

We may not get everything we wanted in this package, but we must take the power back from Big Pharma. Big Pharma has had way too much power over this town for way too long. This is our opportunity to demonstrate to our constituents that we work for them, not for Big Pharma. We cannot return to our districts without delivering on our promise to lower the cost of prescription drugs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to do what is right and fight for these critical provisions in the Build Back Better Act.

#### HURLEY FLOOD RESCUE

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

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I offer these remarks today to honor the bravery and selfless service of the law enforcement officers and other first responders that worked to ensure the safety of the residents of Buchanan County during the horrendous flooding caused by heavy rainfall in the small town of Hurley, Virginia, on August 30, 2021.

Their efforts saved lives and were core to rescue and recovery following the destructive power of the flood. Particularly, I honor Buchanan County Sheriff John McClanahan, Deputy Raymond Webb, Deputy Lieutenant Brandon Hall, Deputy Lieutenant Ryan Mitchell, Deputy Billy Owens, Deputy Aaron Skeens, Deputy Andy Webb, Deputy John Hagy III, and Deputy Tasha Meadows.

The excessive rainfall resulted in blocked roadways, numerous landslides, and severe flooding in the town of Hurley. There were school closures from the storm as well. All of this caused devastating damage and jeopardized the safety of many.

In the face of danger, these officers and first responders of Buchanan County displayed great heroism by rescuing a number of citizens from harm's way. The storm caused a level of flooding in Hurley which has not been seen for nearly 20 years and matched any level of devastation from a natural disaster that I have seen in the Ninth Congressional District of Virginia.

Hundreds of residents had to evacuate their homes. As many as a thousand were left without power and drinking water, and I saw roughly 20 homes that had been uprooted from their foundations. But the terrible flood was also an occasion of heroism and helping others. Besides the deputies and the sheriff, around 500 volunteers lent their time to rescue and cleanup efforts.

Mr. Speaker, let me highlight one remarkable rescue from the flooding on Monday, August 30, 2021, involving a woman trapped in her home.

The woman's mobile home had been swept off its foundation, carried downstream, and when it crashed into a railroad trestle, the home, with the woman

inside of it, was caught between the raging water and the train trestle. The home would have continued further downstream if it had not been trapped at the trestle. And as officers quickly arrived on the scene, her home was already little more than rubble.

As the water thundered by and the rain continued to pour down, the trailer, surrounded by water, was precariously positioned and appeared ready to collapse completely at any moment. Amid this peril, the officers showed no regard for their own safety as they came to the rescue.

Deputy Raymond Webb was first to arrive on the scene. He crossed the railroad tracks, climbed over to where the collapsed home remained, with water raging around, and was able to cut a hole in the roof of what was left of the house.

Shortly after, Sheriff John McClanahan and Deputies Skeens, Meadows, Hall, Mitchell, Owens, Webb, and Hagy arrived at the scene to assist with the rescue. Deputy Raymond Webb tied a rope around the woman, while the rest of the officers and personnel retrieved her and pulled her out of the trailer and up to safety. Thanks to the rapid response of these officers from the Buchanan County Sheriff's Office, she was rescued from the battered trailer.

Mr. Speaker, this storm was devastating for the town of Hurley. In a time when the community was in great need, these officers courageously came together to do their utmost to ensure the safety and security of those who were in harm's way.

I offer my gratitude to the officers from the Buchanan County Sheriff's Office, as well as all the community leaders and first responders that played a hand in keeping Hurley safe on that day and the days that followed.

#### TIPS FOR PREVENTING SEXUAL VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Missouri (Ms. BUSH) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, St. Louis and I rise, many of us being survivors of sexual harassment and violence, because we are tired of victim blaming. We are tired of being told that if we had just done this or done that it wouldn't have happened to us. We are tired of being told to feel guilty about what we wore or what we said. We are tired of our truth being dismissed.

Today, I rise to change the narrative and give some tips instead for how to prevent sexual violence. So let's talk about it.

If you are thinking about putting drugs in someone's drink, don't.

If you can't keep yourself from committing sexual assault, always have a trusted friend by your side to stop you from committing sexual assault.

If you encounter someone who is drunk, unconscious or asleep, do not commit sexual assault against that person.

If you see someone walking by themselves, just leave them alone.

If you are worried about committing sexual assault, make sure you wear something that will remind you not to, like a sign or a sticker.

If you think you might commit sexual assault, always carry a whistle. When you find yourself about to commit sexual assault, blow the whistle until someone else stops you.

To every survivor of sexual violence, know that no matter how hard the media or your peers or your family or others try to make you feel that what happened to you was your fault, it was not.

Hear me when I say this: It was not your fault.

Know that your congresswoman is working every day to build a world where sexual violence no longer exists, a world where survivors are protected, where we have access to the care that we need, which includes abortion care, a world where the instinct to blame the survivors is replaced with one to provide healing and care.

Know that in this moment that I love you and that there are others who love you and want to make sure you are healthy, and you are protected. We see you. We hear you. We love you.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the advocates for giving us all these great tips.

#### PROTECT COMMUNITIES FROM A POROUS BORDER

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, before my commentary on this disastrous border self-inflicted by this administration, I want to speak on behalf of my fellow Texans.

I think I can say this with confidence: They welcome the immigrant, the God-fearing, freedom-loving immigrant that wants to make this country their home, pledge allegiance to our flag, embrace our ideals and improve even our way of life.

Mr. Speaker, we welcome the immigrant, but only if they respect our laws, our sovereignty, and the safety of our fellow Americans.

Since January, this administration has created an unprecedented and unmitigated crisis at our southern border. They have repealed every effective measure that was in place to stop the flow of illegal Americans and to secure the border. They have willfully disregarded the Constitution and its mandate on the people's government to provide for the common defense.

Our President has failed to faithfully uphold the law, to fulfill the sacred duty to enforce the laws of the land. They have completely ceded control of our border and the sovereignty of this great country to paramilitary drug cartels. They have enriched, empowered, these narco terrorists at the expense of the vulnerable migrants who take this dangerous trek and, most importantly, at the expense of the American people, our families, our children.

Mr. Speaker, this administration has intentionally opened up our border to a flood of human trafficking, unprecedented drug smuggling, and a record amount of crime and gang activity. There is no apology for it. There is no recognition of it. There seems to be no sign of changing the posture and policies of this administration. There is no accountability. They are not committed to detaining and deporting.

Mr. Speaker, they are catching and releasing, there is lawlessness, chaos, and a border beyond recognition. This central tenet of catch and release has not only rewarded illegal immigration, but it has dispersed this crisis beyond our border to every State in the United States, making every State a border State.

Since March, 160,000 illegal immigrants have been released into the United States. This, in addition to almost a half a million got-aways.

Mr. Speaker, I recently learned that folks who were being detained, illegal immigrants, were being released into neighborhoods in communities in my district. They couldn't tell me how many. They couldn't tell me where they came from. They couldn't tell me who was going to follow up, when they would show up for court. They had nothing. They could confirm, however, that there were people being released, illegal immigrants, into our communities who were COVID positive, and some who had criminal records. Nobody notified. Not me, not our governor, not local officials—just releasing folks.

Meanwhile, this administration is mandating and insisting on vaccines and public health protocols, but letting folks just stream into our country. They say one of every five illegal immigrants crossing is COVID positive, and so there is this public safety threat of another surge inundating our hospitals while they force their policies on the American people in this regard. Shameful.

And there has been an exponential increase in criminal aliens apprehended at the border. These are folks who have committed a crime on our soil who have crossed back over—four times as much criminal activity, criminal aliens.

Mr. Speaker, the numbers are startling: 348 percent increase in criminal aliens convicted of DUIs coming back to the United States; 454 percent increase in criminal aliens convicted of drug possession; 477 percent increase in robbery, theft, burglary; over 200 percent increase in sex offenses, and over 1600 percent increase in criminal aliens who have come over to our country and committed murder.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Kaitlyn Roberts, one of his secretaries.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT POWELL HOLDING, III

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Robert Powell Holding, III, of Wilmington, North Carolina. Thomas Jefferson once said, "God who gave us life gave us liberty."

North Carolina is fortunate to have an embodiment of this American spirit in Robert Holding, III, who is continuing his battle against pancreatic cancer by working on a new E.A. Morris/Robert P. Holding Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund.

Mr. Speaker, I first met Robert, or "Robbie", as so many of his closest friends and family in our home county of Johnston call him, when I was a teenager working on our family farm during the summers.

He drove up in his pickup, with his wrist resting on top of the steering—the window rolled down, of course. I don't know how I can recall that detail so vividly and not remember the exact year, but I think I was about 13 or 14.

He had stopped by the shop there at the farm to visit with my uncle for a bit. They talked weather and the crops and the latest news in the county for a good 30 minutes, maybe longer.

□ 1030

Now, that wasn't the first time I had seen a neighboring farmer come by in their pickup to talk, but it was the first time I had ever met a Holding. I had heard about the family for years—arguably the most influential family in Johnston County and eastern North Carolina—but I had never met one until that day. Years later we would be neighbors at McGee's Crossroads in Johnston County and in Wilmington as well.

Former U.S. Senator Lauch Faircloth said it best when he wrote about Robert Holding: Robert, you are one of the strongest people of faith I know. Lauch went on: I remember launching my campaign in your living room. You have been in the top leadership for Reagan in 1980, Senator Jesse Helms, myself, Senator Dole, and others.

My dear friend and former Congressman George Holding added: I watched my older brother work hard for years, building businesses in manufacturing, media, real estate, and finance. And I watched him tirelessly give back to his family and community.

I have personally seen firsthand how Robert Holding's hard work, mentoring, and insightful mind inspires others. He has helped make our State and Nation a much better place.

From the Nutcracker Company to vice president of promotional wholesale; from founder and CEO of Carolantic Communications and RP Industries; to founding Reedy Branch Farms, Robert has worked to be a contributor to his community.

From founder and CEO of Allied Communications, Delta Broadcasting

and WKFT-TV, to CFB Construction Company, Jefferson Marketing, RP Holding Realty, the Coalition for Freedom, and the Vance Young Team at Intracoastal Realty, Robert has provided love, leadership, and jobs to employees and owners.

From Americans for Reagan to Helms, Faircloth, Dole, Leo Daughtry, the Congressional Club, and so many others, Robert Holding is a visionary business leader who stands for what he believes.

You can see his kind heart in how he continues to give back to our community locally through his nonprofit work, and by his help to champion to E.A. Morris Cancer Center at Duke University. He is helping lead projects in Johnston County to strengthen Providence Presbyterian Church, expand LifeSpring Academy, and support Friendship Baptist Church, as well as his work with the Wilmington Boys and Girls Club, and leadership of Monday night Bible study.

He has also worked tirelessly to champion wildlife conservation across North Carolina with legendary conservationist Eddie Bridges. His vision for the Eddie C. Bridges, Robert P. Holding Black Creek Youth for Christ Wildlife Habitat Conservation Grounds will help future generations value our amazing natural sources.

Like his father and grandfather before him, Robert Holding, III, is an example of the American spirit that makes this country great; the spirit of faith, family, and community; the spirit to be the best we can be and to help others.

God bless you, Robert, and thank you. May God bless your wife, Pam; your children, Bob and Amy; your six grandchildren; your brothers, Frank and George; your sister, Jane; and all those whose lives you continue to touch.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to know Robert and to recognize him today.

#### WASHINGTON'S SPENDING ADDICTION

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, Washington, in fact, has a spending addiction. We doubled our spending last year to fight the pandemic, protect public health, and get the economy back open and protect jobs. On top of that, this spring, Democrats spent another \$1.9 trillion on extra spending.

Now my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are further fueling this addiction and just can't take their foot off the gas. We are headed downhill with no brakes. They continue to push forward with what amounts to another \$5.5 trillion tax-and-spending spree that is nothing more than a Trojan horse filled with tax hikes for American families and far-left, progressive priorities.