

The radical left's policies have led to an unacceptable reality: abortion on demand, even up to the point of birth in some States. This is a profound injustice to the most vulnerable among us, the innocent lives that cannot speak for themselves.

Every life is precious, Mr. Speaker, a divine gift from God. Every baby deserves the same opportunity for life. This vital legislation ensures that those who survive an attempted abortion are not abandoned but instead receive the full medical attention that they require.

The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act mandates that doctors and medical personnel provide immediate lifesaving treatment and guarantee that these newborns are admitted to a hospital without delay.

This should not be a partisan issue. It is a basic acknowledgment of our shared humanity. We must protect the most defenseless among us and ensure that every baby has a fighting chance at life.

With the new administration, we have a tremendous opportunity to advance this critical legislation and make it a reality.

I will always stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves. No child should be denied their fundamental right to life or the vital care they need to survive. Every life matters, and every baby's life is worth fighting for.

We must ensure that our laws reflect our commitment to protecting the most innocent among us.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.

CELEBRATING CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. SYKES) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

While most people don't equate national parks with metropolitan areas and sprawling suburbs, Ohio's 13th Congressional District is proud to be the home of the Nation's most beautiful landscape, which is the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

In 1974, Congress created the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, as some of the land was designated as parkland, but it was with the leadership of former Congressman Ralph Regula, who slipped a few words into an appropriations bill in the year 2000, that it was ultimately signed into law by President Bill Clinton. The few words that he slipped in said that they were going to redesignate the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area to the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

In the 50 years since the park was established, staff and volunteers in our community have worked hard to renew

this natural and cultural resource for generations to come.

The park is a vibrant landscape that is enjoyed by many all across the country each year. The park permanently preserves 33,000 acres of beautiful forests, portions of the Ohio & Erie Canal, and parts of the Cuyahoga River.

The Cuyahoga Valley National Park is one of Ohio's natural treasures, drawing 3 million visitors each year, making it the ninth-most visited park in America.

The Cuyahoga Valley National Park is unique. As I said before, it sits between the urban areas of Akron and Cleveland, but stepping into the park makes you feel like you are a world away from the hustle and bustle of urban life.

The winding Cuyahoga River gives way to deep forests, rolling hills, and open farmland. Some of the park's trails also connect to the Buckeye Trail, which connects all four corners of our great State.

As the only national park in the State of Ohio, it offers residents and tourists alike an opportunity to reconnect with nature, boost their physical and mental health, and explore our region's rich natural history.

This anniversary would not have been possible without the dedicated community members, park staff, rangers, volunteers, and tourists who have protected, preserved, and visited this invaluable resource for over 50 years. Mr. Speaker, I thank them for all they do on behalf of Ohio's 13th Congressional District.

Once again, congratulations to the Cuyahoga Valley National Park community on its 50th anniversary, and I look forward to more anniversaries to come.

ENHANCE PENALTIES FOR ASSAULTS ON LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the pardons this week of violent felons who attacked our Capitol, injuring 174 of our Capitol Police, were a sacrilege against our Republic and our Constitution. Their actions were an affront on decency and a violent attack on the rule of law.

Americans nationwide are outraged. Mr. Speaker, 140 law enforcement officers were assaulted and 174 sustained injuries. Officer Brian Sicknick died.

Those who engage in violence against law enforcement officers must be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law.

I will soon introduce the Brian Sicknick Heroic Law Enforcement Officers Protection Act. This bill aims to strengthen penalties for those who assault law enforcement officers on Federal property. It provides enhanced support for officers injured in the line of duty.

This legislation is named in honor of U.S. Capitol Police Officer Brian Sicknick. He tragically lost his life in the line of duty defending this Capitol on January 6, 2021. His selfless service and ultimate sacrifice will never be forgotten.

My legislation will include enhanced penalties for assaults on law enforcement officers for individuals who assault officers on Federal property, with potential sentences including life imprisonment.

It will include improved health benefits for officers. It will guarantee full health benefits throughout their service and retirement and for those injured in the line of duty, including the 140 officers assaulted and 174 injured on January 6, 2021.

As one Member who was held against her will in this Capitol on January 6, 2021, I can guarantee you this bill deserves swift passage.

Additionally, it will provide enhanced support for injured officers by providing eligible officers with access to necessary protective services.

The brave men and women of law enforcement put their lives on the line every day to protect our communities and our Nation. This legislation is a necessary step toward honoring their service. It will ensure that they have the support they deserve and that the United States of America reveres them and the rule of law to which they dedicate their lives.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 58 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. STRONG) at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Judy Malana, United States Navy, Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies Staff, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, You are the creator and sustainer of all life, the God of new beginnings, and because of this, we humbly invoke Your presence among us here this afternoon inside the United States Capitol, the people's House.

Dear Lord, may those of the House of Representatives be faithful stewards of the higher purpose of their calling. Grant them discerning hearts of wisdom, as they work together in a spirit of unity, to carry out the promises of our Constitution and our enduring democracy.

Most merciful God, may Your grace fill the Chamber of this honorable assembly. Bring our lawmakers clarity of mind in the midst of the complexities of the issues they face. Strengthen them, their families, and their loved ones who support them.

O sovereign Lord, continue to hold our Nation in the very hollow of Your hands. May Your peace permeate and prevail in the hearts, minds, and souls of the American people.

For all of us, may we ever strive to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with You in service to our Nation and each other with utmost compassion, gratitude, and love.

We ask these things in Your most holy and precious name.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR MONTH

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize January as National Blood Donor Month.

Since its inception in 1970, National Blood Donor Month has aimed to increase blood and platelet donations during one of the most challenging times of the year for collecting blood products; the winter months.

In my district, the Centre County Commissioners have officially proclaimed January as National Blood Donor Month in Centre County, joining the nationwide effort to honor and celebrate those who selflessly roll up their sleeves to help patients in need.

Since July 2024, the Central Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Red Cross has held 101 blood drives in Cen-

tre County, collecting over 3,000 units of blood. According to the Red Cross' Centre County operations, this is the highest count in the region.

Mr. Speaker, it is staggering to realize that someone in this country needs blood once every two seconds. By the time I finish this speech, nearly 30 people will require access to a blood transfusion.

Blood donations are critical because the supply relies entirely on the generosity of donors. It cannot be manufactured or stockpiled. To meet patients' needs, the Red Cross must collect 12,500 units of blood every single day.

Mr. Speaker, I urge everyone listening to visit redcrossblood.org and click on the "Donate Blood" tab to find a blood drive nearby.

HONORING JAMES SEARS

(Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the extraordinary life of James Sears, a truly remarkable eastern North Carolinian.

Mr. Sears was a dedicated advocate and a steadfast supporter of communities across our region. He served on the Gates County Board of Elections. He was an active member of the NAACP and his home church, New Hope Baptist Church in Gatesville. There are so many organizations, but the one that he loved and devoted over 30 years to was the Eastern North Carolina Civic Group.

He always prioritized the needs of others. His unwavering commitment to families across eastern North Carolina was evident in all that he did. We are incredibly grateful for his contributions and the positive impact he has made on so many lives.

His passing has left a void in our community that will be deeply felt. My heart goes out to his family, the Eastern North Carolina Civic Group, and to the Gates County community as we now remember and celebrate his legacy.

RECOGNIZING SHAVERS CREEK GRANGE NUMBER 353 SESQUICENTENNIAL

(Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, institution, which is celebrating a milestone anniversary.

This year, Shavers Creek Grange Number 353 will mark the 150th anniversary of its founding with a series of events, including a fellowship event that reflects the organization's mission to embrace community members from across generations.

Defined by its enduring commitment to family values and community standards, the Shavers Creek Grange represents the organization's motto, and that motto is: "In essentials, unity; in nonessentials, liberty; in all things, charity."

On behalf of everyone in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate the Shavers Creek Grange on this sesquicentennial milestone and thank its members for their continued work to strengthen the community fabric of Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania.

THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, very small instances—President Trump's excuse last night for freeing the violent January 6 criminals.

To the 140 dedicated police officers who were injured that day, to the officer who was crushed in a door and had to protect his eye from being gouged out, to the officer who was punched with a flagpole, this was hardly Trump's "day of love."

Now, he has released these criminals back to their communities. One boasted of buying guns. Another would: Turn up the heat in the spirit of vengeance—total disrespect for law enforcement, unleashing a heightened threat to the safety of families and communities across this country.

By freeing the leaders of the Proud Boys and the Oath Keepers who were convicted of seditious conspiracy, Trump seems to be following the example of the authoritarian leaders he has admired in telling them to "stand back and standby"—his private militias, available to crush any opposition at the slightest dog whistle.

COUNTERING IRANIAN TERRORISTS IN IRAQ

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Iraq has been oppressed by kleptocrats who support Iranian terrorism. Sadly, Iran-backed militias, the Badr Organization, are part of the Iraqi Government, including the national security adviser. Badr was armed by terrorist Soleimani.

Iran-backed militias in Iraq should be designated as terrorists, as Congressman GREG STEUBE and the Republican Study Committee have proposed. There must be sanctions on kleptocrat politicians complicit with Iran, such as former Prime Minister al-Maliki.

Any aid to Iraq should be conditioned on not going to terrorists. Brett McGurk's policy of replacing ISIS with Iran has failed. President Donald Trump will reinstitute policies of maximum pressure on Iran, stopping Iraq's