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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. MACE).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 10, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable NANCY MACE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

How great are Your works, Lord. Your thoughts are unfathomable. Open our minds this day to the vastness of Your truth and reveal our need for Your law that we would not deceive ourselves with our own understanding. Cause us to think of the incredible depth of Your knowledge and how limited our own human perspective is that we would discover how much we still need to learn from You.

Teach us that You are to be found in all of nature's beauty and bounty, and yet You are still greater than all of creation. Teach us that even our most profound thoughts of You cannot compare to the breadth and depth of Your being. Teach us that even when we love You with our whole selves, Your love for us surpasses our deepest devotion to You.

In Your greatness may we, in our weakness, learn to rely on You for all that we need this day and what You have in store for us. In Your unfathomable mystery, may we take refuge in the divine plan You intend for us. In Your unconditional and incom-

prehensible love, may we receive the mercy You desire for us.

In the majesty of Your hallowed name we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania 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 PRO TEMPORE

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

CONGRATULATING CARL AND BETSY LONG OF LONG FARM

(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 congratulate Carl and Betsy Long of Coudersport, Pennsylvania, in Potter County for receiving the 2023 National Outstanding Young Farmers award. The National Outstanding Young Farmers award recognizes that: "To-

day's farmer has become an active citizen, participating in everything from local and State government to civic groups and charitable organizations."

Beginning in 2007, the Longs began farming sweet corn on rented land in central Pennsylvania. With hard work, dedication, and help from their three children, the Longs have built a successful farm for green beans, wheat, oats, and potatoes across several thousand acres.

Though the Long Farm is just 15 years old, it now cultivates 10 million pounds of chipping potatoes each year, helping to supply 11 of Pennsylvania's renowned snack companies.

The Longs' love for agriculture extends beyond their family farm. Carl and Betsy are active on several agricultural advisory boards in Pennsylvania and participate in Ag Literacy Week and Farm Fridays in local schools.

The Long family is a model for hard-working Americans with a love for agriculture and community. I commend them on this outstanding achievement.

TRIBUTE TO STUDENTS OF SOUTH GLENS FALLS

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

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the students of South Glens Falls.

They recently marked their 46th annual marathon dance, a student-driven event to raise money for local families and organizations. This year, they raised more than \$630,000, adding to a staggering total of more than \$10.5 million raised since the event's inception.

The success of this marathon dance is proof of the remarkable things our students and young people can achieve.

I had the honor of joining them last weekend and seeing firsthand their enthusiasm and their heart. United by

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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music, dance, and a resounding spirit of giving, these students demonstrate the power that lies in a love of community and desire to do good. It fills me with inspiration and hope for both their future and ours.

They are movers and shakers in every sense. They are the leaders of today.

Congratulations to the students of Glens Falls on their incredible, remarkable achievement.

Go Bulldogs.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

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

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of the U.S.-Israel relationship.

Our relationship with Israel is a mutually beneficial partnership that not only reinforces America's moral values and strategic interests, but also promotes peace and stability.

The U.S.-Israel relationship is truly the embodiment of peace through strength. Having served 10 years in the U.S. military, I know how volatile this region is and understand that a key element of our own national security is the strength and security of Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East.

Our two nations face many of the same terrorist threats, the only difference being that Israel is surrounded by hostile regional actors. As malicious regimes like Iran continue their quest for nuclear capabilities, it is imperative that America does not waver in our commitment to strengthen Israel's ability to defend itself.

In a world that grows more dangerous by the day, weakening our allies would have disastrous consequences for the security of our country and threaten the possibility of world peace.

I remain steadfast in my support for Israel and look forward to helping advance U.S.-Israel defense cooperation here in Congress.

FENTANYL PREVENTION CAUCUS

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

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, too often, the speeches we make on the floor of this Chamber emphasize our differences and divisions, but this morning I want to highlight and praise an act of bipartisanship, the creation of the Fentanyl Prevention Caucus.

Some of you know my family's story and how lucky we are that our son was not a victim to fentanyl overdose or drug poisoning, but many families have not been so lucky. Too many.

From 2021 to 2022, more than 107,000 people died of overdoses or fentanyl

poisoning. Sixty-seven percent involved synthetic opioids like fentanyl.

Whether we focus on the flow of chemicals from China, the trafficking of drugs over our border or through airports or ports of entry, we must come together to stop this poisoning that is killing our loved ones.

This Congress needs to educate and legislate our way out of this tragedy. I believe this bipartisan caucus can do just that.

I thank my fellow co-chairs, Representatives NEGUSE, ISSA, and CALVERT, for their leadership. Bipartisan work will save lives.

RAISING CORPORATE TAX RATE TO 28 PERCENT

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, yesterday, the President's budget proposal was announced. It contains some of the largest tax hikes in American history. If enacted, it would set the corporate tax rate at 28 percent, a higher level than even Communist China.

Combined State and Federal taxes would amount to 32 percent.

This tax burden will primarily fall where?

On American workers and consumers.

It is broadly accepted by economists on the left and right that corporate taxes hurt wage growth, with labor bearing as much as 25 percent of the cost of corporate taxes.

Some estimates even place that burden as high as 70 percent. Raising the corporate tax will hurt American workers, depress their wages, and lower their purchasing power.

This is not a pro-growth or pro-worker budget proposal. It is not even serious.

The President must meet with House Republicans and negotiate in good faith for spending reductions and work toward an actual balanced budget like everyday Americans do in their homes and their businesses.

HONORING DANIEL SANTA CRUZ

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

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank a member of my staff on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs for his invaluable service to our Nation's veterans, this Congress, and our country.

Daniel Santa Cruz joined our committee in 2020 as our digital director. From the outset, he demonstrated an outstanding technical ability and tremendous creative vision. He proved instrumental in helping the committee meet the new digital demands of the COVID-19 pandemic; developed, produced, and directed thousands of hours of compelling video content; created graphical representations of our work

for social media platforms; and captured powerful images of committee members hard at work for America's veterans across the world and in our Nation's Capital.

His charm, humor, and generosity have been infectious, and his commitment to the work of this committee has been incredibly impactful.

The work of my committee, this Congress, and our government to honor and support our veterans was made better by Daniel's service, and he will be deeply missed.

HELPING SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS WITH CAPITAL

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

Mr. THANEDAR. Madam Speaker, I stand today to speak about the importance of uplifting small businesses in our country.

About 50 percent of U.S. GDP is generated by small businesses. Despite this, big corporations seem to always rake in big profits during economic hardship, while small businesses struggle to get by.

As a result, small business owners barely have enough leftover funds after payroll to reinvest into their businesses.

As a former small business owner, I know firsthand the difficulties these hardworking men and women face. Today, entrepreneurs, especially women and minorities, find it hard to get access to capital. I am calling for targeted programs to provide access to capital for Black and Brown communities for businesses led by veterans, the disabled, and women across this country.

RURAL HOSPITALS HAVE HIT A CRISIS POINT

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

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, we have reached a crisis in our healthcare system across our country. Over 180 hospitals, many of them rural hospitals, have closed nationwide since 2005.

Last month, the only hospital serving adults in Madera County was closed. Hospitals like Kaweah Health in Visalia, California, are sounding the alarm about higher costs and low Medicare reimbursement rates.

What are we talking about here?

We are talking about access to critical healthcare, emergency room services, critical care beds, elective surgery options, and women being able to have a place to give birth safely. We are talking about having access to healthcare in rural areas and throughout the country.

Congress must act now before more hospitals close. We must improve reimbursement rates and address staffing

shortages, nursing shortages, physician shortages.

Hospitals have hit a crisis point. If we do not act now, a nationwide healthcare crisis will be upon us.

My mother once said: "Jim, if you don't have good health, you don't have anything." Every American deserves access to healthcare.

COVID-19 ORIGIN ACT OF 2023

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 199, I call up the bill (S. 619) to require the Director of National Intelligence to declassify information relating to the origin of COVID-19, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 199, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 619

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "COVID-19 Origin Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) identifying the origin of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is critical for preventing a similar pandemic from occurring in the future;

(2) there is reason to believe the COVID-19 pandemic may have originated at the Wuhan Institute of Virology; and

(3) the Director of National Intelligence should declassify and make available to the public as much information as possible about the origin of COVID-19 so the United States and like-minded countries can—

(A) identify the origin of COVID-19 as expeditiously as possible, and

(B) use that information to take all appropriate measures to prevent a similar pandemic from occurring again.

SEC. 3. DECLASSIFICATION OF INFORMATION RELATED TO THE ORIGIN OF COVID-19.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall—

(1) declassify any and all information relating to potential links between the Wuhan Institute of Virology and the origin of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), including—

(A) activities performed by the Wuhan Institute of Virology with or on behalf of the People's Liberation Army;

(B) coronavirus research or other related activities performed at the Wuhan Institute of Virology prior to the outbreak of COVID-19; and

(C) researchers at the Wuhan Institute of Virology who fell ill in autumn 2019, including for any such researcher—

(i) the researcher's name;

(ii) the researcher's symptoms;

(iii) the date of the onset of the researcher's symptoms;

(iv) the researcher's role at the Wuhan Institute of Virology;

(v) whether the researcher was involved with or exposed to coronavirus research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology;

(vi) whether the researcher visited a hospital while they were ill; and

(vii) a description of any other actions taken by the researcher that may suggest

they were experiencing a serious illness at the time; and

(2) submit to Congress an unclassified report that contains—

(A) all of the information described under paragraph (1); and

(B) only such redactions as the Director determines necessary to protect sources and methods.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. HIMES), each will control 30 minutes.

The chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER).

□ 0915

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and insert into the RECORD extraneous material on S. 619.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 619, a bill that would require the Director of National Intelligence to declassify information relating to the origin of COVID-19. The House companion bill, H.R. 1376, passed unanimously out of the Intelligence Committee.

I thank Ranking Member HIMES for his dedication to bipartisanship and professionalism as we work together to try to ensure that the Intelligence Committee responds to the needs of the House.

Madam Speaker, the COVID-19 pandemic wreaked havoc across the country, with almost every household feeling its effects. The United States death toll from this virus has surpassed 1 million people.

Although concrete data is hard to lock down, millions of Americans are suffering from the long-term effects directly attributed to this virus.

COVID-19 has also negatively affected our communities, especially our kids. It has become increasingly clear that school-age children face major educational hurdles because of distance learning and long-term school closures.

The American public deserves answers to every aspect of the COVID-19 pandemic, including how this virus was created, and specifically, whether it was a natural occurrence or was the result of a lab-related event.

The House Intelligence Committee which oversees our intelligence community is aware of classified information that could help inform the public why COVID-19 as a lab leak theory is not just a possibility but approaches the idea that it is likely.

The intelligence community does have more information about COVID-19

than the public is led to believe. Much of the information they have can be declassified and disseminated to the public. In fact, the bill we are discussing today would give the American public just a glimpse, albeit a very important aspect, of the classified information the intelligence community holds.

S. 619, if passed by the House and signed into law, would give the American public a unique insight as to what was happening at a biosafety level laboratory in Wuhan, China, in late 2019 and early 2020. This laboratory and who was working there might be the key to unraveling the truth.

For those concerned about declassifying COVID-19 origins information, I can assure you that the intelligence community could release this information while protecting their sources and methods of how it was collected. In fact, I believe that the intelligence community could go further than what is called for in S. 619 and release most of what it knows about COVID origins, but this is a good start.

COVID-19 ranks as one of this century's most important events. No community was spared, and every corner of the world felt its effects. Everyone deserves to know what our intelligence community knows, and S. 619 is the right step in the right direction.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 619, the COVID-19 Origins Act of 2023. Along with my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER), I plan to support this legislation, and I urge the House to pass it. Let me stop now to compliment Chairman TURNER on the efforts he has made narrowly to bring this bill to the floor, but more generally, to make sure that the Intelligence Committee operates in the thoughtful, constructive, and bipartisan manner which it must operate in if we are to protect this Nation's national security.

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken the lives of more than 1.1 million Americans, and millions more have died worldwide. The American people want to know as much as we can determine about where this pandemic started and critically how we can be ready for the next deadly disease, which will come.

Determining the precise origins of a pandemic disease with high confidence is challenging under the best of circumstances. In this case, our already difficult task is that much harder because COVID originated in China.

At every juncture, the PRC Government has obfuscated and obstructed legitimate inquiries and investigations into the origins of the disease. China's approach has been deeply irresponsible and dangerous to global public health.

It is against that backdrop that in 2021 President Biden ordered a 90-day sprint by the intelligence community to analyze the origins of the virus. In

August of 2021, the IC completed its initial work, and a few months later, a declassified version of its findings was made public.

In short, the intelligence community agencies could not come to an agreement on whether the virus originated from a lab accident or from natural exposure. Some individual agencies did reach a judgment—a narrow judgment—about which path was more likely, but they could not do so with high confidence simply because we don't have enough reliable information to draw those conclusions. There is a version of the IC's classified assessment that is available to all Members through the House Security Office.

Around 18 months after the completion of the IC assessment, not much has changed. The intelligence community remains focused on this question, and I hope that we will have a breakthrough that will allow us to answer these questions once and for all, but today we are not there yet.

I believe that the IC should make as much public as they can, consistent with the overriding need to protect sources and methods. Transparency is a critical element of our democracy. The factual grounding of the IC's analysis can be an antidote to the speculation, the rumor, and the theories that grow in the absence of good information.

It is important to note that the bill provides the authority to make redactions to protect sources and methods for a good reason, and neither the chairman nor I would be supporting the bill if that were not true. I trust the intelligence community and the administration will lean forward in making public as much new information as possible without endangering our ability to collect and analyze on these issues going forward.

Now, I would mention two important things before I recognize other speakers on my side:

First, the pandemic, which is really what is at stake here. Whether COVID-19 originated from a lab leak or natural transmission at a wet market, the next pandemic disease could originate from either source, and it could come from anywhere.

In 2022, the Intelligence Committee released a declassified report looking at how the intelligence community responded to COVID-19 and made recommendations for how we can be better prepared for the next pandemic disease, wherever it may come from.

Overall, the report recommended that the intelligence community increase resources for global health security and medical intelligence, and that it needs to move away from a culture that views health security as a lesser priority than so-called traditional hard national security threats; evidence the fact that it was this that killed over a million Americans.

Furthermore, we need to promote complementary efforts between the public health and intelligence commu-

nities. Public health professionals and their counterparts in the IC must work hand-in-hand if we want to maximize the odds of identifying a novel disease at the earliest possible stage and if we want to give ourselves the best chance of determining the novel disease's origins.

Let me turn briefly to another important thing that is really at stake here. Madam Speaker, democracy is rooted in the idea that the people govern, that it is their right to determine their own political destiny. With that right comes an obligation that we don't talk about or think about nearly enough, and that obligation is to be thoughtful, informed critical thinkers about the issues of the day.

That is not who we are today. Today, we have elevated—because of our political polarization, we have elevated confirmation bias to a secular religion. Even in this conversation about the origins of the coronavirus, what you believe is indicative of where you stand on the political spectrum.

For reasons I don't understand, some of our colleagues and many Americans are running around with a theory that somehow buttresses their political legitimacy. Maybe you do that with UFOs, maybe you want to believe that there are aliens at Roswell or whatever you want to believe; that is pretty harmless. But when we are talking about a pandemic or something as serious as a disease that could kill a million Americans, that is not okay, and we have to remember our obligation to be thoughtful critical thinkers. We cannot let our political hopes override the obligations we have to be thinkers.

Madam Speaker, I tell my colleagues, the chairman and I have seen all of the classified information on this, and we don't know—we don't know the origins of the COVID pandemic. Whatever is ultimately declassified, I would hope that my colleagues and the American people would approach that information with the intellectual humility that we need to approach something as serious as a pandemic and how we behave as citizens in democracy.

We don't know.

We need to think about whether we want confirmation bias. Our tendency to select just those facts which support our preexisting positions interfere with our duty as critical thinkers in a democracy.

At the end of the day, the American people will get the system of government that they deserve, and if we don't get back to being humble about what we know to being critical thinkers, our democracy will be at risk.

I close with a quote from a great Connecticut writer and humorist, Mark Twain. He said: "It ain't what you don't know that gets you into trouble. It is what you know for sure that just ain't so."

I am going to join my chairman in supporting this bill, and I hope it passes in overwhelming bipartisan fashion. I hope we take that informa-

tion and use it for constructive purposes in the service of saving lives and buttressing our democracy.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, I appreciate my ranking member's very thoughtful comments and remarks.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. GARCIA).

Mr. GARCIA of California. Madam Speaker, the issue at hand is actually a simple one: it is whether or not to declassify data pertaining to the investigations into the origins of COVID. This is a simple vote. The simplicity of this vote is in stark contrast to the magnitude of the ramifications of this declassification process.

By declassifying, we will be able to seek clarity, give transparency, and gain security, which is what the American people deserve.

By declassifying, we have a chance to ensure that the 7 million people who died of COVID are honored correctly. This is a chance to hold China accountable for COVID and seek justice and a reckoning. Perhaps most importantly, it is a chance to prevent another man-made pandemic such as this from wreaking havoc on the planet again.

I think it is shameful that some have politicized this issue. This isn't political at all. Declassifying this information is simply the right thing to do.

I have personally been cleared to handle classified information since I was 18 years old, and the point of classifying information is to protect American lives, whether it is civilians and/or military personnel.

Information that is classified is material that would cause damage, serious damage or exceptionally grave damage to national security if made publicly available.

Now, the irony of this debate, however, is that the release of this data will actually save lives and help prevent the loss of life in the future. It will enhance our security, not degrade it. The continued overclassification of this data at the highest level actually poses the greatest threat to our Nation's security.

This is an easy and simple "yes" vote. The implications of this will determine whether or not we are able to prevent such another catastrophic pandemic from paralyzing us and taking so many lives.

I encourage all Members from both sides of the aisle to vote "yes" and enable us to get to the bottom of this, hold China accountable, and defend us against any future CCP threats.

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. BERA), a member of the Select Committee on the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Mr. BERA. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

This should be an easy vote because this is just about science. It is about understanding the origins of this virus

that created this pandemic that took at a minimum 7 million lives—probably many more than that. It is just about science. We are not debating the geography of where this virus originated. We know that. We are debating how this novel virus evolved. This is a brand-new virus, and that should go without question.

I hope this is a strong “yes” vote by both Democrats and Republicans.

I think about this as a doctor and a scientist, someone who has spent a lot of my time in Congress looking at global health security, looking at pandemic preparedness. I am proud to serve on the select committee that is looking at coronavirus and the impact of this pandemic. My colleague, another physician, Dr. WENSTRUP, is the chairman of that committee, and the ranking member is Dr. RAUL RUIZ.

Again, I think if we can take the politics out of this, we can actually understand what happened over these past 3 years, the impact it had not just on the United States but on the entire world.

We can work together as Democrats and Republicans and hopefully the global scientific community to prevent the next pandemic. That is what this is about.

□ 0930

I don't know if we will ever find those origins if the Chinese Communist Party doesn't work with us. It is in their interests as well because they have suffered greatly. The Chinese people have suffered greatly from this pandemic.

They ought to allow the best scientists in the world to go to ground zero, to the hot zone, to Wuhan, and try to understand how this virus evolved.

Maybe it was a wet market. Maybe it was a lab leak. It is important for us to understand what it was because that then will allow us to address and shore up the system.

If it was a lab leak, we ought to have the highest safety standards in the world if we are doing this kind of research. We ought to look at whether we should do gain-of-function research. That is a legitimate question. There is scientific debate about that, et cetera, but if it was a lab leak, we ought to understand that.

We ought to come together as a global community and make sure we have the highest standards. If it was a wet market, if this was a naturally occurring virus that came from an animal into a human, we ought to understand that, as well. We ought to put in the safety and precautions to make sure that doesn't happen in the future.

Let's take the politics out of it. Today, we have a chance as the United States Congress to take a big vote, Democrats and Republicans, to say: Let's try to figure out what happened.

It affected all of us, and we ought to do everything we can as the United States Congress, Democrats and Republicans, and as a global scientific

community to prevent this from happening again in our lifetime and, hopefully, ever again.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, to vote “yes” on this bill. It will allow us to share information with the public because, again, this affected all of us. I hope we have a strong “yes” vote on the COVID origins bill.

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD).

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, this bill is the beginning of transparency Americans deserve regarding COVID's entry into our Nation, a virus that has killed more than a million of our loved ones here at home and millions more across the world.

Our colleagues on the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic will piece together all the facts and share them with the public, including the role played by elements of our government and the media to try to discredit those who told the truth about COVID.

This bill is focused on safe disclosure of what our intelligence agencies have learned about the central role foreign actors had in the creation and spread of this deadly virus.

It is important that Americans and others across the globe learn about the Chinese Communist Party's coverup of COVID's origins at its Wuhan research facility, as well as the World Health Organization's subsequent role in suppressing this truth.

Until China and others who echo China's false narrative face accountability and consequences for that, we are just inviting the next coverup.

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. KELLY).

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to encourage Members to support passage of S. 619, a bill that requires the Director of National Intelligence to declassify information related to the origin of COVID-19.

The need for transparency regarding the origin of this pandemic cannot be overstated, especially as the world continues to grapple with its effects.

I thank Chairman TURNER for his leadership on this issue, and I thank the Senate Intelligence Committee for their diligent work.

As you all know, the COVID-19 pandemic and the government's chaotic response have had a devastating impact on our Nation and the world. It has caused loss of life, disrupted our economy, and fundamentally changed our way of life.

We owe it to the American people to inform them where this virus originated and how. Republican Members charged with oversight have always been champions of transparency and accountability. By supporting this bill, we are showing the American people

that we take this responsibility seriously. Republicans are keeping their promise to do everything within our power to get the truth and hold those responsible accountable.

To date, the source of the virus remains unclear, and there are strong indications that it may have originated from a laboratory in Wuhan, China.

The American people deserve answers. They deserve to know the truth about the origin of this pandemic. Without transparency, the public will turn to malign actors for information, further undermining our citizens' trust in the government and its intelligence agencies.

As we know, trust is a vital component of any successful democracy. When citizens do not trust their government, it destabilizes society and strains the fabric that binds our communities together.

The intelligence community has a responsibility to provide the American people with accurate information that can help them make informed decisions. By declassifying the information on COVID-19, the DNI can help restore the public's trust in our intelligence community.

Madam Speaker, I urge support for passage of S. 619. It is our duty to the American people to do everything within our power to get to the truth, and this bill is an important step in that direction.

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT).

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, like millions of people around the world, in 2020, I tested positive for COVID. I was fortunate. After several days in the hospital and 14 days on oxygen, I was able to recover. Many were not.

Americans and the rest of the world deserve to know exactly where this virus started and any details surrounding the origins of the virus that launched the globe into chaos.

If the CCP was not fully transparent during these times, people need to know that, as well. How long did they cover it up? How long did they know that this virus had been unleashed?

If we are going to defeat the Communist Chinese Party, our government has to be transparent about how malicious they have become. The U.S. and other freedom-loving Nations are going to have to join together to make sure that we expose their intent to the world.

I believe that we all have the right to know about the origins of COVID-19, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution to require the Director of National Intelligence to declassify any of the information that we have on the origins of COVID and the CCP.

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. STEWART).

Mr. STEWART. Madam Speaker, again, I thank the chairman and the minority leader for their support on this.

In April 2020, just months into the pandemic, we had a briefing from various agencies to the Intel Committee about the origins of the pandemic. At that point, one of the agencies said to us that they knew this did not come from the Wuhan lab, and many of us were angry at that.

We said to them, how could you possibly know that? The truth is, they didn't know that. The American people deserve to know the truth.

Throughout the pandemic, Dr. Anthony Fauci has consistently said anyone who would even propose this idea that it came from the lab or some other source that was manufactured in China was nothing but a conspiracy theorist. He belittled anyone who suggested that. They tried to silence anyone who suggested that. He advocated among his fellow scientists to do the same thing.

Again, the American people deserve to know the truth, and I would defy anyone to give me any possible explanation why they would oppose this bill.

This isn't like the movies—"You can't handle the truth." The American people, of course, can handle the truth. They deserve to know the truth.

This final thought: Even now, the NIH is still listing the Wuhan Institute of Virology for eligibility to receive our Federal tax dollars.

That makes no sense at all. It is absolute nonsense. We can't do that until, once again, we know the truth.

Madam Speaker, I encourage support for this bill.

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, the issue of the origins of COVID are so important that our Speaker has appointed a select subcommittee on the origins of COVID. Our next speaker, Dr. WENSTRUP, is the chair of that subcommittee.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP).

Mr. WENSTRUP. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 619, the COVID-19 Origin Act of 2023. The American people deserve answers on the origins of the COVID-19 virus, a novel coronavirus that sparked a pandemic and has killed nearly 7 million people worldwide to date.

The impact of the pandemic on the American people has been catastrophic. We lost loved ones. Everyone has been touched.

Our physicians, nurses, and healthcare workers were strained beyond capacity. We had to contend with lockdowns and school closures resulting in learning loss, as well as shutdowns and job loss, and depression and suicide that spiked after these measures.

Many Americans still suffer physically, mentally, and economically

from the impact of the virus and the measures taken during the pandemic.

This bill will provide some sunlight for the American people, scientists, and physicians. I am honored to be one of seven physicians on the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, as Dr. BERA referenced earlier.

In order for us to be able to predict, prepare, protect, and prevent against a future pandemic, we need to know how and where this pandemic began.

There are sound reasons to conclude that this particular virus may have resulted from a lab leak in the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

In the fall of 2019, well before Americans were aware of a problem in Wuhan, four unusual things happened at the Wuhan lab. Multiple researchers became sick with COVID-19-like symptoms, according to a State Department fact sheet. The Wuhan institute deleted the sequences of viruses that they had in their library. They changed control of the lab from civilian to military—highly unusual—and had a contractor redo the ventilation system in the laboratory. Furthermore, we know the Wuhan Institute of Virology was conducting gain-of-function research on novel bat coronaviruses by creating chimeric viruses, combining two viruses together to test infectivity, and infecting mice with these viruses for study.

The Wuhan lab applied to receive U.S. grant funding in order to insert what is called the furin cleavage site into novel coronaviruses, the same unique genetic aspect of COVID-19 that made it more infectious to humans.

Last Congress, I was honored to lead the House Intelligence Committee Republicans in producing our second interim report on the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic. This Congress, I am fortunate to continue this work as the chairman of the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, where we will work on a bipartisan basis to follow the facts, conduct a fair investigation, and seek to deliver the truth to the American people.

This bill we are voting on today to declassify information on the origins of the COVID-19 virus will provide much-needed transparency for Americans who have lost so much in this tragedy, but it is only a start.

I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in this endeavor.

Madam Speaker, I urge support of this legislation.

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MURPHY).

Mr. MURPHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 619, a bill to require the Office of the Director of National Intelligence to declassify all information related to potential leaks between the Wuhan Institute of Virology and the origins of COVID-19.

We had red flags about COVID's origins from day one. If it looks like a

duck, swims like a duck, and quacks like a duck, it is probably a duck. Folks, this screams like a duck.

In January 2020, Dr. Fauci received emails that promulgated that COVID-19 looked engineered and not from the wild. Yet, 3 weeks later, to save his own skin, he commissioned a scientific paper that "debunked" the lab theory. He was academically and intellectually dishonest. Why? He did not want the American people to know the truth.

The truth is that Dr. Fauci and his institution funneled hundreds of thousands of dollars of taxpayer money to promote dangerous gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology without proper guardrails.

That is the key. The Wuhan lab was no more set up to deal with this deadly virus than my mother's kitchen.

We had people—thousands, millions of people—lose their lives, their livelihoods, and their loved ones.

If this contagion leaked from the lab, if that is the case, the world deserves to know. It is time to call out the duck in the room. Release the intelligence that we need to find out the truth.

We have been lied to by China. We have even been lied to by our own government leaders. We need the truth. We ask our colleagues to please pass this bill.

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, we were doing pretty well there, but behind the discussion of ducks were some pretty aggressive accusations of lying of American Government officials, dishonesty, attributions of motives, which is really what I am and I think what we are all trying to avoid here.

□ 0945

I will say it again. As profoundly frustrating as it is, we just don't know. We are entitled to have theories. We are citizens, after all. We shouldn't be so certain in those theories that we are willing to impugn the character and motives of other Americans, especially if those Americans are in positions of responsibility that need to be trusted in the next pandemic. So I will leave that there.

I do want to characterize and substantiate my rather frustrating observation that we just don't know—with what the intelligence community believes is the latest assessment on the origins—again, I understand this is frustrating, but facts are important.

Here it is, and this is a publicly available document: Four intelligence community elements and the National Intelligence Council assess, with low confidence, that the virus was likely caused by natural exposure to animals infected with it.

One IC element assesses, with moderate confidence, that the first human infection most likely was the result of a laboratory-associated incident.

Then analysts at three IC elements remain unable to coalesce around either explanation.

That is a profoundly frustrating picture of organizations whose aggregate budget is tens of billions of dollars, who draw on all kinds of expertise, and yes, who are fallible, like any human institutions are. That is where they are and, sadly, that aggregates to, we just don't know.

We are entitled to speculate. We are entitled to have theories. I would just urge caution about impugning people's motives, impugning their character based on those theories which are necessarily rooted in uncertainty.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MCCORMICK).

Mr. MCCORMICK. Madam Speaker, it is about time. It is good to see a bill actually shed some light on a disease process if we want to expose something, if we want to bring the truth. This should have been done a long time ago.

When we first started seeing this disease in the emergency department, I was there on the front lines seeing people with fevers for no reason, testing negative for flu, testing negative for strep, pneumonia, and urinary tract infections. We couldn't figure out why they were sick. We were sending them home, not really understanding what was wrong with them.

Then we had a hard time trying to figure out how to treat them. We went through a novel disease process, just like they did back in 1918 when we had the original flu pandemic where 26 million people died in about a year.

It should never come to a point where we become politically motivated. More to the point of why we have become so critical of people who should be trusted is when they have bias built into their argument to begin with, and that is what we are here to expose.

When we have transparency, when we have declassified information so we can actually make a good judgment based on public opinion when it is exposed to the truth, I think it will expose that people were politically motivated; that they are embarrassed by their choices, and that they made choices to politicize this, rather than get to the bottom of this.

We cannot stop a disease by misunderstanding where it came from. We cannot have an honest discussion and heal our Nation until we have accountability.

I think where the mistrust comes from is the fact that it was politicized to begin with. So I think it is fair criticism when you have emails that expose the fact that they were trying to spin it a certain way, rather than having an honest, scientific discussion. That is fair criticism, and people should be held accountable if we are going to get to the bottom of this.

As an ER doctor who served during the entire pandemic, since before I even knew what it was, watching peo-

ple die in front of me, learning lessons—and those are honest lessons, where doctors made decisions and in good faith made mistakes, but it was in good faith—and we want to expose people who made decisions out of bad faith.

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER).

Mr. PFLUGER. Madam Speaker, for nearly 3 years now, the truth about COVID-19 and its origins have been hidden from the American people. We are at a real crossroads here. There should not be a single partisan fight over this issue.

We are talking about the lives of so many people, not only in our country, but also throughout the rest of the world.

Unfortunately, Big Government bureaucrats like Anthony Fauci abused their positions of power to disguise and distort the facts and to further a tyrannical approach to our country.

Anyone who dared ask the question about the origins of COVID, or chose to make an independent healthcare decision for their own family, were silenced, censored, and ostracized as conspiracy theorists.

Lo and behold, we stand here today with so many of these truths that were previously called conspiracy theories turning out to be true; the most glaring example being that Fauci knew as early as March of 2020 that the coronavirus leaked from a lab in Wuhan, China.

He spent the next 3 years dodging, misleading, mischaracterizing the possibility, and even using American taxpayer dollars to pay for studies to discredit that very thing.

This is not just unfortunate, this is truly astonishing. We wonder why the American people have a lack of trust in our government; it is because of these kinds of things.

My constituents deserve to know the truth. Everyone that is here, their constituents deserve to know the truth.

Republicans delivered a Commitment to America that we would deliver accountability; that we would have a government that is accountable, and it starts with things like this.

We shouldn't fear government institutions. We should not fear the decisions that are made. But when you hide things, you mischaracterize things, and you mislead the public, we do.

That is part of our Commitment to America, to uncover these things and make accountable and transparent; to put things on the table and let people know the facts. That accountability is going to have to be for the lives that were lost, the livelihoods that were destroyed, and the years together that families were robbed of.

Pass this bill. Declassify this information, and let's get the truth.

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, I have no more speakers. I am prepared

to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I will reiterate my support for this bill and my gratitude to the chairman and the Republican majority for moving it quickly.

This bill, fundamentally, is about something we haven't talked a lot about today, which is transparency. Transparency is a cornerstone of our democracy because without transparency, the American people can't make the decisions that they need to make responsibly as citizens of a democracy.

I am sorry that today we heard a little bit of accusations that the truth was hidden from the American people; that taxpayer funds were misused; that Dr. Fauci had a motive to cover himself; that there was government censorship. There is not one iota of evidence for any of that.

When we say those things without evidence, what we do is we reduce the American people's faith in their government and, eventually, when their faith in their government is reduced to nothing, we lose our democracy, or we see people breaking windows downstairs to get into the government's Chambers because it has been so discredited.

But I am going to set that aside right now because this is an important, bipartisan effort to bring transparency around something that is going to be pretty frustrating for the American people because no matter what is declassified, it won't be dispositive about the origins of the coronavirus.

This is a really important first step. I hope it will clear up some of the speculation, some of the rumors that are out there; and it is emblematic of something that the chairman and I care a lot about, which is, that unless there is a really good reason to keep something classified, the American people are responsible enough to have that information.

I thank again Chairman TURNER for his work on this issue, for his commitment to bipartisanship.

Madam Speaker, I urge support from the whole House for S. 619, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to begin by thanking my ranking member. This bill comes to the House floor from the Senate with bipartisan support in the House, and it does so as a result of the leadership of the Ranking Member, JIM HIMES. I appreciate his commitment to both the declassifying of information and to the importance of this information concerning COVID-19, and for the fact that we are working in a bipartisan manner to do so.

This will be a very strong statement from this House today that we want to know the origins of COVID-19. The American public deserves to know the

answers, and that we are moving to declassify the information that we have available.

Madam Speaker, I ask for support of S. 619, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 199, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on the third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 419, nays 0, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 143]

YEAS—419

Adams	Castor (FL)	Fischbach
Aderholt	Chavez-DeRemer	Fitzgerald
Aguilar	Cherfilus	Fitzpatrick
Alford	McCormick	Fleischmann
Allen	Chu	Fletcher
Allred	Cicilline	Flood
Amodei	Ciscomani	Foster
Armstrong	Clark (MA)	Foushee
Arrington	Clarke (NY)	Fox
Auchincloss	Cline	Frankel, Lois
Babin	Cloud	Franklin, C.
Bacon	Clyburn	Scott
Baird	Clyde	Frost
Balderson	Cohen	Fry
Balint	Cole	Fulcher
Banks	Collins	Gaetz
Barr	Comer	Gallagher
Barragan	Cannolly	Garamendi
Bean (FL)	Correa	Garbarino
Beatty	Costa	Garcia (IL)
Bentz	Courtney	Garcia (TX)
Bera	Craig	Garcia, Mike
Bergman	Crane	Garcia, Robert
Bice	Crawford	Gimenez
Biggs	Crenshaw	Golden (ME)
Billakis	Cricket	Goldman (NY)
Bishop (GA)	Crow	Gomez
Bishop (NC)	Cuellar	Gonzales, Tony
Blumenauer	Curtis	Gonzalez,
Blunt Rochester	D'Esposito	Vicente
Boebert	Davids (KS)	Good (VA)
Bonamici	Davidson	Gooden (TX)
Bost	Davis (IL)	Gosar
Bowman	Davis (NC)	Gottheimer
Boyle (PA)	De La Cruz	Granger
Brecheen	Dean (PA)	Graves (LA)
Brown	DeGette	Graves (MO)
Brownley	DeLauro	Green (TN)
Buchanan	DelBene	Green, Al (TX)
Buck	Deluzio	Greene (GA)
Bucshon	DeSaulnier	Griffith
Budzinski	DesJarlais	Grijalva
Burchett	Diaz-Balart	Grothman
Burgess	Dingell	Guest
Burlison	Doggett	Guthrie
Bush	Donalds	Hageman
Calvert	Duarte	Harder (CA)
Cammack	Duncan	Harris
Caraveo	Dunn (FL)	Harshbarger
Carbajal	Ellzey	Hayes
Cárdenas	Emmer	Hern
Carey	Escobar	Higgins (LA)
Carl	Eshoo	Higgins (NY)
Carson	Españolat	Hill
Carter (GA)	Estes	Himes
Carter (LA)	Evans	Hinson
Carter (TX)	Ezell	Horsford
Cartwright	Fallon	Houchin
Casar	Feenstra	Houlahan
Case	Ferguson	Hoyer
Casten	Finstad	Hoyle (OR)

Hudson	McGovern	Schiff
Huffman	Meeks	Schneider
Huizenga	Menendez	Scholten
Hunt	Meuser	Schweikert
Issa	Mfume	Scott (VA)
Ivey	Miller (IL)	Scott, Austin
Jackson (IL)	Miller (OH)	Scott, David
Jackson (NC)	Miller (WV)	Self
Jackson (TX)	Mills	Sessions
Jackson Lee	Molinaro	Sewell
Jacobs	Moolenaar	Sherman
James	Mooney	Sherrill
Jayapal	Moore (AL)	Simpson
Jeffries	Moore (UT)	Slotkin
Johnson (GA)	Moore (WI)	Smith (MO)
Johnson (LA)	Moran	Smith (NE)
Johnson (OH)	Morelle	Smith (NJ)
Johnson (SD)	Moskowitz	Smith (WA)
Jordan	Moulton	Smucker
Joyce (OH)	Mrvan	Sorensen
Joyce (PA)	Mullin	Soto
Kamlager-Dove	Murphy	Spanberger
Kaptur	Nadler	Stansbury
Kean (NJ)	Napolitano	Stanton
Keating	Neal	Staubert
Kelly (IL)	Neguse	Steel
Kelly (MS)	Nehls	Stefanik
Kelly (PA)	Newhouse	Steil
Khanna	Nickel	Stevens
Kiggans (VA)	Norcross	Stewart
Kildee	Norman	Strickland
Kiley	Nunn (IA)	Strong
Kilmer	Obermole	Swalwell
Kim (CA)	Ocasio-Cortez	Sykes
Kim (NJ)	Ogles	Takano
Krishnamoorthi	Omar	Tenney
Kuster	Owens	Thanedar
Kustoff	Pallone	Thompson (CA)
LaHood	Palmer	Thompson (MS)
LaLota	Panetta	Thompson (PA)
LaMalfa	Pappas	Tiffany
Lamborn	Pascarell	Titus
Landman	Payne	Tlaib
Langworthy	Pelosi	Tokuda
Larsen (WA)	Peltola	Tonko
Larson (CT)	Pence	Torres (CA)
Latta	Perez	Torres (NY)
LaTurner	Perry	Trahan
Lawler	Peters	Trone
Lee (CA)	Pettersen	Turner
Lee (FL)	Pfleger	Underwood
Lee (NV)	Pingree	Valadao
Lee (PA)	Pocan	Van Dwyne
Lesko	Porter	Van Orden
Letlow	Posey	Vargas
Levin	Pressley	Vasquez
Lofgren	Quigley	Veasey
Loudermilk	Ramirez	Velazquez
Lucas	Raskin	Wagner
Luetkemeyer	Reschenthaler	Walberg
Luna	Rodgers (WA)	Waltz
Luttrell	Rogers (AL)	Wasserman
Lynch	Rogers (KY)	Schultz
Mace	Rose	Waters
Magaziner	Rosendale	Watson Coleman
Malliotakis	Ross	Weber (TX)
Mann	Rouzer	Webster (FL)
Manning	Roy	Wenstrup
Massie	Ruiz	Westerman
Mast	Ruppersberger	Wexton
Matsui	Rutherford	Wild
McBath	Ryan	Williams (GA)
McCarthy	Salazar	Williams (NY)
McCaul	Salinas	Williams (TX)
McClain	Sánchez	Wilson (FL)
McClellan	Santos	Wilson (SC)
McClintock	Sarbanes	Wittman
McCollum	Scalise	Womack
McCormick	Scanlon	Yakym
McGarvey	Schakowsky	Zinke

NOT VOTING—16

Beyer	Lieu	Spartz
Castro (TX)	McHenry	Steube
Cleaver	Meng	Timmons
Edwards	Miller-Meeks	Van Drew
Gallego	Phillips	
Leger Fernandez	Schrier	

□ 1025

Messrs. MCCARTHY, TAKANO, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mrs. TORRES of California changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, due to a district emergency, I was unavoidably detained from voting today. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 143.

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, due to an unforeseen scheduling conflict, I was unable to vote on the passage of S. 619. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 143.

Ms. SCHRIER. Madam Speaker, due to illness, I was unable to be present today. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 143.

Mr. TIMMONS. Madam Speaker, I was in my congressional district today during votes. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 143.

HONORING FOUR WOMEN WHO WENT THE EXTRA MILE

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

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible achievement and sacrifice of four remarkable women. Carmen Bird, Shay Hartley, Kristen Gregor, and Mary Schramko completed the Norwegian Foot March on March 4, 2023. They did so in honor of Hunter Ritter, a veteran who tragically committed suicide.

These four women have shown remarkable courage, determination, and selflessness in carrying out this grueling march.

They each carried \$500 worth of quarters, which equates to 25 pounds of weight, to donate to Biloxi High School Junior ROTC. In doing so, they also supported our veterans' 22 suicides a day movement as supporters.

Their physical and emotional sacrifices represent the struggles that our veterans face every day. The march was first held in 1915 as a test of endurance for soldiers in the Norwegian Army.

Carmen, Shay, Kristen, and Mary completed this march and demonstrated their solidarity with the brave men and women who serve our country. They have shown that they are willing to go the extra mile—or this case, for over 18 miles—to support those who have given so much in defense of our freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we please recognize the epidemic that is causing suicides in our veterans and other young people, and let's please do something to fix it.

OREGON FIGHTS FOR THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY

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

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to send an unequivocal, simple

message to the transgender community: We have your back.

The dangerous rhetoric we have seen across the country—including in this very body—in the last week is nothing short of reprehensible, and I for one will not allow this hateful and vitriolic rhetoric to go unanswered.

Transgender people don't need to be changed, criminalized, or eradicated. They need to be loved, they need to be supported, and they need to be able to look to their leaders in Washington and trust that we will protect their rights to live freely and safely, just as we would any other person in America.

Oregon has consistently led the way in the fight for transgender rights, and I am so proud to be from a State that prizes support over suspicion, compassion over culture wars, and humanity over hatred.

In Oregon we say gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans, nonbinary, two spirits, queer, intersex, and asexual.

Oregon is proof that we can be better than this, and for the sake of the transgender community we must be.

HONORING EDNA MORRIS

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, Edna Morris, who recently joined our Lord in Heaven.

During my time as a Smith County judge, I had the pleasure of working directly with Edna, an optimistic, gentle, and patient woman who treated everyone around her with kindness.

Edna was devout in her faith and firmly knew that her eternal future was rooted in it. She never worried. Edna consistently encouraged those around her to see the good in every situation, and she led by example.

She persevered through many obstacles and lived a full life, passionately serving her community in any way that she could, from serving Smith County as chief deputy of elections to helping in her church office, to volunteering at her granddaughter's school.

In a world where people have the choice to be anything, she always chose to be kind.

Edna will be missed deeply by me and so many others in Smith County. My prayers are with her family, friends, and all who were blessed to know her.

DEFENSE CONSOLIDATION

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

Mr. DELUZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss how defense industry consolidation is hurting the American people and our national security.

A 2022 Defense Department report shows the intense constriction of the defense industrial base. In 1990, there

were 51 prime defense contractors but since then, small and mid-sized contractors have been gobbled up. Now there are just five—a 90 percent reduction.

At the same time, suppliers have disappeared. Tactical missile suppliers dwindled down from 13 to 3. Satellite suppliers fell from eight to four.

This deprives the American people of competition for key elements of our defense, and military leaders have complained that current contractors often deliver behind schedule, poor quality products, at too high a cost.

This lack of competition is leaving us ill-prepared and risks our national security and readiness.

The way I see it, a weak or, frankly, nonexistent antitrust enforcement allowed this to happen.

We have got to step in to promote competition, to give smaller contractors a chance to grow, and to stave off further consolidation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MASTER TROOPER JAMES R. BAILEY

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

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Master Trooper James Bailey. He was killed in the line of duty 1 week ago today.

Trooper Bailey, a native of Auburn, Indiana, was a decorated, 16-year veteran of the Indiana State police.

He was a warrior. He beat cancer three times.

In 2010, Trooper Bailey was off-duty and leaving lunch with his wife when an 87-year-old man collapsed in the parking lot. Trooper Bailey and his wife Amy, a nurse, began CPR and saved this man's life.

While many people called them heroes, Trooper Bailey simply said: It is what we do, it is what we are trained to do, and that is why we get into this profession.

That is who James Bailey was: a humble and dedicated public servant.

But I want to be very clear, especially to his children, Joseph and Sophia: Your dad was a hero, and that is how he will be remembered. We will never forget his service and his sacrifice to northeast Indiana.

God bless the Bailey family. God bless all of the law enforcement officers who risk their lives every single day to keep our families and our communities safe.

HOURLY MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 4 p.m. on Tuesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KEAN of New Jersey). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR THE EXPENSES OF CERTAIN COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the resolution (H. Res. 197) providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 197

Resolved,

SECTION 1. COMMITTEE EXPENSES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress, there shall be paid out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives, in accordance with this primary expense resolution, not more than the amount specified in subsection (b) for the expenses (including the expenses of all staff salaries) of each committee named in such subsection.

(b) COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS.—The committees and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee on Agriculture, \$14,193,788; Committee on Armed Services, \$25,961,870; Committee on the Budget, \$11,989,390; Committee on Education and the Workforce, \$19,066,789; Committee on Energy and Commerce, \$27,696,649; Committee on Ethics, \$9,276,290; Committee on Financial Services, \$20,370,000; Committee on Foreign Affairs, \$21,653,516; Committee on Homeland Security, \$18,923,976; Committee on House Administration, \$15,307,290; Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, \$17,195,413; Committee on the Judiciary, \$22,713,454; Committee on Natural Resources, \$17,602,284; Committee on Oversight and Accountability, \$29,923,636; Committee on Rules, \$8,335,614; Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, \$16,291,019; Committee on Small Business, \$7,370,092; Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, \$8,892,625; Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, \$21,766,388; Committee on Veterans' Affairs, \$10,753,197; and Committee on Ways and Means, \$27,306,852.

SEC. 2. FIRST SESSION LIMITATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount provided for in section 1 for each committee named in subsection (b), not more than the amount specified in such subsection shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2023, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2024.

(b) COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS.—The committees and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee on Agriculture, \$7,096,894; Committee on Armed Services, \$12,294,760; Committee on the Budget, \$5,994,695; Committee on Education and the Workforce, \$9,255,723; Committee on Energy and Commerce, \$13,752,741; Committee on Ethics, \$4,517,066; Committee on Financial Services, \$10,185,000; Committee on Foreign

Affairs, \$10,826,758; Committee on Homeland Security, \$9,461,988; Committee on House Administration, \$7,405,638; Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, \$8,197,541; Committee on the Judiciary, \$11,356,727; Committee on Natural Resources, \$8,801,142; Committee on Oversight and Accountability, \$14,772,228; Committee on Rules, \$4,167,807; Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, \$7,902,914; Committee on Small Business, \$3,621,296; Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, \$4,470,816; Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, \$10,883,194; Committee on Veterans' Affairs, \$5,271,175; and Committee on Ways and Means, \$13,004,876.

SEC. 3. SECOND SESSION LIMITATIONS.

(a) *IN GENERAL*.—Of the amount provided for in section 1 for each committee named in subsection (b), not more than the amount specified in such subsection shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2024, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2025.

(b) *COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS*.—The committees and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee on Agriculture, \$7,096,894; Committee on Armed Services, \$13,667,110; Committee on the Budget, \$5,994,695; Committee on Education and the Workforce, \$9,811,066; Committee on Energy and Commerce, \$13,943,908; Committee on Ethics, \$4,759,224; Committee on Financial Services, \$10,185,000; Committee on Foreign Affairs, \$10,826,758; Committee on Homeland Security, \$9,461,988; Committee on House Administration, \$7,901,652; Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, \$8,997,872; Committee on the Judiciary, \$11,356,727; Committee on Natural Resources, \$8,801,142; Committee on Oversight and Accountability, \$15,151,408; Committee on Rules, \$4,167,807; Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, \$8,388,105; Committee on Small Business, \$3,748,796; Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, \$4,421,809; Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, \$10,883,194; Committee on Veterans' Affairs, \$5,482,022; and Committee on Ways and Means, \$14,301,976.

SEC. 4. VOUCHERS.

Payments under this resolution shall be made on vouchers authorized by the committee involved, signed by the chair of such committee, and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on House Administration.

SEC. 5. REGULATIONS.

Amounts made available under this resolution shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Administration.

SEC. 6. RESERVE FUND FOR UNANTICIPATED EXPENSES.

(a) *ESTABLISHMENT*.—There is hereby established a reserve fund for unanticipated expenses of committees for the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress.

(b) *AMOUNT*.—The reserve fund under this section shall have a balance of \$4,000,000, of which—

(1) \$1,500,000 shall be available for unanticipated expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2023, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2024; and

(2) \$2,500,000 shall be available for unanticipated expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2024, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2025.

(c) *ALLOCATION TO COMMITTEES*.—Amounts in the reserve fund under this section shall be paid to a committee pursuant to an allo-

cation approved by the Committee on House Administration.

SEC. 7. ADJUSTMENT AUTHORITY.

The Committee on House Administration shall have authority to make adjustments in amounts under section 1, if necessary to comply with an order of the President issued under section 251A or 254 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or to conform to any change in appropriations for the purposes of such section 1.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the committee amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Strike out all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. COMMITTEE EXPENSES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS.

(a) *IN GENERAL*.—With respect to the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress, there shall be paid out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives, in accordance with this primary expense resolution, not more than the amount specified in subsection (b) for the expenses (including the expenses of all staff salaries) of each committee named in such subsection.

(b) *COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS*.—The committees and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee on Agriculture, \$14,194,000; Committee on Armed Services, \$24,740,000; Committee on the Budget, \$11,990,000; Committee on Education and the Workforce, \$18,674,000; Committee on Energy and Commerce, \$27,411,000; Committee on Ethics, \$9,276,000; Committee on Financial Services, \$20,370,000; Committee on Foreign Affairs, \$21,654,000; Committee on Homeland Security, \$18,778,000; Committee on House Administration, \$15,307,000; Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, \$17,195,000; Committee on the Judiciary, \$22,714,000; Committee on Natural Resources, \$17,546,000; Committee on Oversight and Accountability, \$29,923,000; Committee on Rules, \$8,336,000; Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, \$14,111,000; Committee on Small Business, \$7,370,000; Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, \$8,892,000; Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, \$21,766,000; Committee on Veterans' Affairs, \$10,753,000; and Committee on Ways and Means, \$24,232,000.

SEC. 2. FIRST SESSION LIMITATIONS.

(a) *IN GENERAL*.—Of the amount provided for in section 1 for each committee named in subsection (b), not more than the amount specified in such subsection shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2023, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2024.

(b) *COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS*.—The committees and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee on Agriculture, \$7,097,000; Committee on Armed Services, \$11,716,000; Committee on the Budget, \$5,995,000; Committee on Education and the Workforce, \$9,065,000; Committee on Energy and Commerce, \$13,611,000; Committee on Ethics, \$4,517,000; Committee on Financial Services, \$10,185,000; Committee on Foreign Affairs, \$10,827,000; Committee on Homeland Security, \$9,389,000; Committee on House Administration, \$7,405,000; Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, \$8,197,000; Committee on the Judiciary, \$11,357,000; Committee on Natural Resources, \$8,773,000; Committee on Oversight and Accountability, \$14,772,000; Committee on Rules, \$4,168,000; Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, \$6,845,000; Committee on Small Business, \$3,621,000; Select Committee

on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, \$4,471,000; Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, \$10,883,000; Committee on Veterans' Affairs, \$5,271,000; and Committee on Ways and Means, \$11,540,000.

SEC. 3. SECOND SESSION LIMITATIONS.

(a) *IN GENERAL*.—Of the amount provided for in section 1 for each committee named in subsection (b), not more than the amount specified in such subsection shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2024, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2025.

(b) *COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS*.—The committees and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee on Agriculture, \$7,097,000; Committee on Armed Services, \$13,024,000; Committee on the Budget, \$5,995,000; Committee on Education and the Workforce, \$9,609,000; Committee on Energy and Commerce, \$13,800,000; Committee on Ethics, \$4,759,000; Committee on Financial Services, \$10,185,000; Committee on Foreign Affairs, \$10,827,000; Committee on Homeland Security, \$9,389,000; Committee on House Administration, \$7,902,000; Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, \$8,998,000; Committee on the Judiciary, \$11,357,000; Committee on Natural Resources, \$8,773,000; Committee on Oversight and Accountability, \$15,151,000; Committee on Rules, \$4,168,000; Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, \$7,266,000; Committee on Small Business, \$3,749,000; Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, \$4,421,000; Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, \$10,883,000; Committee on Veterans' Affairs, \$5,482,000; and Committee on Ways and Means, \$12,692,000.

SEC. 4. VOUCHERS.

Payments under this resolution shall be made on vouchers authorized by the committee involved, signed by the chair of such committee, and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on House Administration.

SEC. 5. REGULATIONS.

Amounts made available under this resolution shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Administration.

SEC. 6. RESERVE FUND FOR UNANTICIPATED EXPENSES.

(a) *ESTABLISHMENT*.—There is hereby established a reserve fund for unanticipated expenses of committees for the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress.

(b) *AMOUNT*.—The reserve fund under this section shall have a balance of \$18,000,000, of which—

(1) \$9,000,000 shall be available for unanticipated expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2023, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2024; and

(2) \$9,000,000 shall be available for unanticipated expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2024, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2025.

(c) *ALLOCATION TO COMMITTEES*.—Amounts in the reserve fund under this section shall be paid to a committee pursuant to an allocation approved by the Committee on House Administration.

SEC. 7. ADJUSTMENT AUTHORITY.

The Committee on House Administration shall have authority to make adjustments in amounts under section 1, if necessary to comply with an order of the President issued under section 251A or 254 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or to conform to any change in appropriations for the purposes of such section 1.

Mr. STEIL (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

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

There was no objection.

The committee amendment was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider is laid on the table.

NATIONAL SALES TAX WOULD BE A DISASTER

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

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 212, a resolution I was proud to introduce earlier this week with Congressman SORENSEN and Congresswoman PETTERSEN.

My resolution is simple and opposes the 30 percent national sales tax plan proposed by several of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

A 30 percent sales tax would be a disaster for working families in my district who are already dealing with high prices of gas, exorbitant housing costs, and rising costs of living. It would hit seniors living on a fixed income especially hard.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve more than mere messaging and performative politics over the next 2 years, and this plan is just that.

I came to Congress to get things done, and I will work with anyone—Democrats, Republicans, and Independents—to lower costs, simplify the Tax Code for the middle class, and tackle the most pressing kitchen table issues facing North Carolina families.

BALANCING THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND THE RIGHT TO LIFE

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

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a very important issue in South Carolina's First Congressional District, the State of South Carolina, and the United States of America.

Last week, a member of the State legislature in South Carolina filed a piece of legislation that would execute women who have abortions. To see this debate go to the dark places, the dark edges where it has gone on both sides of the aisle, has been deeply disturbing to me as a woman, as a female legislator, as a mom, and as a victim of rape. I was raped as a teenager at the age of 16.

This debate ought to be a bipartisan debate where we balance the rights of women and we balance the right to life.

But we aren't having that conversation here in D.C., we aren't having that conversation at home, and we aren't having that conversation with fellow State lawmakers.

This week, I filed a bill that would give women greater access to contraceptives by cutting the red tape, reducing the application fees with the FDA,

and reducing that application process by half.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to get on board with these issues today.

CONGRESS HAS THE SOLE AUTHORITY TO AUTHORIZE MILITARY INVOLVEMENTS

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

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, the American people are fed up with the United States being involved in endless military conflicts around the world.

For far too long, Presidents of both parties have overstepped their constitutional authority by engaging in dubious legal gymnastics to continue involving U.S. troops in endless wars and conflicts without congressional authorization.

Article I of the Constitution is clear. Congress has the sole authority to authorize military involvements in overseas conflict. Once authorized by Congress, Article II of the Constitution allows the President to direct the military as Commander in Chief.

Congress must reassert its sole authority and not allow the executive branch to sidestep us.

As the largest and most diverse group in the Federal Government responsible for representing the American people and their interests, Congress should engage in debate before the executive branch can involve U.S. troops in wars overseas.

Tens of thousands of U.S. troops have been put in harm's way and trillions of taxpayer dollars have been spent on overseas military ventures around the world without proper debate or oversight from Congress.

Enough is enough. That is why I support the Syria War Powers Resolution that the House voted on earlier this week.

□ 1045

PRESIDENT BIDEN'S BUDGET

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support President Biden's new 2024 budget proposal.

This budget is just what the country needs to move forward. It includes caps on insulin payments to \$35 for all Americans. It restores the enhanced child tax credit and provides up to \$3,600 per family per child. It contains \$4.5 billion for infrastructure projects. It has \$700 million for the Hudson River tunnel and Gateway Program, and it includes \$219 million to eliminate lead pipes from drinking water around the country.

This budget represents strong leadership, and it supports investments in

the future of American prosperity. I am proud to support President Biden's new budget.

Now we need Speaker MCCARTHY to show the same responsibility and leadership with his budget proposal.

GET AMERICANS WORKING AGAIN

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

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. Speaker, going to work is more than just earning a paycheck. It is an important part of human dignity. Unfortunately, too many Americans are getting paid not to work.

According to a recent study, Americans can receive more money to stay home than they could putting in a hard day's work. According to the findings, a family of four in three States can receive more than \$100,000 in cash and benefits per year without working. A further 14 States allow a family of four to receive more than \$80,000 in cash and benefits without working.

In West Virginia, my home State, two unemployed parents with two minor children can make over \$73,000 in unemployment benefits and healthcare subsidies. Unfortunately, this is more than essential workers, like our firefighters or our truck drivers, make in a year.

Hardworking West Virginians helped build America. From the coal industry to the logging industry, our Nation needs Mountaineers to keep America moving forward.

While it is true that the CARES Act provided unemployment benefits for Americans in the early days of the coronavirus pandemic, the pandemic is over. Even President Joe Biden said as much on "60 Minutes."

Now Congress needs to provide bipartisan solutions to get Americans working again.

SUPPORTING CAREER PATHWAYS

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

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce my first bill as a Member of Congress, the LEAP Act.

This bipartisan piece of legislation aims to create new opportunities for American workers by supporting apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeship programs. These training programs are a proven way to address the job skills gap and to get folks ready for careers in growing industries.

By providing tax credits to small businesses, this bill will both address the need for more qualified workers and cut educational costs, a win-win for employers and working people.

I thank former Congressman RODNEY DAVIS, who was the first to introduce this legislation back in 2013, and I thank Congressman MIKE CAREY for

partnering with me to build on this proposal by eliminating age limits and emphasizing pre-apprenticeship eligibility.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join us in supporting career pathways and a chance for everyone to succeed in our changing economy.

HONORING THE LIFE OF J. PAUL TAYLOR

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

Mr. VASQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of a local educator, State legislator, and hometown hero, Mr. J. Paul Taylor. He was a visionary leader who made a lasting impact on our community and across the State.

When I think of public service and what it means to be a public servant, I think of J. Paul Taylor. I think of his kindness, passion, and dedication to our State. New Mexico is a better place because of him.

J. Paul Taylor served in the New Mexico House of Representatives for nearly 20 years. Many referred to him as the conscience of the legislature. He led with his heart, found common ground through his bipartisanship, and did everything with New Mexico in mind.

His service to New Mexico continued after he retired. A longtime educator, serving as a teacher and principal, he served on the New Mexico Education Association two times as president.

Last August, we celebrated his 102nd birthday with a visit to his home in Las Cruces.

He had a reputation as a passionate educator and advocated for the arts and culture, and was a leader in bilingual education in the State.

J. Paul Taylor was a true friend and mentor to many in New Mexico. From the bottom of my heart, I thank him for being a true public servant and dedicating his life to making a positive difference in our State. Let's all remember his love for public service and for advancing equitable education in New Mexico.

INVESTING IN EDUCATION

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the significance of investing in education. Education is widely seen as a key determinant of social mobility within a person's lifetime.

As the father of two school-age children, Justin and Kyler, my job is to love them, share with them about the importance of faith, provide for them, and ensure they receive a quality education. That is why education is so personal to me.

Mr. Speaker, there are 246 schools in the First Congressional District of North Carolina. Of those, 48 percent, nearly half, are fully funded by title I; and schools within 13 of the 19 counties I represent, 100 percent rely upon title I funding.

Mr. Speaker, we must invest in our public education system to set our kids up for a lifetime of success, while laying the groundwork for generations of prosperity across eastern North Carolina and America.

As part of my Live the Dream Down East tour, I will continue visiting schools in every county of my district.

SANDUSKY VOTED BEST COASTAL SMALL TOWN

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the recently named Best Coastal Small Town in America, Sandusky, Ohio. Now, Sandusky is the home of Cedar Point, America's Roller Coast. We invite you to come. This town is the pride of Ohio's Ninth Congressional District, and this recognition is a true accomplishment.

Clubhouse No. 3 SportSocial, a local sports bar, erupted into cheers last Friday when dozens of residents at a watch party heard the results come in. Their enthusiasm is emblematic of small towns across America where people will gather as a community to celebrate achievements, both big and small. While this is a big accomplishment for a small Ohio town, it truly represents the best of America.

Sandusky derives its name from the Seneca Native American Tribe and translates into "cold water," but the residents of this town are some of the warmest, kindest people you will ever meet.

I encourage people from across America to visit Sandusky, come to enjoy our hospitality, and enjoy the astounding beauty of Lake Erie's freshwater south coast and the warmest coast in the entire freshwater Great Lakes.

HOW YOUR TAX DOLLARS ARE BEING SPENT

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

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we were given the President's budget, which outlines the President's so-called priorities.

Well, his priorities were pretty clear: Continue to expand government at the expense of the American people. Expand government, a government that is at odds with the freedom, well-being, and prosperity of the American people every single day.

The simple truth is, as my friends in the House Freedom Caucus and a large

number of my other colleagues in the Republican Conference have been articulating, we need to shrink Washington so that we can grow America.

We cannot sustain and grow out of the \$32 trillion of debt and the \$20 trillion of debt that the Congressional Budget Office just outlined that we are going to add over the next decade. We will not, as a country, survive through that if we do not get economic growth to the 3, 3½, and 4 percent levels that we saw under President Reagan, President Clinton, and in previous years. You are not going to get economic growth if you don't get the Federal Government off the backs of the American people and stop empowering them to target Americans, to undermine American freedoms.

Biden's budget would increase taxes and implement price controls to the tune of \$3 trillion. That is the President's plan.

What does the media do?

They run around and go: Oh, he is reducing the deficit. He is reducing the debt.

Yet, by his own measures, he would be increasing the debt another \$17 trillion over the next decade.

The American people look to this body and this town with utter amazement at how stupid we could possibly be. If you set out and tried to be more incompetent and more stupid than the people that have been running this town for as long as I can remember, I am not sure how you can do it.

Seriously. That would be a great exercise. Could anybody, if you put together 435 people here, 100 people on the other side, Presidents and bureaucrats, swapped out over the last, say, three decades, could it be any worse?

William F. Buckley said he would rather be governed by the first 435 people out of the phone book than the 435 people we send here. Is he wrong?

Seriously, it would be a great inquiry for us to consider.

We are \$32 trillion in debt. Our borders are wide open. We have got American citizens unable to carry out their livelihoods, men and women in uniform who are being denied promotions and the ability to do their job in the Defense Department. We have got kids shut out from their schools, forced into the corners wearing masks, mental health issues, and they are set back generations in terms of their academic capability.

That is the best we have got? That is the best we can do?

We reject that. We believe in America. We believe in Americans. We do not believe that investing in Washington, investing in the Federal bureaucracy is good for the American people. We believe the opposite.

The President wants to tax and regulate \$3 trillion to save increasing the debt \$3 trillion over the next decade, down to \$17 trillion. Whoo, boy, that will do it.

We propose an immediate savings of \$3 trillion right now by cutting back

the woke weaponized Federal bureaucracy that is undermining the freedom of the American people so that we can make them more free and prosperous so that they can grow this economy so we can shrink the deficit, reduce debt, and reclaim the inheritance of being an American for our kids and grandkids.

Think about what Biden's budget would do. It would spend a total of \$6.8 trillion next year, \$500 billion more than this year, \$2 billion for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to increase regulation of the firearms industry. I have got thousands of Texans that I represent who are facing being made a felon because a bureaucrat at ATF decided what precisely a pistol brace might mean for how their gun is regulated.

□ 1100

Think about that. Just some guy some, some gal sitting in central Texas bought a weapon under the law, and now a bureaucrat says you have got to do this, register this, or you are a felon.

Now, I think the Court will strike that down as unconstitutional, but why would this body, why would any Republican fund the bureaucracy that is going to make a felon out of the law-abiding citizen back home?

To my Republican colleagues: Don't do that.

How about \$3.9 billion for the Department of Homeland Security's climate resilience programs? Think about that. \$3.9 billion for the Department of Homeland Security, which, by the way, refuses to secure the homeland, allows 72,000 Americans to die from fentanyl poisoning, allows cartels to get empowered and slaughter Americans in the streets of Matamoros in northern Mexico without a peep from this administration. Nothing. Let's give that department \$3.9 billion for climate resilience programs. Does anybody wonder why the American people look at us and say what in the hell are you doing?

\$2 billion increase for the EPA to target American energy. Now, I want to remind people, I want to remind all the kids out there watching this thinking, oh, my God, but the world is going to end, we are going die, climate change, we are going to get extinguished. Oh, really? Oh, really?

Why is it that my Democratic colleagues who believe that the production of CO₂ is going to be the end to humanity and the Earth as we know it will not remotely consider nuclear power, which produces not an ounce of CO₂, but they won't consider it? Why? Because it is a religion. It is climate fetishism. It is about government control. It is about being able to target the oil and gas industry to undermine the well-being of the American people by empowering bureaucrats so they can feel good about themselves while China continues to pump out more CO₂ than any other country, ratcheting it up week by week. There are 1,100 coal-fired plants in China. They build two a

week while we sit around and play tidlywinks with solar panels and windmills, leaving our grid in Texas unreliable, now almost 50 percent wind and solar. We have to think, wait, what happens on a windless, cloudy day? I don't know. How do you want to power up your schools or your hospitals or your homes or your businesses? Could it be that you have to rely on coal or gas or nuclear power? Of course, you do. Yet, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle—not here, of course; of course, with all due respect neither are my colleagues on this side of the aisle with the exception of the Speaker. This is just how we do things in Washington. This is debate.

A \$2 billion funding increase for the Internal Revenue Service is in the President's budget. Now, I want every American to understand that. They just passed a bill last summer supposedly called the Inflation Reduction Act that gives the IRS another \$80 billion to expand. So that is what the American people want: More IRS agents to go target more Americans to raise at most by the CBO's own estimate 100 or \$200 billion over 10 years? So you're going to spend \$80 billion to go target American citizens to bring in more money. By the way, the IRS targets poor people and minorities three to five times more than other Americans. So you're going to go hire more bureaucrats, you got \$80 billion, and what does Biden do? Oh, that is not enough. \$2 billion more for the IRS. Genius.

\$100 million to the Department of Education in grant funding for communities to promote racial and socioeconomic diversity in their schools.

\$62 million for the DOJ to exploit the FACE Act to target pro-life Americans. I could go on and on about the amount of money given to agency after agency, bureaucrat after bureaucrat to target the American people. The FBI targeted my now-friend Scott Smith in Loudoun County, whose daughter was assaulted in a school. He dared to go to the school board. He got challenged by law enforcement, and the DOJ was going to be putting him on a list as a domestic terrorist because the National School Boards Association was colluding with the White House to do so. Is that what we want to fund: a Department of Justice that would put a dad on a list as a domestic terrorist because he went to his school board to try to defend his daughter who was assaulted in a bathroom?

That is what this administration wants to prioritize: Funding a woke, weaponized bureaucracy that is undermining freedom. They want to fund the FBI that went after Mark Houck in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for daring to defend his son when they were outside of an abortion clinic and somebody was challenging his son when they were exercising their First Amendment rights, and he defended him without anything significant happening. They were not prosecuted by State law. The

feds went in, had a SWAT team at 7 in the morning on a Sunday—the whole family—went into their house threatening Mark Houck.

Is that what we want to fund?

Is that what we want to use the power of government for?

How about the \$16,000—I know it is just \$16,000; I realize that is chicken feed in this establishment—in State Department funding for a pro-prostitution LGBTQ group in Colombia. Is that how we want our tax dollars spent? That is just \$16,000. It doesn't mean anything, does it? It does.

\$1.9 million in Department of Education funding for an Illinois nonprofit that trains teachers to center equity in the classroom. We need our kids to know math, how to read, science, how to lead the world, how to beat China, and we got \$1.9 million to center equity, whatever that hell that means.

\$2 million for the State Department's Race, Ethnicity, and Social Inclusion Unit. As if the State Department is out doing wonderful things in the first place these days.

How about \$158 million in economic law enforcement and military support for Mexico? Pause. Yes, you just heard that correctly. We, the taxpayers, are giving \$158 million to Mexico for economic law enforcement and military support while we are getting flooded at our border, cartels are absolutely running amuck and owning the state of Mexico as a narco-terror state, running fentanyl into America, and killing Americans in Mexico. Congratulations, American people, you bought with \$158 million a narco-terrorist state that is undermining our freedom and liberty killing Americans, endangering migrants, and endangering Texas. Congratulations, Americans.

\$34 million for the Office of the Secretary of Homeland Security, Alejandro Mayorkas. \$34 million for Alejandro Mayorkas to screw up America. Congratulations to the American people on how your tax dollars are being spent.

\$1.7 billion, for the ATF that I described earlier that will make owners of the 10 to 40 million pistol braces in the United States felons. \$6.3 billion for Anthony Fauci's NIAID, which was weaponized to completely lock down the United States and force vaccines on millions of Americans, massively increasing the profit of pharmaceutical companies—Pfizer and Moderna—making like \$100 billion under government mandates for vaccines—government mandates for vaccines with liability protection for the companies for a vaccine that even the morons in the departments over at CDC, NIH, FDA are now at least acknowledging don't really do much for transmission; but, oh, yes, let's give them \$6.3 billion.

\$128 million for the office of the CDC Director who actively mislead Americans about COVID vaccine efficacy while CDC and Big Tech colluded to suppress vaccine information, which we know to be true. We saw testimony yesterday.

Our own colleague, THOMAS MASSIE, had his own social media posts being edited and targeted in a disinformation campaign because anyone who dared question the wisdom of Anthony Fauci, anyone who dared question the government mandate that you stick a needle in your arm because they say so because they politicized a virus and a vaccine, you are going to be set aside. There was going to be disinformation on social media, Twitter, in collusion with all of those guys. They were shutting down free speech.

We should be horrified that the United States of America with a First Amendment to the Constitution, which is supposed to protect free speech, but not for THOMAS MASSIE as a Member of Congress—yes, for him, too—but for every American, every American regardless of the “truth” of what you are saying, the government doesn’t decide what the truth is. That is the whole point of free speech.

Yet, we are funding the very tyrants in the executive branch shutting down free speech, mandating vaccines, using the power of government to go after people and shut down their livelihoods, undermine freedom, undermine economic activity, and put us \$32 trillion in debt so our kids and grandkids are going to inherit a bankrupt, tyrannical America.

We should change that. We should reject that. The great news is Americans across this country are rejecting it. They are saying no. They do want to live free. They don’t want a government that is shutting down their ability to live free or their kids and their grandkids. They do want to send their kids to schools that teach them that America is great and good and teach them the tools they need to succeed in life, rather than teach them that they should be ashamed of their country or be a victim.

The American people under COVID woke up. More parents are homeschooling their kids. More parents are looking for private school. More States are adopting school choice. More businesses are rejecting the vaccine mandates. More individuals are saying no to those mandates.

God bless the young man who is in the United States Navy who rejected the vaccine mandate, and because of our bill that we finally jammed through in December as Republicans isn’t being kicked out of the military, but he is still being harassed, he is still being denied the commanding officer job he always wanted. He is still being denied the ability to advance. They are going after him to pay the \$75,000 of previous student loans. That must end.

\$122 million for the World Health Organization, which pushed lockdowns, vaccine mandates, and colluded with the Chinese Communist Party to cover up its role in COVID’s origin, and now with this administration wants to control our healthcare and control how we are going to deal with vaccines in the future. Why would any Republican vote

to fund the World Health Organization today? Why? We should not. We should reject that. We are Americans. We decide how we are going to live.

\$234 million for the EPA’s clean water program so-called under waters of the United States, WOTUS, that put a 78-year-old veteran in jail for violating the waters of the United States by digging ditches on his land.

□ 1115

That is your government at work, ladies and gentlemen, \$456 million for EPA “clean air programs.”

Everybody wants clean air. I don’t know anybody who doesn’t want clean air. I don’t know any State regulators who don’t want clean air.

What we don’t want is that to be used as an excuse to carry out the new methane tax, drive up gas prices via the ethanol mandate, and destroy reliable coal and natural gas power plants via regulation, which is precisely what it is going to do.

Yet, we are all going to just sit by as Republicans and go, well, shrug. I guess that is just what we do. We have to increase government.

All these kids are running around going, “Well, we have climate change. What are we going to do?” How about we embrace clean-burning American natural gas, develop more nuclear power, and recognize that China and India are the ones that are vastly growing and producing CO₂ by developing more coal-fired plants while we sit around and play games, as I said earlier, with wind and solar, leaving us with unreliable grids and living on unicorn energy policies.

Mr. Speaker, \$108 million in woke EPA environmental justice funding that will funnel through EPA’s new Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights, \$108 million of your taxpayer money for environmental justice when we are \$32 trillion in debt, you literally can’t make up how stupid we are. Literally, you just can’t. It is, like, no, no, no.

I mean, imagine the Founding Fathers going: Wait a minute. Hold on. In 2023, we are going to be \$32 trillion in debt. We are not going to actually secure our borders as a sovereign Nation, allowing them to be wide open. We are going to submit to the authority of international organizations to tell us what to do and fund those international organizations to tell us what to do. We are going to fund massive bureaucracies to create things like the so-called environmental justice department with \$108 million when we are spending a trillion and a half dollars more every year than we take in.

I mean, that is just, like, the tip of the iceberg. How stupid can a people be? The American people aren’t stupid. That is why they look at Congress with utter disdain.

We are stupid unless we change, and that is my request of my colleagues on this side of the aisle, that we demand change.

When there is a debt ceiling fight this summer, when the President wants to play chicken and Russian roulette with the debt ceiling increase to borrow more money to raise our credit card limit, we should demand change. We should demand actual change. We should demand immediate change.

When we say return spending for the bureaucratic state to pre-COVID 2019 levels, and when my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and the President say you can’t do that, you remind them about the \$122 million for the World Health Organization or the \$108 million for the “environmental justice programs,” or the \$15 million for the United Nations bodies that develop the Paris Agreement—just that alone.

How about \$7 million of Department of the Interior funding for the monarch butterfly, \$20 million in earmarks dedicated to sidewalks—\$20 million dedicated in Federal funding for sidewalks.

Boy, there is a real Federal nexus there, huh? Article I, section 8, thou shalt fund sidewalks. It is asinine.

Yet, that is what we do. It is like breathing for Members of Congress. Just keep funding crap because, well, I don’t know. I have a dinner to go to, and I can’t bother to peel back the appropriations bills or the big omnibus bill that is sent over by a bunch of Senators who are running to their steak dinners and can’t even bother to do the appropriations bills in the first place.

This includes 18 Republicans, by the way, who voted for a \$1.7 trillion omnibus spending bill, which I will constantly remind all 18 of them and all Americans of those 18 who voted for a massive \$1.7 trillion omnibus spending bill that denied us the ability to secure the border and expanded the size and scope of the Federal Government.

It is not just a singular, one-party problem, ladies and gentlemen. This body needs a little religion, actual religion, and a little bit of fiscal sanity religion.

We can change that. We can shrink Washington massively. Right now, in year one, we can shrink Washington so that we can get it out of the way and grow our country back to prosperity.

That is step one in reclaiming our American birthright: shrink Washington, grow America.

We can save more than \$3 trillion over the next decade if we cut the funding of the bureaucracy back to pre-COVID levels and cap future growth; rescind \$91 billion of unobligated COVID money just sitting over there right now waiting for a bureaucrat to find something to spend it on; and end the unfair, unlawful \$400 billion student loan bailout that the President promised that is going to be deficit spending this year.

Just boom, \$400 billion of 2023 deficit spending. For what? Paying off the loan of some kid who went to college, got a sociology degree, and is hanging out in his parents’ basement, tweeting and sitting on Instagram, and trying to find a job. Oh, no. We have to pay off

that kid's loan, but the plumber who didn't take out that loan to go to some liberal arts college filled with a bunch of White elite liberals patting themselves on the back for how compassionate they are for Brown people—that is what they do. Let's pay off their loans, but let's make the plumber eat it. That is crazy, absolutely crazy.

We reward irresponsibility instead of actually telling the hardworking American who does it all the right way that they are the one who gets rewarded.

Under no circumstances should Republicans vote to increase the debt to borrow to fund a \$400 billion student loan bailout for rich, liberal, White elitists, for the most part, as a statistical matter, while we are leaving out hardworking Americans who didn't take out those loans like my wife, the daughter of a single mom who took two jobs, worked hard, and sent her to a State university, who worked to pay off her loans.

She is still paying them. Mr. Speaker, 20 years since we graduated from law school, my wife is still paying off the remaining vestiges of her law school student loans after paying her way and getting loans to go to Texas A&M and the University of Texas School of Law, doing the right thing, driving a 2000 Corolla with no options for, like, a decade.

That is what you do if you are responsible. That is how you are supposed to live. We can save that money right now and do more good for the American people than funding and paying off these student loans.

We can reclaim the \$80 billion of Internal Revenue Service money that is sitting in a pot over there right now. We can reform welfare programs to get people back to work, protecting Social Security retirement and Medicare benefits in the process.

We can grow America by expanding liberty and promoting economic growth, forcing policy changes to make the government do its job, curb regulatory power by enacting the REIN IN Act to make Congress decide if the regulations by bureaucrats should be enacted if they have a major economic impact.

These are all things we can do right now and save up to \$3 trillion over 10 years as a first step to shrinking Washington and growing America. That is our plan. The President's plan is to expand Washington and undermine America.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD).

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. ROY for his leadership once again and in particular on this all-important issue of the fiscal and economic stability of our country. More than that, not just the financial part of it, which we cannot overstate—we can't overstate the harm done to our country from a spending standpoint with \$32 trillion in national debt on the backs of our children and our grand-

children, \$100,000 per citizen, but in addition to that, how that debt and how that spending has accumulated for the purpose of literally harming the American people.

We can't overstate how our own government has become weaponized against its own citizens, trying to control every aspect of our lives, trying to control decisions like whether or not we can have or use a gas stove; whether or not we can choose what kind of car we want to drive; whether or not we can heat or cool our homes the way that we want to; whether or not we can exercise our God-given, constitutionally protected Second Amendment rights; whether or not we can make decisions for ourselves on whether or not we can operate our business, earn a living, educate our children the way that we want to without the heavy hand of government coming in.

We have \$32 trillion in national debt, \$100,000 per citizen. What is this President's response with the budget proposal that he rolled out yesterday? To increase spending about 56 percent beyond where it was pre-COVID.

From \$4.4 trillion in spending, this President wants to increase it by \$2½ trillion to \$6.9 trillion. That \$6.9 trillion—for just 1 year, mind you—is about \$20,000 per American citizen.

How many Americans today would vote to borrow and spend—we have to put "borrow" in front of all of it—to borrow and spend \$20,000 on their personal credit card to do things that are not only not helpful to them but much of which is harmful to them on top of the \$100,000 in national debt that we have per citizen today?

Thank God for Republicans who are going to come into the gap and stand on the wall to defend the American people and finally bring some fiscal stability to our country, cut the spending, and deal a blow against the woke weaponized government that is assaulting and harming the American people.

We are going to do that with the opportunity we have as we face the debt ceiling limit. We are going to utilize this opportunity of our newfound congressional House rules that are going to allow us to put reforms in place for not just this year and next year but for the future to put us on a path to fiscal responsibility.

I thank Congressman ROY from Texas for showing leadership, once again, on the most important, fundamental issues for our country.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia for his leadership. We joined together with our colleagues at the House Freedom Caucus this morning to announce what we believe is, I would say, the bare minimum, if you will, sort of the baseline for resetting the table on how we deal with spending and, importantly, empowering the American people by shrinking Washington and growing America because we trust the people to do it, not government.

This is an age-old debate, but this is something where leviathan, this great

beast, this thing we call the Federal Government, is growing and expanding in power in ways that concern every American.

□ 1130

Just yesterday, in the House Judiciary Committee, there were conversations about the power of the Federal Government being used to chill speech, to target American citizens, to shut down their First Amendment rights.

Now think about it. Is there anything more concerning than the power of the government being used to chill the fundamental rights given to us by our Creator, as reflected in the Bill of Rights, than what we are seeing right now?

The FTC is going after, right now, targeting, they want to know—wait—who is involved with all of this. They are actually targeting journalists, targeting private citizens.

Is that what the power of the government is supposed to be used for, I would ask the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Clearly not. And the loss of trust and confidence to the degree that it has been lost in the last 2 years in our Federal Government, in our election system, in our government agencies, in even our department of injustice, I would call it, is just so damaging to the future of our country.

How do we get that back? How do we restore it?

We start by not funding it, not funding those agencies, those bureaucracies that are perpetuating such harm on the American people.

The gentleman made the point earlier today so well, that we talk about going back to pre-COVID spending at \$4.4 trillion. At that point, that was record spending in the history of the country. That was leading us to some, at that point, maybe \$25 trillion in national debt, an untold amount that we haven't had since World War II, that was pre-COVID. That was out of hand. That was out of control.

It is just this President who has taken it to a new level; \$10 trillion in new spending in the first 2 years of an administration has never happened before in the history of the country. But it is not just the dollars, which if this was good spending, meaning things that we thought were justified, if you will, or positive things, we don't have the money, we can't afford it, we are bankrupt.

But worse than that, we are spending money, literally, to make our military weaker. We are spending money, literally, to keep our border open to the Mexican crime cartels. We are spending money, literally, to harm our kids in schools. We are spending money, literally, to try to ruin the country.

If you were setting out 2 years ago to try to ruin the country, what would you do differently than what this administration has done, while borrowing the money to do it?

Mr. ROY. I asked earlier, if you set out over the last 2 or 3 decades, to do

a worse job than the leadership of this country, in this Chamber, the Senate, the bureaucracy, and the White House, could you imagine doing a worse job than over the last 3 decades?

I mean, in truth, the amount of debt that has been accumulated, right—in 2003, when I was a baby staffer for a Senator on the other side of this building, the national debt was about \$6 trillion.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. We couldn't imagine it at that time.

Mr. ROY. Right. It is now \$26 trillion more than that, and the President is patting himself on the back for saying, well, we are not going to increase the debt by \$20 trillion; we are only going to increase it by \$17 trillion over the next decade by taxing and regulating the American people into oblivion.

I would just ask the gentleman a last question here, and then we are going to—in a couple of minutes I want to yield to my friend from West Virginia.

Would it surprise the gentleman that we are spending \$158 million in economic, law enforcement, and military support for Mexico—so, again, the American people, you and I, we are funding to the tune of \$158 million, Mexico's law enforcement and military, while it is becoming a narco-terrorist state; cartels are literally killing American citizens in Mexico; infiltrating our country, causing 72,000 dead Americans from fentanyl poisoning? This is the thing the American people don't understand. Does the gentleman agree?

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. We are borrowing an additional \$150 million to send it to Mexico that is controlled by the crime cartels, so that they can utilize that funding to invade our southern border, with the individuals we are allowing to pass through their country trafficking drugs, human trafficking, sex trafficking, who knows what, hundreds of thousands every month. Yet, we are going to borrow \$150 million to send it to them to help them do it.

Mr. ROY. That is correct. If the gentleman doesn't mind, I am going to end here with a few minutes on the border and then yield to the gentleman from West Virginia. I thank my friend from Virginia for coming down.

On that point, what we are funding, 4½ million encounters of illegal aliens at the southern border since the beginning of the Biden administration, with 7,000, 8,000 migrants crossing a day, there are 1.3 million got-aways, and nearly 1.7 million illegal aliens released into the United States. That means we have released more into our communities than the population of at least 11 individual States.

Under this administration, there have been surges of known or suspected terrorists at the southwest border. There were zero in fiscal year 2019, 3 in fiscal year 2020, 15 in fiscal year 2021, 98 in fiscal year 2022, and 53 so far after 1 quarter in fiscal year 2023, these are individuals that are affiliated with known or suspected terrorists at the southwest border.

Last summer, 53 migrants died in a tractor trailer in San Antonio, which I represent, cooked in the Texas heat; and that is somehow compassion?

Mr. Speaker, 880 migrants have died crossing the U.S.-Mexico border in fiscal year 2022, and that does not count the thousands that have died across south Texas and other places and ranches; doesn't count the little girls sitting in stash houses, as we speak, getting sold into the sex trafficking trade, as Mayorkas and Biden fiddle, while our Nation's borders are burning.

Just last week, four Americans traveling to Mexico, one of them a mother of six, they were attacked by cartels in broad daylight. Two are dead. Two are getting care; and we give \$158 million to Mexico for law enforcement and military.

This is why, today, I am re-introducing my legislation to designate these drug cartels as the terrorist organization that they are, so that any individual associated with them, that provides material support to a designated FTO would be sanctioned and could be pursued, lawfully.

Materials include, but are not limited to providing weapons, safe houses, lethal substances. Representatives and members of a designated FTO would be subject to removal. Financial institutions could be targeted. But the main point is to make clear that these dangerous cartels are the equivalent of ISIS and al-Qaida, right off our border, killing Americans, killing Mexicans, turning Mexico into narco-terrorist states; giving China an avenue to get to the United States to pump fentanyl into our communities, and this administration is doing nothing.

This Congress must not continue to fund a government that is at war with the American people, funding a woke weaponized Federal Government that is undermining our freedom, undermining our prosperity, undermining our liberty.

It is our duty, as Republicans and all Members of Congress, to use the power of the purse to defund the executive branch that is tyrannically at odds with the well-being of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY), my good friend. I appreciate his great service to our country, and I look forward to hearing from him.

RETURNING TO THE GOLD STANDARD

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the passion of my good friend from Texas, and many of the points he is making need to be heard and understood. Even if it is uncomfortable, the truth has to be told.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about legislation I am promoting to return the United States to the gold standard. As was discussed earlier, our Nation is facing an inflation crisis not seen in over 40 years.

Inflation is a regressive tax hurting lower-income Americans more than anyone else. West Virginians have seen

the value of their savings erode before their very eyes as a result of the reckless tax-and-spending spree of President Joe Biden and the Washington Democrats and an overzealous Federal Reserve.

Thanks to Democrats, your 401(k) is now more like a 301(k), and it will go even lower if they stay in power.

Today, our national debt is over \$32 trillion, which is borrowed, not only from Americans, but also from foreign adversaries.

We know who is responsible for the current debt crisis, but the question has to be asked: What in our country's history allowed us to get to this point?

The answer can actually be traced back to 1971, when President Richard Nixon took the United States off the gold standard. Rather than tackle the root causes of economic challenges, Nixon severed the dollar's convertibility to gold once and for all. President Nixon said at the time that that would actually combat inflation.

Art Laffer, a well-known and respected economist, accurately warned that taking the United States off of the gold standard would actually only exacerbate these problems. What followed was a period of severe inflation, rivaled only by what we are seeing today.

Domestic production became more expensive and corporate profits declined, so companies were encouraged to shift production abroad, overseas where labor costs were cheaper.

Today, our number one economic rival is China, which continues to attract American companies, due to the cheapness of production there.

Now, the gold standard, as we know it, is not actually using the gold as currency but, rather, tying the dollar bill directly to the value of that gold. Under the gold standard, any American would be able to trade their dollars for a fixed amount of gold.

By linking the dollar to the value of gold, the money supply could only be increased if the supply of gold increases. This connection protects the purchasing power of your hard-earned tax dollar.

The gold standard would protect against Washington's irresponsible spending habits and the creation of money out of thin air. Prices would be shaped by economics, rather than instincts and wishes of Federal bureaucrats. With the gold standard, no longer would our economy be at the mercy of the Federal Reserve and reckless Washington spenders.

Through government mismanagement and economic manipulation, is it any surprise that many Americans are looking for alternatives to the U.S. dollar in cryptocurrencies?

Americans are losing confidence in our currency. It is long past time for Congress to begin considering a return to the gold standard. That is why I will be introducing legislation to do exactly that, as I have in previous Congresses.

Under my proposal, the Secretary of the Treasury would define the U.S. dollar in terms of a fixed weight of gold

based on the market price, while allowing dollar bills to be exchanged for gold at that rate.

Had the United States been on the gold standard, or some other fixed standard, we would not be in the inflation crisis we are in today.

I hope to work with the new Republican majority to make sure this issue gets the attention it deserves.

EXPANDING ACCESS TO CAPITAL FOR RURAL JOB CREATORS

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address my bill, the Expanding Access to Capital for Rural Job Creators Act.

Earlier this year, the House resoundingly passed my bipartisan Expanding Access to Capital for Rural Job Creators Act. Rural small businesses face unique challenges that big city businesses do not. Nearly 20 percent of the United States population lives in rural areas and yet, businesses in rural areas raised under 2 percent of total capital over the last 3 years.

West Virginia, which I am so proud to represent, is a very rural State, where no city has a population greater than 50,000 people, so my legislation simply requires the Security and Exchange Commission, SEC, Office of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation to identify and report to Congress those challenges rural small businesses face when trying to access our capital markets. This will make it easier for Congress to then act to address these problems.

My bill would make it easier for Congress to do our jobs and make sure rural small businesses like in West Virginia, are not left behind. I hope the Senate takes up this commonsense measure promptly.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from West Virginia and appreciate his strong passion in representing the great people of West Virginia. He is a good friend, and I am glad that he could join us here today.

Earlier, I was talking about the need for this country to reclaim economic growth in order to dig ourselves out of the hole that this absurd institution and lack of leadership from Washington, D.C., has created for the American people in the form of \$32 trillion of debt and ridiculously stagnant economic growth.

After decades of being able to achieve growth in the 3 and 4 percent range, we are now sitting in the doldrums of 1-percent-type economic growth. That might even be rather robust in the era of Joe Biden.

I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BISHOP) to expand upon this important point.

□ 1145

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, Mr. ROY, for yielding.

The President's budget recommendation came over a month late yesterday, and there was one detail I read in The New York Times, so it must be true, al-

though that is the only place I have had a chance to see it yet, and what immediately popped into my mind when I read this detail, is that Karine Jean-Pierre said last week—I can remember her saying it—that the President's economic plan is working for the American people. That popped back into my head, because the detail disclosed by The New York Times is that the administration predicts economic growth in this fiscal year not 3½ percent, not 4 percent certainly, not 2½ percent, not 1½ percent, but six-tenths of a percent.

You have to start talking about economic growth and what the economists call basis points, because it is so small. So if the economic plan of the Biden administration is working for the American people, that means 60 basis points of economic growth anticipated in the year.

And guess what the Biden administration says about that? We should do nothing different. We should keep doing the same thing that is producing six-tenths of a percent of economic growth, except one other thing: We should pile the burden of a lot more taxes on the economy, because apparently that is going to—because what do we need? Thirty basis points of economic growth? Republicans believe we need to change.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my friend from North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, I would inquire as to how much time we have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 8 minutes remaining.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I don't know if I will use every bit of that. I appreciate the point that the gentleman from North Carolina just made, because it is critically important and it merits at least one final repetition, that this great country racked up the level of debt that we currently have today relative to the size of its economy in 1946. But why was that? To rid the world of fascism, to confront our enemies, to defeat those enemies, and to protect this great country.

Then we embarked for 50 years and grew ourselves to the point to be able to balance the budget by 2000, with strong economic growth. It took that much time.

Here we sit today in 2023 with \$32 trillion of debt, sitting, at the President's own admission, at 60 basis points of economic growth this year. He wants his grand solution to be, oh, we will just rack up \$17 trillion more debt in the next decade, because I am going to save \$3 trillion by taxing the American people and regulating the American people.

It doesn't work. This is President Biden's actual form of voodoo economics. He is going to level this country, layer mountains more debt on our kids and grandkids, all while funding the very things that are undermining our ability to have economic growth, prosperity, and freedom.

As I noted before, the millions of dollars going to the EPA to turn an American citizen into a felon and put him into jail because he had a pond on his ranch, the millions of dollars in the name of clean air that are going to methane regulations to drive the price of gas and the price of energy up for the average American.

Every single American should demand of his or her Representative in this body that we stand up to a tyrannical executive branch overstepping its bounds, undermining our freedom, and undermining economic growth.

Every Member of this body should look to cut spending this year of the Federal bureaucracy, return it to pre-COVID levels as a baseline, save \$3 trillion by getting government out of the way, restore economic growth and hope and opportunity for our kids and grandkids, stop funding the very things that are undermining our well-being, secure our country, secure our border, have a sparingly used but lethal, nonwoke military that will kill people and destroy things when they need to, and restore the greatness of this country by shrinking Washington and growing America.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

CELEBRATING VIRGIN ISLANDS HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, it is so exciting to be up here and to be able to have this discussion.

I want to thank the minority leader, my colleague and good friend, Mr. HAKEEM JEFFRIES, for allowing me this time to direct everyone's attention to the importance of this month.

I know that it is Women's History Month, and we have been hearing so much about this. But what an honor it is for me to stand in front of you today because it is also Virgin Islands History Month.

I stand on the shoulders of strong Virgin Islanders who came before me, a people who are known for their courage, leadership, sacrifice, and, most importantly, their resilience.

The Virgin Islands are known for so much more than just white sandy beaches and as a popular vacation destination. I tell people all the time, there are more than just the beaches. There is a reason why seven nations have fought, fought, and done what was necessary to attempt to own these beautiful islands.

We are made of culture-rich lands and a diverse history. Though not always pretty, there is great beauty in

our past that shaped our present and directs us toward our future.

Like most Caribbean countries, the Virgin Islands history begins with the story of precolonial inhabitants of the island and, of course, of slavery, and even beyond that to a rich history of people, of families, of communities working and striving every day.

Many people are unaware that the Virgin Islands is the only place that is part of the United States where Columbus actually set foot. Many other places he just looked out and said, I am going to name it this or that or the other. But the Virgin Islands and, in particular, the island of St. Croix is the place where he actually had resistance from the inhabitants who lived there, and we know that from his own logbooks, from people on the boat who fought, who recognized that the Caribs that were there were putting up a resistance to these men coming in 1492.

In 1733, on the island of St. John, we have recorded the first major slave insurrection in the western hemisphere. The individuals and people there were so incensed at being enslaved that they organized themselves, actually overthrew those who had enslaved them, and held the island for a year before the Danes could organize with the English, the Spaniards, with others to fight back and take back the land.

I am so grateful that in this last Congress, this body, in a bipartisan way, were willing to support a recognition of that. This year, there will be a plaque put up at Ram Head on the island of St. John, the site of where the organizers brought themselves together and made the determination that they would rather commit suicide than go back to slavery. Ram Head is the location where they engaged in collective suicide by jumping off of the cliff rather than going back to slavery.

In 1848, the Virgin Islands, on the island of St. Croix, is also the place where individuals organized, worked together, and overthrew, completely, slavery well before the Emancipation Proclamation was made here in the United States. It is one of only two places, the Virgin Islands and the island and the people of Haiti, who were able to obtain their freedom through violent and organized overthrow.

We are blessed as Virgin Islanders to celebrate Virgin Islands history, as well as the same month as women's history, because Virgin Islands history is not complete, of course, without women.

To begin, I must first acknowledge the record number of women, as well as the record number of people of color currently serving in this Congress. This record represents a 59 percent increase from the 96 women who served in the 112th Congress. Women in this body have come a long way. I am thrilled to continue to break glass ceilings as well, as we impact history.

For decades, women of all backgrounds have worked to break barriers in communities, workplaces, schools,

universities. We often forget to give recognition to the lesser-known women. The great Shirley Chisholm, who was the first Black woman to serve in this body, famously said: "If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair."

I say let's take it a step further. Forget the seat, give women the whole table and watch what happens.

As a Black woman, I think about my own mother and all mothers who every day, even when it wasn't common to work, they sacrificed, occupied space where they were underrated, underappreciated, and marginalized.

Without that history and those individuals, we would not be who we are today, which is why I am proud and I am honored to represent my home, my ancestral home, of the Virgin Islands.

During this Virgin Islands History Month and Women's History Month, I proudly recognize the indomitable spirit of women like Mary Thomas, one of the organizers of Fireburn; Anna Heegaard, who was the woman who spoke to the Danish Governor at the time and convinced and talked with him about emancipation; Bertha Boschulte, one of our educators; Arona Petersen; Senator Ruby Rouss, who was one of the first aide-de-camps of General Eisenhower during the war, a Virgin Islander; Edith Bornn, Lorraine Berry, one of the great legislators on our island, who were early trailblazers who championed women's freedom, equality, and power for Virgin Islanders.

While the faces of power are growing and there is still work to be done, it is refreshing to look back to gain inspiration and encouragement from Virgin Islanders who have gone before us as these women faced deliberate, unconscious bias, and yet they prevailed.

We should note the importance of representation for women in leadership, politics, law enforcement, across every sphere is evident. In politics alone, evidence shows that more women in public decisionmaking and public policy produce policies that benefit women, children, families, in general.

Women are more inclined to work across the aisle with colleagues, to work in a bipartisan fashion, to negotiate. As a lawyer, I know that the best contracts, the best negotiations are when everybody has to feel a little bit of pain for it to be the best. Women are willing to do that.

We know that loans given to women's businesses exponentially support families and entire communities than loans given to men. We need women.

Let us all continue the great work, all of us. That includes men who are brothers, sons, fathers. We need you all to break the bias and advance the cause of women's rights in our communities, our government, and our world.

Throughout the month of March, let us continue to celebrate heritage history as we look to our future. Happy Women and Virgin Islands History Month.

I want to rise and highlight a few influential women that have helped shape Virgin Islands history during Virgin Islands History Month. Now, of course, so often in the Virgin Islands, we talk about the men and the men have done amazing things.

The Virgin Islands has produced great actors and artists like Camille Pissarro, one of the founders of French impressionism; actors like Kelsey Grammer and Lawrence Hilton-Jacobs. We have tremendous athletes in our past like Horace Clarke, Elrod Hendricks, and, of course, my own cousin, Elmo Plaskett, all having served in professional baseball; Peter Holmberg, a native St. Thomian has done amazing things in sailing, as well as the Jackson family, father and sons are tremendous boxers.

□ 1200

Everyone knows us for having had Tim Duncan, one of the greatest, the GOAT, NBA players in history, and musicians like Alton Adams, the first naval bandmaster; Dion Parson, who has worked at Jazz at Lincoln Center and has one of the most amazing jazz ensembles; and Jon Lucien, another great artist.

These are all tremendous. The men are great, but let us first talk about a few of the women in Virgin Islands history.

The first one I can think of is Eulalie Rivera. Ms. Rivera was born on August 2, 1907, in Frederiksted, St. Croix, to Carl Rohlsen and Henrietta Williams. During her lifetime, Ms. Rivera played a tremendous role in the Virgin Islands.

In her autobiography "Growing Up in St. Croix," Ms. Rivera gives an account of her life that portrays the attitudes and culture of the Virgin Islands at that time, from witnessing the transfer of the Virgin Islands from the Danish West Indies to the Virgin Islands of the United States, a change in ownership and culture, to rumors of being the first woman to ride a bicycle on St. Croix.

Eulalie's mother passed away during childbirth, so she was raised in homes for children, where she was instilled with a love of learning. Ms. Rivera dedicated more than 30 years to the education system in the Virgin Islands and taught at the Christiansted kindergarten, the Diamond School, La Grande Princess School, and the Claude O. Markoe School.

She was instrumental in helping the Caribbean culture and Virgin Islands culture by helping to create such activities as the St. Croix Christmas Festival. She served as the president of the Women's League of St. Croix, supervisor of the Lutheran Church Sunday school, founder of the Independent Citizens' Movement political party, charter member of the St. Croix Business and Professional Women's Club, and as a member of the Frederiksted Democratic Club, the Frederiksted Hospital Auxiliary, the Virgin Islands League of

Women Voters, the Committee on Aging, and the Friends of Denmark. She was busy. She loved her home.

In 1974, the Grove Place Elementary School was renamed after her. She was a beloved ancestor and elder.

I also recognize Eileen Petersen. Eileen Ramona Petersen was born on St. Croix and holds the distinct privilege of being the first woman to serve as a judge in the United States Virgin Islands. She is also one of the few women jurists throughout the Caribbean region.

I can recall Judge Petersen telling me about the fact that, after she was nominated and confirmed in the Virgin Islands as a judge, the men thought that they would get her, and she did not have an office. She didn't have internal chambers in which to work.

Every day at lunchtime, she would take all the files from her courtroom and go sit in her car to work on the cases before then going back to court and making decisions because there was no place else for her to work.

That did not stop her from doing her job, executing justice and doing what was right. Judge Petersen was the first-appointed judge of the municipal court, now the Virgin Islands Territorial Court, by then-Governor Melvin Evans in 1971.

She became a practicing lawyer in 1967 in Washington, D.C., and she returned home to the Virgin Islands to give that education, that mind, so much that she had learned, back to her people. She became an assistant attorney general under Attorney General Francisco Corneiro. After 20 years of service on the bench, she resigned and is now in her retirement.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention another judge who is still with us, the Honorable Denise M. Francois.

Denise Francois was born on St. Thomas, obtained her bachelor of arts from Amherst College, and continued at the University of San Diego School of Law, where she received her juris doctorate. She was admitted to the State Bar of California, the Virgin Islands Bar, and the U.S. Court of Appeals.

She was a partner in a law firm on St. Thomas, where she worked for the people. In 2013, she was appointed judge of the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands. She has chaired the Advisory Committee on Rules and aided in drafting the Virgin Islands Rules of Civil Procedure and the Virgin Islands Rules of Evidence. She is still blazing a trail as a great jurist and legal mind.

I love libraries, and I love books. Of course, I would have to speak about a librarian and archivist, Ms. Enid Maria Baa, for whom the library in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, is named. She pioneered librarianship within the Virgin Islands and the Caribbean and internationally.

She developed her love of library work when she was young. As a newly graduated student of the first high school in St. Thomas, she helped establish the first high school library.

Her interests and professional ambition led to several advanced degrees, including Hampton Institute and Columbia University.

During and after her studies at Columbia, she held professional positions at the university, at the United Nations Library, and at the New York Public Library in their reference division. After coming back home, she was appointed director of libraries and museums under Governor Archibald Alexander in 1954. Second to head the Caribbean Organization's library in Puerto Rico, she has been an editor and archivist.

Enid Maria Baa has done so much work to make sure that our history, the words of people and books, are available to all.

Many people forget about the smallest island—well, Water Island is the smallest—St. John, where there is so much work to be done and where people have worked so hard together. There was a woman who was born in June 1908, Myrah Keating Smith. She passed away and is with the elders since 1994. She was a pioneering nurse and midwife. She was the only provider of healthcare on the island of St. John for almost two decades.

She was taught as a small child in homes, organizations of people on the island of St. John bringing children together in parlors and kitchens to learn. Her parents taught her themselves. At 14, they sent her on a boat to New York City and then by train to be taught at Tuskegee Institute.

After working for some years, she came home in 1931. By foot, boat, or by horseback when there were no roads or trails, she provided healthcare to the people of St. John.

Our history is rich. There is so much that we all can learn from people who were so resilient and who were so willing to give of themselves, to go out to learn and educate themselves and come back to give to the history and the future of the people of the Virgin Islands.

I am so grateful to be a part of that history and to be a Virgin Islander whose roots go back seven generations. It is my joy to come home on the weekends during district work periods and run into, most times, people who are my cousins, my family, and, more importantly, my friends.

In this month, during March, it is even more important for us to reach back to that history. This July will be our 175th year of emancipation from slavery.

It is important that all Virgin Islanders understand the importance of working together. When we tell the story to our children about our emancipation, one of the most amazing things is that, as the slaves were organizing, they really kept it to themselves what they had planned and the day that they designated, July 3, to march to the fort and demand their freedom from the Danish military.

As they reached the fort, the Danish soldiers began looking around and de-

cided to put the cannons toward the crowd. They went to get the gunpowder to put in the cannons and realized that the gunpowder was all gone from the fort. The slaves, over a series of months, had surreptitiously and quietly removed all the gunpowder and replaced the barrels with molasses.

That takes people organizing and understanding that you can have no snitches to get something like that done and know that what was most important was them working together.

On that day, as they reached the fort in Frederiksted, the conch shell blew to give notice to the other slaves through the rest of the island. Everyone, from Christiansted at the other end of the island, out east, began marching all at once to try to demand their freedom.

When the governor realized that these slaves had organized in the manner that they had, he declared that all enslaved were now free in the Danish West Indies from henceforth on. The people of St. Croix not only liberated themselves but liberated their brothers, their sisters, and those who were on the other islands under Danish rule in St. Thomas, St. John, the Little Cays, all of the places throughout.

It is that resilience, that fortitude, which I am so grateful to have within my blood and to be a part of my history. That is now American history. That is a part of all of our history that we can all celebrate. That is an example for all of us.

That is not something to be shunned or to be ashamed of or for people to feel embarrassed about or sad. Many people would say that that could be banned in other locations. That is my history. That is a history that is now part of American history.

I am hopeful that we can all take that in, that we can all see examples for our own lives, whether we are Caribbean, Black, Hispanic, Latina, White, Caucasian, or whatever. It is a history for us all. I am so grateful for that history as we continue to live it each and every day.

To end, I also recognize outstanding Virgin Islanders who are doing amazing things today in the arts. We have Virgin Islanders who have been awarded some of the highest honors in these last months: Theron Thomas, Masai Harris, Cori Alexander, and Kyle Francis. Each received recognition at the 75th Annual Grammy Awards for their excellent work in the music industry.

Masai Harris, a native of St. Croix, was an integral part of the team that worked on reggae artist Kabaka Pyramid's second album, which garnered a Grammy for album of the year.

Theron Thomas from St. Thomas, a world-renowned producer and songwriter, received recognition for his songwriting on Lizzo's record of the year.

Both Cori Alexander and Kyle Francis, natives of St. Thomas, worked on the album "Kingdom," which won best gospel performance.

I would be remiss if I didn't lift up our sister, native Virgin Islander Janelle James from St. Thomas, who won the 54th NAACP Image Award for best supporting actress for her role in "Abbott Elementary."

These are Virgin Islanders doing amazing things.

We might be a small place, but we think big. We live our lives big. We do not restrict ourselves just to the waters surrounding where we live.

In the words of the popular Rock City song that has as its authors individuals that I mentioned who received Grammy Awards: "The world is ours, Scarface, even though we come from a small place. No matter where I'm at, I'm VI all day."

Let's continue to be VI strong and VI proud. Happy Virgin Islands History Month.

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

□ 1215

WAR IN UKRAINE ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, one year into Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, the Ukrainians' valiant defense has resulted in tens of thousands of casualties for the Russians. What the Russians believed would be a victory in a matter of days or weeks has turned into now just over a year bloody slog. The Russian bear has turned out to be a paper tiger on the fields of Ukraine.

The United States must remain committed as a partner with Ukraine to achieve victory. Victory, Mr. Speaker, or Putin and his allied nations will attack the Baltic states or take Moldova or try to control the Black Sea. Türkiye, devastated by Erdogan's economics and the recent earthquake, will now face a stark choice of remaining in NATO or becoming a Putin puppet were Putin successful in Ukraine.

Victory in Ukraine, Mr. Speaker, or China will be green-lighted to a fully nuclear madman in North Korea and attempt a blockade of Taiwan. In order to achieve that victory, President Biden must get the rest of the world even more engaged.

In December, Members of this body were briefed by the Departments of State and Treasury. I recently wrote Secretary Blinken and Secretary Yellen in follow-up regarding the funding strategy for supporting Ukraine with humanitarian, defense, and military means, and in their monthly costs.

I raised two principal points. First, in my view, Congress does not have the full financial picture of the contributions being made by the United States and our allies and partners on behalf of Ukraine in a straightforward and sim-

ple manner available to all Members. They don't paint a complete picture.

As a new member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I look forward to hearing from the State Department, USAID, and the Defense Department in the near future on what they have been doing to track our funding in Ukraine and explain it in thorough detail to the Congress.

Secondly, I raised with the two Secretaries the successful 1990-1991 partnership between Secretary of State James Baker and Secretary of the Treasury Nicholas Brady in developing an active solicitation of major countries from around the world to fund the U.S. enforcement of the United Nations Security Council resolution authorizing use of force to liberate Kuwait from Iraq's illegal invasion of their sovereign territory.

The result was the United States received contributions from around the world of some \$53 billion against an estimated total cost to eject Saddam Hussein from Kuwait of \$60 billion. Now, while some of those contributions were in the form of in-kind material support, more than 90 percent was paid in cash.

The United States must be more strongly engaged with our allies to share a greater financial burden for the military, humanitarian, and budget support for the Government of Ukraine.

Just a few days ago, on February 20, Japan pledged \$5.5 billion in additional aid to Ukraine. This is on top of the \$1.3 billion in financial humanitarian assistance it had already pledged. This is a recent example of precisely what I think the United States Government should be achieving and achieving in a more aggressive and effective manner.

The worldwide response in support of Ukraine has been remarkable, but I believe that significantly more can be done to help Ukraine if additional countries provide more material and financial support in Europe and beyond.

The U.S. military has a unique role, an important role as the lead NATO partner in equipping, training, and providing related military materials. That mission suits us more than any other country. However, as demonstrated in my example of Kuwait, obtaining broad financial support from more sources is essential, in my view, to maintaining popular political support in Europe and in the United States for victory in Ukraine.

This also demonstrates how peoples from around the globe benefit from a prompt success of preservation of Ukraine's sovereignty. Cost of goods, access to food, fuel, and financing are all impeded by the Russian Federation's illegal action. That makes the case that all nations are hurt by Russia's aggression. All nations can support Ukraine.

President Biden must craft an active and effective campaign to bring forward the financial and material resources from around the world to fully support victory in Ukraine.

FORCED ORGAN HARVESTING BY THE CCP

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the practice of forced organ harvesting in China.

I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 1154, the Stop Forced Organ Harvesting Act introduced by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), my friend. Congressman SMITH is also chair of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations. I am proud to serve as his vice chair for that subcommittee.

Forced organ harvesting is a disgusting and appalling practice carried out against minority groups in China by the Chinese Communist Party. They prey on the Uyghur people and Falun Gong practitioners. As the world knows full well about their genocide against the Uyghurs, we should not be surprised with China's lack of medical ethics.

Nury Turkel, the chair of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom and my recent State of the Union guest has documented forced blood sampling and organ screening of Uyghur detainees in their reeducation camps. Nury, a Uyghur who emigrated to the United States at age 24, is an eyewitness to this barbaric culture.

Just last year, the United Nations was even "extremely alarmed" on credible information that forced organ harvesting continues in Communist China. What is disappointing is that, despite years of evidence of this practice, the United States currently has no law on the books to address this issue.

The Stop Forced Organ Harvesting Act will do just that by adding penalties to those that violate the National Organ Transplant Act, and it will sanction those that fund, sponsor, or facilitate forced organ harvesting or human trafficking that leads to forced organ harvesting.

This bill passed unanimously out of the House Foreign Affairs Committee last week, and I look forward to seeing a strong vote in the full House in the future. We will pass it here, and I expect the Senate to pass this legislation and send it to President Biden.

It is long past time for the American Government to address this challenge through legislation and put a stop to this inhumanity. I appreciate Chairman SMITH for his leadership in introducing this legislation. It is another sign to the American people of how depraved the Chinese Communist Party is in their march to violate every norm of international society.

NATIONAL HOSTAGE AND WRONGFUL DETAINEE DAY

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Hostage and Wrongful Detainee Day.

I, along with my Democratic colleague, Congresswoman HALEY STEVENS, reintroduced our legislation yesterday that establishes March 9 as the National Hostage and Wrongful Detainee Day. On March 9, 2007, Robert Levinson disappeared in Iran. He never returned home.

The commemoration of this national day brings attention to Americans that are being unjustly held as wrongful detainees and hostages in a foreign land.

Since the Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act was signed into law 2 years ago, we have heard from families and organizations that are dedicated to helping bring wrongful detainees and hostages home and how that law is working.

We are learning more about how the Levinson act is being used since it has become law. It is time for the House Foreign Affairs Committee to conduct oversight and see what potential changes should be made.

I helped create in the last Congress the Congressional Task Force on American Hostages and Americans Wrongly Detained Abroad because one of my constituents disappeared on a visit to Syria. Majd Kamalmaz is still being held by the Assad regime in Syria. Majd and his wonderful family lived for a time in my hometown of Little Rock.

Every Member of Congress is dedicated to the more than 50 Americans who right now are held against their will wrongfully in a country around the world. We all want to bring home Majd and every other American that is being held wrongfully.

I am proud to be a part of this task force and work alongside my friend, Congresswoman STEVENS. I thank all those who are involved for their efforts to bring awareness to wrongful detainees and hostages around the world and for working tirelessly to bring them home to their families in our great country.

RECOGNIZING ORIGAMI SAKE

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the entrepreneurial creativity of Ben Bell and Matt Bell, who recently founded Origami Sake in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Although they are unrelated, these two Bells share the same last name and the same passion for sake.

The pair met in 2016 after Ben returned to Arkansas from a trip to Japan where he became interested in the art of making sake after living in that country for 2 years.

After years of collaboration, Ben and Matt joined forces to begin brewing sake in Arkansas, which led to the opening of their business. Arkansas is the largest grower of rice in the United States and Isbell Farms has spent decades perfecting the proper rice to be used for sushi and now the proper rice that is needed for making high-quality sake.

Additionally, the magnificent water from the famous Hot Springs National Park has the perfect quality for sake brewing. Ben and Matt are taking advantage of these resources in Arkansas to make sake even more popular and distribute it homegrown in Arkansas across the United States.

I recently led a delegation to meet with leaders in Japan where our members had the opportunity to present Ar-

kansas-brewed sake to former Prime Minister Suga and Deputy Cabinet Secretary Kihara. Along with key members of the Japanese Diet, we also entertained our great Ambassador Rahm Emanuel with his own taste of a new Thousand Crane Sake brewed in Arkansas.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Ben and Matt for their originality and entrepreneurship. I commend them for leading America in the brewing of sake.

VICTORY OVER VIOLENCE

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the important partnership between the Arkansas Martin Luther King Commission and FOX 16 and KARK Television.

In 2017, following the horrible shootings at the Power Ultra Lounge nightclub in Little Rock, FOX 16 and KARK kicked off an important initiative to build grassroots support to reduce violence in central Arkansas. They called it Victory Over Violence.

The goal of the campaign is to unite leaders and groups throughout our local communities to be a resource for reducing violent crime and changing lives through community improvements.

In January, the Arkansas Martin Luther King Commission presented FOX 16 anchors Donna Terrell and Kevin Kelly with their 2023 Drum Major for Community Leadership award.

The persistence and successful leadership of Donna, Kevin, and all those involved at the Arkansas MLK Commission, FOX 16, and KARK, they are making an impact on improving the lives and safety in central Arkansas.

I am grateful for their efforts, their persistent efforts over all these past years to keep that at the forefront of community activism. Victory Over Violence is something that we need, and I am grateful for their leadership.

RECOGNIZING 2022 MISS ARKANSAS EBONY MITCHELL

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2022 Miss Arkansas winner, Ebony Mitchell.

Ebony was the 84th Miss Arkansas Scholarship Pageant winner, where she was awarded \$30,000 in scholarship funds provided by the Ted and Shannon Skokos Foundation and \$75,000 in other areas.

□ 1230

Last December, she represented our great State at Miss America in Connecticut.

Becoming Miss Arkansas was a lifetime dream for Ebony. Her journey started when she won the Miss University of Arkansas Princess pageant in 2007, which entered her into the Diamond State Princess mentorship program.

She had five appearances as Miss Arkansas before finally winning that title last year. Aside from her accomplishments as Miss Arkansas, she graduated from the University of Central Arkansas in 2019 with her bachelor's degree in business administration.

As Miss Arkansas, she will continue her social impact by leading the A Responsible Digital You initiative which seeks to keep children of Arkansas safe online.

Ebony is a native of Harrison, Arkansas, where she has been a leader in civil rights and community spirit in her hometown.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Ebony for her accomplishments, and I look forward to continuing to watch her proudly represent our great State of Arkansas.

CLEBURNE COUNTY

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the addition of Cleburne County to the Second District of Arkansas.

Last year, during redistricting, the Arkansas State legislature added Cleburne County to the Second Congressional District. The addition of Cleburne County brings beautiful nature, economic development, and many other recreational ideas and opportunities to my district.

An active business and civic community, excellent healthcare and educational facilities and opportunities, along with Greers Ferry National Fish Hatchery, Greers Ferry Dam, Rotary Clubs, the Sugarloaf Mountain Trail, and world-class fly fishing on the Little Red River all are amazing examples of what the county has to offer.

I am proud to now serve those who live in Cleburne County, and I look forward to representing them in Washington at their U.S. Capitol.

CONGRATULATING DEBBY MEECE ON HER RETIREMENT

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend, Executive Assistant to the Medical Director at Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System, Debby Meece.

Debby is retiring after 40 years of service to Central Arkansas Veterans Affairs.

Debby is an Arkansas native, and she always has exhibited kindness and consideration on a daily basis to coworkers, patients, and visitors alike. She is a role model for everyone in public service because of the positive impact she had in her daily work at Central Arkansas VA.

The standard of care she has established will continue for generations to come in our VA hospital in central Arkansas.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Debby for her dedication and service to veterans. Without her time and effort, many voices would have gone unheard. Every day she was at work, she put others first.

I congratulate Debby, and I wish her a very happy retirement.

SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE JACK HOLT, JR.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Arkansas Supreme Court Chief Justice Jack Holt, Jr., who passed away on March 5, 2023.

Former Chief Justice Holt began his career in the United States Air Force

where he achieved the rank of colonel. He then went on to work in Arkansas as a deputy prosecutor, chief assistant attorney general, and ultimately served as the Chief Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court for 10 years from 1985 to 1995.

Jack Holt will be remembered for his significant contributions to the modern justice system that exists in Arkansas, including the creation of our juvenile courts.

Justice Holt is credited with setting up the essential parts of our court systems in Arkansas. His advancement of the education requirement for attorneys and the creation of more staff positions to help circuit court judges has greatly improved the effectiveness of justice in my State.

I thank former Chief Justice Holt for his many years of service and contributions to the State of Arkansas. His legacy truly lives on.

My prayers for comfort are with his wife Jane, their family, and their friends.

RESCUE ROAD

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rescue Road on rescuing 8,000 dogs.

Rescue Road is a dog fostering organization based in Little Rock. Their mission is to place adoptable dogs in high-kill shelters into other networks in order to find a permanent home and a loving family. The organization works with their team of volunteers and foster families throughout our State of Arkansas.

In January they placed their 8,000th dog in a home—a great milestone.

I thank all those volunteers involved with Rescue Road for their hard work and for their dedication to helping dogs find their forever homes.

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

ISSUES OF THE DAY

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to discuss three issues. Some have gotten attention, and some have not this week, but all of them are important, and I would say none of them got the attention they deserve.

The first issue to talk about is the size of our Federal debt.

Now, I know, ever since I was a child, people have talked about deficit spending and the amount of the Federal debt that someday the children or grandchildren will have to pay off.

I think it is important to look, though, that this time things really are different. The only time the Federal debt ever got to the total gross national product in this country—which is one way to compare debt at different times in our country's history—was when it actually hit 100 percent at the end of World War II. That is not surprising.

If you know people who lived during World War II, Mr. Speaker, the entire economy was devoted to munitions, a huge percent of our population was in the armed services, and we hit 100 percent.

However—unlike now—when the war ended, it was easy to reduce Federal spending. Hundreds of thousands of troops were, in essence, laid off and sent back to work in the private sector, we stopped building the ships, planes, and tanks we needed during the war, and as a result, over the next 30 years, the amount of the Federal debt dropped from 100 percent of GDP down to around 30 percent. It bounced back and forth around that level, maybe 40 percent, all the way to about 1995.

Even then that was too big, and people commented at the time, but the debt was about 30 to 45 percent of GDP.

Then, beginning with around 2010, things began to shoot up, and in COVID they shot up even more. We are now—or within a couple years will be—where we were at the end of World War II. But there are no tank factories or ship factories to shut down, and we can't lay off hundreds of thousands of troops.

Indeed, any Congressman knows that basically our day is spent attending meetings in our offices when we are here with various groups asking for spending increases and saying that they absolutely need them.

So this time, we really are in a crisis.

Not only are we in a situation in which we are approaching 100 percent of our debt equaling 100 percent of GDP, but because interest rates are going up and the huge increase in debt the last 2 years, the amount we are paying in interest is skyrocketing.

We cannot reduce the interest. If we had interest on our debt—which we anticipate will go up in the next year from \$640 billion a year to \$740 billion a year—that is a \$100 billion spending increase that we have no control over.

As the debt continues to go up and as the Federal Reserve feels—and I was in a committee hearing yesterday both the Republican witnesses and Democrat witnesses felt given what inflation was going on, as the Federal Reserve continues to raise interest rates, the amount of interest that we have to pay every year goes up.

Think about that, Mr. Speaker. We have got about a \$100 billion increase in the difference between what we are going to pay in interest in 2023 and 2024 before we look at anything else.

So the fact that this budget proposal contains more spending is, by itself, deeply concerning. It shows that the basic numbers have not gotten through the heads of the Biden administration, or maybe they feel that by the time we finally hit the wall and the value of the dollar will have a hard time paying off our debt, that he will be in a retirement home and other people will have to deal with it.

But the American public should know that for the first time since World War II, we are approaching hav-

ing the total debt equal to 100 percent of our GDP—a complete crisis.

The next thing to look at is if we must spend more, then where does President Biden feel it has to be spent?

One place it is not going to be spent, one place that we actually have a reduction here, is homeland security. The biggest crisis we have in this country is people streaming across our southern border. But we can find over a 10 percent increase for the Department of Commerce, we can find almost a 10 percent increase for the Department of the Interior, an 11 percent increase for the Department of Labor, and a 19 percent increase for the Environmental Protection Agency, but when it comes down to the one thing that you turn on the TV every night and say, wow, we have to spend more money there, on the Department of Homeland Security there is a 1 percent reduction.

This is where our President is.

We are going to continue to have increased spending across the board—some of which is necessary—but the one place we don't have an increase is homeland security. That and transportation. I take that to be because we just had the huge infrastructure bill and, therefore, we don't need an increase in the spending on transportation.

The other thing I would like to point out, as you dig deeper into the budget, with regard to any agency you look at, Mr. Speaker, you have more money for bureaucrats devoted to dividing America by race: We have to do more to favor this race or that race or this gender or that gender.

That is so offensive and un-American. I am going to address it a lot more in a few minutes. But it is interesting that at the time we are getting the highest amount of debt as a percentage of GDP in my lifetime, the President responds by saying that the one area that we absolutely have to have more in is hiring bureaucrats whose job depends on telling America we have a racist problem and we have to identify people by race. That is a big problem.

So I encourage the American public to pay attention to the budget, pay attention to the fact that we are hitting in our lifetimes the greatest debt ever, and pay attention to the fact that even before we argue and quibble about how much the Department of Education should go up or down or how much we should spend more or less on defense, we are going to have a \$100 billion increase in the amount of interest we pay next year.

The next area to look at—and I mentioned that the Biden administration actually feels we can reduce the total amount we are spending on homeland security—is I wish the press would spend more time seeing what is happening with the children at our southern border.

There was, in retrospect, a relatively small number of children who had to be separated from their parents who had

broken the law, and by court order those children were returned to their parents in either 15 or 30 days. It was a relatively small number.

Now you look, Mr. Speaker, and it varies from month to month, but it is not unusual to have 8,000 to 10,000 unaccompanied children enter this country every month.

Where are all of these people who, a few years ago, were alarmed that some young people would have to spend 2 weeks without their parents, and now we have 8,000 to 10,000 kids a month entering America?

We don't spin them back around and say: Go back to your parents where they belong.

Instead, we look at an address that perhaps is attached to their shirt that says 123 Elm Street, Portland, Oregon, and the Border Patrol or the agencies, like Catholic Social Services, find some way to deliver that child where it says on the address.

Does anybody feel that is outlandish?

I know the individual Border Patrol agencies think how horrible that is.

We do know that sometimes when children come with people who they believe are their parents, the Border Patrol gets suspicious and does DNA tests. It is not unusual to find that people try to bring children across and say that they are their children, you do a DNA test, and you find out they are not. So we already realize there are sketchy things going on down there.

What becomes of these children whom their parents send across the southern border?

Some of them have to go to work. The New York Times had an interesting article about that recently. When parents send their children to work then the children perhaps are supposed to send money back to Central America and to South America.

□ 1245

We know that people who are crossing the southern border—depending upon where they are from—the drug gangs are taking advantage of the open border policy by President Biden, and the drug kings are demanding payment, perhaps payment coming back from America. Is it right that a young child without their parents gets shipped somewhere in America and has to work in some factory, and some of the money is sent to the drug cartels, other money is sent back home to the parents? Is that good? Is that what America wants to encourage? America is responsible for allowing this system to continue. And what do the kids do?

At least The New York Times says they work in factories—maybe there can be safer factories—but they work in factories. How many are working, for example, in the sex trade? Who knows? This is something the press ought to be paying more attention to. I intend to have a hearing on this topic sometime within the next 6 weeks, and hopefully we can find out a little bit more about what happens to these individual kids.

If the people, including the media, who is so alarmed that the kids of parents who have broken the law had to spend a couple weeks apart from their parents, if this media would wake up a little bit, they would find a lot more kids are being permanently separated from their parents or at least separated from them for years and years at the border. If the press would wake up, they would be able to apply the pressure that we need to get these children back to their parents.

I will give another example along the lines of keeping families together. I know that there are devotees of Black Lives Matter who don't believe in the traditional family, they would rather have families without a dad at home, but I still believe that is best. What happens when a child shows up at the southern border with only one parent?

Now, we know in the United States in our court system if the parents are separated, frequently there are court orders. Both mom and dad have to stay relatively close to the child. We don't let one parent grab the child without the other parent signing off and run to a different part of the country.

Nevertheless, the Border Patrol is worried—and they are on the ground—they are worried when they see children show up with one parent and not the other parent. Has anybody adjudicated this? Have any social workers determined this is okay or is it just one parent who doesn't care about the other parent bringing their children here? The United States apparently takes no interest as families are being torn apart.

Again, this is something that my subcommittee will look at, but it shouldn't take that long. It should be the comatose American press corps who right now is paying attention and saying where is the legal documentation that allows you to show up with your parents and the other parent be gone? This desire to get rid of the nuclear family or deprive children from south of the border of their mom or dad is offensive, and the United States is part of it.

I hope that the Biden administration does something about it, and I hope when we ever get around to an immigration bill or that a new President gets in office that the policy is such that we are not going to take one child unless we know where both parents are.

Now, the third issue is an issue that is so dear to President Biden's administration. When he was sworn in as President—I actually attended his inaugural speech, being the bipartisan guy that I am—President Biden addressed racism four times and white supremacy once. I think it is unusual when we obsess over racism in this country. We are obviously about the least racist country that existed, right? People come here from all around the world. People back in the eastern hemisphere fight Tribe against Tribe in Africa. They fight country against country in Europe. Different states or different religions

fight and kill each other in India, but they all come here to America, and they get along just fine.

Nevertheless, Joe Biden is obsessed with the idea that we have a horrible racist country, and we have to weigh in and perhaps give preferences to people one way or the other. So we get the drum beat of racism, racism, racism. We heard it again in his State of the Union speech. In his State of the Union speech, Joe Biden couldn't resist but go after the police in this country and say that Black parents have to tell their children to look out for the horrible police. Even the studies that are now years old show that when adjusted for criminal behavior, adjusted for arrest, there is no greater danger of Black people in the population as a whole in confrontation with police, but Joe Biden, I can only assume because he wants to tear apart America, keeps getting up on the platform saying we have got this racist problem, we have got to look out for the police. It is not true. What is the result of this mindset that we have this horrible racial problem and we have to do something about it?

Joe Biden obviously wants this narrative to continue. The first thing he wants to do is hire a bunch of bureaucrats—more certainly in his proposed budget—hire bureaucrats throughout the Federal agencies to deal with the supposed racial problem and dive in looking for the people you hire, the people you deal with. Let's look at it through the racial prism.

As it so happens—and I think this should be more publicized—America has had a policy of affirmative action since 1965 in this country. That is when President Lyndon Johnson, I think in part in response to the Jim Crow era which had just ended in the south, began a policy of affirmative action. Today, every American business with at least 100 employees or any business with at least 50 employees that does \$50,000 worth of contracting with the government is affected by the affirmative action order that was begun by Lyndon Johnson over 50 years ago.

Obviously, the purpose of affirmative action is to put the thumb on the scale when a company does hiring, when they do promoting, when they do firing. The stated purpose of this massive bureaucracy is to give what was a practical matter amongst the preferences to Americans who basically descend from anywhere around the world other than northern Africa and Europe. I should point out recently President Biden wanted to—or gave notice—that he wants at least people to fill out forms differently. Right now you are considered, I guess, what we will refer to as “white” if you are from north Africa, but President Biden wants to take people from Egypt and Syria, whatever, and give them a new place on the form. I would assume—I am not sure but I would assume—that means more affirmative action for people in that part of the world, as well.

Insofar as companies change their policies to make these forms come up

better or more what they like, it means that you are giving preferences to one group over another group. Even more absurdly, frequently the group you are giving preferences to are immigrants who weren't even here in the United States. I wish we would have hearings on this topic, and I wish the press would delve into this topic and ask: Why if you move here from, wherever, Peru, Pakistan, Philippines, wherever, why in the world should you be treated differently or should a company feel that they have to go out of the way to give preferences to these groups when they have never been subject to any discrimination in this country at all, much less slavery? Why when it comes to African Americans—assuming that we should do this sort of thing, and I am not sure it is right at all, but if we are going to have to do this sort of thing at all, why if somebody moves here from Jamaica or Bahamas or Nigeria or somewhere, comes here for a better life in America when a company hires you or when an American governmental entity hires you, why do these diversity people feel you should be given preference over people who are already here? Does anybody think that is a little bit odd? I think it is something they particular ought to look into because President Biden wants to get so many more people here, including illegally. As a practical matter right now there are a lot of big businesses who feel it will help them in the eyes of the government if they hire people who just immigrated here, maybe people who just immigrated here illegally as opposed to some of the native born.

I will give an anecdote that I repeated in committee the other day. I spoke to a gentleman whose son worked for a major American cabinet department. He was happy with his job. He went to school for the job he got. After 8 or 9 years he wondered why he wasn't moving up, why he wasn't promoted. He was doing a good job. Well, he was told: "You are a white guy who is not a veteran." Of course we give preferences to veterans, too. Now, is that right? If it is right, if people feel from here on out that is the way it is going to be in the United States, shouldn't the agencies that behave this way at least be required to post something saying that if you are going to be held back because you are not a veteran, if you are going to be held back by your race that you should know this before you accept this job? I would think at a minimum we should at least alert the public. It is kind of unusual that we have this problem, but I do feel that some committee or the press, if they want to educate the public about what is going on, ought to delve into this issue a little bit more. These are questions that I think the press ought to ask.

When we embark on this affirmative action policy in which we are picking people by background, does this affect the quality of life in America? Okay. If

when we determine admissions to medical schools or admissions to schools of engineering or something like pilots, when the Biden administration says we have to run all these through the bean counters, do we wind up with perhaps some people who are not as qualified? Does that affect the quality of life in America?

When is a minority entitled to a preference? Is it somebody who is half from a different country, is it a quarter, is it an eighth? Right now you self-identify. ELIZABETH WARREN was something like 1/64th or 128th Native American, and she claimed to be Native American, used it to become a law professor at Harvard. Good for her. Is that right? How about a quarter? Is that right? Half? An eighth? I'm not sure. Is it right that if you move here directly from Spain you are European. If your ancestors came from Spain and spent a few generations in Mexico you are somebody in need of protection? Does that make any sense? I think the press ought to ask that question.

Again, in this country I believe affirmative action was—or we were led to believe—was to a certain extent making up for Jim Crow or even slavery, but if you are somebody who comes here of African descent, from Nigeria or Jamaica, you didn't experience Jim Crow, you didn't experience slavery. Is it right that preferences be given to groups like this?

A lot of times people say it is about diversity. Well, there is such a thing as diversity in background, and maybe we learn different things with different backgrounds, but this is all—or frequently—race related. If I grow up next to somebody who is a quarter Mexican, and we have had the exact same experiences and are best friends and played together on the football team and graduated together from high school, is there really diversity in hiring one of us instead of the other of us or letting one of us in school compared to the other school? That is ridiculous, but that is what the law is currently right now. Of course, I think there are a lot of people that have a vested interest in keeping this going. There are people who, I think, want to destroy America by trying to set people from one area up against another area. There are people that want to protect their jobs, and these could be very good-paying jobs, monitoring this diversity stuff from company to company, and now in order to protect their jobs these programs have to continue to keep on going. They are good-paying jobs, and they are consultants who make well into the six figures whose jobs depend upon this diversity stuff. I hope the press looks into that, sees how much people are making.

The diversity program can favor women, as well. Right now in America, single women under 30 actually make more than single men under 30. Do we need all this paperwork and experts to delve into things to protect the women? I don't know.

I will give a little anecdote. I know a woman, she is retired now, but she was a human resources person for a manufacturing firm that did business with the government. They had over 100 employees.

□ 1300

There were two anecdotes that bothered her and caused her to search me out. One was the company she was with wanted to hire a new engineer. Like many companies do, they hired an independent firm to administer their affirmative action program because they didn't want to get in trouble with the Federal Government.

The affirmative action group told them—although some people say they shouldn't have told them. You want to go from hiring five engineers to six engineers? Well, right now, all five engineers in your company are men. The sixth engineer better be a woman. It doesn't have to be a woman, but if it is not a woman, you have to be prepared to be audited and prove you did all you could to try to hire a woman in that sixth slot.

She didn't really like that. She thought that was wrong. Is that right?

The same thing happened in management. There were four members of what was classified as management. They wanted to hire a fifth. They were told by the experts, who they were paying, in this field: You better look for a minority for that fifth management position. It doesn't have to be a minority, but if the Federal Government audits you, you could get in trouble. You better be able to prove you did all you could to try to hire a minority.

I was back home a few weeks ago and talked to a woman who brought this up on her own. She worked for a financial institution. She said that an opening for a position had been going on for months, but they couldn't hire anybody because all the applicants were White men. Interesting.

Is that right in America? I guess the bank felt you don't want to get on the wrong side of the Federal Government.

In any event, these are three topics that I don't feel the press has paid enough attention to, but I hope they do a better job in the future of alerting the American public to the fact that we are approaching 100 percent of GDP in our debt, the highest since World War II. Unlike World War II, we are not going to lay off or shut down tons of factories making tanks and ships. It is going to be much more difficult this time.

I hope the American public also decides to weigh in when we do have an increase in spending. Is it right? One of only two agencies—at least on this summary; three agencies on this summary of all the agencies we have. Homeland Security, which is in charge of the border, is one of the few that is actually getting a cut.

Does the American public think that is the one agency that is overstaffed and bloated? I am not sure.

I hope the American public and the press corps, which really determines our agenda, pay a little bit more attention to all the unaccompanied minors streaming across the southern border without parents, maybe never to see their parents again.

Who knows what people are doing with them, human trafficked or whatever, but that is what we do right now. Johnny shows up with a note on his shirt: Deliver me to 123 Elm Street, Portland, Oregon.

Yes, sir. We don't ask where your parents are. We are going to deliver him wherever you want. I hope the American public is concerned about that.

Finally, I think, particularly in the days of Joe Biden, where he is trying to hire so many more bureaucrats to administer affirmative action sort of programs, why don't we ask some questions about this, about this program? Who benefits? Do they benefit? Does it affect the overall quality of work in some areas in America?

I think we ought to have that discussion. I know the Supreme Court is having that discussion, but it affects, like I said, a lot more than admissions to school. It affects hiring, both in the private sector and public sector, and it affects government contracting, as well.

Three topics for the press if they are paying attention.

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

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 10, 2023.

I hereby designate the period from Monday, March 13, 2023, through Tuesday, March 21, 2023, as a "district work period" under section 3(z) of House Resolution 5.

KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly an enrolled joint resolution of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.J. Res. 26. Joint Resolution disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Revised Criminal Code Act of 2022.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 4 p.m.

OATH FOR ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

Under clause 13 of rule XXIII, the following Member executed the oath for access to classified information:

Jennifer L. McClellan

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-576. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Adjustable Rate Mortgages: Transitioning From LIBOR to Alternate Indices [Docket No.: FR-6151-F-03] (RIN: 2502-AJ51) received March 8, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-577. A letter from the President, transmitting notification that the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared by Executive Order 12957, on March 15, 1995, is to continue in effect beyond March 15, 2023, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 202(d); (90 Stat. 1257) (H. Doc. No. 118—15); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

EC-578. A letter from the Chief, Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Extension of Import Restrictions Imposed on Certain Archaeological Material of Belize [CBP: Dec. 23-02] (RIN: 1515-AE78) received March 3, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. HOYER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SPANBERGER, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. BALINT, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. PETTERSEN, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. HOULAHAN, Ms. BUSH, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. ROSS, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. TITUS, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. MENG, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Ms. OMAR, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. WEXTON, Ms. TOKUDA, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. CHU, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. MANNING, Ms. PORTER, Ms. SCHRIER, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Ms. SANCHEZ, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mrs. FLETCHER, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. PEREZ, Ms. STRICKLAND, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. WATERS, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. BARRAGAN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mrs. TORRES of Cali-

fornia, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. BROWN, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. WILD, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. CARAVEO, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. BERA, Mr. CARSON, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. PASCARELL, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. SOTO, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. TRONE, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. KILMER, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. BEYER, Mr. EVANS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. SORESENSEN, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. IVEY, Mr. CASAR, Mr. STANTON, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. CROW, Mr. NADLER, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. COSTA, Mr. HIMES, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. MFUME, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. POCAN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. FROST, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. RYAN, Mr. TONKO, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. NEAL, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. COHEN, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. LIEU, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. NICKEL, Mr. KEATING, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. MCCLELLAN, and Mr. CORREA):

H.R. 17. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CURTIS (for himself and Mr. NEGUSE):

H.R. 1527. A bill to improve access for outdoor recreation through the use of special recreation permits on Federal recreational lands and waters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined

by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SANTOS:

H.R. 1528. A bill to require the President to receive an annual comprehensive cognitive evaluation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. LUTTRELL (for himself and Mr. PAPPAS):

H.R. 1529. A bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 2023, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LUTTRELL (for himself and Mr. PAPPAS):

H.R. 1530. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the requirement to publish disability benefit questionnaire forms of Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. STRONG:

H.R. 1531. A bill to provide for the renewed availability of funds to construct the border wall upon the deployment of the National Guard to the southern land border of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. HAGEMAN:

H.R. 1532. A bill to authorize any Indian Tribe to lease, sell, convey, warrant, or otherwise transfer real property to which that Indian Tribe holds fee title without the consent of the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. AUCHINCLOSS (for himself and Mr. McHENRY):

H.R. 1533. A bill to require the Federal banking regulators to jointly conduct a study and develop a strategic plan to address challenges faced by proposed depository institutions seeking de novo depository institution charters; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. BOEBERT (for herself, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. BUCK):

H.R. 1534. A bill to establish the Dolores River National Conservation Area and the Dolores River Special Management Area in the State of Colorado, to protect private water rights in the State, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BUCSHON (for himself and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY):

H.R. 1535. A bill to preserve expiring employment-based visas, and make them available for issuance during fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BUDZINSKI (for herself, Mr. CAREY, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, and Ms. HOYLE of Oregon):

H.R. 1536. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employers a credit against income tax for employees who participate in qualified apprenticeship programs; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BURGESS (for himself, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. CRENSHAW):

H.R. 1537. A bill to amend the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2008 to transfer the custody of an unaccompanied alien child to the Secretary of Health and Human Services or such child's

parent or legal guardian; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARSON (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Ms. SANCHEZ, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. CASE, and Mr. LANDSMAN):

H.R. 1538. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to provide for contracting preferences and other benefits for emerging business enterprises, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. CARTER of Louisiana:

H.R. 1539. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require schools to provide fluid milk substitutes upon request of a student or the parent or guardian of such student, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 1540. A bill to establish a means-tested assistance program for national flood insurance program policyholders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CROW (for himself, Mr. MOLINARO, Mr. THANEDAR, and Ms. SALAZAR):

H.R. 1541. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to include requirements relating to apprenticeship program assistance for small business development centers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Ms. DE LA CRUZ (for herself, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. OGLES, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mrs. LUNA, and Mr. BIGGS):

H.R. 1542. A bill to prohibit Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas from flying on a Federal executive aircraft; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. GARCIA of Texas (for herself, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. ALLRED, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SOTO, Mr. VEASEY, and Mr. GREEN of Texas):

H.R. 1543. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to ensure that the database relating to investigations under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 is language accessible, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas:

H.R. 1544. A bill to adjust the boundary of Big Bend National Park in the State of Texas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:

H.R. 1545. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income certain income from providing real property insurance following certain federally declared disasters; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. JACKSON of Texas (for himself, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. STEUBE, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mr. BOST):

H.R. 1546. A bill to prohibit the use of funds to implement any obligations of the United States under the World Health Organization's Global Pandemic Treaty; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. KEAN of New Jersey (for himself and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 1547. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a study on the costs and benefits of commuter rail passenger transportation involving transfers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. KIM of California (for herself and Mr. GOTTHEIMER):

H.R. 1548. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to specify that actions of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation are not a collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KUSTOFF (for himself and Ms. SPANBERGER):

H.R. 1549. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to prohibit the knowing possession of a pill press mold with intent to manufacture in violation of such Act a counterfeit substance in schedule I or II in a capsule, tablet, and other form intended for distribution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LATURNER (for himself, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, and Mr. GUEST):

H.R. 1550. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to restore and standardize work requirements for able-bodied adults enrolled in the supplemental nutrition assistance program; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. LATURNER (for himself and Mrs. MILLER of Illinois):

H.R. 1551. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to implement a minimum work requirement for able-bodied adults enrolled in State Medicaid programs; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LATURNER (for himself, Mr. MANN, and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas):

H.R. 1552. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to require affirmative consent from the governing body of certain Indian Tribes for jurisdiction to be conferred on the State of Kansas over offenses committed on the reservations of such Indian Tribes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LAWLER (for himself and Mr. GOTTHEIMER):

H.R. 1553. A bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise rules relating to general solicitation or general advertising to allow for presentations or other communication made by or on behalf of an issuer at certain events, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. CROCKETT, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 1554. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide the work opportunity tax credit with respect to the hiring of veterans in the field of renewable energy; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK (for himself, Mr. DUARTE, Mr. PANETTA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. KILEY, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. BROWNLEY):

H.R. 1555. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2300 Sylvan Avenue in Modesto, California, as the "Corporal Michael D. Anderson Jr. Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mrs. MILLER of Illinois:

H.R. 1556. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to modify the definition of navigable waters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS (for herself, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. MURPHY, and Ms. SCHRIER):

H.R. 1557. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to submit a report on the interoperability of medical devices; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MORAN:

H.R. 1558. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to provide that nonnative species in the United States shall not be treated as endangered species or threatened species for purposes of that Act; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. CUELLAR, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama):

H.R. 1559. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to issue an oil and gas leasing program under section 18 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MORAN:

H.R. 1560. A bill to exempt from the Lacey Act and the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 certain water transfers between any of the States of Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NORMAN (for himself, Mr. FRY, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H.R. 1561. A bill to allow States to elect to observe year-round daylight saving time, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PERRY (for himself, Mr. ROY, Mr. BIGGS, and Mr. OGLES):

H.R. 1562. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal certain credits; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROY (for himself, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. SELF, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. HUDSON, and Mr. STEUBE):

H.R. 1563. A bill to prohibit contributions to the United Nations Human Rights Council, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. ROY (for himself, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. TIFFANY, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. OGLES, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. NORMAN, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. BOST, Mr. BURGESS, and Mr. BABIN):

H.R. 1564. A bill to direct the Secretary of State to submit to Congress a report on the designation of the Gulf Cartel, the Cartel Del Noreste, the Cartel de Sinaloa, and the Cartel de Jalisco Nueva Generacion as foreign terrorist organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska (for himself and Ms. SEWELL):

H.R. 1565. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 1566. A bill to permit employees of the House of Representatives who are authorized to possess certain weapons in the District of Columbia to bring such weapons into House

Office Buildings for secure storage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TIFFANY:

H.R. 1567. A bill to require that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior submit accurate reports regarding hazardous fuels reduction activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WALTZ (for himself and Mr. PASCRELL):

H.R. 1568. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to protect personally identifiable information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WALTZ (for himself, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. GAETZ):

H.R. 1569. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior from issuing leases to certain entities affiliated with the Chinese Communist Party, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. WILD (for herself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. MOULTON, Mrs. MCBATH, and Ms. TITUS):

H.R. 1570. A bill to enhance mental health and psychosocial support within United States development and humanitarian assistance programs; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. SEWELL, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. BUSH, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. CHU, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. TOKUDA, and Ms. BROWN):

H. Res. 219. A resolution expressing support for developing supportive, inclusive, safe, and responsive public schools that provide all students with a well-rounded education and prepare all students for success in life and for the exercise of their social and economic rights, fostering parental involvement in education in a manner that builds partnerships and trust between parents and educators, and protecting the civil rights of students and families; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. TLAIB (for herself, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. OMAR, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, and Ms. BUSH):

H. Res. 220. A resolution recognizing violence against women in politics as a global phenomenon and supporting women's full and meaningful participation in political life; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. COHEN,

Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Ms. HOULAHAN, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KILMER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. TONKO, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. MULLIN):

H. Res. 221. A resolution expressing support for designation of March 14, 2023, as "National Pi Day"; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY:

H. Res. 222. A resolution expressing support for approximately doubling funding for Federal career and technical education programs; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia (for himself, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois):

H. Res. 223. A resolution recognizing the significance of Atlanta, Georgia, as the cradle of the civil rights movement; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. COHEN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi):

H. Res. 224. A resolution raising awareness of the racial disparities in the impact of colorectal cancer on the Black community; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. DeLAURO:

H.R. 17.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 provides Congress with the power to "regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."

The single subject of this legislation is:

Equal pay for equal work

By Mr. CURTIS:

H.R. 1527.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 4, Section 3

The single subject of this legislation is:

outdoor recreation on public lands.

By Mr. SANTOS:

H.R. 1528.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

US Constitution, Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require the President to receive an annual comprehensive cognitive evaluation, and for other purposes.

By Mr. LUTTRELL:

H.R. 1529.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof".

The single subject of this legislation is:

Veteran Affairs

By Mr. LUTTRELL:

H.R. 1530.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power “to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof”.

The single subject of this legislation is:
Veteran Affairs

By Mr. STRONG:

H.R. 1531.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts, and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States

The single subject of this legislation is:
Border Security

By Ms. HAGEMAN:

H.R. 1532.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To authorize any Indian Tribe to lease, sell, convey, warrant, or otherwise transfer any real property to which that Indian tribe holds fee title without the consent of the Federal Government, and for other purposes

By Mr. AUCHINCLOSS:

H.R. 1533.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

The single subject of this legislation is:
increasing support for de novo financial institutions.

By Mrs. BOEBERT:

H.R. 1534.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

The single subject of this legislation is:

Designates a portion of the Dolores River Canyon as a National Conservation Area and a Special Management Area.

By Mr. BUCSHON:

H.R. 1535.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 (Commerce Clause)

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 4 (Naturalization Clause)

The single subject of this legislation is:
Immigration

By Ms. BUDZINSKI:

H.R. 1536.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:
Workforce Development

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 1537.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Keeping unaccompanied alien children from harm.

By Mr. CARSON:

H.R. 1538.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Small Business Act to provide for contracting preferences and other benefits for emerging business enterprises, and for other purposes.

By Mr. CARTER of Louisiana:

H.R. 1539.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Interstate Commerce Clause of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Dairy Milk Substitute in School Lunch

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 1540.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (relating to the power of Congress to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with Indian Tribes.)

The single subject of this legislation is:

To create an NFIP affordability program.

By Mr. CROW:

H.R. 1541.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

“The Congress shall have Power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.”

The single subject of this legislation is:

The bill allows Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) to provide assistance to small businesses regarding apprenticeship, pre-apprenticeship, and job training programs.

By Ms. DE LA CRUZ:

H.R. 1542.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII

The single subject of this legislation is:

Bill to help secure the border.

By Ms. GARCIA of Texas:

H.R. 1543.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: “To make Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or office thereof.”

The single subject of this legislation is:

Labor rights

By Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas:

H.R. 1544.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV Section 3 clause 2: “The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States;”

The single subject of this legislation is:

To adjust the boundary of Big Bend National Park in the State of Texas.

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:

H.R. 1545.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power “to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Con-

stitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof”

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill will incentivize property insurance companies to maintain robust presence in an area after a federally declared disaster by providing tax relief in the 5 year period after said disaster.

By Mr. JACKSON of Texas:

H.R. 1546.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Prohibit federal funds from being used to implement any obligations of the United States under the World Health Organization (WHO)’s Global Pandemic Treaty.

By Mr. KEAN of New Jersey:

H.R. 1547.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The U.S. Constitution: Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

The single subject of this legislation is:

Transportation: Commuter Rail Transportation

By Mrs. KIM of California:

H.R. 1548.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To specify that actions of the SEC’s Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation are not a collection of information under the Paper Reduction Act.

By Mr. KUSTOFF:

H.R. 1549.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8, the Necessary and Proper Clause. Congress shall have power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing powers and all Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department of Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill aims to enhance the sentencing and criminality of possession of controlled substances counterfeiting paraphernalia.

By Mr. LATURNER:

H.R. 1550.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill amends the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to restore and standardize work requirements for able-bodied adults enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

By Mr. LATURNER:

H.R. 1551.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill amends the Social Security Act to implement a minimum work requirement for able-bodied adults enrolled in State Medicaid programs.

By Mr. LATURNER:

H.R. 1552.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require consent from Indian Tribes before conferring jurisdiction on the State of Kansas over certain offenses committed on the reservations of such Indian Tribes.

By Mr. LAWLER:

H.R. 1553.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require revisions to Securities and Exchange Commission rules

By Ms. LEE of California:

H.R. 1554.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill will expand the Work Opportunity Tax Credit for Veterans.

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK:

H.R. 1555.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution of the United States of America.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Post office designation.

By Mrs. MILLER of Illinois:

H.R. 1556.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

Transportation

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS:

H.R. 1557.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

The single subject of this legislation is:

Reviewing medical device interoperability standards.

By Mr. MORAN:

H.R. 1558.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Natural Resources

By Mr. MORAN:

H.R. 1559.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Offshore energy

By Mr. MORAN:

H.R. 1560.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Natural Resources; Judiciary

By Mr. NORMAN:

H.R. 1561.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To allow States to elect to observe year-round daylight saving time

By Mr. PERRY:

H.R. 1562.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

This legislation repeals energy tax credits.

By Mr. ROY:

H.R. 1563.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

This legislation will prohibits US funding for the United Nations Human Rights Council.

By Mr. ROY:

H.R. 1564.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution—to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To direct the State Department to designate certain Mexican Drug Cartels as Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs).

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:

H.R. 1565.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

Health Care

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 1566.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To permit employees of the House of Representatives who are authorized to possess certain weapons in the District of Columbia to bring such weapons into House Office Buildings for secure storage.

By Mr. TIFFANY:

H.R. 1567.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Annual report for land management agencies

By Mr. WALTZ:

H.R. 1568.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Trade

By Mr. WALTZ:

H.R. 1569.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Public lands leasing

By Ms. WILD:

H.R. 1570.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of U.S. Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Global health.

H.R. 187: Mrs. LESKO.

H.R. 277: Mr. SCALISE.

H.R. 294: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.

H.R. 396: Mr. ALLRED and Mr. KIM of New Jersey.

H.R. 408: Mr. MOSKOWITZ.

H.R. 437: Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 451: Mr. STANTON and Mr. YAKYM.

H.R. 533: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 537: Mr. OBERNOLTE.

H.R. 547: Ms. BALINT.

H.R. 554: Mr. RYAN.

H.R. 564: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.

H.R. 589: Mr. CORREA and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 618: Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 697: Mrs. FOUSHEE.

H.R. 789: Mr. COHEN and Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 793: Mr. COLE.

H.R. 801: Mr. BARR.

H.R. 813: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER and Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 830: Mr. POSEY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MORELLE, and Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 838: Ms. PEREZ.

H.R. 839: Mrs. LEE of Nevada.

H.R. 901: Mr. GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 903: Mr. STEUBE.

H.R. 906: Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 923: Mr. TIMMONS.

H.R. 976: Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.

H.R. 977: Mr. LATTA.

H.R. 983: Mrs. LUNA.

H.R. 987: Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. MOSKOWITZ,

Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. PORTER, and Ms. MENG.

H.R. 997: Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 1003: Mr. MOULTON and Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 1006: Mr. OBERNOLTE.

H.R. 1020: Mr. CRAWFORD.

H.R. 1074: Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 1082: Mrs. LUNA.

H.R. 1088: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1105: Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN AND Ms. TOKUDA.

H.R. 1130: Mrs. LESKO.

H.R. 1155: Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 1172: Mr. CORREA and Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.

H.R. 1214: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.

H.R. 1228: Mr. GAETZ, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, and Mr. FITZGERALD.

H.R. 1229: Mr. GAETZ and Mr. GOODEN of Texas.

H.R. 1255: Mr. MOSKOWITZ.

H.R. 1267: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 1275: Mr. DESJARLAIS.

H.R. 1279: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. STEUBE, and Mrs. BICE.

H.R. 1282: Mr. MOORE of Utah, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, and Mr. NEAL.

H.R. 1297: Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.

H.R. 1329: Ms. MACE.

H.R. 1359: Ms. PEREZ.

H.R. 1368: Mr. STANTON.

H.R. 1387: Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 1390: Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina and Mr. NICKEL.

H.R. 1408: Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 1414: Mr. DONALDS.

H.R. 1425: Mr. GUEST and Mr. OGLES.

H.R. 1462: Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida and Mr. FINSTAD.

H.R. 1470: Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. GUEST.

H.R. 1503: Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 1507: Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 1518: Mr. OBERNOLTE.

H.R. 1524: Mr. BANKS, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Ms. TENNEY.

H. Res. 86: Mr. BAIRD and Ms. TOKUDA.

H. Res. 114: Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. DOGGETT, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. STEVENS, and Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 7: Mr. MORAN.

H.R. 82: Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, and Mr. BURGESS.

H.R. 163: Mr. VALADAO and Mr. BEAN of Florida.

H. Res. 185: Ms. LEE of California, Ms. NOR-
TON, and Mr. CARSON.

H. Res. 196: Mr. BACON, Ms. DELBENE, Mr.
GRIJALVA, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. TLAIB, and
Mr. COSTA.



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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

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WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2023

No. 46

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 and 25 seconds a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BRIAN SCHATZ, a Senator from the State of Hawaii.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The Senior Assistant Parliamentarian read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 10, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BRIAN SCHATZ, a Senator from the State of Hawaii, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. SCHATZ thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TUESDAY,
MARCH 14, 2023, AT 3 P.M.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 3 p.m. on Tuesday, March 14, 2023.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 9:30 and 50 seconds a.m., adjourned until Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 3 p.m.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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S753

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE SOUTHERN PINES FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR 125 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERV- ICE

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 2023

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Southern Pines Fire Department for 125 years of exceptional service to our community.

The Southern Pines Fire Department was founded on February 13, 1898, following a devastating fire which destroyed the Central Hotel. Prior to its inception, the public was responsible for banding together with buckets of water to put out any fires. In 1916, the town bought its first chemical truck before purchasing Old Betsy, a motorized fire engine, in 1925. After many dances and community events were held to fund the department, the town purchased a new fire engine in 1935. In one of the department's most impressive accomplishments, it saved the Southland Hotel from destruction at the hands of a devastating fire in 1943 and helped all guests escape the disaster without any injuries. This heroic feat marks one of the countless acts of bravery Southern Pines firefighters have performed in the face of danger over the past 125 years. Their outstanding actions and leadership will continue to stand as an example for all first responders to emulate.

I would like to extend my most sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Southern Pines Fire Department for its dependable service and sacrifice. The admirable dedication its firefighters have long extended to protect those in our community does not go unrecognized, and I know I speak for all in our community in wishing them the best as they continue to provide life-saving assistance to those in need.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring the Southern Pines Fire Department for 125 years of exemplary service.

RECOGNIZING CFMA AWARD WINNERS—JULIE SCHATZ

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 2023

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Julie Schatz of Comp Group. Julie is a leader in the complex, intricate industry of construction management. She has been identified and awarded Associate of the Year by the Construction Financial Management Association (CFMA).

CFMA is a figurehead in the construction industry by virtue of its support for financial managers through networking, educational,

and informational services. CFMA grants more opportunities and resources to empower advanced, innovative development of infrastructure in the prosperous district of TX-24. The Associate of the Year award goes to an individual that substantially impacts the DFW chapter of CFMA. Julie has established her commitment, contribution, and influence in the industry as she has emerged as a prominent leader. Her unwavering work ethic and devotion to advocating for her clients yield noteworthy results in the expedition of development projects.

Congratulations to Julie on earning this high recognition for all her impressive work.

CONGRATULATING MR. ERIC RAUN ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER MORE THAN 40 YEARS OF FED- ERAL SERVICE

HON. GLENN IVEY

OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 2023

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate a dedicated professional with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) on the occasion of his retirement. Mr. Eric Raun is an exemplary public servant who has demonstrated the highest standards of professionalism serving our nation's veterans. He has served with VA's Office of General Counsel for more than 40 years. His career in public service is a testament to the importance of selfless service.

For the entirety of his legal career, Mr. Raun has provided guidance to the Secretary and senior officials of the Veterans Health Administration. He has been involved in a remarkable breadth of important matters including health care eligibility reform, the establishment of the medical benefits package, the creation and development of the State Veterans Home program, gifts to VA, mental health care, and countless other issues.

As Mr. Raun embarks on a new chapter in life, it is my hope that he will recall, with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment, the outstanding contributions he has made to VA, Congress, and veterans of the United States. May his life be filled with health and happiness.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE EMER- GING BUSINESS ENCOURAGEMENT ACT OF 2023

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 2023

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I am re-introducing the Emerging Business Encour-

agement Act which will give new small businesses a more equal playing field to secure federal contracts.

Emerging businesses face obstacles that are distinctly different from more well-established small businesses. Under the Emerging Business Act, the Small Business Administration would create a new designation for an Emerging Business Enterprises based on the company's age, size and total compensation. This will encourage meaningful opportunities among like-sized enterprises compared to competition against larger, fully-established enterprises.

Emerging businesses often have trouble securing federal contracts. The Emerging Business Encouragement Act will expand opportunities by requiring federal agencies to set contracting goals for emerging business enterprises equal to or not less than 3 percent of contracts and subcontracts.

Additionally, many emerging businesses have difficulty accessing the capital they need to develop products and hire workers. Under the Emerging Business Encouragement Act, the percentage of federal loan guaranty authority for Small Business Administration loans would increase from 50 percent for all small businesses to 65 percent for emerging business enterprise, providing a significant incentive for lenders to lend to these businesses.

We must support all job creators as our economy continues to recover, but there are significant differences between a startup with only a few employees and an established business with a few hundred employees and decades of experience. This legislation will help these emerging businesses overcome the unique challenges they face in their first few years of operation, and it will ensure these businesses are able to compete for federal contracts and gain access to critical small business loans.

To be certified as an emerging business enterprise, a company must be 10 percent or less the size of the current SBA designation for a small business, which is typically capped at 500 employees.

The company must be less than five years old at the time of certification with annual compensation of individuals in management positions not exceeding 200 percent of the annual mean wage for "Management Occupations" defined by the U.S. Department of Labor. These standards will ensure that those businesses benefiting from EBE programs are truly emerging.

With this bill, we can help entrepreneurs get through their first few years, when so many businesses fail, so they can grow and create jobs. And it provides incentives for lenders to provide capital to emerging businesses, one of the top concerns for entrepreneurs.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in supporting this important bill.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

RECOGNIZING THE 13TH ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL HOCKEY CHALLENGE

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 2023

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 13th annual Congressional Hockey Challenge, a charity game played between our congressional Lawmakers hockey team and the Lobbyists, which has raised over \$1.2 million for charity since 2009. This year's matchup saw the Lawmakers pull out a hard-fought 8-3 win over the Lobbyists, continuing what is now a five-year winning streak.

This year's charities include the Fort Dupont Ice Hockey Club, the nation's oldest minority youth hockey program, founded by iconic U.S. Hall of Fame coach Neal Henderson; four chapters of the Warriors Hockey program, which are teams comprised of disabled American military veterans; and the Professional Women's Hockey Players' Association, an organization committed to the establishment of a professional women's hockey league in North America. Through its partnership with the National Hockey League, Ted Leonsis and the Washington Capitals, Jeremy Jacobs and the Boston Bruins, the Canadian American Business Council, and other key supporters, the annual congressional hockey game aims to ensure that the sport of hockey is accessible to all who wish to play.

In past years, the congressional hockey game has been supported by appearances from NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman, Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly, Hall of Famer Pat LaFontaine, Kevin Weekes, Anson Carter, Peter Bondra, Alan May, and Rod Langway, with play by play at times called by sportscaster Joe Beninati. Legendary Hall of Famer and Congressional Gold Medal recipient Willie O'Ree, who shattered hockey's racial barrier with our Boston Bruins in 1958, has been honored in the past and remains a familiar face of the annual game as an unrivaled ambassador to diversity and inclusion.

This year, our Lawmakers team was once again skillfully helmed by former University of Alaska-Fairbanks captain and my colleague TOM EMMER, along with congressional staff, administration officials, and anchored by Olympic women's hockey standouts Haley Skarupa, Megan Keller, and Hayley Scamurra.

Haley Skarupa, a dynamic and prolific scorer with a name peppered throughout both the NCAA and team record books from her time at our shared alma mater of Boston College, earned a gold medal as a forward during the 2018 Olympic Games in PyeongChang. Another standout BC Eagle, Megan Keller, long regarded as one of the best defensive players in the world, sports a gold medal from the 2018 Olympic campaign and a silver from 2022. And Hayley Scamurra, an elite two-way threat out of Northeastern University with a litany of All-Star, MVP, and Player of the Year awards, brought back home silver from Beijing in 2022. The commanding presence of these three Olympians made this year's game one to remember.

Knowing that events such as these are never easy to organize, it's also important to acknowledge that this year's game was once again supported through the foundational ef-

forts of Nick Lewis, Michelle MacGregor, Tim Regan, Kevin Coroneos, and many others who have selflessly volunteered their time and effort toward the game's sustained success year after year.

Mr. Speaker, it is with this in mind that I once again congratulate all the supporters and participants in this year's Congressional Hockey Challenge and recognize the inspired work of these charities. The Fort Dupont Cannons' devotion to equity in the youth community, the Warriors' provision of opportunity for our veterans, and the PWHPA's commitment to broaden the horizon for female athletes, truly helps to both demonstrate and ensure that hockey is for everyone.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF CORPORAL ROBERT MAHON

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 2023

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of Corporal Robert Mahon of Kansas. Corporal Mahon spent 30 years exemplifying the motto of the United States Marine Corps—Semper Fidelis, or "Always Faithful" in his service to the Third District as a member of the Leawood Police Department and the United States as a Marine.

After graduating high school in Placerville, California, Corporal Mahon joined the United States Marine Corps in October of 1993. Corporal Mahon proudly served four years in the Marines as an anti-tank missile gunner, or "TOW." At his honorable discharge in 1997, his years of leadership and hard work allowed him to rise to the rank of corporal.

Following his discharge, Corporal Mahon moved to Kansas City and began working with the Johnson County Sheriff's Office. On July 19, 1999, Corporal Mahon began his 24-year service to Leawood Police Department. During these years, Corporal Mahon spent much of his time on patrol in addition to a 4 year stint in the traffic unit as a motorcycle officer. He continued to lead as a firearms instructor, armorer, and less-lethal projectile instructor for nearly 15 years.

Corporal Mahon's leadership did not end there. He worked to educate and inspire others as a police marksman, a police cyclist, an active shooter instructor, an original member of the department's honor guard, and was the first Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) drone pilot in the department. His outstanding performance was rewarded with a promotion to the supervisory ranks of the department, and he was named a patrol corporal on May 11, 2019.

Corporal Mahon received the Metro Chiefs and Sheriffs Association Bronze Award for Valor, two Leawood Police Department Life-saving Awards, and the Leawood Police Department's Medal of Valor in 2022. In addition to his career achievements, Corporal Mahon is a devoted husband and father to his wife Vicki, and their children, Garrett, Alyssa, and Julia.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and congratulating Corporal Mahon on his three decades of service and his distinguished career. I thank Corporal Mahon for his leadership and valor and wish him the peaceful and prosperous retirement that he deserves.

RECOGNIZING CFMA AWARD WINNERS—KYRA COKER

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 2023

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kyra Coker of National Roofing Partners. Kyra is a pioneer in the intricate, multidimensional industry of construction management. She is an esteemed awardee for Construction Financial Professional of the Year from the Construction Financial Management Association (CFMA).

CFMA is a figurehead in the construction industry by virtue of its support for financial managers through networking, educational, and informational services. CFMA grants more opportunities and resources to empower advanced, innovative development of infrastructure in the prosperous district of TX-24. Kyra goes above and beyond by fostering innovative perspectives, judicious contributions, and collaboration within her company and community. She has been acknowledged as a prominent leader and mentor to her company. Kyra's remarkable professionalism and sense of community have allowed her company to thrive.

Congratulations to Kyra on earning this high recognition for all her impressive work.

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN ALEXANDER GRAY

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 2023

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a community leader, political activist, talented writer, and dedicated entrepreneur. Kevin Alexander Gray transitioned from this life on March 7, 2023, in Columbia, South Carolina. He was a not-so-gentle giant in the community who tirelessly advocated for improving the lives of those in need, and his presence will be sorely missed.

Kevin Gray was born on July 1, 1957, in Spartanburg, South Carolina. He was raised with his four siblings, by his parents who owned the Spartanburg establishment, "Gray's Groceries". From an early age, Kevin found his voice as a fearless advocate for civil rights and took to political organizing. In 1988, Kevin served as the South Carolina Coordinator for Reverend Jesse Jackson's Presidential campaign. He also worked diligently on the Presidential campaign of Tom Harkin in 1992 and Tom Clements' United States Senate campaign in 2010.

In addition to organizing both state and national political campaigns, Kevin was also a skilled writer. He worked as an editor for Black News of Columbia, South Carolina and as a writer and editor for other African American newspapers across the state. He went on to write, *Waiting for Lightning to Strike: The Fundamentals of Black Politics*, and edit *Killing Trayvons*, among other pieces on activism and the fight for equality.

Kevin understood the connection between good political discussions and good food, and he opened the well-loved Barbeque restaurant

"Railroad BBQ" on Hampton Street, in the shadows of Benedict College and Allen University. The restaurant is adorned with political posters and created a space for enjoying fulfilling food and conversation. Despite opening at the early onset of COVID, it quickly became a cornerstone of the community.

Throughout his life, Kevin was a highly involved member of the community, offering support to families who had lost loved ones to poverty, violence, drug use, or were imprisoned. In formal civic roles he served as head of the Rainbow Coalition, a civil rights organization originally founded by Rev. Jackson and led protests against apartheid in South Africa. He also served eight terms as President of the South Carolina American Civil Liberties Union, and for four years on the national board of the American Civil Liberties Union. He was a key voice in advocating for the removal of the confederate flag from the dome of the South Carolina State House.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in honoring the inspiring life of Kevin Gray. Throughout his life, he remained steadfast in his dedication to his state and furthering the opportunities of all who lived there. His commitment to public service touched the lives of all who knew him, and he will remain cemented in the bedrock of Columbia, South Carolina forever.

HONORING THE LIVES OF CORPORAL BENJAMIN COOPER AND OFFICER JAKE REED

HON. ERIC BURLISON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 2023

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives of Corporal Benjamin Lee Cooper and Officer Jake Alexander Reed, who made the ultimate sacrifice and gave their lives in the line of duty to the Joplin community.

Cpl. Cooper served his country as part of the U.S. Army for eight years and was stationed in Alaska and Hawaii during his service. Following his service in the military, he started a 19-year career in law enforcement beginning with the Joplin Police Department in 2003. He then served as a Sheriff's Deputy in Colorado, before ultimately returning to Joplin. Cpl. Cooper was an avid bowhunter, fisherman, and family man. He is survived by his wife and 2 daughters.

Officer Reed graduated with Honors from MSSU and became a Joplin Police Officer upon graduation. Officer Reed served with the Joplin Police Department for five years. He loved gaming, mountain biking, golfing, and spending time with his family and friends. Officer Reed's commitment to service continues as he spread the gift of life to several recipients as a vital organ donor. He is survived by his wife.

Both lives gone too soon, both lives we must remember forever. Their service to Joplin has left a lasting impact on our community and we owe them an eternal debt of gratitude.

On behalf of Southwest Missouri, I join the Joplin community today in honoring their lives, memory, and lasting impact they will forever have on our community.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT MAJOR JASON M. CANTU

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 2023

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Sergeant Major Jason M. Cantu, who is retiring after 30 years of service to the United States Marine Corps.

Sergeant Major Cantu enlisted in the Marine Corps in December of 1992 and completed his recruit training in September of 1993. Following his training at the School of Infantry, he was assigned as an infantry machine gunner.

Throughout his 30 years of service, Sergeant Major Cantu has been deployed all over the world. In his early years as a Marine, he worked in Cuba to help Haitian and Cuban migrant's humanitarian missions as well as being deployed to South America and West Africa as a part of an air/ground task force and training float.

He was later reassigned Bravo Company 1st Battalion 2nd Marine Regiment where he was a machinegun section leader and deployed to the Mediterranean Sea as part of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit. During this tour, he was promoted to the rank of Corporal, then Sergeant. After a brief stint with the Weapons Training Battalion in Quantico, VA, he returned to the 1st Battalion 2nd Marine Regiment in September 2000. While with the 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment Sergeant Major Cantu, then a Sergeant, served as a section leader for the Combined Anti Armor Team. A year later, the battalion deployed to Okinawa, then Guam, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Then, in January 2003, the battalion deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After serving as a Drill Instructor School at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, CA, Cantu was assigned to the U.S. Naval Mission in Bogota, Colombia. After a stint in Colombia, and then Chile as a Marine Corps representative to the Chilean Marine Corps, Cantu was promoted to First Sergeant in September of 2008. He was deployed to support Operation Iraqi Freedom 9.1 as the Counterintelligence/Human Intelligence Company First Sergeant.

Sergeant Major Cantu rose to his current rank in May 2013 and currently serves as the Squadron Sergeant Major for a Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron.

Sergeant Major Cantu's awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with V and three gold stars, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with two gold stars and the Combat Action Ribbon.

He is the son of a 21-year career Marine and a brother to 7 siblings, 6 of whom also served in the United States Marine Corps and the United States Navy and are comprised of non-commissioned and commissioned officers.

Our country owes the men and women of the United States military an enormous debt of gratitude, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sergeant Major Cantu. It is service men like him that safeguard our liberties and allow the people of this great nation to live under a blanket of freedom.

On behalf of the people of the 12th Congressional District of Texas, we appreciate his outstanding leadership and unwavering com-

mitment to his country. It is my honor to congratulate Sergeant Major Cantu on a job well done.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MASTER TROOPER JAMES BAILEY

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 2023

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Indiana State Master Trooper James R. Bailey, who was killed in the line of duty last Friday, March 3.

A native of Auburn, Indiana, Bailey was a decorated, nearly 16-year veteran of the Indiana State Police force who was named Trooper of the Year for District 12 in 2012 and earned the combat "Action Award" in 2021.

But Bailey's spiritedness and sense of duty wasn't confined to his squad car. In 2010, Bailey was off-duty and leaving lunch from a restaurant with his wife when an 87-year-old man collapsed in the parking lot. He and his wife Amy, a nurse, rendered CPR and saved the man's life. Three times, he was diagnosed with cancer. Three times, he beat it. "I'm pretty stubborn," Bailey said. "You have two options. One is to go into a corner and pout. The second is to fight and be stubborn." That's who James Bailey was: A public servant dedicated to the last, and a warrior whose triumphs he insisted be understated.

In response to being called a hero, Trooper Bailey demurred, "It's what we do, it's what we are trained to do, and that's why we get into this profession." But I want to be very clear, especially to his children, Joseph and Sophia: Their dad was a hero. That is how he will be remembered.

We will never forget his service and sacrifice to Northeast Indiana. God bless the Bailey family and God bless all law enforcement officers who risk their lives every day to keep our families and communities safe.

RECOGNIZING CFMA AWARD WINNERS—TIMOTHY HESS

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 2023

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Timothy Hess of Azteca-Omega Group. Timothy is a champion in the multi-dimensional, elaborate industry of construction management. He is a distinguished awardee for Executive of the Year from the Construction Financial Management Association (CFMA).

CFMA is a figurehead in the construction industry by virtue of its support for financial managers through networking, educational, and informational services. CFMA grants more opportunities and resources to empower advanced, innovative development of infrastructure in the prosperous district of TX-24. Timothy has made a significant impact on his company, industry, and colleagues in North Texas. He has been recognized by CFMA as a leader within the community that empowers

his cohorts and initiates an efficient, responsible workplace atmosphere. Timothy's exceptional professionalism has permitted his company, community, and industry to flourish.

Congratulations to Timothy on earning this high recognition for all his impressive work.

TRIBUTE TO KRIS JORDAN

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 2023

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to commend to the House the memory of Kristopher W. Jordan of Ostrander, who died unexpectedly at the age of 46 on February 25. Kris ably served the people of Delaware County in the Ohio House of Representatives.

Kris was a man of strong faith and strong conservative credentials. He was a leader of the pro-life movement in the General Assembly and a champion of smaller government throughout his time in government service, which included 8 years in the Ohio Senate and 6 as Delaware County Commissioner.

His dedication and connection to the people of his district was so strong that he would knock on thousands of doors each election season even when running unopposed.

Mr. Speaker, we are grateful that good men like Kris Jordan are willing to dedicate themselves to public service. We offer his family and especially his 3 children—Macy, David, and Everly—our deepest condolences at this difficult time.

RECOGNIZING ROSEANNE BUTLER-SMITH

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Roseanne Butler-Smith on her retirement from many years of dedication and service to Western New York's Public Libraries.

Roseanne began her career in 1987, working part-time at the Lancaster Public Library and was appointed a full-time librarian in January 1988. She continued her career moving throughout our vital public libraries, serving as Library Director for the Cities of Tonawanda, Clarence and Amherst. She also served as a member of the New York State Library Association, American Library Association, and Public Library Association. Throughout her

time, she always put the needs of the library patrons first, ensuring that these public resources could continue to provide meaningful service to the members of their communities.

During her time as Library Director for the Town of Amherst, budget cuts eliminated funding for the Williamsville Public Library. Roseanne was responsible for helping to keep its doors open through various creative fundraising efforts. These included hosting the Winter Gala. This annual fundraiser started in 2012 and has grown tremendously over the years, successfully raising thousands of dollars for the Williamsville branch. Other fundraising efforts included hot dog sales at the Glen Park Arts Festivals and raffle events. Roseanne even delayed her retirement to ensure she could oversee the completion of the Audubon expansion—an anecdote that perfectly encapsulates the commitment she showed to our library system.

Today, I ask that you join me in celebrating Roseanne Butler-Smith on her retirement and unwavering dedication to Western New York. She has made extraordinary contributions over her career, ensuring that these libraries stay open and operating for all members of the community to enjoy. I'm confident that Roseanne's retirement will be marked by spending time with her husband Gordie and their children, traveling, and as always, settling down with a good book.

HONORING RETIRED COLONEL GUY KENT TROY FOR A LIFETIME OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO OUR NATION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 2023

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retired Colonel Guy Kent Troy for a lifetime of exemplary service to our nation.

After graduating from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1946, Col. Troy was commissioned as an Armor Officer and began 30 years of dedicated military service on assignment with the Constabulary Force in Germany. In some of his most impressive achievements in the military, he would go on to serve as the Advisor for Iranian Armored and Cavalry Units in Iran, the G2, Intelligence Officer with the 25th Infantry Division during the Tet Offensive in Vietnam, and the Defense Attaché in Austria. Col. Troy also served in numerous other positions in Germany and the U.S. prior to retiring from the military in 1976. He then returned to his family's property in Liberty, NC, where he resides to this day, and dedicated himself to his community as a farm-

er after attending North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University.

In addition to his distinguished military service, Col. Troy also served our nation as a world-class athlete. He was stationed at West Point in the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment after returning from Germany in 1950 to train for the 1952 Modern Pentathlon Team. This event consists of horse riding and jumping, fencing, swimming, running, and pistol shooting. His team won gold in the 1951 Pan American Games and finished fourth in the 1952 Olympics in Finland. His work ethic, determination, and success on the international stage represents the very best of our nation and serves as inspiration for all.

On March 15, 2023, Col. Troy will turn 100 years old. I would like to extend to him my most heartfelt appreciation for his indispensable service and leadership as an American soldier, athlete, and farmer over the course of his lifetime. I know I speak for our entire community in wishing him and his family the best going forward.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring retired Colonel Guy Kent Troy for his outstanding service and leadership to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING CFMA AWARD WINNERS—CAROLYN BRISTER

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 2023

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Carolyn Brister of Momentum Mechanical. Carolyn is a groundbreaker in the complex, multifaceted industry of construction management. She is an honorable awardee of the Chairman's Coin and the Bob Moulder Award from the Construction Financial Management Association (CFMA).

CFMA is a figurehead in the construction industry by virtue of its support for financial managers through networking, educational, and informational services. CFMA grants more opportunities and resources to empower advanced, innovative development of infrastructure in the prosperous district of TX-24. Carolyn paves the way to progress the mission of CFMA off the back of her prudent contributions and momentous partaking. The Chairman's Coin is awarded to exceptional professionals that exemplify their service and distinction to CFMA. Carolyn has earned her marks amongst an elite group of associates.

Congratulations to Carolyn on earning this high recognition for all her impressive work.

Friday, March 10, 2023

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

The Senate met at 9:30:25 a.m. in pro forma session, and adjourned at 9:30:50 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Tuesday, March 14, 2023.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 45 public bills, H.R. 17, 1527–1570; and 6 resolutions, H. Res. 219–224, were introduced. **Pages H1277–79**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H1281–82**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Mace to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H1253**

COVID–19 Origin Act of 2023: The House passed S. 619, to require the Director of National Intelligence to declassify information relating to the origin of COVID–19, by a ye-a-and-nay vote of 419 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 143. **Pages H1255–60**

H. Res. 199, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 140), the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 27) and the bill (S. 619) was agreed to Wednesday, March 8th.

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, March 14th. **Page H1277**

Providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress: The House agreed to take from the Speaker’s table and agree to H. Res. 197, providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress, as amended by Representative Steil. **Pages H1261–63**

Work Period Designation: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he designated the period from Monday, March 13, 2023, through Tuesday, March 21, 2023, as a “district work period” under section 3(z) of House Resolution 5. **Page H1277**

Quorum Calls—Votes: One ye-a-and-nay vote developed during the proceedings of today and appears on page H1260.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Committee Meetings

U.S. AND ADVERSARY HYPERSONIC PROGRAMS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces held a hearing entitled “U.S. and Adversary Hypersonic Programs”. Testimony was heard from Michael White, Principal Director for Hypersonic, Office of the Director of Defense Research and Engineering (Modernization), Department of Defense; Michael Horowitz, Director, Emerging Capabilities Policy Office, Department of Defense; Vice Admiral Johnny R. Wolfe, Jr., Director, Strategic Systems Programs, U.S. Navy; Lieutenant General Robert Rasch, Director, Hypersonics, Directed Energy, Space, U.S. Army; Lieutenant General Donna Shipton, Military Deputy, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, U.S. Air Force; and Paul Freisthler, Chief Scientist for Science and Technology, Defense Intelligence Agency.

DEFENDING AMERICA'S WIRELESS LEADERSHIP

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing entitled "Defending America's Wireless Leadership". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

HOW DO WE ENCOURAGE GREATER FLOOD INSURANCE COVERAGE IN AMERICA?

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance held a hearing entitled "How Do We Encourage Greater Flood Insurance Coverage in America?". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

2022 MIDTERMS LOOK BACK SERIES: SUCCESSES IN THE 2022 MIDTERM ELECTIONS

Committee on House Administration: Subcommittee on Elections held a hearing entitled "2022 Midterms Look Back Series: Successes in the 2022 Midterm Elections". Testimony was heard from Chris Anderson, Supervisor of Elections, Seminole County, Florida; Kyle Ardoin, Secretary of State, Louisiana; Frank LaRose, Secretary of State, Ohio; and a public witness.

REINING IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE STATE: RECLAIMING CONGRESS'S LEGISLATIVE POWER

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Administrative State, Regulatory Reform, and Antitrust

held a hearing entitled "Reining in the Administrative State: Reclaiming Congress's Legislative Power". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

PRESIDENT BIDEN'S FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET REQUEST WITH TREASURY SECRETARY YELLEN

Committee on Ways and Means: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "President Biden's Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Request with Treasury Secretary Yellen". Testimony was heard from Janet L. Yellen, Secretary, Department of the Treasury.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY,
MARCH 14, 2023**

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to hold hearings to examine United States Space Force programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2024 and the Future Years Defense Program, 4:45 p.m., SR-222.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

3 p.m., Tuesday, March 14

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Brent Neiman, of Illinois, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury, with a vote on the motion to invoke cloture at 5:30 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

4 p.m., Tuesday, March 14

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 4 p.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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