

border policies that created this mess, but I will first address that number. If that so-called limit was enforced each day for a full year, 912,500 immigrants would still likely be admitted into the United States, and that is before all of the loopholes and exceptions in his executive order are even considered, which will drive the number even higher.

The Biden administration would have you believe that this new policy will really crack down on the flow of illegal immigration into our country, but its effect will be marginal.

At best, the policy will slightly downgrade the unmitigated catastrophe at our southern border back to a mere full-blown crisis. The move confirms what House Republicans have been saying for 3 years. President Biden created this border catastrophe by using his executive powers to reverse the Trump border policies that were actually working, like construction of a border wall and the remain in Mexico policy. The President could use these same executive powers to reimplement those Trump border policies to again make the border much more secure, but unfortunately, this weak effort doesn't even come close.

President Biden's gross mismanagement of the border has sent a message to the entire world to just come on in. The result is more illegal immigrant encounters every month under this administration than the worst month under the previous administration.

Under President Biden, there have been more than 9.5 million illegal immigrant encounters at our borders. More than 7.8 million of them were reported at the southern border alone. We know at least 1.8 million people have managed to evade U.S. Border Patrol, and over 350 people who have tried to enter the country also were on the terrorist watch list.

The administration isn't done setting records. So far this fiscal year, there have been a record-breaking 27,583 Communist Chinese nationals encountered at the southern border. That is an increase of about 8,000 percent from just 3 years ago.

From the deadly fentanyl that is flowing across the border to the cartels making record profits from human trafficking, this has had a devastating impact on countless men, women, and children. There are many human costs resulting from the open border. There is also an actual monetary cost of more than \$150 billion each year, costing each U.S. taxpayer an average of \$1,156 each year.

The American people see this announcement for what it is: an election year public relations gimmick and a belated admission that there is, indeed, an unmitigated crisis at our southern border.

Fortunately, the American people will have their own chance to secure the border this November.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT SPEECHES IN MISSOURI'S FOURTH DISTRICT

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

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Art Competition began back in 1982, and since then more than 650,000 students have entered.

As we speak, the winning art from 435 districts is being displayed in the tunnel here that connects our office buildings. Our office wanted to do something different, Mr. Speaker, something that would instill patriotism back in America, especially for our young people, so our Fourth Congressional District of Missouri is starting the congressional speech competition. I hope it catches on with other Members here.

These are students from all over our district that have entered this contest. We had a big turnout for this. The assignment was: "What America Means to Me."

This week, I will be reading the top 10 speeches from these individuals.

SPEECH BY MADDIE ARNETT

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, this is from Maddie Arnett, 10th grade, Climax Springs High School in Camden County.

"'America the Beautiful' is a Nation that deeply values the principles of freedom and equality. These values were earned through tireless efforts of its people, making it a place where individuals can pursue their dreams and aspirations, working towards building a better life for themselves and their families. The iconic 'Star-Spangled Banner' asks, 'O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?'"

"The question is a powerful reminder of the country's ongoing commitment to these values.

"While the interpretations of what America means vary, one thing is certain: It continues to inspire hope and optimism for a bright future."

SPEECH BY BROOKLYN GARRISON

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, next up in our speech contest is Brooklyn Garrison, 10th grade, Concordia High School in Lafayette County.

"America, to me, embodies the promise of opportunity and the pursuit of dreams. It's a land where diversity thrives, where people from all walks of life come together to build a better future.

"It's a beacon of freedom, where individuals have the right to speak their minds, worship as they please, and chase their ambitions without fear of persecution. America symbolizes resilience, overcoming challenges, and striving for progress.

"It's a place where innovation flourishes, where the impossible becomes possible, and where the spirit of entrepreneurship thrives.

"America is not just a country; it's an idea, a belief in liberty, equality,

and the endless possibilities of tomorrow."

SPEECH BY JAXSON DECKARD

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, our next winner in our speech contest is Jaxson Deckard, 11th grade, Warsaw High School in Benton County.

"Early on, I had an interest in serving my country to preserve our freedoms. I was raised in a patriotic, God-loving home, with family members serving before me.

"To me, America is a land of freedom. Citizens have the freedom to make their own decisions and opinions. This gives citizens pride and patriotism unlike any other country, pride and patriotism that gives citizens the drive to follow their dreams.

"My dream is to attend a military service academy to become a fighter pilot for our great Nation.

"Whatever your dreams are, I encourage you to chase them. In America, there are no limits to how far you can go."

SPEECH BY JACK SCHROEDER

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, our last finalist winner for today is Jack Schroeder, 12th grade, Smithton High School in Pettis County.

"To me, the United States of America is a beacon, a beacon that shines its light across the world, showing the world what life can be like: a life where everyone can have the same opportunities.

"Parts of the world have been blocked off from the light, whether from their actions or ours, but regardless of what blocks the light, we simply shine brighter.

"We've shown our capabilities of bringing our message and ideals to some of the darkest corners of the world, whether they be domestic or abroad.

"Regardless of what we must sacrifice, we've always held our ideals close to our hearts and fought for the repressed and oppressed people to have the same rights and liberties that we do.

"To me, America is a beacon of liberation."

Mr. Speaker, it is great to be able to get up here and speak the words of our young people.

Patriotism is still alive in America.

Later this week, Mr. Speaker, we will have the six remaining finalists for our speech contest. It is something I hope the rest of Congress picks up and runs with.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF BLAINE MOELLER

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

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Blaine Moeller, who passed away at 60 years young and dedicated his career to protecting our community.

He grew up in Orange, attended Peralta Middle School, and graduated

from Villa Park High School. He attended the police academy at Golden West College and served in the Santa Ana Police Department for 31 years.

A lover of motorcycles, Blaine then became a California Highway Patrol motorcycle rider instructor and opened a motorcycle school in Anaheim. An avid sports fan, he could be found cheering on his favorites: the Green Bay Packers, Florida State, and the Lakers.

He was a devoted father, son, brother, and uncle. Blaine leaves behind two children, Taylor and Courtney; his mother, Marsha; and siblings, Lorie, Darin, and Todd.

Mr. Speaker, I join his family in mourning his passing and honoring his legacy.

HONORING THE LIFE OF OTTO WARMBIER

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Otto Frederick Warmbier as we approach the seventh anniversary of his tragic death at the hands of the North Korean regime on June 19, 2017.

Otto was a dedicated young man, graduating as salutatorian of his high school in Ohio before attending the University of Virginia.

While on a school tour in North Korea in 2015, Otto was imprisoned and tortured by the North Korean regime. He died a few days after his release at just 22 years old.

Mr. Speaker, Otto experienced what no human being should ever have to go through. While he is no longer with us, his family carries on his legacy with their advocacy and strength.

"We remember and honor Otto always." "Uri-neun Otto-leul youngwonhi giukhal geos-ibnida."

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 44 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Holy Lord, in this moment in time, in all times, may we bless You. May our praise for You be continually in our mouths and may all that our souls boast for boast in You, O Lord. May our words magnify You, that all would know of our love for You and would then desire to exalt Your name with us.

We need only remember that when we seek You, You answer us. By Your

grace, You deliver us from all our fears. We need only to look to You, and our faces will be radiant with Your light. In light of Your mercy, the darkness of our shame disappears.

Attend to us this day. Encamp Your angels around us. Deliver those who fear You from the snares of those who would do us harm. Save us from every trouble we will face.

Then may we taste and see that You, O Lord, are good. Happy are we when we take refuge in You.

With Your name on our lips, we offer to You our prayers for this day.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. EDWARDS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

UNAFFORDABLE HOUSING CAUSED BY BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S DEFICIT SPENDING

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, affordable housing continues to be a problem for Tennesseans. Unfortunately, it is getting worse. The cost of owning a home continues to climb, putting the American Dream out of reach for millions of Americans.

The cost of a new home in February 2020 averaged \$332,000. Now, 4 short years later, that average is \$434,000. This is a direct result of the Biden administration's out-of-control deficit spending.

Inflation was at 1.9 percent prior to this administration. It has risen 20 per-

cent since. In Tennessee, families are now paying \$22,277 more a year, on average, for the very same goods they were buying in January 2021. This makes buying a home just that much more difficult.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for this administration to put the credit card down and enact policies aimed at restoring the American Dream.

CONGRATULATING

LAHAINALUNA'S CLASS OF 2024

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

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, I joined the graduation ceremony for the proud class of 2024 at Lahainaluna High School.

For the 225 seniors and hundreds of family members, students, faculty, and alumni, this evening honored the resiliency of this community. From the depths of the COVID-19 pandemic in freshman year to the tragic fires that struck the day before the start of senior year, this graduating class has been tested in so many ways, but they persisted. They made it. Now, these students will go off into the world to make their mark.

The valedictory speaker, M. Jee Abara, started his speech by ripping it up. Life is uncertain, he said. These words hit close to home for a community all too familiar with uncertainty.

Abara will now study disaster preparedness and emergency management at the University of Hawaii at West Oahu. What was a passion before the fires has only become a calling to give back to his hometown. It is a common theme for his entire class of brave, young students.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Lahainaluna's class of 2024. Their perseverance, courage, and strength give us all so much hope for Lahaina's recovery in the years to come.

CONGRATULATING SAMUEL AND SAUL MALDONADO AND SAMES, INC.

(Ms. DE LA CRUZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Samuel and Saul Maldonado and their exceptional company, SAM Engineering & Surveying, or SAMES for short, for receiving the Department of Energy's prestigious HUBZone Small Business of the Year award.

Founded in 2008 and based in McAllen, Texas, SAMES is a minority-owned small business providing top-tier construction, engineering, and surveying services. With over 100 employees across four locations, SAMES has grown into a nationally recognized, award-winning leader in its industry, proving that it is still possible to live the American Dream.