

The current debt is at \$23 trillion, which amounts to \$70,000 per American. It continues to compound year after year after year without any relief in sight.

It is estimated that the national debt will rise to 93 percent of GDP in the next 10 years. That means that for every \$100 that this Nation makes, \$93 would have to go toward servicing our debt.

Mr. Speaker, this is a national tragedy. We are bankrupting our children and our children's children's future. We must stop this impending disaster. I urge my colleagues and associates to help us address real solutions.

TEXAS HAS HISTORICALLY LED NATION IN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to take a stand against Governor Abbott of Texas and his decision to end our refugee resettlement in my home State of Texas. This decision is going to welcome xenophobia and bigotry and is contrary to the values that we hold dear in Texas.

Texas, as some of you may or may not know, has historically led our Nation in refugee resettlement. Our State has always opened its doors to people in need and welcomed refugees with open arms to provide an opportunity for refugees to contribute to the general common good of all Texans.

Texas has now become the first State—I say that with shame—to bar resettlement of those fleeing violence and religious persecution. This isn't what we stand for in Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Governor to look at Tarrant County, which is the county that I live in, and the decision that they made to continue taking refugees.

As of today, the courts have stayed this heinous order. This decision still sets a dangerous precedent.

I urge him to reverse his decision and show the rest of the Nation that Texas stands for inclusion, and let these churches—evangelical churches, liberal churches, Black churches, White churches—work together on these refugee programs. Let's let them continue to work together for the greater good of the country.

□ 1715

IRAN PROTESTERS

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

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, the people of Iran are protesting the current Iranian regime that has for decades suppressed the Iranian people and denied them the freedoms that we as Americans hold near and dear. The Iranian people are protesting to hold the Ira-

nian Government responsible for the history of brutality against its own citizens and the world.

They are marching in the streets for the 1,500 Iranians killed by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard in December of 2019. They are marching in the streets for the deaths of 82 Iranians, 63 Canadians, 20 Ukrainians, 4 Afghans, 4 Britons, and 3 Germans when the Iranian military destroyed the passenger plane upon which they were flying. They are marching in the streets against years of brutality at the hands of the Supreme Leader and the terrorist Iranian Revolutionary Guard.

Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker, these people are marching for their freedom and the future of their country.

President Ronald Reagan in his farewell address to our Nation described our country as a bright, shining city on a hill that served as a beacon for freedom-loving people everywhere. As that beacon, we must stand with the protesters who seek freedom from this brutal regime.

HEALTHCARE

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

Ms. WEXTON. Mr. Speaker, before coming to Congress, I served for 5 years in the Virginia General Assembly, and the proudest vote I ever took in Richmond was to pass Medicaid expansion in Virginia.

Today, as a result of that expansion, more than 375,000 Virginians now have coverage under Medicaid. It has been a win-win for everyone involved—for those who would otherwise go uncovered and for the hospitals and healthcare providers who often provide service to the uninsured without compensation. A recent study has even suggested that Medicaid expansion has saved thousands from opioid overdoses.

Medicaid expansion saves lives, and the success we have seen in Virginia is thanks to the Affordable Care Act.

Americans need to know that while my colleagues and I are fighting to protect and strengthen the ACA, Donald Trump and the congressional Republicans are in court right now working to strike down the ACA with no plan or replacement.

Without the ACA, Medicaid expansion, which covers 17 million Americans, is in jeopardy, and so is coverage for more than 130 million Americans with preexisting conditions. With so much at stake, I urge my Republican colleagues to end their attacks. In the meantime I will continue to fight back.

KERRY MCCOY PRESERVE ARKANSAS AWARD

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

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Kerry

McCoy who is being honored with the 2019 Special Recognition for Outstanding Stewardship from Preserve Arkansas.

In 1975 Kerry founded her successful business, Arkansas Flag and Banner, with \$400 in savings, and to start she sold flags door to door.

In 1990 she expanded the business by purchasing the famed, yet neglected, historic Taborian Hall in Little Rock, Arkansas. Built in 1916, Taborian Hall once hosted legendary entertainers like Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, B.B. King, and Etta James.

Throughout the 1990s and early 2000s, Kerry slowly and meticulously renovated Taborian Hall. In 2009 she founded the nonprofit Friends of the Dreamland Ballroom to save and protect the space that had once been the centerpiece of the hall. Kerry has since produced a documentary and published a book about the building. And I was proud to support her grant for a Civil Rights Preservation Grant from the National Park Service in 2018.

I applaud Kerry for the efforts to preserve Taborian Hall and the Dreamland Ballroom, and I congratulate her on this special recognition from Preserve Arkansas.

CONGRATULATING THE NDSU BISON

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

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the NDSU Bison football team for winning the FCS National Championship.

On January 11, NDSU defeated James Madison University 28-20 in a thrilling game that came down to the final seconds. Bison quarterback Trey Lance racked up 166 yards on the ground during the game and finished the season with 28 touchdowns and zero interceptions. He is the first freshman ever to win the Walter Payton Player of the Year Award and the Jerry Rice National Freshman of the Year Award.

Bison safety James Hendricks intercepted a pass on the goal line to ice the game and ensure another Bison National Championship.

They finished the season 16-0, the first NCAA team to do so since Yale in 1884. During this unprecedented run, NDSU has won eight championships in 9 years and compiled a record of 128-8. They have lost only eight games in 9 years, and they have defeated five FBS schools along the way, two of which were ranked at the time they played NDSU.

Congratulations to the players, coaches, and fans of the most dominant college football program in this country.

And a special happy birthday to Bison fan Jessica Unruh.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. King lived a life dedicated to serving and being a voice for the oppressed across our Nation. His message of nonviolence resonated with many Americans during a tumultuous period of our history when basic civil rights were being denied to many based on the color of their skin.

Drawing inspiration from his Christian faith, Dr. King believed his protests were the strongest weapon to achieve freedom and equality. In the end he paid the ultimate price, choosing courage over fear to overcome hatred and ignorance.

He famously preached: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

Because of Dr. King's influence, all Americans can gather together to celebrate diversity and the growth of human rights for each of us. I hope that everyone will join me in commemorating and remembering Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., for his leadership, his sacrifices, and his legacy.

UNDER ROE V. WADE WE ARE KILLING A BABY A MINUTE

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

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, because of Roe v. Wade, we are killing a baby a minute.

Mr. Speaker, another baby just lost its life.

JOHN WALCZAK'S RETIREMENT FROM FAA

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize John Walczak. He is retiring after an impressive 37 years and 2 months at the FAA. He started working at the FAA in 1982 as a student through Stockton State College now called Stockton University.

He learned three computer languages: Ultra, JOVIAL, and Basic Assembly Language. He started working full-time in 1984 as a computer programmer and worked his way up the ranks over the years to become STARS DT&E Test Director, which eventually would become IDQT Test Director. He was also the application lead for requirements. John retired on January 3, 2020.

I thank John, his community thanks him, and his country thanks him for

his service. Our world is safer because of John and the work that he has done.

We are so unbelievably proud of your accomplishments, John. Congratulations, and may God bless you.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to represent the Congressional Progressive Caucus where we have close to 100 members all across the country that are pushing forward our progressive values that I think are extremely important, especially in a district like mine, frontline communities and many communities of color that are suffering from issues around poverty, jobs, environment, education, disinvestment, and so forth. So I am very honored to be representing our caucus today with the Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN), who is my good colleague from New Jersey.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

I rise in support of the resolutions presented by my friends from California, Congresswoman LEE and Congressman KHANNA. They are long overdue.

The actions of this President over the last few weeks are an escalation of the reckless, arrogant, and ignorant foreign policy of this White House, if you can even call these hasty decisions a policy. The President's actions lack a coherent strategy. He lacks an understanding of history, and he lacks the foresight to see the consequences of his actions.

Last week, the House and the Senate received briefings that failed to answer our questions about the basic facts behind the decision to kill Major General Qasem Soleimani. Republican Senators themselves said the briefing was so poorly presented that they left more opposed to the President's actions than before they were briefed.

In other words, the more we learn about this debacle, the less faith anyone has in the White House's ability to make these decisions.

Some of the questions asked by Members of Congress in that briefing went unanswered for so-called security reasons. Yet they were later addressed in interviews and press conferences by members of the administration as they tried to cover for the President's lies and obfuscations.

That is why I will join Democrats, and hopefully any Member of the House unwilling to watch us enter another endless war, in voting for these bills to limit the President's ability to engage in further aggression with Iran and

keep American troops out of harm's way.

The President has spent the days since his ill-advised attack blustering to reporters and on twitter, including threatening to attack cultural sites, a war crime of which the only outcome would be maiming and killing civilians.

Just last week he ticked off a list of Iranian aggressions that he claimed were the result of the Iran deal. In fact, each event he cited occurred only after his foolish decision to pull out of the deal. These resolutions are critical to curtailing any further misguided action by President Trump.

The fact is, this action that he has taken makes Americans less safe. It threatens our diplomats abroad with retribution, it threatens our military personnel in the region, and it threatens Americans working in the region.

Many, many years ago, Senator George McGovern said: "I am fed up to the ears with old men dreaming up wars for young men to die in." Well, I am fed up too, and so are the American people.

Reports suggest the President thought this move would be celebrated by Americans. But I speak for myself and the hundreds of constituents who have messaged me when I say: No more, Mr. Trump. We don't want this war. We don't want war with Iran. No continuing escalation, no more killings, and no more sending our daughters and sons into harm's way to appease the fragile egos of the men in the White House.

I call on all my colleagues to support the resolutions of my colleagues, Ms. LEE and Mr. KHANNA.

And I send a clear message to the White House: Your days of reckless misadventures with the lives of Americans are over.

□ 1730

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE), my colleague and good friend.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for organizing this Special Order on this really important topic.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, we held a hearing in the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on the administration's actions in Iran. Over the past few weeks, the United States and Iran have come closer to outright war than any time in our history. However, despite the seriousness of the situation, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo refused to appear.

The Framers of the Constitution gave the power to declare war solely to the Congress of the United States, the elected representatives of the people. The reason they did that is they wanted to prevent a President from making the decision to take the country to war without the support of the American people.

As we think about the President's decision, the only lens through which we