

This law will kickstart new projects, create jobs, and put Texas on the right track. And that, Mr. Speaker, means that working families will have a better quality of life across the State.

JOE BIDEN IS ROOT CAUSE OF SOUTHERN BORDER CRISIS

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, it has been a year since Joe Biden took office, and the southern border has all but collapsed.

A year has passed, and he still cannot find the elusive root cause of his self-inflicted border crisis. Since he is clearly having some trouble finding the cause, I will save him some time. Joe Biden is the root cause of the border crisis.

The number of illegal crossings at the border has escalated at a faster rate under him than at any time in recent history. Since Joe Biden took office, nearly 2 million illegal immigrants have been apprehended at the southern border.

But wait, there is more.

More illegal immigrants have crossed the southern border in the last 3 months than in all of fiscal year 2020. And now, we have learned that illegals are being funneled to cities across the United States in the dead of night.

That is right. While Americans are asleep, this administration is trying to cover up its own failures. Some of these illegals are known to have criminal records, yet they are being given a free pass.

Across the world, people are watching this unfold. Across the world, people are getting the message that you can waltz into this country illegally with no consequences. Consider the fact that people from 160 different countries are coming to the southern border. It is clear that the message is the wrong one to be sending.

In December, a Saudi Arabian national with ties to known Yemeni terrorists was arrested after he crossed the border wearing a fake paramedic uniform. If he were released into the United States, the consequences would have been disastrous.

Mr. Speaker, instead of securing the southern border and protecting the integrity of our national security, this administration has doubled down on its own failures. Because of this worsening crisis, every State has now become a border State.

Border security is national security. And thanks to Joe Biden and congressional Democrats' open border policies, America has neither.

HELP FOR UKRAINE

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

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a looming crisis that we see in Eastern Europe.

Last week, as a senior member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I had a chance to accompany some of my colleagues on a bipartisan delegation to both Brussels and Ukraine.

What I saw when we were in Ukraine, as we met with their senior leaders and President Zelensky, was a country that has resolve. They reminded us that they have been at war with Russia for the last 8 years since Russia invaded Crimea and occupied the Donbas territories. So, this is a country that has been fighting Russia. They are prepared to defend themselves.

When I went out on the streets with my colleagues and talked to ordinary Ukrainian citizens, there is a resolve. They have no intention of living under Soviet rule. They have tasted freedom.

It is important for us as the United States of America to stand with this young democracy. We are the oldest democracy in the world. When I have been asked by the media why the United States should be concerned about what is happening in Eastern Europe, it is because we value the freedoms that we enjoy; we value the liberty; and we value the ability of individual citizens to choose their own path forward. That is what this is about.

When we went to Brussels, we had a chance to meet with our NATO allies, with other members of the European Union. Think about what we accomplished working with those countries in the 75-plus years post-World War II. We created peace on the European Continent after two world wars. We created thriving democracies. We created prosperity. That is what is at risk.

Think about what Mr. Putin wants to do. He wants to reestablish the Soviet Union. He is an autocrat. That is what is at risk in the 21st century.

It is not a given that democracy will win the 21st century. We have to fight for democracy. We have to fight for those liberties. We have to fight for those individuals to choose their path forward.

That is why this is important. That is why it is important for us to stand with the people of Ukraine. That is why it is important for us, along with our European allies and our NATO allies, to stand together and speak with one voice and tell Mr. Putin we are not going back to the Soviet era; we are going forward to a peaceful, prosperous 21st century for all people.

HONORING KEN DUKE

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reflect upon the career of Ken Duke, a professor in the College of Pharmacy at the University of Georgia.

Ken has, for 37 years, served our future pharmacists invaluablely as they venture into their careers. Ken has helped develop and foster in his stu-

dents a passion for our field that is the distribution of lifesaving medicines.

Ken graduated from the University of Georgia School of Pharmacy in 1977 and began his career at the University of Georgia in 1985. Since that time, Ken has tirelessly and selflessly worked to educate and mentor future pharmacists of America.

Ken's spirit and drive for this occupation is something that he has instilled in his students for nearly four decades. In the later years of his career, Ken served as the acting assistant dean for the Pharmacy College's expansion campus in Savannah, which he helped found.

In his retirement, Ken is excited to be living on the coast and by the water, as well as spending time in Athens for Georgia football games and, hopefully, another Georgia National Championship.

Ken's service has been remarkable. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ken and wish him a blessed retirement.

HONORING JAMES MATHEWS BLITCH, SR.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Jimmy Blitch, Sr., a veteran and a remarkable Georgian.

Jimmy was born in Savannah in 1933, the eldest of three children, and spent most of his early life in the city, eventually moving to Statesboro to farm Blitch Place, where he found his love for farming.

Jimmy then went on to graduate high school and attend the University of Georgia at only 15 years old, where he graduated with honors. Most 15-year-olds can barely handle the stress of high school, let alone college, but Jimmy was not like most people.

Upon graduating, Jimmy entered the U.S. Army as a marksman, spending his time between Fort Jackson and Fort Benning, eventually being honorably discharged from the service as a second lieutenant.

After returning to his hometown in Statesboro, Jimmy would meet the love of his life, Patricia Brannen, getting married in 1958.

They built their lives on Blitch Place Farms, raising three daughters and a son.

Thankfully, Jimmy was able to see the University of Georgia win their third National Championship before his passing.

A loving father and husband, an outdoorsman, an honorable veteran, and fellow Georgia sports fan, Jimmy is sure to be missed.

□ 1030

RECOGNIZING GRIFF LYNCH AS GEORGIAN OF THE YEAR

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Georgia Ports Authority Executive Director Griff Lynch for being named Georgia Trend's 2022 Georgian of the Year.

Griff is a graduate from Maritime College in New York, which led him to work in the maritime industry for 34 years and eventually our Georgia

ports. Lynch took the helm of our Nation's busiest ports in Savannah and Brunswick, and in doing so, has faced some of the hardest challenges in his career.

With the breakout of COVID-19, the Savannah and Brunswick ports were hit hard. But it was Lynch's steady hand that steered them through these turbulent times. If you got your Christmas gifts on time this year, Griff Lynch probably had something to do with it.

He has overseen multiple expansion and enhancement projects in the area, allowing our ports to stay ahead of the increasing demand. And through Lynch's efforts, our ports have seen a 20 percent increase in volume, meaning nearly 900,000 additional containers are coming to the area. This means more jobs, innovation, and growth for Georgia's First District. His experience, guidance, and ability to push the envelope has made him an excellent leader for our ports and a perfect recipient of the Georgian of the Year Award.

HONORING DR. DUDLEY FLOOD

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

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and career of Dr. Dudley Flood, a recipient of North Carolina's highest civilian award, the North Carolina Award for Public Service, for his trailblazing leadership in desegregating our State's public schools.

Born in Winton, North Carolina, and a graduate of North Carolina's Central University, Dr. Flood began his career as an educator teaching grade school and eventually becoming a principal.

Following his teaching tenure, Dr. Flood joined the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, where he made a significant impact during his 21 years of dedicated service. In the years following the landmark 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, Dr. Flood and the late Gene Causby were tasked with facilitating the desegregation of schools in all 100 counties in North Carolina.

In 1969, Dr. Flood and Mr. Causby began to travel across the State to help desegregate North Carolina school systems. Beyond the assistance they provided in navigating this challenging process, it was the visual of these two men—one Black and one White—working closely together that made a powerful impression on teachers and students alike.

Through his honorable work, Dr. Flood became a State hero and North Carolina became a model for school desegregation. By working to ensure that North Carolina is a place where all students can learn, irrespective of race, Dr. Flood helped bring together starkly divided communities and effectively ushered in a new era for public education in our State.

Dr. Flood retired from public instruction in 1990. Since then, he has served as executive director of the North Carolina Association of School Administrators, taught as a visiting professor at multiple North Carolina colleges and universities, and continued to be active in his community, including with the Flood Group, a group of people who meet from across the State.

Now, 90 years old, Dr. Flood has led an incredible career as a champion for equitable education. Today, his achievements can be seen in schools statewide as children of all races are able to learn and play together and support each other's academic success.

As we begin celebrating Black History Month, I am honored to share his extraordinary legacy with this body. He enhanced the lives of hundreds of thousands North Carolinians through his example and his achievements. The people of our State are forever grateful for his remarkable life and lasting legacy.

AMERICA'S FUTURE DEPENDS ON AGRICULTURE

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about my heroes—America's farmers, ranchers, and agriculture producers. These people are my family, my friends, my neighbors, and my ancestors.

I came to this Congress to defend agriculture because the time I spent on the farm with my father, brother, and grandfather growing up taught me the most important lessons I have ever learned. Agriculture's core values are the same as America's—hard work, self-determination, responsibility, creativity, others before self, and prayer.

Therefore, if America is going to thrive, agriculture must thrive. Of all the hardworking, resilient people in our country, agriculture producers face more challenges and uncertainty than most of us can imagine as they strive to feed, fuel, and clothe our Nation every day.

A late winter snow in Washington, D.C., means a frustrating commute to work. In Kansas—where it is snowing right now—it means essential moisture for the soil, better hopes for the spring, profits that might let you buy the tractor you have been needing for 2 years now, and if there is some money left over, an extra birthday present for your daughter in July.

Kansas' own President Eisenhower said, "Farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil and you are a thousand miles from the corn field." In Congress, we deal with the laws of our land, and that is important, but the farmers are the caretakers of the land itself. American farmers built our history, sustain our present, and secure our future.

In the early 1930s, America was suffering from food insecurity. That is

when Congress woke up, realized that above all other concerns, we need to eat to survive, and drafted the first ever farm bill.

Now, nearly 100 years later, America is the most food-secure country in the world because of the strength of our ag producers. So when Congress gets the opportunity to reauthorize the farm bill every 5 years, we need to think carefully and critically about the extent and nature of our investment in agriculture because it is an investment in both the immediate and the long-term health of our Nation.

Agriculture is also about freedom. It is extremely difficult for a Nation to be free if it relies on another for its food. Therefore, it is essential to America's future that we get ag policy right, so we never ever have to depend on another for our food or our freedom.

Over the next several months, as we gear up for the 2023 reauthorization of the farm bill, I will be standing to share some of my thoughts, ideas, and amendments on that legislation.

On behalf of my constituents and every American farmer, rancher, and ag producer, I want to say unequivocally that I will do everything within my power to ensure that the 2023 farm bill invests powerfully in agriculture. America's future depends on it.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, the 2020 election brought with it tremendous opportunities for the territories, particularly, after the devastation of unprecedented natural disasters in our global pandemic.

The American Rescue Plan of 2021 offered tremendous promise of full, robust recovery for our islands. Our island governments will now receive full Federal funding for important workforce development tax credits, like the earned income tax credit, child tax credit, and the child dependent care tax credit. This will be significant relief to budget and revenue offices in the territories.

In the Virgin Islands, my home, the earned income tax credit alone accounts for almost 40 percent of our tax returns in any given year. In addition, each of the territories have received at least \$500 million in State and local government fiscal aid. These funds have broad eligibility, including to provide services threatened by declining revenue; make investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure; support public entities involved in transport of passengers or cargo; special purpose units of local government, or nonprofits that aid the homeless.

The Virgin Islands will also receive investments from the bold Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act that became law in November. The EPA, FAA,