loss not only for his family, for Long Island, for the great State of New York, but for the United States of America and law enforcement in every corner of this globe.

Horrifically, Officer Diller's death is not the only death endured by the NYPD in recent memory.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as well to honor the lives and service of Anastasios Tsakos, Jason Rivera, Wilbert Mora, Adeed Fayaz. We pray for these slain NYPD heroes and their families, and we remind those retired

and those serving here in the House of Representatives that we will always stand with the men and women of law enforcement.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor as well, the some 374 officers slain in the line of duty since President Biden began to steadily chip away at law and order in this country since 2021.

President Biden and allied politicians in Governor's mansions, District Attorneys' offices, and right here in the House of Representatives may pay lip-service to these officers and their families, but their votes, their rhetoric, their spewing of hatred tell a very different story.

Mr. Speaker, there is a reason why Governor Hochul's presence was universally rebuked by those, including myself, in attendance at now Detective First Grade Diller's wake. The reason, Mr. Speaker, Governor Hochul and far-left lawmakers have at every single turn prioritized equity over the lives of men and women who wear the uniform.

They have pursued disastrous, procriminal policies when they could have and should have pursued public safety. As a result, brave public servants and innocent Americans are paying the price in blood, and we have, thankfully, across this country many organizations who support men and women in blue in some of our worst times.

Some of them are here with us today. I will thank Project Thank Cop for being here and always supporting men and women in blue.

Public safety is not rocket science. When we witness record assaults and attacks against law enforcement officers, we begin to look at those in power in these places and wonder why are they choosing to allow this to happen.

When Americans and New Yorkers watch videos of illegal migrants brutally beating NYPD officers in Times Square, we begin to look at those in power and wonder why they choose to allow these people to be here in the first place.

Just minutes ago, the New York Post issued another article. It is titled: "Migrant repeat offenders viciously attack cops during bust for ransacking NYC Target."

Whether it is cashless bail or open borders, the common denominator among these stories is radical progressive policy and the American people know, see, and suffer this reality.

□ 1945

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle—not all of them, but some of them—are no doubt aware that the animal who shot Officer Diller had 21 prior arrests. He had 21 prior arrests for charges ranging from drug convictions to assault to hate crimes.

When someone like Detective Diller's killer can commit heinous acts of violence, be apprehended, and then let out on the street the same day, we have a problem. Mr. Speaker, that problem lies not with the police, not with the

men and women of law enforcement, not with the men and women who put on that shield and that gun belt every day. Mr. Speaker, it lies with elected officials who have no regard for public safety.

Time and time again, those elected officials have chosen to preserve this revolving door of criminality through their explicit embrace of policies like cashless bail and open borders.

The American people know that it does not need to be this way and that it was not this way until very recently when those in power changed course. Mr. Speaker, nightmares like those of Officer Diller will continue to occupy our headlines and our hearts.

You are going to hear from other Members from the great State of New York tonight. In New York, not only is our Governor a Democrat, but the State legislature is also run by Democrats. Not only are they saying that cashless bail is working and that criminal justice reform is working, but they are doubling down and saying that it is better for the city and the State of New York.

Mr. Speaker, I plead with my colleagues in all branches of government to come to their senses. I humbly ask that they listen to law enforcement experts. Give them the tools they need. Do not take the handcuffs from officers' gun belts that are meant to be used on criminals and use them on them. Let them do their jobs.

I ask that they change course, that they understand in their reckless pursuit of equity and social justice, they are hurting those trying to protect us. In my years as an NYPD detective, I saw enough death and suffering. We don't need to see more.

Mr. Speaker, that morning just a week ago, when Stephanie Diller gave the eulogy for her hero husband, she mentioned the funerals of Police Officers Mora and Rivera and referenced the speakers who said that we needed change.

To those elected officials who were in that church in Massapequa, and of course the thousands upon thousands in the streets and the thousands listening at home, she asked a simple question: What has changed? In places like New York that are run by Democrats, the answer is nothing. Nothing has changed in our pursuit of justice.

The only thing that has changed is people's lives have become more dangerous, and our streets have become more dangerous. We don't need to see more death and suffering. We don't need to see more nightmares like Detective First Grade Diller.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS).

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague ANTHONY D'ESPOSITO for his service and for highlighting the dangers that our law enforcement face each and every day.

As a Representative from New York City, it breaks my heart to see that we

are losing police officers year after year, not just to retirements and then those who are fleeing our State, but those who are being murdered by criminals who should not be on our streets.

We talked about how 374 police officers have been killed in the line of duty since Joe Biden became President in 2021. That includes five of our brave NYPD: Detective Tsakos, Detective Rivera, Detective Mora, and Officer Fayaz, and the latest being Jonathan Diller. We must listen to the words and the pleas of their widows, of their parents, of their family members, of their fellow law enforcement officers who are saying that this is preventable.

If we see that our police officers are not safe in cities like ours, how can the public be safe?

It is truly tragic because we know it is preventable, and there are a certain number of laws that the State legislature in New York has put in place that have caused this crisis. The individuals who were responsible for the death of Officer Diller were career criminals.

Guy Rivera, who was the one who pulled the trigger, had 21 prior arrests, and he was still on our streets. He was most recently released from a 5-year prison stint for a drug conviction, and then he went off to parole in 2022. He was on the streets because of a new law that the legislature passed called the Less is More Act. He had parole violations, but he wasn't in jail, and that is because of the actions of our Governor and the State legislature.

His partner, the other perp, was arrested at least 14 times for things like robbery, assault, and even attempted murder in 2001. He was sentenced to a decade behind bars, but guess what? He is back on the street. In April, he was caught with a loaded illegal gun. The DA sought bail. The judge agreed on bail, but not to monitoring, so he made the bail and was released back onto our streets again.

It is so tragic to see that these laws put in place by our legislature have caused the deaths of these police officers. New Yorkers are being hurt each and every day by people who have not a dozen, not two dozen, not three dozen, but sometimes even four dozen prior arrests. They are still on the streets because of the revolving door.

We just heard of another cop who was hospitalized last week after being attacked by six migrants at a Target on the Upper East Side. Once again, lawlessness is taking over the streets of New York City.

What you are seeing taking place is a combination of the Federal policies of this President, open border policies, the policies of our left-leaning State legislature with bail reform, Raise the Age, as well as the Less is More Act, and couple it with the city policy that handcuffs the NYPD and doesn't allow for any cooperation for individuals who are committing crimes to be deported or at least detained.

If ICE makes a detainer request for these individuals, which they have, the

city won't comply. They will just release them back on the street so they can continue wreaking havoc in our city, in our country. That is wrong. It is not going to stop, and we are not going to bring public safety to the streets of this city or this country, unless we change these policies.

The left-leaning Democrats who continue to vote for these policies, support these policies, refuse to repeal or even adjust or fix these policies, we are speaking to them tonight. We are echoing what the widows, the children, the parents, the family members, and the community where these police officers are and the millions of crime victims we are seeing across our country reside.

They want action, and they want it now. We must continue to fight for it. We won't stop until we get cooperation from the other side of the aisle.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. HOUCHIN), my good friend.

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to address the tragic murder of NYPD Officer Jonathan Diller, whose life was senselessly taken while serving his community.

This heinous act of violence not only took the life of a dedicated officer, but it also serves as a stark reminder of the dangers our law enforcement officers face every day.

Guy Rivera and Lindy Jones, the perpetrators of this despicable crime, are no strangers to the criminal justice system. With extensive criminal histories, including prior arrests for violent offenses, Rivera and Jones epitomize the threat posed by repeat offenders who continue to roam our streets despite arrest after arrest.

Officer Diller's death clearly exposes the threat that soft-on-crime policies in Democrat-led cities have brought to communities across the country. These atrocities have enabled individuals, like Rivera and Jones, to evade accountability and continue to live freely while law-abiding citizens and our brave men and women in law enforcement pay the price.

As we mourn the loss of Officer Diller, we must also demand action and policies to restore accountability in our criminal justice system to support crime victims and prioritize the safety of our communities and our law enforcement officers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in calling for meaningful change to prevent tragedies like this from ever happening again.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. WILLIAMS), my good friend.

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join my colleagues from New York, particularly a veteran of the New York Police Department, Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Before serving in this august body, he served his neighbors and helped keep them safe. He speaks out of passion and experience on this critical topic.

This is a time of soul-crushing grief for the Diller family. I can't feel what they feel, but I can say this: They are not alone.

Across America, people are standing up, and they are saying that this senseless violence has to stop. It cannot go on.

When New York City and Albany turned their backs, letting someone with 21 prior arrests back on the street, Massapequa Park was left to pick up the pieces, left to ask questions like: How many crimes does someone have to commit and how many people does someone have to threaten to kill before you make sure they don't have the opportunity to do more damage?

They want to know why, time and again, dangerous, violent criminals who public servants have the responsibility to remove from society are instead free to victimize more innocent people like Officer Diller. They want to know why they have to suffer while career criminals so often avoid real consequences.

There is so much more that we must do at the policy level to prevent more tragedies like these from occurring, to prevent career criminals from destroying families like this one.

Radical policies like no-cash bail cannot continue. Willful ignorance from elected officials cannot continue. Preventable killings like this one simply cannot continue.

We cannot stop working until we reach the day when our Nation's police officers and their families—in fact, when all decent, law-abiding folks who are just trying to get along and do the right things are able to trust that their elected officials here and at the local level truly have their backs. May that day come soon.

Stephanie and little Ryan, my heart breaks for you. America lost a hero, but you lost a husband and a father whose selfless dedication and service will not be forgotten.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW), my good friend.

□ 2000

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, first and foremost Jonathan Diller is an American hero, a hero whose wife will now have to grow old without a husband who she loved so much, a hero whose 1-year-old son will grow up without a dad.

Yet, what makes this tragedy so gut-wrenching, so horrible, so foul is the fact that it was 100 percent avoidable. It did not have to happen.

What kind of society are we when we let individuals who have been arrested 14 times, 20 times, or more times than even that, back out to roam the streets and hurt our good American citizens?

What kind of a society are we when we prioritize identity politics over the safety of the American public and our law enforcement officers?

This is a dangerous pattern that we see in New York, but it is all across the

country. The left continues to vilify our law enforcement. The left continues to undermine or outright ignore the laws meant to protect our American citizens. The left continues to push weak-on-crime laws and elect weak-on-crime district attorneys, and that is where the blame goes.

This isn't a matter of policy differences; this is a matter of good versus evil, right versus wrong, law and order versus criminality and chaos.

Of course, Jonathan Diller, an American hero serving his community, it cost him his life. How many times must we lose good Americans before people wake up and realize that we need to stand up for our law enforcement officers?

How many families must suffer the loss of a loved one before we continue to say enough is enough, that this is it, we have had it?

This is the time. This is the place. It has to be more than words. It has to be more than resolutions. It has to be in change.

We need to make that change now. We cannot allow brave men like Jonathan Diller to die in the future.

Our police already have one of the hardest jobs that anyone could imagine. We cannot make their whole lives harder by defunding them. We cannot make their lives harder by demeaning them. We cannot make their lives harder by demonizing them. We cannot make their lives harder by allowing career criminals to stay out of jail over and over and over again.

We are a nation of laws, and we owe a tremendous debt to those men and women who enforce those laws. We owe it to them. We owe it to them to pass laws that ensure that they are properly funded and to enforce laws that keep the bad guys off the streets.

I thank Officer Diller. I thank him for his brave service, and I am praying—we all are; America is praying—for his family.

As I said before, that is not enough. We must make the change.

I thank my friend, Congressman ANTHONY D'ESPOSITO for bringing us all together today. I thank him for his good work.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. MIKE GARCIA), my friend.

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with my good friend from New York, and I thank him for his service as a law enforcement officer before coming to Congress.

Most importantly, I stand here today in support of our law enforcement officers who are currently wearing the uniform. We have similar problems in California as New York does.

These brave men and women wake up every morning and think about the sobering and very realistic thought that today may actually be the last day of their life. Despite having that realization every morning, the realization that they may have to deal with someone who will literally try to kill them,

they still get up, they still put on the uniform, and they proudly serve our communities.

They do it despite the radical policies like defunding the police, despite the lunatics dressed in suits disguised as DAs like our own district attorney in Los Angeles County who goes by the name of George Gascon.

Gascon, instead of being the DA is more like a defense attorney rather than a district attorney. He is more like the Penguin of Gotham City who enables the death of his constituents and puts our sheriffs' and LAPD officers' lives at risk every day. He helps the bad guys instead of protecting the innocent, instead of allowing the police to do their job. He allows for early release of felons, downgraded or no charges at all for serious offenses—most of them felonies—and zero-cash bail policies instead of supporting law enforcement and law-abiding citizens.

The brave peacemakers in blue wake up every morning and serve, despite the fact that they are working double overtime because our county supervisors and our mayors aren't hiring enough new cadets into the academies.

They get up and put their lives on the line on a daily basis despite their own elected officials who are supposed to represent them at all levels of government not supporting them.

They also suffer disproportionately high divorce rates, and unfortunately, astronomical suicide rates. In my district alone, we saw four law enforcement officers commit suicide in just 1 week.

But to the 708,000 police officers, please know this: The good guys have your back. As a former combat Naval aviator and the son of an LAPD officer, I know the dangers that are faced on a daily basis, and I appreciate their courage and their sacrifice and that of their families. Their families face fear on a daily basis, the reality that some of them may not come home at night because evil still does exist on our streets. We are eternally grateful to them, and most people in our communities are.

Each year more than 100 cops give their lives in our defense. Last year, 136 cops were killed in the line of duty.

Someone doesn't need to become a cop, or someone doesn't want to become a cop. They don't do it for the money. They don't do it for the benefits. They do it because they want to serve, they want to protect, and they want to do what is right and what is noble.

There is no greater form of love than being willing to give your own life in defense of another human being, and for many of us that is true for our kids, that is true for our spouses or close friends. We would die for them.

But the amazing thing about law enforcement officers is that they wake up every morning willing to give up their lives in defense of complete strangers. That is extremely powerful, and that should be very humbling to the rest of us.

The least we can do as elected officials at all levels of government is to give our law enforcement officers every dollar of funding and every policy tool to make sure that they come home at night and that the bad guys go to prison. We should never bend the knee. Never bend the knee to an organization or human being that supports defunding or jeopardizing the lives of our police officers.

I urge leadership in this body, the House of Representatives, to bring my bill, the Sergeant Steve Owen bill to the floor for a vote.

Sergeant Steve Owen, who is pictured here, was a brave sheriff who was brutally executed in broad daylight in the Antelope Valley, just like Deputy Ryan Clinkunbroomer, who is also pictured here, was shot in the head while sitting in his patrol car in the afternoon in the Antelope Valley.

The Sergeant Steve Owen bill would make the intentional killing of a cop a Federal felony with a punishment no less than the death penalty or life in prison without the possibility of parole. This should be the law of the land in all 50 States, and, Mr. Speaker, we should all agree that it is a reasonable law. This is a reasonable punishment for such evil.

May God look over our peacemakers. I thank my colleague from New York for putting this Special Order on. May the lawmakers and the district attorneys, the elected officials, do their jobs and take care of those who provide our communities with our security blankets on a daily basis.

God bless our law enforcement officers. God bless this country.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. KEAN).

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend and former NYPD Detective ANTHONY D'ESPOSITO for holding this Special Order today to honor the life and the memory of New York City Police Officer Jonathan Diller.

On March 25, 2024, during a routine traffic stop in Queens, New York, Officer Diller was shot by man with 21 prior arrests who was released on parole just 3 years ago.

The fact that this killer was able to be released on parole should be a shock to anyone and is unfortunately endemic to the soft-on-crime policies that extreme Democrats are pushing across the country.

This tragedy was entirely avoidable, and we as leaders must act to ensure that it does not happen again.

I rise today to honor a young man who was a credit to his community and to his profession. During his 3 years in the NYPD, Officer Diller was recognized three times for excellent police duty. He was respected in his community and deeply loved, as seen in the tremendous outpouring of support during his funeral and wake services last week.

Let us remember the sacrifices that he made and the lives he touched. We

in this Chamber need to make clear our complete support for the brave men and women who proudly wear the badge, risking their lives to keep our communities safe.

I offer my sincerest condolences to Jonathan's wife, family, and the NYPD community. To those members of law enforcement and first responders in New York, in New Jersey, and across our country, stay safe and know that we are with you.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO), someone who throughout his career in public service has always supported law enforcement, whether as a State legislator or as a county executive.

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, not only for today's Special Order but for a lifetime of service and sacrifice on behalf of the people of the city of New York and his own community. He knows firsthand the sacrifice that men and women in law enforcement make every day, and by the way, by extension the sacrifice their families have to offer in that service.

Today, I certainly rise in support and recognition and extend my love and prayers to the family of NYPD Officer Jonathan Diller. We heard some powerful words from his widow reminding us how absolutely important it is that we establish policy that protects men and women in law enforcement in the State of New York but also across the country. Too many are passing policies that make the job of law enforcement that much more dangerous, undermining the ability to provide for public safety.

We have to remember that Jonathan Diller was killed senselessly by a man who had previously been arrested 21 times—21 times in the State of New York—21 times.

I want to speak specifically to New York State's cashless bail policy and some of the laws that have come out of Albany, New York, that have made law enforcement that much more difficult, and sadly, have made this particular tragedy—the loss of Officer Diller—a sad story that gets told and retold across New York.

Since the establishment of cashless bail in New York, New York State's criminal justice system has acted as a revolving door for repeat offenders. What New York has done is instead of taking the smart way of ensuring judicial discretion, the ability to evaluate risk, and by the way, giving local law enforcement the ability to intervene with the appropriate tools to de-escalate and to end recidivism, New York threw that all out.

The State of New York instead established a policy that emboldens criminals.

Now, the response from leaders in Albany, New York, and some across the country is that crime is on the decline. They point to arrest statistics as a suggestion that somehow crime is going down.

In places like New York arrests aren't being made. Why? Because small business owners on Main Streets across the State, in neighborhoods in New York City, they know not to even bother calling in many cases because the law enforcement community is unable to respond to even the simplest of crimes, and because of that they consistently see the escalation of crime. Those who are committing lower level offenses sooner or later are committing higher level offenses and maybe even taking the life of a law enforcement official, and then it is too late.

Mr. Speaker, 21 times that person was arrested and released before killing Officer Diller. Mr. Speaker, 21 times this criminal justice system had the ability in the State of New York—if it only had the backing of policymakers—had the ability to intervene and to protect Officer Diller and the 20-plus victims that came before him.

□ 2015

Officer Diller's death is just one more example of how incomprehensible the decision to eliminate cash bail throughout New York has made our State, my State, a community that I have served since 1994, as a whole more dangerous for men and women, small business owners, and families. We know it.

For the State of the Union, I brought two upstate county sheriffs. They know firsthand how crime has continued to rise and violence continues to escalate.

Because of decisions out of Albany, New York, the Governor, State legislators, Democrats empowered one-party rule in my State, New York is more dangerous, and the ability to provide for public safety, that much more difficult.

Under current law, instead of receiving the innovative services and programs which help to discourage recidivism and empower law enforcement officials to intervene at the right moment, instead of doing that, those apprehended due to criminal activity are free to re-offend; because of it, they are back out on the streets within moments, if not immediately, creating more victims, creating more crimes, undermining community safety—by the way, even putting their own ability to find their way to a life free of crime, putting that at risk.

Now, while touted as progressive, New York's State bail reform is anything but. New York State's cashless bail is not progressive. It is cruel, and it is dangerous, and it has put the lives of too many New Yorkers, including the life of Jonathan Diller, at risk.

The first rule of policymaking is to do no harm, and cashless bail in the State of New York has only produced harm.

Albany's bail reform experiment has failed. Yet, the politicians in the State of New York continue to avoid the necessary question to revisit this disaster of a policy.

It is time that lawmakers in Washington and lawmakers in State capitals across this country, like in Albany, prioritize public safety, prioritize supporting law enforcement, and end senseless tragedies.

Prior to coming to Congress, I spent 12 years as a county executive where we focused on intervention, prevention, and diversion tools, giving law enforcement the capacity to make communities safer. New York State threw it all out, and with it, has made our communities less safe and the work of law enforcement more dangerous.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in expressing our deepest sympathy and extending our love to the family of Officer Diller, but also to the men and women of law enforcement across New York and across America and their families. May they come home to families that love them and ultimately communities and governments that support them.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, we have heard this evening from Members of this body from throughout the country that we are faced with a problem, and the problem is that in far too many places, in far too many progressive Democrat cities and States, we have chosen to put criminals ahead of law-abiding citizens.

Throughout the last couple of weeks, many of us who support law enforcement and support the repeal of cashless bail, have heard the naysayers talking about gun violence and that Republicans should focus more on banning certain types of weapons.

I would point out that in a place like New York, we have on the books some of the strictest gun laws in the country. I myself have taken hundreds of guns off the street as a New York City detective, and I will tell you that there was one thing in common with those hundreds of arrests for firearms: Never once was I presented with a license to carry it.

You see, the guns being used to kill people throughout this country are illegal firearms, illegal handguns.

Just weeks ago, the Committee on House Administration held a hearing to discuss the violence here in the Nation's Capital. We, again, from the other side of the aisle were poised with the question: Well, what about banning certain types of guns?

We heard from law enforcement professionals with almost 80 years of combined service, and they gave us the facts. They said of the hundreds of guns recovered, over 90 percent of them were illegal handguns.

You see no signs in cities that say a no handgun zone. That is not going to solve the problem. Banning certain types of weapons, those aren't the weapons that are killing people. Those are not the weapons that killed the brave hero and detective from New York City.

What we need is to have district attorneys actually enforce the law, actually live up to the oath that they took

to be the highest ranking law enforcement officer in their jurisdiction, not someone like in New York City and Manhattan, where we have a rogue DA by the name of Alvin Bragg, who even before he took his oath of office, he thought that it was his job not to enforce the laws, but in New York apparently rewrite the penal code, and only enforced those laws that he deemed necessary. Well, we see where that ended up.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues from across this country who joined with me here this evening to salute Detective First Grade Jonathan Diller.

Mr. Speaker, when I took the oath to become a member of the NYPD, I raised my right hand and I swore to protect and serve but I also made a promise, and that is the same promise that law enforcement officers make throughout this country when they take their oath, and that is to never, ever, ever forget our fallen brothers and sisters.

For those on the other side of the aisle in State houses throughout this country and in this Chamber, and our colleagues on the other side of the House who think that the failed progressive policies that they have put in place are actually working, I ask them to do one thing.

I remember the night when Officers Ramos and Liu were shot and killed in Brooklyn, New York, and I heard the radio transmissions. I have listened to the radio transmission of Officer Diller and his partner just weeks ago when they were at what they thought was just a routine car stop. When you hear Officer Diller yell into the radio that he had been shot, I ask my colleagues who think that these failed policies aren't putting people in danger, sit down and listen to those blood-curdling radio transmissions.

Mr. Speaker, in just a few weeks from now, there will be thousands, tens of thousands of law enforcement agencies from throughout this country here. They will make their way to Capitol Hill. Just the other day they began to engrave the names of fallen officers from throughout this Nation on our Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. We will gather. We will gather on the lawn for the vigil, and we will commemorate and pay homage to every single member of law enforcement who died in the line of duty.

On the statue at the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, there is a beautiful statue of a lion, and underneath that lion is a simple quote. It says: "It is not how these officers died that make them heroes, it is how they lived."

Mr. Speaker, it is not how Detective First Grade Jonathan Diller died that made him a hero, it is also how he lived. He was a loving father, a giving husband, someone who surrounded himself with friends who wanted to be near him because he made them laugh. He made them feel special.

Even with just a few years on the job, he went out into some of the most dangerous neighborhoods in the city of New York and did real police work. He was willing to stop those cars to take those illegal guns off the street, even when he knew that district attorneys wouldn't do their best to prosecute. He went out there and did God's work. He did the work that he took the oath and swore that he would do.

Mr. Speaker, again, I thank my colleagues for sharing this hour not only with me, but with the family of Detective Diller, with members of law enforcement throughout this country, and with the NYPD. Every night I pray for the mayor of the city of New York, Mayor Adams; our police commissioner, Ed Caban; the hierarchy of the NYPD; and the rank and file, the men and women who go out there each and every day to do that great work.

You see, the men and women that we have honored tonight, it is not how they died that make them heroes, it is how they lived.

I thank all law enforcement officers throughout this country, whether it is right here in this beautiful Capitol building and the Capitol Police that protect us each and every day, to the counties, the cities, the villages, the States, from sea to shining sea. Stay safe. And realize that in a country where each and every night we watch the news and it seems like in our social media streams that all elected officials are fighting against the good work of law enforcement, there are good people that are praying for them, that are rooting for them, that are making sure that they have the resources each and every day to do the job that they need to do.

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

#### CRISIS IN HAITI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order hour.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to co-anchor the CBC Special Order hour, along with my distinguished colleagues, Representative JONATHAN JACKSON and STACEY PLASKETT.

For the next 60 minutes, Members of the CBC have an opportunity to discuss the crisis of Haiti, an issue of great importance to the Congressional Black

Caucus, Congress, the constituents we represent, and all of America.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE).

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise on this day to help shed light on an escalating crisis 700 miles from the shores of Florida. That crisis is in the island nation of Haiti.

I thank my colleagues for anchoring this evening's Special Order hour as part of our mission in the Congressional Black Caucus: Congresswoman SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, and Congressman JONATHAN JACKSON, your leadership is tremendous, and, of course, my colleague, Congresswoman STACEY PLASKETT of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that the Haitian people are experiencing some of the most horrific times in modern-day civil society. Their democracy has been suspended and there is no viable governance. Anarchy is poised to take root, and there is no protection for the people.

This is a humanitarian crisis that has reached unprecedented levels with widespread food insecurity, hunger, and undeterred gang violence, filling the void and terrorizing the nation.

□ 2030

According to the U.N., 4 million people in Haiti face acute food insecurity and 1 million are one step away from famine. Imagine the population of Los Angeles, subject to severe food insecurity and violence that has led to a spike in starvation, with goods unable to move freely while people are forced to remain in their homes out of fear for their lives.

Haiti is a mere 700 miles from our shores, yet in many ways, Haiti has been forgotten. It is urgent, crucial, that we pay attention.

American lore and ethos paint the United States as a Nation of immigrants, but our Nation has historically welcomed mostly immigrants of European origin, like Donald Trump, who once asked: Why are we having all these people from "S-hole" countries come here?

Some of the wealthiest people in the world, who despite being immigrants themselves, continue to push insane conspiracies, completely devoid of compassion, logic, and reason. They repeatedly use the rhetoric of the white supremacist great replacement conspiracy theory, focus efforts on the erasure of Black immigrants' contributions to our Nation from our history, and hoping that a whitewashed or real replacement theory of disinformation will endure.

Their racial cruelty and inhumanity have only enabled maltreatment of Black immigrants as temporary workers or, worse, as criminals, rather than as legal, permanent residents and asylum-seekers, as political pawns rather than people in need.

They describe Haitians as invaders. Desperate families seeking refuge,

clinging to life and their fleeting tenuous futures are not invaders. Such rhetoric reflects an ongoing 21st century vicious quest for racial hierarchy in immigration policy that deters and blocks Black refugees and immigrants from entering the United States.

It is urgent that we pay attention, because the Black African descendant diaspora has always been the reservoir to Black communities and Black families in the United States, from Malcolm X, whose mother was from the island nation of Grenada, to Vice President KAMALA HARRIS, whose father is Jamaican, just like mine.

As we continue to bear witness to the hell unfolding on a small nation a mere 700 miles off our coast, we can never forget that Black history is American history.

In closing, I implore my colleagues and the administration to come together for our Haitian sisters and brothers. My co-chairs from the Haiti Caucus and I will continue to push this administration to extend TPS for Haiti and a pause in deportations.

The whole country is unstable and dangerous. There is no excuse to send anyone anywhere in Haiti. Let me repeat: There is no excuse to send anyone anywhere in Haiti. We cannot give credence to those who would have us give in to fear, forsaking our American values for reasons beyond logic and comprehension. We cannot forsake our American values for reasons beyond comprehension or give credence to those who would have us give in to fear.

Our Nation rises to its greatest heights when we are guided by our hearts and compassion and moral obligations to our neighbors in need.

I, again, thank my colleagues for spending this time tonight.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE for her statements.

I also recognize that Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE has submitted her comments for the RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT).

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, as well as her co-chair, Congressman JONATHAN JACKSON, who have led this Special Order hour for some time now, bringing to America, as well as to other Members of Congress, the issues that are important to the Congressional Black Caucus, the conscience of the Congress.

It is these Special Order hours which really allow our colleagues and others to understand those issues which may not get the kind of attention through the media or even in our hearings that they deserve. I thank them for spending this time to allow us to talk about a festering crisis that is directly at our border, that Congress has not engaged in sufficiently to ensure that democracy continues to reign in this near neighbor of ours.