

In the face of Putin's criminal war, the Ukrainian people and their President, President Zelenskyy, have shown immense courage, resilience, and determination as they defend their country. The world stands united with them.

As a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I believe it is vital that the United States continue to maximize available intelligence-sharing with our Ukrainian and international allies and also maintain robust military and humanitarian assistance.

The United States must also work to declassify intelligence that reveals evidence of Vladimir Putin's malign intentions and actions, including war crimes committed.

Putin is a thug, a dictator, and an authoritarian war criminal whose crimes—past, present, and future—should be known and exposed across the world. Pulling back the veil on his actions will ensure that we hold Putin accountable and prosecute him for the war criminal he is.

America and its people will continue to show solidarity with the Ukrainian people.

CONGRESS MUST ACT ON WILDFIRE RESILIENCY

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

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of the people of Colorado who are experiencing historic, destructive, and devastating wildfires. Four of the largest wildfires in our State's history have happened in just the last 18 months.

For my community, we are no longer witnessing wildfire seasons but, instead, wildfire years. Fires are burning in August, December, and March. Our communities are under threat by worsening, more dangerous, unrelenting wildfires 365 days a year.

I would like to explain, Madam Speaker, to the American people what this encroaching threat will mean for families, for firefighters, for communities, and for our neighborhoods.

On December 30, as the Speaker may be aware, a rangeland fire, fueled by hurricane-force winds, ran through suburban neighborhoods in my district of Louisville and Superior, Colorado, forcing over 30,000 people to evacuate and destroying 1,084 homes and businesses in less than 18 hours—1,084 homes and businesses in 18 hours.

Over 1,000 families left with nothing but the clothes on their backs and the items that they carried. Their lives will forever be changed as they begin the long, challenging, complex recovery process.

The Marshall fire, now the most destructive fire in Colorado history, was not the first, and it will not be the last.

The Cameron Peak fire in Larimer County, Colorado, burned over 400,000 acres from August 2020 through December of that year. The East Troublesome

fire in Grand County grew more than 100,000 acres in 1 day. Collectively, those fires have destroyed countless structures and left millions in damages for our communities to take on.

Madam Speaker, these disasters warrant a response from the Federal Government, a bold, decisive response. We have proposed some of the potential solutions.

First, we have to start paying our firefighters a living wage. I was looking at job postings this morning, Madam Speaker, in my district. In Boulder, there are customer service representative positions at copy stores, shops, and retail establishments with a starting pay of \$20 an hour, \$23 an hour. Yet, we have Federal wildland firefighters making today \$19 an hour, \$18 an hour, \$16 an hour as they are literally sacrificing so much and putting their own lives on the line to protect our communities. It is unconscionable, and it should be unacceptable to every Member of this body.

That is why we introduced Tim's Act to honor Tim Hart, a brave smokejumper who tragically lost his life last year working on a wildfire in New Mexico.

Our bill with Representative LIZ CHENEY is the first bipartisan, comprehensive legislation of its kind to significantly raise pay for Federal wildland firefighters and ensure access to mental health services, healthcare, housing, retirement benefits, and so much more.

These firefighters are risking their lives every day, Madam Speaker. They deserve just compensation. We have to change it, and I am committed to doing everything in my power to get this bill to the floor of this House.

We also have to support our communities in recovery. Rebuilding takes time, and it takes a lot of money. It is emotionally exhausting and complex.

Last week, families in my district in Boulder who are in the process of literally rebuilding their homes lost in the Marshall fire were evacuated from their new temporary homes, rental properties in Boulder, as the NCAR fire burned as close as 1,000 yards from homes in the area. Firefighters are literally working as we speak to contain that fire.

My bill, the Wildfire Recovery Act, which recently passed out of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee last year, would help local communities like Boulder, Fort Collins, and communities across my State, from the Western Slope to the Eastern Plains, recover. It would invest money in mitigation, in resiliency.

It is time for us to get this done, Madam Speaker. I am committed to doing everything I can to get those bills and many more to the floor, and we intend to get this done.

RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from

Washington (Mrs. RODGERS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the month of April as the Month of the Military Child.

I have always said that when someone joins the military, it is not just a job; it is a family commitment to our country. This is especially true for the more than 1.6 million children who have a parent on Active Duty serving our Nation, including nearly 2,000 who call Fairchild Air Force Base in eastern Washington home.

Over the next few weeks, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the thousands of brave men and women who demonstrate their courage and commitment to freedom, selflessly serving our country around the world. Let us take this time to say thank you to those in uniform keeping us safe and remind them that while they are taking care of us, we are taking care of their children.

To all the children of Active-Duty servicemembers, we salute you. We recognize your commitment to our country. We share in your struggles of not seeing your mom and dad. We support you unconditionally. Just like your parents, you are a hero in your own way, and in April, we celebrate you.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the incredible sacrifices of military children across the country and invite my fellow Americans to help us honor them with unwavering support and appreciation today and every day.

HONORING VIVIAN PIERESCHI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated public service and congressional career of a phenomenal woman, Vivian Piereschi.

In August 2001, the people of south Florida's 20th Congressional District, which later became the 23rd District that I proudly represent today, received a precious gift in the dedicated service of Vivian.

After more than 20 years, this daughter of Cuban refugees, who emigrated to Florida in search of a better life, ended her career making the lives of so many others better.

Vivian became a trusted adviser, advocate, and community leader.

Through four administrations and two Members of Congress, Vivian navigated the Federal Government, in all the ways it serves the American people, with a nurturing spirit and patient persistence.

When we passed the Affordable Care Act, a jubilant Vivian Piereschi said: "Now, we can help so many more people."

Whether it was passing life-changing legislation, going door-to-door to give

hurricane relief and assistance, providing immigration help, or just hugging the families that lost loved ones in the Surfside condo tragedy, Vivian has always been there for our people.

Vivian sought out a career in public service to be a voice for the voiceless, to speak for those who don't have a seat at the table. Every day of her 20-plus years of service, she has done just that.

I know that Vivian will continue to do this self-sacrificing work as she moves on to serve seniors in our community in her new role.

The constituents of Florida's 23rd Congressional District and the State as a whole benefited from Vivian's dedicated, diligent work ethic and her compassion.

I know that Vivian's husband, Alex, and sons, Eric and Nicholas, are so proud of her and all the work that she has done, and so am I. I thank Alex, Eric, and Nicholas for sacrificing their precious family time with Vivian so she could serve the people of south Florida for all these years.

I will miss my friend, but I know that we will end up spending many more hours of personal time together.

On behalf of my constituents, current and former staff, and all its stakeholders, we proudly thank Vivian and congratulate her as she begins the next chapter of her service.

Te quiero, mi amiga. I love you, my friend.

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BIDEN'S ECONOMIC FAILURES

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, the inflation rate in the United States currently stands at 7.9 percent. That is the highest it has been since January 1982.

As prices continue to rise, thanks to the unfavorable financial conditions created by President Biden's agenda, these companies should rebrand themselves to reflect the state of our economy.

Whole Foods Market will need to change its name to Piece of Food Market. Pretty soon, that is all shoppers will be able to afford.

When Americans take their next family vacation, they might need to rent a car from the airport. Hertz Your Wallet has vacationers covered.

Then there are the big box stores, long cherished for bulk purchases at low prices. Those days, of course, are gone in President Biden's economy. Enjoy a trip to Costcoing Up Wholesale or Targetting More Expensive.

When we have an administration that is putting forward \$5.8 trillion—that is trillion with a t—budget requests, that says everything you need to know about their attitude towards inflation.

Madam Speaker, this group is simply out of touch with the financial pain

felt by American families because of rising prices. I hope the next inflation report on April 12 contains some good news from consumers. Of course, if it doesn't, I have no doubt that the Biden administration will deny responsibility and shift blame to Big Oil, big agriculture, or big something. One thing is for sure. President Biden will never blame Big Government for his administration's economic failures.

CELEBRATING FORMER TENNESSEE SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE GARY WADE

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate former Tennessee Supreme Court Chief Justice, my good friend, Gary Wade, and recognize his long and distinguished career in Tennessee law.

Born and raised in east Tennessee, Chief Justice Wade made the indisputably wise decision to attend the University of Tennessee, my alma mater, and graduated with his law degree in 1973. I would like to note that I was in the third grade at that time. A couple years later, Chief Justice Wade decided to pursue public service and became the youngest-ever mayor of Sevierville, where he served for five consecutive terms while simultaneously practicing law.

In 1987, Chief Justice Wade joined the Court of Criminal Appeals where he served for 19 years and was presiding judge for 8 of those years. In 2006, he was appointed by then-Governor Phil Bredesen to the Tennessee Supreme Court, and he served as the court's chief justice for 2 years.

Following his retirement from the court in 2015, Chief Justice Wade became vice president and dean of Lincoln Memorial University's Duncan School of Law, who is named after my predecessor. The school achieved full accreditation from the American Bar Association thanks to Chief Justice Wade's leadership. In 2020, he retired from that position and joined the London Amburn law firm in Knoxville.

Outside of his legal activities, Chief Justice Wade leads several charitable initiatives in east Tennessee. He started the Tennessee Judicial Conference Foundation, a program that awards need-based scholarships to students attending any of Tennessee's six law schools. He is also a cofounder of Friends of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, which contributes funds to protect the park, and a cofounder of Leadership Sevier, a leadership training program for young Sevier County residents.

Congratulations on an impressive career, Chief Justice Wade.

And on a personal note, I will always remember when Mama and I were going to the hospital when Daddy had just had his stroke. We were in a little bit of a state of panic. He saw us and passed us and called me on my car phone to check on us and check how Daddy was doing. He is a dear friend.

HONORING SPECIALIST 4 VICTOR HODGE

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Specialist 4 Class Victor

Hodge, an American hero who served his country as Tennessee's Second District's March 2022 Veteran of the Month.

Specialist 4 Hodge has battled health issues his entire life, but he never let that break his spirit. One day when he was 17 years old, he was out driving with his mother and saw an Uncle Sam poster on a building in Maryville, Tennessee. He told her to stop the car because he was joining the Army. She told him that they wouldn't take him, but Specialist 4 Hodge got out of the car anyway. And on July 28, 1978, he officially became a member of the United States Army, despite the obstacles created by his health.

He received his initial military training at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas, and then was assigned to a Nike Hercules as a missile crewman. Upon completing his training, Specialist 4 Hodge was stationed at Homestead Air Force Base in Florida. His duty location was in the Florida Everglades, and he went on to become the leader of his squad. He served in Florida for a year and a half before health issues forced him to return to Fort Bliss.

Due to his health, Specialist 4 Hodge received a medical discharge from the Army. One of his favorite memories from his service in Florida was when he had the privilege of meeting General Bradley, the first chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Since retiring from the military, Specialist 4 Hodge has been blessed with three children, two stepchildren, and three he helps raise. Specialist 4 Hodge is a man of strong faith and thanks God every day for all the blessings in his life.

Despite persistent health struggles, Specialist 4 Hodge did not let that stop him from serving his country. It is my honor to recognize him as Tennessee's Second District's March 2022 Veteran of the Month.

DON YOUNG REMEMBRANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. O'HALLERAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of my friend, Congressman Don Young. Don passed away last week while traveling home to Alaska.

At the age of 88, he was still traversing this Nation to serve his constituents. He stood up for the needs, concerns, and families, both here on the House floor, and out in the wildlands of his beloved State.

Don was a fierce fighter for Alaska. But he was also a genuine man who worked on both sides of the aisle with Members, advocates, and people of all ideologies and backgrounds to improve the lives of the families he represented, never letting Washington politics get in his way.

During his decades in Congress, Don advocated for Alaska Native tribes,