

and the Army Corps of Engineers are agencies providing substantial support.

Much of this funding will take us far, however, aside from supplemental funds made available in the act, in the area of primary formula funds for traditional infrastructure, surface roads and highways, I am afraid the territories remain significantly underfunded or under-included.

The territories have endured severe infrastructure funding cuts since 1998, when the preexisting set-aside formula for the Territorial Highway Program funding was scrapped. Since then, the territorial share of overall Federal highway program funding has progressively declined by 50 percent. These severe cuts have negatively impacted everything from safety to emergency response, law enforcement capabilities, to commerce, to disaster relief management.

The Build Back Better Act would restore the significant equity investment in infrastructure for the territories in the House-passed bill. It contained \$320 million in supplemental funding for the Territorial Highway Program in order to restore the investment in the territories to a similar share of overall Federal highway funding that they once received before 1998. We must continue to fight for those objectives.

The territories will have a hard time competing for any of the billions in funding set up in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for projects of national significance, or the Rural Surface Transportation Grant program because project eligibility under these new programs is mostly tied to States or projects connected to the National Highway System, which by definition, does not include the territories. That impediment, along with having sufficient private partners to allow us to ramp up, have care, capacity and competence, make it hard for us to go after the competitive grants. The territories will need assistance with vying for the competitive funding that they are eligible for, identifying those programs, and connecting those programs to projects.

The viability and sustainability of energy in the territories is of the utmost importance for the well-being of our rural communities. The territories are not connected to the national grid, and energy costs on our islands are higher than anywhere else in the country. Our geographic locations leave us vulnerable to climate change but also provide opportunities for adoption of innovative energy resources.

We need help from the Department of Energy and Agriculture, and many others, for energy efficiency, energy storage, smart grids, microgrids, as well as renewable energy technical training.

Mr. Speaker, Americans living in the territories live in areas with brownfields and are susceptible to climate change unlike other areas. We are rural-isolated and we have unemployment much higher than others. However, we have geographic strategic ad-

vantages for our country. Our young people disproportionately enter the military because they want to work. They want to be productive. We sit in a vortex of alternative energy raw resources, in a majority minority community.

As it says up here on the wall by Daniel Webster, “Let us develop the resources of our land, call forth its powers. . . .” I am asking my colleagues in Congress to ensure that the territories can do that through this Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JAMES ALLAN GUTHRIE

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

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my long-time friend and community leader, James Allan Guthrie of Pasadena, Texas, who passed away on December 18, 2021, at the age of 70.

James was born in Houston, Texas, on April 27, 1951, to James and Loretta Guthrie. A devoted member of the Zion Lutheran Church in Pasadena, James was baptized on June 5, 1960, and confirmed on June 6, 1965. He attended Zion Lutheran School in Pasadena, graduated from Lutheran High School in Houston, and went on to study at San Jacinto College. At age 18, James became a real estate broker and he worked alongside his father in that industry for 30 years.

On May 6, 1977, James married the love of his life, Ms. Pamela Ann Rothermel. Last May marked their 44th year of marriage. James and Pam were blessed with a daughter, Moriah Ashlee Guthrie, on October 18, 1984.

□ 1045

James, Pam, and Moriah never missed an opportunity to serve their community. They could often be seen side-by-side at many church, community, and civic functions. James’ passion for helping people and supporting his community remained throughout his entire adult life. He served on the following organizations:

Councilman, city of Pasadena, Texas; vice chairman, city of Pasadena’s Texas Planning Commission; chairman, Pasadena Chamber of Commerce; board member, San Jacinto College Foundation; board member, Pasadena Independent School District Education Foundation Board; member, Bridge Over Troubled Waters; founding board member, Habitat for Humanity Pasadena; chairman, Pasadena Philharmonic Orchestra; founding board member of the Pasadena Kiwanis Club; board member, Preston Trails Homeowners Association; chairman, Pasadena Salvation Army Advisory Council; chairman, Innovative Alternatives; board member, Pasadena Rotary Club; board member, Pasadena Community Pregnancy Center; board member, Armand Bayou Watershed Partnership;

and board member, Advisory Council of the Methodist Retirement Community—The Crossings. Few have done more than Mr. Guthrie.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize my wonderful friend, James Guthrie, today on the House floor. He was a one-of-a-kind leader in the 36th Congressional District that I have been privileged to represent, who left behind a legacy that will long be remembered.

His loyalty and his friendship will be deeply missed by myself and countless others in our community. My heartfelt prayers remain with his family and friends during this difficult time.

#### HARDSHIPS OF SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS CONTINUE DURING THE PANDEMIC

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

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, it has been 2 years, image that, since the beginning of the pandemic. Two years marked by hardship that none of us had ever known and hope we never know again. As the world continues to adapt to the challenge, it is my belief that there is light at the end of the tunnel. Yet, as we continue to push toward that optimism, we are reminded every single day that the pandemic is not over. It is not over for us; it is not over for the nurses and doctors who tend to our sick; it is not over for our frontline workers, for teachers, for police, for families, for anyone.

I am here today to speak for a group of Americans who are too often ignored in our pandemic discourse, our Nation’s entrepreneurs and small business owners, the bedrock of our economy, particularly those who work in public-facing enterprises, like restaurant owners, gym owners, hospitality owners in the live-events industry. Those whose livelihoods depend on public gathering in person, whether it is to break bread, to work up a sweat, or to enjoy booths that you might see in the Minnesota State Fair, as my friend and colleague, ANGIE CRAIG, would agree is America’s finest.

In 2020 and early last year, both parties worked together to pass pandemic aid to help keep the lights on at those businesses. It was an aid that was effective in saving countless jobs, and while not perfect, of course, it did save our country from economic disaster. Unfortunately, for those public-facing industries, that aid has not been enough, not with the rise of the delta variant and then omicron, and potentially future variants that we might face in the future.

Last week, I held a roundtable in Minnesota to hear from entrepreneurs representing those industries in my district. Some had a quarter million dollars in debt, others had lost a quarter million dollars in revenue. Some had taken out government-subsidized emergency loans from the programs

that we in Congress created, but others were left out entirely. They told me that between the pandemic and the supply chain and inflation costs that the pandemic has wrought, that those old relief programs are simply not enough. They need help, and they need it now. It is our job and it is not done yet.

The cost of congressional inaction is real. Small business owners across America are dipping into their personal savings and taking on significant debt. In Minnesota alone, almost 60 percent of restaurants have taken on debt during the pandemic, with an average of over half a million dollars per restaurant. Even in the best of times it is a tough industry, but particularly difficult right now.

We all know what will happen if we don't pass relief soon: many of those restaurants will close and many of their staff will be unemployed. Too many small business owners are simply running out of hope.

That is where we come in. I am encouraged by comments made by the President and lawmakers in both parties that there is an appetite to solve the problem and provide relief. In fact, I secured a commitment from Speaker PELOSI not long ago that a targeted relief package would get a vote on the House floor, which is an important step. We are not at the finish line, my friends, and I implore that we, together, work on such a package.

Small businesses like restaurants, hospitality, gyms, and live events companies, they make up the social, cultural, and the economic fabric of our communities and our entire country. We must fight to ensure that they can keep their doors open.

Mr. Speaker, we must meet the challenge of the moment with urgency and refill the RRF and include hard-hit industries in a future relief package. We must get the job done so that others can keep theirs.

#### RETURN TO PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH

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

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss, unfortunately, yet another crisis. When Russia invaded the Ukraine in 2014, I was actually an Active Duty Air Force officer stationed in Europe in NATO. Assigned to a NATO unit, I saw this firsthand. This is much different.

I just returned from Kyiv where we met with many Ukrainian officials, including the President, the Foreign Minister, and the Defense Minister. While there, we heard a message that was loud and clear. Vladimir Putin is acting now because he senses an environment of weakness. Weakness from this administration in the approach to energy, in their countless failures, including the most tragic of all, the Afghanistan evacuation, and then the

lack of overall commitment to law and order, which can be seen so many places, including our southern border.

All these failures have created this environment of weakness that Putin is now acting on. To make matters worse, European countries are completely beholden and dependent upon Russia for their energy. Over 40 percent of the energy flow is coming from Russia.

Ukrainian officials told me directly that without Nord Stream II, Russia would not be acting out today. This was told to a bipartisan codel that heard this, both Republicans and Democrats alike.

Since the President took office, every policy failure he has steered our country into has signaled not strength but weakness. The President now promises to impose severe sanctions on Russia should they invade the Ukraine. This is not the way that deterrence works. Deterrence happens every day; it happens in every policy action. It doesn't happen after the fact.

Why would Russia expect the Biden administration to respect the borders of the Ukraine when we refuse to secure our own borders here at home? President Zelensky said this, "Border security matters. I will defend the Ukrainian borders." We need a President who is strong, who will not only protect the United States, but also will send a clear message to our allies and partners abroad that law and order will stand, that sovereign borders will be protected.

We need an administration that is capable of standing up to our adversaries. As I said before in this Chamber, we need a President who will choose Midland over Moscow. If President Biden is not going to take action, Congress must. I will be working to impose strong sanctions on the Nord Stream pipeline.

Energy security is national security. The Ukrainian people understand this, the European continent understands this, and the Russians now have a stranglehold on Europe by imposing their will with the Nord Stream projects. We need Democrats and Republicans alike. We were unified on this codel.

Mr. Speaker, I am asking my Democrat colleagues to understand the severity of this problem. In 2022, we have a sovereign country that could be invaded by an aggressor, that aggressor who has been emboldened by an environment of weakness. We must stand strong. So many people, including myself, have served overseas and have done the hard work. It is well past time that we end these crises, that we show strength in the face of an aggressor who would impose their will on the rest of the world and change world order that that greatest generation 80 years ago fought for.

Now is not the time to back down. As Putin goes to China and stands side-by-side with Xi Jinping in these Olympic Games and asks for his blessing to invade a sovereign country, it is time for

all of us to not identify by our parties but to identify as Americans, to come together and be strong on our actions.

#### HONORING DIANA JONES

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincere condolences to a public servant of Cresson, Texas. In August 2020, the city of Cresson lost one of its bravest servants, Diana Jones.

Diana was an EMT, a member of the Cresson Volunteer Fire Department for nearly 5 years, and often traveled to California, to the West Coast, to offer her skills in firefighting. Tragically, Diana passed away during one of these firefights.

Last month, the Cresson community voted to name the volunteer fire department's training center the Diana Jones Memorial Training Center. Now all who step foot through that door will feel the sacrifice and the leadership that she has done in honoring her memory.

The Diana Jones Memorial Training Center will forever remind the community of the example she set—learning to better one's self to serve others. Her legacy is continued through her sons as well as the Cresson community. We are proud to honor the life that she dedicated to serving her community.

#### RECOGNIZING BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND THE GREENSBORO FOUR

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

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, on February 1, 1960, four young Black North Carolina A&T State University students began a revolution with the simple but fiercely significant act of sitting down.

David Richmond, Jibreel Khazan, Joe McNeil, and Franklin McCain, "The Greensboro Four," took their seats at the White-only lunch counter of the Woolworth Department Store in Greensboro, North Carolina. Despite being met with hostility and a store manager who refused them service, the Greensboro Four stayed seated at that counter, refusing to stand until the store closed.

The next day they returned to the Woolworth Store with 25 more students, including Bennett Belles from the neighboring Bennett College, an all-female HBCU. Their movement spread to 55 cities in 13 States. Protest signs read: Support North Carolina Students, in demonstrations outside the South. By the end of 1960, 400 demonstrations had taken place across the country.

By staying seated at that counter, those students inspired the Nation to stand up against the blatantly racist Jim Crow laws of that time.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to recognize the Greensboro Four and the courageous students who joined their protest, sparking a national