

Capitol, representing the State of Nebraska. With these three monuments, thousands of Nebraskans and millions from around the world will come now to know the Poncas and their story.

Unfortunately, social disconnects of racial disparity and basic human rights still exist in our country. In recognizing the Ponca Tribe's abundant history, we highlight a story of oppression, despair, struggle, and perseverance.

Today, we honor and celebrate the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska and every Native American once considered a half person. American author and civil rights activist Audre Lorde once said: "It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences." Now more than ever, we must unite as Americans and celebrate our diversity to heal the wounds of social injustice.

BIODEFENSE MUST BE BIPARTISAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in recognition of the passage of H.R. 7574, the Strengthening America's Strategic National Stockpile Act, which builds on the bipartisan work done by the Energy and Commerce Committee on pandemic preparedness issues.

I am honored to have co-lead this bipartisan bill with my colleague Congresswoman SLOTKIN from Michigan. I also thank Ranking Member BURGESS and Chairwoman ESHOO, who has been a longtime champion on biodefense issues, and importantly, the Energy and Commerce Committee staff for their tireless bipartisan work on this legislation.

I think all of us can agree that biodefense must be a bipartisan issue. COVID-19 has clearly exposed weaknesses in our Nation's public health infrastructure.

I have spent a good part of my career in Congress focused on biodefense and pandemic response legislation.

I became a U.S. attorney back in 2001, just one month after the 9/11 attacks on our country. Shortly after that were the anthrax attacks here on our Nation's Capitol. In my U.S. Attorney's Office, we actually received a hoax anthrax attack, which served as a stark reminder of the importance of staying vigilant and the threat that even a single individual can pose.

As former chairwoman of the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, we worked on things like Project BioShield.

When we talk about biodefense, people often think about things more commonly known: chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear threats. Pandemic threats though are yet, as we are learning, some of the most dangerous threats to everyday Americans.

Every bit as complex as cyber threats, more of an imminent threat in the 21st century than even conventional conflicts, biotreatments can come from anywhere. Bad actors, malicious organizations or nation-states, random industrial accidents, or even an act of nature can be the original source. And once events like this begin to unfold, they can be extremely hard to predict and respond to.

That is why I am glad that we continue to focus on this and have been proud to have been part of co-leading the package, which we hope will dramatically improve our Nation's ability to respond to these threats. I am very proud that Congress came together to get this done.

The Strategic National Stockpile is a cornerstone of our Nation's biodefense infrastructure. It is responsible for keeping large quantities of pharmaceuticals, medical countermeasures, personal protective equipment, and other lifesaving products for rapid deployment in the event of an emergency.

This bill builds on the bipartisan work done by the Energy and Commerce Committee when last year, in June 2019, the Pandemic All-Hazards Preparedness Act was reauthorized and signed into law by President Trump. Our committee's work has continued to improve our Nation's response to pandemic events.

I commend Ranking Member WALDEN and Ranking Member GUTHRIE of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee for their incredible work on Energy and Commerce Committee's Second Wave Preparedness Project. This critical report will serve as the most detailed analysis thus far of our Nation's public health response to date, and some of their recommendations were in this legislative package.

The Strengthening America's Strategic National Stockpile Act addresses these shortcomings and will improve the ability of the SNS to manage and maintain its inventory, empower it to partner with industry to reshore some of our most critical manufacturing infrastructure, dramatically increase transparency of the stockpile, and create innovative new programs to help States create their own stockpiles.

I thank all the Members of the House for their unanimous support of this important legislation because biodefense must be bipartisan to keep this country safe.

□ 0945

UNLEASHING THE SPIRIT OF THE AMERICAN DREAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the chairman of the Republican Study Committee's American Worker Task Force. This task force was established to provide policy recommenda-

tions to empower millions of American workers to reclaim their version of the American Dream.

This task force, really, Mr. Speaker, is all about the American Dream, which is the idea that the condition of your birth should not determine the outcome of your life and that, in America, because of the blessings of freedom that we are given, anyone, regardless of race, color, creed, gender, or any station in life, through hard work, persistence, and determination, can achieve upward mobility, can achieve his or her God-given potential, and can realize that American Dream.

This afternoon, the American Worker Task Force will unveil its report to change flawed policies from Washington, D.C., to unleash the spirit of the American Dream and to give workers their opportunity at upward mobility.

First, we are going to propose policy changes that will refocus labor policy to unleash American workers and allow them to realize their God-given potential. This includes increasing opportunities for apprenticeships, not just Department of Labor, Washington-directed, centrally planned registered apprenticeships, apprenticeships that may or may not yield fruitful careers in in-demand jobs in the labor market, in the real world, but, instead, also recognizing apprenticeships that are industry-recognized, industry-driven, and that meet the jobs that are actually available in the labor market.

We are going to be proposing ideas about eliminating overly restrictive occupational licensing requirements and giving workers greater flexibility in the way they are compensated, to choose comp time as opposed to just overtime.

Secondly, we want to reimagine our failed welfare policies to remove the trap of government dependency and, instead, create a system that propels American individuals and families to extraordinary success and prosperity.

This includes providing alternatives to the failed Housing First policies: to provide Americans access in housing assistance with wraparound services to actually meet those individuals where they are; to provide them with career counseling and perhaps, if needed, addiction recovery services and financial literacy.

We want second-chance employees to have access to the labor market. Whether they have been incarcerated before, whether they are struggling with an addiction, whether they have failed to get the skills that they need, we believe that second-chance and third-chance employees are desperately needed in America's economy today.

We also want work incentives for able-bodied, work-capable adults, especially those without dependents, because we know that work is a blessing; work is not a punishment.

And, third, we want to refine our education system to debunk the bachelors-

or-bust mentality, to encourage innovative careers and better equip American workers with the skills they need to adapt and thrive in the ever-changing 21st century economy. That means in preparing people for higher education, it is not just about a 4-year degree; it is also about career and technical education, skills-based education.

We believe that there should be deductibility for up-skilling so that employers can give workers the skills that are needed for them to move and advance in their careers.

We think there should be transparency outcomes in higher education. And we think, to deal with the student loan debt crisis, we need to recognize that the return on investment is very important, and career and technical education can provide that opportunity.

We believe in income-sharing agreements as an alternative to the debt trap of Federal student loans.

The policies that constitute these three key policy platforms are the result of over a year and a half of deliberations by task force members. We conducted listening sessions with think tanks and policy experts, small business owners, and workers from across our districts.

Mr. Speaker, in the Sixth Congressional District of Kentucky, which I represent in Congress, I have already seen the benefits of investing in career and technical education and job training.

The Kentucky Welding Institute in Fleming County, Kentucky, graduates students in less than 6 months, readying them for careers in welding that can earn them over \$100,000 a year.

In Estill County, Kentucky, the Estill County Area Technical Center, currently under construction, will be a state-of-the-art job training facility that is scheduled to open in August of 2021. Kentuckians will train for jobs in advanced manufacturing, in diesel mechanics, health sciences, information technology and science technology, engineering and math, in addition to many other industries.

I am proud to have supported a \$4 million grant from the Economic Development Administration that will yield a return on investment in just a few months, graduating taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, this report could not be a more timely endeavor in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing economic uncertainty that has followed.

Although progrowth tax, regulatory, and trade policies have enabled unemployment to come back down to single digits and the stock market to rebound, Americans still need Congress to take up a bold, comprehensive agenda to pave the way for more jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage everyone to consider these very important pro-worker recommendations.

HONORING KELLY KREEGER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

California (Mr. LAMALFA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, sadly, I rise today to honor a friend, Ms. KELLY Kreeger, who lost her life this past summer on July 5.

Kelly was killed in a midair collision above the lake at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. She was, indeed, doing what she loved as a flier, as an aviation enthusiast, and as a pilot.

Her loss is felt throughout our district by her friends, her family, and even, very personally, our office. We have one of our offices at the Auburn Airport, so our interactions with her and other aviators was quite frequent.

Like many in Placer County in northern California, we are mourning the loss of this friend, a patriot. She was such a good, genuine person, whom I got to know personally through our many interactions.

She devoted much of her time to our community, to our veterans, and it is through Kelly, of course, that I met and formed a friendship with a great, great veteran, Colonel Bud Anderson, who is a World War II triple ace fighter pilot. It was just this summer she organized an event for him at his home to honor him for his birthday.

I am very grateful to Kelly for the introduction to Colonel Anderson, of course, a man I am honored to call my friend as well.

She frequently staffed and organized the events in the community for Colonel Bud that were certainly befitting his World War II accomplishments. They had a street naming for him near the airfield, just so many ways that he was to be honored properly. What a great man he is, and so their association was certainly a natural one.

My staff and I are blessed, of course, to be part of the many events that Kelly was famous for. Included were several P-51 Mustang flyovers, which anybody who loves aircraft loves those; the Never Forget series; road dedications, as I mentioned, at the Auburn Airport named for Colonel Bud; birthday parties for Colonel Bud; and, of course, honoring the men and women of World War II, the Greatest Generation.

Whenever Kelly would call, you knew that something wonderful was about to happen that she had planned. It was the sort of thing that could make you stand up a little taller and get your red, white, and blue out.

Kelly, of course, being a great patriot, loved the United States of America, from her American flag cowgirl boots to the infectious smile she shared with all she met. Indeed, that captures who she is right there in that photo. You wouldn't hardly see her without a smile, especially when she was taking part in her much-greater-than-a-hobby love for aircraft, aviation, and the people and the veterans associated.

As I mentioned, it was my privilege to be part of the Flag Day Parade for Colonel Bud in Auburn as well. She brought together children, Jeeps, clas-

sic cars, and even a flyover to bring Colonel Bud that much more joy.

During this time of pandemic when everybody is shut in, of course, we all shared that same joy. It brought a sense of community, a sense of remembering who America is, even though we have all been pent up for all this time that, indeed, this virus is temporary and we will be together as a community once again.

Our Nation and its people are strong, and nothing will stop us from celebrating our heroes. Kelly embodied that.

Kelly was known to like loud, fast cars, indeed, after my own heart there as well. She was able to rebuild an engine herself and was not afraid of any hard work.

She is survived by her mother, Nancy, and two sisters; her brother, David; many nieces and nephews; and her lifelong best friend, Vicki.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that Members please join me in prayers for Kelly's family and friends in this difficult time. Join with my office as we personally feel this pain of her loss.

At this time, we just ask blessings on Kelly and those closest to her. God bless her.

We will never forget you.

WE SHOULD NEVER AGAIN DEPEND ON FOREIGN SUPPLIERS FOR SUPPLIES WE NEED TO KEEP AMERICANS SAFE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and thank my colleagues in the House for passing my bill, the Strengthening America's Strategic National Stockpile Act, with bipartisan, unanimous consent to ensure we never again depend on foreign suppliers for supplies we need to keep Americans safe.

This bill was truly a bipartisan effort: 10 Democrats and 10 Republicans joined me in introducing the bill. It was endorsed by the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus and passed out of the Energy and Commerce Committee on a similar unanimous, bipartisan vote.

At a time when divisions in Congress can seem insurmountable, this bill is an example of what we can accomplish, even in our country's most challenging moments, when we focus on the mission.

In this bill, we are responding to the mission to ensure that we never repeat what we went through in the early days of the COVID outbreak.

Amidst uncertainty and fear, my office received frantic calls and emails day after day in March and April from essential workers begging for help. As cases of COVID surged, our hospitals and frontline workers simply did not have the protective equipment necessary to keep themselves safe.

I heard from a physician in Brighton who compared his job to being a soldier