

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOWMAN. Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago, a gunman drove to a Black neighborhood with an assault rifle in his hand and hate in his heart, opening fire and killing 10 people in Buffalo, New York. He was radicalized by the great replacement theory, a white supremacist, racist, anti-Semitic conspiracy.

We are still mourning 10 souls lost to this senseless violence.

The only way to move forward is to acknowledge that what is killing us in droves is hatred and continued white supremacy. Congress cannot continue to ignore these hateful and discriminatory ideologies that are being promoted by far-right MAGA extremists.

I introduced a resolution to condemn the great replacement theory, racism, anti-Semitism, hatred, and bigotry in all its forms. We must stand up together and say clearly that white supremacy is an existential threat. We also need reparations for the Black community in Buffalo and around the country, like food justice for community members and free mental health to support and address community trauma.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in condemning the great replacement theory, repairing the harms of white supremacy, and fighting to root out hatred once and for all.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK RIDE-ALONG

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, after putting on a bullet-proof vest, I hopped in a police cruiser to help patrol the town. Joining Snow Hill Police Chief Josh Smith for a ride-along was enlightening.

During our patrol, Chief Smith and I spoke about equipment needs, funding challenges, and staffing issues police officers face. We also took a moment to connect with our community, waving at kids skateboarding and passing by memaw's house to make sure she was okay.

Dedicated officers work hard daily. Indeed, they are the backbone of our communities. As we observe National Police Week, let us recognize the bravery and sacrifice of our law enforcement personnel.

I thank Chief Smith and all the men and women who faithfully protect and serve communities across eastern North Carolina and the Nation.

HONORING FALLEN HEROES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KILEY). 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 include extraneous material on the topic 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, beginning on Sunday evening, the United States of America welcomed thousands upon thousands of men and women who wear the uniform and protect and serve their communities throughout this country.

Mr. Speaker, Police Week 2024 welcomes law enforcement professionals from every corner of this great Nation. Some are here to share important information. Some are here for training. Some are here for camaraderie. We have members of the Nassau County Emerald Society here celebrating their 50th anniversary.

The main reason we are here, Mr. Speaker, the key to why thousands upon thousands travel to Capitol Hill for National Police Week, is to recognize, remember, and honor the men and women of law enforcement who have laid down their lives for the sake of others.

Just last week, we gathered here on the House floor to pay honor to Syracuse Police Officer Michael Jensen and Onondaga County Sheriff's Lieutenant Michael Hoosock. We also paid tribute to law enforcement officers in North Carolina, who, on Monday, April 29, 2024, experienced the deadliest attack on law enforcement since 2016 when Joshua Eyer, Thomas Weeks, Jr., Alden Elliott, and Sam Poloché were killed in the line of duty.

Mr. Speaker, just minutes ago, the FBI released their 2023 law enforcement officers killed or assaulted report. There were 60 who were killed or assaulted in the line of duty across this country.

□ 1930

Mr. Speaker, we are here on Capitol Hill for Police Week to honor the more than 26,000 law enforcement officers that have died or been killed in the line of duty since 1786.

Mr. Speaker, 136 law enforcement officers died in the line of duty in 2023, and their names are forever etched on the wall at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial just blocks from here.

Mr. Speaker, I was proud before coming to Congress to serve in what some would argue was the greatest police department in the world, the New York City Police Department, and I had the honor to serve with some of the best of the best, the greatest detectives as an NYPD detective.

Mr. Speaker, last year, 5,363 of my brothers and sisters from the NYPD were injured on the job. The NYPD PBA president Patrick Hendry has

been quoted as calling assaults on the NYPD a "full-blown epidemic." The 5,363 of my brothers and sisters that were assaulted or attacked in 2023 was 13 percent higher than the previous year.

Mr. Speaker, there are many reasons as to why we could argue that that number continues to rise, but I think all one would have to do is turn on the news or scroll through social media or perhaps listen to news radio.

Radical protests, an influx of criminal migrants at the hands of the Biden border crisis, cashless bail, and criminal justice reform—which has been a completely failed policy of Democrats in the New York State legislature starting with our Governor and working its way down through the senate and the assembly—has failed New Yorkers, and it has failed in places just like here in Washington, D.C.

What do these places have in common where we see criminals having more rights than law-abiding citizens? What is the common denominator in communities and cities and counties throughout this country that have emboldened criminals, that have literally taken the handcuffs off the gun belts of law enforcement officers?

Those handcuffs are now being utilized against police, not allowing them to do their job, not allowing them to go out there and live out the oath to protect and serve.

Mr. Speaker, what do those places have in common?

They are governed by Democrats, radical Democrats who continue each and every day to put criminals ahead of law-abiding citizens.

You see, we have seen the increase in police assaults. We have seen the increase in police officers being killed. Why?

Because of radical protests, an influx of criminal migrants, bail reform, cashless bail, criminal justice reform, anticop rhetoric, and soft-on-crime, rogue district attorneys like Alvin Bragg in Manhattan.

Mr. Speaker, 1,287 of my brothers and sisters throughout this country died from suicide between 2016 and 2022. Mr. Speaker, that number is startling. There are many reasons as to why we see law enforcement officers struggle, and it is one of the reasons as to why I am working with my colleagues to erase that stigma and to make law enforcement officers realize that there is help available and that their mental health is so critically important.

We cannot put our heads in the sand. We cannot ignore the fact that law enforcement officers are seeing even more stress because of the failed policies of so many so-called leaders throughout this country.

Law enforcement work is challenging and dangerous. Very often we hear a police officer responded to a routine 911 call. Mr. Speaker, and to those listening at home, no 911 call is routine. No car stop is routine.

Mr. Speaker, just months ago, Police Officer Jonathan Diller of the NYPD

was out doing what he does best, taking illegal firearms off the street. He and his team stopped a car, which for most would probably seem like a routine car stop. Someone was sitting at a bus stop. Police Officer Diller exited, approached the car, and was met with bullets from an illegal firearm carried by an individual who was arrested 21 times prior.

Mr. Speaker, the individual who murdered Police Officer Jonathan Diller was arrested over 20 times and let back out on the street to commit more crimes. That individual should have rotted in a cell. I pray that prosecutors give him that destiny because Jonathan Diller went to work that morning, put on his bulletproof vest, and went out to the streets of the city of New York to reduce crime, to make life safer for everyday New Yorkers, and he was murdered by a career criminal who should have been behind bars.

In a split second, a family was destroyed. Jonathan Diller's son will wake up every single day for the rest of his life without his father. Jonathan's widow, Stephanie, will wake up every single day without her husband.

Mr. Speaker, we are gathered here in Washington, D.C., for Police Week to remember people, heroes, just like Jonathan Diller. At Jonathan's funeral when he was posthumously promoted to detective first grade, his wife spoke from the altar and said that 2 years earlier she listened in on the funeral of two other NYPD officers who were murdered and thought to herself something needs to change, the laws in New York need to change. She stood on that altar eulogizing her hero husband, pleading with elected officials in New York State to rethink their justice reform and cashless bail, but, unfortunately, it is not going to change because Democrats in New York have doubled down.

You see, I made a promise when I was sworn into the New York City Police Department. I put my hand up and took an oath. I took an oath to protect and serve the Constitution. I took an oath to protect and serve the city of New York. I also made a promise in my heart to never, ever forget the men and women who I had the honor to serve with who made the ultimate sacrifice.

That day at that funeral, I made that same promise to Detective First Grade Jonathan Diller that I would make sure we never forget him, and we won't.

I am thankful that I have colleagues on both sides of the aisle here tonight to pay tribute to law enforcement officers throughout this country. I urge all of you to visit the memorial just blocks away and read the quote below the statue of the lion when you enter that memorial. It says: "It is not how these officers died that made them heroes, it is how they lived."

Mr. Speaker, it is not how Jonathan Diller died that made him a hero. It is how he lived. It is not how Officers Ramos and Liu, it is not how they died

that made them heroes, it is how they lived.

Over 30 years ago, Police Officer Steven McDonald from my Congressional District was shot at point blank range in Central Park by a group of teenage thugs. He went to the hospital where they said he wasn't expected to live, but Steven McDonald fought back every single day. His wife, Patti Ann, prayed by his bedside. His son, Conor, my good friend, was baptized at his hospital bed.

Steven McDonald spent his life advocating for the New York City Police Department and for law enforcement officers throughout this country. He talked about peace and forgiveness and forgave his near assassins. Steven McDonald was from the Fourth Congressional District, and just a couple of weeks ago I got to witness his son being promoted to captain of the New York City Police Department, and Conor continues to preserve the legacy of his great father, Steven.

Mr. Speaker, that is another example of it is not how he died that made him a hero, it is how Steven McDonald lived that made him a hero.

We are gathered here in Washington, D.C., for Police Week to honor those men and women who are heroes because we promised to never forget.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD) my good friend and brother in blue.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, "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 or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all men to liberty, equality, and justice."

Mr. Speaker, that is the opening line of the Law Enforcement Officers Code of Ethics, a code every officer whose name is etched into the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial lived and died by.

Today, I rise to honor two fallen police officers from my district whose names were added to the memorial wall this year, Sergeant Michael Paul Kunovich and Deputy Sheriff Peder Thomas Johnson.

Mr. Speaker, on Friday, May 19, 2023, following the arrest of a combative suspect armed with a knife, Sergeant Michael Paul Kunovich suffered a fatal heart attack from the physical exertion and stress caused while apprehending the fleeing suspect.

□ 1945

Sergeant Kunovich served 26 years in the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office. He received numerous awards, including a Meritorious Service Award in 2023 and 2013, an Exceptional Service Award in 2010, and many letters of commendation. Sergeant Kunovich also served on the SWAT team for 5 years while earning his bachelor's degree in public administration from Flagler College.

Through and through, Sergeant Kunovich was a servant leader, dedicated to protecting his community until the end of his watch. He will be greatly missed by the whole northeast Florida law enforcement community.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family, including his two sons, Michael Jr. and Max; his friends; and the men and women of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Speaker, I also rise today to honor the life and service of Deputy Sheriff Peder Thomas Johnson who was shot and killed while investigating reports of a discharge of a firearm on December 24, 1913. That is right, 1913. You see, Mr. Speaker, Deputy Johnson served in the Duval County Sheriff's Office for 11 months before his end of watch over 110 years ago. However, until this year, he had never been recognized. We are forever grateful for his service and the heroic legacy that he left behind.

We promise our officers every day that, as has been said so eloquently by my colleague here, we will never forget. This is evidence tonight that we will never forget if an officer is called upon to lay down that full measure of devotion.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said: "The purpose of 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 have lived and lived well."

Mr. Speaker, these two men whom we honor tonight lived well. May these heroes never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, as a law enforcement officer for 40 years, including 12 years as sheriff of Jacksonville, I have dedicated my life to protecting and serving my northeast Florida community alongside some of the finest men and women.

Now, in Congress it is my calling to protect those men and women who are serving today. Anyone who has put on a badge and answered the call of duty knows the dangers that may await. Sadly, that is the reality officers and their families accept each time they leave home.

In 2023, with a 30 percent increase in ambushing of law enforcement officers, 378 law enforcement officers were shot in the line of duty compared to 331 in 2022. That is a 13 percent increase in just 1 year.

These attacks must end. That is why I introduced the Protect and Serve Act, a bipartisan bill to increase penalties on those who want to target, ambush, and harm our police officers. I urge Congress to pass it.

If these bad actors want to target the police, then we in Congress should target them. It is our responsibility to protect those who protect us.

As anyone who has worked in law enforcement knows, losing a loved one, a colleague, or a friend in the line of duty changes you forever.

I know what officers go through every day when they put on their uniform and say goodbye to their families.

During my over 40-year career, I lost 26 colleagues and friends who laid down their lives in service to our community.

One police officer killed in an ambush is one too many. The increase in ambushes and dangerous rhetoric about law enforcement has left many agencies struggling now to hire and retain the best and the brightest. We must give agencies the tools they need to hire and keep these officers. That is also why I introduced the HELPER Act, a bicameral and bipartisan bill that I introduced in the House to make it easier for police officers and other public servants in our community to buy their first home.

Families everywhere are struggling to get by. In fact, many of our Nation's first responders and teachers are priced out of the very neighborhoods that they are called to serve. By making homeownership easier, the HELPER Act would work to boost the recruitment and retention of our dedicated public servants and help make our communities safer. Everyone benefits from being neighbors with those serving and protecting our way of life.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to pass these important bills to make our communities safer and deliver for our law enforcement officers nationwide.

Mr. Speaker, I just hope and pray that all of us can lead lives that are worthy of their sacrifice.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. RUTHERFORD for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL), who is the co-chair of the Law Enforcement Caucus.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman D'ESPOSITO for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am always proud to stand and support our brave law enforcement officers who suit up every day. That is especially true during National Police Week.

This year, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial will add 282 names of officers who have died in the line of duty.

I am thinking of my good friend, Passaic County Sheriff Richard Berdnik. A dedicated public servant, we will never forget his sacrifices that made our community a better place.

As the longtime co-chair of the Law Enforcement Caucus, I know any successful effort to fund and support the police must be bipartisan. I am deeply disappointed to see law enforcement politicized these last several years. We must stand united against all attacks on police, not just certain attacks, all attacks. That includes our brothers and sisters working for Federal agencies, too, who many times are forgotten.

When I say all attacks, I mean attacks on January 6, 2021. Mr. Speaker, you don't need a cannon on the front lawn of the Capitol of the greatest country in the world to say there are

actions against our police and law enforcement. Of course, there was no cannon on the front lawn that day.

This is Police Week. This is Police Week that can be any week in our society. It should be every week, the respect that we show for those people who protect our lives day in and day out.

I am proud of the bipartisan solutions we have enacted to improve the physical and mental health of our officers, the same thing with our firefighters. In 2015, we enacted the bipartisan National Blue Alert Act to protect law enforcement officers who become targets of violent criminal attacks. This law has resulted in 37 States developing blue alert plans to help catch those who seek to hurt our police.

In 2019, we permanently authorized the lifesaving Bulletproof Vest Partnership grant program. Vests are directly attributable to saving the lives of over 300 officers in the last 10 years. Last Congress, I introduced my Law Enforcement Training Act which authorized \$270 million to support officer counseling and training for addressing mental health. It cannot be a stigma, and we need to address it. It should be something that someone comes forth with to seek help. We have to create that environment within our departments and within our society.

This Police Week, let us do right by law enforcement communities. Let us pass bills that actually fund the police not in words but in action.

Frankly, I regret that each of the police bills coming to the floor this week are more partisan and political than the next. Take a look at them, Mr. Speaker. Read them.

Conversely, across the building, I am glad to see the Senate acting by advancing my Honoring Our Fallen Heroes Act. This bill would ensure first responders who die or become disabled from occupational cancer get their Public Safety Officers' Benefits. This builds on the bill to reform and expand Federal death and disability benefits that we passed during Police Week in 2021.

Pay, benefits, healthcare, housing assistance, and fair retirement treatment, bills addressing these items can make a real difference for our officers and their families. I hope that we can get that Honor Act and other important priorities to the President's desk this Congress.

God bless our police, and God bless our America.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I was hoping that tonight was about honoring, but we want to, I guess, talk about the bills that are on the floor this week. We can do that prior to debating, but to say that the bills this week are partisan that are supporting law enforcement, I would have to disagree. One of them I actually wrote myself. It is about providing for the law enforcement officers who are actually being attacked in city streets like

New York by illegal migrants. The bill requires that law enforcement agencies throughout the country are given updates as to how this migrant crisis, the Biden border crisis, how it is affecting law enforcement so that Congress and local municipalities can do the job that they need to do to make sure that law enforcement has the resources they need to protect themselves. That does not seem partisan to me.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER), who is another brother in law enforcement.

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from New York, Congressman D'ESPOSITO, for leading this important conversation this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here in this hallowed institution. I am pleased to honor my brothers and sisters in law enforcement.

As a police officer with over 20 years of experience, I know firsthand the sacrifices law enforcement officers make for the safety and security of the communities.

Policing is a noble and honorable profession, and it can be a dangerous one. However, in the years since I have left the profession, there has been a dramatic increase in violent attacks on law enforcement.

In 2023 alone, as was previously stated, 378 police officers were shot in the line of duty. This is the highest number ever recorded. This increase in violence against law enforcement is the direct result of the extreme Democrats' disastrous defund-the-police movement, soft-on-crime policies, and activist prosecutors who have emboldened violent criminals and have allowed them to remain free.

In my colleague's State of New York, we recently lost Officer Jonathan Diller who was killed by a career criminal who had been released from jail 21 times—21 times. Let that sink in for a moment.

□ 2000

I watched the eulogy given by Officer Diller's widow, Stephanie, and she asked a heartbreaking and very powerful question: "How many more police officers . . . have to make the ultimate sacrifice before we start protecting them?"

Similar questions have been echoed by law enforcement officers in my home State of Minnesota, where Burnsville Police Officers Paul Elmstrand and Matthew Ruge and Firefighter-Paramedic Adam Finseth were recently gunned down responding to a domestic crisis.

Much like New York, Minnesota is filled with officials who have a soft-on-crime, anti-law-enforcement agenda. There is no better example of this dysfunction than Hennepin County Attorney Mary Moriarty, who is consistently handing out lenient sentences to violent criminals. In one particularly egregious case, she attempted to give someone who had committed murder a sentence of 2 years in a rehabilitation

program. Meanwhile, Moriarty is leading a political prosecution against a Minnesota State trooper who acted heroically and lawfully to save the life of his partner.

Mr. Speaker, I am sick and tired of seeing people in power attacking our law enforcement heroes while going easy on criminals who wreak havoc in our communities. Because of these continued attacks on law enforcement by criminals and elected officials, we are unable to attract young people to the policing profession.

Meanwhile, more and more officers are retiring early from the force. This has, of course, allowed crime to skyrocket, leaving remaining officers and the communities they swore to protect less safe.

During National Police Week, I demand that all of our Nation's leaders do a better job standing up against the ugly attacks on law enforcement. There are too many politicians who are all too eager to show up to the funerals of our fallen heroes while doing absolutely nothing to protect the brave men and women who remain in this noble profession. We have a responsibility to defend those who defend us.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues in this Chamber to consider Stephanie Diller's questions once more: "How many more police officers . . . have to make the ultimate sacrifice before we start protecting them?"

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BAIRD).

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, every day, our men and women in blue leave their homes and families not knowing whether they will return. This is a heartbreaking reality that we do not give enough credit to. These heroes selflessly go out into our communities every day to ensure the safety of their families, friends, and strangers that they do not know and ask for nothing in return.

Mr. Speaker, this year alone, 98 officers were killed in the line of duty. That is 98 too many. One of them is Deputy Sheriff Fred Fislar of Hendricks County, Indiana. Deputy Fislar's life tragically ended on April 16, 2024, while he responded to a deadly car crash. Officer Fislar is survived by his wife and two children. I pray for his family and every other officer who has been killed in the line of duty.

They sacrificed their lives for our safety. As we honor their lives during National Police Week, let us not forget how we are all impacted by these unsung heroes. Whether we see it or not, we must always back the blue.

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I know that he speaks with experience and from the heart, and I speak on behalf of this body when I thank him for his leadership in this important area.

Mr. Speaker, we remember Lieutenant Michael Hoosock and Officer Michael Jensen tonight. God bless their families as they mourn.

Thinking about what it is we are doing here during National Police Week, my mind goes to how we can best support law enforcement through our work here in Congress. That support can take many forms, but it certainly must be more than just rhetoric. What resources do they need to carry out their work safely and successfully? The madness and stupidity of defund the police is over.

In my district in central New York, we worked through the appropriations process while keeping the needs of our district's police at top of mind.

Some of the most fulfilling work I have had the honor of doing since coming to Congress has involved sitting down with local law enforcement, hearing about their needs directly from them, and advocating for them here in Washington.

When you speak with these folks, you get a real sense of the gravity of their work. They know all too well that they place their lives at risk every time they clock in, and they do so for our sake.

At every opportunity I get, I tell them to make sure that they go home to their family at the end of their shift, that they kiss their wife and kids, and that they are able to suit up the next day.

How can we expect law enforcement to have the backs of Americans when, so often, politicians with a duty to represent them turn their backs on the police? When our police are facing the most difficult challenges, it is up to those with the ability to support them to do so in any capacity that they can.

I was proud to join many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle last year to pass the POLICE Act of 2023, which would make assaulting a law officer a deportable offense. It is a shame that the Senate has not voted on this bill for a year.

In my home State of New York especially, the police community has faced significant trials in recent memory, and I ask again: What more can we do? What more must we do?

Mr. Speaker, I call on my colleagues to offer support to those who do so much to support us. I am honored to be here to speak on behalf of the law enforcement community today.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. GUEST), my friend.

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.

This week, National Police Week, we thank and reaffirm our support for our peacemakers. This week, we honor those men and women who lost their lives in the line of duty, the brave men and women who serve and protect, who dedicate their lives to defending innocent citizens from those who seek to do evil, and who routinely place them-

selves in harm's way. They are the heroes we call in our time of need.

President Ronald Reagan once said: "There can be no more noble vocation than the protection of one's fellow citizens. . . . No single group is more fully committed to the well-being of their fellow Americans and to the faithful discharge of duty than our law enforcement personnel."

In the performance of their duties, danger is a routine part of their job, and we, on occasion, lose some valiant men and women.

Mr. Speaker, let us never forget those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to their fellow man, and let the families of our fallen officers be comforted by the words in the Gospel of John, 15:13: "Greater love has no man than this, to lay down his life for another."

May we never forget our heroes and their sacrifice.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, as was said, we gathered over the last few days and will continue to gather this week for National Police Week to honor men and women throughout this great Nation who have worn the uniform, who kissed their loved ones goodbye and never came home, people like Detective Jonathan Diller, heroes like Patrick Rafferty, like Paul Tuozzolo.

I actually met with Eileen Rafferty and Lisa Tuozzolo today, two women who didn't know each other but who have now formed a beautiful bond—not a bond out of happiness but a bond from losing their husbands on the streets of New York City, both to illegal firearms, murdered and taken from this world because they wore the uniform.

Lisa and Eileen made their trip to Washington, D.C., this week from New York not by train, not by bus, not by air, but by bike. They pedaled from Ground Zero in Lower Manhattan. They pedaled their way here to Washington, D.C., and arrived at the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. They did it to continue to honor their husbands. They did it with other line-of-duty families who are honoring their loved ones.

That is what this week is about. It is about raising awareness of the dangers that members of law enforcement face each and every day. It is about raising awareness of the fact that, in places like New York, Democrats have made the jobs and the lives of law enforcement less safe. We heard it from the widow of Jonathan Diller, who was pleading during her eulogy for elected officials to do something.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly thankful to my colleagues who came this evening to not just pay tribute to individuals from their districts but to pay tribute to law enforcement throughout this country.

I have to disagree with my friend on the other side of the aisle who talked about the bills this week being partisan because I look at them as a way to keep this community safe and this

country safe, like Mr. VAN DREW's De-tain and Deport Illegal Aliens Who As-sault Cops Act. We have seen it on the streets of New York City, cops being assaulted in broad daylight by illegal migrants from the Biden border crisis.

How about the Police Our Border Act, my piece of legislation that will authorize the Justice Department to provide information to law enforce-ment agencies throughout this country about the migrant crisis so that law enforcement has the resources they need to be safe, or legislation from DON BACON that broadens the ability of qualified, trained active and retired law enforcement officers to carry fire-arms. That is not partisan. That is giv-ing trained law enforcement profes-sionals the right to carry and broaden their right to carry firearms.

□ 2015

The DC CRIMES Act of 2024 from my good friend, BYRON DONALDS, allows Congress to exert their oversight power over the D.C. Council and promote safety in Washington, D.C. The com-mon denominator, again, in D.C. is it is led by radical Democrats who have made this Nation's Capital less safe. That is not partisan; it is actually common sense.

Then we have Mr. BISHOP's Improving Law Enforcement Officer Safety and Wellness Through Data Act which re-quires the attorney general to assem-ble reports on violence against law en-forcement officers. It requires the at-torney general to assemble reports on violence against law enforcement offi-cers.

Mr. Speaker, I don't see how that is partisan. It is about keeping law en-forcement safe. That is not a Repub-lican issue. It is not a Democrat issue. It is a United States of America issue.

Next, we have my brother in blue, CLAY HIGGINS, which condemns Presi-dent Biden's border crisis and the bur-dens it has created for America's law enforcement officers. That is not par-tisan. The facts and the data tell the story. Joe Biden and Secretary Mayorkas have allowed millions of ille-gal migrants into this country. They have been arrested for assaulting and attacking law enforcement. Again, that is not partisan. Attacking law enforcement is not a Republican concern or a Democrat concern; it is an Amer-ican people concern.

Further, we have the resolution by Mr. STAUBER regarding violence against law enforcement officers. There were 374 officers killed since 2021, a record-breaking 378 officers shot in the line of duty in 2023, a 60 percent increase since 2018. The NYPD esti-mates a record number of assaults on officers for 2023, so that doesn't seem partisan either.

Mr. Speaker, we gather here this week to recognize and remember men and women who have made the ulti-mate sacrifice. We also gather to raise awareness that law enforcement in this country is under attack, and they are

under attack because there are reck-less policies and laws being put in place, promoting a far-left agenda that emboldens criminals and restricts law enforcement from doing the job they took the oath to do. That is what Po-lice Week is about.

As I just read down that line of legis-lation that Speaker JOHNSON and Lead-er SCALISE and WHIP EMMER and our Conference Chair ELISE STEFANK have put on the agenda for this week, I find my colleague's comment that they are partisan even more ridiculous because as I read through each piece of that legislation right now, it is a common-sense approach. It is about standing with law enforcement. It is about giv-ing them the tools and the resources that they need to do their job. Mr. Speaker, that is not a partisan issue. Every piece of legislation on the floor this week should have every vote of every Member of this Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues from both sides of the aisle for being here this evening, for saluting heroes, for welcoming men and women in blue from throughout this country to their offices and to this Hill this week. I truly mean it when I say thank you from the bottom of my heart.

I speak to the children and the wid-ows. This week matters to them. It matters to the men and women right now who are in locker rooms through-out this country, suiting up for their night out on the street. It matters that we stand with them.

Mr. Speaker, I leave you with: "It is not how these officers died that made them heroes; it is how they lived."

Mr. Speaker, may they all rest in peace and may they remain the motto of the New York City Police Depart-ment, "Fidelis Ad Mortem," "Faithful Unto Death."

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

Mr. LALOTA. Mr. Speaker, I first thank my colleague, a true public servant, and good friend, ANTHONY D'ESPOSITO, for giving me time to speak tonight.

As the son and grandson of dedicated po-lice officers, I am honored to be here tonight to recognize National Police Week. This week, we pay tribute to the brave men and women who put their lives on the line every day to keep our communities safe.

Back home on Long Island, we have a proud legacy of supporting our law enforce-ment officers. From Nassau to Suffolk, our communities stand united in gratitude for their service and sacrifice. We recognize the un-wavering commitment they demonstrate, often at great personal risk, to uphold the values of justice, integrity, and service.

I'd like to specifically recognize the many Suffolk County Police Officers who are here in Washington, D.C. this week. We thank them for their service, and I look forward to engag-ing with them this week and in the future.

This week is a poignant reminder of the dedication and the risks officers face daily. The recent killing of NYPD Detective Jonathan Diller, who was killed in the line of duty, un-dercores this reality. The widespread support following his death from across Long Island

exemplifies our collective appreciation for those who protect us.

As we reflect on the challenges faced by law enforcement, let us also reaffirm our sup-port for their vital work. Let us stand together in appreciation for their dedication to pro-protecting and serving us all.

To our police officers, I say thank you. Their courage, professionalism, and selflessness in-spire us all. During National Police Week, let's unite in support of law enforcement officers nationwide, recognizing their courage, dedica-tion, and sacrifices. We must reaffirm our commitment to providing them with the nec-essary resources, support, and respect, en-abling them to continue their vital work with in-tegrity and honor.

THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

GENERAL LEAVE

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentle-woman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today as co-anchor of this CBC Special Order hour, along with my dis-tinguished colleague, Representative JONATHAN JACKSON.

For the next 60 minutes, members of the CBC have an opportunity to discuss the importance of the 70th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, an issue of great importance to the Con-gressional Black Caucus, Congress, the constituents we represent, and all Americans.

Today, I rise to reflect upon the 70th anniversary of one of the most pivotal moments in our Nation's history: the landmark Supreme Court case, Brown v. Board of Education. This ruling for-ever altered the course of our Nation, shattering the chains of segregation and paving the way for a more just and equitable society.

Our educational institutions were marred by racial segregation, denying countless Black children the oppor-tunity to receive a quality education simply because of the color of their skin. The Brown v. Board of Education decision struck down the doctrine of "separate but equal," declaring that segregated education facilities were in-herently unequal, and thus unconstitu-tional. This ruling not only dismantled the legal framework of segregation in schools but sent a powerful message that discrimination and inequality have no place in our society.

However, the significance of Brown v. Board of Education extends far beyond