

As a mother, I cannot fathom the horror her parents must have felt at that moment watching their little girl come running in, bleeding and terrified.

Saida survived but she would live with the trauma for the rest of her life. Nightmares keep Saida awake at night. She said she dreams her attacker is right next to her.

In Texas, a mother wearing a hijab was watching her children swim in the community pool when she was approached by a woman interrogating her about what language she was speaking.

The woman then jumped into the pool, attempted to drown her 3-year-old Palestinian daughter who was gasping for breath, for air, as she was pushed under the water in the deep end of the pool. The woman threatened to kill the whole family as the police were carrying her away.

Her mother said: We are American citizens originally from Palestine, and I don't know where to go to feel safe with my kids. My daughter is traumatized. Whenever I open the door, she runs away and hides telling me she is afraid that lady will come back and try to attack her again.

Here we go with Wadea. Everyone knows about Wadea, I hope. In Chicago, a 6-year-old child was brutally attacked in his own home by his landlord, of all people. His mother ran to the bathroom to call the police.

His attacker was yelling, you Muslims must die, while he stabbed little Wadea's body 26 times. They had to pull the knife out of his small body.

His mother came back, and she saw Wadea's lifeless body there. They were taken to the hospital and all she felt was just this sense that she will never ever be able to see her child.

"We are not animals. We are humans," Wadea's uncle, Yousef, said. These stories, as horrifying as they are—I am thinking of the fact that these are the ones who made the headlines. Behind them are countless others, unreported incidents with families living in fear and communities being targeted.

I was approached by a father who said his child was on her school bus and somebody tried to rip her hijab off.

I said, did you report it?

Who do I report that to, he said?

What terrifies me the most, again, are these acts of violence are born from a culture of dehumanization.

Where is the outrage from my colleagues in this Chamber?

Why don't my colleagues denounce Islamophobia, anti-Palestinian, and anti-Arab hate?

We must push back against dangerous rhetoric that fuels this violence and call out those that continue to push for dehumanizing narratives that contribute to and spread this kind of violence.

Stop using racist tropes that feed into this hate. I know firsthand what it feels like to be targeted with hate. I receive death threats, smears, hate mail,

and relentless harassment right outside of my office.

To the families of Wadea, Hisham, Kinnan, Tahseen, Saida, and so many others who we will never know about, I want them to know I see them, I grieve with them, and I stand with them.

NATIONAL DEBT

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

Mr. LOPEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address our national debt.

I say to my fellow Americans, we have a serious problem. In the past 40 years, Congress, which comprises both the Senate and the House of Representatives, has only passed a budget four times.

Only four times in the last 40 years has a budget been passed by Congress. That has contributed to our overwhelming national debt of over \$36 trillion, which grows by \$1 trillion every 100 days. If we continue to pass continuing resolutions and omnibus bills, our annual deficits will double, our interest payments will triple, and for every dollar we borrow, 50 cents will go just to paying interest on the debt.

The American people are tired of Congress not doing the hard work that is necessary to bring spending under control and stop the national debt from growing. As Members of Congress, we have an obligation to bring spending under control and ensure that present and future taxpayers are not forced to fund any Federal program that is duplicative, wasteful, and inefficient.

Every Member of Congress knows that passing continuing resolutions or omnibus bills does not bring spending under control, but simply adds to our \$36 trillion national debt. The current continuing resolution expires on December 20. Once again, in the next couple of weeks, Congress will debate on how we are going to fund the government in 2025.

What will it be?

Will it be a continuing resolution? Will it be an omnibus bill or will it be a balanced budget that will fund the government in 2025?

Speaker JOHNSON assures us that it will not be an omnibus bill and because CHUCK SCHUMER refuses to pass the appropriation bills passed in the House, some will argue that the only option left on the table so that we don't face a government shutdown is a continuing resolution.

Most Americans are not aware that there is a bogeyman that lurks in the Halls of Congress. This bogeyman shows up twice a year, sometimes three times a year. It first shows up in September, and then it appears again in December.

What is the name of this bogeyman that Congress is afraid to face? Its name is government shutdown.

For countless years, the leaders of Congress have lacked the courage and strength to take on this bogeyman for

fear of having to explain to the American people why we are unable or perhaps refuse to pass a formal budget as outlined in the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

The American people are not afraid to shut down the government, and I stand with the American people. It is morally wrong for Congress to force the American people to carry a \$36 trillion national debt on their backs and to expect our children to carry this growing debt on their backs as well.

I say it is time for Congress to pass a formal budget that spends less than what it collects in taxes from the American people.

I say it is time for Congress to evaluate one by one the 1,200 unauthorized expired programs that are currently being funded by Congress to the tune of \$516 billion and vote to either reauthorize or terminate each one of them.

I hear in the Halls of Congress that if we want to be home with our families during Christmas, we must settle for a continuing resolution.

I would remind Congress that we have men and women in uniform that have taken the same oath of office that we did, and many of them will not be spending Christmas with their families because they have a duty to fulfill.

We also have a duty and obligation to fulfill to the American people: that is to bring spending under control and stop the national debt from growing. That responsibility comes before family or any holiday on the calendar.

Congress should not allow the leadership of either the Senate or the House of Representatives to lead us into 2025 with a shameful continued legacy that Congress is incapable of putting people over politics and passing a balanced formal budget that spends less than we receive from the taxpayers.

CHUCK SCHUMER should put his ego and pride aside and sit down with Speaker JOHNSON and develop a plan to utilize the appropriations process outlined in the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to fund the government in 2025 before the end of the year. There are plenty of days still left on the calendar to do this.

Where there is a will there is a way. Every Member of Congress should be committed to working long hours, if need be, to pass a formal budget for 2025. Together, let us roll up our sleeves and do what is right for the future of our Nation as it pertains to the budget.

Together, let us show the Nation that as Members of Congress, we are ready, willing, and able to fulfill the assignment the American people have bestowed upon us. Together, let us make history by stopping decades of wasteful spending, and together let us protect the purse of the people.

HONORING BEYONCE GISELLE KNOWLES-CARTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Mrs. LEE CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LEE CARTER: Mr. Speaker, as the proud Representative of the 18th Congressional District of Houston, Texas, I have the distinct privilege of serving a diverse, resilient, and caring community.

On this day, I am proud to honor someone who exemplifies those values, a favorite daughter, as I am, of the 18th Congressional District in Houston, Texas, Beyonce Giselle Knowles-Carter.

As a global music icon with a staggering 99 Grammy nominations, Beyonce stands as the most nominated Grammy artist in history. This year, her nominations hold particular significance as they honor “Cowboy Carter,” a poignant tribute often described as her American requiem and a celebration of her Southern heritage.

This groundbreaking album not only earned Beyonce her eighth number one album, but also made her the first Black woman to top the country album charts.

However, “Cowboy Carter” is not just a country album. It is a Beyonce album. She is not just a global music icon. She is also a champion for women and children.

Beyonce’s roots remain firmly planted in “H-town” where she has contributed so much to our community in ways that extend far beyond her music, through her tireless work in giving back to children in need.

One of the most notable aspects of Beyonce’s philanthropic efforts is her strong dedication to children and families, which perfectly aligns with today’s celebration of World Children’s Day, originally established in 1954 as Universal Children’s Day 70 years ago.

This annual day promotes international togetherness, raises awareness of the needs of children worldwide, and underscores the importance of improving their welfare.

My mother, the late, great Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, cared deeply about children, and as a founding member and co-chair of the Congressional Children’s Caucus, she championed their welfare with unwavering devotion. It is my hope that we never lose sight of how our work shapes the dreams and futures of children in the United States and across the world.

Children are the future, and Beyonce has always understood the importance of protecting and nurturing their well-being, education, and opportunities.

Through her BeyGOOD Foundation, which she launched more than a decade ago, Beyonce has championed economic equity initiatives to improve the lives of children and families in need.

One of her most significant contributions came in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey in 2017. The storm devastated Houston and surrounding areas, displacing over 30,000 families and causing an estimated \$125 billion in damage across Texas.

While many were overwhelmed by the scale of the destruction, Beyonce immediately stepped up for her beloved

hometown. Through BeyGOOD, she provided food, emergency housing, and financial support to families in crisis. Her collaboration with Bread of Life, a local nonprofit, ensured that children and their families had the resources they needed to recover and rebuild.

Beyond disaster relief, Beyonce has championed education by breaking down barriers for young people, particularly young Black women, through her Formation Scholars Award. This scholarship has empowered dozens of students to pursue higher education and create opportunities that changed their lives.

Beyonce’s efforts also encompass addressing the housing crisis with a focus on supporting unhoused families and youth who are disproportionately affected. Her collaboration on the Knowles-Roland House project in the 18th Congressional District provides housing, mental health support, and job training to vulnerable families in Houston, offering them a path toward freedom, stability, and hope.

With the love and support of her mother, Tina Knowles; father, Mathew Knowles; sister, Solange; husband and three children, she has shared her time, talent, and treasure to help others.

As we recognize World Children’s Day, we also celebrate leaders like Beyonce who use their influence to uplift communities. Her work reminds us that when we invest in our youth, we invest in a brighter future for everyone. Her example inspires all to do more to ensure every child grows up in an environment where they can thrive.

On behalf of Houston’s 18th Congressional District, I thank Beyonce for being an advocate for children and families. May we all get in formation to create better outcomes for children.

We look forward to welcoming Beyonce back to “H-town” on December 25 as the truly irreplaceable daughter who gives us energy and lets us know that girls can run the world.

HONORING VETERAN OF THE MONTH ANDREW VEASMAN

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

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our November Veteran of the Month, Andrew Veasman, who was an E4 specialist in the U.S. Army.

Andrew deployed to Iraq with the 504th Military Police Battalion from 2007 to 2008. While he was in Iraq, one of the main jobs he had was convoy security where he was responsible for providing protection from enemy attacks to ensure the safety of American troops and critical assets were in place.

Some of his duties in convoy security included reconnaissance, security, escorting, and establishing a combat reaction force.

Andrew’s fondest memory from his deployment was praying together for safety before each and every mission.

Andrew was honorably discharged in 2014 and joined the Missouri National Guard in 2024 as a mechanic.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Andrew for his dedication and his service.

□ 1030

HONORING CUMMINGS MEN’S WEAR

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our November Small Business of the Month from the Fourth Congressional District of Missouri, Cummings Men’s Wear, owned by Jennifer and David Cummings, friends of mine.

This fantastic business, on the historic downtown Clinton Square, just celebrated 40 years of outstanding business.

Mr. Speaker, in case you are looking for a new suit, they have got you covered. Cummings Men’s Wear offers a selection of suits, sport coats, dress shirts, polos, golf shirts, and so much more. From fun holiday socks to tuxedos, Cummings Men’s Wear has you covered.

Over the past four decades, Cummings Men’s Wear has become a trusted institution, known not only for its exceptional selection of men’s fashion but also for its personalized service and longstanding relationships with their customers, who aren’t just customers but they are friends.

This store is a symbol of excellence and style, sophistication, and professionalism with a loyal and appreciative clientele.

Missouri’s Fourth District is grateful to have such a community-invested, family-owned business.

Congratulations to David and Jennifer Cummings for menswear on the square, for 40 years of success and great men’s clothing.

RECOGNIZING FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT LIAISONS

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the family and community engagement liaisons across Orange County and this Nation.

Family and community liaisons play an important role in collaborating with health facilities and community resource centers to ensure that families have access to the support they need in their academic, professional, and overall community success.

In my own district, Santa Ana Unified School District is home to 54 dedicated liaisons who work around the clock to bridge the gap between schools and families, to ensure that every child and parent feels supported, empowered, and included in the local campuses.

I hope my colleagues join me today in recognizing November as Family Engagement Month and November 16 as National Family and Community Engagement Liaison Worker Day.

I thank every community liaison around Orange County and around the