

of Western New York for his role in rescuing an 11-year-old boy who had become trapped in a deep gorge.

Christian was truly a selfless servant. As his sister-in-law told the local news following his passing: "There are many, many people walking this Earth right now who owe their lives to Christian."

Above all else, Christian was a devoted family man. He leaves behind his loving wife, Teresa, and his children, Everett, Addison, Ari, and Talia.

Christian was a model citizen. He was the kind of American we all should strive to be. He leaves behind a profound legacy of selfless service to our Nation and a deep impact to his community, our community. Our Nation mourns him as a hero.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this brave veteran for his service and sacrifice to our Nation and pass the legislation to designate the Honeoye Falls Post Office as the CW4 Christian J. Koch Memorial Post Office.

PROTECTING SENIORS FROM SCAMMERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GOTTHEIMER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of my bipartisan, bicameral legislation, H.R. 5914, the Empowering States to Protect Seniors from Bad Actors Act, which will help stop financial scammers from targeting vulnerable older Americans.

According to a report from the Senate Special Committee on Aging released last Congress, senior scams cost older Americans nearly \$3 billion a year, often hitting their retirement nest eggs, not to mention the pain and anxiety you can't put a dollar figure on.

Additionally, a survey from the Investor Protection Trust found that last year about 7 million Americans reported being a victim of financial exploitation. What is worse is that only 1 in 24 cases of elder exploitation actually gets reported.

Millions of seniors across the country, including in my district in northern New Jersey—even my own mother of blessed memory—have been the victims of financial scams, and far too many have been cheated out of their retirement savings.

I remember my mom called me and claimed that I had messed up her tax return, and my mom wasn't exactly shy about that. Luckily, we figured it out and stopped that "IRS agent" in his tracks. Obviously, it was a fraudulent IRS agent. But how many others paid?

My bipartisan bill will create a new Senior Investor Protection Grant program to support State enforcement agencies and task forces charged with protecting and educating seniors on financial fraud. They will be able to hire

additional investigative staff, invest in equipment and training for law enforcement, and better educate seniors on financial scams.

I am confident that with this work at the State level, with law enforcement and with more outreach to local communities and seniors, we can more fully fight back against these hucksters who are scamming our seniors.

My Empowering States to Protect Seniors from Bad Actors Act is a key part of my senior security strategy, to make sure we are doing everything we can to end financial scams targeting our seniors, including stopping the unending stream of robocalls and unwanted text messages. It also builds on my bipartisan, bicameral legislation, the Senior Security Act, which the House passed last year, as well as my ongoing work to put an end to the annoying robocalls targeting our seniors.

It is time we acted. Older Americans have given so much to our great country. We should always have their backs and help protect them from predators who want to take advantage of them. It is incumbent on us to protect them from scammers and abuse and to make sure we do everything we can to stop robocalls. We have passed legislation in this Chamber to do just that.

It is time we make sure the Federal Communications Commission acts to hold all of those phone companies who are part of all of these robocalls accountable. It is time. That is what my Senior Security Strategy is all about and what this bipartisan legislation that the House will be voting on is also all about, protecting our seniors. They need a cop on the beat, and we are here today to do something about it.

I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote in favor of my bipartisan bill to stop bad actors from cheating older Americans out of their hard-earned retirement savings and stand by our seniors when they need it most.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FIRST, AMERICANS LAST

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

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, when a Federal judge struck down the Centers for Disease Control's 15-day extension of the mask mandate on public transportation, Americans celebrated this action as a welcome win for freedom. This decision was long overdue and was welcomed by almost everyone, except those in the Biden administration who immediately announced they would be appealing this decision.

After hearing this announcement, I was perplexed. After all, President Biden had just recently announced that he would be lifting pandemic restrictions on our southern border by rescinding title 42 enforcement. The American people got the message loud and clear: illegal immigrants first, Americans last.

Madam Speaker, 2.4 million illegal immigrants have been apprehended at the border since President Biden took office, 221,303 just in the month of March of this year. This is all before President Biden announced title 42 would be rescinded, which is sure to lead to an even larger influx of illegal immigrants as we wait to see the April numbers from Border Patrol.

Madam Speaker, it is past time to put the politics aside and put this country first. We must secure our border by finishing the wall and enforcing our laws. I urge President Biden to reverse his decision to rescind title 42 and put America First.

RECOGNIZING MRS. OPAL BOHANNON

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Opal Bohannon as she celebrates 95 years of life. She is a beloved mother, grandmother, Cookeville native, and one of the best cooks in all of Tennessee. Mrs. Bohannon made her entire State proud when she was named the "world's grand champion down-home beef stew chef" at the Music and Molasses Festival in 2007.

Opal is the oldest of 10 children. She learned how to cook by helping her mother in the kitchen, as so many do, and she got good at it. Her beef stew not only won awards, but it was also a dinnertime staple in her family for more than 60 years. Mrs. Bohannon went on to hone those cooking skills by working in the Cookeville High School cafeteria for 15 years before retiring in 1989. Her culinary gifts were featured in the Tennessee Home and Farm magazine and even recognized by the Tennessee General Assembly in 2008.

Throughout her life, Mrs. Bohannon exemplified what it means to have a servant's heart. She regularly brought her blue-ribbon stew to friends, neighbors, and church potluck dinners for guests to enjoy. She frequently volunteered for the Putnam County Fair. While she spent countless hours in the kitchen, it is clear her real talent in life has been bringing joy to others.

Madam Speaker, I hope Mrs. Bohannon has a great 95th birthday and many more great years to come.

INFRASTRUCTURE LAW IN ACTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. BROWN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BROWN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, access to affordable high-quality internet is not a privilege in today's day and age. It is a necessity and a right.

Yet, the sad truth is that too many families in my district and across America simply cannot afford it. In Cleveland, more than 30 percent of all households lack access to high-speed internet.

That is why the bipartisan infrastructure law created the new Affordable Connectivity Program. The program provides a \$30 per month internet

discount to Americans whose household income is at or below twice the Federal poverty level or those enrolled in SNAP, Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income, or a number of other programs, making them eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program. Now, around 4 in 10 households qualify for this new discount. That is nearly 40 percent of American households.

Just this week, President Biden announced a new partnership with 20 leading internet providers to offer \$30 plans. Combined with the internet discount, these offerings will make internet effectively free for millions of Americans. This is the infrastructure law in action.

WISHING VELETER MAZYCK A HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Ms. BROWN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I also rise today to wish my chief of staff, Veleter Mazyck, a very happy birthday. I pray that it is filled with all of the people and things she loves most and that it may be as amazing as she is. We wish her many, many more.

□ 1115

RAMIFICATIONS OF AMERICA'S ENERGY POLICY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, it is a fairly common phrase amongst truckers and other people that use things that if you have got it, a truck brought it. That is really very, very true in all of our lives because it underlines really the importance of diesel fuel to everybody and everything that we use.

For example, a farmer doesn't get the seed, the fertilizer, the inputs unless a truck has brought that to their farm; they are bringing the fuel for the tractors, they are bringing the seed, they are bringing the fertilizer.

Then when the farmer is done growing that, the truck hauls it away to the processing center. Then the processing center mills that rice, mills that wheat, turns that product into something that is then trucked to the store shelves, where you go get it.

This ripples through all aspects of the things that we use, things that are produced in this country: By a miner, by a timber faller, what have you. There is a supply chain and an energy chain that runs all the way through. It is essential that we understand that at this time when the Biden administration is making it more and more difficult, nearly impossible to produce new petroleum products in this country.

Instead, we are hell-bent on this direction of saying we are going to electrify everything. Okay. That sounds nice on its surface, but what is the real cost? What is the real effect?

Electrifying all vehicles by X year, that is the goal. They are trying to push that in California. Well, in my

home State of California, for example, we can hardly keep the lights on as it is.

At the same time, they are trying to tear out dams, like up on the Klamath River, that produce hydroelectric power, which is CO₂-free, since everybody is into that. They want to remove that. They are also scheduled to take out the nuclear power plant down near San Luis Obispo, which produces by itself 10 percent of the electricity that Californians use. One power plant, 10 percent. They want to just take that offline and make up 10 percent somehow by eliminating those two nuclear reactors.

Now, thankfully, there are folks starting to look at that a little bit differently as the crisis becomes more and more obvious to more people in my home State of California, but energy across the country as well. My understanding is our Governor has finally woken up to the idea that maybe we need to keep Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant.

And now the Energy Secretary in the Biden administration has looked at that a little bit, too. Maybe a little common sense will come around on shutting down that plant, and maybe we can apply that to hydroelectric plants since they seem to want to tear every dam out, whether it is in northern California or up in the State of Washington, at a time when electricity is becoming a bigger crunch in my home State.

Indeed, they are constantly telling us, turn off the lights, turn up your cooling in the summer so your house is warmer. Don't run your appliances until 9 or 10 p.m. or way early in the morning. These are all nice steps we can take, but we have been put in this place because of lack of planning because of too much regulation on being able to generate more power.

This all has its roots in what the Biden administration policy is by getting rid of the dams or making it so difficult through the FERC relicensing process. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission adds all these pieces that have nothing to do with generating power, making sure it is safe to do so. They have to deed away a piece of property for some environmental purpose or send kids to camp or something like that that has nothing to do with generating power. All it does is make your power more scarce or more expensive.

But we are going to learn all these things, aren't we? As the government takes away power, takes away the ability to make power, the prices go up, and we have more blackouts. For crying out loud, because of our forestry policy or lack of, we can't trim the trees around the power lines like we need to in order to ensure the power can stay on all the time.

What we have in California now is these so-called public safety power shutoffs if the wind blows because a tree branch might blow into a power

line and cause an outage, which makes a great big fire; such as the Dixie fire we had last year in northern California, right under a million acres because a healthy looking tree fell into a power line. Now, they love to blame utilities on that, but really forest policy plays a major role in these blackouts and these fires.

We have to do much more because if we want to have an energy policy, we want to have electricity that comes from somewhere, then we have to have the ability to transmit it safely, and not just shut it off like some Third World country because the wind blows. I mean, it is ridiculous.

We need a petroleum policy in this country that continues to supply what we have and make our system, our supply chain work. It isn't working very well right now, because in my home State, \$5.50 gasoline is common, \$6 diesel is common. It wasn't that way just 1½ years ago, and it doesn't have to be that way. Sound policy will deliver us from these high prices.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 19 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MRVAN) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Holy God, evening, morning, and noon Your people in Ukraine cry out in distress. Hear their voices from the wreckage of their homes and cities. Give heed to those ravaged by war's destruction. Listen for them from the pits of their hiding places.

Rescue them from the battle waged around and against them. Attend to the children who have lost their parents and tremble in fear. Comfort the men and women who grieve the death of their loved ones and are anxious in their forced separation from their families. Uphold the country's leaders and all who battle relentlessly in defense of their homeland and who defend their country's future against all who dare to oppose its sovereignty and seek to destroy its peace.

Eternal God, You have reigned forever and ever, bring Your justice to bear against the wicked. Answer those cries of the oppressed. Sustain those who cast their desperate cares before You. Let not the righteous be shaken.

Let all who call to You this day trust in You and find hope in Your salvation.