

Let this anniversary serve as a reminder of all that we have gone through in the past and how capable we are of making it through these trying times together.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BARBARA FLAUMENBAUM

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the life and legacy of Mrs. Barbara Flaumenbaum, the late mother-in-law of a member of our team, Mr. Peter Chong.

Born in West Oak Lane, Philadelphia, Barbara worked tirelessly as a lab technician for many years and had a spirit that warmed and welcomed all lucky enough to cross her path. You didn't have to know her well to see and understand how deeply she valued generosity and compassion. Not a day went by when Barbara did not exemplify these traits. She instilled these qualities and so much more in her family and the many lives she touched, including her son-in-law, Peter.

Barbara and her husband of over 45 years, Steven, raised two incredible daughters, Alisha and Lindsay. Family was everything to Barbara, and what Barbara loved most about life was being a mother and, most recently, a grandmother to her two grandsons, Ethan and Benjamin.

They say the best measure of a life well-lived has less to do with the number of our accomplishments, but more to do with the number of lives we have touched.

Madam Speaker, it is clear that Barbara's was a life well-lived and one that will be greatly missed by all.

□ 1045

RECOGNIZING COUNCIL ROCK SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous work and ingenuity of a group of students at Council Rock South High School in Pennsylvania's First Congressional District.

At the height of the pandemic, Daniel Krauss, Noah Necowitz, Dean DiDomenico, and Dylan Weselovs, along with the guidance of their teacher, Fred Bauer, saw a need in our community and heeded the call to help. This innovative, impressive group of young men worked tirelessly to design, manufacture, and deliver 3,000 life-saving PPE face shields that were certified by the Bucks County Emergency Operations Center to medical facilities, nursing homes, and our frontline heroes in Bucks County.

I want to applaud this very special group of students for taking what they learned in the classroom and using that to serve our community. I know the future of both our community and country is bright with young men like Daniel, Noah, Dean, and Dylan at the

helm. I stand here today on the floor to express our community's utmost pride and gratitude for them. We are excited to see all that they will accomplish and know that, wherever their paths may lead, their futures will be very bright.

REMAINING FOCUSED ON INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I recently met with local and State leaders about the infrastructure needs of our community, which are significant. There is widespread agreement that an investment in our Nation's infrastructure is needed to alleviate traffic, improve flooding conditions, and address other safety concerns.

Imagine my disappointment, Madam Speaker, to learn that less than 10 percent of President Biden's \$2 trillion infrastructure package will be spent on roads and bridges. Also of concern, less than 2 percent of the package is allocated for waterways, locks, dams, ports, and airports, which are all very important to the State of Florida; and less than 50 percent is allocated for much-needed broadband expansion, which would help to address the digital divide in our country.

These traditional infrastructure projects, coupled with infrastructure investments that are linked to our Nation's security, such as safeguarding our energy grid, water systems, and other critical assets from cyber and other attacks, are the types of projects my constituents want to see funded.

Unfortunately, President Biden is using the guise of infrastructure spending, which enjoys relatively high support among Americans—it is really a bipartisan issue—to push highly partisan and unpopular policy proposals, such as the Green New Deal. Many of these policies will hurt American consumers and workers.

The vast majority of spending in the bill consists of non-infrastructure expenditures. For example, the bill contains \$400 billion in expansion of Medicaid; \$213 billion in spending for housing initiatives; \$100 billion of additional funding for schools, without any type of requirement for them to reopen; \$50 billion for a new office at the U.S. Department of Commerce; \$35 billion for climate science; and \$10 billion for a new "Civilian Climate Corps."

Adding insult to injury, Madam Speaker, this astronomical spending plan would be funded through tax increases. This current proposal fails to address our Nation's most critical infrastructure needs and falls short of meeting my constituents' expectations.

We can do better, Madam Speaker, if we work together. My constituents want their elected officials to work together to get things done, improving opportunities for our families and our community. They do not want to see us use our time in Washington to play po-

litical games. Please be assured I will remain focused on this paramount objective.

SUPPORTING RIGHT-TO-WORK LAWS

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

Mr. BROOKS. Madam Speaker, earlier this month, employees at Amazon's Bessemer, Alabama, fulfillment facility rejected unionization by a 1,798-738 vote. That is a monumental 70 percent against unions to a meager 30 percent for unions.

Bam. That kind of vote sends a powerful anti-union, pro-liberty message to America and the world.

I applaud Amazon's Bessemer employees for rejecting unionization attempts by out-of-state agitators, from the President to Hollywood actors and on down. A primary reason why Amazon chose to locate nearly 6,000 good-paying jobs in Alabama is Alabama's nonunion reputation.

Alabama maintains that reputation after Bessemer's overwhelming anti-union vote, thus ensuring even more companies will relocate even more good-paying jobs from union States up north into Alabama.

Alabama is a right-to-work State.

What does "right to work" mean?

Right-to-work laws protect citizens from being forced against their will to join a union, pay union dues, and subject themselves to union bosses.

Alabama's right-to-work status gives Alabama a strong economic advantage over forced union States. For example, 69 percent of jobs reshored from overseas back into America between 2010 and 2019 have gone to right-to-work States. U.S. Commerce Department data, adjusted for cost-of-living differences, revealed that 2019's manufacturing job pay in right-to-work States averaged \$83,000 per employee, \$4,000 more than in forced union States. That is a big difference in pay.

According to Bureau of Labor Statistics data, right-to-work States' overall job growth was a robust 11 percent over the past decade versus a meager 2.4 percent in forced union States. When that data is limited to manufacturing jobs only, right-to-work States, over the past decade, enjoyed a very good 9.1 percent increase in manufacturing jobs while forced union States had a horrible two-tenths of 1 percent cut in manufacturing jobs.

Better yet, 2018 Census data reveals that after-tax mean income per household, after cost-of-living adjustment, was \$64,572 in right-to-work States versus \$60,244 in forced union States. That is, on average, \$4,328 more real, adjusted for cost of living, income per capita in right-to-work versus union States. That is a huge difference.

So, Madam Speaker, the economic data clearly proves that right-to-work laws benefit workers. Consistent with that economic prosperity and desire for

freedom and liberty—after all, no one likes being told what they can and cannot do—74 percent of Americans say they support right-to-work laws, according to a recent Gallup Poll.

Despite overwhelming American support for right-to-work laws, dictatorial Socialists in March rammed through the House a bill that repeals all right-to-work laws in America. Worse yet, dictatorial Socialists seek to use President Biden's infrastructure bill to slip in a provision that repeals all right-to-work laws in America.

I hope neither of these terrible dictatorial bills ever reaches President Biden's desk. Certainly, I will vote against them and I will vote for freedom, liberty, and protection of America's right-to-work laws.

Madam Speaker, America would be stronger if more States would enact right-to-work laws. I encourage citizens and elected officials to promote right-to-work laws, freedom of choice, and the freedom and liberty right-to-work laws represent.

IMPORTANCE OF BIPARTISAN ENGAGEMENT ON INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. TORRES of California). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GIMENEZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GIMENEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the House on the importance of bipartisan engagement on infrastructure.

Yesterday afternoon, I had the privilege of sitting in the Oval Office with President Biden as we, along with a small group of Senators and Representatives, discussed the best way possible to move forward on infrastructure.

Our commitment is clear: Republicans agree that we should put more resources and key investments into the things that we consider the traditional definition of infrastructure. This includes our roads and highways, bridges, ports, and waterways. In order to maintain our competitiveness in the world, strategic investments in things like public transportation and improved air and rail mobility are also key.

We also need to continue fostering American entrepreneurship and private investment in the area of automotive technology with numerous auto companies making great gains in automotive vehicles running on clean, safe, sustainable energy sources, as well as creating an economic environment where they can continue to build out their own electric charging station networks.

Republicans also understand the importance of the technology side of infrastructure, such as the need to expand rural broadband, fortify our cybersecurity to protect critical assets from foreign adversaries, and improving our telecommunication networks across the country. These are all key areas where Republicans and Democrats can come together and work on

infrastructure solutions in a broad, bipartisan way.

As it was made clear to the President, unfortunately, the current proposal floating around goes well beyond that scope and includes funding for projects that are not infrastructure. As much as some of our Members on the other side of the aisle want to speak it into truth, the expansion of social welfare programs is not infrastructure.

If my colleagues want to engage in a rigorous debate over the merits of expanding Medicaid and providing elder care, or whatever else they want to put into this infrastructure proposal, they ought to bring separate bills onto the floor. I am sure my colleagues on this side of the aisle will be happy to engage in that debate.

What we cannot allow is for these provisions to be snuck into a big spending package under the guise of infrastructure.

I do have a small glimmer of hope that there is a bipartisan avenue for moving an infrastructure package. In order to get it done, it is going to take compromise between both sides. President Biden and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle must engage in earnest negotiations with Republicans. Let's put all of our cards on the table and bring forward targeted legislation that actually supports American infrastructure.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 57 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. STANTON) at noon.

PRAYER

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

God our judge, as we anxiously await the verdict from the jury in Minnesota, we plead our case with You. As a country, we are rent with acrimony, torn by our individual understandings of right and wrong, facts and feelings, and divided by a host of opinions on crime and punishment.

Call us to lay all of this—as hopeless as it appears—on Your judgment seat. Then lay Your divine hand upon the outcome of this case, and also on our compatriots' anger, their thoughts of revenge, and the insatiable need to disrupt and destroy. Stay any inclinations toward violence and remind us that vengeful behavior is no more justified than the acts of those who precipitated

that grief and harm and ignited our cities.

Be merciful on this Nation—despite how we have turned our backs on Your perfect love. As You inevitably judge our response to the incidents of unrest that plague our land, forgive our iniquities and heal our brokenness. Redeem the soul of our country.

Then inspire these leaders of our government to find ways to represent back to their districts and to our communities a better way toward reconciling the divide. Call them to follow Your example of compassion and care, humility and love.

In Your saving name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. HAGEDORN 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 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

THE NORTHERN BORDER

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, it has been 395 days since the United States-Canadian border closed, and the closure was just extended another 30 days.

Families on both sides of the border have been torn apart. People who love each other, parents, and grandchildren are unable to see each other. Vaccinated citizens of both countries significantly lower the risk of getting COVID and wearing face masks significantly lowers the risk of giving COVID.

We need a plan to open the U.S.-Canadian border with vaccines, face masks, and good physical distancing. We can do so safely and successfully.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

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

Mr. HAGEDORN. Mr. Speaker, workforce development is key to sustaining