

In addition to the leadership that he provided to Johnstown as fire department chief, he also served as co-city manager, emergency director, and liaison between the firefighters and city management. Throughout the Johnstown community, he is known as a faithful colleague and a consistent professional.

On behalf of everyone in the 13th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, I express gratitude to Chief Statler for his devotion to public safety and offer best wishes for a life of enrichment through all of his future endeavors.

ONE BIG, UGLY BILL

(Mr. COURTNEY of Connecticut was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today, June 3, Congress reconvenes after a 12-day break. On May 22, the last time we were here, this Chamber was involved in a 2-day marathon. H.R. 1, the misnamed one big, beautiful bill, was jammed through in the dead of the night, as it was being written in real time, by a vote of 215 to 214.

During my time home, I held two townhalls. One was up in Tolland, Connecticut, near the border of Massachusetts. The other was down along the shoreline in Madison, Connecticut. Both townhalls were well-attended.

Last night in Madison, it was standing room only. People were bursting with questions about how a bill that can change the tax code for the next 10 years, that can intervene in terms of our healthcare system, in terms of taking away people's health coverage, can happen with no transparency and no public input.

As I said, it was being written in the dead of the night prior to the vote on May 22. This is what we know now as the dust has settled in terms of what the impact of this bill is.

In terms of healthcare, the bill is going to cut our Medicaid program, America's largest healthcare program, and extract roughly \$700 billion from the system over the next 10 years.

The Affordable Care Act, subsidizes premiums, which provides health insurance for millions of Americans. Again, those premiums are going to be cut. As a result, people are going to lose their health insurance. That is not me saying that. That is the Congressional Budget Office, the neutral umpire that calls balls and strikes around this Congress who is saying that.

Again, they have calculated that 15 million Americans will lose their health insurance as a result of this measure which was passed by the majority and jammed through in the dead of the night.

In Connecticut, we have already seen what the numbers mean in terms of this bill. The Kaiser Family Foundation is not a partisan group. They have been studying healthcare trends and finance for decades. They determined

that 140,000 citizens in the State of Connecticut will lose their health coverage as a result of this bill.

As the dust has settled, we now know of one thing that didn't get a lot of attention. As a result of the deficit impact of this bill, which is going to add trillions of dollars to the national debt, it is going to trigger a sequestration, an automatic cut to the Medicare system. Medicare is the system that provides health insurance for people over 65 and people on disability.

That is \$500 billion over the next 10 years. Again, it is going to be a cut across the board to hospitals, to physicians, and to a whole series of medical devices and pharmacy products that are covered by Medicare.

Again, this is because of the reckless deficit spending that this bill creates. That is not me saying that. The calculation of the Joint Committee on Taxation was \$3.7 trillion of new debt on top of the \$36 trillion of debt that we have today.

The Wharton School of Finance, where President Trump attended school, calculated \$3 trillion, as well. When they added the interest costs that are going to be paid on that additional deficit, that spending, that is going to push the number closer to \$5 trillion.

Again, today the deficit is \$36 trillion. We are spending \$89 billion a month in terms of interest costs on the existing debt. That is larger than what we spend in the Department of Defense on a monthly basis. It is bigger than any other account in the discretionary budget of this government.

This bill accomplishes two harmful, damaging impacts to America which are, number one, 15 million people are going to lose their health insurance. We are also going to see the deficit grow by anywhere between \$3 trillion and \$5 trillion. For what? It is to reward the top 1 percent whose tax cuts are going to be extended and enlarged for many over the coming years, leaving working families and the poor in the dust.

We can do better than this as a nation. Again, it is not too late to stop this. The Senate is now going to take up this bill.

The external pressure is going to rise up with the American Hospital Association and with patient groups like the American Cancer Society, the American Lung Association, Autism Speaks, and people who represent disability groups. They are rising up now to stop this bill because of the harm it is going to cause on individuals and families all across this country.

It is time to stop this one big, ugly bill that is going to do so much damage to the American people.

CONGRATULATING LUCAS GASTON

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize

and congratulate several military academy appointments.

Lucas Gaston of Brookville, Pennsylvania, has recently accepted a fully qualified appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Lucas is the son of Becky and Mike Gaston and the grandson of Hazel and Joe Gaston, as well as Nancy and Ted Fox of Brookville.

As a student of Brookville Area High School, Lucas is active in the classroom and on the athletic field and throughout his community.

Lucas is serving as the secretary of his class. He is a track and field and golf athlete. He participates in concert and marching band, and he is a Special Olympics volunteer and a member of the National Honor Society.

I thank Lucas for his commitment to service and wish him the very best of luck as he embarks on this exciting new phase of life at West Point.

CONGRATULATING BRYONY SHIPE

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bryony Shipe of Ford City, Pennsylvania. Bryony recently accepted a fully qualified appointment to the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York.

She is the daughter of Amanda and Lucas Shipe and the granddaughter of Kathie and Dave Olinger, as well as Patty and Larry Shipe.

Bryony is a senior at Commonwealth Charter Academy and is an excellent example of a well-rounded student and active community member. Bryony is an active volunteer and tutors at a local education center. She is a varsity athlete in cross-country and swimming, and she is co-captain of the varsity swimming and diving team.

Her focus on service to others is an extremely valuable attribute that will contribute to her military career at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

I offer Bryony best wishes at Kings Point, and I look forward to seeing all that she achieves.

CONGRATULATING ARCHIE WALKER

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Archie Walker of Lock Haven, Pennsylvania. Archie accepted a fully qualified appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Archie is a senior at Central Mountain High School. She is the daughter of Jennifer and Greg Walker. Archie is an accomplished young woman, striving to make a difference in her country.

Walker is currently serving as the vice president of the Rotary Club. She is a 3-year varsity athlete in soccer, a dual-enrollment student at Commonwealth University, and a member of the National Honor Society.

Walker has proven herself on the field and in the classroom. I have no doubt that her determination will serve her well at the military academy, and I wish her the very best in this next chapter.

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CONGRATULATING ADAM BELL

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Adam Bell of State College, Pennsylvania.

Adam accepted a fully qualified appointment to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Adam is the son of Elizabeth and Jayce Bell, the grandson of E. Ann Wortman and the late Jerry Wortman, as well as Janie and Roy Bell.

As a student at State College Area High School, Bell is involved in his high school's culinary program and has represented his school in competitions. He is a varsity athlete in three sports, diving, wrestling, and track, and participates in Model U.N.

Whether in the kitchen, on the field, or in the classroom, Adam excels in every area.

Bell will continue his athletic pursuits while at the Naval Academy as a pole vaulter for USNA's track and field team. His drive for success will help him excel at the Naval Academy. I wish Adam good luck as he begins the next chapter of his life as a midshipman and student athlete in Annapolis.

Mr. Speaker, it was an honor to nominate these young students. Their dedication to serving our country is inspirational. I look forward to seeing their successes in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I thank them all again for their commitment to our Nation.

PREVENTING BLACKOUTS IN PUERTO RICO

(Mr. HERNÁNDEZ of Puerto Rico was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Speaker, Puerto Rico faces an energy crisis. In anticipation of a generation shortfall this summer, which was announced months ago, the government said that it would pursue the option of deploying barges to provide temporary energy generation.

I am no fan of fossil fuels but an even lesser fan of blackouts, so I supported the government's decision.

However, a few weeks ago, the government walked back that plan. It cited objections from Federal agencies, claiming the barges were not viable because they couldn't withstand hurricane-force winds. Based on that, the proposals were disqualified from the bidding process.

Then began the rumors of irregularities, lobbying, and conflicts of interest. The discomfort made its way to Washington, and some of my Republican colleagues crossed the aisle to share with me their concerns.

Soon after, one of the companies disqualified from the bidding process issued a public statement calling for transparency. They pointed to political ties and potential undue influence.

I believe that a demand for transparency is fair and that a demand for transparency should be nonpartisan.

That is why, yesterday, I joined my Republican colleague, Chairman MARK GREEN of the Homeland Security Committee, in sending a bipartisan letter to multiple Federal agencies. We are requesting explanations for the rejection of the barge proposals and the decisionmaking process behind it.

Let me be clear: This is not about siding with one company over another. It is about transparency. It is about oversight. It is about whether Federal agencies, knowingly or not, were used to manufacture a pretext to favor certain interests.

The people of Puerto Rico don't deserve blackouts, and we need to make sure that there are no deals being made in the dark during those blackouts.

Mr. Speaker, in the interest of my constituents, I will repeat my remarks in Spanish.

(Spanish translation of the statement made in English is as follows:)

Señor Presidente, Puerto Rico enfrenta una crisis energética. Ante la proyección de un déficit de generación eléctrica para este verano, el gobierno había anunciado que buscaría suplir las necesidades energéticas mediante barcazas temporadas.

Yo no soy fanático de los combustibles fósiles—pero soy menos fanático de los apagones. Por lo tanto, respaldé esta iniciativa del gobierno.

Pero hace unas semanas, el gobierno dio marcha atrás. Alegó que las agencias federales habían señalado que las barcazas no eran viables porque no resistirían vientos huracanados. Y con ese argumento, las propuestas fueron descalificadas del proceso de subastas.

Fue entonces cuando comenzaron los rumores—sobre irregularidades, sobre cabilderos, sobre conflictos de interés. Y la incomodidad llegó hasta Washington. La incomodidad causó que varios colegas republicanos cruzaran el pasillo de este hemiciclo para expresarme directamente sus preocupaciones.

Nosotros entendemos que, si una de las compañías descalificadas, luego publicó una declaración pública exigiendo transparencia, lo menos que podemos hacer es exigir transparencia.

Esa compañía señaló posibles vínculos políticos e influencias indebidas de cabilderos. Por eso, ayer me uní a un colega republicano, el presidente del Comité de Seguridad Interna, MARK GREEN, para enviar una carta bipartidista a varias agencias federales solicitando explicaciones sobre la descalificación de la propuesta de las barcazas y el proceso de evaluación que se siguió.

Ahora quiero ser claro: esto no se trata de favorecer a una compañía sobre otra. Se trata de transparencia. Se trata de supervisión. Se trata de saber si agencias federales fueron utilizadas—con o sin su conocimiento—para fabricar un pretexto para descalificar estas compañías para favorecer ciertos intereses.

El pueblo de Puerto Rico no merece apagones. Pero el pueblo de Puerto Rico tampoco merece que se hagan acuerdos a oscuras durante esos apagones. Y este congreso está disposición de averiguar si las cosas se están haciendo correctamente y del lado correcto es que estaremos siempre.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Puerto Rico will provide a translation of his remarks to the Chair.

CALL EVIL BY ITS NAME

(Mr. FINE of Florida was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. FINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today not just as a Member of Congress but as the father of two Jewish boys. I speak for all the Jews across the country, millions of them, who today go to the grocery store, their jobs, and school and live their lives afraid of what might happen to them.

Eighty years ago in Germany, Jews were burned in ovens for being Jews, and on Sunday, as I sat at home with my children watching TV, we saw that here in the United States, in 2025, Jews are being burned again.

You see, Mr. Speaker, it feels like open hunting season on Jewish Americans. I wear a kippah not because I am a proud and observant Jew. I am not all that observant. I wear it out of respect for all the Jews around America who do not feel safe wearing theirs today. That is because, by wearing it, they feel they literally have a target on their heads.

We have heard for 18 months that the intifada should be globalized. We have heard "resistance by any means necessary." On Sunday, and again 2 weeks ago, we saw what that looked like.

In this country, we have a hard decision to make. We have to make a decision about whether we are going to continue to be afraid or whether we are going to call evil by its name.

I have news for you, Mr. Speaker. When someone chants "Free Palestine," what they are calling for is the destruction of the only Jewish state in the world.

When someone says, "From the river to the sea," what they are calling for is the genocide of every Jew who lives in Israel and abroad.

We have to make a decision as a country: Are we going to call evil by its name, or are we going to continue to live in fear?

There are things that we can do, things that we must do, and things that I will be working here to make happen.

We must join Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Bahrain and declare the Muslim Brotherhood and all of its affiliates the terrorist organization that it is.

We must tackle the anti-Semitism that we have seen at our universities, and I have a bill that will deal with that. That is because when people hear lies that come from the universities that they believe are truthful and honest, and when they hear lies about what is going on in the world, it inflames them and leads to the actions that we have seen in the past couple of weeks.

The murderer—I don't know that he murdered anyone, so I apologize. The attempted murderer in Colorado was someone who is here illegally. That is the worst kind of crime because it is done by someone who shouldn't even be here. We need to do everything possible to back President Trump in getting these people out of this country.