

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.

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#### 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.

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□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

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

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#### 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.

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#### 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.

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#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

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#### 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.

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#### 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