

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF JOHN CEBALLOS

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

Ms. ESCOBAR. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life of John Ceballos, who passed away after a lifetime of public service to our country and to El Paso.

I had the special privilege of knowing John as one of the most dedicated leaders in our veteran community. He was the chairman of the Benavidez-Patterson 82nd Airborne Division Association, where he continuously created a space of support for veterans. He was a mentor for the El Paso Veterans Courts program and would always celebrate the accomplishments of the 82nd Airborne Division.

To know John was to know a person of strength and resilience. He served in the U.S. Army for 8 years during the Vietnam war. After his time in service, he went back to school where he graduated from the University of Texas at El Paso, was bestowed a Master of Science degree, and became an instructor for the Department of Kinesiology.

Madam Speaker, we have lost a giant in our community, and I ask you to join me in paying tribute to the life of John Ceballos. May his legacy of precious memories and unwavering commitment to service continue to inspire us all.

NATIONAL FARMER'S 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, last week, we celebrated National Farmer's Day. On October 12, we recognized farmers past and present for their hard work in providing our Nation and the world with food, fiber, and energy.

It is a day to thank those who work by acres not by hours. Did you know that only 2 percent of the population feed and sustain the other 98 percent?

On National Farmer's Day, we can pay tribute to the men, women, and families who put food in the grocery stores and on our kitchen tables.

In 2020, agriculture and related industries provided more than 10 percent of U.S. employment. While National Farmer's Day has already passed, it is never too late to show your support or to thank a farmer. Consider visiting a local farmers market where you can buy directly from local farmers or spend a fall afternoon with the family at a pick-your-own farm where you can get the freshest fall apples and pumpkins.

Madam Speaker, it is important for us to thank our farmers and recognize their hard work not just on National Farmer's Day, but all year round.

CONGRATULATING DR. JOSE
CONTRERAS RODRIGUEZ ON HIS
RETIREMENT

(Mr. ESPAILLAT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my good friend and constituent, a veteran, a public health servant, Dr. Jose Contreras Rodriguez, on his retirement after dedicating over 65 years of his life to protect our Nation and the community's health.

Dr. Contreras hails from Santiago, the Dominican Republic, and he did his residency at the University Hospital in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Before completing his residency, he was drafted by the United States Army to serve during the Vietnam war, where he joined many honorable men and women who risked their lives to defend our freedom and our way of life.

After his military service, Dr. Contreras returned to Puerto Rico to complete his residency by 1971. He was also a community doctor. He helped lead efforts to combat the great inequities in the healthcare system and prostate cancer in the male population.

Dr. Contreras is a true hero in our community. He is a veteran, a doctor that practiced. He was chief of the department at New York Presbyterian Hospital. For many years he worked for the families in the community of Washington Heights, right there on Fort Washington Avenue, where he still has his office, his practice.

Madam Speaker, we congratulate him and we will miss him. We ask that this House would always remember Dr. Jose Contreras.

VACCINATION BY CHOICE NOT
MANDATE

(Mr. LONG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, I want to read a letter that I got just 2 days ago. It is like a lot of letters I am getting today.

Billy, I am appealing to you as one of your trusted constituents and fearful mother of two Active Duty Marines. Is our government trying to force our courageous military into submissive robots? The disgusting abuse of power is now out of control when the government begins taking away our God-given rights from loyal citizens and is seeking to take away the very dignity of those who served beyond measure. My son and daughter-in-law have served diligently and effectively with pride and honor for 14 years. What can I do to help this administration from taking our very hearts and stomping on them? I believe with every ounce of me God is in control here and we all know who will ultimately win this battle. What can I do to help win this sooner than later. Debi.

Madam Speaker, let me be clear. I have been vaccinated. I have had three shots. I encourage everyone to talk to their doctor. And if it is right for them, to take the vaccine. But ultimately, the vaccination should be a choice that shouldn't be mandated by anyone.

I had a mother show me a picture of her daughter in her fatigues looking at her newborn baby and telling me that a nursing mother is not exempt from this.

BLACK WOMEN AND GIRLS
MURDERED

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

Ms. BUSH. Madam Speaker, St. Louis and I rise because in 2020, four Black women and girls were murdered per day in our country, and that kind of violence has continued in St. Louis with many Black women and girls being shot, some murdered over recent months.

This is personal. I have had bullets fly past my head. I have been left for dead by a partner. I worry about whether my own daughter will get home safely.

We rise united under our message: We will break the cycles of violence that are killing Black women and mothers, our sons and our daughters, our trans and nonbinary neighbors, and our sex workers.

We urgently need the \$5 billion for community-based violence prevention services in the Build Back Better Act, and we won't stop until we have all that we need to keep each other safe.

AMERICANS ARE PAYING MORE

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

Ms. HERRELL. Madam Speaker, today, I rise in defense of American families who are worse off in every way since President Joe Biden took office exactly 10 months ago.

Today, the average U.S. household now spends \$175 more per month on groceries, gas, and their homes. In New Mexico, gas is a full dollar per gallon more than it was just 1 year ago. That may not mean much to Washington politicians, but it means a lot to people in rural New Mexico who have to drive long distances. It is the kind of cost that can hurt a family.

Food is more expensive, jobs are not coming back fast enough, and the Biden administration tells Americans that they will have to be happy with no Christmas presents this year. In the middle of all this, Democrats think that a BERNIE SANDERS' budget bill makes sense.

Here we sit, not even discussing the supplies and cargo sitting off the California coast. If this is the Build Back Better plan, then count me out because it looks like we need to start making America great again.

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HONORING BOBBY ZAREM

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember and honor Bobby Zarem of Savannah, Georgia, who, sadly, passed away on September 26 at the age of 84.

A world-renowned publicist and the creator of many internationally recognized media campaigns, Bobby's life's work put a smile on many people's faces. He began his career in New York City, where he actively promoted some of America's most talented individuals. Notably recognized for his "I Love New York" campaign, Bobby's work touched countless lives.

While his work took him around the world, Bobby's deep love for Savannah was undeniable. From contributions to the Savannah Film Festival to co-founding the Free Southern Theater, Bobby was a passionate advocate for the arts in the Savannah community.

I am thankful for Bobby's service to Georgia's First Congressional District, and I know his legacy will remain. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and all who knew him during this most difficult time.

CHILDCARE IS ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT IN THE BUILD BACK BETTER PLAN

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

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, the President's Build Back Better plan has become the most important legislation in our history because it is essential to overcome the effects of the first pandemic in more than 100 years. So essential are the bill's ingredients that Congress faces a daunting task in trimming the bill.

One ingredient that is particularly essential is childcare because it relates to so much else: the ability of both women and men to work, the ability of children to go to school. The United States is the only democratic country that does not afford quality childcare to all of its families. The reason so many more women than men are still out of work is the disproportionate responsibility women absorb for childcare. This makes childcare an essential ingredient in the President's Build Back Better plan.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR KEVIN COTTON

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

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mayor Kevin Cotton from Madisonville, Kentucky, for being named a 2021 Angel in Adoption by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute.

The Angels in Adoption program seeks to honor individuals and organi-

zations that focus on adoption, permanency, and child welfare issues.

Mayor Cotton and his wife, Donna Cotton, consistently give back to the community by fostering children in their home. Throughout the years, they have provided love and care to 46 children, three of which they adopted.

Those who know Mayor Cotton know him best for his love of children, passion for foster care, and desire to make a lasting impact in the community through his business and public service.

I appreciate the profound contributions the Cottons have made and am grateful for their dedication to the gift and treasure of adoption. The nomination is symbolic of their devotion to children as well as an ambitious, caring vision for the lives of others.

I am proud to recognize Mayor Kevin Cotton and his wife, Donna, for their incredible work in the child welfare arena. On behalf of all my constituents, I congratulate them on their efforts to make the dream of a family a reality for children in need.

COME TOGETHER ON INFRASTRUCTURE BILL

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I just had to come back. I was leaving and saw the lady's speech on the TV, and I had to come back.

If prices have gone up in New Mexico and the country, a large part of the reason why prices have gone up is because of the pandemic, because people have been sick and out of work. That has caused the supply chains to back up and other things.

She didn't count in that, because of Joe Biden, people have gotten \$300 a child per month to help pay for those goods, and because of actions by mostly the Democratic Caucus, sometimes bipartisan, but mostly the Democratic Caucus, they got stimulus checks and other benefits. So they have come out on top.

What people should not forget is that we need to vote for the bipartisan infrastructure bill that has 17 Republicans on it from the Senate.

I have broken with my Progressive Caucus to vote for it because it creates jobs, and it is the right thing for America. My Republican colleagues should break from their caucus and commit to vote for the bipartisan infrastructure bill, too.

If you are not for Build Back Better, that is your business. It is your business on infrastructure, but infrastructure is bipartisan. The Senate made it bipartisan. And I broke with my Caucus and my sub-caucus, and other people will, too, to vote for it.

Build Back Better is fine, but you should break and vote for the infrastructure bill. That is something we should get together on.

RECOGNIZING RETIREMENT OF TOMMY WHITAKER

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

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, it is an honor for me to recognize my friend and constituent Tommy Whitaker.

On November 14, one day before his 70th birthday, Tommy is retiring after 45 years as an employee and 16 years as president and CEO of The Farmers Bank headquartered in Portland, Tennessee. During his tenure, the bank has grown in assets from \$25 million to now \$850 million, with 10 branches and 150 employees.

Tommy graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1974 with a degree in business where he met his wife, Shirley. He later went on to attend the Graduate School of Banking at Louisiana State University.

Tommy and Shirley have raised two wonderful children, Susan and Joseph, and are the proud grandparents of their grandson, Grayson.

Tommy is one of Tennessee's most influential bankers, and his strong character and devotion to service before self has gained him the respect of everyone in his community and beyond.

It is truly an end of an era for The Farmers Bank. I am so grateful for Tommy Whitaker's friendship and service, and I wish him a happy retirement.

PLANS TO WEAPONIZE IRS

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

Mr. JACOBS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Democrats' radical reconciliation package and, specifically, their plans to weaponize the IRS and dramatically expand the agency's reach into the lives of everyday Americans.

Originally, Democrats' plan was to hire thousands of new IRS agents to surveil the bank accounts of Americans who have \$600 or more in their accounts. While they have upped that amount in the legislation to \$10,000 in deposits and withdrawals, this would still subject every American working at least a minimum wage job, who has a bank account, to government intrusion.

I can tell you, and I think most of my colleagues would agree, that I have not had a constituent call and beg me for more IRS agents or for the agency to have increased ability to monitor their accounts. Rather, my constituents are concerned this proposal represents an attempt by the administration to weaponize and politicize the IRS and fund their partisan agenda.

I believe Americans are entitled to privacy and constitutional rights. This proposal is a dramatic overreach and emblematic of this administration's