

The Manchester VA Medical Center's Office of Community Care steadily plowed through the backlog, giving specialized attention to each provider. After more than 15 months of their hard work, I am proud these diligent efforts have resulted in tens of millions of dollars of paid claims to New Hampshire's VA Community Care providers. They were so successful in this work that their internal process is now being shared nationally across the VA system as a model.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to personally thank the team members at the VA in Manchester who put in so many hours to address this backlog, including:

Michelle Mercer, who spent considerable time dealing with each member's hospital billing department;

Patricia Patterson, who also spent considerable time dealing with each member's billing department;

Tracy Allaire, who worked closely with Tri-West on claims on behalf of hospitals on the back end;

Charlene Eaton, who supervised and provided oversight to the VA Office of Community Care staff;

Dr. Brain Phemester, who worked and provided leadership and served as a conduit between VA Central Office and the New Hampshire Hospital Association and its members;

And Daniel Wilson, who initially spearheaded the billing resolution effort within the VA Central Office, and worked with our district office and the Hospital Association.

These Manchester VA Medical Center employees went above and beyond the call of duty for our veterans and the providers, as well as the future of community care. I couldn't be more proud to be able to recognize them for their efforts here today.

□ 1015

AMERICA DESERVES BETTER

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in fierce opposition to President Biden's proposed budget.

When he released his budget just a few weeks ago, nearly 3 months later than any President in a transition year, by the way, President Biden reminded Americans of advice his father gave him years ago. "Don't tell me what you value," Biden's father told him. "Show me your budget, and I'll tell you what you value."

If that is true, then Biden's \$6 trillion budget reveals to us exactly what President Biden values: destroying America's oil and gas industry, prioritizing the rights of illegal immigrants over law-abiding Americans, funneling foreign aid away from our longtime ally Israel, turning a blind eye to protecting the unborn.

Under the Biden budget, President Biden suggests we spend our hard-

earned dollars fixing problems he created.

He wants us spending \$174 billion on electric cars, carports, car charging stations, and other subsidies to the electric vehicle market in a full-on attempt to replace the oil and gas industry; \$40 billion to retain employees who lost their jobs after he blocked the Keystone pipeline and destroyed thousands of energy jobs; and a total of \$36 billion to combat climate change, bringing back the waters of the U.S. rule and mandating 30 percent of our privately owned land be locked in conservation practices. President Biden's budget is the progressive's Green New Deal in disguise, and America doesn't want anything to do with it.

President Biden wants \$2 billion to provide care for unaccompanied migrant children at our southern border after he put millions of innocent children in harm's way and encouraged immigrants to cross illegally. He wants no extension of funding to complete the already nearly finished wall system or money to enforce our immigration laws at the border and instead instated an executive order stopping construction on the very wall that keeps our country safe.

President Biden wants \$63.5 billion for international affairs spending, a 12 percent increase from 2022 that lacks specific defense funding for Israel, America's only democratic ally in the Middle East. His omission is clear and comes at a time when the terrorist organization Hamas launched hundreds of rockets at Israel in the last month alone and when Democrats are on the record for their anti-Semitic language and slurs.

And President Biden refuses to protect our dollars from being spent on abortions or abortion services. Instead, for the first time in four decades, no such protection exists, a protection that 77 percent of Americans support and a protection even Biden supported for years before his Presidential campaign.

On top of all this, President Biden claims his budget is partly in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, but like the American Rescue Plan, it, too, fails to investigate the origins of COVID-19. Even more, the Biden administration won't commit that none of the budget requests would include funding for the research at the Wuhan lab.

The economic disaster to follow from his reckless spending will cripple American families' purchasing power and leave future generations with the crushing burden of the national debt. It is time we hold President Biden accountable for a budget that would cause our Federal debt to reach 117 percent of gross domestic product by 2031, the highest level since World War II, and continue the record rates of inflation we are already seeing under President Biden.

I ran for Congress with the intention of creating a better world for my chil-

dren, our children, one where they don't have to pay President Biden's debts and suffer the consequences of irresponsible and egregious spending. America deserves better.

CELEBRATING CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, it is spring, the beginning of summer, but it is also Caribbean-American Heritage Month this June. It brings me great pride to join Virgin Islanders and other Caribbean people across the country in celebrating Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

As a Virgin Islander and an American of Caribbean descent, I am proud to celebrate the life, legacy, and achievement of Caribbean people in this country. Virgin Islanders and other Americans of Caribbean lineage have made enormous contributions to the United States through academia, athletics, the arts, and more.

Caribbeans have been involved in this country since its inception, such as des gens de couleurs libres, who included 800 French-Caribbean soldiers, 500 of whom were Haitian free men of color who fought at the battle of Savannah for the Colonies in the American Revolution.

Caribbean-American Heritage Month was officially celebrated and recognized on June 5, 2006, by Presidential proclamation signed by President George W. Bush. It had been unanimously adopted in the House in 2005 through the unwavering power of our colleague BARBARA LEE, who sponsored the legislation. Since 2006, the White House has released an annual proclamation recognizing June as National Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

Caribbean Americans have added to the history, culture, and communities in America in countless ways. The unique relationship between the United States and the Caribbean has enriched both regions, and this month is a wonderful time to celebrate our shared past and our future.

We should also look for opportunities for us as Americans to pursue new partnerships on a number of issues with the Caribbean. From trade, immigration, disaster preparedness, poverty eradication, and ending HIV/AIDS, the United States and the Caribbean share a number of mutual policy interests.

This year, the COVID-19 pandemic adds a new challenge to both our country and our Caribbean neighbors. I will keep fighting to ensure that the United States works to be an active and constructive partner in safeguarding the health and welfare of our third border.

The people of the Caribbean are as much a part of the fabric of this country as anyone else. We are not monolithic, nor do we represent one culture, one ideology, or even one ethnicity.

Alexander Hamilton, the drafter of the United States Constitution and our first Secretary of the Treasury, was born on the island of Nevis and spent his childhood and formative years on my home, St. Croix, in the Danish West Indies, what is now the Virgin Islands.

Caribbean-American heritage not only flows through the fabric of this country; it also flows through the Halls of Congress every day. Shirley Chisholm, a personal hero of mine, was the first African-American Congresswoman and the first Black woman to run for President, nominated by a major party. Her heritage hails from Barbados and Guyana. Without her, Caribbean women, even Black women, myself, and many other of my colleagues would not be here today: YVETTE CLARKE, JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, FEDERICA WILSON, former Members Mia Love and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, and many more. Even our current Vice President, KAMALA HARRIS, is of Jamaican descent.

The Caribbean people have done so much more than just fight and make laws for this country. That doesn't even scratch the surface. The building we are standing in right now was designed by Dr. William Thornton, who was born on the island of Jost Van Dyke in the British Virgin Islands. The symbol of our democracy was designed by a Caribbean American.

Our works in the arts are felt every day: news commentators Joy Reid, Yamiche Alcindor, Karine Jean-Pierre; from Sidney Poitier, the first Black man to win an Academy Award, to Kerry Washington. Who can forget Cicely Tyson and Harry Belafonte; great minds like Edward Wilmot Blyden, the father of Pan-Africanism; Denmark Vesey; Malcolm X; and Stokely Carmichael.

In music, we have managed to not only be great but iconic as well: Maxwell, who is considered to be the godfather of neo-soul and the R&B movement; Biggie Smalls, a fellow Brooklynite born to Jamaican parents, changed hip-hop forever; and Nicki Minaj, who is changing it even more in the modern era.

Some of the greatest athletes of our time are Caribbean, from Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, whose family is from Trinidad, to Tim Duncan, from my home on St. Croix, who was just elected to the hall of fame, and even Ramon Harewood in the NFL.

During this unique time in our country's history, I encourage everyone to learn more about the contributions of Caribbean Americans.

DEMOCRATIC DOUBLE STANDARDS

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

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I am that woman, and I am back to talk about the Democratic double standards once again.

Democrats love to jump on the Republican outrage train. But when we see the blatant anti-Semitism from one of their own, all you see are timid, fake, pandering, and watered-down responses.

For those of you who struggle to keep up with the latest anti-Semitic rhetoric from a Democrat, I am referring to the Congresswoman from this Chamber comparing the United States and Israel to real terrorist organizations.

The Speaker and her leadership team issued a weak and embarrassing press release thanking her for her clarification and walking back her remarks. But, of course, Democrats are not serious in disciplining anti-Semitism, or even anti-American remarks, within their ranks.

This photo of the Speaker smiling next to the Congresswoman from Minnesota was on the cover of the March 2019 edition of Rolling Stone. This came after the Congresswoman from Minnesota had tweeted, and then defended, that "Israel has hypnotized the world" and implied that the Jewish people were buying political support by tweeting: "It's all about the Benjamins baby."

The cover of the magazine says: "Women Shaping the Future: NANCY PELOSI and the New Voices of the House."

Is this really the voice of the Democratic Party, Madam Speaker?

Can you imagine, for one moment, the Democratic outrage if this were the Republican leader and the Congresswoman from Georgia? There would be demands for resignations, and Republican office phones would be ringing off the hook from leftwing, liberal activists.

I ask the Speaker, are you truly proud of this photo?

I can't wait to hear her answer. I just hope she won't be as demeaning as the last time she spoke about "that woman."

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

REPUBLICANS SUPPORT POLICE

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

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, as a 30-year law enforcement veteran, the rhetoric and hatred I have seen toward law enforcement the past 12 months are, quite honestly, infuriating.

Liberal cities across our country have defunded hundreds of millions from their police. Seattle, Portland, Minneapolis, Austin, they all cut police budgets, and every single one of them is now experiencing skyrocketing crime.

No surprise. Less police equal more crime, common sense that doesn't seem all too common in today's Democratic Party.

Whatever happened to the Democratic Party of Bill Clinton? In 1994, Clinton added 100,000 law enforcement officers to the streets with the COPS grants. Today's Democratic Party is unrecognizable to that party.

The socialist squad is the de facto leaders of the Democrats, and they are the driving force behind the defund the police movement. They would rather see 100,000 less police than 100,000 more.

The Republican Party has never wavered in our steadfast support for our Nation's law enforcement. I hope to see the Democrats will one day embrace common sense and join us.

□ 1030

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DON L. TAYLOR

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

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and celebrate the life of Don L. Taylor, a lifelong resident of Wisconsin and a friend, who peacefully passed away at age 88 on April 16, 2021, surrounded by his family.

Don was active in many civic and service organizations and wore many hats throughout his lifetime. He served honorably as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army and was a longtime member and past president of the Waukesha Rotary Club. He spent his leisure time writing historical fiction set in Waukesha. He also had many other interests and, as many Wisconsinites do, Don enjoyed many trips to his family cabin up north in Wisconsin.

Don was a staple in the Waukesha community due to his involvement in the Waukesha State Bank. Don succeeded his father, Carl, as president and CEO of the Waukesha State Bank, a role he held for 25 years, from 1969 to 1994. Don is credited with modernizing the operations of the bank and computerizing operations in 1968, one of the first banks to do so. In 2004 Don's son, Ty Taylor, became the third generation of the family to serve as president of the bank.

Don will also be remembered for his deep involvement in politics. He served as chairman of the Waukesha County Republican Party for 30 years, from 1979 to 1989, and again from 1993 to 2013. Don was one of the early pioneers in Waukesha to help grow the conservative movement, and his efforts cannot be understated for their lasting impact today. Don was recognized for his organizing capabilities by being selected to chair and co-chair President Ronald Reagan's 1968, 1980, and 1984 Wisconsin campaigns.

Above all else, Don Taylor was first and foremost a man of faith. He was a devoted Christian who lived his values through his everyday work and his family life.

Don is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Carol. He is also survived by