

That is why I am so proud that the Federal omnibus recently passed by Congress included \$3 million for the Joliet Area Historical Museum so that they can rehabilitate the site of the Old Joliet Prison and make it safe for visitors once again and enhance its potential as a tourist attraction. This project is shovel-ready and will help create and sustain much-needed construction jobs while restoring a historically and culturally significant site in an economically challenged part of the city.

Altogether, our office secured nearly \$19 million for very worthwhile projects in Illinois' 11th District that will benefit our entire community, and this will be taxpayer money well spent.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS: AURORA QUAD COUNTY  
URBAN LEAGUE

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, for decades, America has faced a deficit of job training opportunities from underserved and underrepresented communities, and that is why I am so proud that the Federal omnibus recently passed by Congress included \$425,000 for the Aurora Quad County Urban League so that they can launch a youth careers program in Aurora to connect young people with jobs and apprenticeship opportunities in construction, transportation, distribution of logistics, and all fields facing an increase in and need for Federally trained workers.

#### RUSSIA NEGOTIATES THE U.S.- IRAN DEAL

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

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, before I begin today's remarks, I will take a moment to acknowledge the devastating news of the two confirmed American deaths in Ukraine: Brent Renaud, an American journalist working with a documentary film team who was fatally shot over the weekend; and FOX News network just confirmed moments ago one of their cameramen, Pierre Zakrzewski, was killed while on assignment in Ukraine.

An entire nation grieves with their families as they mourn the loss of their loved ones.

We also continue to pray for the recovery of FOX News correspondent, Benjamin Hall, who suffered serious injuries while covering the war.

Now, Madam Speaker, on Sunday, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard fired dozens of missiles near the U.S. consulate in Iraq. This brazen attack on a civilian area by the terrorist arm of the Iranian regime was unjustified, illegal, and dangerous.

Madam Speaker, the President of the United States has not said one word about these missiles from Iran—which has bragged about it—towards the U.S. consulate in Iraq. Iran continues to wage an aggressive terror campaign against America and our allies.

Remember, Madam Speaker, Iran's Parliament has chanted "death to

America" and the commander in chief of the Revolutionary Guard has vowed to set ablaze Israel. I would think with missiles being shot at Americans that the Secretary of State and—at the very least—the President of the United States would say and stand against this. Yet, the Biden administration is quietly rushing ahead with a bad agreement that would give Iran—the world's leading state sponsor of terror—nuclear weapons.

President Biden has kept Congress and the American people in the dark about this dangerous deal which is illegal and goes against legislation this body has passed. Madam Speaker, when you look at the troubling terms, it is easily seen why they want to keep us and America in the dark.

It would lift our most significant terrorism and missile sanctions and send Iran hundreds of billions of dollars. That means that Iran would see the windfall of cash to continue their terror campaign they had engaged in on Sunday and every day.

This agreement is entirely on Iran's terms.

But what is even worse is: Who is negotiating it?

While the world looks at the evil of Putin and Russia killing innocent people and murdering throughout Ukraine, it is this administration that has Russia negotiating with Iran on America's behalf.

Now, what does the Russian Ambassador say?

He says that the deal that the Biden administration is negotiating gives Iran much more than it could expect, much more. And in return for making significant concessions, we get nothing: no serious system to check if the Iranian regime is cheating on the terms of the deal; no safeguards against Iranian terrorism like we saw on Sunday targeting Americans; no leverage over the expanded trade between Russia, China, and Iran; and nothing to help the Iranian people.

This reported agreement is even worse than the Obama Iran deal of 2015. Under the terms of this deal, Iran would be a nuclear state in the blink of an eye. It would have enough uranium to create nuclear bombs which would endanger America, Israel, and the entire world.

This is not only unthinkable, it is unacceptable. We should not allow the rogue Iranian regime to have nuclear weapons. The Biden administration has made a dangerous mistake by negotiating with the Iranian regime.

They made terrible mistakes time and again, how they pulled out of Afghanistan, welcomed a pipeline to Putin, and said in a press conference that if Putin just takes part of Ukraine, it wouldn't be so bad.

And now Iran sends weapons—missiles—at Americans, and not one word is said but a negotiation continues using Russia as our negotiator. This Biden administration has made a dangerous mistake.

Furthermore, President Biden has compounded his mistake by relying on Russia to negotiate on our behalf and reportedly has given them written guarantees that the deal would protect their trade with Tehran.

Think about that: We are making major concessions on Russian trade with Iran at the very moment we are sanctioning Russia for mercilessly killing Ukrainians. That is outrageous and just plain stupid.

Has President Biden learned nothing?

Our objective is to isolate Putin, not empower him. The Russians should not be responsible for anything—especially not a major deal—and should never speak on behalf of Americans.

Madam Speaker, I urge President Biden to make the right choice: Walk away. Because knowing when to walk away from the negotiating table is just as important as knowing when to sit down.

It is also very important to know when to stand up. If a terrorist country sends weapons and missiles to attack Americans and you stay silent, that is the wrong answer, the wrong response, and leads to a dangerous future.

Stand up for America, stand up for freedom, stand up for what is right, and walk away from this agreement.

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

#### SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, we all anticipate and await the presentation from an international hero. Hearing from President Zelensky tomorrow is exactly what this Congress and what the Nation needs to hear. I believe that we will come out united. Certainly, our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Ukraine and the bravery of President Zelensky.

Madam Speaker, I am here to also talk about another urgency here at home. The fierce urgency of now, as Martin Luther King said, would apply to seniors all across our country. We are all painfully aware of the results of the pandemic with more than 900,000 Americans having perished and over 660,000 of them over the age of 65.

Madam Speaker, you know firsthand as well because you led Chairman NEAL's racial equity initiative that also underscored this very group of people—seniors and especially people of color—who have been impacted the most.

As John Lewis said: This is the next major civil rights issue. And if Black Lives Matter and is more than just a slogan, it is long overdue for the Congress of the United States to take action.

I commend you, Madam Speaker, for your efforts in making sure that we

bring to the American public's attention this inequity that exists. Imagine more than 5 million Americans in the wealthiest nation on the face of the Earth living in poverty, millions of whom have paid all their lives into a Social Security system that gives them a below poverty-level check.

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The last time Congress did anything to enhance Social Security was in 1971. Richard Nixon was the President, and a gallon of milk cost 72 cents.

A lot has transpired since then, especially as it relates to our seniors. The people who are impacted the most, along with COVID, are the people who are on fixed incomes. They are impacted by inflation as well. That is why it is so vitally important, with more than 10,000 baby boomers a day becoming eligible for Social Security, that Congress finally acts.

Help is on the way. Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust will do just that and make sure that it provides across-the-board relief and makes sure that no one can retire into poverty and raises the new floor for those who are in desperate need now. We can no longer afford to kick the can down the road. The pandemic has only further underscored the problem that our seniors face.

Madam Speaker, as you know, it is not just our seniors. When we look at veterans, more veterans rely on Social Security disability than they do on the VA. When we look at spousal and dependent coverage and the need for children to stay on their policies and be able to be eligible as Social Security recipients, how we have treated widows and widowers, all needs to be addressed.

Who is impacted the most by this? Women. And specifically women of color that are most in need, because of the jobs they held in society and because they were primarily caregivers and spent more time at home. It is they who are living longer and also need assistance from the United States Congress.

It is long overdue for us to act. It has been more than 50 years since Congress has done anything. This is not something the President can do with an executive order or that is going to be adjudicated by the courts. This can only happen if Congress takes action.

I am proud of the efforts of Chairman NEAL and the Ways and Means Committee as we move toward a markup of Social Security and to bring this to the floor and then to vote on it in the Senate.

#### THE INFLATION CRISIS

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, we are facing multiple crises in our country. Inflation is surging,

gasoline prices are skyrocketing, and the Biden administration is still refusing to act.

In Adams County, Pennsylvania, a gallon of gas costs \$4.43. That is \$1.40 more than it did just 1 year ago.

Rural Americans should not be forced to pay the price for President Biden's failure to drill American oil, a failure that has led to the highest gas prices in our Nation's history.

In a recent survey that I conducted in my weekly newsletter, over 3,000 of my constituents responded, and 96 percent of them reported that the rising cost of goods has affected their individual budgets.

It is time for President Biden to take responsibility for what his reckless spending has done to our country. Because of this reckless spending, Americans are forced to make difficult choices about what they can afford to buy, about what medications they can afford, and about which bills they are able to pay each month.

It is time for President Biden to care more about the families in Pennsylvania, more about the families in America, than he does about the Green New Deal. It is time to drill American oil. It is time to utilize and expand Pennsylvania's wonderful energy resources. It is time to use the resources that are under the feet of my constituents: the coal, the natural gas, and the Marcellus shale.

Biden welcomed a pipeline to Putin, and yet he shut down the Keystone XL pipeline. It is time to return to American energy independence and American energy dominance. It is time to get to work for the American people.

#### RECOGNIZING MARK HANSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of an amazing educator in my district.

Earlier this year, Ottumwa High School announced that longtime principal Mark Hanson would be retiring. Mark originally served as Ottumwa's principal from 2010 to 2017 but returned to the high school as principal this past July.

Throughout his time at OHS, Mark was a true leader and visionary. He worked tirelessly to improve graduation rates, improve the school's culture and curriculum, and increase opportunities for students to participate in extracurricular activities.

Before coming to OHS, Mark remained active in the community, coaching basketball and tennis.

Following Mark's retirement, Shelley Branschreiber will become the new principal. Shelley has been with Ottumwa schools since 1994. On July 1 of this year, Shelley will become the first female principal in school history.

Thank you to Mark for his decades of service to our community and best of luck to Shelley. Go Bulldogs.

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I also want to take this opportunity to wish my scheduler, Tara Pinette, a happy birthday. I also wish a very happy birthday to my chief of staff, Tracie Gibler.

Later this month, my good friend Matt Leopold will celebrate his birthday, and my youngest brother, Fred, has a birthday later this month as well. Happy birthday to Matt and Freddy.

#### WE MUST SUPPORT UKRAINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, what has been taking place in Ukraine is pure genocide and evil. President Putin's invasion of Ukraine is no different than when Germany invaded Poland. Just as Hitler did not stop with Poland, we should not expect that Putin will stop with Ukraine, unless he is resoundingly defeated.

While much has been done to help Ukraine's defenses since Russia invaded and much has been donated in humanitarian assistance, it is not enough. We must do more. We must send more weapons, more planes, more missiles, whatever is needed.

The Ukrainians are going to fight to the very end. We must provide them every resource they need to win this war in whatever way that we possibly can. For if freedom is defeated in Ukraine, where her people fight eagerly and will to the very end, it will surely have no safe harbor elsewhere.

#### UNLEASH AMERICAN ENERGY DOMINANCE

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, President Biden's decision to ban the importation of Russian oil is a good step, albeit late and only after mounting bipartisan pressure to do so. There was no good reason for the United States to ever subsidize the Russian economy and President Putin's military by buying oil from Russia, a source of Putin's leverage with the West for years. Now, he wages an unprovoked and violent assault on Ukraine.

On a separate issue, nor is it a good idea for the U.S. to be sitting alongside Russia negotiating with Iran on a deal that paves Iran's path to a nuclear weapon, another pot of trouble brewing for the world, as evidenced by their missiles launched at Israelis and Americans in Iraq this past weekend.

Given all the challenges we face in the world today, we must immediately unleash American energy production so that we in the United States and our allies around the world can have access to affordable and reliable energy.

We should be authorizing new leases and permits for oil and gas projects, expediting the approval of all pipelines, and stopping the self-inflicted regulatory assault on American energy development and financing. In short, President Biden must reverse, with the