

Police Sergeant Pat Kilroy arrived on the scene and helped both of them out.

So many of us wonder what we would do when faced with an emergency. Anthony's quick thinking and selfless action at Collingdale Park prevented a tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join members of our community in recognizing Anthony Alexander as a local hero.

□ 1215

MR. PUTIN'S WAR

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

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I, too, join my colleague, Representative THOMPSON, in remembering and feeling very blessed to have known Jim Hagedorn, our colleague and friend, and I pray for his family.

Mr. Speaker, on this day we need to discuss the fact that Vladimir Putin is absolutely stunned by the courage and resolve of the Ukrainian people. After 6 to 7 days of fighting, Ukraine controls most of its major cities including the city that my family is from, Lviv. The Russian people are protesting their leader's unprovoked aggression seeing, as the world sees, that this is Putin's war alone.

We must do more. Our crippling sanctions are strongly hurting the Russian economy. But, Mr. Speaker, we must recognize this conflict is where energy is both the carrot and the stick. We must hit Putin where it hurts, by cutting off imports of Russian oil to the United States, unleashing U.S. energy, and ensuring Nord Stream 2 never goes into effect.

Putin can't be trusted. This is understood. His prior interest in diplomacy was insincere. We must show leadership. We must provide the weapons that, by the way, were provided by the Ukrainian Parliament.

HONORING SUNNY BRYANT FROM HOUSTON, TEXAS

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 8-year-old Sunny Bryant from Houston, Texas.

Some hometown heroes, like Sunny Bryant, might be too young to work and are certainly too young to even have a driver's license, but they inspire millions of people across our Nation.

Sunny Bryant is a transgender girl who, like her transgender community, is currently experiencing fear and anxiety due to politically motivated attacks sparked by Texas Governor Greg Abbott and his anti-trans actions.

Governor Abbott recently directed State officials to investigate parents who support their trans children with

gender-affirming healthcare, describing it as child abuse. This measure not only goes against the opinions of medical experts, but it intentionally strikes fear in the transgender community for political gain. This is appalling.

But like hometown heroes across the country, Sunny is strong and resilient—and she has got some missing teeth as you can see in the photo, Mr. Speaker.

Sunny Bryant, from my home district in Texas, will be my virtual State of the Union guest. I am truly honored that she will be joining me today.

CALIFORNIA WATER ALLOCATION

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, last week, Federal officials announced California water allocations for water year 2022—this one—this spring right now where growers are getting ready to plant—or would be.

Despite their hard work as growers, their productivity and responsibility of feeding the rest of the Nation being on their shoulders, they were put dead last in line for water allocations. That is right. Behind even the mindless dumping of freshwater into our oceans to save nonexistent fish.

Even though California farmers produce most of the Nation's fruit, nut, and vegetable crops, many received zero percent of their allocation—this at a time of many bare store shelves in the grocery stores, this time of crisis of an international proportion where we should be making our own energy and our own food crops.

We are going to become more reliant on imported food if we don't grow this 2022 crop year because we are growing next year's crop right now—including on my rice farm at home.

These water allocations will indeed have drastic consequences for the farmers, their employees, and the small towns that they populate all up and down California and indeed other States as well.

So growers are at their wit's end. We need President Biden and others to re-allocate and prioritize water for farmers, not for fish.

PROTECTING LGBTQ RIGHTS ABROAD

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

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, reports to Congress are not just for us. They are a tool for Americans to hold our government accountable.

I joined Republicans and Democrats to pass the Global Respect Act to require the White House and State Department to name foreign individuals who violate the human rights of

LGBTQ people. People put on this list would be ineligible for visas to enter into the United States.

This report of human rights violations should not fit on some desk in Washington, D.C. gathering dust. My amendment to the Global Respect Act gives every American the opportunity to read the report on protecting LGBTQ rights abroad.

The public, our partners, and our allies need to see that the U.S. Government is holding human rights abusers accountable. My amendment will require a published report and will improve transparency and accountability.

UKRAINE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in solidarity with the people of Ukraine who are under horrific siege. Ukraine's valiant President Volodymyr Zelensky and the courageous Ukrainian forces and its people are defending their homeland in what truly is a battle of David versus Goliath.

Putin is unleashing hell on Earth through cluster bombs and vacuum bombs on innocent civilians targeting women, children, and the elderly, and striking hospitals and orphanages in a murderous rampage.

This is the work of war criminals. But more war is not the answer. The top leaders of every nation in our world—not just their ambassadors but every leader of every nation—this week must create an historic surge of diplomacy to engage with Vladimir Putin to end this massacre.

Work it out. Work it out.

Please stop the killing. Stop the fear. Stop the massacre. Build forward. Invite Vladimir Putin toward a new world of peace and opportunity for all in that damaged and struggling part of our beleaguered world.

DEMOCRATS ARE BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA

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

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, President Biden and Democrats are building a better America.

Last year we passed the American Rescue Plan. That helped get our economy back on track. We have created in America approximately 7 million jobs in the last 12 months. That is a record in U.S. history. We are also experiencing very high economic growth. Jobs are up, wages are up, and unemployment is down.

We then followed it up with an infrastructure law that is going to rebuild roads, bridges, and highways. It is going to put broadband internet everywhere from rural areas to inner cities. It is going to get lead out of our water, and it is going to put EV charging stations across America.

What are Republicans doing?

I know two sitting Republican Members went to a White nationalist conference a few days ago.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3967, HONORING OUR PROMISE TO ADDRESS COMPREHENSIVE TOXICS ACT OF 2021

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 950 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 950

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 3967) to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. An amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117-33, modified by the amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs or their respective designees; (2) the further amendments described in section 2 of this resolution; (3) the amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution; and (4) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. After debate pursuant to the first section of this resolution, each further amendment printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules not earlier considered as part of amendments en bloc pursuant to section 3 of this resolution shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, may be withdrawn by the proponent at any time before the question is put thereon, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

SEC. 3. It shall be in order at any time after debate pursuant to the first section of this resolution for the chair of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs or his designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of further amendments printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc offered pursuant to this section shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs or their respective designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

SEC. 4. All points of order against the further amendments printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules or amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution are waived.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RUIZ). The gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. RESCHENTHALER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I just want to state what I think we are all feeling here today, and that is that our prayers are with the Ukrainian people during this very perilous time.

I want to acknowledge the unity displayed in the yesterday afternoon Rules Committee meeting when Democrats and Republicans came together and with one voice condemned Vladimir Putin's blatant aggression, his brutality, and the horrific actions the Russian state is now taking against the people of Ukraine. It was almost as if there was no distinction between political parties, and I think that is as it should be because Vladimir Putin is not a genius, as some have said, and he is not smart. He is a bully. He is a dictator.

I cochair the Human Rights Commission in Congress. We have done countless hearings on his brutality against the Russian people. He jails people he disagrees with, he kills people he disagrees with, and he tortures people he disagrees with. He truly is an international pariah.

After this latest action, he will be in the same category as Kim Jong-un in North Korea.

So I just want to acknowledge the unity yesterday in the Rules Committee, and I want my Republican friends to know how grateful I was to have us all speak as one, especially during this difficult time. I know it is important not just for the Ukrainian people but in Russia that we are speaking as one because when people start to make excuses for the Russian dictator or start to find ways to praise him, that gets played on Russian TV and exaggerated in a way to indicate that somehow we are not unified here when I believe that we are.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the Rules Committee met and reported a rule, House Resolution 950, providing for consideration of H.R. 3967, the Honoring Our PACT Act, under a structured rule. The rule self-executes a manager's amendment from Chairman TAKANO, provides 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and makes in order 28 amendments. Lastly, the rule provides en

bloc authority to Chairman TAKANO and provides one motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, today we are here to stand up for our veterans. For a long time now, more and more have been speaking out—pleading—to be taken seriously about the health impacts of the toxic chemicals they dealt with while serving our country.

Many encountered water at military bases that were contaminated with toxins, like harmful forever chemicals. They breathed in toxic fumes at burn pits where jet fuel was used to incinerate things like paint, petroleum, and plastic. And they were exposed with radiation when being tasked to clean up after nuclear tests, without being given the proper safety equipment.

These were duties we demanded of them. And as a result, many veterans have been left to suffer with severe health challenges like cancers, infertility, and respiratory conditions. Many more have died, and others are just too sick to work.

□ 1230

We aren't talking about just a few people here, Mr. Speaker. We are talking about millions and millions of veterans who answered the call to serve.

When they asked us to take care of them, for too long, they were just brushed aside not just by Congress but also by the Department of Defense, year after year after year.

They were told the science wasn't clear. And they were told that providing the medical care that they needed and that they earned was just too high.

Maybe some bureaucrat somewhere viewed denying veterans' disability claims as an exercise in frugality. Maybe drowning them in paperwork and setting an unreasonably high bar to get benefits just became the norm. I don't know.

But that finally ends here and now, Mr. Speaker. The legislation included in this rule will cut the burdensome red tape. It will streamline the VA's review process, and it will get veterans exposed to toxins the care that they so badly need.

H.R. 3967 tasks the VA with providing standardized trainings to better handle these claims, and it requires them to conduct outreach and provide resources to veterans exposed to deadly chemicals.

Thanks to this bill, no longer will the burden to prove toxic exposure be placed on veterans themselves. And it is about damn time, Mr. Speaker.

If this bill becomes law, it will help an estimated 1.4 million veterans by fiscal year 2031. That is something that we should all be proud of.

The Honoring our PACT Act recognizes that just thanking our veterans for their service isn't enough. We must back up those words with action.

Some may suggest that we should just maintain the status quo or make the scope of this bill much, much smaller. Let me remind them that Congress made the choice to spend trillions