

two gyms and manage an office building that supports nonprofits.

The story of the Suarez-Delgado family reflects the best of the American spirit. From humble beginnings to professional achievements, their legacy is one of faith, family, and community. It is proof that the American Dream is alive, that it endures, and that the American Dream can be fulfilled through generations to come through resilience, devotion, hard work, a love of family, and faith.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Suarez-Delgado family for pursuing their American Dream.

RESPECT FOR SCIENCE AND PURSUIT OF TRUTH

(Ms. JOHNSON of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a topic that should transcend partisanship: respect for science and the pursuit of truth.

History shows us that when nations embrace science, they grow stronger. When they suppress it, they grow weaker and often less free.

Throughout our history, we have witnessed dictators and authoritarian leaders suppress science and knowledge because it threatened their rule.

In Nazi Germany, Jewish scientists were forced out of universities, and research was put under complete control of the government. The result was not only the loss of a generation of brilliant minds but a society in which truth itself was subjugated to government propaganda.

In Stalin's Soviet Union, biology was condemned as "bourgeois science." Researchers who insisted on facts rather than ideology were imprisoned, killed, or sent to work in slave labor.

Even as far back as Mao's Cultural Revolution, China dismantled academic institutions, silenced experts, and elevated loyalty over knowledge. Generations lost their chance at education, and the nation's progress was stunted.

Mr. Speaker, if we do not learn from our history, we are doomed to repeat it. We are witnessing the same pattern repeating in our own lifetime.

In Hungary, Viktor Orban has taken over universities, closed independent institutions, and forced academic programs to shut down when they contradict his political goals.

In Russia, Vladimir Putin has jailed scientists and censored research, all to preserve the illusion of control and strength.

What these regimes have in common is simple: They know that science, at its core, is a challenge to authoritarianism. Science is a search for truth. It cannot be dictated by politicians, so when science becomes an affront to the goals of authoritarian leaders, they attack it, suppress it, deny it, and replace it with propaganda and misinformation.

Here at home, Donald Trump is following the same playbook. He has mocked climate scientists, dismissed decades of evidence, even as Americans suffer record floods, droughts, and wildfires.

Donald Trump has undermined doctors and public health officials by putting the Nation's leading vaccine denier in charge of our public health. Trump has promoted unproven cures for diseases, cut billions in critical research funding, and dismantled advisory boards that create avenues for government to work with scientists to make good policy.

In his 2026 budget, Trump is proposing to eliminate funding for the Administration for Community Living, which supports older and disabled Americans; the Department of Health and Human Services' Prevention and Public Health Fund; the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Trust Fund; the Pediatric Brain Tumor Consortium, an association of 16 academic centers and children's hospitals dedicated to trials of novel treatments for pediatric brain cancer; and so much more.

We need to understand why this is happening and why Republicans in this Congress are supporting it. These attacks are not random. They are deliberate, and they prove a tendency by this President to emulate the authoritarians of the past and present.

Trump's goal is to erode trust in experts, replace facts with loyalty, and convince Americans that only one man and one government can be trusted to define what is right and what is wrong. When a leader can erase truth and rewrite reality, they can justify anything. They can jail opponents. They can seize power and ignore the judges and the rule of law. They undermine the very essence of democracy itself.

Mr. Speaker, science is not partisan. It is not our political enemy. It is a safeguard against lies and misinformation. When our Nation's top leaders attack it, they are not only rejecting evidence. They are rejecting accountability.

America has always been strongest when we embrace discovery and not denial. When we put researchers, innovators, and problem-solvers to work—from curing polio to sending humans to the Moon and leading breakthroughs in clean energy and technology—our greatness has always come from empowering science, not mocking it.

Trump and Republicans are working to gut these critical advancements. Their tactics echo the worst chapters of history, and they mirror the tactics of authoritarian regimes today. If we fail to call this out, we risk normalizing it.

I believe the American people know what is at stake. They know that progress, safety, and freedom depend on science and truth, and truth cannot be dictated from a bully pulpit.

□ 1030

Defending science means defending democracy. It is about making sure our children inherit a nation that values evidence over propaganda and freedom over fear.

We cannot let authoritarians' attack on truth take root here. We cannot let science become the casualty of politics because if we do, history shows us exactly where that road will lead.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF CHARLIE KIRK

(Mr. MCGUIRE of Virginia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MCGUIRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Charlie Kirk. The country is heartbroken. As everyone knows, Charlie Kirk was assassinated last week for his beliefs of faith, family, and freedom.

Words are not violence. Violence is violence, and based on a pattern from the radical left, the message is clear: Keep your different points of view to yourself or else. That is an attack on the most important founding principle of our country and that is our First Amendment freedom of speech.

We must stay strong. We must keep fighting to keep our conservative principles, our Christian principles, strong.

Mr. Speaker, Charlie Kirk was a devoted father and husband and a Christian who deeply loved our Nation. His amazing wife, Erika, has lost a husband, and two beautiful children will have to grow up without the guidance of their father. When asked how he would want to be remembered if he passed away, he said: I want to be remembered for my faith. That should be the most important thing.

Those celebrating his assassination and lying about his record, well, that is just disappointing and that is wrong.

Charlie believed civil dialogue could always prevail, standing for civil discourse over violence. His debate skills were second to none and he captured the hearts and minds of all Americans, especially young Americans across our country.

He courageously pushed back against radical leftist divisive ideologies that have eroded our national unity. Unfortunately, some in the media continue to misconstrue his message to be of hate, but he treated all human beings with dignity and respect.

Charlie's legacy on the world left a message that resonates with an entire generation, and it is only getting stronger. He was a devoted servant of our Savior Jesus Christ and it is best to live his teachings every day.

Later this week, I hope everyone in the House will join me in supporting the resolution honoring the life of Charlie Kirk. Charlie lived with courage, compassion, and conviction. He was a fierce defender of the American founding principles, such as limited government, individual responsibility,

life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Since Charlie founded Turning Point USA in 2012, when he was 18 years old in his garage, he became and remained a prominent voice in our political discourse.

He was the strongest defender of our First Amendment. He worked tirelessly to promote unity without compromising his convictions.

Mr. Speaker, my message to all Americans is, we live in a dangerous world. Stay vigilant and let us keep an eye on each other. If you see something, say something, do something. Charlie's death is tragic and sober, but I can already see God is turning this tragedy into a greater good. Charlie will be laid to rest this Sunday in Arizona.

Mr. Speaker, from a grateful nation, we thank Charlie for all he has done. May he rest in peace.

Well done good and faithful servant, Matthew 25:21.

REMEMBERING JARED KNEALE

(Mrs. SYKES of Ohio was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to speak out on an important issue impacting this Nation and my community in Ohio.

As you may know, September is Suicide Prevention Month, a time to pause and recognize mental health and the tragedy of taking one's own life.

Today, I rise with both a heavy heart and a hopeful spirit, because while my community has felt the devastating toll of suicide, I also believe in the power of advocacy and awareness in order to save lives.

Suicide Prevention Month is an opportunity for us to reflect and discuss stigmas around mental health and affirm, once again, that mental health care is healthcare.

Today, I will specifically address the sacrifices of our police officers, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders. These are the women and men running toward danger while others flee for safety.

At the end of the day, after news stories publish details of their heroism, the weight of the trauma may linger long after sirens fade.

In 2021, the CDC acknowledged that law enforcement officers and firefighters are more likely to die by suicide than in the line of duty.

Jared Kneale is one such story from northeast Ohio. Born on October 5, 1981, in Euclid, Ohio, Jared graduated from Wadsworth High School in the year 2000. After working for the city of Wadsworth as a fireman and paramedic for 15 years, Jared transferred to the nearby city of Canton, Ohio, in Ohio's 13th Congressional District where he would serve his community for 8 years.

On Friday, May 17, 2024, northeast Ohio and Ohio's 13th District lost a dutiful public servant and a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend.

The Canton Fire Department would later announce in a post on social media that Kneale's death was the result of a suicide due to a post-traumatic stress-related illness and that in his final moments, Jared signaled to us his wishes to use his death to help bring awareness to firefighter mental health. That is why I stand today before you, Mr. Speaker, to do exactly that and carry out Jared's last wishes.

Mr. Speaker, far too many suffer in silence, afraid of judgment or showing signs of weakness, but it is time we stand up for those who run toward danger, that we acknowledge our collective strength far surpasses the individual, and that asking for help is truly the greatest form of strength.

Rarely have I seen a better example of this than in the immediate aftermath of Jared's passing. Upon hearing about the tragedy, over 70 firefighters descended upon the local hospital to pay their respects.

As my community continues to grieve, cases like Jared's cannot be ignored because when we invest in mental health, we invest in all of our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I will take a moment to talk a little bit about Jared and his life and the person that he was.

Jared, who worked with the 2nd Battalion and was assigned to ladder truck one, was loved by his colleagues. During his tenure with the city of Canton, he earned two Medals of Commendation and two meritorious citations for heroic actions on the job.

He was the head chef at station one and took great pride in sharing meals with his colleagues. Jared was known for his infectious laughter and he was the ringleader of the pranks at the station.

He also had a love for peanut butter M&M's and Chewy SweetARTS, always making sure his candy was stocked, knowing full well the rest of his crew would sneak handfuls out of his locker.

Jared was a devoted husband to his wife, Carrie, and a loving father to his six children: Tim, Shaunna, Caden, Aidan, Olivia, and Isabella. He was a fan of the Cleveland Browns, loved riding his Harley, and was a talented carpenter and mechanic. Behind every uniform is a person just like Jared who feels, grieves, and may struggle to cope with the toll of the demands of their work.

According to the National Firefighters Association, 20 percent of firefighters and paramedics meet the criteria for post-traumatic stress at some point during their careers. Additionally, the suicide rate for firefighters is much higher for them than the general public. The connection between PTSD and traumatic rescue work is quite clear. We, as a legislative body, must do more to ensure that first responders never have to carry this burden alone. We also, as human beings, must do more to be there for one another.

In the wake of Jared's passing, the Canton Fire Department said: "We

urge our fellow brothers and sisters to reach out to one another." We must remember that we have more in common than we do that separates us. We must do more to reach out and care for our neighbors who are struggling.

Before I take my seat, Mr. Speaker, I want to make sure that everyone knows that if you are struggling, if you know someone who is struggling, you can call or text 9-8-8 for personalized support during these difficult times. They are not alone.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I thank Jared's family for allowing me to share his story and uplift a firefighter and someone who is so very important to our community but lost their life tragically.

□ 1040

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER

(Mr. MANN of Kansas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today still in shock and saddened at the political assassination of Charlie Kirk. There is no place for political violence in our country, and it is antithetical to who we are as Americans.

The beauty of our Nation and the First Amendment is that anyone from anywhere has the right to express their beliefs, engage in dialogue, and disagree peacefully. That is the heart of our democracy. We need to get back to embracing that dialogue.

Charlie often said that when we stop talking, that is when violence happens. I don't want to live in a society where we don't talk to people we disagree with and resort to violence. Leadership is never easy, but it falls on us to lead the way by carrying on the mission that Charlie lived for of open debate in a free society in the greatest nation that the world has ever known.

When al-Qaida terrorists attacked our Nation 24 years ago, they had one goal—to destroy America. They didn't see us as Democrats or Republicans, red States or blue States. They just saw Americans, one nation under God, and their goal was to destroy us. When we lose sight of seeing the humanity in our fellow Americans who think differently than us and convince ourselves they are the enemy instead of our neighbor, we are feeding into the very thing our adversaries want, and destroy our great country from within. We are better than this.

America is the greatest country in the world. All 340 million of us have different perspectives, values, and beliefs. I can't count how many issues I disagree with my colleagues across the aisle on, yet we know we can disagree without turning to violence. Charlie Kirk was an example of this. He did things the right way, having healthy debates with people who saw differently than him and sparking a movement that transformed an entire generation. Charlie believed in the promise of America, and his life's work