

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.

□ 1215

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

continued to advance the commercial, industrial, and civic interests for the people of Patton Township.

I have had the privilege of working closely with David and the Patton Township Business Association as they advocated on behalf of small businesses in Patton Township and the Centre County region.

I thank David for his years of leadership and service to the organization, Patton Township, and Centre County. His contributions cannot be overstated, and his legacy will be remembered for years to come.

UNDENIABLE CRISIS AT OUR SOUTHERN BORDER

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

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, what we are seeing at our southern border is an undeniable crisis. An unthinkable amount of fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances are coming across our border. There is enough fentanyl coming across our border to kill every American seven times over. Think about that.

This only exacerbates our existing drug problem in the United States, like the rising use of meth in the Central Valley of California.

In October, U.S. Customs and Border Protection apprehended over 160,000 illegal immigrants attempting to cross our southern border, the highest number of apprehensions for October on record.

I have always been supportive of immigration. After all, I am the son of immigrants. But we have to respect and enforce our laws. By refusing to enforce immigration laws, this administration is sending a dangerous message that our border is open for business to cartels and encourages people to put themselves in harm's way to cross our border.

FENTANYL CRISIS

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

Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the unimaginable amount of dangerous fentanyl and related substances that are crossing our southern border, enough to kill every American seven times over.

Criminal drug cartels are capitalizing on the lack of security due to Biden's open-border policies. Since these large amounts of fentanyl are flooding in, the DEA issued its first public safety alert in 6 years, warning the public about fake pills laced with lethal doses of fentanyl, and we are seeing the devastating effects.

Synthetic opioids, primarily fentanyl, account for nearly two-thirds of the overdose deaths, including

American teenagers. Many parents across our country, and including my home State of Oklahoma, have tragically lost their children to accidental fentanyl overdoses. No one should ever have to experience that sort of pain.

In February, we have the chance to respond. The emergency class-wide scheduling order for fentanyl-related substances is set to expire. Democrats want to enact only temporary extensions, while Republicans are fighting to make it permanent.

Madam Speaker, there are deadly consequences to the lack of security at the border. We must ensure law enforcement has the resources to protect our country and keep those drugs out of American hands.

CRISIS ON THE SOUTHERN BORDER

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

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is no surprise to anyone here or throughout the United States that we have a serious crisis at our southern border. All anyone has to do is go visit the southern border to see the devastation, to see the death, to see the desperation, to see the drugs coming across, Madam Speaker.

Since President Biden has come into office, a record number, over 2 million illegal immigrants, have been apprehended: a 128 percent increase in apprehensions from the previous year.

And 1.7 million migrants were apprehended illegally just this year, while 400,000 illegally crossed the border and got away.

But the President and his administration halted the Trump administration's successful remain in Mexico policy, has reinstated catch-and-release, has refused to enforce title 42, and is providing incentives for illegals to come into our country through mass amnesty proposals, work visas, and driver's licenses. Okay?

This is a serious matter for every State, for my constituents, for my district. We have the highest level of overdose fatalities ever, and it is a direct result of the Biden administration policy. This needs to stop. This is a terrible situation caused by the Biden administration. I wish it would stop. We could stop it here.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF RALPH OWENS

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

Mr. CLYDE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of an honorable public servant, Mr. Ralph Owens, of Lavonia, Georgia.

As a lifetime member of the Franklin County community, Ralph humbly answered the call to public service and played a critical role in the city of

Lavonia's success. In 1987, Mr. Owens was first elected to the Lavonia City Council. Just two short years later, he became the mayor of Lavonia, where he dutifully served his local community for over three decades.

During his lifetime as a public official, Mayor Owens' leadership ushered in impressive industrial and economic growth to the city. From dramatically improving the city's police department, to bringing new businesses to the community, Ralph was a dedicated servant to the great people of Lavonia.

I am deeply saddened by the loss of such an accomplished individual that led with his servant's heart to truly make a positive difference in his community. Georgia's Ninth District will always remember Mayor Ralph Owens and his profound impact on the city of Lavonia and both Franklin and Hart Counties in northeast Georgia.

CONGRATULATING ELIZABETH RAFF

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

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise today to congratulate Mrs. Elizabeth Raff of Lancaster County, who was recently named Pennsylvania's Teacher of the Year for 2022.

Elizabeth teaches sixth grade at Pequea Elementary School, in the Penn Manor School District in Lancaster County, where she has taught since 2014. Penn Manor School District Superintendent, Dr. Mike Leichter, described Elizabeth as a "dynamic and creative teacher who is always looking to find new ways to reach her students" and noted that "she creates a space where students are encouraged to explore ideas in a supportive and respectful environment."

There is no question that teachers and students have been impacted; they have had challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic over the last 2 years, and we thank our teachers for all they have done to make sure that our students are receiving the best education possible.

That is certainly true of Mrs. Raff, whose classroom is well-decorated and offers students access to a large library of books to pique their interest, and a raised stage to provide students the opportunity to present to their classmates.

Thank you to Mrs. Raff for all you have done to educate students in our community. We all appreciate your efforts and wish to congratulate you on being named Pennsylvania's 2022 Teacher of the Year.

□ 1230

PROTECTING OUR DEMOCRACY ACT

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 838, I call up the bill