

were elected to serve our communities and to serve our country.

Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GARCÍA).

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today because a couple of months ago, a freight train derailed in my district. Thankfully, the cars that derailed were not carrying any hazardous materials and no one was hurt. Earlier this month, another passenger train derailed nearby as it left the station.

Madam Speaker, 25 percent of the Nation's trains pass through the Chicagoland area, and many of the country's largest freight lines pass through my district.

There are children in my district who hop over mile-long trains that block their path to school.

So why am I talking about rail safety when we are supposed to be talking about the default?

Because in Illinois alone the Republican default on America act would take away more than a year's worth of rail safety inspection days—470 to be exact.

If they get their way, Republicans will make rail more dangerous in my district and across the country, and when accidents happen, communities like mine pay the price. For that reason, and for the many reasons that my colleagues are here to bring up, we continue to reject the Republicans' default plan.

Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my special order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, House Republicans are here, yet again, to urge President Biden to avoid the impending default crisis and strike a deal with House Republicans. We have to do this.

For over 100 days now, Joe Biden and Democrats have wasted valuable time refusing to offer a reasonable solution to raise the debt ceiling and prevent our Nation from default.

House Republicans did our job. We did it here. We passed the Limit, Save,

Grow Act almost 3 weeks ago. Our bill is a really important measure because it will do a number of things. It will save taxpayers nearly \$5 trillion. It will set commonsense caps on future spending levels. It will grow the economy, it will increase American energy production, it will lower prices on working families, it will defund this administration's aggressive expansion of the IRS, and it lifts the debt ceiling.

This is responsible legislation. We got together, and we did our job. The bill has not changed, and neither has our position. We will not, under any circumstances, accept a clean debt ceiling increase. We can't do that. We have stewardship responsibility.

Our fiscal house is not in order here, and this negotiation may be the only real opportunity that Congress has to address Washington's spending obsession and begin to get our debt under control until the next election cycle.

We are \$31.7 trillion in Federal debt. Inflation is sky high, interest rates are only continuing to rise, and, yet, what does this President do?

Joe Biden can barely be bothered to address the threat of collapse of our financial system.

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The entire debate is symptomatic of the unmitigated rot that has afflicted Washington. Our constituents know the parties have to negotiate; the markets know we need to negotiate; and until a decade ago, Joe Biden did himself.

We have all these quotes on record. I mean, as recently as 2011, when he was in charge on the Senate side, he was over here negotiating with the House. He said over and over how important this was, how important it is to the process, and how anyone who says it is only my way or the highway was being irresponsible.

Do you know what? He was right. We are just asking him to live by his own mantra. Look, I am confident that the White House will come to its senses soon. It has to. If not, Americans know there is only one person to blame. It is President Biden.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, while we are dealing with that, we also recognize and are delighted to celebrate National Police Week.

It is my honor to lead this group of speeches tonight honoring the men and women who risk their lives daily to keep our communities safe.

I am the son of a first responder who was critically injured and permanently disabled in the line of duty.

My dad was the assistant fire chief in Shreveport, Louisiana, in 1984. September 17 of that year, he was burned over 80 percent of his body, third-degree burns.

He had about a 5 percent chance to live. He miraculously survived, and he struggled with those injuries for decades longer.

I lost him just 3 days before I got elected to Congress. I know personally the risk that first responder families face every single day.

Madam Speaker, we aren't just on the floor speaking tonight. We have work product to back up what we are saying. House Republicans have made support for law enforcement a central part of our agenda in this Congress.

This week, we passed multiple pieces of legislation to support these brave men and women. Today, we passed the POLICE Act, which makes assaulting a law enforcement officer a deportable offense for those in the country illegally.

This bill's passage could not come soon enough because, as we know, both illegal immigration and assaults on police officers continue to rise. Increased penalties like these will help deter future attacks against officers.

We also passed the Federal Law Enforcement Officer Service Weapon Purchase Act, which gives officers the option to purchase their service weapon at fair market value once they retire. It is just commonsense legislation.

Tomorrow, we are going to pass H. Con. Res. 40. This resolution condemns efforts to defund or dismantle local law enforcement agencies, and it also condemns attacks against police officers.

Just today, we watched sadly as Chicago laid to rest Officer Areanah Preston, who was tragically shot and killed outside of her home this month in a targeted attack.

Officer Preston was just 24 years old, fresh-faced and idealistic, eager to serve the people of Chicago, but her life was cut short due, in part, to dangerous antipolice rhetoric, rhetoric often used in these Halls, and it is a shame.

Madam Speaker, one would think that a resolution condemning attacks on police officers would pass through this House, of course, unanimously. Do you know what? That wasn't the case last night. Two Democrats in this body, one of which has paid astonishing sums of money for armed personal security, voted against this measure.

This problem goes far beyond just those two Members in question. As I have recounted multiple times in our House Judiciary Committee, dozens of members of the House Democratic Caucus have publicly called to either defund or dismantle police departments when America lost its collective mind during the summer of 2020.

This is exactly why it is so important that House Republicans lead the charge in support of law enforcement, and we will.

After 4 years of inaction and demonization of these heroic officers, the people's House now decisively backs the blue.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to be joined by a number of my colleagues, some of the stars of the House, and I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAWLER).

Mr. LAWLER. Madam Speaker, this week, we commemorate National Police Week. It is a time for us to honor

our brave men and women in blue who steadfastly dedicate their lives to serving and protecting our communities.

This week is a solemn reminder that our peace and security are often maintained at great personal risk to these brave individuals.

I thank our officers and first responders throughout the 17th Congressional District of New York. Many of them I have had the good fortune to know personally and to understand the sacrifice that they and their families make day in and day out to keep our community safe.

My district has roughly 50 percent of households that have a cop, a firefighter, a first responder, or a veteran living in it. These brave men and women go to work every day knowing that they are risking their own lives to protect, defend, and save the lives of others.

Just last week, I joined my colleagues in placing wreaths at the names of fallen police officers all along the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.

I placed a wreath by the names of Sergeant Edward O'Grady and Police Officer Waverly Brown, who, along with security guard Peter Paige, lost their lives protecting Rockland County during the Brinks robbery in 1981.

We will never forget their sacrifice or their families—nine children who are fatherless because of the actions of depraved criminals and domestic terrorists.

Placing that wreath served as a solemn reminder to me that our police officers stand on the front lines of our society, never knowing if they will make it home while working to keep our communities safe, which is why our support must transcend beyond mere words. It must reflect in our actions as a Conference and as a House, which is why House Republicans just passed H.R. 2494, the POLICE Act.

This legislation will help maintain the dignity and safety of our officers by providing serious consequences for those who harm them. Under this bill, noncitizens found guilty of assaulting a police officer would face deportation.

In the face of increasing challenges, the POLICE Act is a crucial step toward ensuring that our police officers are afforded the respect and protection they deserve.

Another important bill we are voting on tomorrow is H. Con. Res. 40, which expresses support for law enforcement officers all across the country and condemns calls to disband or defund the police.

There are colleagues on the other side of the aisle who spend days assailing the brave men and women in law enforcement, and this resolution will very quickly weed out those who back the blue and those who don't.

Living just north of New York City, I am reminded of the days of 9/11 and the aftermath, and the brave men and women who went running toward danger, going to Ground Zero to try to recover and save lives.

Many of these individuals today suffer from 9/11-related illnesses. It is a travesty, and we must always stand by them and show our support for them.

Today, when I think of New York City, I see a city that is hurting, a city with a massive increase in violent crime, disastrous policies at the State and city level, and a failed cashless bail law, which releases violent criminals back onto the streets.

Over 40 percent of those who have been released on nonmonetary bail for felony offenses have been rearrested while those charges are pending.

It is such a disaster that the Governor and the State legislature have tried to amend it three times. It needs to be scrapped, and they need to start over.

You have the anticrime unit being disbanded. Its primary function is to get illegal guns off the street—parole for unrepentant cop killers and child rapists; non-enforcement of petty crimes; raising the age where 16- and 17-year-olds are being treated in family court while using a gun in the commission of a crime rather than criminal court.

It is not just New York City. It is happening in Chicago, Washington, D.C., and Portland. It is shameful what is going on across America, and it must be stopped.

As we honor police officers and law enforcement everywhere during National Police Week, let's make a commitment to act at a Federal level, at a State level, at a local level. Let's stand up and support the men and women in law enforcement. Let's hold violent criminals and repeat offenders accountable for their conduct.

This is a choice. They choose to commit crimes. Nobody is making them commit a crime. They must be held accountable, especially in cases of violent offenses, period.

I thank the chairman for hosting this Special Order hour tonight, and I encourage all of my colleagues to stand in support of the men and women in law enforcement.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for his compelling testimony. We took the House Judiciary Committee to lower Manhattan just a few weeks back, right in Alvin Bragg's backyard, the Soros-funded D.A. We let victims of crime tell their tragic stories. It was really something to hear. There is a lot to be said about this issue.

Madam Speaker, I yield to another great gentleman from New York (Mr. WILLIAMS).

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Madam Speaker, Americans demand that their elected leaders step up and do the work of the people.

Madam Speaker, 3 weeks ago, this body did exactly that. It passed the Limit, Save, Grow Act to avoid a debt default and to put in place common-sense controls on our out-of-control Federal spending.

The Limit, Save, Grow Act will reduce our Federal deficit by \$4.8 trillion

over the next decade and lifts the debt ceiling to avoid this looming crisis, all while protecting seniors and veterans.

We have demonstrated to the American people that we are committed to doing the work of the American people on critical issues, providing real solutions and working to retake our place on the world stage.

Yet, our bill was met by even more silence from the White House and childish derision from leadership in the Senate—no negotiation, no counter-proposal. In short, not an ounce of work from the executive branch nor the other half of the legislative branch.

Maybe they were too busy. Maybe they were on vacation. Maybe they hadn't thought through the disastrous consequences of doing nothing.

No work, no solutions, no negotiations, no plan—the Biden-Schumer default is coming for your Social Security check because they refuse to show up for work.

Just remember, the Limit, Save, Grow Act restores funding to fiscal year 2022 levels. If you liked veterans' benefits in 2022, you will like them in our bill. In fact, the House GOP, through the Appropriations Committee, has announced our proposal to increase the budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs by nearly \$18 billion.

For the record, I am a proud veteran, and I am insulted by our opponents' false accusations.

Now is the time to show Americans what true leadership looks like. I implore our President and our Senate colleagues to come to the table and do the work that the people have sent us here to do. Their inaction and inability to work to find common ground have not gone unnoticed by our citizens. I am here to do the work of the people. My Republican colleagues are here to do the same.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his good work and for his service, as well, and we will take care of the veterans. That is what Republicans do.

That bill passed out of the Appropriations Committee sends a strong message that that was, let's say, misinformation by the other side about the veterans' funding.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to yield to the gentleman from the State of Utah (Mr. OWENS), my dear friend and a Super Bowl champion.

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate and honor our brave men and women in law enforcement who paid the ultimate price to protect and serve our communities and preserve our American way of life.

In our Nation's Capital, there is a 304-foot-long wall, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, that features the names of more than 22,000 officers who sacrificed themselves in the line of duty. Beyond this magnificent architecture, the legacy of service, dedication, and hard work remains etched in every American heart and

continues to inspire generations of police officers.

Throughout our Nation, our men and women in blue risk their lives to fight crime, respond to emergencies, and keep our communities safe.

During National Police Week, I highlight courageous officers who have gone above and beyond to serve others.

The Riverton Police Department recently recognized the Violent Fugitive Apprehension and Suppression Team, VFAST, as Partner of the Year. It deploys innovative investigative methods to apprehend violent fugitives.

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Officer Kevin Salmon, a combat veteran and a Purple Heart recipient, received the inaugural Fraternal Order of Police officer wellness award due to his pioneering work to promote the wellness, the mental and physical health of his fellow officers.

The team at the Unified Police Department of Greater Salt Lake has built a relationship of trust and confidence between law enforcement officers and the Salt Lake community to help at-risk youth pursue life-changing academic and professional opportunities.

Detective Marisha Manzano is a beloved member of the Herriman police force dedicated to quality education, welfare, and safety of students in her role as a school resource officer at Copper Mountain Middle School in Herriman, Utah.

The Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force established by Saratoga Springs is at the forefront of the battle against human traffickers and online predators.

It has been the honor of a lifetime to represent and champion the extraordinary police forces in my district and throughout the country. We began our Nation with certain promises—the promise of life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness—and that can only happen in an environment of safety. The fact that we have the most robust middle class, the biggest dreamers, the most innovative States in the world today is because we have a nation of safety.

I thank all those who have given their lives, given their efforts to get up every single morning to go out and protect this Nation and come back home to their family knowing they have done their job to make sure we stay safe.

To all my friends in law enforcement, thank you for all you do and happy National Police Week.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend. That was so well said. I thank him for highlighting those specific examples of brave men and women in the State of Utah who put on the badge every day to do that really important job.

Madam Speaker, I yield next to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. STRONG), a great Member.

Mr. STRONG. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of those in law enforce-

ment who gave their all from the Fifth District of Alabama: William Street, Tim Anderson, James Foster, William Russell, W. L. Steele, William Baber, Lem Jones, Frank McKissack, Frank Bass, James Eubank, Carl Anderson, Ed Kirby, Burns Almon, James Drake, Hugh Craft, Thomas Wright, William Barr, Matthew Wann, William McMinn, Bedford Brackeen, Ewell Starr, Alan Logel, Kelly Vaught, Charles Drake, Wayne Boggus, Billy Daly, Preston Butler, William Gaskin, Benton McLemore, Leo Glover, Kenneth McDonald, Billy Clardy, Jr., Michael Twitty, David Temple, Simmie Jeffries, Charles Biles, Steven Ticer, Dewey Dorsey, Thomas Lewis, Billy Thrower, Willis Von Moore, Haskel McLane, Anthony Mims, Larry Russell, Daniel Golden, William Freeman, David Young, Keith Earle, Billy Clardy, III—and yes, you heard that right, Billy Clardy, Jr. and Billy Clardy, III, a father and son both lost in the line of duty some 50 years apart—Walter Johnson, Steve Finley, Garrett Crumby, who was ambushed just 52 days ago.

I stand before you today to honor these fallen officers of Alabama's Fifth Congressional District. We will not forget the sacrifice they have made. I will not stop fighting for the brave men and women of our law enforcement until the day that I do not have a single name to read.

Furthermore, I take this moment to recognize retired Sheriff Joe W. Patterson, who served as Madison County, Alabama, sheriff for four terms. Sheriff Patterson inspired many at a young age to serve our community. To this day, he is a mentor to law enforcement officers across north Alabama.

In 1990, Sheriff Patterson offered me the opportunity to attend the police academy. While I did not take him up on that offer, he later swore me in anyway as a deputy sheriff, and later in life I served with the sheriff's department in the narcotics division. I am grateful for his continued leadership and years of service to our community and to the greater Madison County, Alabama, region.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and I thank him for his service. I didn't know that about his bio. That is impressive. I am really, really grateful, as we all are, for those who gave their lives in the line of duty, and we do pray blessings over their families and all those left behind.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BAIRD), somebody who knows a little bit about sacrifice, one of my favorite people in the world.

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, this National Police Week, we pause to recognize the brave men and women in blue who are committed to keeping our communities safe, and we remember those who lost their lives in the line of duty.

Our Nation is blessed to have the bravest and most professional police

officers in the world. This week gives us the ability not only to recognize their commitment to preserving peace and saving lives, but it gives us the chance to assess what we can do in Congress to help support them and to make their lives a bit easier as they protect our communities.

I may be biased, but I believe west central Indiana has some of the finest law enforcement officers in the country, and I am fortunate to have an open line of communication with them to identify issues that require Federal solutions.

Sheriff Myers in Morgan County has been instrumental in helping craft my bill, the PART Act, which gives law enforcement officials the tools they need to hold thieves accountable for catalytic converter theft. This may seem like a relatively small problem, but you ask any law enforcement official in your district, and they will tell you that skyrocketing catalytic converter thefts are taking up a lot of their time and resources that could be used for a better purpose.

This is an easy and bipartisan way for us to support our law enforcement officials, and I would encourage my colleagues to consider helping me get this bill across the finish line so we can unburden some of our law enforcement.

To close, I just want to say this to the men and women in blue who have dedicated their lives to protecting others: Thank you for your service and thank you for keeping us safe.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for his service in keeping us safe.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY).

Mr. KILEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to encourage President Biden to withdraw the nomination of Julie Su for Secretary of Labor. At this pivotal moment for the American workforce, we need a Secretary of Labor who is on the side of workers.

With Ms. Su's nomination stalled, the Biden administration is currently going to extraordinary lengths to try to save it.

In a story headlined, "Pressure Mounts to Confirm Julie Su to be Labor Secretary," The Washington Post reports that the White House is engaged in a full-court press to confirm Su and has launched a daily war room call to strategize on how to get her confirmed.

The Bloomberg headline reads, "White House Prods Senate Holdouts to End Stalemate Over DOL's Su," reporting that White House officials are launching a final lobbying push to convince undecided Senators to vote for President Biden's embattled Labor Secretary nominee.

Politico's headline reads, "Biden World Goes to the Mat to Get Julie Su Confirmed," reporting that the Biden White House is ramping up its pressure on Senate Democrats and deploying some big guns to get her nomination over the line, saying a full-court press

is on for the Labor nominee as confirmation remains in doubt.

Madam Speaker, if this were a qualified nominee, there would be no need for a full-court press, a war room, or a lobbying push. There would be no need for prodding, ramping up pressure, or going to the mat.

Even at this late hour, we are receiving additional information that further disqualifies Ms. Su from being confirmed. In addition to her track record of gross mismanagement and attacking workers, she has also demonstrated a disrespect for the rule of law.

At a recent hearing I chaired of the Education and the Workforce Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, a former administrator of the Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division, Tammy McCutchen, testified that the Department of Labor, which is currently led by Acting Secretary Su, is ignoring current law when it comes to classifying independent contractors. Even though the courts have determined that the Trump administration's legal standard, which protects independent contracting, is still the law, this standard, she testified, is nowhere to be found on DOL's website, which instead contains a different set of factors that isn't the law, but that Acting Secretary Su would prefer to enforce because they are designed to deprive freelancers of their livelihoods. Ms. McCutchen testified, "The DOL's website is providing erroneous information and misleading the public," and she further testified that enforcement activity appears to ignore current law as well.

This disregard for the law was a hallmark of Julie Su's tenure in California, where she served as Governor Gavin Newsom's secretary of labor. For instance, a memo recently released by the agency she headed in California shows that Su directed her staff to obstruct U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials who visited state labor offices. This memo was only obtained, by the way, directly from the California agency after Su repeatedly ignored and refused requests to provide it as part of the confirmation process.

In the memo, Ms. Su provided instructions to her staff for obstructing Federal immigration authorities, writing, "Labor commissioner staff should not voluntarily permit a Federal immigration agent to enter any part of our office. Staff should ask the agent to leave our office, including the waiting room, and inform the agent that the labor commissioner does not consent to entry or search of any part of our office. Doors that lead to the inner office suite, and office doors that are generally locked or shut, should not be voluntarily opened for the agent."

In addition to obstructing immigration enforcement in her role as California labor secretary, Ms. Su also defied the will of Congress. At our recent hearing of the Workforce Protections Subcommittee, witness Karen Anderson, a leader of independent contrac-

tors in California, testified how during the COVID shutdowns, Secretary Su withheld benefits from independent contractors that Congress had provided under the CARES Act.

Ms. Anderson testified that Ms. Su tried to entrap independent contractors into applying for regular State unemployment benefits even though they weren't qualified for them. This was a ploy designed to get independent contractors to characterize their clients as employers, thereby triggering an audit of their businesses under the State's notorious AB 5 law, which Ms. Su was an architect of. This not only placed an additional burden on these small businesses, which were already in many cases on their last legs because of the lockdowns, but it delayed independent workers from receiving the benefits that Congress had authorized and that they were entitled to by law. Even California Congressman ADAM SCHIFF wrote a letter to Su at the time, instructing her to release the benefits as Congress had intended.

Madam Speaker, it is beyond doubt that if confirmed Julie Su would not be a partner of this Congress. She would readily defy the will of Congress and defy the law when it suited her or the administration's purposes. She is manifestly unqualified to lead the United States Department of Labor, and I urge the President to withdraw her nomination.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield next to another gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) for leading us once again as we get out the good word of our optimism for Congress and for the people of the United States.

This being National Police Week, I start off my portion by extending my gratitude to all those officers who bravely wear the badge and uphold our laws.

As my colleagues before me have emphasized, crime rates, indeed, are rising exponentially due to soft-on-crime attitudes, early-release policies, district attorneys that will not prosecute crimes that people really care about, and even calls to defund police departments, though some of the cities that have done that are now seeing the fruits of that labor and are backtracking on that, embarrassingly for them.

In 2021, a record number of officers were killed in the line of duty. Many more have been injured by dangerous criminals while on the job. We pray for the safety of our law enforcement personnel as they continue carrying out their mission to uphold the law for us. My heart goes out to all the families who have lost a loved one in the line of duty. Indeed, the price has been too high as there have been too many lost.

This week, we are honoring all who lost their lives while in the line of duty. I highlight one from Ar buckle, California, a native of northern Cali-

fornia. Natalie Corona was a rising star of the Davis Police Department. One of her colleagues recalled the time when she went out of her way to aid a victim of the Camp fire in Paradise, California, in response to a call.

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Her father, a 26-year veteran of the Colusa County Sheriff's Department said there was no question that Natalie Corona would one day work in law enforcement.

In 2019, though, when Natalie was only 22 years old, she was ambushed while responding to a minor three-vehicle collision. Natalie was randomly shot and killed without warning for doing her job and helping others.

Ultimately, I don't think it is fair that our law enforcement personnel are expected to put their lives on the line to protect law and order, meanwhile, Democrat lawmakers here in D.C. and Sacramento and our State capital continuously fuel crime and put officers like this needlessly in danger for what they do and lack of prosecution and lack of making them see through their terms in our prisons. These policies and hateful rhetoric really make their job that much harder.

There are plenty of those lawmakers in our California State capital and this Capitol right here right now trying to still make it harder for the police while simultaneously spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on their own private security for themselves. That is amazing.

The names of 54 fallen law enforcement officers in California's First District are inscribed at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Indeed, once again, that is far too many.

Lawmakers in D.C. and in blue States such as my own, California, need to get serious about locking up criminals and leaving them there for their full term. Do not let them out for sorry excuses such as, oh, COVID releases or, oh, we don't want the death penalty in California for heinous crimes that they commit.

We need to give our law enforcement personnel the encouragement that their work will not be made trivial by these release programs, these lack of prosecutions and that we are going to have the resources for them to stop crime and to help hold up the law that we ask them to do as Americans.

Indeed, it is a somber occasion when we memorialize those that we have lost, but we are very grateful that they are willing to serve in what is a really tough business at a time when they seem more and more persecuted than ever. We want them to know that still the very vast majority of Americans appreciate them, that they answer the call, that they are willing to line up and do this work for us in order to help keep our streets in a way that we can be normal and do normal things and not have to worry about endless break-ins or thuggery taking advantage of innocent people just going along trying

to do normal things in their day-to-day lives.

We are eternally grateful for our law enforcement officers as we recognize them this week. To my colleague, Mr. JOHNSON, I thank him once again for hosting this Special Order.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend for his comments and the really sad state of things in California with so much that is going on there. You are right, it is a blue State that really needs to get its act together. I am glad that we can come here and have this opportunity to honor men and women in law enforcement as you have, so I thank you for that.

Madam Speaker, as my friend was speaking here about officers lost in the line of duty, I was just looking over some statistics. On the web page that is titled: "Officer Down Memorial Page" they honor officers who are killed in the line of duty. They have a listing of the total line of duty deaths. So far this year we are sadly at number 42.

I did not realize this until I was just sitting here doing the research, but my State of Louisiana is in the lead by total deaths by State as they are all listed.

I would just close this Special Order hour by saying that there really aren't words. We can come to the floor of the people's House here, and we can share our thoughts and share our hearts. We can pray for the families of those who are lost in the line of duty and all those who serve so bravely each day, but words really do not do justice to the level of risk that is taken by those who put on the badge every day and go out and do that hard job. We need more of them. They represent the best of America, and we know that.

All of my House Republican colleagues honor those who have served. We honor their families for their sacrifices and certainly those who have been lost in the line of duty.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

IMPENDING DEBT CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, we are going to actually sort of walk through a couple things we did last week. We are going to do it again because I got the feeling no one was listening.

We had a joint economic hearing today, which, you know, I am blessed to be called the vice chair. We rotate the chairmanship back and forth between the House and the Senate. Have you ever had the occasion where in the hearing everyone knows the truth, but no one is allowed to actually say it out loud, and those of us who go and say it out loud sort of get fussed at? Well, as

my father used to say to me: "Screw them." We are going to actually have something unique around here. We are going to tell the truth.

First off, I had my heart broken. A Bloomberg reporter this morning broke my heart. I was listening to one of the news readers, and they go, well, the U.S. is going to default maybe in the beginning of June. Okay. Once again, someone go get your financial dictionary. Default is when you do not pay the interest on your bonds. Thirty percent of our spending is borrowed. That basically means 70 percent we have receipts, income, tax revenues. We have plenty of cash to cover the interest on our bonds.

Now, that doesn't mean there is not disharmony or unhappiness for that 30 percent that wants a check. If I hear one more idiot around here say we are going to have a default—that is not the definition of "default."

As a matter of fact, there used to be a Treasury Secretary under Lew, and he and I went around and around on this, and we finally came to an agreement that we would clean up our language. This would actually be default, not paying interest on your bonds, and we created this magic term called a technical default. That is when we don't send the check out to the worker for the agency or that goes out late. That isn't default.

The financial markets care about U.S. sovereigns having their consistent cash flow because the fact of the matter is that is the basis of much of the world economy.

We will never default even if you pass the debt ceiling. You have got to stop making things up around here.

I was going to bring in the charts of the cash flow and showing what happens in mid-June tax receipts and how there is a quarterly spike and may produce another 30 days and what other extraordinary measures have capacity, but I realize that no one is actually listening to the facts anymore.

So I thought we would try something else. If I get another person from the left who basically comes up and goes, we should have a clean debt ceiling. Really? Okay. Walk us through when you have controlled this body or you controlled the votes in the Senate, is that what you asked for? Well, the fact of the matter is, if we go back to 2017 when they didn't actually control the body but they had enough votes to extort things in the Senate, they required about \$15 billion of additional spending, and they still voted against it.

How about 2019? Do you remember way back in 2019—although that was only a couple years ago—Speaker PELOSI said, I won't give President Trump that increase on the debt ceiling without raising the spending caps and a cash spend. So the cash spend was \$324 billion plus functionally another \$300 billion on that by raising spending caps. That is a clean debt ceiling?

Now, understand, what the Democrats wanted was more spending. They always want more spending. We are trying to bring some fiscal sanity, but come on. If there are any reporters out there, if there is anyone that wants to just sort of tell the basic story of how this place actually works, stop running around these hallways saying are you supporting default? Come on.

You know, you may be a hard-core leftist, but at least the public deserves some of the basic facts. We are in real trouble. We are in such real trouble.

Let's actually walk through this. Washington, D.C., Congress is almost incapable of adult conversation. I used to joke here that no one owns a calculator. When I speak to my little girl, who I want to be a math major, I tell her: "Daddy works in a math-free zone." And she used to think that was funny until she started to realize it is probably true.

We are only willing to do hard things when there is a stressor. You have ended up here. You finished your budget appropriations. You are at the end of the year. You are trying to see, oh, we are just going to do a continuing resolution, which means we are going to spend tomorrow what we spent yesterday, but you have got to get a vote for that new authorization or we are up against the debt ceiling.

Remember, almost the only time this place has ever done something adult-like on policy in regard to spending debt deficits is when we have been up against debt limits.

How many times do we have to show these boards? How many of you remember Gramm-Rudman and then the next Gramm-Rudman and the Bush tax increases? Remember, those tax increases were part of a deal with the Democrats. In fact, when was that? Oh, 1991, 1992—actually, 1990. I can just read my board.

You look at these things. When there were major policy sets, they came because of a stressor, and that stressor was the debt ceiling. Yet maybe that is why the left is so terrified of an honest conversation here.

My latest calculation, if I go from the day President Biden was sworn in until now, my best calculation is we are borrowing about \$51,000 a second during that time—\$51,000 a second. Understand, in 9 years we are borrowing over \$90,000 a second.

Do you understand the wheels are coming off? For some reason, my brothers and sisters on the left don't want to have an honest conversation about it. I don't know if they get votes or that is how they find love; they hand out trillions of dollars and they say crazy things like, well, the tax reform you all did in 2017. Even though by the fourth quarter of the next year tax receipts were higher than they were before the tax reform.

Yet, the bill they passed, their Orwellian named Inflation Reduction Act, you have seen the new scoring. They told the American people, oh, well, it