

Toledo Rocket selected in the first round in 31 years.

Mr. MITCHELL was the first defensive back taken in this year's draft, and he also became the first UT player ever named as a semifinalist for the Chuck Bednarik Award given annually to the Nation's top defensive player.

His selection in the draft now marks three straight years that a Toledo player has been selected by an NFL franchise. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Quinyon Mitchell for his remarkable achievements.

He truly embodies the spirit of excellence that the University of Toledo and northwest Ohio strive to achieve.

We all know Quinyon will continue to make us proud as he shines on the national stage. Go Rockets, go Quinyon, go Birds.

VOTING ISSUES

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of question as to why President Biden—or a lot of people in my district wonder why President Biden continues to allow over a quarter million people in this country month after month after month.

One of the speculations is that by letting people in here, eventually Congress will make them citizens, or their children or grandchildren become citizens, and they will change the nature of America.

America is, of course, supposed to be a country built from moral and religious people and a freedom-loving people, people who do not want a big government, people who want to vote for limited government.

It was of great concern that this morning I read an article about what is going on in North Carolina where they found people who are here, not citizens, voting already.

This is not surprising, I suppose. In the first place, they give a lot of these people driver's licenses, and they give them other forms of identification.

It is not surprising that some would slip through the cracks and vote before they had a chance to be educated on the limited government that is supposed to be the hallmark of the United States of America.

I call on this body to crack down on people who are voting in our elections who are not yet legal citizens.

HONORING SAMMY MCDOWELL

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

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life of Sammy McDowell, a community leader, restaurateur, and friend to all.

Sammy grew up in Minneapolis and was a fixture in the community

throughout his life. He worked in food service for many years before starting his own catering company and restaurant.

In 2012, he opened Sammy's Avenue Eatery on West Broadway Avenue in north Minneapolis and recently began operating a pop-up restaurant in St. Paul in a space which features Black-owned businesses.

Sammy's Avenue Eatery has become known for its delicious food that it serves. Over the past decade it has become an important gathering place for the community.

Sammy will be remembered for his generosity toward others. He always went the extra mile to check in on the wellness of his friends, as well as his customers.

His passion for community and the well-being of others was contagious. I know that the spaces he created will continue to be a source of friendship, inspiration, and comfort.

Sammy had an immeasurable impact on our community, and he will be dearly missed by those who knew and loved him.

CELEBRATING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WEEK

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

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize economic development organizations across Michigan and our Nation by celebrating Economic Development Week.

Every May, we acknowledge the dedication of economic developers to job creation, financial health, and making our communities an even better place to call home.

The work done by these economic developers creates new opportunities and lasting impacts on townships, cities, and counties across southwest Michigan.

Organizations like Lakeshore Advantage, Cornerstone Alliance, Southwest Michigan First, Market Van Buren, and Battle Creek Unlimited are the standard for economic development in Michigan, thanks to their strong leadership.

As a small business owner myself, I understand the importance of creating a forward-looking plan that advances your community's goals and well-being.

Mr. Speaker, please join me by celebrating Economic Development Week as we recognize the important contributions of these organizations and individuals striving to make our communities a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

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

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate National Teachers Appreciation Week and recognize all the outstanding educators across Indiana's First Congressional District.

As we reflect on the impact that teachers have made in our lives and are continuing to make every day for all our students, I remain immensely grateful for all who have chosen to be teachers and involved in the school system.

Because of their selfless passion, their boundless energy, and commitment to inspiration, they are essential to ensuring our future leaders are able to harness their interests and reach their full potential.

Thank you to all of the teachers, aides, assistants, and all the professionals in schools throughout northwest Indiana and our Nation who have dedicated their time and talents to helping students succeed.

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HONORING LIEUTENANT MICHAEL HOOSOCK AND OFFICER MICHAEL JENSEN

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include 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. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, these are troubling times. The very fabric of our society is being pulled apart. Violent protests are spreading across college campuses in our own Nation. Crime marches unchecked in our cities. The numbers of fentanyl overdoses rise unabated.

Now this: the tragic deaths of two of central New York's finest, their lives taken in the line of duty as they stood in the gap between civil society and chaos.

That night, what was another routine traffic stop turned into an unspeakable tragedy. Today, two more families endure indescribable pain.

Only a few weeks ago, I was right here with my colleagues, in this very place, to speak in honor of another New York police officer who was killed in the line of duty. Now, we are here again after two more heroes have been laid to rest in my own district.

The names of the officers who were killed are Lieutenant Michael Hoosock and Officer Michael Jensen.

Lieutenant Hoosock, known to his friends as Hootch, was a husband and the father of three young children. He

was a great dad—fun, spontaneous, present, and supportive.

In 2020, Lieutenant Hoosock was recognized with the Medal of Valor for his actions confronting an active shooter in Syracuse. He was a decades-long firefighter and the bomb squad commander in Onondaga County.

Officer Jensen was a son and brother with a career of service still ahead of him. Friends and family remember his dedication and optimism. His mother, Michelle, called him her handsome son. Syracuse Police Chief Joseph Cecile observed that “you could tell he took his responsibility seriously,” that is, of course, in between hockey matches.

Officer Jensen joined the Syracuse Police Department in early 2022. He served honorably in the Patrol Division on the Third Platoon day in and day out. Last December, he was recognized as Officer of the Month.

Just 2 weeks ago, thousands upon thousands attended their funerals to weep together, to support one another, and to honor their service and sacrifice.

All decent Americans mourn with the families of these fallen officers.

A functioning civil society gives its law enforcement officers the support and tools they need to carry out their work, protecting innocent people and restraining those who do harm to others. I am proud to say that I am pro-police and anti-criminal. When our society loses sight of these basic truths, our worst days follow.

To any law enforcement officers watching today, let me say this to you: Don't lose hope. Keep the faith. You hold the fabric of our society together against criminality and chaos. You alone stand between innocent people and those who would seek to victimize them. We need you. Your vigilance and your tireless service is deeply appreciated. We weep with you today, and we stand with you every day.

This Congress, we have passed numerous bills to support law enforcement. Many, however, inexplicably languish in the Senate, where support for law enforcement has waned.

We will not stop until our elected officials are doing everything in their capacity to empower our law enforcement professionals and to support their critical work to protect all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sacred and solemn privilege to welcome and acknowledge Michael Hoosock's widow, Caitlin. Cait and their three beautiful children are with us in the gallery this evening.

Would you mind standing for just a moment? Thank you for being here with us. Thank you for blessing us.

To Mrs. Hoosock: Today, this Nation honors your brave husband.

To his children: This Nation is grateful for his noble service.

Humbly, I will tell you that we mourn with you and that we recognize your suffering and sacrifice. May God bless and keep you and watch over each one of you. You will not be forgotten.

Since these tragic events just a few short weeks ago, countless Members of

Congress have sought me out to express their shock, anger, and sorrow at the loss of our heroes. I have invited them to join me on this solemn occasion and will yield such time as necessary that they may stand with me.

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

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. WILLIAMS and my colleagues who join us here tonight to salute two fallen heroes.

Just weeks ago, we stood on the floor of this great House and saluted another member of law enforcement whose life was taken far too soon by a career-long criminal.

When Jonathan Diller's wife and widow spoke at his funeral, she pleaded with those in attendance and said that just a couple of years prior, she listened to the funeral of two other NYPD officers who had lost their lives to career criminals. She pleaded that it wouldn't happen again and asked the elected officials who were in that church to make changes so that criminals did not have the upper hand and so that law enforcement could actually use the tools in their gun belts to effect change and to keep communities safe.

I was joined by colleagues from all throughout the country again just weeks ago to salute Detective Jonathan Diller. Sadly, here we are again, paying tribute to Syracuse Police Officer Michael Jensen and Onondaga County Sheriff's Lieutenant Michael Hoosock, who paid and made that ultimate sacrifice, who legitimately were standing the line between good and evil and paid the price with their lives on April 14.

Just a couple of weeks later, in North Carolina, four more law enforcement officers paid the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty: Joshua Eyer of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, Thomas Weeks of the United States Marshals Service, Alden Elliott of the North Carolina Department of Adult Correction, and Sam Poloche of the North Carolina Department of Adult Correction.

What is happening is that police officers are dying in record numbers. More than 23,000 members of law enforcement have died in the line of duty since 1786, and 136 members of law enforcement died in 2023. In my home State of New York and in the department that I was proud to serve for 16 years as a detective, 5,363 of my brothers and sisters were injured on the job in 2023.

Our PBA president has called the assaults “a full-blown epidemic.” The total of 5,363 attacks in 2023 was 13 percent higher than the previous year.

People keep asking why and what the issue is. The issue is that in New York, we have a State legislature led by Democrats who have chosen to put criminals before law-abiding citizens, passing insane laws like cashless bail and criminal justice reform without ever once having a conversation with the men and women who actually fight

crime each and every day, who go out on that street, who put those uniforms on, who pin their shields to their chests and go out and wrestle career criminals, take guns off the street, close out murders, and dismantle gangs. There never once was a conversation with any of them.

What it has led to is a more dangerous New York. What it has led to is a New York where criminals feel emboldened.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, when you go into stores now in New York and across this country, there are everyday things that we want to buy that are locked up. Why? Criminals are emboldened because Democrats across this country, and specifically in New York, have failed the American people. They have made our State less safe.

To the family sitting in the gallery: Realize that you have elected officials not only in this body but across this country who will fight each and every day for our brothers and sisters in blue.

To Nicole, Samuel, and Gabriel: You may not have your father to walk you to that first hockey game, to that first day of school, to something important in your life, but realize that you have law enforcement officers from across this country who will walk by your side each and every day because that is exactly what we promised when we took our oath. We promised that we would never forget our fallen.

Mr. Speaker, next week, thousands upon thousands of law enforcement officers from around this country will come here to the Nation's Capital to pay tribute and homage to the men and women who have paid and made the ultimate sacrifice.

Just weeks ago, they started etching the names of hundreds of members of law enforcement who gave their lives in 2023. Etched in one of the statues at our National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial is a quote. It says: “It is not how these officers died that made them heroes; it is how they lived.”

To the family of our heroes who are here tonight, realize it is not how they died that made them heroes. It is about how they lived. It is about the change they made. It is about the arrests of the criminals that they put behind bars. It is about how they went out there each and every day to make their community that much safer. Realize that we will carry on their legacy forever because that is our job.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues who are here this evening who haven't worn the uniform and who are speaking out on behalf of all of those who do. Law enforcement throughout this country needs to hear that they have people supporting them, who will pass legislation to keep them safe and to give them the resources they need to defend themselves and keep their communities safe.

I thank Mr. WILLIAMS for gathering us here this evening to make sure that we pay tribute to the fallen. I promise we will never forget.

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Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand with Mr. D'ESPOSITO. He has worn the badge and the uniform and knows of what he speaks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER).

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor all of America's fallen law enforcement heroes.

A few weeks ago, as was stated, upstate New York suffered a terrible loss when two law enforcement officers were fatally shot while pursuing a driver who fled a traffic stop.

In my home State of Minnesota, we are still mourning the deaths of two Burnsville police officers and a firefighter-paramedic who were killed responding to a domestic crisis. These men were not only law enforcement officers, they were husbands, fathers, friends, and beloved members of our communities.

These tragedies are real reminders of the dangers our law enforcement officers face every day. We can never take their sacrifice or service for granted.

As a former police officer with over 20 years of experience on the job, I have seen and experienced firsthand the violence committed against law enforcement. However, in the years since leaving law enforcement, I have noticed a dramatic rise in violent attacks against America's law enforcement. I am deeply concerned by this troubling trend of violence against those who protect and serve our communities.

A recent story published in the Minneapolis Star Tribune reported that assaults against police in Minnesota are up 160 percent from 10 years ago. While some are asking why this is the case, to me the answers are obvious.

The reckless defund the police movement and other antipolice rhetoric pushed by those on the far left has emboldened criminals, worsening the danger law enforcement faces when they put on that uniform.

This is unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that one of the best ways to honor the law enforcement officers who made the ultimate sacrifice is by defending the heroes who are still doing this dangerous and much-needed job.

As extreme politicians in Governor's mansions, district attorneys' offices, State legislatures, and even here in Congress, enact policies that make law enforcement less safe, it is up to the rest of us to utterly reject these ugly attacks on the American law enforcement officer.

As we honor those law enforcement officers who have given their lives in service to others, let us also recommit to standing in defense of their brothers and sisters in uniform now and forever.

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. STAUBER for his experience.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Ms. TENNEY).

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative WILLIAMS from New York for yielding.

We are so grateful to the gentleman for doing this. I thank him for organizing this Special Order in tribute to Syracuse police officers Michael Jensen and Onondaga County Sheriff Lieutenant Michael Hoosock.

As colleagues before have mentioned, I, too, just want to thank my colleagues who are here who also answered the call to serve in this very dangerous job and who deserve our respect and our renewed support of them.

As we gather here today, just a few weeks since April 14, the fateful day that these valiant men paid the ultimate sacrifice, our community continues to mourn their lives and honor their unwavering dedication, selfless service, and their legacies.

Lieutenant Michael Hoosock of Clay, New York, exemplified courage and commitment throughout his two decades of service in the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office. As a testament to his unwavering bravery, his actions earned him the esteemed Medal of Valor in 2020.

As we remember him today, let us not only reflect on his achievements as a police officer, but also on the legacy of love and devotion to his family he leaves behind, survived by his beloved wife and three children.

Since Officer Michael Jensen joined the Syracuse Police Department just a few years ago on February 26, 2022, he had made an unforgettable impact on the force and our entire community. His dedication to duty and exemplary service earned him the distinguished title of Officer of the Month just recently in December of 2023.

While his time among us was tragically cut short, his memory will be forever in the hearts of his family, friends, fellow officers, and everyone in his hometown of Rome, New York, my former district now represented by Mr. WILLIAMS, but a very important part of upstate New York.

As we honor their memory, let us also reaffirm our own unwavering support for the brave men and women who continue to safeguard our communities each and every day, especially those of the Syracuse Police Department and the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office who continue to defend our community in the wake of such a tragedy.

May the memory of these courageous men inspire us all to strive for a future where our men and women in uniform are not taken for granted, where their sacrifices are honored, and where their dedication to protecting and serving our communities is met with the unwavering respect and the support they deserve.

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am so honored to be joined by my New York colleagues. I welcome one more.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO).

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Congressman WILLIAMS, for reminding us of the unyielding sacrifice and tragic loss

that far too many in law enforcement and their families face far too often in this country.

Now to the families of Michael Hoosock and Michael Jensen, again, to honor the memory of their loved one, two heroic men in upstate New York who gave their lives in service to our community, is not only commendable, it is sadly becoming all too necessary.

Yet again, we rise on another night to recognize and to memorialize lives of two American heroes, in this case two officers in upstate New York who gave the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of their community.

Yet again, another city and county mourn the loss of two of their finest.

Yet again, another two police officer families suffer unspeakable loss.

These two men, Michael Hoosock and Michael Jensen, committed a lifetime of service to Onondaga County and the city of Syracuse in New York. They were routinely carrying out their obligations to a community when—yet again, the same headlines we have seen consistently over and over again throughout New York and throughout this country—they fell victim to an assailant who began shooting at and killing them both.

The loss of these brave young officers is a tragedy that those families, and sadly too many families across New York and across America, see. They will never forget their loved one who was patrolling the streets and keeping us safe when their lives ended too soon. It is still a tragedy that should never have occurred.

I have spent the last 30 years in service in upstate New York. When the State legislature, led by a single party and the Governor, embraced criminal justice reforms, they ignored the very fact that they were making our communities less safe. They ignored the fact that countless members of law enforcement, district attorneys, and those of us who have engaged in the criminal justice system for so long have said: that cashless bail would result in a more dangerous community, cashless bail would result in more victims being created, and cashless bail would end the lives of law enforcement because it would tie the hands of police officers. They ignored us.

Yet Democrats in Albany and the single-party rule in New York continues to pass reckless policies just like cashless bail, the HALT Act, the Clean Slate Act, and countless other policies that are making it more and more difficult for law enforcement to do their job.

Because of it, we have seen not only a rise in crime in our communities, but we have seen an increase in violence committed against police officers and the death of law enforcement officials all too often.

How much more would it take?

How many more children won't have their fathers to come home to and their moms to love?

How many more families have to have an empty chair at the dining room table?

How many more police organizations across New York must stand shoulder to shoulder in a somber line mourning the loss of one of their colleagues before the State of New York gets serious?

Of course we want a system that respects the right of a presumption of innocence, but we need a system of laws that provides the resources, support, and tools necessary for law enforcement to protect us and so that they may protect themselves as their jobs only get more and more dangerous.

I proudly represent communities in upstate New York just like my colleague, Mr. WILLIAMS, and my colleague, Ms. TENNEY, who want to remind the leaders in Albany, New York, and in Washington that the violence that we have seen and the loss of lives that we have experienced isn't only occurring in big cities. Nevertheless, it is, sadly, occurring in communities big and small like those we represent.

We have an obligation to the men and women who sacrifice for us to keep them safe, and now we have the families of Michael Hoosock and Michael Jensen to whom we owe reforms that make the jobs of the men and women they left behind even safer.

So I, again, commend my colleague, Mr. WILLIAMS, for reminding us of the loss of these two men, the sacrifice they made, and that we are indebted to their families who now live on with great loss.

I hope that their loss is not in vain and that the message that we get not only from tonight but from these tragedies that occur over and over again is that those who are entrusted in States like New York to make laws and keep us safe finally get serious about it.

Mr. Speaker, to those men and women who serve in law enforcement across America and across New York, may you truly, genuinely come home to a community that supports you and the families who love you.

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. MOLINARO for his comments.

I am, again, honored to be joined by another veteran of law enforcement.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD).

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for yielding. I really appreciate him hosting this Special Order hour so that we can recognize the sacrifice of these two men.

As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind, to safeguard lives and property, to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression and intimidation, the peaceful against violence and disorder, and to respect the constitutional rights of all men to liberty, equality, and justice.

Mr. Speaker, that is the code of ethics for every law enforcement officer across this great country. That is the code and the oath that binds us all together as law enforcement officers.

So as a former sheriff, I rise today with a truly heavy heart to honor the life of Lieutenant Michael Hoosock and of Michael Jensen.

Mr. Speaker, as you have heard, on Sunday, April 14, of 2024, Lieutenant Hoosock and Officer Jensen were killed in the line of duty while responding to a traffic stop that went awry. These officers' lives were suddenly and viciously taken while answering the call to protect and serve their community.

Lieutenant Hoosock was a brave servant leader and a devoted public servant, father, and husband. He served 17 years in the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office where he served wherever he was needed the most, I am told. Wherever they would send him, he gave his best.

He joined the sheriff's office in 2007, was promoted to lieutenant and was the commander of his unit's bomb squad.

According to those closest to him, Mr. Speaker, if you knew Lieutenant Hoosock, you felt like you were immediately his best friend.

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He is survived by his wife, Caitlin, and their three children, and I cannot tell you how heartbroken we are for you.

Officer Michael Jensen was a lifelong athlete, who was also an accountant before joining the Syracuse Police Department. He graduated college with two business degrees and answered the call to serve his community less than 3 years ago.

However, just this past December, Officer Jensen was named Officer of the Month. That is the kind of officer he was. He is remembered for his infectious smile and his personal interactions with the residents throughout the Syracuse community.

My thoughts and prayers are with both officers' families and friends, the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office, the Syracuse Police Department, and the greater Syracuse community as they mourn this great loss.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said: "The purpose in life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you lived and lived well."

These fine officers laid down their lives protecting the community that they loved. They lived their lives honorably, with compassion, and dedicated to serving and making a positive difference in the lives of others. Simply stated, Lieutenant Hoosock and Officer Jensen truly lived well.

I pray that we may all live our lives worthy of their sacrifice. May their service and sacrifice never be forgotten. May God bless them, and may God bless their loved ones.

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. EZELL), another veteran of law enforcement.

Mr. EZELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. WILLIAMS for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, this April, two families received that call that no law enforcement leader ever wants to make. Onondaga County Sheriff's Lieutenant Michael Hoosock and Syracuse Police Officer Michael Jensen were shot and killed in the line of duty.

I rise to honor and remember their legacies and to share my sympathies and my prayers with the loving families they leave behind. As a former sheriff and a 42-year law enforcement officer, I want to make it abundantly clear that the sacrifices made by Lieutenant Hoosock and Officer Jensen are not in vain. Like countless other officers from upstate New York to south Mississippi, they put on the badge and went out into their community to protect and serve, putting themselves in harm's way because they believed in right and wrong.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things you learn very quickly during a career in law enforcement is that the families of our officers serve alongside them. Parents, siblings, spouses, and children each make tremendous sacrifices because of their loved one's service to their community. None is as difficult as the sacrifice the families and friends of these two heroes have made.

My heart breaks for you and the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office and Syracuse Police Department and everyone who had the pleasure of knowing Lieutenant Hoosock and Officer Jensen. My prayers, as well as the prayers of this body and the entire Nation, are with those loved ones as you grieve.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for America to wake up. Wake up, America, and realize what is going on in this country. Our law enforcement officers are dying. Families are suffering. However, know that we are here with you and will always be as we pray God bless you and give you comfort.

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his words.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Utah (Ms. MALOY).

Ms. MALOY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express gratitude and reverence for our law enforcement community. Self-governance, like what we have in this country, is a meaningless exercise without the enforcement of our laws. Enforcement of the law requires men and women who step forward, put their lives on the line, and serve as guardians over you, me, and our families. They do this never knowing when they might need to give their last measure of devotion for us.

I express my deepest condolences to those who loved Syracuse Police Officer Michael Jensen and Onondaga County Sheriff's Lieutenant Michael Hoosock, who died tragically in a shoot-out.

Over the weekend, as I prepared to rise in solidarity with my colleagues from New York and my colleagues who are veterans of law enforcement, I found out that we had a similar tragedy in Utah. Just yesterday, we lost one of our own officers.

Santaquin, Utah, Police Officer Sergeant Bill Hooser left behind a bride of 29 years, two daughters, a granddaughter, and a devastated Utah law enforcement community.

Sergeant Hooser's shift yesterday started like it did probably every day. He couldn't have known this was his last watch. He was tragically killed in the line of duty, the duty of protecting Utahns and our freedoms.

My deepest condolences and prayers to Sergeant Hooser's family. We are grateful for what he did in his life.

My good friend, Sheriff Curtis, of Sevier County, Utah, summed up some of my feelings. He said: When we lose someone who has made it their life's purpose to make a difference for good, we all lose a small piece of who we are as a community and as a Nation.

I rise today to make sure that families like the Hooser family in Utah, the family who is sitting in the gallery right now, know that America recognizes and appreciates their sacrifice. I thank you on behalf of Utah's Second Congressional District and make sure you know that you are not alone.

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her words.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. FISCHBACH).

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. WILLIAMS for putting together this Special Order this evening, and I thank Cait Hoosock for being here today. I am so deeply sorry for your loss and the loss of Officer Jensen.

Every day, our law enforcement officers leave for work, and their families can never be certain if they will return home. Know that I am grieving with you and praying for you and your family.

The increase in violence we have seen against law enforcement in recent years is unacceptable. As Mr. STAUBER mentioned, this year in Minnesota, two officers and a firefighter were killed when a man they were negotiating with opened fire without warning.

Last year, in my district, Deputy Josh Owen was killed when responding to a domestic violence call. His name will be added to the memorial next week.

Mr. Speaker, the attack on law enforcement must stop. All of these officers gave their lives protecting their communities. Every time we hear another story like this, our hearts break all over again.

Our law enforcement deserves our gratitude and our respect. I am so disappointed to see many people, including some in this Chamber, trying to make our brave officers into villains. I stand in support of law enforcement, and my Republican colleagues, like you have seen this evening, are doing everything we can to pass legislation to protect and thank our officers.

I know that, because of this disgusting movement of hatred toward our officers, we must, but our voices

need to be strong. We must support law enforcement.

I have introduced legislation to encourage the recruitment of the next generation of law enforcement through a grant program. I have supported legislation to empower officers to do their jobs effectively, and I have asked the Judiciary Committee to investigate the weaponization of government against law enforcement.

I will continue to do everything in my power to support our police officers because they support all of us. God bless all of our law enforcement officers, and I thank them for the job that they do.

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her words.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAWLER).

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. WILLIAMS) for bringing us here today to recognize Lieutenant Michael Hoosock and Officer Michael Jensen, two heroes who gave of themselves in service to our community.

As the Bible teaches us: "Greater love has no man than this, than to lay down his life for his friends."

Lieutenant Hoosock and Officer Jensen laid down their life in defense of our community to ensure the safety and the well-being of our residents. They answered the call of duty and went above and beyond and made the ultimate sacrifice. It wasn't just a sacrifice they alone made. It was a sacrifice that their families made.

To Cait, Nicole, Samuel, and Gabriel, there are no words that will make this better. There are no words that will make this okay. We grieve with you. Our heart breaks for you, and we will be here to support you.

This morning, I spent time at the Brinks robbery memorial for slain Nyack Police Sergeant Edward O'Grady, Police Officer Waverly Brown, and Brinks guard Peter Paige. Nearly 43 years ago, they were killed in the 1981 Brinks robbery. Nine children were left fatherless.

Every year, we gather on October 20 to remember those two officers and security guard who died in that horrific robbery. Additionally, every year, one by one, their killers were released.

We have seen in New York, over the last 6 years, 37 cop killers released. The depraved indifference for law enforcement is unconscionable because the reality is, if we don't respect law enforcement, if we don't respect the rule of law, there is no society. The reason we have seen a rapid increase in crime in New York is precisely because there is no respect for the rule of law, and people do not believe there are consequences for actions.

Cashless bail will go down as the single stupidest policy that has ever been signed into law anywhere. Since that law took effect, over 40 percent of those that have been arrested for a felony offense and then released under

cashless bail have been rearrested for committing another offense.

□ 2030

You look at cashless bail, you look at Raise the Age, the HALT Act, Clean Slate, and the continued parole for unrepentant cop killers, and as a result we have a lawless society.

Last year, \$4 billion in retail theft. Why? Because quality of life crimes aren't prosecuted any more in New York. We let people walk right out of the store with whatever they want.

The lawlessness must come to an end. Respect for law enforcement, putting victims above criminals is essential. Without it, we will continue to be in this place where cops are murdered and taken away from their families.

It is why as a member of the State legislature I introduced a bill that would ensure life without the possibility of parole, pardon, or clemency for killing a law enforcement officer. If we cannot respect our law enforcement officers, if we cannot stand up for them and ensure their safety as they stand up for all of us and ensure ours, then we do not deserve a safe and just society.

To the family of Lieutenant Hoosock and Officer Jensen, we will continue to fight for justice for you and to ensure that other families don't have to endure this horrific tragedy.

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, to the Hoosock family and to the Jensen family, I promised that those two would be honored by our Nation, that they would be honored in this esteemed place, and that you too would be recognized and honored. Mr. Speaker, I thank them for honoring us with their presence.

I am grateful to each Representative who spoke this evening. Sombre times like these invite us to reflect and to take a closer look at many things that so often we take for granted.

There exists in this world profound evil, manifesting itself in many ways. What stands between that evil and innocent people? Every single day, the men and women serving in law enforcement across America stand courageously in that treacherous place.

As you go about your day in safety, in comfort, the vigilance of these men and women may fade into the background, but to them and to their families, the risk inherent in their line of work never fades. They clock in every day with the knowledge that they place themselves in heightened danger whenever they put on that uniform, and they do so for our sake.

We are privileged to forget, to enjoy the safety and comfort that are a direct result of their labor, but we are obliged to remember. Times like these remind us forcefully, tragically, that evil and danger are ever present, but that heroes still exist amongst us. They are heroes like Lieutenant Michael Hoosock, heroes like Officer Michael Jensen, heroes like every single man and woman behind the badge and

in front of all decent folks they protect and serve, and their families.

I thank them for joining us today.

To America, I would say, if you know any folks that serve in law enforcement, right now is a good time to thank them. Our police officers, firefighters, EMS, and their families dedicate their lives so that we may be safe. Recognizing the commitment and sacrifice they voluntarily make is something we all can and we should do. Words may only accomplish so much, but they do mean something. Convey it to those around you as you see them, that you recognize their sacrifice, and that they are not alone and not forgotten.

I will start by thanking Caitlin Hoosock and her children—Nikki, Gabe, Sam—who I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know today. I thank them for joining us. Once again, I humbly speak, for everyone here and for everyone watching, that you are not alone.

Mr. Speaker, I have concluded this Special Order, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

SHINING A LIGHT ON MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCIES AND SUICIDES AMONG BLACK YOUTH

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which 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 gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I, too, acknowledge the tremendous loss that those families have incurred, and I thank them for their service.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to co-anchor this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour, along with my distinguished colleague, Representative SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK.

For the next 60 minutes, members of the Congressional Black Caucus have an opportunity to speak directly to the American people on the topic of mental health, an issue of great importance to the Congressional Black Caucus, the Congress and the constituents we represent, and all of America.

Mr. Speaker, it is now my privilege to yield to the gentlewoman from New Jersey, the honorable Congresswoman WATSON COLEMAN.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Illinois for yielding and organizing this

Special Order hour on what I think is a very important topic.

Five years ago, I founded and chaired the CBC's Emergency Task Force on Black Youth Suicide and Mental Health.

Mental health emergencies and suicides among young Black youth have been on the rise, but this troubling trend had gone mostly unnoticed outside of the mental health field. Steadily and quietly, our children were dying, succumbing to depression, anxiety, and loneliness.

So I and several of my colleagues, who will speak here tonight, came together to get to the bottom of this problem. We brought in experts, including psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, teachers, school administrators, and students to help us paint a picture of this problem.

The picture was grim.

Between 2007 and 2020, a Black child died by suicide every 3 days. The suicide rate among Black youth ages 10 to 17 increased by a staggering 144 percent. Among young children ages 5 to 12, Black youth were twice as likely to die by suicide, and the suicide rate for teenage girls increased by almost 7 percent each year.

These findings would make anyone sick to their stomach.

It inspired the task force members to write the Pursuing Equity in Mental Health Act, which would surge funding to the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, and to develop an outreach and education plan to reduce the stigma associated with mental health conditions and substance abuse.

Flash forward 5 years and the devastating impact of COVID has brought this crisis to everyone's attention. The social isolation, the constant fear of getting sick, and watching loved ones die have taken an unparalleled toll on all of us.

Our Nation suffered a collective trauma made up of millions of individual crises.

However, the pandemic fell especially heavily on Black women. The expectation of Black women to be pillars of their families and communities, combined with the greater likelihood of being essential workers increased the vulnerability to both physical and mental health problems.

As a result, 50 percent of Black women experienced elevated levels of depression and 20 percent reported experiencing severe psychological distress. While other groups rebounded steadily after the pandemic, unemployment among Black women stayed high, even increasing at times when overall unemployment was falling. This persistent unemployment created additional stress on already struggling communities.

It is our responsibility to ensure that overburdened communities, especially in impoverished urban and rural areas of the country, have access to mental health care.

Since the task force was convened, we have addressed bits and pieces of this issue like improving and simplifying the process of accessing the suicide crisis hotline by calling 988, but so much more work needs to be done.

Our children have been given neither the tools to maintain their health nor the care that they need to cope.

It does not have to be this way. Children who have access to help can thrive. They have shown an ability to bounce back and become strong, happy, and resilient; to be active and productive in their communities. We have the capacity to create the conditions in which all of our children have a shot at happy, fulfilling lives.

No matter your race, your background, or your gender, each one of us wants—no, indeed, we pray—for our children to grow up healthy. We must have and we need our Black women to be mentally and physically equipped to provide that growth that is so necessary.

When we see them struggle, we struggle. When they are in pain, we feel that pain deeply. We know this to be true; Democrats, Republicans, and Independents, it doesn't matter what your party affiliation is.

Yet here we are. Fifty-two months after the introduction of the Pursuing Equity in Mental Health Act and 7 months after the introduction of the Youth Mental Health Research Act, bipartisan bills to get our children the care they so desperately need, and we still can't come together.

Look around the country. People are fed up with this Congress, the least productive Congress in decades. Surely, we can come together for the sake of our children. I implore my colleagues to take this situation seriously, to put aside our differences, and to show our children that we care and get them the help that they need.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honorable BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN, Congresswoman from the great State of New Jersey in the 12th District, for her remarks.

Mr. Speaker, it is now my privilege to yield to the gentleman from the great State of Nevada, the honorable chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, STEVEN HORSFORD of the Fourth Congressional District.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, good evening. I thank JONATHAN JACKSON for co-anchoring this important discussion on tonight's Special Order hour for the Congressional Black Caucus and to Representative SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK for her tremendous leadership on all of our Special Order hours.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus to recognize the month of May as Mental Health Awareness Month.

I thank Congresswoman BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN for her tremendous leadership on this very important issue, as well as each of our members for their work in addressing mental health, specifically in the Black community.