

and to his country with his time in the U.S. Army, as well as his 5 years as a police officer. Although we look back upon his commitment and actions as we mourn his loss, let us also look to Officer Alvarado's legacy of service as a way forward.

We must realize that our communities, no matter their makeup, rely on men and women who make up our police departments for order, for safety, and for our upward mobility.

□ 1015

Officer Alvarado did that by not only protecting and serving Salinas, but also Officer Alvarado got up every day and left his home knowing that his job was to run to the danger and not away from it.

Madam Speaker, Officer Jorge Alvarado ran to the danger on Friday night. Let's make sure that his service, that his sacrifice, are not in vain. Let's make sure that all of us support his family and support the men and women in uniform who strive to serve and protect so that we can make it home to our families and thrive in safe communities.

FARM BILL IMPACT SERIES: CROP INSURANCE

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

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, in preparation for reauthorizing the farm bill in 2023, I rise today to deliver the next installment of my Farm Bill Impact Series where I am highlighting various aspects of the farm bill that deserves Congress' awareness and support.

If America is going to thrive, the people who feed, fuel, and clothe America must thrive, and the farm bill contains certain programs that have been critical to the success of agricultural producers in my district and the food security of our country. This week, I am talking about crop insurance.

I believe that crop insurance is one of the most important programs within the farm bill, and my conversation with producers, farm economists, and crop insurance agents have shaped my understanding of how critical it is to reauthorize the crop insurance title in full for 2023.

Crop insurance helps producers manage the risks that they face every day from weather, pests, disease, and market volatility; it has also been one of our Nation's best public-private partnership programs between the government, private industry, and agricultural producers. Crop insurance does two things: it benefits farmers and it benefits Americans. Crop insurance never replaces a good crop, but it lets producers stay in the game if disaster strikes and it helps to ensure that our country continues to be the most food-secure nation in the world.

I recently spoke with two Kansas farmers to get their thoughts on the importance of crop insurance. One of

them said to me, "I spend a lot of time thinking about the agronomic and economic strength of my farm. Crop insurance is the most important tool in my toolbox for ensuring my farm's economic strength in the face of my two biggest challenges: the weather and the global market. For small family operations like mine, banks want to see crop insurance before they will give you a line of credit because they want to know that you can remain resilient as an operation through times of volatility."

Another Kansas farmer told me, "The very first year I was not sure that I wanted to take out insurance. My mom convinced me to manage my risk and so I did. That year was extremely dry in the spring, and my first crop of wheat only made 12 bushels to the acre. If I didn't have crop insurance, that year would have put me in a deep hole, and I would have missed my equipment payments. I have never forgotten that, and I have carried crop insurance every year since."

There are countless stories just like these that testify to the importance of crop insurance, without which the government would be continually considering ad hoc disaster relief programs for farmers. Crop insurance is a market-based approach to risk management with a proven track record. The more we reduce the impact of risk and volatility in agriculture, the more food secure we become as a nation, and the more food secure we are, the stronger and freer we are.

I support whatever directly benefits farmers, ranchers, and ag producers in this country because they are the lifeblood of America. They keep us food secure, and therefore, free and self-determining as a nation. That is why I support crop insurance within Title XI, and why I am bringing awareness to it now, to ensure that this program remains strong in the 2023 farm bill.

I will be back on the floor soon to deliver another installment of my Farm Bill Impact Series and highlight more programs and titles within the bill that I believe this Congress must understand and support to ensure that agriculture thrives in America.

PRESIDENT BIDEN'S FIRST STATE OF THE UNION SPEECH

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, tonight the President will give his first State of the Union speech in this very Chamber. Unfortunately, our country is far weaker and has greatly declined in the 13½ months since President Biden took office.

His heavy-handed COVID mandates have decimated workforces and hit certain industries, like healthcare, especially hard. Crime is rising on our streets, which is a direct result of efforts to defund the police. Biden's open border policies will result in approximately 2 million apprehensions in a single year.

Our debt is approaching \$30 trillion with no end in sight. Inflation and the rising cost of practically everything

Americans need to live is wreaking havoc on our people, especially those on fixed incomes. Supply chains are in disarray.

The administration's needless war on domestic oil and gas production has led to dramatic increases at the pump and has caused the United States to once again, unfortunately, be a net oil importer.

President Biden's disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan cost American lives and weakened our standing in the world. This weakness then emboldened Russia and resulted in Putin's invasion of Ukraine, and all the while we are doing far too little to stand up to China.

The list goes on and on. America badly needs its President to quickly and dramatically reverse course so that the state of our Union is something that we can all be proud of and that will once again be strong.

URGENCY TO PASS IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today on the eve of President Biden's State of the Union speech to strongly urge Congress to pass immigration reform to boost our economy, grow our GDP, and create jobs across the country.

Right now, our economy is roaring back after the depths of a global pandemic, and workers and families are still feeling the effects. As we continue this recovery and work to grow our economy, lower costs, and create jobs, it is now more crucial than ever that we secure a pathway to citizenship for the millions of hardworking, immigrant, essential workers across the country who contribute to our economy every day.

We must secure a pathway to citizenship for the farmworkers and meatpackers who feed America, the construction workers who build American cities, the restaurant and hotel workers who serve our families, and the nurses, doctors, and healthcare workers who have cared for us in this public health crisis. Now is the time to deliver on immigration reform to boost our economy and keep families together.

Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus join me in this fight to urgently act. That is why we have worked tirelessly with the Biden administration to enact policy changes to build a more efficient, just, fair, and humane immigration system that reflects our American values.

We have pursued an all-of-the-above and any-which-way approach to achieving immigration reform using every tool at our disposal to secure a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, farmworkers, TPS holders, and essential workers.

In the House, CHC members have introduced and passed meaningful bipartisan bills to achieve that goal. As the proud son of farmworkers, I was thrilled when Democrats, Republicans, growers, and workers came together to pass the Farm Workforce Modernization Act. This bipartisan bill would give farmworkers and their families a pathway to citizenship.

Doing so would stabilize our workforce and the price of our food, making your produce, my produce, and everybody's produce available at a reasonable cost. The CHC also led efforts to pass the bipartisan American Dream and Promise Act to allow DACA, temporary protected status, and deferred enforced departure beneficiaries to earn permanent residence and continue contributing to our workforce and economy.

CHC, with House Democrats, delivered. Unfortunately, Republicans in the Senate blocked these commonsense bills that would benefit all Americans and help keep families together. However, we didn't let their refusal to do what is right for this country and American families stand in the way of our work to enact positive change.

That is why the CHC led efforts to pass immigration reform through the Build Back Better Act and provide a much-needed pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, TPS holders, essential workers, and farmworkers, and meaningful protections and work permits. Out of the House, we passed significant reforms to address the historic labor shortages our Nation faces, grow our GDP, and fight rising costs for American families.

Now, with these much-needed provisions awaiting consideration in the Senate, I call on my Senate colleagues to take up the Build Back Better Act without delay and pass it with a pathway to citizenship. I call on the Senate to pass the American Dream and Promise Act. I call on the Senate to pass the Farm Workforce Modernization Act.

We must urgently pass immigration reform right now. We will work with the administration to achieve positive, meaningful immigration changes. It is our duty to our Nation to give hard-working, immigrant, essential workers the opportunity to stay in the country that they call home.

Our Nation's immigrants are professionals, entrepreneurs, doctors, nurses, and essential workers who make America stronger. We are at our strongest when we embrace our immigrant communities.

Later tonight, during President Biden's State of the Union address, CHC members will be virtually joined by Dreamers from our districts to highlight their contributions to our country, their home. Dreamers are part of our efforts to rebuild and to recover. They are our future and our constant inspiration in this fight.

Tonight, I am proud to be joined by Alma from Thermal, California, my constituent, to say: "You are not forgotten." "No son olvidados."

You are home.

MR. PUTIN'S IMMORAL WAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise with a very heavy heart and an overwhelming sense of sadness, anguish, and anger that should, however, be utilized to save lives.

I traveled with the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe with my colleagues, Congressmen Cohen, Hudson, Wilson, Aderholt, and Veasey. We started out, most of us, on Sunday with the intent to go into the Ukraine region, and we did, all with optimism that this war would not be, that we could engage in discussions with parliamentarians and heads of state and that Putin would listen to reason of the 21st century.

Upon arriving, we unfortunately heard the distorted, confused, and absolutely rejected message of the Soviet Union, and how the history suggests that countries like Ukraine were not independent, they were simply part of the old Soviet Union.

Madam Speaker, you are aware of the fact that generations now living in democratic countries like Lithuania have no knowledge of the old Soviet Union. Congratulations to leaders like Gorbachev and Yeltsin who believed that their duty was to bring Russia into the 21st century.

We remember the words of Ronald Reagan: Mr. Gorbachev, tear down that wall. How in the world can Putin now come to represent that he, riding in on a fancy horse, maybe even shirtless, is going to now dominate violently, bringing these countries to their knees and for them to reject what they have come to love, and that is democracy?

We continued in discussions—the Lithuanian Prime Minister, the Lithuanian President, the Lithuanian Foreign Minister, and many others—that country, right in the eye of the storm, right in the potential of being one of those victims, yet Lithuania is a member of NATO protected by Article 5. But we thought because of their fears and their concerns, because of their sensitivity of the reckless and uncontrolled posture of Putin, who knows where he would go, Estonia, Latvia, Moldova, countries that are standing separately.

He has already, as we were fully briefed, dominated and taken over—it doesn't exist. I want the President of Belarus to understand that. I hope that he could stand up, but there were already 30,000 to 40,000 Russia troops in his country bordering on Lithuania.

□ 1030

Even with that, we wanted to, as we have heard, give peace a chance and continue to press for peace even to the point where we went to the meeting where Finland, Sweden, France, Great Britain, Russia, and Ukraine were all

there. We went to sit down at the peace table to try and argue. We arrived on Wednesday, and as everyone knows, in the late hours, early morning, from Wednesday to Thursday, Putin designed his own war. No vote by the Russian people. He designed a purposeless, senseless, and immoral war.

I began to articulate how we should move quickly, financial sanctions that should immediately bring them to their knees, the SWIFT account being denied. On Friday and Saturday I asked for that. But I think the real issue is they should be brought to their knees. And then last Saturday I said that he should be charged as a war criminal. I am glad that the world criminal court, The Hague, is now opening an investigation on this desperate terrorizer, this killer.

We cannot tolerate this kind of behavior. He indicated to the world that this was an operational war: I am going to be selective, I am not going after civilians.

Madam Speaker, to the Nation and to the world: this is a face of a destroyed building reminiscent of World War II when civilian places were bombed and when thousands were lost. There is a person standing here. And this is dead children.

Mr. Putin is a killer and a terrorist. And these are terrorists that are in Ukraine. We ask the world to continue to stand united, NATO and others, to be able to bring Putin to his needs financially and economically and as well on the world stage. He should be tried as a criminal. We need this war to end in a cease-fire.

Madam Speaker, President Zelensky said: We are here.

We stand with him. Ukraine is here. Glory to Ukraine.

MARDI GRAS

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

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Down in New Orleans where the blues were born, it takes a cool cat to blow a horn.

Down in LaSalle and Rampart Street, it is Mardi Gras combo with a mambo beat.

Today is Mardi Gras, and as a New Orleanian, this is a special time for our city and our region. It is a joyous time culminating today in the dizzying, colorful explosion that is Mardi Gras Day—Fat Tuesday. Everywhere else, it is just a Tuesday, but in Louisiana it is Mardi Gras—a time for merriment, a time for joy, a time to party, and recognize the culture that makes New Orleans so unique and makes Louisiana so special.

It is a one-of-a-kind experience. Some might call this biased, but objectively I think everyone should enjoy and experience Mardi Gras.

Today, people from all over the world come together, krewes of all stripes and backgrounds work to pull off a day like none other.