

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.

After the challenges of isolation and the pandemic, this year's Mardi Gras is a chance for us to reunite, reconnect, and celebrate what truly makes New Orleans, New Orleans—the love, the peace, the culture, and the energy of its people.

While I am in D.C. for House business and for the President's State of the Union address, my heart is at home as the Zulu float turns on Jackson Avenue and the oceans of people scream and yell: Throw me something, mister. Our hearts are full of joy.

My heart is handing out coconuts at the Zulu parade as we speak, although I am physically in Washington, D.C.

People attending balls, costuming, and letting everyone be themselves is what Mardi Gras is all about. It is a time of love, a time of expression, and a time of cultural explosion.

Happy Mardi Gras to one, happy Mardi Gras to all, have a safe and happy Mardi Gras. Enjoy the beautiful weather.

For all of you watching, I invite you all to come to Louisiana, have a slice, have a piece of Mardi Gras. No matter where you are or where you are from, let's show each other some love this season.

And as we say in Louisiana: *Laissez les bon temps rouler*.

AMERICA'S ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

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

Mr. CLYDE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight one of the most forceful and significant pieces of leverage on the world stage that President Biden surrendered on his first day in office: America's energy independence.

Later today the President will brazenly attempt to rewrite history by hailing his so-called leadership amidst the horrific and heartbreaking war unfolding in Ukraine while ignoring the self-inflicted crises he has imposed on the American people. Yet no amount of spin, lies, or deflection can hide the damage that Biden has done to our great country—particularly through his failed, destructive, and reckless energy policies.

On day one he killed the Keystone XL pipeline destroying 11,000 American jobs and delivering a crushing blow to domestic energy production. Shortly after, President Biden infamously green-lit the Nord Stream 2 pipeline—handing Vladimir Putin a victory long before his Russian troops ever stepped foot into Ukraine.

Throughout the first year of Biden's Presidency, the current administration embarrassingly begged OPEC to produce more oil while stalling and even halting oil and gas permits here in the United States.

To further weaken our position on the world stage, President Biden withdrew U.S. support for beneficial energy projects around the world, increasing

our dependence, as well as our allies' dependence, on foreign adversaries. President Biden removed U.S. support from the Eastern Mediterranean gas pipeline that would have connected Israel's offshore gas reserves to Europe.

In spite of lauding this project as a new opportunity and a geopolitical win-win back in 2014 when Biden was Vice President, now President Biden claims his priorities lie with moving away from fossil fuels in order to promote green energy and renewables. Some may believe President Biden simply had a change of heart, but this would be naive. Instead, he has dangerously appeased the far-left flank of his party by fully embracing Green New Deal garbage.

Enough is enough, Madam Speaker. It is abundantly clear that energy independence is national security. And through every solitary energy policy, the Biden administration has chipped away at our ability to independently fuel our Nation, thereby damaging our national security.

Due to President Trump's powerful efforts, the United States was recently energy independent just a year ago. Yet thanks to President Biden's utopian Green New Deal fantasies, we have lost our energy independence. So rather than strengthening domestic production by having every energy industry firing on all cylinders, we are left purchasing oil and gas from other countries, like Russia. Yes, Russia.

In fact, the United States buys over 635,000 barrels of oil every day at over \$103 per barrel. That is over \$65 million every solitary day that we are sending to Russia filling Putin's war coffers in the process. I stand with patriots boycotting Russian vodka, pouring it out all over the streets, supporting the Ukrainian people.

But why on Earth are we not boycotting Russian energy to put America first and really hit Russia where it hurts: in the pocketbook?

Mr. President, we must immediately cease purchasing Russian oil and fully unleash domestic energy production.

Ahead of his State of the Union Address tonight, I urge President Biden to rescind existing regulations and reverse harmful executive orders that undermine our energy independence. Restore oil and gas production by swiftly authorizing vital leases and permits, and abandoned radical climate rules and policies that obstruct our ability to have domestic energy production roaring at full throttle.

Unfortunately, based on the President's most recent record, I fully expect him to double down on his disastrous energy agenda. Just this weekend, Press Secretary Jen Psaki comically claimed that we need to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, on oil in general, and we need to look at other ways of having energy in our country and others.

As a military veteran, I can assure the White House that renewable resources are meaningless in fueling

military equipment on the battlefield and winning a war.

To no one's surprise, recent reports claim President Biden will tout his energy policies tonight and request this body to deliver legislation to achieve so-called clean energy that promotes climate action. What a disappointment.

There is still time for the President to cease this capitulation to the far left, stop putting \$65 million every day into Vladimir Putin's war chest, and put Americans first by fully empowering and unleashing domestic energy production.

CELEBRATING THE ATHLETES FROM BEARDEN HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, on February 6, Bearden High School's dance team brought home another national championship from the Universal Dance Association's National Dance Team championship. The team earned its third national championship in the large varsity Game Day Division, the sixth in team history.

Routines in the Game Day Division are focused on school spirit and crowd engagement. Teamwork is crucial in these choreographed competitions, and athletes must be on the same page if they want to win. Bearden's dance team won this competition by working together and perfecting a motivating, effective routine during Bearden Bulldog athletic competitions.

Members of this national championship winning team are Abigail Abrams, Olivia Roddy, Jordan James, Ella Klenck, Julie Horn, Maddie Taylor, Cadance Eastman, Kenzie Bankes, Mallory Simpson, Ruby Fisher, Leah Cho, Ella McLaughlin, Marian Mitchell, Mallory Haskins, Eli Keziah, Lana Nelson, Avery Duncanson, and Reagan Honeycutt.

The team's leadership includes head coach Hannah Keathley, assistant coaches Natalie Adkins and Sydney Schriver, technical coach Kathryn Brasfield, choreographer Katie Fear Lane, and team sponsor and high school teacher Rebecca Nutter.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to celebrate this group of athletes from Bearden High School, my alma mater. Our community is proud of your continued success on the national stage.

And go Bulldogs.

Recognizing Tennessee Volunteers Legend Gus Manning

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize somebody who really needs no recognition at all but is somebody who is very dear to me. He is a good friend of mine. He is a Tennessee Volunteer legend, Gus Manning. He is turning 99 this July, and I wanted to take a few moments to recognize Gus' life and distinguished career here on the House floor.