

While we hear President Biden and his allies boast about a so-called drop in illegal immigrant encounters in recent weeks, the number of national security threats resulting from this administration's policies continue to mount.

According to the Department of Homeland Security's own threat assessment for this year, illegal drugs produced in Mexico and sold in the United States will take more American lives than any other threat we face.

Further underscoring the threat our country faces due to the President's open-border policies, we learned 2 weeks ago that the Department of Homeland Security has identified more than 400 illegal immigrants that have entered the U.S. over the last 3 years as "subjects of concern." They are subjects of concern because they were brought here by an ISIS-affiliated human smuggling network, according to sources who spoke with NBC News.

These unnamed officials report that 150 of these individuals have been arrested, but the whereabouts of many more are unknown. We also don't know whether the money earned in this human smuggling operation is funding ISIS activity.

A couple of weeks prior to this story, NBC also reported that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrested eight men from Tajikistan, also for suspected affiliation with ISIS, in three major U.S. cities. This turned out to be an entirely separate ISIS-affiliated human smuggling network.

Mr. Speaker, these are just a couple of examples from recent weeks. We face many, many more national security threats that are a direct result of open borders and a refusal to uphold existing immigration laws in this country.

More than 350 illegal immigrants who are on the terror watch list have attempted to cross into the United States since President Biden took office. More than 1.8 million people have successfully evaded Border Patrol. Hundreds of thousands of unknown individuals have been admitted into the U.S. on parole with no way of tracking many of these individuals. This widespread abuse of parole authority was a key factor in my vote to impeach DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas. It has truly paved the way for countless instances of crime across this country.

The President's recent executive order is far too little, far too late. It doesn't go far enough to treat these threats to our safety and security with the seriousness that they merit. The action, however, does prove what I have been saying and arguing for months, that the President has and has had the authority to end this crisis at our border. It also highlights the fact that our Commander in Chief waited 3½ years before taking any action to curb the unprecedented flow of illegal immigrants into this country.

This isn't hyperbole. These are facts. As sobering as they may be, I fear they will persist as long as President Biden or whoever is making decisions at the White House is in the White House.

HONORING ANDRE JONES

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

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Andre Jones, in recognition of BIPOC Mental Health Awareness Month. Andre's life and creativity are an invitation to celebrate the beauty of our shared humanity.

Andre, a Chicago native from the Logan Square area in Illinois-03, has published a unique coloring book. It is called "Colorful Memoirs: A Journey Through Andre's Life," that offers a glimpse into his experiences and affirms his credo: Just like you, I am a human being.

Andre participates in the community living programs at Envision Unlimited where he practices his commitment to inclusion and community building through his leadership of the cycling committee. Andre is donating the proceeds from the coloring book to support his beloved summer cycling programs.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, I commend Andre for his contributions to mental health awareness and his ongoing efforts to equip and uplift our community.

I thank and congratulate Andre.

HONORING NAT VIKITSRETH

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nat Vikitsreth in recognition of BIPOC Mental Health Awareness Month.

Nat is the founder of Come Back to Care based in the Illinois-03 and a self-described dot connector, norm agitator, and a lover of liberation. She brings wit, authenticity, honesty, and audacity to the work of collaborating with parents to address intergenerational family trauma and healing from internalized oppression.

Nat unapologetically pursues social justice and liberation in her practice while rooting her work in our sacred shared humanity.

While she has a long, impressive list of awards, publications, and traditional credentials to be proud of, Nat believes that her work with parents, caregivers, and children is the highest honor.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, I commend Nat Vikitsreth for her contributions to mental health, especially for Black and Brown communities, and her unwavering commitment to the sacred work of healing and justice.

I thank and congratulate Nat.

□ 1030

HONORING JACK ROSS

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Illinois Third constituent and veteran, Jack Ross.

Jack was wounded in action during his deployment in Vietnam while serving as his squad's point man. Like so many servicemembers living with disabilities and traumas as a result of their service, Jack witnessed unspeak-

able horrors and returned home injured and with PTSD.

His commendable service and sacrifice were recognized with two Purple Hearts, two Bronze Star Medals and an Air Medal.

Upon returning home, Jack turned his military experience into a lifetime of community leadership. He owns and operates Manor Press, a veteran-owned business in River Grove. He has also served on the boards of Oak Leyden Developmental Services and his alma mater, Guerin Prep High School.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, I commend Jack Ross for his courage, for his service to our communities, and his unwavering leadership.

CONGRATULATING HENDERSON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' SOFTBALL TEAM

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Henderson County High School girls' softball team on an amazing season and their first-ever State championship.

The Lady Colonels won the title in a dominating fashion by a final score of 11-0.

This State title capped an impressive season. The team notched 36 wins and recorded multiple school records, including highest batting average, most hits, most runs scored, most singles, most doubles, most RBIs, and most stolen bases.

Three players on the Henderson County team were also named to the All-Tournament Team. This is an amazing accomplishment for Henderson County High School, for the program, the community, and I am so honored to represent this great community in west Kentucky.

I again congratulate the Henderson County girls' softball team on their first-ever State championship.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the new bill that I filed titled the "Presidential Ethics Reform Act."

This bill is a bipartisan bill that I have filed with Representative KATIE PORTER from California. The American people are skeptical about whether government officials actually work in the public interest, regardless of which party they are in.

This bill would require Presidents and Vice Presidents to disclose foreign payments, family gifts, family loans, family use of government travel, and tax returns.

Increasing transparency is a key step to restoring trust in the government. Let the American people see for themselves whether or not there are conflicts of interest with their leadership.

Both parties have complained about previous administrations having conflicts of interest, especially among

their immediate family members. That is why Representative PORTER and I have filed this piece of legislation.

To summarize, let me go through what the Presidential Ethics Reform Act actually does.

First of all, it requires Presidents and Vice Presidents to disclose payments, transfers, or other items of value from foreign sources received by themselves or immediate family members within 2 years before taking office, during their time in office, and for 2 years after leaving office.

This bill requires Presidents and Vice Presidents to disclose conflicts of interest upon taking office and throughout their time in office.

This bill requires Presidents and Vice Presidents to disclose gifts valued at more than \$10,000 received from or by immediate family members within 2 years before taking office, during their time in office, and for 2 years after leaving office.

This bill requires Presidents and Vice Presidents to disclose loans or loan repayments made to them by an immediate family member of any amount or received by an immediate family member from any source, except commercial loans, for over \$10,000 within 2 years before taking office, during their time in office, and for 2 years after leaving office.

This bill requires Presidents and Vice Presidents to disclose when immediate family members accompany the President or Vice President on official travel, specifying when they do so, and whether or not it is for business purposes.

Finally, the Presidential Ethics Reform Act requires Presidents and Vice Presidents to disclose tax returns for the 2 years preceding their time in office, during their time in office, and for the 2 years following their departure from office.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this ethics bill will address all the concerns that Members of both parties and members of both the conservative and liberal media have had about this administration, the previous administration, and administrations prior to the last administration.

When I announced the Biden influence pedaling investigation in November of 2022 when it was apparent that the House was going to flip from Democrat to Republican, I said two things about that investigation that I hoped would be accomplished: number one, that the American people would be given the truth about just exactly what the Biden family has been doing in their family schemes, and I believe we have provided that; and, secondly, we were going to pass legislation to define influence pedaling and prevent it from happening in the future.

That is what the Presidential Ethics Reform Act does today. I am pleased to file this bill in a bipartisan manner with my colleague KATIE PORTER.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 36 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 (Ms. MALOY) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Loving God, like a shepherd, lead us into this day. You have blessed us with the refreshment of mercy and shelter. You have led us to drink freely from the still waters of Your grace. Refresh both our minds and our souls for the work that lies ahead.

Then guide us along the path of righteousness. Though the way is enshrouded with the darkness of these times, remind us that we have no need to fear, for You remain with us. Guide us with Your rod of protection. Comfort us with the strong staff of Your compassion.

Open our eyes to the bounty You set before us, a feast rich with Your abiding presence, anointed with Your wisdom, overflowing with evidence of Your steadfast provision.

Surely, Your goodness and love will remain with us, now and in all the days to come.

May all in this House dwell with You this day.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. PETERS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PETERS 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

BIDEN BORDER CRISIS THREATENS FAMILIES

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, the Biden border crisis threatens all American families at risk of murderous attacks.

Since Biden, there have been 16 million illegal alien crossings. In April alone, there were 180,000 illegal alien crossings.

This represents 38 consecutive months of higher illegal crossings than any month under President Donald Trump.

In the last 7 months, more than 27,000 Chinese communist nationals illegally crossed, breaking the total of all of last year.

The American people have exposed corrupt Judge Merchan, dismissing his unethical witch hunt with the achievement ultimately of electing President Donald Trump. Merchan will be warmly welcomed as my guest at the Trump inauguration.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism moves from the Afghanistan safe haven to America. We do not need new border laws. We need to enforce the existing border laws. Biden shamefully opens borders for dictators as more 9/11 attacks across America are imminent, as repeatedly warned by the FBI.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAN DIEGO PRIDE

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

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of San Diego Pride, a two-day celebration of love, acceptance, and diversity. The event is a powerful testament to the resiliency and spirit of the San Diego LGBTQ community.

San Diego Pride started in 1974 with an unsanctioned march. Since then, it has grown into one of the city's largest, most cherished events. The centerpiece is a parade through Hillcrest, the vibrant neighborhood that serves as San Diego's LGBTQ hub, which I am proud to represent. Its streets, adorned with Pride flags, reflect the tireless work of people who refuse to be muted and marginalized.

I take this opportunity to celebrate the achievements of the community in San Diego and beyond and reaffirm my commitment to ensuring that everyone can live authentically and without fear of discrimination. Together, let's celebrate our diversity and recognize that love knows no boundaries.

RECOGNIZING DAVID LINDSAY

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