

It is the cop walking the streets, the officer on patrol, the sergeant on watch, or the deputy responding to a call who are on the front lines in our States, counties, and cities.

Whether the call is for a crime in progress, an automobile accident, or a natural disaster, they are often the first on the scene to render aid, give comfort, or even save a life.

While they don't do their job for accolades nor do they expect our continuous praise, it is encouraging for someone to occasionally say thank you.

But instead of thanking them for their dedication to duty, some officials instead publicly criticize our law enforcement community. This unwarranted public criticism not only undermines the morale of our law enforcement officers, but it undermines the public trust in these dedicated servants.

With a growing number of violent protests and riots in our Nation, tensions between the police and the public have grown significantly over the past several years.

But instead of using their positions of influence to diffuse the tension, certain officials have stoked the fire, which has rekindled distrust and encouraged public unrest.

Careless remarks, such as comparing American law enforcement officers to terrorist organizations like ISIS, have placed more officers' lives at risk and have sparked more anti-law enforcement sentiment across our Nation.

As a result, public bashing of our police has skyrocketed and now American law enforcement officers feel they have been thrown under the bus by the very people that should be supporting them.

Recently, during a meeting with local first responders in my district, I asked if there was something I could do to help them.

They asked for me to go back to Washington, D.C., and tell our government officials to please stop undermining them, to stop publicly criticizing them for doing the job they are tasked to do.

"Please make Washington understand," they said, "that it is incredibly demoralizing to be putting your life on the line, fighting crime, while those in positions of leadership are making you out to be the criminal."

Mr. Speaker, as with any organization, there are a few in law enforcement that haven't held themselves to the high standards of dedication expected within the law enforcement community, and those who violate the public trust should and most often are removed from their positions to face harsh disciplinary action.

But just as every elected official in Washington, D.C., our peace officers have sworn an oath to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States.

And while there are some instances where officers have strayed off-course, from what I have seen in the short

time that I have been here, as a whole, law enforcement has a better record of upholding their oaths than some of the elected officials here in Washington.

Mr. Speaker, our law enforcement officers deserve our admiration, respect, and appreciation, and today I want to thank them for the work they do for us.

I want to thank the spouses and the families who have endured many sleepless nights while their loved ones were responding to a call.

And to the families of those that have given their lives in the line of duty, on behalf of a grateful Nation, I thank you for your sacrifice for our safety, security, and freedom.

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 37 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Lord our God, thank You for giving us another day.

Protect us and guide us as a free people who turn to You in faith and prayer and who strive to grow in virtue and integrity.

Be with the Members of this people's House in all their undertakings today. May the recent celebration of the birth of this Nation 239 years ago renew all hearts in the same spirit that guided the signers of the Declaration of Independence and the Framers of the Constitution. May those goals and aspirations still serve to guide every informed decision here today and across this Nation.

Let us, "the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity."

May all that is done within the people's House this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. WALORSKI) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. WALORSKI 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

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

RECOGNIZING PRINCIPAL JAMES CONDON OF PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

(Mrs. WALORSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Principal James Condon of Plymouth High School for being named the 2015 Principal of the Year. His success in providing high-quality learning opportunities for students in Plymouth is nothing short of remarkable.

Principal Condon's leadership has been instrumental in the development of digital and project-based learning, creation of dual credit courses, and preparation of students for the job market. As a result of his leadership, Hoosier classrooms are full of future doctors, scientists, and entrepreneurs.

His success reminds us of how important educators are to kids everywhere. Every one of us depends on our teachers, and because of that, they deserve our support and our appreciation.

Principal Condon has helped spark imagination and give young Hoosiers the ability to make their dreams become a reality. Today I thank Principal Condon for helping students in Plymouth develop their talents and become our future leaders.

CONTINUED INACTION ON THE HIGHWAY TRUST FUND AND RE-AUTHORIZATION OF OUR SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS

(Ms. ESTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, exactly 2 months ago, I came to the floor to speak out against this House's reckless inaction on the highway trust fund, needlessly endangering hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs. Yet here we are again, with only 10 legislative days left before the highway trust fund runs out of money. Mr. Speaker, this is harmful and it is wrong.

According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, 73 percent of Connecticut's roads are in poor or mediocre condition. These poor road conditions cost the average Connecticut

driver \$628 in otherwise unnecessary repairs and expenses every year. Thirty-five percent of Connecticut's bridges are structurally deficient, functionally obsolete, or both.

A great nation does not respond to crises with duct tape. A great nation leads with bold action. I urge the leadership of the House to work with us to pass a long-term highway bill and invest in America's infrastructure.

SUPPORT OUR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

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

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as students across Pennsylvania's Sixth Congressional District and the rest of the country enjoy the summer months, many are looking for activities to participate in to occupy their days.

I wanted to highlight the value of public libraries and, specifically, an exceptional program in my district that empowers, inspires, and supports performance arts.

The Tredyffrin Public Library is offering a series of camps that seek to "cultivate performance arts skills and instill confidence in students in rising fifth through rising ninth grades."

The vocal and musical theater camps are led by Conestoga High School graduates and serve as a wonderful resource for area students to improve theatrical and music skills over the summer vacation.

It has long been proven that students that participate in the arts have improved academic performance and a strong sense of community. I applaud the Tredyffrin and Paoli Public Libraries across Pennsylvania's Sixth District in their efforts to promote life-long learning, entertainment, and enrichment.

Our public libraries are local treasures that add value and promote learning in our communities. I encourage everyone to share this support this summer and year-round by attending our libraries, by supporting those who work there and offering our thanks to those who volunteer there.

SUPPORTING A LONG-TERM SOLUTION FOR THE HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight America's infrastructure crisis.

Almost 30 percent of our Nation's major roadways, and 50 percent in California, are in poor condition, meaning they must be rebuilt, not just patched up.

Drivers are now paying a hidden pot-hole tax, the extra cost to maintain a car because of bad roads. In California, the average driver pays \$760 because of

poor roads. People and goods are slowed down by congestion.

In just 10 legislative days, our highway trust fund expires. Congress must pass a long-term surface transportation bill to ensure that the United States has the best infrastructure.

In May, this Congress kicked the can down the road and passed a short-term bill. It seems we are likely to do that again. This is not a responsible way to govern.

We should invest in our transportation system to be globally competitive and to move these goods efficiently. Drivers want less time stuck in traffic and more time at home with their families. Let's invest in America's future and pass a long-term surface transportation bill.

IRAN—WOLF IN WOLF'S CLOTHING

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, while the Ayatollah has preached "Death to America," the United States and the West have made a deal with the deceitful wolf of the desert.

Iran promises to temporarily cut back and not continue its nuclear weapon development capability. Then Iran will receive sanction relief. It will be able to export oil and receive billions of dollars in cash.

In 5 years, the embargo on most conventional weapons against Iran will be lifted. In 8 years, Iran will be able to import ICBMs. In 10 years, the deal expires and Iran can develop nuclear weapons, thus legitimizing the number one state sponsor of terrorism and allowing it to be a nuclear weapons power.

This is dangerous. This will start a nuclear arms race. Israel will be less safe. So will America.

In theory, this deal is supposed to give us "peace in our time," to coin a phrase. But Iran is a wolf in wolf's clothing, and the wolf has made a deal with the sheep not to eat them for 10 years. Then what? Supper?

And that is just the way it is.

ARROWS AND AN OLIVE BRANCH

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, in the Great Seal of the United States, the eagle clutches arrows and an olive branch. While today's Iran agreement puts the olive branch out first, the arrows remain firmly in our grasp.

The safety of all our families in the United States, in Israel, and elsewhere, is advanced by pursuing a verifiable, enforceable, diplomatic solution. Refusing to be frozen by fear or pushed into conflict by those who are just campaigning or who are campaigning for war, the President recognizes diplomacy as our greatest strength.

So many of those who loudly renounced this deal before they have even read it also loudly supported the stunning historic mistake of a go-it-alone invasion of Iraq.

No choice is without risk, but strong inspections and verification are the best path to peace and security for all of our families.

A BAD DEAL FOR THE UNITED STATES AND OUR ALLIES

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

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, far from backing Iran's path to a nuclear weapon, the inherently flawed deal announced this morning preserves and legitimizes Iran's nuclear program. The fact that Iran is celebrating and that our allies are not should tell you everything that you need to know about this deal.

I have read the deal. I have it right here.

I believe that it will usher in a terrifying new era of proliferation in which neighboring nations feel no choice but to build nuclear programs of their own, while the massive sanctions relief in the deal will provide Iran with hundreds of billions of dollars in new funds to foment terrorism around the globe and prop up its proxies, like Assad in Syria and Hamas, to launch brutal attacks on Israel.

The measure of success and diplomacy is not simply whether agreement is reached; it is whether a good agreement is achieved. Unfortunately, the administration arrived at this deal through a parade of concessions on poor issues and by straying far from the insistence that Iran's nuclear program be dismantled. The world is a more dangerous place today with this, as a result.

Mr. Speaker, Congress can and must step forward, do the right thing, and reject this deal.

WE NEED A LONG-TERM HIGHWAY BILL

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to take up and pass a long-overdue bill to fund our roads and bridges for the long term. Yet again, we are approaching the end of a short-term extension with the highway trust fund in danger of expiring at the end of this month. We can't keep kicking the can down the road. We need a long-term bill, and we need it now.

In my congressional district alone, there are 421 bridges that are structurally deficient. Just earlier this month, I stood alongside the Murray Baker Bridge in Peoria that runs over the Illinois River, the heart of my district. Its structure is in need of replacement.