

RECOGNIZING SHELTON JOHNSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an amazing Californian, Mr. Shelton Johnson. I commend his contributions to the National Park Service and his dedication to telling the stories of our history that often go untold.

Mr. JOHNSON has worked as a park ranger for over 35 years. In that time, he has enthusiastically recounted the special contributions of Black Americans to preserving Yosemite's wilderness. The all-Black 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments, known as the Buffalo Soldiers, were among the first park rangers, even before the founding of the National Park system.

I am inspired by Mr. JOHNSON's creativity and commitment to sharing our diverse history. Mr. JOHNSON was recently awarded the American Park Experience Award for his lifelong efforts in helping more families and youth feel welcome as they see their stories told.

As a fellow teacher and mom to three enthusiastic, park-loving kids, I am honored to recognize him today.

COMPETITION IN CAPITALISM

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, a strong capitalist economy requires competition. Weak antitrust enforcement has atrophied the bones of our economy. When our economy lacks competition, we see prices go up, wages drop, and innovation stall.

Last year, my office released a report detailing how Big Pharma's market consolidation creates real harms for families. Too many Americans can't afford lifesaving prescription drugs because Big Pharma buys out its competitors so that it can continue its corporate abuse.

We have also seen how Big Tech's market consolidation reduces consumer choice, stifles competition, and harms small businesses.

Competition is central to healthy capitalism. Reining in corporate greed, holding big businesses accountable, and cracking down on monopolies will strengthen our economy.

Congress must tackle market consolidation to create a level playing field for all businesses and to strengthen our capitalist economy.

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, last night President Biden tried to paint his administration in a positive light during the State of the Union address, but the American people know better.

We are facing an unprecedented number of crises: an economic crisis, a border crisis, a crime crisis, an energy crisis, and an unprecedented national security crisis. Every one of these crises have been either created or made worse

by President Biden and congressional Democrats.

Simply put, Democrats own these crises, but I am sure—and we did see—an attempt by President Biden to dress up these disasters and highlight victories that simply don't exist.

While President Biden tries to take credit for accomplishments he had no responsibility in delivering, House Republicans remain committed to showcasing to the American people what we stand for: unleashing American energy independence, peace through strength, respecting the Constitution, putting power back in the hands of parents, lowering taxes, balancing budgets, and securing our southern border.

Mr. Speaker, if given the opportunity, Republicans will lead on these issues, and I look forward to delivering on the day that that happens.

SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my support to the people of Ukraine. All Americans stand in solidarity against Russian aggression, and we pray for peace.

However, as the conflict escalates and we call for not one more drop of Russian oil to be imported into this Nation, the United States must make energy independence a priority.

Prior to the invasion, gas here at home was already 40 percent higher than it was 12 months ago, marking an 8-year high. Now, as the world sanctions Russia, prices are climbing yet again, and experts predict Americans could soon be paying more than \$5 for a gallon of gas.

In response, the President announced that he is releasing 30 million barrels from the U.S. strategic oil reserves. It sounds great, but considering the United States uses more than 20 million barrels a day, this is nothing more than a gimmick. A day-and-a-half worth of oil is not going to reduce costs for American businesses, workers, and families in my district.

There must be a comprehensive plan that leads us back to the energy independence we enjoyed during the Trump administration, and it starts with lifting the President's moratorium on new oil and gas drilling on public lands, exploring in ANWR and off our coasts, and finishing the Keystone XL pipeline.

□ 1030

RECOGNIZING THE CAVE SPRING CHEERLEADING TEAM

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the student athletes on the Cave Spring High School cheerleading team in Roanoke, Virginia, for winning its division's State championship toward the end of last year. The Knights cheerleading squad is often referred to as a dynasty, and this victory marks the team's fourth State title in 9 years—and in those other 5 years they placed second each time.

The team had to overcome several obstacles this season, but through it

all they persevered. Cave Spring senior cheerleader, Abby Holbrook, said it best when she said: "We work so hard during the season, and it feels like all the hard work is paying off."

Yes, Abby's hard work certainly did pay off. With the graduating class of 2022 having won the title their freshman and senior years, they are proud of the legacy they leave behind, and rightly so.

Congratulations to Cave Spring on this accomplishment, and I wish them the best of luck again next season.

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

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

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to follow my friend from Virginia (Mr. CLINE).

Mr. Speaker, last night when we heard the President of the United States address this Nation and this body in this Chamber as well as our colleagues on the other side of the Capitol in the Senate, you would think there was some sort of magic moment that the virus has suddenly left the Earth and now all of a sudden we are free here on the floor of the House of Representatives to be without masks.

It was just coincidentally timed—just coincidentally timed—when the State of the Union is upon us. A number of States have lifted their mandates—all suddenly coincidentally timed—around the State of the Union. And I was interested in watching the Speaker of the House suddenly saying: Well, it is a new moment in COVID.

I listened to my colleagues from Texas just a moment ago on the other side of the aisle talking about how we have had this great victory through the action of the genius of our Federal Government to free us from the perils of this virus.

Mr. Speaker, tell that to the children who have been sitting in the corners of classrooms wearing masks. Tell that to the members of our military and the members of our Border Patrol who are the so-called heroes. I say so-called because my Democratic colleagues a year ago were calling healthcare workers heroes, and now they are forcing them still to lose their job if they don't take a jab because of the wisdom of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle that they know best. They know best.

The President stood there arrogantly in that posture preaching to the United States public and to this body yesterday and talked about how we are going to beat this virus and oh, by the way, suddenly magically we need to fund the police. Go back and look at every statement that has been made by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle over the last 2 years talking about defunding the police. We know who is defunding the police across the country, and it sure as heck isn't Republicans. It is Democrats across this country.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle know it. The President knows it, and the President is reading polls. The President knows that the approach to the virus has been devastating to the American people. Lockdowns, mask mandates, and vaccine mandates are being rejected by the American people. The polls show it, so the magic moment has then arrived.

The President of the United States knows full well when he says the border should be secured that it is a lie. I just want to be very clear: when the President said last night that the border should be secure, it is a lie. He is lying to the American people.

I was in Del Rio just last week. One thousand people a day are coming across that river, and nobody gives a whit. And they don't give a whit about the 26 migrants who have died in the Rio Grande since October 1, since the cameras have left the Haitians sitting on the Rio Grande. They don't care that there are 26 dead migrants. They don't care about the 119 bodies in Brooks County where the sheriff has to bring a body trailer to Brooks County.

They don't care about the fences getting cut and the livestock getting out. The ranchers I met with last week in south Texas are in tears about their property. No. No. The President gets up, gives a speech, and declares the border secure and all is well.

Then he gets up and talks about the solidarity of the Ukrainian people, yet he refuses to unleash American oil and gas and refuses to unleash natural gas, liquified natural gas, that would change the world. He refuses to stop importing 600,000 barrels of Russian oil every single day because we won't unleash American oil and gas.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we are going to keep telling the truth about the border. We are going to keep telling the truth about vaccine mandates. We are going to keep telling the truth about the need for American energy. We are not going to bow down to the climate hysterics and the false lies about border security that are endangering the American people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

THE RETIREMENT OF ROB GREEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to salute a dedicated public servant and friend. After working for a series of Members of the House, including Representative Bill Goodling, Rob Green first served the Education and Workforce Committee from 1995 to 2001. Rob rejoined the committee 4 years ago and was an invaluable leader of the GOP workforce team until his recent retirement.

As director of workforce policy, Rob worked tirelessly to protect the rights

of workers and employers alike. He has dedicated years of his life to fighting for free market principles and to seeing that our country stays a self-governed republic. Whether we have been in the majority or in the minority, Rob has made addressing Federal overreach a top priority and has never been afraid to hold Federal agencies accountable.

Rob's consummate professionalism when working with Members of Congress as well as Democrat staff allowed us to pass bipartisan bills such as the Retirement Improvement and Savings Enhancement Act, RISE, which will help many Americans prepare for a more secure future.

Rob's work was also pivotal in helping us pass a ban on surprise billing. This fight for transparency in our medical system has been a passion of Rob's and will help millions of struggling Americans.

Rob's influence extended way beyond the committee. GOP leadership also relied on Rob to shape policy in the labor arena, ensuring that the American worker's voice gets heard. His relationship with lawmakers and staff throughout the House allowed the committee to flourish and accomplish a tremendous amount.

Too often populist lobbies have an out-sized influence over politics in Washington. Rob's work on this committee ensured that the voices of job creators and small business owners were heard.

This is a difficult day for me as I relied on Rob's expertise and keen eye for strategy to further this committee's mission. Thankfully, his expertise will live on in the team that he has led and mentored for 4 years.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Rob for his many accomplishments and for his selfless service to this country. It is because of dedicated public servants like Rob standing in the gap and defending our Republic that we have a chance at reclaiming the vision our Founding Fathers had for this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I truly congratulate Rob on his retirement. He has earned it.

PRESIDENT BIDEN'S NATIONAL SECURITY CRISIS

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address President Biden's national security crisis and to express my support for the people of Ukraine as they fight for their lives and their sovereignty.

An American ally is under attack, and they need our support. Sanctioning the Russian economy is not enough. The Ukrainian Government has requested more lethal aid for many months, and we must deliver it without further delay. We must also end our purchases of nearly 538,000 barrels of Russian oil each day and return to where we were just a short year ago by

making America energy independent again.

After 4 years of peace and prosperity, it only took President Biden 400 days to unravel it all. President Biden's weakness on the world stage has emboldened our enemies and created a vacuum that Vladimir Putin is delighted to fill.

President Biden has demonstrated the inability to lead, whether it be the botched Afghanistan withdrawal or the invasion that is happening at our own Southern border. I can't help but think about what might come next as Iran strives to produce nuclear weapons and China may look toward Taiwan and mimic Russia. The world was a much safer place a little over a year ago.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand with President Zelensky and the people of Ukraine who are courageously fighting against power-hungry dictator Vladimir Putin.

So much tragedy and loss could have been avoided in Ukraine if we had any real leadership in the White House. Surely evil triumphs when good men do nothing.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JIM LANCASTER

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of my friend, cousin, and lifelong Tennessean, Jim Lancaster. He passed away on February 3 after a remarkable 92 years on God's Earth.

Jim loved the Lord and cherished his family with all his heart. He and Vondell, the love of his life, were married for 67 years. Together they had five children, 12 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. Obviously, Jim's and Vondell's loving marriage and devotion to family led to a lot of little Lancasters running around middle Tennessee.

Jim was a joyful role model, and so many people in his community knew Jim in that way. He served as a leader in many local organizations including the chamber of commerce, the Boy Scouts, and too many to name here today. He received loads of awards for his service over the years, but he was a humble man who wasn't in it for recognition. He just loved serving his community and the people in it.

He also dedicated much of his life to agriculture. He graduated from Tennessee Tech, my alma mater, with a degree in agriculture, and then worked for the Wilson County Farm Bureau as its agency manager for over 43 years. In fact, he is now a member of the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame in recognition of his exemplary work for local farmers throughout his distinguished career.

I was blessed to call Jim family. It is bittersweet. It is a bittersweet moment for me now to say he is gone to be with our Lord.

Thank you, Jim Lancaster, for a life well-lived that touched so many in such a positive way.