

falls, they would move directly to another NATO ally.

Now many of my constituents rightly question the high cost of this aid package. Support for Ukraine and our allies is in our national interest. It is a national security issue. If we hand over Ukraine to Russia, then Putin will win. Our alliances will crumble.

While the costs are high, we will spend 100 times more containing an aggressive Russia around the globe if we do nothing. We must stand with our allies. This will be a vote where Members will be forced to choose between democracy and authoritarianism. That is the great challenge of our time, and we cannot fail.

If Speaker JOHNSON fails to bring this bill to the floor, I believe the House will work its own will on this issue.

□ 1215

Our Speaker has made it clear that he is totally beholden to far-right MAGA extremists—like we just heard from on the floor. It is the tail wagging the dog. However, I believe that a majority of the Republican Conference would vote for the Senate aid package if they were allowed to work their own will on the bill and this issue. However, if Speaker JOHNSON brings the bill to the floor, I believe he will be sacked by MAGA extremists in the Republican Conference. Let's be clear, it is the far right that is running the show in the House Republican Conference today.

Far too much attention has been given to far-right extremists in this Congress. Much more attention should be given to the members of the Republican Conference who are retiring.

Madam Speaker, any one Member can come down to the floor to offer a motion to vacate the chair. Only four House Republicans are needed to elect a new Speaker. If MIKE JOHNSON fails to act, I believe there are many Republicans in the House who agree with the 22 Republicans in the Senate on this issue.

I don't think we would have a Democratic Speaker. I believe, though, there is support for a temporary Speaker, a moderate to move bills that can get 60 votes in the Senate and move those through the House. Maybe a temporary Speaker for 2 or 3 weeks? That is what the Nation wants: Members of Congress willing to work together to get things done and to solve our Nation's toughest problems.

We have just seen 22 Republicans in the Senate willing to vote country over party on this issue, and I believe there are Republicans in the House willing to do the same. That is the way we get bipartisan immigration reform and border security. It is the way we pass this supplemental appropriations bill to stand with our allies in Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan.

House Republicans have a choice, Madam Speaker. Are they prodemocracy, or are they pro-Putin? House Republicans can choose country over party or Russia over the United States.

House Republicans can stand with our allies, or they can stand with Donald Trump.

Will House Republicans stand with democratic nations like Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan, or will they stand with authoritarian regimes like Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea? I have hope for the retiring Members of the Republican Conference, and I believe there are Members willing to stand with democracy over Donald Trump.

Madam Speaker, you have heard House Democrats come to the floor and talk about voting to put people over politics. This is an issue that is people over politics, and we must not fail.

SECRETARY MAYORKAS MUST BE HELD TO ACCOUNT

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

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, today the House will vote again on two Articles of Impeachment against Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas.

A lot of attention has been paid to the fact that the impeachment vote failed to pass the House last week due to a Republican being absent for health reasons. While I would have, of course, rather that it had passed, it did serve to highlight that House Republicans are largely in this fight to secure our national borders all by ourselves.

House Democrats know that Secretary Mayorkas has intentionally failed to secure our borders, but most agree with President Biden's open-border policy, so not one single House Democrat joined with us to impeach Secretary Mayorkas. Essentially, they like the job he is doing or, should I say, not doing.

The Immigration and Nationality Act requires that those who clearly do not meet the requirements for asylum be detained for removal. Yet, in 2021, Secretary Mayorkas wrote to ICE officials: "The fact an individual is a removable noncitizen therefore should not alone be the basis of an enforcement action against them."

The law says an alien who is deportable on certain criminal and terrorism-related grounds should be taken into custody. Again, Secretary Mayorkas wrote: "Personnel should not rely on the fact of conviction . . . alone."

Our laws say parole can only be granted on a case-by-case basis for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit. That is far from what is happening. Secretary Mayorkas has sat at the helm of a historic, unconstitutional catch and release scheme that has resulted in tens of thousands of illegal immigrants being released into the United States with no way of tracking them.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals concluded in *Texas v. Biden* that Mayorkas' DHS was ignoring the limits Congress placed on their parole author-

ity. Let me say that again. The court found that DHS was ignoring the limits placed on their parole authority.

There have been more than 8.3 million illegal immigrant encounters under Secretary Mayorkas' watch, more than 1.7 million known got-aways, and more than 360 attempted crossings by immigrants on the terrorist watch list. Yet, unfortunately, we will likely see another party-line vote later today.

A Harvard CAPS/Harris poll last month found that 35 percent of registered voters approve of the President's handling of immigration, and 68 percent of registered voters say they believe the administration should make it tougher to enter the United States illegally. Half of those voters identified as Democrats. This shouldn't be a party-line vote, Madam Speaker.

Contrary to what we hear coming from many in the mainstream media, last week's vote was not so much a defeat for House Republicans as it was a defeat for our national security and the rule of law. When the executive branch goes rogue, the Constitution doesn't request, it requires that the legislative branch holds it to account.

We are already getting a look at what this fiscal year will bring. Numbers show we have already reached more than 1 million encounters since October 1. In that time, Customs and Border Protection officials have encountered 50 more people whose names are on the terrorist watch list. This further underscores the dereliction of duty taking place at the Department of Homeland Security.

Last week, Democratic Senator CHRIS MURPHY referred to illegal immigrants as undocumented Americans and called them "the people we care about most." That refers to what the Democratic Party cares about most. I could not disagree with that statement more. I care most about the hard-working Tennesseans I represent, those who play by the rules and embrace legal immigration. It is with them in mind that I will proudly vote again to impeach Secretary Mayorkas.

REMEMBERING RAYMOND L. CORDOVA

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

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of my very good friend, Raymond "Ray" Cordova, and his legacy of service.

Ray was a proud Vietnam war vet. After serving in Vietnam, he returned home to help build our Nation through his work with the Communications Workers of America.

Ray didn't care who you were, Democrat or Republican. Ray represented every working man and woman, and he fought for the rights of every worker that he came across. In fact, Ray Cordova is the only man I know that debated Jimmy Hoffa and outlived

Jimmy Hoffa and lived to tell the story about how he debated Jimmy Hoffa.

He was a staple in our community, and I was lucky to call him my very good friend. Ray will be remembered for his tremendous service not only to his country but to his family and community.

CONGRATULATING DR. RAFAEL LUEVANO UPON
GRISSET CHAIR APPOINTMENT

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my very good friend, Dr. Rafael Luevano, for his appointment as a Griset Chair in Bible and Christian Tradition at Chapman University.

Dr. Luevano is an accomplished scholar from Santa Ana, and his contributions to religious studies have shaped how we see religion in the context of our communities. His dedication to teaching students makes him an excellent choice for this prestigious position.

Dr. Luevano's students will continue to have an opportunity to learn from a nationally recognized religious scholar as well as having their own priest at Chapman University.

I congratulate Dr. Luevano, my good friend, today on his appointment on being the Griset Chair at Chapman University.

HONORING DR. WILLIAM KOTT

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of my very good friend, Dr. Bill Kott, and to celebrate the dedication and naming of the Anaheim post office after Dr. Bill Kott.

Dr. Kott was the son of immigrants. Dr. Kott was born in Philadelphia, and he served our Nation in the U.S. Army during World War II. He fought against Nazi Germany, and Dr. Kott showed his bravery and determination by walking across three nations to fight in the Battle of the Bulge. He was a first responder who liberated the Buchenwald concentration camp.

After returning home, Dr. Kott opened his own dentistry practice in Anaheim. He also served as the chairman of the California Republican Assembly of Orange County. As a member of the Anaheim City Council, he did great deeds for the Anaheim community.

The dedication of this post office is an honor that Dr. Kott earned through his dedication to his family, community, and country. We will always remember Dr. Kott's contributions to our country, to our Nation, and to the city of Anaheim.

HONORING ARNOLDO GUTIERREZ

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

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize someone who made a resounding impact on both me personally and also the Tucson community: My mentor, my pastor, and my friend, Arnolando Gutierrez.

Throughout his life, Pastor Gutierrez played many roles, from Air Force veteran to pastor and loving father and grandfather.

Having served his Nation during the Vietnam war, he taught me how to live my faith, how to live a life of public service, and how to live a life with a strong sense of true patriotism. While he and his generation fought a thankless war in Vietnam, Arnolando Gutierrez remained an unwavering patriot and was the perfect example of the American Dream.

He immigrated to the United States when he was 3 years old. He was a standout high school athlete who enlisted in the United States Air Force in his senior year of high school. He met the love of his life while he was serving in Spain, Belen.

He retired after 21 years of service, founded a church in south Tucson, and continued his service to his community that way.

Today, I extend my deepest appreciation to Arnolando Gutierrez and all those who served our Nation. He passed away Thanksgiving weekend of 2017. Not a day goes by when I don't remember him and the lessons he taught me.

Today he is laid to rest in Tucson, Arizona, but I know his legacy will live on forever in our community and in all those whose lives he touched.

In honoring Arnolando Gutierrez, we not only recognize his contributions but also recognize the sacrifice and bravery of all our veterans. May he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING SKILLSUSA REGION 6 COMPETITORS

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding southern Arizona high schoolers who showcased their construction skills at the SkillsUSA Region 6 construction competition.

Hosted at Catalina High School, this event welcomed 120 high school students eager to put their skills to the test. These students worked over the weekend in seven distinct construction-related categories, from plumbing to cabinetmaking.

SkillsUSA, a national organization dedicated to promoting career and technical education, hosts competitions annually at local, State, and national levels. The competition wasn't limited to construction alone. Other SkillsUSA events span various categories, from robotics to media arts, and took place throughout the entire weekend in Tucson.

Participating high schools came from all across southern Arizona, including Benson Unified School District, Bisbee Unified School District, Douglas Unified School District, Duncan Unified School District, Sierra Vista Unified School District, Pima County JTED, Pima Unified School District, and many more.

It is inspiring to see the dedication and talent of these hardworking students. I look forward to seeing what the future holds for them.

□ 1230

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA MINING SCHOOL

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the University of Arizona San Xavier Mining Lab where our next generation in the mining industry is growing and learning.

The School of Mining and Geological Engineering dates back to 1885, standing as one of University of Arizona's founding programs. This lab has notable achievements, including being ranked first nationally in metallurgical engineering and fourth nationally in mining engineering programs. In addition, it also has a commendable track record of 100 percent job placement for graduating seniors.

Recently, I led a group of my Western Caucus colleagues on a trip to the San Xavier mining site where they were able to meet students and see firsthand the innovation happening there. This program is leading the country in developing our future leaders in mining. They have set the standard for mining engineering programs and are an incredible point of pride for our community.

I recognize the students, professors, and stakeholders who work tirelessly as a part of this program. Of course, Bear Down.

ENCOURAGING NEWS IN
CONNECTICUT

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise before the House today as the Member from eastern Connecticut having the honor to represent the Second Congressional District to report on some encouraging news on probably one of the most gut-wrenching, disheartening problems that our Nation faces, which is the epidemic of opioid overdoses.

In the State of Connecticut, like other parts of the country, the rise of opioid deaths from 2012 up until 2021, 2022, has been 300 percent.

People are more likely to die from opioid overdoses than they are from motor vehicle accidents, and eastern Connecticut was no exception.

Again, in 2021, the number of opioid deaths in New London County, which takes up the largest portion of eastern Connecticut by population, peaked at 134 deaths.

Starting at that point, people decided it was time to get serious about trying to come up with ways to create more prevention and also remediation and recovery for people suffering from addiction.

In 2022, that number dropped from 134 to 125. A couple days ago, the 2023 numbers were reported, and it dropped to 71 deaths.

This did not happen by itself. It was in collaboration with the community of New London, the New London Overdose Action Team, which was led by