

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.

□ 1215

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

stroke of a pen, every anti-fossil fuel policy he has put in place during the past year.

If the President wants to lower gas prices at the pump and protect the environment, he is the one person who can do it, who can unleash American energy dominance. The world is going to meet its energy needs with oil and gas one way or the other. It is just a question of from where it comes. We can do it better and cleaner than anyone else, so why not do it here and serve the call of freedom.

HONORING DEBORAH JOHNSON

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Deborah Johnson, who recently received the Paulson-Whitmore State Executive Award from the National Pork Producers Council and the National Pork Board.

Deborah received the award for relentless advocacy on behalf of pork producers in North Carolina and across the country. As one of many who count her as a friend, I can think of no one more deserving of this honor.

Deborah grew up on her family's multi-generation farm in Johnston County. It is no exaggeration to say she has been involved in agriculture her entire lifetime, including as CEO of the North Carolina Pork Council.

In addition to serving in that post for 11 years, Deborah has been an influential leader in the North Carolina agriculture industry throughout her career. Additionally, she has also been involved in several organizations that contribute to the betterment of southeastern North Carolina's rural communities, many of which are the backbone of our State and Nation's pork industry.

Words cannot properly express all that Deborah Johnson has accomplished, but suffice it to say she is one of the most influential women in agriculture. She cares deeply about the State of North Carolina, about producing the world's best food and fiber, and about protecting the livelihoods of the many farm families who feed and clothe us all. Her dedication and leadership are unmatched, and I congratulate her on receiving this well-deserved award.

INFLATION HURTS ALL AMERICANS

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, inflation hit 7.9 percent in February. Inflation hurts all Americans, especially seniors and those living on a fixed income.

During each of my recent townhall meetings and surveys, Madam Speaker, my constituents have consistently pleaded for the pain to stop. Unfortunately, inflation has gone up every month of Joe Biden's Presidency.

Americans are smart. They know this is not a fluke or the result of the

tragedy that is occurring in Ukraine. It is a direct consequence of liberal policies and fueled by reckless government spending. My constituents have said they simply can't afford to keep paying more for everything, which is one of the main reasons I was compelled to vote "no" on last week's \$1.5 trillion spending package. While there were individual provisions I supported, I am worried that more massive government spending will only worsen their plight. I can't, in good conscience, contribute to their pain.

CELEBRATING DENNIS KAPPAS

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Dionysios, otherwise known as Dennis, Kappas, an outstanding member of the Tarpon Springs community.

Dennis was born in Zakynthos, Greece, a beautiful island, but migrated to the United States after a devastating earthquake destroyed his island.

Dennis and his family landed in Detroit, where he was a hardworking new immigrant. He worked diligently at restaurants by day and learned English by night.

Through years of blood, sweat, and tears, as is common with the immigrant story, Dennis and his brother saved enough money to buy their own restaurant, living the American Dream.

In 1990, Dennis moved to Tarpon Springs, Florida, where he settled with his family and owned and operated Plaka restaurant, the best gyros and souvlaki on the Sponge Docks.

In addition to running Plaka and many other business ventures, Dennis has been a generous philanthropist and has made significant contributions to the centerpiece of Tarpon Springs, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral. He is donating the contents of his home chapel, including beautiful and one-of-a-kind icons, to the new church annex, which contains the newly opened and appropriately named St. Dionysios Chapel.

I am proud to call him a friend and thank him for all his meaningful contributions to our wonderful community.

Axios. He is worthy, Madam Speaker.

□ 1230

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF VINCENT M. AUGOSTINI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TENNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and celebrate Vincent Augostini, who lost his life due to complications from neurofibromatosis on January 27, 2022.

Vince, as his friends and family called him, was born in Johnson City, New York, on September 7, 1979. He was the seventh child of his mother, Dolores, and father, Louis.

Vince was a quintessential upstate New Yorker. He loved New York and

especially the southern tier, where he spent his entire life in his cherished hometown of Johnson City, New York.

Vincent enjoyed all things New York, from our terrific sports teams to our delicious and unique regional food choices. He loved rooting for the New York Yankees and the New York Giants. He savored hearty chicken spiedies, a Binghamton specialty, and enjoyed extra-crispy Buffalo chicken wings.

When he was not watching the Yankees or the Giants, Vince was also a huge fan of professional wrestling. However, few things brought him as much joy as following the New York Yankees, and God loves Yankees fans.

Decked out in Yankees gear, with a large Yankees logo displayed proudly on the back window of his van, Vince made several sacred trips from Johnson City to the Bronx to watch his beloved Bronx Bombers play.

For his 34th birthday, Vince trekked to the Bronx to watch the Yankees take on their biggest rivals, the Boston Red Sox. Before the game, Vince had the special honor of being escorted onto the field at Yankee Stadium, a high pride for him. He continued to attend every Saturday home game at Yankee Stadium until his declining health made it impossible for him to travel.

But the one thing Vince cherished most in the world was his devoted and loving family. As the youngest of seven siblings, the Augostini siblings were a source of mutual love, support, and inspiration to each other.

From family reunions to holidays and birthdays, Vince spent countless hours with his family, especially his mother, Dolores, with whom he shared a special bond.

As Vince's health inevitably declined, Dolores devoted her life to providing him with loving care. The relationship Vince and his mother shared was the epitome of unconditional love.

Even when his health began to deteriorate rapidly, Vince was more worried about his own mother than even about himself. In his final moments on Earth, and as his family tearfully expressed emotional and final good-byes, Vince mouthed the words to all of his brothers: "Please help Mom."

Vince was selfless. His courage in the face of a difficult battle to fight a lifelong and terribly debilitating disease is beyond inspiring. Most importantly, despite all the pain he endured throughout his life, Vince was unwavering in his compassion and care for all of those whom he encountered.

Vince was forever grateful for the kindness of the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Vince was the 500th kid chosen from the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Central New York. In November 1997, Vince had the amazing, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to bring his brothers and father to Chicago to meet Bulls superstar, Michael Jordan, the greatest of all time.

Vincent was truly generous at heart and wanted to make sure other children got the same opportunity, which