

For all the problems I have spoken about, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act has a solution. This law will invest over \$26 billion in funding for better roads and bridges built to last and to handle future growth. It will also invest \$3.3 billion to improve public transit options that reduce congestion and improve transportation for everyone. Texans will also benefit from a \$3.5 billion program in this law that will protect power systems from weather emergencies like the winter storm.

But this law doesn't just solve today's problems. It is also about preparing us for tomorrow's opportunities.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will deliver reliable internet access to rural Texas communities by investing over \$100 million in expanding coverage. This will allow rural Texans to finally access jobs and commerce that were previously locked away.

This bill will also prepare Texas for electric vehicles of the future by investing nearly half a billion dollars to build our charging station network.

Mr. Speaker, Texas is facing serious infrastructure problems. But this law is the solution. I am proud that this money will soon flow directly to communities in my State and improve lives.

Thanks to the leadership of President Biden, Speaker PELOSI, Leader SCHUMER, and some of our friends across the aisle, this bipartisan infrastructure bill will send help, and it is on the way.

MARC MOEN IS KEEPING IOWA BEAUTIFUL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize a man from my district for his commitment to keeping Iowa beautiful and preserving some of our most treasured historical sites.

Marc Moen, a developer in Iowa City, was recently presented with the Iowa Architectural Foundation's 2021 Community Enhancement Through Architecture and Design Award. The awards program recognizes individuals, organizations, agencies, or communities outside the architectural profession who have demonstrated consistent and effective leadership, vision, and support for architecture, or have continually championed the cause of architecture in ways that contribute to the betterment of Iowa communities.

Marc began his architectural work in 1985 when he advocated to save the first brick house in Iowa City from being razed and began restoring the building instead. Since then, Marc has worked to make Iowa City the beautiful community it is today.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to Marc for his dedication to our community and to our State.

LEWIS PAYNE IS CARRYING ON IOWA'S FAMILY FARM HERITAGE

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize a man from my district for continuing his family legacy of leadership in Iowa agriculture.

This year, Lewis Payne of Kalona was awarded the Heritage Award by the Iowa Farm Bureau. The Heritage Award recognizes agriculture industry leaders who have carried on the tradition of farming family-owned land.

Known as the Pickard Farm, Lewis' 261.4-acre plot of land was originally purchased by his great-great-grand uncle over 172 years ago and was passed from Lewis' great-grandfather down to his grandfather, then eventually to his mother, who then passed the land down to Lewis, who had been raised on that farm helping his parents.

When asked about the future of his family farm, Lewis said that his goal is to be a steward of the land and eventually pass it down to the next generation.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to Lewis for continuing a fantastic Iowa family tradition and for making Iowa a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

4 PAWS FOR ABILITY

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share a heartwarming story about total strangers coming together to make a positive impact in a child's life in my district.

Six-year-old Keagan Berding of Bettendorf, Iowa, loves to run. Diagnosed with autism at the age of 2, Keagan is nonverbal, but he is very social and has several passions, including playing outside with other children, showing affection through hugs, and watching videos on his tablet.

Because of Keagan's love of running, extra measures are needed to ensure his safety, and this is where a fantastic organization has come in to assist Keagan and his parents. 4 Paws for Ability is a group that provides and trains service animals to assist people like the Berding family across the globe. Currently the organization has raised over \$43,000 toward providing Keagan with a fully trained service dog, with the largest single donation being \$10,000 from a complete stranger whose own child has benefited from a service animal.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for 4 Paws for Ability and everyone who has contributed for striving to make positive impacts in the lives of children like Keagan all over the world.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

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

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say enough is enough. Enough is enough.

Enough gun violence in our schools, enough children hiding in fear, and enough parents trembling in terror as they search for any news of their own kids.

There were 100 calls made to 9-1-1 in Oxford yesterday. Hundreds of children were stuck in their classrooms crying out for help. Hundreds of kids were scared to death that this would be their last day of school.

We have our young people learning how best to survive a shooter in between math and science class. Six year olds were asked to figure out for themselves whether they have a better chance to survive if they hide in a closet or if they should rush the gunman.

And then, on days like yesterday, days that repeat with the same frequency as this body's failure to respond, we hear the stories of teenagers texting their parents from behind a desk saying things like: Mom, if I don't make it, I love you, and I appreciate everything that you have done for me. Parents were begging their children to "barricade yourselves behind doors, hide in classrooms, and, please, hold your tears, you cannot make a sound."

This Chamber has heard much about God since men first stood within these hallowed Halls. This Chamber has heard much about the God-given rights our Creator inalienably endowed.

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask you then: What rights has God given our children?

Do they enjoy the God-given right to exist in their schools without fear of death or gun violence?

Do American parents have the God-given right to drop their children off at school and expect to see them come home at night?

Parents from Columbine to Sandy Hook to Parkland have had to bury their babies. And the children who survived have had to live with the trauma that only stepping over a friend painted in blood could ever bring.

Do we, as a nation, have the God-given right to live free from this epidemic of gun violence, of senseless loss, and of unimaginable pain?

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of you here today to put yourselves in the shoes of those parents. Put yourselves in the shoes of the mothers and the fathers who have gasped for air when desperation would not let them breathe. Put yourself in the shoes of all those who have sunk to their knees when the agony would not let them stand.

Mr. Speaker, do you have the courage to do that, to feel what it might be like to bury your own child, to suffer with your God day after day to make sense of the senseless, unnecessary gun violence?

Mr. Speaker, do you have the courage?

Does this body have the courage to do what is right and to save our children and to protect our families?

And if not, Mr. Speaker, do you really, truly, have the courage to look away?

AMERICA'S PETROLEUM RESERVE

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 President Biden's shortsighted decision to release 50 million barrels of oil from America's Strategic Petroleum Reserve, depleting this national security asset by nearly 10 percent when there is no oil supply shortage, only a manmade one.

The United States' oil reserve is not a tool for the President to fix his own political problems. Sadly, this administration throws money away whenever the problems they create reflect poorly on them. We have seen this with COVID-19 pandemic shutdowns and vaccine mandates keeping people out of work, leftist political aims resulting in bad legislation, and a flagrant disregard for the national debt all leading to wasteful spending.

Rather than drain one of our essential national security assets to temporarily mask the effects of their policies, this administration should instead encourage our domestic, independent oil and gas producers to take steps to get oil production back up. I shudder to think that the President might drain another 10 percent of our Strategic Petroleum Reserve 2 months from now if our oil production continues to wane.

There are other solutions to this issue, like reinstating the Keystone pipeline and encouraging oil production on Federal lands just being two of them. Instead, this administration has canceled the Keystone pipeline, which would make 860,000 barrels of oil available daily, and has demanded a 50 percent fee increase for oil and gas leasing on Federal lands.

Just 2 years ago, the United States was producing 2 million more barrels of oil per day than we are now. We are down from 13 million barrels per day to 11 million barrels per day. That means if we could lift regulations and find creative strategies to get our oil production back up, we could create 50 million barrels of oil in just 25 days rather than dip into the emergency reserves.

Historically, the Strategic Petroleum Reserve has only ever been used in cases of natural disaster and war. With global unrest from COVID-19 and America's enemies looking to do us harm, this is not the time to needlessly weaken a national security asset that exists to provide energy to America in the event of an actual catastrophe in our country.

The only catastrophe in America right now is this administration's bad policies. I oppose the President using our emergency oil reserves in this brazen political tactic. This is unnecessary, irresponsible, and dangerous.

WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in defense of Kansas farmers and ranchers who have the right to manage their own resources without overreaching regulation from the Federal Government.

The Biden administration is hurting farmers, ranchers, and ag-business

owners. Recently, they withdrew from the Navigable Waters Protection Rule which sought to undo the harm caused by the Waters of the United States, or WOTUS, rule from 2015, through which the Federal Government aimed to exact regulatory control over nearly all bodies of water, regardless of their size or connection to larger waterways. Because of this legislative mess, farmers and ranchers have had to conduct their businesses under three different regulatory definitions of water in just the past 6 years.

On a farm, water is the lifeblood of the operation, and farmers in Kansas don't need the Federal Government to tell them how to take care of it. Our farmers and ranchers are the original conservationists who continually update their practices to reduce water use and inputs to produce safe, affordable food while maintaining their water supply for generations to come.

Instead of worrying about what farmers in Kansas are doing with their puddles, the administration should instead focus on curbing inflation, getting Americans back to work, fixing the supply chain, and securing our borders.

□ 1030

SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATIONS

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss one of my greatest privileges as a Member of Congress, participating in the service academy nominations process, which brings together my passions for engaging with young people, leadership development, and military service in this great country.

I am proud to come from a State with a rich history of military service. President Eisenhower graduated from West Point in 1915, which is why I felt it was appropriate to host our State's nomination process in his Presidential library in Abilene, Kansas. After watching young Kansas men and women go through the extensive and competitive nomination exercise, one of the members of our selection committee said: "Meeting and working with these young people gives me hope for the future of our country."

In the United States, we have a long tradition of young American patriots willingly embracing the duty to serve, to protect the homeland, to keep the peace abroad, and to secure our rights. Leaders serve, and I want to congratulate all the deserving young leaders who are recipients of service academy nominations. I thank them from the bottom of my heart for their willingness to sacrifice for this great country.

HONORING DR. ATTORNEY JOHNNIE JONES, SR.

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

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, this week, a Louisiana legend turned 102 years old. Dr. Attorney Johnnie Jones, Sr., has lived a lifetime fulfilling every day with service, activism, and love for family and country.

Born in 1919, he was one of eight children in a successful family who leased land in eastern Louisiana. He attended Southern University until being drafted into the Army in 1942 during World War II where he was the first-ever African-American warrant officer in United States Army history.

Jones was injured in the battle at Normandy on D-day 77 years ago. Before landing on the beach, his ship hit a mine, and he flew from the second deck down to the first. As he described it, he flew like a bullet, but he survived, coming ashore on Omaha Beach, facing off with German snipers. Later in the war, he was hit with shrapnel during a bomber attack and finished his military service in the Battle of the Bulge. These nightmarish memories have remained with Mr. JONES until today.

Much of his paperwork and records of service were lost during Hurricane Katrina, so it was earlier this year, at the age of 101, that Dr. Attorney Jones finally received the Purple Heart award in recognition of his battle injuries.

Through all that he endured, he persisted. He returned home to Louisiana, where he began to serve in a different capacity, this time as a lawyer. Just 15 days out of Southern University's law school in 1953, the Reverend T.J. Jemison recruited him to organize the United Defense League's 8-day bus boycott in Baton Rouge and defend the participants.

After the Baton Rouge City Council revoked the licenses of Black-owned transportation companies, many African Americans were forced to ride segregated buses and sit in the back of the bus or stand.

When hundreds of patrons boycotted riding in protest, some positive changes were made, though segregation still remained the law of the land. The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King used the Baton Rouge protest as a model for his bus boycott in Montgomery 2 years later.

Dr. Jones defended students in drug-store sit-ins and other actions as civil rights protests spread throughout the South. During these efforts, his car was bombed twice. Immediately after his return from war, he was beaten by a White officer on his way to a doctor's appointment.

"Things weren't right," said Dr. Jones. "I wanted to fight and make it better."

Here is a man who has been through so much, who has tasted the evils of the world and has every reason to be bitter, but he isn't. However, he has insisted on focusing his life on sharing love for our State and fighting for equality.

Jones was the first African-American member of the Baton Rouge Bar Association. He served in the Louisiana House of Representatives. Throughout his career as a lawyer, he successfully sought pay equity for teachers and sued to desegregate parks and communities in Louisiana.