

So for border security, we can do a lot by providing substantial funding to combat fentanyl smuggling and for border technologies that will modernize our ports of entry. Fentanyl is coming in through our ports of entry by wheels. Vehicles are bringing it in. Let's modernize our ports of entry to ensure that we stop that crisis.

Madam Speaker, again, we have a solution. It is called the Dignity Act.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF GREGGORY JACKSON HUGHEY

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

Mr. KUSTOFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart but also with pride, to pay tribute to Gregory Jackson Hughey from Tipton County, Tennessee.

Jackson Hughey is a former Covington High School football player who recently lost his 7-year battle with cancer.

Jackson had bravely fought neuroblastoma cancer since 2017. That cancer should not define Jackson, but it is certainly part of his story.

Jackson was a brave young man. In fact, Jason Hughey, Jackson's father, said that Jackson defined his cancer and defined his life.

Jackson never ever discussed his cancer diagnosis unless he was receiving treatment or getting a checkup at St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis. Jason and Deanne Hughey are so appreciative of all the care and support they received from the healthcare providers at St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Jackson found comfort through his faith. His family said that Jackson did not allow the cancer to control him or bother him because, in their words, he knew where he was going.

Jackson is remembered for his passion for all sports, specifically football. It was through football that I first met Jackson a number of years ago. Jackson's love for life and for sports truly shined through, and I think this photo here clearly shows that.

Along with his childhood friends, Jackson started H+H Podcast, a weekly show to discuss the latest news and sports and to preview upcoming games. Now whether the topic was football, basketball, baseball, or any other sport, Jackson and his friend, Tanner, covered the bases over their 70 episodes.

Jackson was a big fan of the University of Memphis Tigers. One morning just before Christmas, a couple of months ago, Jackson and his father headed to St. Jude Children's Hospital for a transfusion of platelets. When it was clear that they were not going to be ready for the treatment before they needed to leave for the Memphis Tigers basketball game versus Vanderbilt, Jackson told his St. Jude nurse that he had to wait to get his platelets until after the basketball game, and that is what he did.

Jackson went to the game and then he returned to the hospital for his transfusion. Jackson simply was not going to allow his sickness to stop him from doing the things that he loved.

In the years following his diagnosis, it was moving to see the entire Tipton County community rally in support of him. Even the rival fans started wearing Covington High School colors in honor of Jackson.

Jackson taught all of us that life is precious, and he showed us what it is like to be brave and to fight hard. Jackson showed us how to fully embrace life and how to overcome fear.

As a testament to his courage and to his life, Jackson was awarded the Commercial Appeal's Courage Award in 2021. Jackson passed away on January 28, just a couple of weeks ago.

Yesterday would have been Jackson's 21st birthday. Jackson Hughey is the pride of Covington and Tipton County. Today our prayers go out to Jason and Deanne, as well as Jackson's brother and sister, Jake and Jan Claire, as they mourn their beloved son and brother. Jackson's story and his strength are an inspiration to us all.

REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL

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

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, last month, I joined my colleague JARED MOSKOWITZ on a tour of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

The school is frozen in time. It is just as it was 6 years ago today when a gunman stole the lives of 17 people. There was a box of chocolates left in a classroom on a stack of textbooks, a stuffed animal with a Valentine's Day balloon sitting on a chair, writing assignments left unfinished, whiteboards covered in lesson plans.

It was so ordinary, so hauntingly familiar. It is what you would see today if you walked into any high school on Valentine's Day.

And then there was the horror—the broken glass, the bullet holes, the blood stains, the outlines left by children's murdered bodies, two of them right next to the teacher's desk where their classmates and teacher were hiding inches away.

Three dads joined us that day. One by one, each of them led us to a spot where his child had been shot to death. One told us of how his daughter had run for safety in a stairwell, how she had missed safety by a split second, and how a single bullet ended her life before it had even begun. Her blood and the blood of her classmates mark the floors of that hallway, and they mark the soul of a country that could have saved them but chose not to.

The collective failures to prevent this tragedy permeates every corner of

that building and every corner of this building: the failure of the good guys with guns to respond quickly and without hesitation; the sheriff's failure to act on a warning of a school shooter in the making; the FBI's failure to investigate a tip about an angry, unstable teenager who wanted to kill people; and Congress' failure to keep an AR-15 rifle out of his hands.

The men and women in this building could have prevented him from acquiring a weapon designed to kill and kill fast, but no. Nothing. There were no red flag laws, no universal background checks, no crackdown on high-capacity magazines, no assault weapons ban, no safe storage requirements. All of it was rejected by those, Madam Speaker, who perversely define freedom as unfettered access to weapons of war.

Madam Speaker, there was no freedom for the students and staff gunned down that day. There is no freedom in violence, in terror, and death. There is no freedom in being forced to wonder if your child will come home from school. Will they live to see graduation? And there is no freedom from the grief of those parents whose worst fears had been realized.

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Along one of those hallways there is a quote painted on the wall: "Never live in the past but always learn from it."

Madam Speaker, that building is just as it was 6 years ago, and so is this country. Our gun laws are frozen in the past as if nothing has happened. In refusing to act, Republicans not only ignore the past, they condemn the children to future violent death.

Madam Speaker, let us honor our past by changing our future. Let us honor the murdered by honoring the right of the living to be free from fear.

MOUNTAIN GATEWAY OFFICIALS WRONGFULLY IMPRISONED

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 13 Mountain Gateway officials who have been separated from their families and wrongly imprisoned in Nicaragua.

Our Founding Fathers in America established our First Amendment, which guarantees the freedom of religion. While we are blessed that the United States ensures these rights, other countries and governments do not offer these same liberties. Mountain Gateway is an evangelical ministry based in Texas that desires to make Jesus Christ's name known to all nations.

The organization has had relations with Nicaragua since 2013, establishing churches, humanitarian relief projects, and a fair trade coffee farm that provides income to rural residents. This past year, Mountain Gateway held a series of mass religious worship services

in Nicaragua with the government's approval. Throughout eight separate gatherings, more than 1 million people attended.

The Nicaraguan Government began arresting Mountain Gateway affiliated personnel shortly after their most recent service in Managua on false claims of money laundering. Thirteen Mountain Gateway officials are currently being held in prison with no access to legal counsel, no visits from their relatives, and no access to the allegations against them.

Beside me are pictures of a family that has been separated because of this catastrophe. The children, who are also U.S. citizens, are currently separated from their family due to the wrongful imprisonment of their parents.

The response of the Nicaraguan Government is unacceptable. While the current U.S. open border has allowed over 300,000 Nicaraguans to access America since 2021, the Nicaraguan Government has targeted numerous U.S. citizens to be arrested and extradited to Nicaragua and separated two U.S. children under the age of 3 from their parents.

As an American and a strong supporter of religious freedom, it is hard to grasp the reality that other nations do not have the freedom to worship in peace. I condemn the actions by Nicaraguan authorities against both Nicaraguan and American citizens for worshipping the God who created them, and I will be praying for peace and comfort for the individuals and their families until they are safely united.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FFA WEEK

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize February 17 through 24 as National FFA Week. President George Washington once said: "Agriculture is the most healthy, the most useful, and the most noble employment of man."

FFA members and alumni nationwide continue to look up to President Washington as a model of leadership and a champion for agriculture. For the past 76 years, we have celebrated National FFA Week during the week of Washington's birthday, February 22.

My roots in FFA run deep. The organization played a role in shaping me into the man I am today. I was a member of the Fountain Lake FFA chapter in high school and went on to serve as the Arkansas FFA State president. I now have the opportunity to serve on the bipartisan Congressional FFA Caucus, and many of my staff members are previous FFA members, State officers, and even a national officer.

At a time when the average age of a U.S. farmer is nearly 60 years old, agriculturists are looking to the next generation to fill their shoes. It has never been more important to give youth a seat at the table and enhance the agricultural talent pipeline, and that is where FFA excels.

I am proud to recognize National FFA Week to celebrate this incredible organization. May it be a reminder of

the great strides FFA makes in contributing to the future of agriculture.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BOB R. BROOKS, JR.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Bob R. Brooks, Jr.

Bob was loved by many, a true family man. He was proud to be known as Uncle Bob to the light of his life, Ryan, as well as to Arkansas Attorney General Tim Griffin's children. He was deeply involved in the lives of his friends and colleagues, and many considered him a member of their family.

He graduated from the University of Arkansas and was a dedicated Razorback fan, rooting for the Hogs in every sport. Bob served as chief of staff for former Congressman Jay Dickey before returning to Arkansas to serve the Natural State in several ways, in both the public and private sectors. Bob was named chief deputy attorney general by Attorney General Tim Griffin in 2023. He deeply enjoyed golfing, horse racing, and traveling.

Bob was loyal to those around him and the State of Arkansas. I am thankful for his contributions to our State; but furthermore, I am thankful for his friendship. Bob's legacy will be felt by many for years to come.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I have a strong belief in the power of international trade agreements to make a profound difference. It is not just because 95 percent of the global economy is outside the United States. These agreements are necessary to raise standards, protect the environment, and to avoid the tragedy of the commons.

I have seen the global economy raise living standards in China, Africa, and India, Singapore being the most powerful example. However, there were decidedly mixed results with Mexico. The gap between theory and practice showed that the promise of NAFTA was overblown and that the critics were right.

Poor Mexican farmers could not compete against massively subsidized American corn, and U.S. workers could not compete against \$3 an hour Mexican factory workers.

Too much of American business was focused on financial and tax engineering, not actually engineering better products. They were gaming the tax system and extending patent protection, not winning new patents. The worst example was GE's downward spiral under Jack Welch's ruthless capitalism. However, I have been encouraged with the Biden administration's worker-centered trade policy.

I am proud of my work as the lead Democrat on the Ways and Means Committee dealing with international

trade, working to level the playing field, fighting to improve trade agreements.

We made major advances, for example, reducing illegal logging by more than 40 percent and providing legislation that was a model for other countries to help stem this damaging practice. Our May 10th Agreement provided enforceable labor and environmental standards.

I was pleased to help lead the effort to revise NAFTA to strengthen its environmental protections, worker protections, and the enforcement of agreements to protect these advances. I hope these NAFTA revisions will start a new era of trade policy, but it is time to push back against the Chinese.

I am tired of their two-tiered system where they claim to be a developing country when it works to their advantage while being an economic powerhouse, one of the largest and most powerful in the world.

We must fight to protect and strengthen the WTO. There is no substitute for our being engaged in Geneva along with 163 other countries. It is hard work, but it is worth it.

Finally, we must battle to have China honor their WTO commitments made three decades ago. I have a special concern about the de minimis loophole, a provision in our tax code that allows China to ship directly to American consumers \$800 or less in terms of product value. It is going to allow a billion packages into the United States economy untaxed, uninspected. We have 15 Republican attorneys general who have raised the alarm about this provision. We are seeing shoddy products made with slave labor. They are shipping fentanyl precursors directly to American drug dealers. It is time to stop that practice.

I have legislation that would close the de minimis loophole. I strongly urge my colleagues to cosponsor my Import Security and Fairness Act, which would stop these products flowing from a nonmarket economy on the watch list. Currently, that is just China, but they are the source of 60 percent of these 1 billion de minimis products. Doing so will protect American business, American consumers, public safety, and human rights. We can usher in a new era of worker-centered sustainable trade. The world is depending on us.

QUESTIONING PRESIDENT BIDEN'S MENTAL FITNESS

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

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, President Biden may have broken the law when he willfully retained and disclosed classified materials, according to Special Counsel Robert Hur's recent report.

However, Special Counsel Hur chose not to prosecute President Biden because the President's memory has such