

shock at the gas pump, where the cost of a gallon of gas is up 61 percent from this time last year. Gas is up 61 percent.

Purposely moving forward with another massive multitrillion-dollar spending package, Democrats continue to ignore these very troubling inflation concerns. American workers, families, and small businesses deserve better.

In the face of a volatile economy, we should prioritize fiscal responsibility and offer solutions to the inflation crisis, not make it worse and fan the flames of inflation by injecting trillions of dollars of borrowed Federal money into the economy.

CELEBRATING MARS WRIGLEY FLOWERY BRANCH PLANT'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Mars Wrigley plant in the city of Flowery Branch, in the Ninth District of Georgia.

The plant opened back in 1971, becoming one of the very first confection factories in northern Georgia. Now, it is the manufacturing hub for the company's iconic gum brands, producing 75 percent of the chewing gum volume for the North American market.

Currently, the plant employs over 920 associates, of which 250 have been with Mars Wrigley for over 20 years. Due to their hard work, this factory is one of the fastest growing manufacturing plants in the State of Georgia, and has been recognized as such by the chamber of commerce for its impact on the Hall County community.

In fact, Mars Wrigley continues to go the extra mile by giving back to the local community, regularly volunteering in clean-ups, Christmas gift donations, and food banks.

Congratulations, Mars Wrigley, on 50 productive years in northern Georgia, and best wishes for another prolific half century.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

RECOGNIZING AARON CLAY, TENNESSEE SECONDARY SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION'S ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Aaron Clay, who was named the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association's Athletic Director of the Year.

Aaron Clay is the athletics director at the Washburn School. He graduated from Washburn in 1997. His brother, Greg, hired him shortly after graduating to help the school's basketball team.

Since returning to coach the basketball team, Director Clay led several of Washburn's athletic teams to success. He coached two basketball teams to the substate tournament, won two dis-

trict titles in basketball, and sent a cross-country student athlete to the State championship meet for five straight years.

Mr. Speaker, under Director Clay's leadership, the school recently completed a new gymnasium. Away from athletics, Director Clay also leads Washburn's academic curriculum as an assistant principal. In his academic role, he once again teamed up with his brother, Greg, who is Washburn's principal.

The TSSAA Athletic Director of the Year award celebrates an athletic director who builds up students on and off the field and, clearly, he does this, Mr. Speaker.

Director Clay's work throughout his career as a school administrator and athletic director positively influenced hundreds of Washburn students. Our community is proud of the impact he has had on young people.

Congratulations, Director Clay, and keep up the good work.

HUGE VICTORY FOR INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, individual freedom just scored a huge victory. Last weekend, a court of appeals ruled what we already know. Joe Biden overstepped his authority with his vaccine mandate. No more jobs will be threatened by the administration over coronavirus vaccination status, for now.

I applaud those who stood up to Biden's vaccine mandate in court. But the fight isn't over, Mr. Speaker. It is clearly not over. Biden's far-left Justice Department is plotting a legal assault to revive the mandate. Those of us who value personal liberty cannot be content with one court ruling.

More action is necessary, Mr. Speaker.

My bill, the Keeping our COVID-19 Heroes Employed Act, which is sponsored in the Senate by Senator MARSHA BLACKBURN, also from Tennessee, would further protect American workers by forbidding certain employers from firing unvaccinated employees.

We need to ban Biden's vaccine mandate because it is unconstitutional, Mr. Speaker, but also because of the crippling effect it will have on our economy.

For example, supply chain jobs will be lost if Biden's vaccine mandate takes effect. A labor shortage in the supply chains means it takes longer to move products to America's storefronts, Mr. Speaker. The costs of keeping up with demand is passed to consumers in the form of higher prices.

If Biden gets his way, it will devastate our struggling economy and steal paychecks from hardworking Americans, Mr. Speaker. Congress can't wait for the Biden administration's next attack on the unvaccinated. Let's protect the civil liberties of the workers by passing the Keeping our COVID-19 Heroes Employed Act, Mr. Speaker.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 54 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Equip us, O Lord, this day with the full armor You provide, that we would be confident to stand for whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right and pure.

May these, Your divine intentions, be the principles we strive to preserve this day. In everything we do, with Your steadfast love as our foundation, may we stand unwavering.

Gird us then with the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness. Prepare us to give testimony to Your peace and to hold high a defense of faith in Your gracious plan.

Protect us with the covering of Your deliverance and attune our hearts to the piercing insight of Your word.

May Your confidence in us not be in vain, but may we prove worthy in wielding the power of Your mercy.

Then may all those who seek to undermine decency, who rejoice in rancor and capitalize on conflict, may they all fall defenseless before Your throne of grace.

For it is only in Your grace that we find hope and by the power of Your name are we able to pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ESPAILLAT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CALLING FOR FULL RESTORATION OF BUFFALO RIVER

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill signed into law yesterday reveals the power of this moment and the importance of momentum.

Madam Speaker, 50 years ago, the Buffalo River was declared biologically dead and ecologically destroyed. Through the work of the Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper and their partners, we made a plan and made progress passing the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Now with new infrastructure funding, new life for the Buffalo River is closer than ever.

Today, I am calling on the Environmental Protection Agency for a full restoration of the Buffalo River and for a date-certain action plan to delist the river as an area of concern.

This project restores our natural environment, and it makes more viable other projects like The Riverline and the DL&W terminal. It also leverages a settlement reached this week to provide river access to the Kaisertown neighborhood and new public access along Buffalo's City Ship Canal.

The power of this law will lead us to a logical conclusion, connecting our community to resources long denied and to improve our life quality now and into the future.

RECOGNIZING PIRI KATZ ON HER 94TH BIRTHDAY

(Mrs. STEEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. STEEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 94th birthday of a truly inspirational figure in our Orange County community, Piri Katz. Piri Katz is a Holocaust survivor.

At just 15, Piri and her family were taken by Nazis on the eve of Passover. After spending months in concentration camps, where her family was murdered, she was liberated by American soldiers in May 1945. No one can imagine the horrors she and others who lived through this tragedy experienced and the strength it took just to survive.

In September 1949, she came to America and built her own American Dream. She made a beautiful life for herself here. Piri has four kids and eight grandkids that she is so proud of.

Piri's story is inspiring and should remind all of us to never take our freedom for granted.

Happy 94th birthday, Piri.

HONORING THE LATIN AMERICAN WOMEN WRITERS PROJECT

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 26 incredibly talented Latina women in the field of literature that I had the pleasure of meeting this morning.

These women are a huge part of the Latin American Women Writers Project. They represent the best in our community, the leaders that stand tall today to inspire our youth and our entire community.

Their efforts to ensure inclusion and representation in journalism, creative writing, and storytelling, and sharing these ideas with us here today, are commendable. They are laying the groundwork, Mr. Speaker, to uplift and inspire the next generation of Latina writers.

I hope that the discussion we had today will continue onward throughout our communities and across this great Nation and that their work will continue to inspire many in our communities, particularly the next generation.

They have used their voices to share their stories with our families. Mr. Speaker, I welcome them.

BIDEN INFLATION HIGHEST IN 40 YEARS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the October Consumer Price Index has increased 6.2 percent in a year with Biden inflation. Annualized, this means inflation is going to be 7.4 percent, which would make it the highest rate since 1982, the highest rate of inflation in over 40 years.

At the same time, in 7 of the last 9 months, real wages have fallen and workers lost 2.6 percent of their salaries by the end of the first Biden year. Biden and the Democrats are accelerating inflation with insane spending bills, which now total over \$5 trillion.

Democrat elite think they are smarter than anyone, and they think Democrat voters are ignorant to believe \$5 trillion in spending costs zero dollars. You pay with Biden inflation.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism continues moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF NOHEMA GRABER

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a wonderful woman from my district who dedicated her life to the betterment of her community by educating the next generation.

On November 2, 2021, Fairfield lost a beloved member of their community, Nohema Graber. Born in Mexico, Nohema later moved to Iowa, where her love for education drove her to pursue a career in teaching. She would eventually go on to teach Spanish at Fairfield High School.

When reading stories about Nohema's kind and caring spirit, I came across one that really warmed my heart, and I would like to share it.

When a dear friend of Nohema's son was diagnosed with a brain tumor 12 years ago, Nohema would pray with her friend every single day. Her son, now healthy, was among the countless members of the Fairfield community to attend Nohema's vigil.

I send my prayers out to the friends and family of Nohema Graber, as well as the students and faculty of Fairfield High School, as they mourn this tragic loss.

RECOGNIZING LEE McMILLAN ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Lee McMillan, of Ashe County, who will be celebrating his 90th birthday this Saturday.

I have been blessed to know Lee for many years, and I know that he has helped build the foundation that the North Carolina Republican Party stands upon today.

His 23 years of service to the United States Navy, after his graduation from the Naval Academy, and his tireless work in promoting conservative values on the local and State level are nothing short of admirable.

Lee is also the proud owner of Shatley Springs Inn and Restaurant located in the high country, a local landmark that has received national recognition since 1958.

To me, Lee is a perfect representation of the best that Ashe County and western North Carolina have to offer.

Thank you, Lee, and happy birthday.

SPENDING TRILLIONS WILL WORSEN INFLATION

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

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, in Michigan's First District, we are hunkering down for the usual long but beautiful winter season. We enjoy it, and we prepare for it.

This year, that preparation is much more complicated. The supply chain crisis, labor shortages, and inflation have made our gas and groceries that much more expensive at a time when we can't necessarily afford it at that working-family level.

In my district, we are truly feeling the negative impacts of this administration's failed policies. The White