

ATTACKS ON ELECTIONS MUST BE STOPPED

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

Mr. KILMER. Madam Speaker, I have been to every nook and cranny of the region I represent. I have never spoken to anyone anywhere who thought elected officials should be able to use their public office for personal profit.

I have never spoken to anyone anywhere who believes that elected officials should be able to interfere in independent investigations or to punish whistleblowers.

I have never spoken to anyone anywhere in my district who thinks we should allow foreign countries to interfere in our elections.

Addressing these issues is what the Protecting Our Democracy Act is all about.

Importantly, this bill includes the Honest Ads Act, a bill that I led to increase accountability for online political ads. There are disclaimer requirements for print, broadcast, and radio ads, and our bipartisan bill would set those same requirements for online ads so that the American people can know who is paying for the ads they are seeing online and so we can keep foreign money out.

We know that foreign adversaries have attacked our elections in the past, and we have to stop it. That is why I am proud to cosponsor this legislation, and I encourage my colleagues to pass this bill today.

HONORING VICTOR GARZA ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. CLOUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Victor Garza and to wish him a happy 100th birthday.

Victor Garza is a World War II veteran who is devoted to his family, his faith, and service to this country. He joined the United States Navy at the age of 22 and served in the Pacific theater during World War II.

During his service, he worked as a heavy equipment operator in the Seabee construction battalion and was stationed in Japan where he assisted with efforts to free prisoners of war.

After his service to his country, he devoted himself to his community, building homes and businesses across Victoria, Texas, and being an active member of the VFW and the CWV. He also devoted himself to his family, raising seven children with Amalia, his wife of 74 years.

Victor is a true hero and an example to all of us of what it means to be an American. I am proud to honor him today and hope he has a wonderful 100th birthday.

CREATING A STRONG ECONOMY FOR ALL AMERICANS

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

Ms. BROWNLEY. Madam Speaker, as the pandemic put pressure on the pockets of Americans, House Democrats worked to not only bolster our economy but to get people back to work.

The November jobs report shows that our economy is on the right track to doing just that. In fact, 6 million jobs have been created in the first 10 months of the Biden administration. No other administration has created more jobs in its first year. But during the Trump administration's mismanagement of the pandemic, we lost over 9 million jobs. So we still have work to do.

The recently House-passed Build Back Better Act will include specific and urgent measures to uplift working families, lower everyday costs, fight inflation, and generate millions of good-paying jobs.

House Democrats remain committed to creating a strong economy and an economy that works for all Americans.

BENEFITS OF VITAMIN D

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, as the Congress prepares to break for Christmas, it is important to review one more time what we can do to deal with the coronavirus.

While vaccines unquestionably have a role here, I am a little bit appalled at the lack of information coming from the public health establishment regarding vitamin D. Tests show that adequate levels of vitamin D can reduce the amount of COVID cases by up to 75 percent, which is good, including for people who have taken the vaccine.

Right now, Madam Speaker, experts feel you should have at least 30 nanograms per milliliter to have adequate amounts of vitamin D. Right now, 65 percent of our White population, 87 percent of our Hispanic population, and 96 percent of our Black population do not have adequate vitamin D levels.

The public health establishment has to be asked: Why is this not publicized? Why do we not give routine vitamin D tests to people coming in for their annual checkups? And why, if you show up at the hospital with COVID, are not vitamin D tests automatic?

I ask public health establishments to please familiarize themselves with the benefits of vitamin D and the role it plays.

EFFECTS OF CORONAVIRUS ON ECONOMY

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, the President has done an excellent job on trying to address our economic problems, and one of the main reasons we have economic problems is because of the coronavirus.

The President has an excellent vaccination program that the Republicans, unfortunately, are fighting. As people have experienced the pandemic, they have been less willing to go out and engage in commerce and travel and had to reduce some of their business activities. This has hurt the supply chain and hurt our economy. So the President's vaccine plan is also an economic plan.

Republicans in the Senate led an effort to cancel all the vaccination programs that the President has to protect us, to keep us healthy, and to move our economy forward. That is unfortunate. We need to support these vaccination plans, and we need to support the President in these efforts.

Inflation has been a problem. The President has released some oil from the reserve to help deal with gas prices. Gas prices are going down, and they will go down naturally.

One of the great reasons why inflation has increased is because of used car prices. You have to think about when used car prices go up, Madam Speaker, somebody is selling that used car, and they are getting more money to put in their pocket. Things are getting better.

God bless New Mexico.

HONORING NEWSCHANNEL 9 ANCHOR DAN CUMMINGS

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

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the renowned 37-year career of NewsChannel 9 anchor Dan Cummings.

For nearly four decades, Dan Cummings has been one of the most trusted names in local news and has earned a well-deserved reputation for his integrity and investigative prowess.

A native of Cayuga County, Dan Cummings grew up in central New York and got his start in journalism working at local radio stations. In 1984, Dan Cummings joined the NewsChannel 9 team and, in 2008, began anchoring the morning news. Notably, Dan was the driving force behind "Newsmakers," a weekly public affairs program.

In these prominent roles, Dan Cummings has been celebrated for his ability to conduct smart, original reporting and communicate even the most difficult stories in a calm and straightforward manner.

I have known Dan Cummings for many years. I can unequivocally say he is one of the most fair and genuine news professionals and is an extremely generous man who is actively involved in multiple charities.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring Dan Cummings for an incredible

career in broadcast journalism and wishing him the best in his retirement.

CHILD TAX CREDIT

(Ms. ROSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss an important lifeline to so many North Carolina families, the child tax credit.

In North Carolina alone, millions of families have benefited from the child tax credit. The first monthly payment lifted 3 million children out of poverty and significantly reduced childhood hunger. No family should have to worry about whether they can afford their next meal.

The child tax credit also helps pay for childcare, helps pay for school supplies, helps when the car breaks down, and helps families living paycheck to paycheck.

Recently, I heard from a mother in North Carolina who told me that the child tax credit takes away a layer of stress that is inherent in trying to return to the workforce and financially plan for a new setting.

In just a few weeks, these monthly payments are set to expire unless Build Back Better is passed. We cannot fail the next generation. We must pass this transformative legislation in the Senate and have the President sign it.

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BIDEN ENERGY CRISIS

(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. Madam Speaker, incredibly, President Biden said Tuesday: "We're making progress." And "American people are paying their fair share for gas."

However, the reality is Americans are paying 61 percent more for gas, and home heating oil costs will jump 54 percent.

The disastrous Biden agenda has put America in an energy crisis. He killed the Keystone pipeline with 11,000 jobs lost. And executive orders have paused new oil and gas leasing, costing over 1 million jobs. Annual Biden inflation is the highest in 40 years, destroying jobs.

The Democrat elite think they are better than everyone, and they believe Democrat voters and Democrat media are ignorant to accept \$4.5 trillion "costs zero dollars."

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

Congratulations, Norma and John Jett and Roxanne Wilson on their new grandson born yesterday, Hunter Taylor Wilson, Jr., of West Columbia, South Carolina.

HONORING FRED ANDES

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

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my good friend, Fred Andes, of Chicago, on receiving J Street's highest honor, the Tzedek v'Shalom Award. This is the Justice and Peace Award.

No one is more deserving than Fred. I am honored to call him a good friend and be close with his family, including his lovely wife, Melanie.

He is empathetic, Fred is generous, and he is a leader in the community. Fred practices the ancient expression "tikkun olam" every day in repairing the world.

He serves as a co-chair of the U.S. International Advisory Committee for EcoPeace Middle East. He is also a lay co-chair of the Joint Israel Committee for the Reconstructing Judaism movement. And he has served as a critical member of J Street's Chicago Executive Committee.

Fred is one of those people whose actions speak louder than words. We are so honored by his presence in the community.

Congratulations to Fred, again, in receiving the Tzedek v'Shalom Award.

TRANSPARENT BIPARTISAN LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

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

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, the American people deserve a transparent and bipartisan legislative process, but that is apparently not what the Democrat majority wants.

Unfortunately, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle continually manufacture crisis after crisis by waiting until deadlines are immediately upon us before addressing the issues at hand. And when we are up against a deadline, it gives the majority leverage to limit opposition and allows them to ram harmful bills through this House, claiming they are necessities.

They have done it with multiple continuing resolutions. They did it with the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act. And now, after having already punted responsibility once on the issue, they are doing it again on raising the debt ceiling, as a default looms less than a week away.

We must stop fanning the flames of fires where the tools exist to extinguish them. Democrats legislating in this manner creates uncertainty and spooks the market, which contributes to the twin economic crisis and energy crisis, both of which this administration has done nothing to address.

For our economy to truly recover, we must ensure the government is working efficiently and effectively on behalf of the American people.

SUPPORT AMERICAN FAMILIES

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support American families. And as I do that, I am sad to say that the Texas workforce sent almost a two-page, small-type letter to Texans around the State to tell them that they could ignore the President's mandate on vaccines, as the omicron variant rises, and as hospitals are beginning to teem over with the delta variant.

Isn't that sad?

To my fellow Texans, do what is right for your family. Get your children vaccinated. Get your booster, or your first or second shot. Let us save lives.

I am saddened by government tax dollars being used to counter and distort the President's mandates and the President's desire to impact the lives of Americans.

To also impact the lives of Americans, I intend to introduce the Kimberly Vaughan storage bill. In light of what happened in Oakland County and the tragedy of a family leaving a gun—as they gave it to a child for a birthday—but leaving it accessible to that child, four precious lives are lost.

I think this is certainly bipartisan legislation to create the opportunity for you to buy a gun, but to have the message, storage is important. This bill will provide a variety of best practices and penalties for those that do not store their guns.

Support me in the Kimberly Vaughan storage bill to make sure that we do what is right for our children. Store your guns and make them safe.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DAVID PANKO

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an ordinary citizen of Patton Township in Centre County, David Panko.

For the past 22 years, David served as president of the Patton Township Business Association. In his role as president, he built lasting relationships between the association, the community, and the Patton Township Police.

In 2002, David worked to establish the Patton Township Children's Safety Fair, a community event focused on building trust between residents and their police officers, firefighters, and EMS responders in Centre County.

David will be remembered as a leader who worked to make his community a better place. He rebuilt the organization into a group full of gracious and welcoming members.

Through David's leadership, the Patton Township Business Association has