

been under a heat alert. A mega drought is gripping our West and Southwest, drying up critical sources of fresh water and addressing our demands for electrical power. And a deep drought has much of North Africa on the edge of famine.

This has happened in one week. Yet, these heat waves will become more frequent and intense for decades to come. We will continue to see the intense heat waves that have been scorching Europe and the U.S. put immense pressure on our infrastructure and continue to put lives at risk.

Madam Speaker, we need innovators and entrepreneurs in climate tech. We need young people to stand up and demand a world that will be safe for them. We need the Biden administration, and we need this Congress.

My colleagues, we need to be bold. It is not about comfort. It is not about staying cool. For people across the globe right now, at this moment, it is and continues to be about survival. It is time for us to act on climate change. The future of our planet depends on us.

RECOGNIZING JON DEWITTE

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

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to say thank you. Thank you to a chief of staff, a colleague, a confidante, and a special friend.

Jon DeWitte has been my chief of staff for 11½ years. In fact, when I was elected in 2010, Jon was the first call that I made. He was my first hire, and we have been on this journey together the entire time.

Now, Jon has had a great track record here in Washington, D.C., as well. He worked for the Education and Workforce Committee. He then went on to work with former Congressman Dave Camp. Then when I left the position of district director from my predecessor, Peter Hoekstra, Jon came and filled that role and filled that position for 8 years until I got elected, when I asked him to come back to Washington and act as my chief of staff.

Well, Jon—two redistrictings, majority, minority, government shutdown, impeachments, war, peace—we have seen just about all of it and have lived that textbook of political science. I couldn't have done it without him, and I know he could not have done this without his family.

I want to say a special thank you, as well, to Jodi, Nathan, Katie, and Josh for the sacrifices that they made—the sacrifices that they have made—for late nights and early mornings, for travel, for all the different things that go into being an excellent chief of staff. He has been one.

Now, I know that there are great paths ahead for Jon, and great paths ahead for all of you, but I do know that our friendship will not end. Team Huizenga is always Team Huizenga, and Jon is a vital part of that.

So once again, I thank Jon for his service, not only to me, but more importantly, to the constituents of the Second Congressional District back in Michigan and service to his country.

A job well done and I thank him.

HOUSING MARKET NEEDS HELP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TORRES) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express concern about the building material supply change bottlenecks and elevated construction costs that continue to put a damper on the single-family housing market.

For the first time since June 2020, both single-family starts and permits fell below a 1 million annual pace. Additionally, builder confidence in the market for newly built single-family homes declined for the seventh straight month in July, falling 12 points to 55.

According to the National Association of Homebuilders and the Wells Fargo Housing Market Index released just this week, this marks the lowest HMI reading since May 2020 and the largest single-month drop in the history of the HMI, except during the pandemic.

Building material prices during the pandemic have hit record highs with low stock, and prospective buyers are faced with unaffordable home prices as a result. Affordable housing is a critical need in the Inland Empire, the district that I represent, and I urge the administration to prioritize the ability and the availability and price of lumber to make more homes affordable.

IN SUPPORT OF NAVY LIEUTENANT RIDGE ALKONIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from American Samoa (Mrs. RADEWAGEN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of U.S. Navy Lieutenant Ridge Alkonis, a sailor currently stationed abroad in Japan. While the U.S. and Japanese naval forces have long maintained a strong bond, the relationship is deteriorating as a result of Japanese injustices against U.S. military members.

The case of U.S. Navy Lieutenant Ridge Alkonis, who is of American Samoan descent, exemplifies the disparate treatment American sailors receive in Japan.

While driving his wife and three children to get ice cream during a family outing, Lieutenant Alkonis suffered a sudden and unforeseen medical emergency which resulted in a tragic car accident causing the death of two Japanese citizens. While indeed a tragedy, this was an accident in every sense of the word.

At the scene of the accident, Lieutenant Alkonis was immediately arrested by Japanese authorities, without re-

ceiving any medical care, and imprisoned. He was systematically deprived of sleep, denied legal counsel, and pressured to sign false accusations.

The Tokyo High Court rejected the majority of evidence submitted by Lieutenant Alkonis, and last week, his appeal was dismissed.

I am deeply troubled by Japan's mistreatment of Lieutenant Alkonis. These abuses are hurting the U.S.-Japan alliance exactly when it needs to be strengthened.

I call on President Biden and Ambassador Rahm Emanuel to bring Lieutenant Alkonis home.

DEFENDING WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, the United States Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* to uphold the Mississippi Gestational Age Act and overrule the Court's prior decision in *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey*, declaring that the constitutional right to abortion upheld for nearly half a century no longer exists, ripped away women's right to make their own reproductive healthcare decisions.

Nationwide, radical Republicans were prepared to immediately charge ahead with measures to take away the freedom of choice. In Congress, Republicans are plotting a nationwide ban to criminalize abortion, and State legislatures are advancing the extremist agenda to criminalize reproductive health decisions, including new laws to arrest doctors and punish women and those who provide aid. Far-right politicians are actively working to dismantle the legal protections afforded to women and invading their bodily autonomy rights.

For centuries, women have fought tenaciously for their fundamental human rights and we will not stop. On July 18, 1848, 174 years and 2 days ago, the first women's rights convention in the United States was held in Seneca Falls, New York. The Seneca Falls Convention in 1848 was the first platform for women to discuss their civil, social, and religious rights and challenge their inferior status. Feminist leaders and women across the country courageously voiced their collective struggles and petitioned for change.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton, an ardent activist and leader, presented the "Declaration of Sentiments," demanding the same rights and freedoms that the Declaration of Independence granted to men at that time. The Seneca Falls Convention was a cornerstone of the women's suffragette movement and paved the path for women's rights movements.

Today, women's freedoms are under attack, and the consequences will reverberate as radical Republicans continue to push their political agenda and curtail basic rights. My Democratic colleagues and I remain unwavering in our commitment to defend the legal rights of women and families to make independent decisions about their futures by safeguarding access to reproductive healthcare services.

This week, House Democrats will vote to pass H.R. 8373, the Right to Contraception Act, guaranteeing the right to obtain and use contraception as established in *Griswold v. Connecticut*.

The alarming, extremist act of judicial activism in *Dobbs v. Jackson* has created a dangerous blueprint for future attacks on our most cherished rights. As an attorney who is a strict constructionist myself, this cannot stand. In his concurring opinion overturning *Roe v. Wade*, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas wrote that in future cases the Court should consider substantive due process precedents which legalized the right for married couples to buy and use contraception without government restrictions, same-sex relationships, and marriage equality. Calling into question the constitutional right to use contraception is dangerous for American women and families, as well as men, but also has the potential to disproportionately impact women of historically marginalized communities who face health disparities at higher rates.

Access to contraception can affect all aspects of a woman's life, including educational attainment, employment opportunities, healthcare, and economic success. The Right to Contraception Act recognizes the social, political, and economic impacts on our country and takes steps to protect Americans' right to make their own decisions about their health and their families.

The Supreme Court's ruling in *Dobbs* further emphasizes the need to act now, to protect access to contraception, and women's right to make reproductive health decisions. Contraception is essential to the health and rights of individuals. Women deserve the right to make informed decisions about their health, family planning, and future. It is 2022. We should not still be fighting for rights that are essential to basic health and bodily autonomy. Pass this legislation.

□ 1030

NATIONAL PENNSYLVANIA DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize today, July 20, as National Pennsylvania Day.

Since the inception of our Nation, Pennsylvania has played a trans-

formative role in United States history. Pennsylvania's nickname, the Keystone State, represents the central role we played in shaping our Nation.

Pennsylvania was the site of many important battles and military milestones, like the Battle of Valley Forge in the Revolutionary War and the Battle of Gettysburg during the Civil War.

Pennsylvania is the home to a lot of firsts, including our Nation's first capital, Philadelphia; the first American flag sewn by Betsy Ross; and the first commercial oil well in my district, giving birth to the modern petroleum industry.

Pennsylvania has a proud history of American craftsmanship and work ethic, from our steel mills and coal mines to our farmland and forests.

Madam Speaker, as a lifelong resident of Pennsylvania, I am encouraged each and every day by the industrious spirit of our residents as we continue to build a bright path forward for our Commonwealth and our country.

Happy Pennsylvania Day. I am proud to be from the great Keystone State.

LATE-TERM ABORTION SHOULD BE ILLEGAL

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, Democrats are advancing an agenda of abortion on demand. Last week, House Democrats passed their radical abortion on demand until birth act, falsely named as the Women's Health Protection Act, and the Ensuring Access to Abortion Act.

Both bills go much further than codifying *Roe v. Wade* and would legalize abortion for all 9 months of pregnancy across the country, while undermining the health and safety of women. In advancing this legislation that would continue the murder of innocent unborn, Speaker PELOSI has confirmed Democrats' radical agenda by saying abortion is "... core to who we are. It is about freedom."

Madam Speaker, 80 percent of Americans believe that late-term abortion should be illegal.

IMPACT OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT ON OUR MILITARY SERVICEMEMBERS

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, last week, in a bipartisan way, this body stood up and served those who serve in uniform, those who sacrificed for this great Nation in the United States Armed Forces.

I was proud, on Thursday, to join the majority of folks in this Chamber in passing H.R. 7900, the National Defense Authorization Act. I was proud to support this legislation, and I contributed significant legislative language, too.

The bill extends a prohibition preventing dishonorable discharge for servicemembers refusing COVID vaccines, while also extending a prohibition on COVID vaccine mandates for Department of Defense contractors.

The NDAA authorizes annual funding for the Department of Defense and defense-related programs at other Federal agencies. The NDAA authorized earned pay raises for our American

troops. Included in the NDAA was my legislation from H.R. 7144, the Military Housing Transparency and Accountability Act, that directs the Secretary of Defense to develop a centralized military housing feedback tool for members of the United States Armed Forces and their families. This will allow these families to identify, rate, and compare housing options. Our military families have earned the right to safe housing conditions.

Additionally, it included provisions requiring the Department of Defense to report the dollar amount spent on foreign fuel that is used; report on the impact on low recruitment and retention, and the impact on servicemembers' mental health as a result of that; and finally, to report the impact of inflation, which is impacting every American family today.

This report specifically is asking the question: What is the impact of inflation—which is out of control, a record high—on our military families?

ABORTION STORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada (Mrs. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Madam Speaker, in the wake of the Supreme Court's destructive decision overturning *Roe v. Wade*, women across this country have shared their stories. From Facebook to the dinner table to streets in protest, women have shared the details of the deeply personal and often difficult moments in which they exercised their right to choose.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to share the story of a constituent of mine named Misty.

His name was Miles. I knew something was wrong at 12 to 16 weeks. At 20 weeks, it was too late. I spent a terrible night in the ER hemorrhaging. Miles survived that incident and there was still a heartbeat. The next day was traumatic at an ultrasound.

I had lost so much fluid and Miles was being smashed. They said that he wasn't getting the blood he needed to his kidneys and other places. They literally sent me home to wait for him to die. There was still a heartbeat at 20 weeks, but I was informed that Miles could not live to full term and that I would have to deliver conventionally if I had made it to 24 weeks.

The news continued to get worse, and I waited. That was the longest week of my life. I waited through fear, depression, anxiety, and immense sadness. At the end of that week, I decided, with my fetal medicine specialist, to terminate the pregnancy. It was one of the toughest decisions I have ever faced.

The trauma that I would have experienced by delivering a dead baby, Miles, would have been more than I could handle. Going to the doctor every other day and seeing him dying was enough to make me realize this.

Misty closes by saying: We are not careless, immoral, or monsters.