

coach, and percussion instructor at South Caldwell High School. As you can tell, she is a true renaissance woman.

Recently, her class participated in a project where class members wrote letters to me about different pieces of legislation and asked for my thoughts. In doing so, her students learned a truly invaluable lesson: becoming an informed citizen is one of the most important duties we have as Americans.

Madam Speaker, after talking with Mrs. Schaffer-Greer and learning about her love of teaching, it is clear to me that she leaves an indelible mark on the lives of her students. May she continue to do so for many years in the future.

SOUTHERN BORDER CATASTROPHE CONTINUES

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, our southern border is under siege and President Biden is asleep at the wheel.

Over 40 illegal aliens on the terror watch list have been arrested at the southern border since President Biden took office.

In March of this year, 220,000 illegal aliens were encountered at the southern border, and 62,000 of them evaded Border Patrol agents.

Madam Speaker, that averages out to roughly 2,000 people per day escaping into our country.

So who did Border Patrol agents not catch? Who else is on the terror watch list that escaped into our country?

Madam Speaker, border security is national security, and it is clear that this administration fails to recognize that most basic fact and do its duty.

NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

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

Ms. TENNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Autism Awareness Month, which we honor in April each year.

Madam Speaker, 1 in 44 children in the United States are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. The prevalence of autism spectrum disorder has increased 16.3 percent since the year 2000, making it even more important to expand research and provide adequate resources for people who are on the spectrum. By increasing awareness, we can support the more than 5.4 million individuals in America living with autism spectrum disorder.

Our early childcare programs, especially in schools, must have the knowledge, resources, and ability to provide assistance to those living with autism. Early diagnosis and treatment can make all the difference.

I will take a moment to recognize my dear friend, Vincent McLaughlin, of Saugerties, New York, who truly is an inspiration to me and to all of us who are standing there trying to help the cause of autism awareness.

Vincent is an active and dedicated member of his community with full-

time employment and doing volunteer work for the fire department and numerous other not-for-profit agencies in his community. He constantly strives for increased awareness for autism through his selfless service and tenacious advocacy.

Vincent is a shining example of how effective and beneficial early treatment and community empowerment can be for people with autism spectrum disorder.

It is a privilege today to acknowledge April as Autism Awareness Month. May all Americans living with autism receive the tools, resources, and support necessary to live fulfilling lives. Autism should never be a barrier preventing Americans from achieving success or pursuing happiness.

Good luck to all of them, and especially my dear friend, Vincent McLaughlin. Thank you so much for keeping me aware and for inspiring all of us.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SPECIALIST BISHOP EVANS

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

Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Texas National Guard Specialist Bishop Evans. Bishop Evans is a hero. He is a name that we all should learn, should know, and should be speaking.

Bishop Evans, this young gentleman, was a National Guardsman. He was stationed in Eagle Pass, Texas. He selflessly gave his life trying to save people. He didn't care what nationality they were. He didn't care the circumstances.

When the situation arose and two people fell or jumped into the river, he immediately took off his body armor. He immediately jumped into the river, and he tried to save these people, and he lost his life doing it.

This is something that here in D.C. we should be talking about. The whole country should be talking about Specialist Bishop Evans. The man is a hero.

There are many men and women that serve that are just like this, that when the time comes, it is a fight-or-flight moment and they are rushing to the fire; they are not running away from it.

I give my condolences to Specialist Evans, his grandparents, Jo Ann and Dannie Johnson, in Arlington, Texas. Their grandson meant everything to them, and they are going to have a funeral this weekend.

I celebrate this man's life. I celebrate what he stands for. I celebrate everything that he has done. He is a patriot. He served our country. He served in Kuwait. He served in Iraq.

This man, when duty called, he answered the call. And here he was, stationed in Eagle Pass, Texas, in my dis-

trict, in Texas 23, and he jumped into the river. He didn't have to do that. He lost his life doing that.

This border crisis has impacted everybody, all parts, all walks of life, Texas. Every State in America has become sucked up into this crisis, and this gentleman here gave his life. He is a hero that we all should remember. Bishop Evans is a hero that we should all remember.

Please say a prayer for his family. I was raised by my grandparents. He was raised by his grandparents. Not all families are traditional families, per se. And his grandparents, they lost a part of them when they lost Specialist Bishop Evans.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF ELLA AND OWEN ROGERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BUSTOS). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize and commend two of my young constituents from Daniel Island, South Carolina, Ella and Owen Rogers—Ella is 14 and Owen is 17—and their efforts in support of Ukraine and standing in solidarity with the Ukrainian people during one of the toughest times in Ukraine's history.

They are both descendants of their great-great-grandfather, Joseph, who was born in Galicia, Ukraine. Joseph was forced to flee to the United States during the early 20th century due to the armed conflict between Austrian and Russian Empires trying to occupy the region.

The story of their family history shows similarities to what the world has witnessed in the last few months during the beginning of the unconscionable and illegal invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces in late February.

As Ella and Owen Rogers have witnessed these atrocities, as my teenage kids who are very similar in age, these kids have seen these atrocities; have witnessed these war crimes. They have seen it all over social media and television.

But they have spoken with their uncle recently who had been providing humanitarian and military intelligence aid in Warsaw, Poland at the time, and they decided the best way to make a difference was through providing nourishment to mothers and children who are fleeing their home country of Ukraine.

I was recently in Warsaw and in Poland a few weeks ago witnessing the women and children fleeing Ukraine and coming into the country. There are millions of families, particularly women and kids, who have been displaced because their fathers and husbands and partners are staying back home in Ukraine to fight this war.

But they rallied their relatives, their friends, their neighbors, the amazing community of Daniel Island in the

Lowcountry. Ella and Owen have raised over \$7,000 for the World Central Kitchen, which is an organization that provides food and nourishment to communities around the world in times of conflict, crisis, and war.

Ella and Owen are just one example of the type of compassion and empathy that we see each and every day in the Lowcountry. The great people of the Lowcountry show, not only to their fellow citizens, the State of South Carolina, our Nation, and around the world, there are no strangers they have ever met, and everyone is witnessing great hope for the future of Ukraine.

I hope that the story of Ella and Owen can serve as an inspiration to others who stand up for what is right, even when it seems like there is nothing that can be done in the face of hardship. They have shown hard work; they have shown that we need to do the right thing; and they have shown people that they care.

And now, more than ever, it is important that we do all we can to support our friends in Ukraine to help them during this critical crisis.

I again thank the Rogers family and the incredible work ethic that Ella and Owen have shown the Lowcountry and the State of South Carolina.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF BOBBY BERKSTRESSER

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

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and legacy of a good friend and Rockbridge County resident, Bobby Berkstresser, who recently passed away at the age of 71.

Bobby was truly a kind soul who had a passion for both people and business. In 1981, he purchased his first business, Lee Hi Travel Plaza, in Lexington. At the time, he had only eight employees on payroll, but over the years he grew it exponentially and was able to expand.

When Bobby passed, he employed more than 400 people, and his second business, White's Travel Center in Raphine was the largest east of the Mississippi, a fact of which he was definitely proud.

He brought honor and pride to the job and, in 2018, he was honored with the NATSO Hall of Fame Award for his contributions to the industry.

His employees say, "He was not only your boss, he encouraged you, and he was family to a lot of people." That was certainly how everyone felt about Bobby Berkstresser.

Aside from owning White's and Lee Hi, Bobby was deeply committed to his community. He regularly contributed to local nonprofits, in addition to serving on several boards, including the Bank of Botetourt, Rockbridge YMCA, Rockbridge United Way, Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors, former Carilion Stonewall Jackson Hospital,

RALS, Rockbridge Republican Committee, and NATSO.

Madam Speaker, it goes without saying that Rockbridge County lost a giant. His passing will be felt by this community for quite some time, and my thoughts and prayers remain with his wife, Sue, and his beloved family.

□ 1030

REJECTING THE BIDEN BUDGET

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, as Americans face the worst rate of inflation in 41 years, President Biden's proposed budget does nothing to help ease the burden on our country's struggling families.

Despite experts predicting that a recession is coming, the President's proposed budget would further exacerbate high inflation by spending \$73 trillion over the next decade and would be funded by the highest sustained tax burden in our Nation's history.

As Americans pay record prices at the pump, this budget proposal prioritizes radical Green New Deal energy policies and continues Biden's destruction of American energy independence with increased taxes on the oil and gas industry.

Who is going to feel those increased taxes? Working men and women in the Sixth District of Virginia and across this country. Further, it pushes unnecessary and already rejected Build Back Better social programs and provides benefits to illegal aliens, which is entirely unacceptable.

For my constituents in the Sixth District, I will continue to hold Biden administration officials accountable and demand justifications for this spending spree that is this budget when they come before the committees on which I serve.

Madam Speaker, I stand in strong opposition to the President's proposal, and I urge its rejection should it come before this House.

INVESTING IN SUCCESS OF AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Madam Speaker, the America COMPETES Act of 2022 includes bold, smart, and strategic investments to power the success of America's workers, businesses, and economy based on bipartisan bills, many of which have already passed the House with bipartisan support.

Madam Speaker, for generations, America's innovation, from electricity to automobiles, robotics, and plastics, has shaped the course of history. We prevail because of our early investments in science, research, and technology.

But today, America's preeminence is being challenged. Other countries have followed our lead in research, science, and technology. As a result, more of

the technology that we are relying on today is made abroad, driving up the cost in the United States, contributing to inflation, threatening our workers' financial security and their jobs, and eroding our Nation's competitiveness.

The House's America COMPETES Act is precisely what is needed to ensure America's might in manufacturing and innovation while creating good-paying jobs and lowering costs for our Nation.

Our bill brings American manufacturing back to our shores, including \$52 billion for chips, which are crucial for making cars, cell phones, and more.

Our bill will help reinvigorate America's industries, securing \$45 billion to strengthen our supply chain and reduce dependence on foreign nations and lowering costs.

Our bill will invest in research and education so that we diversify our STEM workforce with apprenticeships.

Our bill will promote U.S. global leadership.

These are investments that all Americans need so desperately in order to obtain prosperity.

My colleagues and I look forward to swiftly going to conference with the Senate so we can put forth a strong bill that will help all Americans and put it on the President's desk to sign.

REAUTHORIZING THE FARM BILL

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

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, in preparation for reauthorizing the farm bill in 2023, I rise today to deliver the eighth installment of my farm bill impact series, where I am highlighting various aspects of the farm bill that deserve Congress' awareness and support.

The food aid programs within the farm bill not only support the nutrition of millions of Americans struggling with hunger, but they also help to stop global conflicts before they start.

Kansas is the Wheat State, and wheat is the number one commodity used in U.S. donations for international food aid. If you combine all the aid destinations, they amount to a top 10 market for U.S. wheat.

The last two farm bills have granted USAID flexibility in implementing aid programs, which has resulted in the U.S. purchasing from other countries more than half of the total food we give out.

That is a noble thing to use our resources to help hungry people overseas, but our government should prioritize the commodities of American farmers, ranchers, and agricultural producers as we carry out this good work abroad.

International food assistance programs work alongside legislation to help stabilize countries ravaged by famine and war, reduce terrorism, and give people an alternative from fleeing their homeland just to find food.

For instance, I introduced a resolution condemning and prohibiting the