

Yesterday, as I said, was a historic day as President Biden signed the infrastructure bill into law and as we move forward to the Build Back Better Act.

Again, I note for my colleagues here, this too is so popular throughout America because everyone understands that if we invest in the American people, if we take the kind of action that is necessary to lower healthcare costs and childcare costs, provide universal pre-K, and make investments to combat climate change that we will be making America more competitive on the global stage, something that my colleagues in this Chamber often talk about.

I hope that they will recognize the opportunity to do exactly that in passing the Build Back Better Act when we vote on it this week.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF BERNARD MARIE

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Bernard Marie, who recently passed away at the age of 82.

As a young 5-year-old living in Normandy, France, Marie often told the story of being rushed into his basement by his grandparents in the early morning of June 6, 1944.

It was there that his family sat for 16 hours in the dark without food or water before his mother emerged from the cellar to hug an American GI after realizing their village had finally been liberated from German occupation.

Marie said that witnessing the D-Day invasion instilled in him a lifelong respect for World War II veterans, and he was forever grateful for those who secured his country's freedom.

Later in life, when he moved to the United States, he began hosting an annual luncheon to honor local World War II veterans wherever he was living to show his support for them and their families.

When he settled in Roanoke, Virginia, in 2021, he brought the event with him. These luncheons served as a place for veterans to come together and share their experiences—some for the first time.

Aside from the luncheons, Marie helped raise money for the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford. He sat at the bedside of servicemembers when they were ill. He even worked to award the French Legion of Honor medal to nearly 150 American veterans. He said that his goal was not only to honor these heroes but to ensure they were never forgotten.

I was terribly saddened to learn of Mr. Marie's passing. He meant a great deal to western Virginia, and he will not soon be forgotten.

IMPACT OF INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT ON NEVADA

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

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the tremendous impact that the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will have on my home State of Nevada.

Nevada was ground zero for the pandemic, and its effects were especially felt by the travel and tourism industry, which employs tens of thousands of Nevadans and brings in the bulk of the State's revenue each year.

Now that President Biden has signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act into law, our leading industries in Nevada and Nevada families can take part in the economic opportunities and the thousands of jobs that this bill promises.

Nevada is slated to receive \$2.5 billion for highway investments like the I-15 corridor between Las Vegas and LA, the I-11 corridor between Las Vegas and Phoenix, and \$459 million for public transportation.

This means that not only can Nevada families get to work and school safely and more efficiently but that millions of our visitors each year can more easily experience everything that our State has to offer.

Nevada will also get a minimum of \$100 million to expand access to broadband across the State, meaning that no Nevadan will be left behind.

Nevada also has been ground zero for the effects of the climate crisis as we continue to face the effects of severe drought.

With the passage of my water recycling infrastructure bill, included in this, Nevada will now be more equipped to mitigate the effects of climate change and ensure that our communities have continuous access to safe, clean drinking water for years to come.

Nevada is only able to reap all of these benefits because Congress was able to put politics aside and work together to come up with sensible solutions to create a better future for our Nation. We cannot stop there.

It is critical that we continue to work side by side to pass the Build Back Better agenda and make sure that American families don't just recover from this pandemic but that they prosper moving forward.

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HONORING THE CAREER OF WAYNE MAHAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the celebrated career of Wayne Mahar as he prepares to retire after 36 years of weather forecasting in central New York.

Wayne is one of the most recognizable and trusted weather forecasters in

central New York. When planning a hike, barbecue, tailgate, or family outing, central New Yorkers have relied on Wayne to share the weather for nearly four decades.

Originally from Brunswick, Maine, Wayne Mahar began his career working for the National Weather Service. From there, he founded Precision Weather Service, a private weather consulting firm that builds forecasts for major events like the Major League Baseball All-Star Game, the Super Bowl, and red carpet events.

In 1985 Wayne joined the CNY, Central New York, broadcast team in Syracuse, becoming the first full-time meteorologist in central New York. Here he brought a new level of seriousness to the profession by utilizing computer models and hard science to make his forecasts. Through this approach Wayne became known for accuracy, reliability, and his outdoor broadcasts from the CNY Central Weather Deck.

An expert on severe weather events, Wayne was also there to deliver critical, lifesaving information to families during some of the most historic weather events in central New York, including the great blizzard of 1993 and the 1998 Labor Day storm.

Outside of forecasting, Wayne has been a prominent fixture in our community. He is an avid hockey player, hosts regular workshops for young, aspiring meteorologists, and in 2008 he founded the Priscilla Mahar Animal Welfare Foundation. The nonprofit organization was named after his late mother and champions animal welfare causes, raising over a quarter of a million dollars for local animal rescues.

For nearly four decades, families like mine have turned to Wayne Mahar when we want to know if there will be sun, rain, sleet, or just another day of lake-effect snow. While he will be dearly missed on our televisions, central New Yorkers can rest assured they will continue to see him.

When he is not spending time with his children and grandchildren, Wayne has promised he will remain an active part of our community. Personally, I am glad to hear that because I still have not had the opportunity yet to put a few pucks at him while he stands in the hockey goal, but I am going to do that before too long.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring Wayne Mahar for an incredible career in weather forecasting and wishing him the best in his well-deserved retirement.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF MAX CLELAND

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember and honor the life of former Georgia Secretary of State and United States Senator Max Cleland. Max was a

political giant in Georgia, dedicating his life to the service of others.

A disabled war veteran of the Vietnam era, Max worked tirelessly to improve the Veterans Administration to help his fellow soldiers. Committed to helping others, Max made it his mission to help our veterans most in need and suffering from mental and physical disorders. As a pharmacist, I am able to personally appreciate his work to make lifesaving medicines more easily available.

His dedication and service to his community and country will not go unnoticed. I am thankful for Max's lifetime of dedicated service, and I know his legacy will live on forever.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and all who knew him during this most difficult time.

OGLETHORPE SPEEDWAY PARK CLOSING

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reflect upon the closing of the great Oglethorpe Speedway Park in Pooler, Georgia.

The Oglethorpe Speedway Park opened in March of 1951 and has hosted some of the most exciting weekends for race fans ever since. Sadly, Oglethorpe Speedway Park will be closing its operations for good.

This speedway has become a home for its employees and fans alike such as Darlene Nerich, who has worked each season and every weekend since April 1, 2000. Darlene's daughter took her senior prom pictures and had her wedding at the track so that her mother could continue her streak. Geraldine Jenkins has been attending races since 1951 when she was 14 and has hardly missed a race.

Georgians are collectively mourning the loss of this beloved landmark and the memories it holds. We are sad to see it go, but we are excited for what may come next.

REMEMBERING MONSIGNOR WILLIAM OLIVER O'NEILL

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember and honor the life of the Reverend Monsignor William Oliver O'Neill of St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Savannah.

Reverend O'Neill served the people of Savannah for 46 years until his retirement in 2013. He served six churches in his time in Savannah and spent much of his time preserving the history of the church in the city.

Reverend O'Neill oversaw and managed the \$11 million restoration of the Cathedral Basilica of St. John the Baptist in Savannah that was completed in 2000. In 2003, Reverend O'Neill successfully stopped an armed arsonist from damaging the church by telling him: Don't point that gun at me. I will knock your head off.

He removed smoldering cushions from the bishop's chair and a burning Bible from the pulpit as the arsonist looked on. Reverend O'Neill returned, intent on fighting the fire with a fire extinguisher before police stopped him and firefighters arrived.

He was the image of service to others and love for God. My thoughts and prayers are with his friends and family through this difficult time.

CELEBRATING WILLIE MAE HUBBARD-WRIGHT'S 103RD BIRTHDAY

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 103rd birthday of Willie Mae Hubbard-Wright of Liberty County.

Born on November 4, 1918, 7 days before the unofficial end of World War I, Willie Mae has been a staple in her community for many years.

During her childhood, she was a proud member of Ebenezer Presbyterian Church in Freedmen's Grove.

She attended grammar school at Dorchester Academy and graduated in 1936. After grammar school, Willie Mae became a boarder in Dorchester, where she learned to sew, a talent that would stay with her many years after her time as a boarder.

The living embodiment of motherly love, Willie Mae sewed clothes for her family and friends, making full use of the talent God had given her. We treasure Willie Mae and are happy to celebrate this momentous occasion.

Happy birthday, Willie Mae, 103 years young.

RECONCILIATION

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the gross misuse of a noble process called reconciliation and the President's apparent lack of concern for the well-being of rural and middle-class Americans.

The reconciliation process exists to do exactly what its name suggests—to direct Congress with a tool of compromise to reduce the national deficit with a simple majority vote in both Chambers. President Biden, Speaker PELOSI, and House Democrats are, instead, using this process to jam partisan legislation through a deadlocked Congress. This is shameless, and American taxpayers will bear the cost in both their wallets and their consciences.

The reconciliation package is chock-full of policy moves that will damage our country and compromise our integrity as a nation. Among them are the expansion of welfare without work requirements. At a time when our supply chains are in crisis and we have help wanted signs at every corner, this will only worsen the issue. Another troubling provision would give the IRS \$80 billion to hire 87,000 new agents and ramp up audits on individuals and small businesses.

Just a few other terrible provisions include increasing penalties for businesses who don't comply with OSHA vaccine mandates which are an egregious Federal Government overreach, imposing new fines on the oil and gas industry, and punishing States like Kansas who have opted not to expand Medicaid.

Perhaps the worst part of the entire reconciliation package, though, is what is not included. Democrats have excluded the Hyde amendment, a long-standing bipartisan amendment that protects Americans who oppose abortion from being forced to pay for these abortions from their tax dollars.

While the President is on a tax-and-spend spree for his party's leftist wish list, the price of nearly everything is skyrocketing in this country. Americans are heading into the holiday season more financially insecure because of this administration's policies. Consumer prices have increased over 6 percent since last year—the highest rate of inflation in over 30 years. Should this massive spending package become law, Mr. Speaker, you can expect prices to keep going up.

While the White House has stated this bill will cost \$1.75 trillion, the true cost of the reconciliation package could be as much as \$3.98 trillion according to some models. As if adding to our Nation's already enormous debt wasn't enough, this bill will drive up inflation and end up taxing the middle class.

This bill is twice as long as the Bible, it is toxic for the American people, and it is a gross misuse of a usually noble process. I stand in opposition to it on numerous counts.

Mr. Speaker, the BBB is bad, bad, bad for America, and I urge this Congress to join me in strongly opposing it.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BARNEY BROOKS

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

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of U.S. Air Force veteran and San Angelo native Barney Brooks who passed away on November 7, 2021, at the age of 92.

Mr. Brooks was a born pilot and often joked that he knew he was meant to fly even before the stork dropped him off.

In the Air Force, Barney served as a lieutenant colonel and combat pilot completing over 100 missions in the Korean war and 50 in the Vietnam war. Over his 23-year career, he served in Korea, Vietnam, and the Cold War, and he was stationed at multiple bases around the United States and throughout the world.

Our country owes a debt of gratitude to Barney who was brave enough to don the uniform and put his life on the line many times, as well as his family, including his beloved wife, Nancy, and five children who supported him and empowered him to charge forward in the fight for freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Barney for his noble service.

RECOGNIZING PHILIP PARKS

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Philip Parks of Odessa, Texas, who passed away on October 29, 2021, at the age of 76.