

plant a seed that bears fruit in future years. Melissa Fike has distinguished herself and made an impact that will be felt for years to come.

Madam Speaker, I want to commend Melissa Fike on her great work making a difference in the lives of so many young people and congratulate her on this prestigious award.

RECOGNIZING MORRIS BURGER, FORMER PRESIDENT AND CEO OF BURGERS' SMOKEHOUSE

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, it is with great joy that I share news of Morris Burger, former president and CEO of Burgers' Smokehouse of California, Missouri, being inducted into the Meat Industry Hall of Fame.

After serving his country in the Army, Morris returned home to run the family business with the goal of producing the finest cured ham in the country. The business was extremely successful and expanded numerous times over recent decades to the point that its business orders now exceed 500,000 hams and tens of thousands of pounds of bacon, sausage, and specialty meats each year.

Morris retired in the 1990s, and the business is now run by the third and fourth generations of Burger family members.

Morris Burger has left a legacy to be proud of as Burgers' Smokehouse continues to epitomize quality, taste, and innovation, while playing an active role in the community and remaining an influential leader in the industry.

Congratulations, Morris Burger, for being inducted into the Meat Industry Hall of Fame, a well-deserved honor.

STOP DRUG SMUGGLING BY FILLING THE TUNNELS ASAP

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, last week, our U.S. Customs and Border Patrol agents announced the discovery of a highly sophisticated, illegal, 4,309-foot cross-border tunnel from Mexico into California built by the drug cartels.

Unfortunately, while the tunnel was first found in August of 2019, it will still take several months to close the tunnel as the agency completes a mandatory environmental review and a lengthy contractor bidding process.

In October of 2018, I visited the southern border and heard directly from Customs and Border Patrol agents in Arizona, and I heard a similar story.

The process of closing drug tunnels is arduous and time-consuming. It often takes 3 to 4 months to abate this threat. That is unacceptable.

Last year, I introduced H.R. 3968, the Eradicate Crossing of Illegal Tunnels Act, to address these problems.

This bill expedites the approval process by removing the unnecessary red tape currently preventing our CBP agents from addressing this critical vulnerability. It allows the Secretary of Homeland Security to waive the environmental review and for indefinite contracts to be secured so drug tunnels can be filled in a timely manner.

We need to ensure our Border Patrol agents have the tools necessary to effi-

ciently and effectively remove illegal access into our country, hurting our community with illegal drugs. It is time to pass this crucial legislation, and I call on my colleagues to support my bill.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize February as Career and Technical Education Month. Each year, this month highlights the benefits of a skills-based education and the valuable contributions that CTE students make to the American workforce and the American economy.

More specifically, February 2 through February 8 is SkillsUSA Week. SkillsUSA is a leader in the CTE movement. This annual celebration represents nearly 370,000 SkillsUSA members across the country who are developing the personal, workplace, and technical skills necessary to earn and keep good-paying and rewarding jobs.

A one-size-fits-all approach to education is not an effective way to prepare students for the workforce. We are doing students a great disservice when we only promote what is considered a traditional college experience.

When we look at the potential of our Nation's learners and contrast that with the 7 million unfilled jobs nationwide, clearly, there is a disconnect. This is often referred to as the skills gap, and CTE can help us bridge this divide.

Now, I have the privilege of serving as the co-chair of the bipartisan House Career and Technical Education Caucus alongside my colleague and good friend, Congressman JIM LANGEVIN.

Over the years, we have met with many educators, counselors, administrators, and students to better understand the resources necessary to support learners of all ages.

I am proud of the legislation that we have put forward to ensure students have the tools they need to pursue a rewarding education, and, eventually, a rewarding career.

With this kind of support, we can help empower students and better prepare them for a 21st century workforce. Most recently, that includes H.R. 5092, the Counseling for Career Choice Act, a bill that would invest in career counseling for high school students as well as professional development opportunities for the counselors who support them.

Career and technical education is not a plan B. It is a valuable educational option that is empowering learners of all ages to take control of their personal and professional futures.

To me, the ideal educational system is one that allows students to get in with as few barriers to entry as pos-

sible, get the education that they need, and get out. By providing students with a clear picture of what the workforce entails—or, more specifically, by investing in career and technical education—we can help make that a reality.

Madam Speaker, I am asking my colleagues to join me in celebrating Career and Technical Education Month by supporting the Counseling for Career Choice Act and other common-sense, bipartisan bills that help provide quality CTE opportunities to our Nation's students.

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 11 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 (Ms. SÁNCHEZ) at noon.

PRAYER

Rabbi Seth Frisch, New Shul of America, Rydal, Pennsylvania, offered the following prayer:

Almighty, I stand before You in prayer and in memory as I am reminded of Solomon, King of ancient Israel, who would preside over a most unusual judicial hearing, one in which two mothers would lay claim to the life of one child, a child they each would insist to be their own.

This parable allows us to see Solomon's wisdom as preserving the nation, as we are sadly reminded, so soon after his death, that the kingdom is split asunder.

I, too, am reminded of Abraham Lincoln, when he spoke with prophetic-like prescience: "A house divided cannot stand," which was soon to become a war of brother against brother. From this we would soon learn that our future lies not in enmity, but in unity.

For, Lord, the Book of Leviticus, from Your Torah, teaches us in words inscribed upon the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia: "Proclaim liberty throughout the land, to all of the inhabitants thereof," thus uniting one of our Nation's ideals, "e pluribus unum," out of the many, one.

Lord God, the Founders of this Nation understood our strength to be in the celebration of our differences while assiduously working to put our divisions behind us.

And so it is, Dear God, that we pray You remain with us. Continue to guide all of us in realizing the dream of this great country, to be a Nation indivisible, a Nation seeking liberty, and above all, a Nation providing liberty and justice to all.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. LAHOOD 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.

WELCOMING RABBI SETH FRISCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to welcome Rabbi Seth Frisch, who delivered today's opening prayer to the people's House.

Since his ordination in 1986, at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York, Rabbi Frisch has been a source of comfort and counsel to Jews around the world. In his current posting as rabbi and teacher of the New Shul of Philadelphia, Rabbi Frisch helps serve as a guide for those who want to learn more about what it means to be Jewish in a safe and supporting setting.

In a way, today's opening prayer was a homecoming for Rabbi Frisch, who previously served as a legislative assistant to the chairman of the United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

I pray that we will all heed his words today, that out of many, we are one Nation. Let us strive to put our divisions behind us and realize our dream of a country indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WEEK

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of National Gun Violence Survivors Week, a time when we

remember the tragic and life-altering impact of the gun violence epidemic that continues to affect thousands of families across the country.

Every year, 36,000 Americans are killed by gun violence and 100,000 Americans are injured. In my city alone, an average of 765 people die of gun violence every year.

Too many families have been touched by this violence. Too many young people go to school afraid. Too many Americans live in fear.

Last night, the President's State of the Union only mentioned firearms once. And instead of presenting a plan, it defended the NRA.

We owe it to every survivor and to everyone who has been touched by gun violence to do more than hold a moment of science or post a hashtag on Twitter. We owe the American people real action.

PUNXSUTAWNEY PHIL

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank one of the most productive, job-producing constituents in my district, Punxsutawney Phil.

Over the weekend, Punxsutawney Phil delivered us some good news: He predicted an early spring for the second year in a row.

But that is not the only good news. Groundhog Day draws tens of thousands of tourists to Jefferson County each year, which boosts revenue at local restaurants, hotels, and other small businesses.

Last week, activists claimed that Punxsutawney Phil should be replaced by an animatronic groundhog powered by artificial intelligence.

Well, I believe in creating jobs, not eliminating them. And Punxsutawney Phil is no exception. I will always stand up for the hardworking men, women, and rodents in the 15th District of Pennsylvania.

In all seriousness, Groundhog Day brings together people of all different backgrounds, and this fun family celebration reminds us of the importance of tradition. It is not only an economic stimulus in the district, but it is also a great source of pride.

GUN VIOLENCE IS AN EPIDEMIC

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

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, today, I rise because there is an epidemic in our country. One hundred Americans die every day from gun violence. We are 25 times more likely to die from guns than people who live in comparable nations.

Gun violence is personal to me. When I was a young boy, my sister took her

life with my father's revolver. In 2014, my community was devastated by the Isla Vista shooting that killed six people and left 14 injured.

I rise because there are commonsense solutions to curb this violent trend. One of those is my bipartisan Extreme Risk Protection Order Act of 2019, which will help ensure people who have demonstrated that they are at risk of hurting themselves or others temporarily don't have access to guns. The bill passed out of the committee. I now ask the House to bring this legislation to the floor.

The House has already sent two bipartisan background check bills to the Senate; yet, Senate Majority Leader MCCONNELL has not acted. There is no excuse.

I will continue to rise until we end this epidemic.

HIGHLIGHTING IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING THE SECOND AMENDMENT

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

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the importance of protecting the Second Amendment to the Constitution.

In my district, Commissioners in Davidson, Davie, Iredell, and Rowan Counties in North Carolina recently passed resolutions that simply affirm the Second Amendment rights of their residents and declare that these counties will never participate in the infringement of those rights through unconstitutional gun control.

Anti-gun politicians in neighboring Virginia and other States are trying to undermine and overturn the Second Amendment. That is why these measures in my State are both necessary and timely.

I commend these counties, and I remain fully committed to defending the rights of responsible, law-abiding gun owners.

Madam Speaker, it is a people problem, not a device problem.

GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WEEK

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

Mr. MORELLE. Madam Speaker, it pains me to stand before you today and recognize Gun Violence Survivors Week. As a Nation, we grieve for all the lives lost senselessly and all those who must live in the wake of these acts of horror.

This week alone, we have seen another school devastated by gun violence, another community uncertain how to move forward.

Our country is faced with a growing epidemic, and it is our responsibility as lawmakers to take action to protect our communities.