

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember and honor Mary Lott Walker of Blackshear, Georgia, who passed away on May 12 at the age of 85.

Mary loved her city of Blackshear, her State of Georgia, and her country, the United States of America, devoutly.

After graduating from Georgia State College for Women, Mary began her influential career in public education.

Mary was also involved in politics, becoming the first woman in Blackshear to serve as mayor pro tempore.

Through her work in Georgian education, politics, and historical preservation, Mary inspired young people to achieve greatness.

Above all, she devoted more than 67 years of membership and leadership to the Blackshear Presbyterian Church.

Mary's profound community impacts will be felt for generations to come.

My thoughts and prayer are with her family, friends, and all who knew her during this most difficult time.

THE CARE ECONOMY IS THE HEART OF AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

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

Ms. JACOBS of California. Mr. Speaker, even before COVID-19 hit, the care economy was at the heart of our communities.

Care workers keep our kids safe, our families healthy, and our businesses open.

Last week, I met with a group of childcare providers in San Diego, extraordinary women who do this work because they have a passion for helping kids. They love their jobs and they love the kids they care for, but that doesn't mean they should have to accept low wages and job insecurity.

When the pandemic hit, thousands of childcare centers across the country closed, including more than 500 in San Diego County, leading to devastating job loss in an industry that is 95 percent women.

The American Rescue Plan included \$39 billion in grants to help parents afford childcare, and funding to help providers stay open and pay workers.

Now we need to go further.

The American Families Plan will create universal pre-K, make childcare affordable to all, and pay care workers a living wage.

Mr. Speaker, let's make sure that we care for the amazing workers who care for our future.

RECOGNIZING FLAG DAY AND CELEBRATING THE UNITED STATES ARMY'S 246TH BIRTHDAY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Flag Day and celebrate the United States Army's 246th birthday that we observed on Monday of this week.

Every year, just a few days after Memorial Day, on June 14, our country celebrates Flag Day and the Army's birthday.

Flag Day is a celebration of our Stars and Stripes, which the Second Continental Congress designated as the symbol of our Nation on June 14, 1777.

While our flag has changed over the years to celebrate our growing country, it remains a glorious symbol of hope for our brave servicemen and -women who salute it; defend it; serve it; and, in some cases, die for it, to protect our freedom and liberty.

Since our founding, our flag has flown from sea to shining sea and around the world. Old Glory remains one of the most powerful symbols on Earth.

June 14 is also the U.S. Army's birthday. Without our Army 246 years ago, we would not be the great Nation that we are today.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, our great Nation celebrated our Army and our flag, both of which symbolize America being the land of the free and the home of the brave.

AMERICANS MUST GET VACCINATED

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, we are not normal. We are not over the pandemic. We are not over coronavirus and COVID-19.

Many people in our country, over a majority in my State of Tennessee, have not been immunized, have not had the vaccine.

I urge everyone to get vaccinated.

When I was a young child, 5 years old, I got polio. Four months before I got polio, my father gave the polio vaccine to second graders in a test in Tennessee. He gave it to my brother in the second grade. He took some vaccine home to give to me, but decided it was outside of his call and didn't do it. I got polio. It has affected me every day of my life since, and it affected my father as well.

I urge everybody to get the vaccine, not to regret it. Keep your children, your family, and your neighbors safe and free from illness.

A MOMENT OF THANKS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is not often when you can stand on the floor of the House and use the terminology: I feel full or filled.

It is a terminology that many of us are familiar with in the religious communities of our Black American tradition.

But after a journey of 10 years, I just want to take this moment to thank all of my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, who showed America that there is unity in the understanding of our history, that the history of slavery is the original sin and should never be ignored.

But now we have a national independence holiday for Juneteenth. Let us come together.

I thank Senator MARKEY; Senator CORNYN; Senator SMITH; our friend DANNY DAVIS; Doug Matthews; the Moody family; and, of course, Reverend Thomas and many others from the Galveston area; Opal Lee; and the father of Juneteenth, the late Representative Al Edwards.

Opal Lee still lives. She brought 1.6 million petitions to the United States Congress in the dead of summer.

On behalf of all who have waited for this, I thank them. And to the Congressional Black Caucus, JOYCE BEATTY as the Chair, we stand here as the conscience of the Congress thanking them with all my colleagues.

Again, we say our message is our power. We are here to serve, and there is more to come in changing lives for justice, equality, and freedom. That is what happened today.

IN SUPPORT OF SMALL LOCAL FARMERS

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service, small family farms account for 90 percent of all U.S. farms. These farms are vital to local communities and economies, and they provide fresh produce for their local farmers' markets, farm-to-school programs, soup kitchens, and a host of other local consumer activity. Sales attributed to these farmers can total up to \$12 billion annually.

I was thrilled to see President Biden's administration, through the Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, recently announce \$400 million in funding to support local, regional, and socially disadvantaged farmers. This is dedicated funding that will go directly toward local producers and local and regional food systems to help revitalize the essential farming that makes America proud.

I was also pleased that the administration included Secretary Vilsack in its new Supply Chain Disruptions Task Force. This will address the unfair trade practices that have allowed for cheap and unjust agriculture labor practices to continue at home and abroad.

They have allowed large agriculture companies to thrive and put their food all over grocers' shelves, while our

small farmers struggle to put food on their own tables. This decisive action to increase domestic competitiveness is what our small family farmers need to regain their footing and make it economically viable to farm for their communities and our country.

I hope my colleagues will join me in this congratulatory note.

CLIMATE CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARTER of Louisiana). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CASTEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of our Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR), my friend and the distinguished chairwoman of the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, we are in a climate crisis, and it is going to take American leadership and ingenuity to solve it. But we think we can create jobs and a lot of opportunity when we solve the climate crisis. But what we are seeing right now are devastating health and economic consequences of climate change here all across America, whether it is wildfires out West, flooding in the midsection. We are approaching hurricane season with great trepidation. Extreme heat.

We have got to act urgently, guided by the science, working in concert with our allies across the globe to provide a livable climate for all Americans, especially for future generations.

We have got to harness the technological innovation of the Moon Shot. We have got to harness the creativity of our entrepreneurs, the strength of our workers, and the moral force of this great Nation that is working to establish justice for all. Because I believe that, working together, we will be able to avert the worst impacts of this climate emergency and build a stronger, healthier, fairer America.

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But let's look at what is happening right now. People know this. The last 7 years were the hottest on record. You don't have to tell that to the folks out West right now. They are living through some of the hottest days—the hottest, driest days.

This is a departure from the 20th century average temperature. It just

seems like these hotter days, the longer, hotter summers, are more frequent. And the science tells us that is true.

Why is this happening? Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is at record levels. People thought that, during the pandemic, greenhouse gases would dip and that might provide some salvation from the worst impacts of climate. But, see, these gases build up in the atmosphere. You don't get a bonus for any year.

In fact, NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, has said no, despite the pandemic, carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is at a record high.

This creates enormous costs on families and businesses here in America but also all across the planet. It impacts the air we breathe. It creates very severe health consequences. Think about the folks who have to work outside in the extreme heat and more polluted air while coming out of a pandemic.

Then, there is the cost, not just to the bottom line of the Federal budget, but the cost to all of us. In fact, last year alone, we suffered through about \$100 billion, \$96 billion, in damages from weather and climate disasters. That is just 1 year.

This is an enormous wake-up call for our great country and people all across the planet. We have waited too long to take ambitious action. The time is now. The time is urgent.

We don't have any more time for half measures, so we intend now to hammer out the most ambitious climate legislation that we have ever seen in order to answer the moral call that we have to future generations to make sure we give them a livable planet.

Mr. Speaker, we are joined tonight by a number of colleagues, who are going to speak from the heart and speak with great intelligence to provide a little science, a little know-how. I am really proud to stand with them on the floor of the House tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, Congressman CASTEN, for bringing his intellect and his passion for solving the climate crisis to this Congress. It is needed now more than ever.

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her words and her leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI).

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. CASTEN for yielding. And thank you to Chair CASTOR, chair of the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, for her leadership throughout this process. It really has been science-based and meaningful.

Mr. Speaker, as we work to build back better, we have not just the opportunity but the imperative to take bold climate action. By strengthening investments in climate-centric infrastructure, we can create good-paying jobs, reduce emissions, and support frontline communities.

Last month, I had this great opportunity. I got to ride on a new electric

bus at Meadow Park Middle School in Beaverton, Oregon. Thanks to the Portland General Electric's School Bus Electrification Project, the Beaverton School District is working to electrify its bus fleet.

The electric buses are quieter; they are less expensive to maintain; and, importantly, they reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This is good for the health of our children, our community, and our planet. We can and must help more school districts and transportation systems electrify not just in Oregon but across the country.

With the American Jobs Plan, we can create millions of good-paying jobs, combat the climate crisis, revitalize American manufacturing, and make long-overdue investments in our Nation's infrastructure.

As the House works to advance the American Jobs Plan, we can use as a roadmap the climate action plan from the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis. Our bold, comprehensive science-based plan includes investments in zero-emissions buses, transit, electric vehicle charging stations, and pedestrian and bike infrastructure, all to decarbonize our transportation sector.

Mr. Speaker, I want to give credit to Chairman DEFAZIO, my wonderful colleague from Oregon, for his leadership. He has included many of these provisions in his surface transportation reauthorization, the Investment in America Act. I look forward to supporting it when it comes to the floor in the coming weeks.

Mr. Speaker, I tell my colleagues that climate-resilient infrastructure is about much more than just roads and bridges. June is National Ocean Month, and as co-chair of the House Ocean Caucus and the Congressional Estuary Caucus, I want to highlight how the power of our ocean can and must be part of the solution, which is recognized in our plan for solving the climate crisis.

I recently led a bipartisan group of colleagues in calling for a \$10 billion investment in coastal restoration and resilience projects in the American Jobs Plan, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to deliver these needed investments to coastal communities.

Addressing the climate crisis presents an economic opportunity, a tremendous economic opportunity. We can create millions of good-paying, high-quality union jobs that will help working families and displaced workers recover from the economic collapse caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Speaker, the American Jobs Plan meets the moment to not only build back but to build back better. By advancing the American Jobs Plan, we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to rebuild a resilient clean energy economy, create good-paying jobs to boost our economic recovery, and begin to repair the legacy of environmental racism and pollution that has