

Union address, President Biden's first year delivered a record-breaking number of new jobs. In total, 6.7 million new jobs were created for hardworking Americans.

America also saw the largest calendar-year decrease in unemployment in the Nation's history, paired with record-breaking GDP growth.

But America's economic prosperity is only one side of the equation. America's public health has also been strengthened during Biden's first year.

Vaccination rates have tremendously risen from 15 percent to a whopping 65 percent in 1 year for full vaccination. That is more than 215 million fully vaccinated Americans—again, a record. In addition, 70 million households also received free COVID tests, and those numbers will only rise.

While these are tremendous accomplishments, I can't say I am too surprised. You see, we have a strong leader in the White House and the backing of the American people. As President Biden said on Tuesday, never bet against the American people.

HONORING LAW ENFORCEMENT

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I have met with many police officers who serve communities in Texas' 25th District, and I continue to be inspired by their acts of bravery and dedication to protecting others.

Now, we are facing a time where there has been a tragic increase in police officers being targeted and killed while on the job as violent crime skyrockets across America.

Last year alone, 346 officers were shot in the line of duty, the highest in 20 years. One of Texas 25th's own, Hill County Constable Kevin Cordell, was shot multiple times while on a high-speed car chase. One bullet went through the windshield of his vehicle, struck him in the head, and exited through his neck. By God's grace, he survived the shooting and recovered after surgery.

Liberal activists who care more about political agendas than public safety are making our cities unsafe. Last year, Austin, Texas, submitted to the radical left's antipolice hatred and cut \$150 million from their police budget. This budget cut put Texas families and residents at greater risk for longer emergency response times and paves the way for lawlessness to run wild in the city.

HONORING REGINA JACKSON

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

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Ms. Regina Jackson, a phenomenal leader and constituent and

a very good friend, after over 27 years of service as president and CEO of the East Oakland Youth Development Center.

Ms. Jackson's involvement with EOYDC began in 1984 when, as a graduate of the Coro Fellowship graduate program in public affairs, she was invited to serve on the board of directors. Ms. Jackson has made it her mission to invest in our children and has dedicated herself to this work.

A key part of her mission at EOYDC has been inspiring our youth to perform at high levels by providing a safe, nurturing environment where young people could grow and thrive.

In addition, her contributions to our community are magnificent. She is a global thought leader for youth development. The International Diplomacy Council has sought her expertise to counsel agencies across the world. Recently, with the support of my office and local East Bay organizations, Ms. Jackson led two delegations of students to China for a cross-cultural exchange.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the 13th Congressional District of California, I commend Ms. Jackson for her tireless service and dedication and wish her well in this new chapter of her life.

PURSUE ENERGY, NOT POLITICAL AGENDAS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, this country faces an energy crisis of all types: fuel, gas, electricity. But what is the issue we are pursuing? It seems to be all about this little sliver right here on this chart: carbon dioxide.

Most people are surprised when told 0.04 percent composes the carbon dioxide part of our atmosphere. You see 78 percent nitrogen, 21 percent oxygen, trace gases. I had to break this out of trace gases so you can see it on the chart.

Yet, in my home State of California—where we had CO₂-free power plants, two nuclear plants; the second one will be gone in 3 years—they want to remove hydroelectric dams on the Klamath River in my district that make zero CO₂.

So, is this really about CO₂, or is it about some other political agenda? Because in my district, when the wind blows, they have to shut the power off because the trees the Forest Service are not managing might blow into the power lines coming from a hydroelectric dam.

I do not understand what the energy policy of this country is because I don't think there is one anymore. We need to get back to doing what we do well and not pursue this fruitless agenda.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF RAYMOND JORDAN, JR.

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

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of the late State Representative Raymond Jordan, Jr.

Representative Jordan was a good man, a trailblazing man, and a friend and mentor to many. A resident of Springfield and a product of Springfield Public Schools, he went on to become the first African American elected to the Massachusetts State House.

Over the course of his career, he chaired the powerful Ways and Means Committee and the Committee on Housing and Urban Development. His indefatigable commitment to equity and justice earned him the enduring yet fitting nickname of "Barracuda."

His impact in his local community and in Massachusetts' history and politics is indelible and enduring—in bills, in laws, in buildings, but, most of all, in people.

But many of his greatest achievements will live on through the loving family that he built alongside the love of his life, Donna Harris Jordan. Of all his most memorable titles and tasks, he would most want to be remembered as a loving husband and father who fought tirelessly for his community and his people.

When I think of the late Raymond Jordan, Jr., I am reminded of the words of the African-American hymn that says: "May the work I have done speak for me."

Indeed, the many works of Raymond Jordan speak for him both now and for eternity. May he rest in power and in peace.

BIDEN ENERGY CRISIS

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

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, we are in the depths of the Biden energy crisis.

On day one of Joe Biden's Presidency, he launched his war on American energy when he killed the Keystone XL pipeline, which could be supplying 830,000 barrels of oil a day from Canada to U.S. refineries. As recently as a few days ago, we imported 600,000 barrels of oil from Russia.

During the State of the Union, President Biden claimed he wanted to "Buy American." But regrettably, he did not apply that to our oil or our natural gas. Biden has made it crystal clear that his anti-energy agenda would continue.

He also announced that he would once again tap into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and release 30 million barrels of oil in another desperate attempt to reduce gas prices here at home. The SPR is supposed to be used for national security emergencies and

for major weather events, not for Biden to use as a political Hail Mary when his policies fail us. Energy security is national security.

Let me say this: Winston Churchill said appeasement is like feeding a crocodile and hoping he eats you last. We must stop appeasing Russia. We must be Churchill in this moment, not Chamberlain.

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RUSSIA'S WAR ON UKRAINE

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

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, Russia's unprovoked, unjustified war on Ukraine threatens peace, democracy, and stability around the globe. However, what it does not do is break us, and it has not broken the people of Ukraine.

Instead, the people of Ukraine have shown the world their resilience and the strength of democracy. As we work to hold Vladimir Putin accountable for his aggression, we must also ensure that we provide support for the Ukrainian people as they seek certainty and refuge.

As an emergency physician and the only trained humanitarian in Congress, I have seen firsthand what lies ahead for those fleeing a crisis. This is a complex humanitarian crisis and deserves a human response. The U.S. must contribute to that response, including helping our humanitarian partners on the ground and granting Ukrainians refuge and temporary protected status to Ukrainian nationals here in the country.

Madam Speaker, I stand in solidarity with the Ukrainian people to protect their sovereignty, and my prayers are with them.

HONORING OUR PROMISE TO ADDRESS COMPREHENSIVE TOXICS ACT OF 2021

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. DINGELL). Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3967) to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 20 OFFERED BY MS. ROSS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 20 printed in part B of House Report 117-253.

Ms. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 67, after line 10, insert the following:

(1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report regarding the following:

(A) Sources of PFAS on military installations other than AFFF.

(B) Any recommendation of the Secretary regarding whether to expand eligibility for the registry to individuals exposed to sources of PFAS described in subparagraph (A).

Page 67, line 11, strike “(1) INITIAL” and insert “(2) INTERIM”.

Page 68, line 3, strike “(2)” and insert “(3)”.

Page 68, line 14, strike “(3)” and insert “(4)”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 950, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ROSS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina.

Ms. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge support for my amendment, along with my colleague from North Carolina, Representative ROUZER.

This amendment will require the Department of Defense to study additional non-fire extinguishing agent sources of toxic PFAS, known as forever chemicals on military installations.

Our amendment also requires the Department of Defense to make a recommendation to Congress on expanding the eligibility for the VA's registry of individuals exposed to PFAS during their service.

While fire extinguishing agents are a common source of servicemember exposure to forever chemicals, as the Speaker knows, PFAS toxins are ever present on military bases from other sources.

Studies have shown that these dangerous toxicants are ubiquitous in the kinds of ready-made meal packages, textiles, and cookware used on military installations. Use of these products has exposed servicemembers and veterans to PFAS, which have been proven to cause cancer, liver damage, birth defects, and other troubling medical conditions.

We must ensure that we fully understand the scope of PFAS exposure on military bases and expand our parameters for veteran eligibility for medical care accordingly. Doing so will give veterans exposed to these toxins the opportunity to receive care for the conditions they develop as a result of their service in uniform.

This amendment not only empowers and protects veterans, but it solicits a critically important study from the DOD to better understand the presence of PFAS on military installations and prevent exposure in the future.

In alignment with the mission of the Honoring our PACT Act, this amendment upholds our responsibility to prevent and mitigate the health consequences of exposure to toxic substances.

Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman TAKANO for his outstanding leadership in bringing this important legislation to the floor. I also thank Representa-

tive ROUZER from North Carolina for joining me in offering this amendment.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I claim time in opposition, although I am not opposed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding, and I am pleased to support this amendment by the gentlewoman and Congressman ROUZER.

It will require DOD to submit to Congress a report on sources of PFAS on military installations other than aqueous film-forming foam and providing recommendations regarding whether to expand registry eligibility to individuals exposed to PFAS from other sources.

The PFAS data gathered by this amendment will be a tremendous value as VA, DOD, and other agencies across our Federal Government continue their research related to this important matter.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to vote “yes”.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROSS. Madam Speaker, this amendment will help us understand additional sources of PFAS exposure on military bases and empower veterans to seek medical care accordingly.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment along with Representative ROUZER and the underlying bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 950, the previous question is ordered on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ROSS).

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ROSS).

The amendment was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AMENDMENT NO. 22 OFFERED BY MR. RUIZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 22, printed in part B of House Report 117-253.

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title VII, insert the following:

SEC. 707. BURN PIT REGISTRY UPDATES.

(a) INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE TO UPDATE.—