

their well-being, as well as that of their families. I will continue to support measures in Congress to ensure every officer has the tools and stability that they need to serve our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do the same.

On behalf of all New Mexicans, I thank our fallen officers, again, for their service and sacrifice.

HONORING THE RULE OF LAW

Mr. VASQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, part of the reason why folks look to the United States as a beacon of democracy and justice is because we honor, respect, and follow the rule of law.

Assault in this Nation is never acceptable, no matter the perpetrator or the cause, never. When it comes to our police officers and first responders, that is especially important.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle have introduced a bill meant to address this issue and specifically target immigrants in this country, and, unfortunately, they could not help themselves but to introduce inflammatory and anti-immigrant language that distorts what we could accomplish if we were actually willing to work together to find real solutions to our Nation's broken immigration system. That is why I introduced amendments to ensure what we can all agree on: due process, justice, and the rule of law to which we are all entitled to in this country.

Let me be clear: If anyone is convicted of an offense involving assault of a law enforcement officer, then they should be held accountable. However, that is not the case in the bill that Republicans have proposed.

I remain committed to finding solutions based in truth and justice that address public safety concerns with legislators on both sides of the aisle that also support law enforcement and their families.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE SANTA FE INTERNATIONAL LITERARY FESTIVAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Santa Fe International Literary Festival. Humans have painted stories on cavern walls, etched them into clay tablets, and recounted them around the dinner table. Puebloans in New Mexico celebrate their storytellers in beautiful sculptures.

The invention of the printing press in 1440 allowed readers across the world to access literature and begin to understand cultures and lives different from their own.

Sadly, some fearful politicians want to limit our curiosity and knowledge. They are now banning books.

In contrast, the Santa Fe International Literary Festival brings to-

gether the best literary minds from across the world to move us forward. Every participating author is exceptional and has included powerful authors whose award-winning books have been banned, like N. Scott Momaday, Margaret Atwood, and Julia Alvarez.

At the festival, writers will take us around the world and back through history, like Doug Preston, Hampton Sides, and Diana Gabaldon, who will share their vision and their craft.

Memorialists like Javier Zamora will take us on a 9-year-old's perilous journey of migration to the United States, hopefully increasing our empathy along the way.

I congratulate to the festival on another year of spreading the joy of stories. Felicidades to the authors.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, this National Police Week, I rise to give thanks to the officers who keep us safe every day everywhere. Police have families who love them and miss them when long hours keep them on the road and on duty. My gratitude extends to their families, as well.

My gratitude must include getting them the Federal resources to do their job to solve crimes and to keep us safe. My community projects have funded mobile command units in rural counties, virtual training gear so they are prepared before they face the worst, and squad cars to get them to where they need to go.

In my district, we have many small rural police forces who are grateful for the FBI help with forensics and Federal COPS and Byrne JAG grants, which help their police officers do their jobs.

Federal law enforcement investigates and prevents crime in Indian Country.

Sadly, Republican bills and proposals seek to cut these important Federal funds and defund the FBI. This year alone, Democrats have sent almost double the amount of funding than Republicans to local law enforcement.

I will fight to keep these Federal funds flowing so my rural and Tribal police forces have access to these important Federal grants and to an FBI that can be their partner when the worst happens.

RECOGNIZING NEW MEXICO STATE REPRESENTATIVE JIM TRUJILLO

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the loss of one of New Mexico's most accomplished and best-loved public servants, former New Mexico State Representative Jim Trujillo. He demonstrated what it means to answer the call to public service and that public service is an act of love.

I am grateful for the love Representative Trujillo gave to the people of his district and our State.

His legacy now lives on in countless lives he touched in our beautiful State through both his important career as a financial professional and his broad public service in the New Mexico Human Services Department, 6 years in the New Mexico National Guard, and

his outstanding 17 years in the New Mexico legislature.

I met with Representative Trujillo numerous times when I was working on voting rights and Tribal intergovernmental matters. He always listened with deep attention and gave clear direction and support.

He was a man of his word. His tireless dedication to the people of New Mexico proved how much we can accomplish when we work together for our beloved communities.

I carry his inspiration with me as I continue my own service in the beautifully diverse Third District of New Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my deepest condolences to his wife, Virginia, their children, and the entire extended Trujillo family.

□ 1100

COMMEMORATING ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, the Supreme Court's decision to desegregate public schools.

Despite this landmark case and the integration that followed, segregation in schools has increased by more than 60 percent over the last few decades, driven by so-called school choice and Federal courts rolling back desegregation commitments.

Every student should have the opportunity to get a quality education. Federal, State, and local leaders must work hand-in-hand to reverse the harmful policies, including the housing costs that have contributed to this new wave of segregation.

In Orange County, which I represent, students challenged school segregation in one of the first cases of its kind, Mendez v. Westminster, which integrated California schools and laid much of the groundwork for Brown v. Board of Education.

Mr. Speaker, as we mark the 70th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, I hope my colleagues will join me in recommitting to fighting segregation.

THANKING MILITARY SPOUSES

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to extend my sincere gratitude to our Nation's military spouses.

We recently celebrated National Military Spouse Appreciation Day, a reminder to reflect on how military families support our servicemembers and our country through their selfless dedication.

The Biden administration recently came to an agreement with the Department of Defense and State Department to strengthen the Federal Domestic Employees Teleworking Overseas program for military spouses working for

the Federal Government. This agreement will help military spouses keep their jobs and advance their careers while their partners are stationed overseas.

Yesterday, I joined my Oversight Committee colleagues to build on this success and advance a bill that would codify these protections into law.

Our military is stronger and more capable when military spouses can build their careers because families choose to reenlist. I applaud their service and selfless dedication to our country.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JEFFREY JACKSON

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the passing of the past president of the Orange County Realtors, Jeffrey Jackson.

Jeff's presidency came at a tumultuous time for real estate, with changes to commission structures, historically low inventory, and high interest rates. Those challenges didn't inhibit his willingness to serve. As his association stated, he willingly embraced the opportunity.

Jeff was a passionate advocate, and the struggles of his clients to find housing drove him to fight for housing for all. He fulfilled all of his roles, including at the State and national associations, until the final weeks of his battle with cancer.

Jeff had four loves: his Hoosiers; his dog, Niles; jazz; and housing. He moved to California in 2010 and, in 2014, began his 10-year real estate career.

Jeff was loved by many, including me, and he will be dearly missed.

PAUSING EXPANSION OF LNG EXPORT CAPACITY

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, Big Oil has long exploited and profited from our dependence on fossil fuels.

I rise today proud that our President is finally standing up to Big Oil and putting people over polluters. I applaud President Biden's decision to pause the expansion of America's liquid natural gas export capacity.

For too long, the United States has rapidly approved LNG terminals without verifying economic benefits and making sure that Big Oil companies are accountable to clean up their messes.

The United States is already the top exporter of LNG, and future projects are not expected to go online for several years, handcuffing future generations with the harms of pollution.

We need rigorous oversight of LNG exports to protect families, communities, the environment, and our national security.

The Biden administration's announcement is an incredible first step to making sure the American people, not just Big Oil companies, actually benefit from changes to our energy policies.

TALLMADGE BLUE DEVILS
WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. SYKES) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the Tallmadge Blue Devils coed wheelchair basketball team as Ohio's 13th District Champions of the Week.

The Wheelchair Blue Devils recently won the Ohio Interscholastic Wheelchair Basketball State Championship title, defeating the previously unbeaten and top-ranked Austintown Falcons.

During this championship game, freshman Ta'Shaun Meyers scored 16 points to help lead the Wheelchair Blue Devils to a well-deserved victory. The win capped off an impressive 15-2 season for the Wheelchair Blue Devils.

In addition to the hard work and determination of these outstanding student athletes, I also recognize Head Coach Monica Currey and Assistant Coach Greg Michalec for guiding and supporting the team throughout this impressive season.

In all, the success of the Blue Devils wheelchair basketball team, both on and off the court, has made our community very proud, and I am confident that the team will continue their dominance next season.

Once again, I congratulate the Blue Devils wheelchair basketball team for their incredible season and for being named Champions of the Week.

CONGRATULATING LULU EMANUELE

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Lulu Emanuele as last week's 13th Congressional District of Ohio Champion of the Week.

Lulu is a sophomore from Firestone Community Learning Center in Akron, and she is my district's first-place winner for this year's Congressional Art Competition.

I had the opportunity to view Lulu's winning piece at the community art show hosted at the Summit Artspace in Akron, and I can truly say that her piece titled "Neon Dreams" is captivating. As you can see, Lulu uses bold, dramatic neon colors that immediately catch your eye and show off her impressive technical expertise.

As the winner of our district's Congressional Art Competition, her work will proudly be displayed on the walls of the United States Capitol, where visitors from across the country and the world can see our community's artistic talent and creative abilities.

I personally can't wait to see her piece each time we walk past the Congressional Art Competition on our way to the House floor.

In addition to recognizing Lulu's exceptional artistic talent, I also thank her teachers and her family for supporting her in her endeavors.

I also recognize all the students who participated in the Congressional Art Competition because they all made this year's art challenge especially fantastic, and we are very proud of them, as well.

Again, I congratulate Lulu on being the winner of Ohio's 13th District Art Competition and the Champion of the Week.

SUPPORTING LAW ENFORCEMENT DURING
NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, this is National Police Week, and I rise to recognize the courage and dedication of police officers in Ohio's 13th Congressional District and honor those who have lost their lives while serving our communities.

Being a police officer is already a tough and dangerous job. However, in recent years, staff shortages have made this job even more difficult. As I have talked to law enforcement agencies across Ohio's 13th District, the number one thing I continue to hear is that they are having a hard time keeping and retaining officers.

Our police officers are constantly overworked, overburdened, and tired, and this constant strain on law enforcement agencies simply does not create an environment where police officers can perform to the best of their abilities to keep our communities safe.

That is why I joined several members of the Ohio delegation to introduce the Enhancing COPS Hiring Program Grants for Local Law Enforcement Act. This bipartisan, commonsense piece of legislation would expand the current COPS Hiring Program to allow local law enforcement agencies to utilize these grants for recruitment and retention bonuses and also modify the program to reduce costs and administrative burdens associated with the annual applications.

Giving law enforcement agencies the resources they need to provide recruitment and retention bonuses will ensure these departments can hire the best and most qualified and responsible officers to protect our communities.

In all, this bipartisan legislation will simultaneously improve our safety and the safety of our communities and increase the trust between police officers and the people they have sworn to protect and serve.

When I came to Congress, I promised I would put the people of Ohio's 13th Congressional District first, and that is exactly what I have continued to do. I will keep working with anyone from anywhere on real solutions, just like my enhancing COPS grant legislation that will provide our law enforcement with the resources they need to keep our communities safe.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 9 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAMALFA) at noon.