

sport. Her enthusiasm is already inspiring the next generation of Virginia marathon runners.

Today, on behalf of Virginia's Seventh District, I want to congratulate Keira for making Chesterfield County, central Virginia, and our entire Commonwealth proud. We are honored to be the home of a true American champion.

HONORING ROY AND WILMA BROWN

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

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor Roy and Wilma Brown, who celebrated their 80th wedding anniversary this Monday.

Married on March 14, 1942, at the Cumberland County Courthouse, Roy and Wilma have remained at each other's side ever since.

Through the ups and downs of raising five children on a family farm in middle Tennessee, in the early days with no running water or electricity, the Browns have been no stranger to hardship but have always leaned on the Lord. On their 69th anniversary, Wilma said: "God has blessed us so much, and we are so thankful."

Madam Speaker, today, I thank Roy and Wilma Brown for serving as a reminder to all of us, both young and old, of the power and longevity of true love. May both Roy and Wilma have a blessed 80th anniversary, and may this day serve as an inspiration for generations to come.

INCREASING EtO AWARENESS

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

Ms. NEWMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today for Matt Haller. Matt Haller was an Illinois resident who passed away in 2019 from stomach cancer that is believed to have been linked to the local EtO sterilization plant near his home.

These same EtO cancerous chemicals are used today to sterilize an assortment of foods in the United States. While the chemical is clearly banned for food sterilization in other countries around the globe, it continues to be used in America for everyday food products like spices, dried herbs, dried vegetables, and much more. Food sterilized with EtO does not even require food labeling in the U.S.

I am introducing the Matt Haller EtO Awareness Act to finally change that. This commonsense legislation would provide Americans the right to know if food has been treated by known carcinogenic substances through accurate labeling.

Let's increase transparency around EtO, let's bring awareness to cases like Matt Haller's, and let's pass this bill.

HONORING JASMINE MORAN

(Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life of Mrs. Jasmine Moran, an admirable Oklahoma Fifth District philanthropist.

After surviving World War II in England, she uprooted her life to move to Seminole after meeting her husband, an oil man from Oklahoma.

Inspired by a children's museum in Michigan, Mrs. Moran decided to start her own in Seminole in hopes of reigniting the city. Eventually, her idea came to life, and she created a world-class children's museum that attracts 70,000 visitors a year.

But she didn't stop there. Almost single-handedly, Mrs. Moran created an animal shelter that adopts out 75 animals a month.

Mrs. Moran's generosity, resilience, and commitment to the betterment of her community and everyone around her is truly inspiring.

Though she will be deeply missed, there is no doubt that through her selfless endeavors, her legacy will live on forever. Mrs. Moran's story and the way she lived her life should stand as an inspiration to all Oklahomans.

RELIEF FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to indicate that finally we have passed and signed into law the Violence Against Women Act.

After years of introducing it and passing it in the United States House of Representatives, we came together, and today at the White House, relief has been given to the millions of victims of domestic violence, rape, and sexual assault.

We provided the opportunity for enhanced police efforts for trying to stop the most dangerous calls of police officers: domestic violence; dealing with cultural groups that respond to this in a different way; and once and for all, stopping the dastardly act of raping Indian women and escaping prosecution. Now we allow the courts on Indian reservations to be able to bring people to justice.

We have provided a place for abused persons to live. We have given more money to area shelters, like the Houston Area Women's Shelter, and we responded to the advocates across America.

I am glad to have written and authored H.R. 1620. I thank all of those who ultimately brought that bill to law. Now, the President has done what he has always wanted to do, to have the Violence Against Women Act reauthorized.

STOP THE ASSAULT ON AMERICAN ENERGY

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

Mr. CARL. Madam Speaker, over the past few weeks, we have made it very clear how important it is for the United States to produce its own energy rather than rely on other countries for our supplies.

The President and his allies have made things very clear that this is the thing that they want to do, shutting down American energy production, but the reality truly is that we can produce energy cleaner and more efficiently than any other nation on the planet.

This administration decided to shut down American pipelines and shut down American energy production, which has done nothing but drive up the energy costs while threatening our national security and strengthening our adversaries around the globe. We simply cannot allow this to continue.

President Trump's hard work to increase energy production and his leadership actually made us energy independent instead of energy dependent during his time.

America has the resources and the ability to meet our supply needs, and I encourage the President to end his assault on American energy.

BRING BACK AMERICAN ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACOBS of California). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, we have another crisis, yet another crisis, created by the policy choices of this White House.

The national average price for a gallon of gas reached \$4.32 on Sunday; and, yes, that is the highest price in U.S. history.

Last Thursday, we also learned that U.S. inflation soared 7.9 percent over the past 12 months. That is the largest spike in consumer prices in 40 years.

Now, the Washington Democrats' blame game is in full swing. Just to get this straight, at first, according to Democrats, they said inflation "wasn't happening." Then inflation was "merely transitory," they tried to convince us. Then inflation somehow only hurt

rich folks; that was the only line of reasoning.

But Washington Democrats' latest fiction might be their greatest yet: That the past year of steady, unrelenting price increases for gas and consumer goods is actually Vladimir Putin's fault.

Yes, that is right, Madam Speaker, Vladimir Putin. He didn't kill the Keystone pipeline. Joe Biden did. Vladimir Putin didn't ban drilling for oil on Federal lands. Joe Biden did that. Vladimir Putin didn't pass trillions upon trillions in unnecessary government spending in a single year. Joe Biden and the Washington Democrats did that.

Madam Speaker, what is so hard about just being honest with the American people? President Biden should accept responsibility for the past year of rising prices and pledge to correct course. He had better, or we are in for more and more pain.

The President should do everything in his power to make it easier, not harder, for America to produce more oil and gas. This would lower prices for the American people. It would make our country and Europe less dependent on foreign energy. But instead, President Biden says he actually "can't do much right now" about the skyrocketing gas prices.

The Democratic Caucus leader said the issue of gas prices "hasn't come up" during his party's caucus meetings. Really? You haven't made time to discuss any solutions to the number one issue facing Americans right now?

Now that the Biden administration and Congressional Democrats know they are in a tight spot, here is the thing: They are trying to convince the American people that an American President can't control gas prices in the United States but Russians can. Good luck with that.

I thank my colleagues for being here tonight for my Special Order hour this evening.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER).

□ 1730

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, we have a very, very serious energy crisis here on our home shores. As fuel continues to rise, the Biden administration continues to point fingers at anybody but themselves—they have done it many times before—for this self-inflicted crisis.

There are statements such as this is Putin's fault. The fact is, though, that the numbers truly tell a different story, and they do, in fact, tell the truth.

This situation cannot be denied by many of our colleagues here in the House, that we are issuing virtual propaganda about the realities of a national crisis.

On January 20 of last year, a gallon of gas cost \$2.39. After a year with the Biden administration, and with much

of the House leadership supporting, we shut down the Keystone pipeline; paused leases for energy development; failed to approve even one permit for drilling, not one; imposed new regulations on the energy industry; threatened higher taxes on energy companies; and, yes, actually warned banks and financial institutions not to make investments in our domestic energy industries.

Yet, what is coming from the White House, and many in this House, is to blame Putin for the gas prices. It is just horrible propaganda.

Last week, the President actually told the American people that he "can't do much right now" to lower gas prices. Yes, you can. Yes, it can be done.

Meanwhile, they are looking at Iran, Venezuela, Saudi Arabia, and, up until recently, Russia. So why don't we look at central Pennsylvania, west Texas, New Mexico, Louisiana?

Create American energy and American jobs. We need to reverse the policies that have depressed production, throttled back investment, and led to higher gas prices at the pump and for heating people's homes nationwide.

Madam Speaker, energy security is national security. I think we have all heard that. It has never been more important to be reminded of it than today. We must reverse these damaging policies now and safeguard our Nation's security for today and tomorrow.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, from energy States like ours—Pennsylvania, Louisiana, and the others—we have been saying this for a long, long time: Energy security is national security. Now, everybody recognizes it.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY), another gentleman who knows quite a bit about this issue.

Mr. TIFFANY. Madam Speaker, 2 weeks ago, we were here and heard about how President Biden was going to use every tool at his disposal, every tool, to combat skyrocketing energy costs.

Now, this is the same administration that told us the border was secure. That was about a year ago, a little less than a year ago. The border was secure. And we just saw in the last month, once again, record numbers of people coming in illegally to our country across the southern border.

Of course, as the gentleman from Louisiana just said, inflation was "transitory," and we are starting to hear that his chief economic adviser is saying maybe it is not so transitory. We are seeing record numbers now, this month, in regard to inflation.

Well, it all started January 20, 2021, with the shutdown of the Keystone pipeline and all the other actions that were taken to limit production here in America.

We saw what is turning out to be a foreign policy disaster, the okay of the Nord Stream pipeline that is delivering

natural gas to Western Europe, something the previous administration would never do.

This is all part of the green fantasy here in America that has become America's nightmare.

Back home in my district, it is \$2.85 a gallon to heat your home with propane right now. Propane is used by about a third of the homeowners in the district that I live in. They paid \$1.50 in August 2021. They paid \$0.80 a gallon in August 2020. That is what they are facing.

President Biden came to my district right after the State of the Union speech, came to Superior, Wisconsin. Once again, we were anxious to hear how he is going to use every tool, every tool possible, to provide energy for America.

But we didn't hear a thing about re-routing the pipeline through northern Wisconsin that is held up because a permit is not issued by the Governor of Wisconsin and his Department of Natural Resources.

We didn't hear a single thing about Line 5 that goes through the Straits of Mackinac—the Governor of Michigan shut down that permit last year—a major throughput to Canada and the entire Midwest.

We didn't hear a word about rebuilding the refinery in Superior, which we hope is complete soon. He was there on an infrastructure tour. That refinery produces all kinds of asphalt. Don't you think that would be a really good time—infrastructure, asphalt—to talk about rebuilding that refinery?

Finally, he didn't say a thing about a natural gas plant that is proposed for Superior, Wisconsin, nearly a billion-dollar investment to produce clean electricity with natural gas.

We didn't hear a word about producing more fertilizer for those farmers to grow our crops. We didn't hear a word about that.

This President does not understand security. Job security, thousands of jobs—two of the major pipeline manufacturers in the United States are right in Wisconsin. We didn't hear a thing about economic security, the inflation that is, in part, a result of these increased energy costs. We didn't hear a thing about national security, and that is what is at stake.

The Biden administration has let us down on all three fronts, job security, economic security, and national security.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for his remarks.

Madam Speaker, when we think about energy States, of course, we probably think about Texas first. I am delighted to yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN), who represents that State so well.

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague and friend across the Sabine River from me, Mr. JOHNSON, for having this Special Order.

President Biden and the Democrats hate the facts because the facts are not

on their side. If we are being honest, the facts haven't been on their side for a very long time. Nevertheless, they continue perpetuating the lie that domestic energy is somehow bad, and foreign energy is somehow good.

So, join me. Let's take a look at the facts here. The refineries, petrochemical plants, and American businesses in and around my district, the 36th Congressional District of the State of Texas, are unmatched worldwide.

For years, they have showcased what our country does best, and that is producing superior, high-quality petroleum products by leading in technological innovation.

The best and brightest Americans are constantly discovering new ways to enhance safety, lower emissions, and provide the world with affordable and reliable energy.

But the left, the leftist Democrats, they don't seem to care. They would rather lambaste the American public for not buying a \$60,000-plus electric vehicle. In fact, they would rather help tyrants and communist countries become energy powerhouses than to spend even one cent supporting U.S. oil and gas jobs, American ingenuity, or our state-of-the-art facilities.

And in the name of what, eliminating greenhouse gases? Give me a break.

Here is a reality check. When we increase our dependency on foreign nations for our energy needs, we increase our carbon footprint. Simple.

America makes the cleanest energy on the planet—fact. Foreign oil and gas are not produced using the stringent environmental regulations that we have here in America, not to mention foreign oil must travel farther on less safe and less environmentally friendly modes of transportation to get that product here.

If Biden and my Democrat colleagues want to talk about cleaner energy, they must first accept the fact that we, America, lead in reducing harmful pollution worldwide.

Americans are sick of suffering from Biden's anti-oil and gas agenda that supports dirtier energy, funds corrupt governments, kills their jobs, weakens our national security, and raises the cost of everything.

I spent \$125 filling up my Ford F-150 pickup truck this past Monday, just as an example.

But here is the bottom line: If Biden and the left honestly believe that foreign energy is the best option, then they really do not care about the environment or the security of our own Nation, the United States of America.

Acknowledge the facts. Put America first. Unleash our energy sector. Help the environment. End our dangerous dependence on foreign adversaries.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank Dr. Babin. That is Texas strong, as we expected.

Madam Speaker, one of the strongest Republican delegations in our Congress comes from another State, Tennessee. I

am delighted to yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE), one of the hardest working men in Congress.

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding time tonight.

Madam Speaker, despite what President Biden and congressional Democrats have to say, higher prices at the fuel pump are not because of a Putin price increase.

The price of a gallon of gas increased from \$2.31 a gallon since President Biden's inauguration to \$3.48 the week before Putin's invasion of Ukraine. That is a 50 percent increase before the invasion of Ukraine even began.

But make no mistake, the Biden administration is doing everything they can to blame the increase on Russia's invasion of Ukraine. They have turned to their allies in the mainstream media to carry their talking points.

But I urge all Americans not to let the headlines or TikTok influencers fool you. This is a crisis caused by President Biden and congressional Democrats' anti-energy policies, not Putin's invasion of Ukraine.

Unfortunately, we all knew this was coming when President Biden said on the campaign trail that he would "transition away from the oil industry."

During his first days in office, President Biden declared war against American energy. He moved his plan into action by canceling the Keystone pipeline and other projects, imposing new regulations on the oil and gas industry, and stalling new leases on oil and gas projects on Federal lands.

If the President has a legitimate plan to lower energy prices and fight inflation, we, the American people, would love to see it.

But until we do, I can only guess the President's plan is what he has done since taking office: spend trillions of dollars and hope Americans purchase expensive electric vehicles. That is not a plan. It is a pipe dream.

The truth is that this is not the America President Biden inherited. Under President Trump, America was energy independent, even a net oil exporter. Inflation was well under control. Gas was less than \$2.50 a gallon, and our enemies were our enemies, not potential trade partners.

But the price of a gallon of gas, along with inflation, has increased every single month since President Biden was inaugurated. The resulting harm to our country has been mostly self-inflicted and largely driven by Democrats' massive deficit spending and by the fact that the President has declared war on the U.S. oil and gas industry from his first day in office.

Every step he has taken to hinder the oil and gas industry diminishes capitalism, the very engine of our economy and our relatively high standard of living.

Whether it is in our schools or with our healthcare decisions, President Biden's administration wants you to do what they say instead of trusting what

has made us the most prosperous country in the history of the world.

Republicans in Congress stand ready to implement policies to make America energy independent again. It is time for the President to reverse the war against American energy and recognize that the solution to his energy crisis exists right under our feet. Still, the President refuses to pull his head out of the sand to tap into it.

He will stop at nothing to satisfy his leftwing base, even if it is at the expense of everyday, hardworking Americans, who I am proud to represent in middle Tennessee.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, a lot of comments there from the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE), and we will stay on that theme for the great State of Tennessee.

Madam Speaker, I am happy to yield Mr. BURCHETT, another gentleman from that great State, for more common sense.

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I greatly appreciate Chairman JOHNSON for heading this up day after day.

I just wonder, have the Democrats been to the gas pumps lately? I used to love to go to the gas pumps and talk to folks to see what was going on. Now, honestly, I am afraid to even make eye contact with somebody because they are going to light you up, Madam Speaker.

I know we see a lot of these little, cute stickers. That is not my thing. I don't want to cause any vandalism with our President pointing at the pump saying, "I did that," but the truth is, he did do this.

If they would listen to what is going on, they would know that America is ticked, and they should be. The national gas average today is \$4.30 a gallon. The average a year ago was \$2.87.

In 2020, gasoline or oil was around \$17 a barrel, and today, I believe it has dropped to \$95. I heard someone from the White House earlier bragging about how oil has dropped. I mean, that is the Washington way, to not talk about how it was at \$17 a couple of years ago, but talk about how it has dropped from over \$110 down to \$95.

Madam Speaker, we need to turn the spigots back on. We need to get back into the oil business. The oil and gas companies, we have been told that they have the permits, and then they boast about that, that they are not drilling because of it.

□ 1745

The truth is, Madam Speaker, not enough pipelines have been permitted to move the product. If they get it, there is nowhere for it to go. There is no storage capacity. There is no way to move the product. The pipelines have to be completed, and that is part of the master plan here.

As has been stated by Members on this floor and other times, I have heard, \$7 a gallon and electric vehicles are in. That is no way to drive innovation, Madam Speaker. Innovation is

driven through creativity, through capitalism, not by crooked politicians and evil folks trying to change the American agenda.

Electric cars are not affordable yet. Over \$50,000 a car. That is ridiculous. You have got over eight adapters on the plugs. It takes several hours to charge. I don't know if you have ever driven across country or not with a family but stopping 8 hours at a truck stop is not my idea of a vacation.

Renewables aren't reliable sources for our power grids. Democrats seem to double down, though, on these crazy woke environmental agenda issues. It just creates higher energy bills for Americans, Madam Speaker, and increases costs for business. That is why everything is up.

If you look at the price of fuel, I filled up my daughter's Dodge diesel the other day, and it cost me over \$100. Why are we doing this to ourselves? We can turn the spigots back on. We can put Americans back to work. We can increase our economy. We can show the world that we are leaders.

As the Ukrainian President stated so eloquently this morning, our President needs to lead the world. It is a shame when a country that small has to call on a power as great as America and tell its leaders to lead once again. Until things change, though, Madam Speaker, Biden's economy is a bust.

I appreciate Chairman JOHNSON and his truculent behavior. He has raised this from more than lackluster, and I want to praise him for that.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I appreciate my friend. He has been a faithful participant in the Special Order hours, getting the message to the American people, and it is so important right now.

Madam Speaker, I yield next to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA), another gentleman who has been very faithful to deliver this message to the American people week in and week out.

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) for faithfully helping us get the message out, facilitating that because what is really important is that we are talking to the American public about this situation that we don't have to be in.

Indeed, we have seen with the fairly new Biden administration that inflation has risen tremendously. Now, I don't get pleasure out of bagging on the President or anybody else in this, but we just have to go to the core of the issue. The policies that have been put into place have harmed the U.S. economy, harmed regular families.

The cost of fuel has been an especially noticeable part of this. In my home State of California, we always enjoy—enjoy—extra costs because of the way things are done there. If it is \$4 for a gallon of gas in the rest of the country, it is \$5.50 in my home State because of the dumb things we do out there.

So this recent surge, indeed, is affecting everybody, but it is an even greater burden on rural residents that have to drive longer distances. Maybe their jobs in agriculture or timber or mining are more based on the usage of fuel and other inputs that are fuel related. So that means that there are fewer exports of things that are produced in rural America, fewer services, there is going to be less employment as a result of this, too, because of the high cost of everything.

We are talking to some truckers. We are seeing there is a point where they can't deliver anymore because they can't afford the fuel and that will be soon. Imagine that, when you go to the retail level, and you can't get the normal things off the shelf you are used to. We are already seeing that. There are fewer food choices, fewer choices. You are waiting longer for parts to come to repair vehicles or do anything else.

When rural residents, especially, have to drive longer to do anything, whether it is to take kids to school, get to health services, pick up goods they need to do their job, it is just that much greater of a burden at these prices.

Take law enforcement, for example. Now, cops, especially rural ones, they have got a lot of driving to do to cover those rural areas, and their costs are going through the roof. That means counties, small cities are bearing a greater burden just to try and keep patrols out there. So that is indeed a detrimental effect on basic public safety.

Farmers, too. We are getting ready to plant our crop on our farm here. I don't even want to know what the fuel price is to top off my tanks, but I have to because it is so high. That is going to be passed on to the shelves for people to buy food all across the country or the farmer is going to go out of business if he can't get the price he needs to at the store.

Rural jobs are extremely important for our economy. They are producing things that people eat, the fiber they use to make clothes that people wear, the wood and paper products we use for our homes and our business.

It is really, really high time we take action and produce energy in this country because we can, we should, and we can affect the world market and make it where Russia is not making a killing off their energy because it is a supply-and-demand issue. If we fill the marketplace with low-cost energy, it will bring all this back in line. We will be in a better position as a Nation to help our colleagues, our neighbors in the western part of Europe, and cripple Putin's ability to make a killing off what he is doing.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for his comments. There are so many consequences to these bad policy choices, and I appreciate his illuminating many of those tonight.

Madam Speaker, I yield next to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE),

another faithful messenger for the truth in America.

Mr. CLYDE. Madam Speaker, while the devastating war in Ukraine is heartbreaking, we cannot turn a blind eye to the crises that President Biden has created here at home, especially when the American people are paying for his failed policies.

Last week, inflation hit another new, 40-year high of 7.9 percent in February, continuing to impose a hidden tax on every solitary American.

Prices at the pump, utility bills, and costs in the grocery store checkout line just keep getting worse.

Yet, instead of reversing his disastrous policies and reducing government spending in order to alleviate the pain inflicted on Americans' wallets, President Biden pivots to offer deceptive excuses.

First, we were told inflation was just transitory, that is it, but when price hikes continued, the new spin comically became that inflation is a good thing.

A good thing, really? Struggling Americans would beg to differ, Mr. President.

When that messaging failed, the talking points quickly evolved to blame higher prices on corporate greed. It appears the Biden administration enjoys pointing fingers at others instead of admitting the truth.

Now, in light of Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, the Biden administration's convenient scapegoat is Russian President Vladimir Putin, disingenuously labeling the ongoing inflation as Putin's price hike.

Make no mistake, inflation was skyrocketing long before Putin's troops set one foot into Ukraine. These are most certainly President Biden's price hikes. He is responsible, and no amount of dishonesty can hide the truth from the American people.

In fact, Americans simply can't afford to buy any more of Biden's deceptive excuses. Instead of playing the blame game while workers, families, and small businesses suffer, the Biden administration and congressional Democrats must reverse course on their wasteful spending and failed economic policies. We must return to the America-first principles that truly helped the American people thrive.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend. He has a way of putting it so clearly, and I am grateful for his voice. It is so consistent.

Madam Speaker, I yield next to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN), who came to Congress after 26 years of distinguished service as a naval aviator and knows of what he speaks.

Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I always appreciate my colleague from Louisiana's leadership on these important issues and I appreciate the time he is yielding me.

Madam Speaker, as my colleagues have shared, the Biden administration

has been defined by a series of self-inflicted crises. These include failed leadership on the world stage, runaway inflation, and a deliberate failure to secure our borders. In fact, you could say they are having a record year, record high inflation, record violent crime, record gas prices, record numbers of illegal immigrants, seizures of illegal drugs all at our southern border. The common denominator in each of these disasters is the President himself.

The President listened to the State Department over the recommendation of his generals, which led to last year's disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan.

He shut down American energy production, which led to skyrocketing gas prices long before Russia invaded Ukraine.

He catered to the radicals, flooding our economy with trillions in free money, and that has created the rampant inflation that we are experiencing today.

On the border, his reversal of President Trump's policies has led to nearly two million migrants pouring across our southern border since he took office. That is more than the population of 15 of our States. Think about that, the equivalent of creating a State or two every single year with the number of people crossing the border.

These disasters were completely self-inflicted, and American families are paying the price.

Despite our political differences, I take no joy in watching this administration fail. When our President fails, America fails.

Madam Speaker, the American people need and deserve a true leader. If the President is incapable of leading, he has a duty to surround himself with smart people willing to give him good counsel in the best interests of our Nation. Listen to the smart ones and not those with a track record of failure, and then act on it.

The President should focus on American energy independence, which will bring down gas prices here at home and help our allies abroad. He should not be talking to a Venezuelan dictator when we have reliable, affordable energy right here at home. He also needs to stop the out-of-control spending and reinstate tough border policies to protect our communities.

For the sake of our country, this administration must stop administrating and implementing the worst ideas of the D.C. political class and lead decisively.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Florida for bringing that wisdom to the floor tonight. There has been a theme here this evening with all of my colleagues who have participated in this Special Order hour. We have an energy crisis, the latest crisis that has beset the American people because of terrible policy choices from this White

House and the Democrats in Congress. It is just plain and simple, those are the objective facts.

It seems like almost a decade ago now, but just a little over a year ago, if you rewind to the Trump years, you can recall, and everyone will know again more objective truth, objective facts, how well we were doing in all of these areas.

President Biden came in and did exactly the opposite. I mean, when President Trump took office, he came in—I remember very vividly the first time he came and spoke with the House Republicans in our conference, and he told us, among the first commitments he made to us—I mean, this is January of 2017. He was just taking office. We had just begun that Congress, and he came and spoke to us and said, “I don’t want to talk about energy independence anymore. I want to talk about energy dominance.” Dominance, he said.

Of course, from an energy State like mine in Louisiana, the Louisiana delegation was delighted to hear that because we know what it means not only for our State’s economy but for the stability, the security of our entire country.

I will tell you what, more objective fact, President Trump delivered on that promise. In a very short period of time, we became not only energy independent again, but energy dominant, just as he said. We became a net exporter. All boats were rising. The economy was doing well. In fact, we had the best economic numbers in the history of the world, not just the history of the United States. Prior to COVID, we had the best economy because of the policy choices that were made. We advanced those policies through the Congress; President Trump led on them, and his administration did a fantastic job. Because of that, our energy stability, our energy security, all of that was well in place.

And then President Biden comes in, and he does instinctively, I guess, exactly the opposite. Again, in very short order, he reversed all of those great trends. As has been articulated so many times tonight, among the first executive orders he issued—I mean immediately upon taking office in January 2020—was an executive order that killed the Keystone pipeline. There were more than 42,000 jobs related to that project just killed overnight; as well as all the energy independence and energy dominance that that would have meant for us.

And then he issues the moratorium on Federal production on Federal lands. Well, that killed a State like Louisiana. Not just on the land, but right offshore as well. Of course, that is a big part of our economy and in the other energy States. It was just devastating.

At the same time, while he is killing the Keystone pipeline, he is ending Federal production on Federal lands, he green lights the Nord Stream 2 pipeline. That was Putin’s project. So he

empowers Russia, he fuels the war machine for Putin because, of course, he can supply oil all over Western Europe, and that filled his coffers.

Listen, it was mentioned tonight these stickers that are on the gas pumps all over the country, these “I did that” stickers that have President Biden’s picture. It is funny. We don’t support vandalism, right? But, I mean, I see them all over Louisiana, and it is devastating.

□ 1800

President Biden is pointing to the sticker shock, the cost that it is taking everyone to fill their tanks, and it is exactly right. That is very telling. A picture is worth 1,000 words. He is responsible. These are the results of policy choices.

And as Mr. FRANKLIN of Florida said a few moments ago, these problems are completely self-inflicted. And because of that, let’s always remember, they can be easily reversed. The President could just do the opposite of what he has done since he took office; reverse course and fix this dilemma for the American people.

But you know what? He won’t do that. I don’t know if it is because he is beholden to the radical left environmentalist agenda, the climate agenda, or if he has some sort of ulterior motive. I am not sure.

But I will tell you what: My constituents are asking that question openly right now, and millions upon millions of the American people who are suffering because of these policies are beginning to ask that as well.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to yield to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. STEEL), who has a few more things to say about this issue.

Mrs. STEEL. Madam Speaker, I am sorry I am just a little late because, actually, the Education and Labor Committee, we are doing markups right now.

I rise to address the ongoing energy crisis and the impact it is having on families in Orange County. The picture you see here is a snapshot of what gas prices looked like for my constituents in the past week. But I heard—actually, this is in Orange County.

Last week, same time—this isn’t my district, but in Sacramento that we have actually hit over \$9 per gallon. These prices have increased 30 percent in the last year.

Gas prices in Orange County, and across the country, are rising every single day. One reason for these skyrocketing costs is policies enacted by this administration that have weakened our energy independence and made us dependent on foreign oil.

With the President taking the necessary step of banning Russian oil, it is even more important that we return to our former energy independence. We cannot turn from one foreign dictator to another to meet our energy needs. We have the resources right here to bring down costs and produce the cleanest energy on Earth.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in pursuing policies to secure our energy independence.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I am so grateful the gentlewoman came to participate. We know she is very busy. It has been a long day in the Education and Labor Committee. We are grateful she is doing that great work.

Madam Speaker, I know that the time is winding up for our Special Order hour. There was a lot going on on Capitol Hill today. I am grateful to my Republican colleagues for coming in and participating and helping to share this very, very important message with the American people.

There is a lot of spin going on in the country right now, from TikTok influencers, to media types who are engaging in the spin for the White House at their request, and the American people see through it. They are making and being made to make difficult choices for their families.

Hardworking Americans are suffering right now because of these policy choices. There is crisis after crisis after crisis everywhere we look because of, frankly put, poor leadership in the White House.

I believe that we will have a change in all of this come November in the next election cycle, and with the presidential election that will follow 2 years later. And it can't happen soon enough because the White House has shown no intention, no indication that they will reverse policies, as they should, as we mentioned a moment ago could be easily done to alleviate the pain for all these Americans. But for whatever reason, they will not do it.

Madam Speaker, I will wind down this evening. I want to thank my colleagues for being here, participating in this really important Special Order hour, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LOIS FRANKEL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, this month is Women's History Month. I think you are making history, Madam Speaker,

today, one of the youngest women ever to be elected from California and, actually, in the country. Women are making history.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to be here. Hopefully, we are going to have a few more speakers here today, but I do want to start.

I am going to take a page out of the book of our great First Lady, Jill Biden. I attended a ceremony over at the White House where she and the President celebrated Women's History Month. And she started out with a salute, I think, to—if you could think of anybody who you want to give a shout out to, she gave it to her own mother. And I am going to start with that too because, you know, most of our mothers, they are not very famous, and it is not like they made history.

But the fact of the matter is, moms are probably the most influential people in the world. In fact, if you ever go to an event where someone is being honored, who is the first person they thank? It is their mother.

So I am going to start this Women's History Month with my remarks by thanking my mother, Dorothy Frankel—and let me just say this—who has inspired me in every way, and now, at 96 years old, with—I would say with a mind better than mine—maybe that is not saying much, but with her full faculties and the energy to live.

I want to say thank you, mom, like all the other moms who give us the unconditional love and the support, whether the sun is shining or the rain is raining.

So today, I think we have some other people here. Before I continue my remarks, I want to yield to a very special friend.

We talk about making history. I am going to yield to one of the most dynamic Members of the House of Representatives. She is from Texas. She has got her hands full. I mean, I will tell you what: I don't know whether it is more difficult today being from Texas or from Florida, I think our Governors are in some kind of contest with each other. But I am going to yield to the amazing gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, let me thank the gentlewoman from Florida for, first of all, all of her leadership in leading the Women's Caucus for a very sizable period of time; and to give us the opportunity to speak about women today; and to remind us that we really started out with a very important woman, and that is, of course, our mothers.

So why don't I, as well, acknowledge, Ivalita Jackson, who served her community; but, more importantly, her profession, and she was proud of that, in nursing. And at the time, she was a vocational nurse, and she wore the uniform with pride.

She was a mother with pride. She was a wife with pride. She was really our rock, and she did things that showed her sacrifice. She loved her pro-

fession. She loved nursing. She was our at-home doctor, probably the doctor for the neighborhood.

But in order to ensure that she was home during the day, she made sure she took the night shift. And the night shift in a hospital is a challenging shift.

We can see all of the great and wonderful things that nursing has generated, the heroes of today, the heroes of today, as we went through 2 years of the pandemic. But my mother was a shero many, many decades ago.

And I came to love the uniform, came to love those white sparking shoes that she wore so proudly, came to love and honor her sacrifice; and how much she gave to her family, her job, her profession, her church.

Ivalita Jackson is one to be honored; along with her mother, my grandmother, Vannie Bennett; my other grandmother, Olive Jackson; and then my aunt, Valerie Bennett, Vickie and Audrey, all wonderful women, and Sybil.

So today, I come to join my colleagues to be able to talk about women and to celebrate, as the President did in Women's History Month, just 24 hours ago; but then to celebrate again, as I mentioned, now, in law, now the law, and that is the Violence Against Women Act, that almost a decade, it seems—even though we went back as far as 2013, that would have been 8 years—it seems that I have been doing this for a decade.

But I remember standing next to Vice President Joe Biden on the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, which was in 1996. I call the image, me in short stature and Joe Biden, tall stature, but yet, one of great compassion.

And I loved hearing him speak today, how culturally out of step men were, or the community was, or the Nation was, in trying to understand why he would be engaged in fighting against domestic violence. I remember him today saying, they asked me whether or not he had come from a family of domestic violence, or he had abused his wife or he had known someone in his family who had experienced that. And he looked at them incredulously and said no.

It is something to care about. Domestic violence kills. Sexual assault can kill. Rape kills, and it destroys lives. From very little girls and very little children, boys or girls, to adulthood.

We loved him for saying that. And out of that passion came the first Violence Against Women Act centered around domestic violence. Then it grew to focus on the wide breadth of sexual assault in this Nation.

In speaking to the head of the major chiefs at the White House, she reaffirmed the fact, as a chief of police of a major city, that domestic violence calls are the most deadly for law enforcement officers, and don't end well, in many instances, for our families.

It is appropriate in this month of women's history, that we also have a