

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

House and congressional Democrats seem to be living in a different reality, telling us that the President's agenda "will not add to inflationary pressure."

Mr. Speaker, the real risk here would be passing the Democrat's multitrillion-dollar tax and spend package. My colleagues in the House seem to be turning a blind eye to what Americans are actually experiencing.

Make no mistake, spending trillions, while punishing the middle class and job creators, will make inflation worse.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to oppose this legislation.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVER MONTH

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Family Caregiver Month.

More than 95 percent of individuals with dementia also have one or more chronic conditions. Individuals with dementia rely heavily on their family members or other caregivers to provide time, transportation, and other health services, which can be economically and emotionally challenging for a family.

In Illinois alone, we have over 381,000 caregivers for people living with dementia, and 53.5 percent of them have their own chronic health conditions.

During National Family Caregiver Month, it is important to recognize the dedication and sacrifice that families and caregivers provide for their loved ones.

My legislation, the Comprehensive Care for Alzheimer's Act, provides additional support to dementia patients and caregivers. The bill would direct the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation to implement a dementia care model to test comprehensive care management services and would make a big impact on the lives of people living with dementia and their caregivers.

As I travel throughout Illinois, dementia care and Alzheimer's advocates continue to share their caregiving stories with me. Mr. Speaker, I ask for support of this bill.

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INVESTMENTS IN THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN COMMUNITY

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

Mr. KAHELE. Mr. Speaker, as a native Hawaiian, I am excited to highlight how the Build Back Better Act will benefit the native Hawaiian community and all of the original indigenous peoples, the first peoples of these nations, across the United States.

The Build Back Better Act will strengthen our collective indigenous communities through investments in

culturally relevant healthcare, housing and community development, professional development for indigenous languages and early childhood educators, accelerator programs for small businesses, and funding for native Hawaiian healthcare systems.

These programs further the trust responsibility from the United States Government to indigenous communities.

The Build Back Better Act also creates opportunities for Federal consultation on land use planning, development, and infrastructure projects—something our indigenous communities have requested for years.

That is why we must pass the Build Back Better Act and add its investments to the initiatives we just passed in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The Build Back Better Act supports our indigenous communities and creates opportunity for indigenous peoples while ensuring that America's richest citizens pay their fair share.

Mahalo, Mr. Speaker.

SOUTHERN BORDER CRISIS

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the dangerous situation at our southern border.

Since President Biden took office, there have been over 1.4 million illegal border crossings. These record-high apprehensions keep increasing with no end in sight, and now a new caravan of migrants is headed through Mexico to our southern border, as we speak.

Instead of addressing what has become a humanitarian, health, and national security problem, this administration and congressional Democrats keep announcing plans that will only exacerbate the problem.

For example, the administration has discussed paying illegal immigrants settlement payments of up to \$450,000, and the spending package being pushed through this Chamber includes amnesty for up to 10 million illegal immigrants and up to \$100 billion in taxpayer-funded benefits for them.

These irresponsible proposals and dangerous open border policies will continue to fuel the crisis and encourage more illegal activity at the border. We must secure our borders and ensure that the rule of law applies to everyone.

HONORING FALLEN HEROES

(Mrs. KIM of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our 13 fallen servicemembers who made the ultimate sacrifice to save the lives of Americans and allies in Afghanistan at the Kabul Airport at the end of August.

These brave men and women, including southern California marines Lance Corporal Dylan Merola, Lance Corporal Kareem Nikoui, and Corporal Hunter Lopez, were young—many in their twenties—and incredibly brave. They valiantly put their lives on the line for others. Their courage and heroism in the face of danger will never be forgotten.

I am proud that the House of Representatives came together to honor their memory and posthumously award these fallen heroes a well-deserved Congressional Gold Medal.

Mr. Speaker, we remember their names and their stories always, and we continue to rally with our new Gold Star families.

RECOGNIZING THE THOMAS FAMILY OF MEYERSDALE, PENNSYLVANIA, AND THEIR ACTS OF KINDNESS

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Thomas family of Meyersdale, Pennsylvania, who tragically lost their son, Trevor, a student athlete who played baseball at Allegany College of Maryland and at Penn State.

In the face of that loss, the Thomas family has responded with love and compassion for their community. In honor of their son's commitment to serving others, the Thomas family printed small cards that encouraged their neighbors to help others through acts of kindness.

Those cards have inspired incredible gestures of generosity in our community. The acts of kindness were wide-ranging. From preparing care packages for the homeless to donating blood to handing out doughnuts and even delivering flowers to strangers, members of the community looked to see what they could do to help one another.

Together, the people of Somerset County are working to keep Trevor's memory alive through their acts of service for one another.

On each card that the family has distributed is a simple mantra that defined the way that Trevor lived his life. It is a mantra that we should all aspire to: Be somebody who makes everybody feel like somebody.

ENDING EXPLOITATION OF VETERANS

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

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, freedom is born through the sacrifice of patriots. We occupy this Chamber today and walk free among our countrymen because generation after generation of liberty-minded warriors surrendered their lives to the conviction that America was worth defending. Their