

again wage failed forever wars. This is also a critical moment to show we can defend America and protect the global commons without a \$740 billion defense budget.

We must repeal the Authorization for the Use of Military Force; reassert congressional oversight of war powers; and cut the Pentagon's budget by at least 10 percent as we invest instead in diplomacy, humanitarian assistance, and solving global challenges like climate change and pandemic preparedness.

The war in Afghanistan cost our country more than \$2 trillion, the lives of 2,400 American servicemembers, and credibility at home and abroad. The generation that fought in this war must now govern in light of its mistakes. Let us resolve to learn from them.

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#### RECOGNIZING GOLD STAR SPOUSES DAY

(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 in recognition of Gold Star Spouses Day. Earlier this month, we honored the spouses who lost a loved one in service and remember their sacrifices.

As the son of a Navy veteran and the proud father of an Army soldier, I recognize the challenges our military families face. It is important to remember that our freedom is not free. Gold Star Spouses Day reminds us of the cost of war. Each year on April 5, it is important to take the time to remember, respect, and honor the spouses and their families of our fallen servicemembers.

Madam Speaker, Gold Star spouses and their families deserve our gratitude today and every day. God bless the brave men and women who put their lives on the line to protect us and God bless their families.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF MAJOR GENERAL DAN HELIX

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

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of Major General Dan Helix.

Dan grew up in West Berkeley, California, and enjoyed a distinguished 41-year career with the United States Army and Army Reserve.

On top of his service in the military, he served on the Concord City Council for 8 years before serving as a director of the Bay Area Rapid Transit District.

After being away for some time, Dan eventually returned to the city council and served two terms as mayor during both of his tenures.

In 1989, Dan retired from the U.S. Army as a major general. As a Korean

war veteran, Dan earned numerous recommendations including: the Army Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star with "V" device, and the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster.

Sadly, Dan passed away last month at the age of 91. He was a cherished resident of Concord who dedicated his life to helping others. He was a mentor to me and to many others.

Please join me in honoring Major General Dan Helix for his many contributions to my community and to this country.

#### COMMEMORATING 46TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLACK APRIL

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

Mrs. STEEL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the 46th anniversary of Black April.

April 30, 1975, marked the fall of Saigon and the end of the Vietnam war. Many Vietnamese Americans who were alive during the war remember this as the day that signified the loss of a country they once called home.

The people left everything they knew to flee communism. Hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese people have resettled in the United States and built vibrant communities here. California's 48th District is the proud home of Little Saigon, which is home to more Vietnamese Americans than anywhere else in the United States.

On Black April, I will join the Vietnamese Americans in our community and around the country in honoring those who served in Vietnam, and those who lost their lives attempting to flee Communist rule.

#### TRI-CAUCUS COVID-19 VACCINE EQUITY RESOLUTION

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, as a proud member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I rise in strong support of the Tri-Caucus resolution promoting COVID-19 vaccine equity among communities of color.

I represent the large immigrant population that has been especially hard hit by this crisis, and now these are the same communities who are still struggling to get the vaccine.

Yes, vaccine hesitancy remains an issue, but the reality is that access is an even bigger problem. If we are serious about fighting COVID-19, we need to meet people where they are and bring vaccines to those who need it most, and we can't do this without engaging with trusted community leaders.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge one of these leaders in Chicago. Illinois Unidos, a coalition of

health professionals and community leaders, is one of a kind and stands as a national model. From testing, to the vaccine rollout, to housing and food assistance, Illinois Unidos has stood shoulder to shoulder with the Latino community in Chicago.

#### GREEN NEW DEAL

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

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, there is no denying that we need to support an all-of-the-above solution for energy policy to secure our energy independence. But the Green New Deal which was recently introduced, yet again, seeks to fundamentally change our way of life, cripple American businesses, and explode our national debt—\$93 trillion, with a T, which is how much their proposal will cost over the next 10 years.

Let's put that into perspective. \$93 trillion is more money than the Federal Government has spent for the entire period from 1979 until the present. Madam Speaker, that is absurd. Worse yet, how do the Democrats propose that we pay for it? By raising the taxes, of course, up to 70 percent. This is outrageous.

It crushes jobs, costs an average American household nearly \$700,000 through 2029, provides paychecks for people unwilling to work, abolishes airplanes, cows, and fossil fuels, and would require rebuilding and retrofitting every building in America. This is a crazy policy.

#### ENCOURAGING COSPONSORSHIP OF TRI-CAUCUS COVID-19 VACCINATION EQUITY

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

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to encourage cosponsorship of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus-led Tri-Caucus COVID-19 Vaccination Equity resolution.

Hispanic, Black, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and Native American communities continue to bear the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Not only are communities of color suffering disproportionately from COVID-19 complications, but they are receiving vaccines at a lower rate than their White counterparts. These inequities are not new. They highlight longstanding health, economic, and social disparities.

As chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I worked with my Tri-Caucus colleagues to introduce this resolution, promoting equity in COVID-19 vaccinations. The resolution calls for solutions like prioritizing vaccines to communities with the highest rates of infections and deaths, working

with trusted community partners, and implementing culturally, linguistically appropriate strategies.

During National Minority Health Month we must promote vaccine equity to the benefit of all Americans.

#### INFRASTRUCTURE BILL

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

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, today I rise for the concerns over the President's \$2 trillion infrastructure plan. One concern is the steep price tag, but my bigger concern is what the administration is trying to classify as infrastructure.

We are to the point of changing the definition of what that is. We are throwing everything in except the kitchen sink and the kitchen table and calling it infrastructure. I think that is irrational and I think that is irresponsible.

How can you call this an infrastructure bill when less than 6 percent of it goes to roads and bridges, 5 percent goes to broadband infrastructure, and less than 2 percent goes to the waterways, locks, dams, ports, and airports?

Less than 2 percent of our waterways and ports is unacceptable. This type of infrastructure is critical for Hoosiers in transporting our manufactured and agriculture exports to the global market.

If we are going to ask the American taxpayers to make these critical and substantial investments, it is our duty to make sure our dollars are spent wisely and efficiently on true infrastructure.

#### GREEN NEW DEAL FOR AMERICA

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

Ms. JACOBS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call for a Green New Deal for America.

As one of the youngest members of this body, I am proud to represent a generation that is taking on climate change with the urgency that it deserves.

The Green New Deal is a call to action and a blueprint for positive change. It is about choosing justice and progress over scarcity and inequality. It is about choosing to have a plan instead of waiting for a miracle.

San Diegans are all too familiar with how devastating unchecked climate change has been for our community, and those who can least afford it have paid the highest price.

This plan is to mobilize and rebuild our economy around clean energy, empowered workers, and good jobs.

Madam Speaker, my generation knows that we can't take small steps to solve big problems. We have to think differently and reimagine a better future.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO GERALD CLARK

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend, Gerald Clark, a true American hero from my district who passed away on April 19.

Gerald dedicated his life to helping his fellow veterans and their families and patriotically served his country during World War II.

Gerald viewed his time with the U.S. Army as an adventure. He fought with the 75th Infantry Division at the Battle of the Bulge and lost his leg defending our country fighting the Nazis.

He was awarded a Purple Heart for his service and sacrifice. He was honorably discharged after being hospitalized over a year. Then he returned to Tennessee; married his wife, Bea; raised five children; and continued to serve his community.

For decades, Gerald held memberships in the American Legion, AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans, Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, in the belief that his support lent strength to the voice of each organization.

Gerald was also a leading advocate for opening a Tennessee State Veterans' Home in Knox County. Thanks to his efforts, Ben Atchley Tennessee State Veterans' Home opened in 2006, and my father actually passed away in that veterans' home, so I hold it very close to my heart, Madam Speaker.

It is my honor to salute Gerald Clark one final time here on the House floor. He will be greatly missed.

#### COVID-19 TASK FORCE AND CITIZEN CORPS OF DELAWARE COUNTY

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

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible staff of the Delaware County COVID-19 task force, led by Rosemarie Halt, for their amazing work, along with the thousands of volunteers from the DelCo Medical Reserve Corps and the DelCo Citizen Corps who have created and implemented new systems to test, feed, and vaccinate tens of thousands of people in our community.

These folks have been working day and night to help guide the residents of Delaware County through the challenges of a once-in-a-century pandemic. In an ever-changing landscape, they have distributed supplies, coordinated communication, and are now helping to ensure that everyone gets vaccinated.

I am proud to honor them today during National Volunteer Week to cele-

brate those working behind the scenes to get us back to normal.

Rosemarie, her staff, and the DelCo volunteers have been critical to the response and relief efforts in our district. For over a year, it has been all hands on deck, and we cannot thank them enough for their service.

#### CONGRATULATING TONY SCHMITZ ON HIS ACCEPTANCE TO WEST POINT

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a young man in Iowa's Second Congressional District with an incredibly bright future.

On June 28, Pella High School senior Tony Schmitz will enroll as a cadet at the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Everyone knows just how tough it is to get into West Point, with its 12 percent acceptance rate, but getting in is only the beginning. As a 24-year veteran of the Army myself, I can speak firsthand of the challenging, fulfilling, and exciting journey Tony is about to begin.

As the school year starts to wind down, I also want to remind all rising seniors in the Second District to reach out to my office if you have an interest in applying to any or attending one of our four amazing service academies.

Once again, congratulations to Tony, and always remember: Go Army, beat Navy.

#### WISHING LIEUTENANT COLONEL RETIRED SAM MULRAIN A HAPPY 104TH BIRTHDAY

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

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to wish a very happy birthday to a South Carolina hero, a community leader and someone who just yesterday turned 104 years young, Lieutenant Colonel Retired Sam Mulrain.

Lieutenant Colonel Mulrain has done so much in his life and I am proud to recognize him today, and I am grateful for all of his accomplishments. His legacy is inspirational to our Nation and the Lowcountry. We owe Lieutenant Colonel Mulrain so much for his contributions, both in military service and in his humanitarian efforts.

He was part of the Greatest Generation, storming the beaches of Normandy where he was wounded and received the Purple Heart. He played baseball with Hall of Famer Phil "The Scooter" Rizzuto.

In and around Hilton Head, the community knows him for his tireless dedication to public service.

Today, we in Congress, wish Sam a very happy birthday.