

to found Diamond Tactical and eventually founding and becoming CEO of TYR Tactical, the leading global manufacturer of tactical gear and equipment for military and law enforcement.

While successfully leading his company as CEO, Beck also began his career as in public service when he announced his run for Peoria mayor on a promise of realizing Peoria's full potential.

In realizing this potential, Mayor Beck has secured increased funding for Peoria's fire and medical departments and added more law enforcement positions.

Mayor Beck's accomplishments for the city have made Peoria somewhere people are proud to be from, proud to work in, and proud to raise a family. As a Peoria resident, I applaud his commitment to our community.

□ 1100

#### HONORING ARIZONA'S POLICE OFFICERS

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Arizona's police officers. They are honorable men and women who protect us each and every day.

I promise I will always fight against the defund our police movement. I promise I will protect qualified immunity for our law enforcement. I promise that I will always stand with the men and women in blue.

#### PROTECTING LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Ms. CRAIG) for 5 minutes.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today nearly 3 months since Burnsville lost Police Officers Matthew Ruge and Paul Elmstrand and Firefighter-Paramedic Adam Finseth in the line of duty.

They answered a domestic call early one Sunday morning, where seven children were being held inside a home by an armed gunman. A tactical vehicle from the city of Rosemount was a critical part of the emergency response that day.

Look at these photos beside me. Take a long look at these photos. Forty-one shots from a gunman's rifle hit this vehicle as officers from Rosemount and Apple Valley tried to help their brothers. We may have had even more injury and, God forbid, death that day without this vehicle.

It was 3 months ago when I stood on the House floor and pledged to honor Matthew, Paul, and Adam's lives by giving the first responders who keep our communities safe the support they need on the ground. That is why, today, I am introducing the Protect Local Law Enforcement Act, a bill that would allow local law enforcement to purchase vehicles like the one used in Burnsville with Federal funds, which is currently restricted by the Federal Government.

Law enforcement's multiple missions are harder and more dangerous than

ever before. They are routinely put in harm's way. This National Police Week, let's honor them by protecting them.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will save lives, and I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support it.

#### THANKING THE LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BACON). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the brave men and women who wear the badge and put their lives on the line to serve us, protect us, and keep our communities safe. I proudly back our women and men in blue, and National Police Week is an opportunity for our Nation to come together and thank the law enforcement community.

According to a recent study, 58 percent of Americans believe reducing crime should be a top priority for the President and Congress to address, yet some Washington Democrats maintain their calls to defund the police.

We must reject that nonsense and support the brave men and women who serve on the front line by collecting accurate data to address the rise in antipolice attacks, empowering law enforcement to detain any illegal immigrant charged with or convicted of assaulting a law enforcement officer, and ensuring our officers have access to a variety of mental health services as they bear the weight of protecting their neighbors and our communities.

This body will have the opportunity to offer that support this week by voting "yes" on bills that will do just that.

Americans deserve to live in an environment that is safe and secure. It is not lost on me that our law enforcement plays the most significant role in securing and defending that safety. We are grateful.

#### EVERY STATE IN AMERICA IS A BORDER STATE

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, 370 days ago, this body passed the Secure the Border Act of 2023. After President Biden's policies created the worst humanitarian crisis in our Nation's history, House Republicans rallied together to end the crisis and secure the southern border.

Sadly, some Washington Democrats are more loyal to progressive activists than to keeping Americans safe. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle would rather leave the border wide open than consider our legislation. In the meantime, America suffers.

Since House Republicans passed H.R. 2, there have been more than 2.1 million encounters with illegal immigrants trying to enter the country at the southern border. Nearly 120 of those individuals' names appear on the terrorist watch list, and almost 33,000 of them have some sort of criminal background.

In the past year alone, our Border Patrol agents have seized enough fentanyl to kill 3.8 billion people. That is the entire population of the United States, China, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Nigeria, and Brazil combined.

It doesn't matter what the White House says. The numbers don't lie. President Biden's policies are failing, and our country is less secure because of it.

Under President Biden, every State in America is a border State. Kansas and the Big First feel that, and that is why they are so concerned about President Biden's border crisis.

In my commitment to the Big First, I pledged that I would fight for a nation that is secure and work to end the crisis at the border. That commitment is one of the reasons why I supported H.R. 2.

Rather than working with House Republicans to fix the President's crisis, Senate Democrats have decided to let H.R. 2 just sit in the legislative graveyard. In the meantime, Mexican cartels are more empowered while more drugs and more crime pour into our country over the border.

Mr. Speaker, Americans deserve better than this. Our children deserve to live in a country where they are safe and secure. It is beyond time for President Biden to work with House Republicans to secure the southern border. Enough is enough.

#### ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO REPORTING SEXUAL ASSAULT AND HARASSMENT IN THE COAST GUARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, last night, the U.S. House of Representatives voted in an overwhelming majority, 376-16, to pass H.R. 7659, the Coast Guard Authorization Act.

This critical measure, which Congress approves every 2 years, authorizes Coast Guard procurement programs, such as Coast Guard shipbuilding, which is so necessary in terms of carrying out the Coast Guard's mission both at home and overseas, and also makes prudent adjustments to shoreside infrastructure, including the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, which is located in my district in New London, Connecticut.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, in 2023, the press discovered that there was an investigation that the Coast Guard internally conducted over a number of years, tracking and identifying an unacceptable and really outrageous amount of sexual harassment and even sexual abuse that was happening on the campus. The report, which the new Commandant, Admiral Fagan, did release publicly, describes a totally unacceptable situation, which this Coast Guard authorization bill does address.

Specifically, the bill includes H.R. 5249, the Coast Guard Academy Safe-to-

Report Parity Act, which I introduced with a bipartisan coalition, that requires the Coast Guard to prescribe a safe-to-report policy to protect personnel who report incidents of sexual assault or sexual harassment from being punished for minor offenses, which may hinder them reporting acts which they were victims of.

In February of this year, the Commandant, Admiral Fagan, directed the Coast Guard to establish this policy through administrative action. Our bill, which we passed last night, will actually codify the policy and make it part of the Federal U.S. Code and bring parity for the Coast Guard with the Department of Defense and its service academies, which have had this law in effect for the last 5 years.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, many victims of sexual assault hesitated to report because they feared repercussions for minor collateral misconduct. In fact, a recent Coast Guard workplace gender relations survey found that 25 percent of the female victims who chose not to report their sexual assaults were concerned that they might get in trouble for something else that they did.

This bill will firmly and finally eliminate a barrier to reporting sexual assault and harassment, taking fear of repercussions off the table.

Again, I thank Admiral Lisa Fagan for her outstanding leadership and for working diligently with me, my office, and other Members of Congress to craft this crucial policy. I also thank Chairs GRAVES and WEBSTER and Ranking Members LARSEN and CARBAJAL for their work in passing the Coast Guard authorization out of committee and bringing it to the floor last night for a successful vote.

Again, I urge my colleagues in the Senate to quickly craft their version of the bill and make sure that we codify these protections for outstanding young cadets who are going to be the future leaders of the Coast Guard for decades and decades to come.

#### BACK THE BLUE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. FEENSTRA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FEENSTRA. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Police Week. It is a time to recognize and thank our police and law enforcement officers for risking their lives to protect our families.

These heroes work long hours and make incredible sacrifices to keep our communities safe, never seeking recognition or praise for what they do. We cannot thank them enough for their service to our country.

Today, we also honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty, including Algona Police Officer Kevin Cram and those who sadly passed away due to medical complications, such as Iowa State Trooper Rose Hoyt Ives, who was based in Council Bluffs for years. Our prayers remain with their families and loved ones.

In Congress, I will continue to stand with our law enforcement community and back those in blue. They deserve our deepest appreciation in all that they do.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL HOSPITAL WEEK

Mr. FEENSTRA. Mr. Speaker, during National Hospital Week, I recognize our incredible hospitals in Iowa and thank our doctors, nurses, healthcare workers, and administrators who keep our hospitals running each and every day. Their work is critical in keeping our families and communities safe and healthy.

On my 36-county tour, I met with healthcare workers and families about the importance of keeping our hospitals open and operational in our rural communities. That is why I introduced the Rural Hospital Stabilization Act, which just passed out of Ways and Means Committee, to help our hospitals meet payroll, retain quality staff, make needed improvements, and deliver exceptional care.

As a past city administrator, I can fully say that when a rural hospital closes, it is truly devastating to the community and to Iowa as a whole.

Fortunately, this bill will deliver the financial support that our hospitals need to provide high-quality healthcare to our families.

As a member of the Ways and Means Committee, I will continue to advocate for policies that keep our rural hospitals strong and vibrant and protect access to affordable, reliable healthcare in Iowa.

Again, I thank all of our healthcare workers for creating true quality care in Iowa.

#### RECOGNIZING DORDT UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

Mr. FEENSTRA. Mr. Speaker, on March 26, Dordt University women's basketball won the 2024 NAIA Women's Basketball National Championship.

Led by Head Coach Bill Harmsen, the Defenders defeated the University of Providence by a score of 57-53 to secure their first-ever national championship. With this championship victory, the Defenders finished the season with a nine-game winning streak and ended with a program-best 35-2 record. This is an incredible milestone in the history of this program.

I thank the head coach and the girls' basketball team for their hard work, dedication, and sportsmanship that has elevated Dordt's women's basketball team on the national stage.

I congratulate women's basketball Coach Bill Harmsen on a successful season and look forward to cheering him on in the Defenders' 2025 and 2026 seasons.

#### HONORING DISTINGUISHED SHERIFFS OF GEORGIA'S 10TH DISTRICT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during this National Police Week to honor four Georgia sheriffs. Sheriffs Janis Mangum, Melvin Andrews, Robert Markley, and Joe Chapman are each distinguished officers from Georgia's 10th District, who, after a career of serving others, are retiring later this year.

Our law enforcement officers and first responders risk their lives every time they don their uniforms.

Mr. Speaker, in a time of the defund the police movement out there from the left, it is more important than ever that we back our men and women in blue.

□ 1115

Mr. Speaker, I join millions of Americans out there in expressing my gratitude to every law enforcement officer during this National Police Week for their service, dedication, and courage. I also thank Sheriffs Mangum, Andrews, Markley, and Chapman on behalf of Georgia's 10th District.

#### SERGEANT DENNIS MILLS VETERAN OF THE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor an extraordinary individual, Sergeant Dennis Mills, as our Veteran of the Month.

Drafted into the U.S. Marine Corps at the age of 20, Sergeant Mills exemplified bravery and dedication in some of the most difficult conditions imaginable during the Vietnam war. Assigned to the First Reconnaissance Battalion of the 1st Marine Division, he led approximately 40 reconnaissance patrols.

On a day that started as a beautiful morning on April 1, 1970, at Camp Reasoner, tragedy struck when a member of his patrol triggered a landmine.

Despite sustaining severe injuries, Sergeant Mills' courage never wavered. He was medically evacuated after suffering injuries to both legs, his left arm, and receiving shrapnel wounds to his back.

For his valor, Sergeant Mills was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" and the Purple Heart.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Sergeant Dennis Mills for his service and his sacrifice for our great Nation. He is a true hero.

#### SMALL BUSINESS OF THE MONTH, ENERGY TRANSPORT SOLUTIONS

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the Fourth District of Missouri's May Small Business of the Month, Energy Transport Solutions.

ETS is a customer service-focused business. It is run by an industry-experienced family that is proud to have an excellent safety record while getting the job done in Missouri. Energy Transport Solutions has been owned and operated by a father and son duo,