

Sampa is an extremely talented and competent noncommissioned officer who led by example, outworked his peers, and always took care of his troops.

Along with the citizens from the great State of Texas, and the Army National Guard soldiers throughout the country, I wish Command Sergeant Major John Sampa a well-deserved retirement. He has served his neighbors, State, and country well.

I wish John, his wife Carlette; son, John; and daughter, Julia, all the best in their future endeavors.

#### COMMEMORATING KOREAN-AMERICAN DAY

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

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate Korean-American Day. I am proud to represent the largest Korean-American population of any congressional district in the country.

Tomorrow we recognize the 119th anniversary of the arrival of the first Korean immigrants to the United States, and the recognition that they have contributed to the life and well-being of the people of the United States for so many years.

One person that is an example of that is Erin Pak, who leads the Kheir Center, a community health center in Los Angeles. During the pandemic, they kept their doors open, taking care of anybody who needed help; everything from testing, to vaccine boosters, to people who are Korean, Latino, it didn't matter their background. But their doors were open during the toughest times.

It is with that kind of commitment that Korean Americans have really made not only L.A. a better place to live, but the United States a better place to live.

So I urge my colleagues to support my resolution to recognize the ideals of Korean-American Day and the essential contributions of Korean Americans to American life.

#### OPPOSITION TO PROXY VOTING

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, there is no substitute for conducting the business of the American people in person.

On Monday, 80 members of the majority voted "present" by proxy. This is one of the most asinine things that has become commonplace under one-party rule by the majority.

Have House Democrats become so averse to work that they now believe voting from their couches is a viable option?

Mr. Speaker, it is time to end proxy voting once and for all. It is one of the many blemishes that have been put on this great body under one-party rule.

If the current majority won't end proxy voting, Republicans will snuff it out entirely when we take back the House. It is past time to get back to work.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO STARBUCKS WORKERS UNITED

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, from the steel mills to the auto plants, Buffalo and Western New York are communities that respect hard work and have a long and strong record of leading and supporting the labor movement.

That tradition continues with local Starbucks workers. Despite pressure tactics and roadblocks, they were successful in their bid to organize unions at Starbucks locations in Buffalo and Cheektowaga, New York.

This weekend, I was proud to stand with the Starbucks Elmwood employees who were fighting for better working conditions.

Today, I recognize the efforts of all workers who show courage and solidarity in their fight for fair wages and working conditions.

Every social movement in America started from the ground up, from people with passion and vision to demand better for their workplace, for their community, and for our collective future.

Congratulations to Starbucks Workers United. Your organizing achievement is a victory for many and an inspiration to all.

#### ANOTHER YEAR OF DISRUPTED LEARNING

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

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, more than one million students started 2022 with closed schools: another year of disrupted learning.

In Chicago, more than 300,000 kids spent 4 days locked out of their classrooms. This is the same Chicago that received nearly \$2 billion from the Democrats' so-called COVID relief bill to keep schools open.

We have an education and a mental health crisis on our hands. Every student who is trapped behind a screen knows it. Every mom and dad who is anxious about another year of last-minute closures know it. Even Democrat mayors and voters know it.

And yet, President Biden said yesterday, America is on the "right track" with regard to the pandemic.

Mr. President, in what world is this considered the right track?

Disrupted learning means we are leaving behind a generation of struggling students. It might be the single most destructive policy imposed on our children this century. The negative consequences can last a lifetime.

The only question we have now is, how do we save our kids from more disruption to their education in the days and weeks to come?

The President of the United States could have gone to Chicago or any of the 5,400 schools that started off this year closed to send a clear signal that kids belong in the classroom.

Instead, he was in Atlanta yesterday delivering a speech that was so self-serving and out-of-touch that even Stacey Abrams kept her distance.

But I have a simple principle that every parent knows well: Our kids' education is not dispensable. Their futures are not dispensable. I believe that as a parent, as a lawmaker, and as an American citizen, and I know every House Republican believes it, too.

We must be a society that pushes to do the best we can for the next generation, a society that finally achieves the goal of allowing every kid in every neighborhood to go to the school that their parents believe is best for them.

House Republicans will work to make sure our children are the national priority they should be, even if this administration and House Democrats won't.

#### RECOGNIZING SOUTH METRO FIRE RESCUE

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

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the members of South Metro Fire Rescue for their bravery and professionalism in combating the devastating Marshall fire that swept across Boulder County.

As we prepared to ring in the new year, Colorado experienced the most destructive wildfire in its history. Faced with hurricane-level winds that fueled rapid spread, our very own South Metro firefighters jumped into action. They sacrificed time with family during the holidays and put their lives on the line to protect thousands of homes, save countless lives, and make our community proud.

Rising temperatures and prolonged drought have made wildfires a part of everyday life in Colorado. As Coloradans inevitably face similar challenges in the coming years, I am grateful to have the heroes at South Metro representing and protecting our community.

I am honored to recognize the members of South Metro Fire Rescue for their service to our community and thank them for inspiring a hope in our future, a hope that together we can face the challenges of this new future head-on.

#### COVID-19 TESTING SHORTAGE

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, President Biden promised to “shut down the COVID-19 virus, not the country.” He also promised “access to regular, reliable, and free COVID-19 testing.”

But as we near a year into his Presidency, he has failed to deliver on these basic promises. In the Trump administration we got Operation Warp Speed. However, for the Biden administration we seem to be getting operation no rush.

President Biden alone is to blame for the current testing shortage that the American people are facing. Just look at the facts.

In the spring of 2021, when a group of health agency officials approached the White House on a proposal to purchase millions of rapid tests, the White House officials never followed up.

In October 2021, White House officials rejected a proposal for free rapid tests for the holiday season.

In December 2021, President Biden announced that 500 million tests would be sent out in January 2022, however, the contract for these tests has yet to be signed.

The bottom line is that President Biden failed to meet his promises, and the American people are paying the price.

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#### A RISE IN GUN SALES AND THE MURDER RATE

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

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, the past year has seen an explosion in gun sales and, with it, a 30 percent rise in the murder rate.

Yet, at a time when the data becomes increasingly clear that more guns in the hands of those who should not have them results in more deaths of those who should still be alive and with us today, Republican officials across the country are trying to make it easier for anyone to wield guns around our children and our families.

Back in my home State of Georgia, our Governor is trying to implement permitless carry, irresponsible legislation that is dangerous for our law enforcement, dangerous for our families, and dangerous for the people that we love and cherish.

We cannot allow these destructive efforts to continue, and we must reaffirm our dedication to passing meaningful legislation that truly saves American lives.

#### THE CRISIS AT THE BORDER CONTINUES

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

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, a week after my visit to the border to meet

with agents on the ground and survey the situation with my own eyes, I am here to report some unsurprising news. There is still a growing crisis at our Nation's southern border.

I saw firsthand how President Biden has ceded—not in farming, but given up—ceded control of the southern border to the cartels.

Thankfully, Texas Governor Abbott has stepped up to enforce the law, but Federal border agents continue to lack critical federally provided resources.

From halting construction of the wall and resisting the remain in Mexico policy, to releasing illegals into our interior and pursuing mass amnesty, this President and Democrats in Congress have incentivized a long-term border surge that will forever change our Nation.

I urge my colleagues to reverse these America-last policies, secure the border, and uphold law and order in the face of this current administration's refusal to do so.

#### NEW WAVE OF VOTER SUPPRESSION EFFORTS

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, we are seeing a wave of voter suppression efforts show their ugly heads across this country, a crisis of unprecedented proportion that is cracking at the very foundation of our democratic process.

Republicans have continued to push lies and conspiracy theories to depress voter turnout and sow mistrust in our elections at the highest levels.

It is time that we choose: the filibuster or our democracy. We cannot allow arcane Senate rules to stand in the way of this Congress upholding its most basic constitutional responsibilities, at one of the most critical junctures in our history.

It is incumbent on us to restore the voting rights protections that our Nation's civil rights leaders bled to secure.

This Congress can and will fight against these draconian measures, to restore and expand the sacred right to vote.

History will remember anyone who stands in our way.

#### JOBS DESTROYED UNDER PRESIDENT BIDEN

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the December jobs report came in at less than half of what was projected. People continue to suffer at the hands of the Biden and Democrat policies. Jobs are being destroyed.

A recent national poll found that 68 percent of respondents said the economy was a top concern.

Inflation is a tax on all Americans, and it has gone up every month since the Biden Presidency. Gasoline is up 58 percent; propane, kerosene, and firewood are up 34 percent; bacon is up 21 percent; and hamburger is up 20 percent.

Real wages have decreased under Biden in 8 of his 10 full months in office, with a loss of \$5,000 per family.

The Democrat elite think they are smarter than everyone, and Democrat voters and Democrat media are ignorant to believe that trillions of dollars cost zero dollars.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, who successfully protected America for 20 years, as the global war on terrorism continues moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America. Sadly, we are in day 151 of Americans left behind, as cited by Sean Hannity.

#### REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO FLIP-FLOP

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, MITCH MCCONNELL and Senate Republicans have repeatedly taken a stand against the truth and common sense by devoting themselves to the big lie, flip-flopping from previous positions with the aim of satisfying a virulent base to obtain power, defending the January 6 insurrection, and protecting violate radical extremists, passing dozens of anti-voting laws across the country, taking up dangerous and destructive efforts to take over and sabotage future elections, all with the aim of staying in power at the expense of democracy and what our Founders held dear.

The flip-flop continues with the filibuster. Let's be clear. MITCH MCCONNELL has a long record of changing the rules whenever it suits him, and he continues to mislead about the filibuster. There have been more than 161 changes made to the filibuster in the last five decades, with the filibuster altered to pass trade deals, tax cuts, and Supreme Court justices.

The filibuster is not in the Constitution, and the Founders only mentioned supermajority for impeachment.

They must do better on the other side of the aisle and the other side of this Capitol.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities towards Members of the Senate.

#### HONORING BOB WOOLEY

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

Ms. HERRELL. Mr. Speaker, today, it is my great honor to pay tribute to my friend and colleague, Bob Wooley.

Bob Wooley and I served together in the New Mexico House of Representatives, and he has a passion for the people. He served as chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. He also