

professional accomplishments but for the kindness and understanding that made her a cherished figure in the lives of many.

In one of her very last social media posts, Paula Troutman said her new year's resolution for 2024 was to "Love More." I think that is a resolution that we could all strive for. In her passing, it is clear that she gave her community and those around her a lot of love, and those people that she touched truly loved her back.

Mr. Speaker, my thoughts and prayers go out to Paula's family during this very difficult time. May her legacy inspire us to embrace the values that she held dear, values of compassion, dedication, and the unwavering belief in the transformative power of education.

□ 1030

HONORING SERGEANT PHILIP DALE NIX

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the late Sergeant Philip Dale Nix of the Greensboro Police Department.

On December 30, Sergeant Nix, while off duty, was at a gas station, where he saw three young people stealing several cases of beer. When he approached the robbers' car, the 18-year-old thief shot Sergeant Nix five times, killing him for over less than \$100 worth of beer.

Dale Nix's loss is a tragedy that has been a terrible blow to Greensboro and the Triad. Our entire community is grieving, from his fellow officers and emergency responders, to those he helped at the Guilford County Family Justice Center, to people across the city who, like me, are shocked and saddened over the loss of this fine man.

Sergeant Nix joined the Greensboro Police Department in 2001, where he served our community with distinction for 22 years. As mentioned at our recent community vigil by so many of his colleagues, Sergeant Nix was a standout leader. He went above and beyond in all his roles on the force and was dedicated to justice and helping others.

In his 22 years on the force, Sergeant Nix served as a Criminal Investigation Division detective, a patrol corporal, patrol sergeant, team leader for the peer support team for 12 years, assistant team leader of the GPD Honor Guard, and his latest assignment was as detective sergeant of the Family Victims Unit, where he worked closely with the Family Justice Center, helping victims of crimes, particularly women and children, who were the victims of domestic violence.

As Catherine Johnson, who runs the Family Justice Center, said at the vigil, Dale Nix had an extraordinary ability to connect with people, espe-

cially people in pain. He was able to work so well with the victims of crimes because he listened to them. He gained their trust. They knew he would fight for them because they knew he cared.

The impact Sergeant Nix made on families in Greensboro is incalculable. The stories have poured in from people he impacted, stories that have been both heartwarming and heartbreaking. Here was a man who was devoted to others, a man who made a real difference, whose ability to help those in need was cut far too short.

In addition to his valiant service to our community, Dale Nix was a beloved husband and father, a true family man. At this difficult time, my heart breaks for his wife, son, parents, and his entire family. I share my condolences with the Greensboro Police Department, the fire department, the 911 emergency center, those at the Family Justice Center, and all who served with him.

Sergeant Nix was a man of integrity, family, and service. He protected the innocent, advocated for victims, and made a difference in countless lives. It is truly tragic that, while Sergeant Nix dedicated his career to preventing crimes and helping victims, he lost his life to violent criminals.

As a Member of Congress and a member of the Greensboro community, I am outraged by the act of senseless violence that stole Sergeant Nix's life. I will continue to use my role in Congress and in my community to work towards solutions that will stop this painful cycle of violence that has claimed far too many innocent lives.

I know that Sergeant Nix's legacy will live on. He will long be remembered as a father, a husband, a man of integrity and service, an advocate, a true hero, and a pillar of justice in Greensboro, North Carolina.

May his memory be a blessing to all.

A CALL TO CHAMPION FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on this body to champion fiscal responsibility.

It is no secret that the U.S. is steamrolling its way to fiscal ruin, rapidly barreling toward economic collapse and unfairly burdening future generations, yet few here in Washington seem to notice this fiscal calamity, let alone care enough to fix it. Far too many have not only become numb to our ballooning national debt and out-of-control deficit, but completely addicted to spending money that we simply don't have.

The U.S. national debt climbs higher every second, swelling at such an alarming rate that hitting new trillion-dollar milestones has now become routine. In fact, in June, just 7 months ago, the national debt reached \$32 trillion. This figure surged to \$33 trillion 3 months later in September, and, just

days ago, in just another 3.5 months, our national debt surpassed \$34 trillion, amounting to roughly \$100,000 for every American, for our constituents.

Racking up more than \$2 trillion in national debt in just 7 months' time is not a historic milestone; it is a historic failure. At this rate, we are adding roughly a trillion dollars to our national debt every 90 days—think about that—a trillion dollars every 90 days, setting us up to hit, if not exceed, \$37 trillion by the end of the fiscal year. Unsustainable is an understatement.

Every solitary Member should be enraged by this ill-fated trend, but despite all the warning signs, it is business as usual here in Washington, as evidenced by the recently announced agreement on the overall price tag for fiscal year 2024 appropriations.

Make no mistake, the bipartisan spending deal is a total sham. No amount of smoke and mirrors can hide the swamp's irresponsible, wasteful, and reckless spending agenda. While leaders from both parties claimed that the top-line spending level matches the \$1.59 trillion statutory cap set last year by the Fiscal Responsibility Act, the true total of programmatic spending is actually more than \$68 billion higher at \$1.658 trillion.

The statutory FRA cap, which, in my opinion, is already far too high, should have been the ceiling, not the floor, to hide or excuse this excessive spending. That is right: New year, same uniparty.

I vehemently oppose this sham bipartisan spending deal, and I am deeply disappointed that, yet again, at President Biden and Senate Leader SCHUMER's pleasure, critical leverage and key policy wins were abandoned.

My constituents didn't send me here to greenlight more of the swamp's spending as usual, exacerbate our national debt, or concede in conservative policy battles. They sent me here to change the course of Congress, to change the status quo.

I am fighting to do just that, but, if we are ever going to save our Nation, economy, and future generations from financial failure, we need more Republicans in both Chambers to join the fight. After all, we should be far more afraid of fiscal calamity than fighting the swamp.

Therefore, I urge my colleagues to take our rapidly approaching financial ruin seriously by rejecting this irresponsible deal. Let's champion fiscal responsibility and return fiscal sanity to Washington by cutting spending, not carrying on business as usual while our fiscal House falls into a sinkhole of skyrocketing debt.

IMMIGRATION

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

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, now that we are back in Washington and starting some very serious conversations, I wanted to make clear where I stand on

an issue that I think most Americans, certainly most Members of Congress, believe is of urgent importance, and that is on the issue of immigration.

Immigration is now part of a larger negotiation that is going on, largely in the Senate, in addition to funding things like Ukraine, the Middle East conflict, and support in Taiwan. It is all in the mix.

Truth be told, since becoming a Member of Congress, I have never seen an issue more politicized than the issue of immigration. I think most of us, regardless of party, would agree that our immigration system is broken. It is not working for anyone—not the communities struggling to handle thousands of migrants; not our own economy, where we actually really need immigration; not the migrants themselves who are walking, in some cases, a thousand miles with their children to get to our border.

Both Democrats and Republicans share blame on this situation. We have had chances to reform this totally broken system in the past, but we have fallen short over and over again.

It does not have to be this way. I think, as rational, practical people, we should be able to come together and have a conversation about how we think this most American of issues should go, and as we do, we should follow what I consider the five core pillars to address this comprehensive crisis:

Number one, immigration in the United States should be based on the needs of the U.S. economy and the employers in the United States. Right now, every single employer that I know is looking for legal labor, and our economy can take new people coming into the workforce.

We should key our immigration numbers to the economy. Immigration numbers, visa numbers, are set by Congress—not by the White House, but by this body that I sit in, so if we want to raise the caps of legally allowed visas in the United States, that is on this body.

Number two, we have to change the system so that immigrants can come to this country by applying from their home countries. Have it be faster to get a legal work permit from your home country rather than walking, as I said, a thousand miles, making this dangerous journey to the border, or paying a whole bunch of unsavory people to get themselves over.

This is how it works on the northern border. I am from Michigan. You don't have border agents making decisions about whether someone gets to come into our country or not. They are checking the visas and the paperwork, stamping approved or unapproved and moving them through.

Number three, we need to invest in border security. Every country in the world deserves to know who is coming inside their borders.

I am a national security person. I spent my entire life trying to make sure our homeland was protected.

Every country has the right to know who is coming in. We need strong border security, and there are plenty of bipartisan proposals, including ones that I have presented, that can accomplish this.

Number four, we have to address the root causes of migration. Why are people risking their life to come to this country in the first place? It is poverty. It is violence back home. We have got to help those countries improve their situation, so we don't have such a flood of people feeling desperate to come to the United States. That is in their interests and ours.

Lastly, we need to live up to our values and morals as a country of immigrants, as a Nation of immigrants. I am guessing everyone in this room right now owes their lives in America to an immigration story, and we always should remain a place where people fearing persecution and death can come to for a chance to live.

I am willing to talk with anyone, Democrat or Republican, who wants to uphold commonsense conversations. I am willing to make progress, even if it is not popular, even if plans are imperfect. The truth is there are a lot of bipartisan ideas out there. They are just not sexy. They just don't get attention.

I am the cosponsor of something called the Dignity Act. It is a comprehensive reform plan. It is bipartisan. It was put together by folks in the Problem Solvers Caucus. To be honest about those future negotiations, we have to be honest that our immigration system is broken because of that partisanship, because all sides—Members of the House, the Senate, and the White House—are pointing fingers at everybody else.

There is a way out of this mess. It is the same thing our constituents do every day. They go to work. They have negotiations. Not everyone is happy, but they come up with a compromise.

As we kick off 2024, we know that this issue of immigration is on the top of all of our news feeds. It is being discussed in the Senate right now. I am willing to work with anyone who is actually focused on getting something done.

CONGRATULATING SUNY CORTLAND FOOTBALL TEAM ON FIRST-EVER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARBARINO). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor SUNY Cortland's football team for winning its first-ever national championship.

In a thrilling showdown at the 50th Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl, the Red Dragons defeated the previously unbeaten and top-ranked North Central College by a narrow 38-37.

This victory marks the culmination of a phenomenal season where

Cortland's junior quarterback, Zac Boyes, showcased brilliance with 349 passing yards, 5 touchdowns, and 123 rushing yards.

□ 1045

The championship game, a showcase of two prolific offenses, unfolded in dramatic fashion, featuring three lead changes and three ties. In the closing moments, North Central sought a comeback, narrowing Cortland's lead to 38-37, with a 60-yard pass, but the Red Dragons held firm, stopping the two-point conversion and securing the win.

This triumph is not just a win for the team, but a testament to their resilience defeating a program that held a 29-game winning streak and defending the Division III national champions. Cortland's journey through the playoffs, with five consecutive wins against top 25 opponents, underscores their exceptional prowess.

As we applaud this victory, we also acknowledge the broader significance. This is the first New York school to reach the Division III title game since 1991.

In a season that saw them ranked 11th nationally, the Red Dragons soared to unparalleled heights, achieving their 26th team title overall. Today let's recognize and celebrate their hard work, dedication, and indomitable spirit that defines champions.

On behalf of the people of the 19th Congressional District, congratulations to SUNY Cortland on this historic and well-deserved win. May their success inspire future generations to strive for greatness on and off the field.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JIM
DUNHAM

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a cherished member of our community, Mr. Jim Dunham of Kinderhook, New York.

Jim passed away on December 18, leaving behind a legacy of selfless dedication and a profound impact on the Kinderhook community. Jim's early life was shaped by the support of his family, and he went on to become an exemplary son, husband, father, and grandfather.

A devoted public servant, Jim volunteered for over five decades, ultimately serving as a village trustee and mayor. This summer, Dunham Park in the village square was named in his honor, recognizing his extensive service and lasting impact.

Jim's commitment to family, community, and public service extended to his roles in the Kinderhook Reformed Church, as a volunteer firefighter, and a Little League coach. An avid baseball fan, he found joy rooting for Cleveland and his hometown Kinderhook Robins.

In addition to his civic contributions, Jim earned a B.S. in civil engineering and had a 35-year distinguished career with the New York State Department of Transportation.

Today, as we express our condolences to Jim's family and friends, let us also