

of an effort to expand government. And this is kind of a dirty little secret right now. Control over the vast sectors I just mentioned are all being done under the guise of Big Tech. Giving these agencies broader authority is not really going to do anything to enhance competition, so what we see is the heavy hand of government, which is right now crushing small business with the one-size-fits-all mandates, also allowing these agencies more authority over the economy.

This will make government ultimately less accountable. Rather than promoting competition, the Federal Trade Commission is now imposing more costs on businesses. They are driving up prices on consumers, and this ultimately will force inflation even higher. There is just too much cash in the economy right now with very few supplies and services available. That is what inflation is.

The FTC and the DOJ recently announced that they will be revising merger guidelines out of nowhere, out of the blue, and seem to assume that mergers harm competition and fail to realize efficiencies. Companies are also facing the FTC inquiries related to unionization and environmental and social issues, which are well outside of the agency's mission and also is not related to their responsibilities in and around upholding competition.

The FTC has also required prior approval for future deals from businesses with a previous violation; again, all of a sudden, out of the blue, effectively making them guilty without the presumption of innocence.

Even more bizarre than we could ever imagine, many of the actions have been done using so-called "zombie votes" from a commissioner who is no longer there; not even in the system. The clear intent of these actions is to discourage businesses to engage in the legal conduct of mergers.

Even former President Obama's Treasury Secretary, Larry Summers, numerous times has stated that these policies will reduce supply, which will increase prices while discouraging investment. If the FTC and the unaccountable bureaucrats at the other agencies, such as the FDIC, continue to stray from the rule of law, Americans will face higher prices.

HONORING 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MIGHTY EIGHTH

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the 80th anniversary of the Mighty Eighth Air Force unit. The Mighty Eighth Air Force was organized in Savannah, Georgia, on January 28 in 1942. It was comprised of 48 bomber groups, 21 fighter groups, and three photo reconnaissance groups, making it the largest of its kind at the time.

The Mighty Eighth was utilized heavily over the course of World War II,

participating in primarily heavy bombardment of strategic and military targets in Nazi-occupied Europe and Germany. The Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum opened its doors in 1996, in Pooler, Georgia, during my tenure as mayor. It tells the heroic story of the Mighty Eighth, along with the story of World War II.

Featuring a B-17 project from the National Air and Space Museum, a fire truck used at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, along with multiple other aircraft and state-of-the-art technology, the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum is a remarkable tribute to our brave soldiers.

The celebration kicked off on the 28th of January and events will be held throughout the year to celebrate this momentous occasion. I am proud to have been involved in the construction and dedication of this tribute to American heroism and want to thank the staff and supporters for making this celebration possible.

HONORING GUS BELL

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in gratitude for the service of a friend and an instrumental member of the First District of Georgia, Mr. Gus Bell.

Gus is a proud graduate of The Citadel, where he received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. From The Citadel, he continued his education at the University of Kentucky. Gus Bell has worked in every aspect of engineering, starting his career with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Virginia and Albuquerque before joining his private firm.

I am proud to call Gus Bell a friend and have had the pleasure and opportunity to work with him throughout the years. He has had an enormous impact on my career. The work that Gus has done to better the First District is nothing short of remarkable and deserves recognition.

The red brick waterfront, Rousakis Plaza, in Savannah and the I-95 corridor in Pooler are just examples of how Gus' expertise has led to growth and new development for the great State of Georgia. His commitment to his community is an inspiration, and I cherish the time we had to work together.

Gus is an example of a servant to others, and we are very grateful for his years of work and commitment. Thank you, my friend.

RECOGNIZING JEKYLL ISLAND'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Jekyll Island's 75th anniversary as a State park. Under Governor M.E. Thompson, Jekyll Island was purchased in 1947 and Jekyll authorities will be having events throughout 2022 to celebrate 75 years.

This island has been a vacation spot for Georgians across the State for decades, and it will continue to be for years to come. Recently, Jekyll has experienced increasing growth with the

construction of a hotel in 2010, parks, camp sites, public beaches, and more.

The biggest addition to Jekyll Island was conducted in 2015 with a revamped shopping center, Beach Village, hotels, and the Westin Jekyll Island opening. I had the privilege of attending the kick-off celebration, complete with fireworks and synchronized swimmers, and am excited for what the rest of 2022 has in store for Jekyll.

COVID hit the hospitality industry especially hard and Jekyll Island was no exception. Through resiliency, hard work, and a dedicated community, Jekyll Island will be back in full force and better than ever.

This great Georgia vacation spot will be back on the map as a must-see for residents and people across the country.

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 11 o'clock and 11 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:

Many are the plans in our hearts today, O Lord, numerous agendas and schedules, lists of expectations, and countless intentions. We lay all of our efforts before You that Your purpose would prevail; that Your direction and design, Your will and aim would guide our lives.

It seems that our days are driven by overwhelming demands on our time, goals to accomplish, and deadlines to meet. We commit to You, Holy God, all that we hope to do today, that You, in Your mercy, would allow our plans to prosper.

The way seems clear in our minds; Lord, would that You establish our steps this day. May we receive the gift of Your counsel and the excellence of Your wisdom.

We pray this prayer in the certainty of Your holy name.

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 South Carolina (Mr. WILSON)

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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.

POSTAL SERVICE REFORM ACT

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Postal Service Reform Act. This legislation would finally eliminate the requirement for the Postal Service to prefund pension costs 75 years in advance. The mandate is punitive to the post office and to the people it serves. The unreasonable and unsustainable mandate risks the affordability of mail delivery for customers and it threatens the livelihood of hardworking Americans.

The Postal Service employs 630,000 workers nationwide, including 100,000 military veterans, and 6,100 Western New Yorkers. Each and every day these workers deliver for their communities. We have an opportunity today to secure the future of one of the most historic and trusted agencies in the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

TEXAS-25 CHAMPIONS

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I take a moment to recognize the extraordinary accomplishment of Texas-25's high school football teams this past season. Texas-25 was home to two champions, and I was proud to see all the hard work pay off on the field.

After a season of early mornings, long hours on the field, and staying focused in school, these teams showed dedication, strength, and an unwavering commitment to victory. In Stephenville, the Yellow Jackets became the 4A Division I Football State Champions after beating the Austin Jaguars 38-21, marking their sixth Texas State football title.

The Westlake Chaparrals were named the Class 6A Division II State champions with a 40-21 win over Denton Guyer, cementing their third-straight State championship and finishing the season undefeated with a 16-0 record.

As these winners prepare for their next endeavors, I wish them the best of luck for an even brighter and more victorious future. Winning is good. Go Chaps and go Yellow Jackets. In God we trust.

SKYROCKETING PRICE OF LUMBER

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

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express concern about the skyrocketing prices of lumber, which is adding to the instability of the housing market. Lumber prices have hit record highs; yet, there is still tariffs on imports of softwood lumber. With high tariffs, our low housing inventory will still not improve.

According to the National Association of Homebuilders, America's housing affordability crisis and price swings in lumber have added more than \$18,000 to the price of a new home; meaning Americans needed an average income of \$144,000 to afford a home last year, more than double the median household income in my district. With almost no stock and rising prices, prospective buyers are faced with terrible bidding wars, wars that can only be won by cash-only investors.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Biden Administration to make the high price of lumber a priority to improve the affordable housing market.

APPRECIATING EMILY SALEEBY

(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, I am sincerely grateful to recognize Emily Saleeby, deputy chief of staff for the Second Congressional District of South Carolina. Emily has been dedicated and passionate serving the people of South Carolina.

A native of Florence, and a graduate of the University of South Carolina, where she was student body vice president, Emily began working in Congress in 2014. She has achieved being someone who could be relied on for being a dedicated public servant. She is returning to South Carolina for a position with Savannah River Mission Completion, where she will continue to be successful.

I know her parents, Suzanne and John Saleeby, siblings, Lauren and Timothy, her golden retriever, Cato, and her colleagues share my deep appreciation for her continued success. Lebanese Americans are vital in South Carolina.

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

Go Gamecocks! Go Emily!

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. JOHN C. LAW

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

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Mr. John C. Law, who

passed away on January 20, 2022. A resident of the city of Santa Monica, John was a beloved husband, father, and champion of affordable, high-quality healthcare.

John dedicated his life to serving others and was a generous philanthropist through Los Angeles County during his time on the board of directors at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. During his tenure, John championed efforts to bring women and people of color onto the board of directors and to better the health and well-being of the community.

As President of the Los Angeles Free Clinic, John also worked to improve healthcare quality, access, and outcomes for underserved communities in the region. John also contributed to healthcare causes and research not only through his leadership, but through his tremendous generosity. John and his wife, Hope, made their first gift in 1992 and contributed frequently to its prostate cancer research and healthcare leadership funds. An accomplished businessman, John served as president of the LA County Capital Asset Leasing Corporation and as co-managing director of Warland Investments.

John is survived by his loving wife, Hope Warshaw, and their son, Jack Warshaw. He had an amazing spirit that was dedicated to serving his family and especially those most in need.

John will be greatly missed by his friends, family, and all who knew him.

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA—112th ANNIVERSARY

(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. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 112th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. On February 8, 1910, Chicago businessman, William D. Boyce, who grew up in Western Pennsylvania, incorporated the Boy Scouts of America.

Since that time, millions of young men and women have joined the Scouts and learned the values of patriotism, courage, and self-reliance.

The Scouts have helped shaped some of the most memorable figures in U.S. history: Former President George W. Bush, Martin Luther King, Jr., and even retiring Supreme Court Justice, Stephen Breyer.

Mr. Speaker, I have spent more than 50 years in scouting, including serving as Scout Master and achieving the rank of Eagle Scout in 1977. It was these experiences that first sparked my interest in public service. The Boy Scout oath, in part, urges us to perform our duty to our country. I am proud to introduce this resolution designating today as Boy Scouts of America Day to honor the tireless service of Scout volunteers and participants in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I have witnessed firsthand the important principles, values,