

events of that day. He has offered \$1.65 million in extrajudicial restitution to the victims' families, a gesture expected in Japan, but far beyond the family's means. Ultimately, Lieutenant Alkonis was sentenced this month by the Japanese high court to 3 years in prison.

I have been extremely upset to learn that the case was not conducted in a way that was fair to Lieutenant Alkonis, and that the Japanese Government violated the status of forces agreement, which governs the treatment of our servicemembers there.

I understand that our Embassy in Tokyo has been monitoring this case, and I strongly urge them to do more to support a servicemember in need.

My office has been working with the Department of the Navy and the Office of the Secretary of Defense to support Lieutenant Alkonis and his parents, Suzanne and Derek, throughout this case.

As I do, the Navy believes that this is the wrong sentence for Lieutenant Alkonis. I won't be giving up on Lieutenant Alkonis and the Department of Defense must not either.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MARY FRANCES CRISS

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and legacy of my good friend and community organizer, Mary Criss, of Fort Worth. Mary Criss was a mother, a wife, very organized in the community, and was blessed to have lived a wonderful life.

She was so into I.M. Terrell; loved the I.M. Terrell Association and being an alumnus and someone that was revered within that high school alumni association.

In addition to that, she also worked to organize her community and helped them get streetlights and stop signs put up in her Eastwood community and Stop Six; and was a longtime precinct chair and supporter of so many.

But more importantly than that, Mary Criss loved God and was a devout member of Beth Eden Baptist Church. Mary was married for over five decades to her husband, Carl, and raised her son, granddaughters, and loved watching her grandson after school.

She was a family woman and just loved her family intensely. She will be missed, not only by her family, but everyone in the community, the I.M. Terrell Alumni Association community, and everyone that knew Mary Criss.

SUPPORTING ISABEL BUESO

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

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell you about a remark-

able constituent, Isabel Bueso. Isabel came to the United States legally in 2003 from Guatemala as a small child to receive treatment for her rare disease, known as MPS VI.

She was invited here to participate in clinical trials to help research and identify lifesaving treatments for her rare condition. Thanks in large part to her participation, the FDA approved a treatment, which the drug manufacturer says Isabel cannot receive in her home country.

Before her treatment was discovered, Isabel's life expectancy was 7 years. Now, she is 26 years old, having survived far beyond that, and helped others to survive because of her participation in this treatment trial.

The previous administration unexpectedly canceled the program that Isabel and her family were under, and they were told that they had to leave in 33 days or risk being deported. Thanks to the American public and their outrage at this decision and others like it, Isabel and her family were able to stay, and it was reinstated.

We have a private bill that is now over in the Senate, and we hope the Senate will approve this so Isabel and her family can stay here in the United States safely.

□ 1200

INTERNATIONAL CHIEF SCIENCE OFFICER MENTOR OF THE YEAR MAUREEN L. MULVIHILL

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Maureen L. Mulvihill who was awarded the 2022 International Chief Science Officer Mentor of the Year Award.

Maureen is the president and CEO of Actuated Medical in Bellefonte and has served her community as a leader and role model for over 15 years. She earned her master's and Ph.D. in materials science from Penn State University before cofounding Actuated Medical.

While navigating the growth of her company, Maureen has continually dedicated time to supporting students in her community. She invited students studying science, technology, engineering, and math to shadow employees at Actuated Medical and provided them with the opportunity to learn about engineering professions.

Maureen's career is a testament to the success and importance of small businesses in our local communities.

Mr. Speaker, the Chief Science Officer Mentor of the Year Award recognizes Maureen's continued dedication to supporting local students as they prepare for STEM education and professions.

Congratulations, Maureen, on your successful career.

EXAMINING SLAVERY AND DISCRIMINATION IN THE COLONIES AND THE UNITED STATES FROM 1619 TO THE PRESENT AND RECOMMEND APPROPRIATE REMEDIES

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, over this past week, we have had to raise concerns about whether the Constitution still stood strong. I am glad that we have worked hard to ensure the Ninth Amendment and the equal protection of the law are viable parts of American society and constitutional rights.

I rise today to promote H.R. 40, the Commission to Study Slavery and Develop Reparation Proposals, as a way of redress, repair, and restoration for the 246 years of slavery.

I think it is important and an important moment for the country to pause and understand this historic moment in our history, the contributions that slaves made, including building this very place, the United States Capitol and the White House, and, as well, the economic engine that they created when making cotton king—never to be compensated, never to be provided for, but still turned into patriots that fought in every world war.

It is crucial that we move expeditiously to establish this commission to tell their story and to work on the restoration of the disparities that are found in the African-American community from east to west and north to south.

I cannot think of a reason why this House and this administration would not want to move on something as embracing as H.R. 40. Let's move it now.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), my friend, the majority leader of the House.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. SCALISE for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, the House will meet at 12 p.m. for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business with votes postponed, as usual, to 6:30 p.m.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. I reiterate that because that's 2 hours earlier than the usual meeting, but we have a lot of business to do. So the House on Wednesday and Thursday will meet at 10 a.m. for legislative business.

On Friday, the scheduled last day of the session before the August break, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business.

Next week, pending action of the Senate, hopefully, the House will consider the CHIPS Plus legislation to

combat inflation by easing supply chain bottlenecks and semiconductors that are critical components in everything from cars to dishwashers to small electronics.

Essentially, all of that, so many things that we use, rely on having chip presence. That will help lower costs for Americans and increase supplies.

This bill also will authorize a generational shift in research and innovation in America, helping ensure the next big ideas will start here, and, importantly, stay here.

The House will also consider H.R. 5118, the Wildfire Response and Drought Resiliency Act. All of us have seen the awful drought and wildfires that are occurring in the West and in other parts of the country, actually.

A package of bills aimed at helping those living in Western States meet the challenges of fire and drought exacerbated by the climate crisis will be in that legislation. It would save lives, property, farms, and businesses from damage and destruction from fire and extreme drought.

The House will also consider, Mr. Speaker, Representative KILDEE's bill, the Susan Muffley Act, to restore retirement benefits for over 20,000 hard-working Delphi salaried employees. That is a bipartisan bill.

We will also consider Representative QUIGLEY's H.R. 263, the Big Cat Public Safety Act, which would ban the private ownership of big cats and bring an end to the harmful cub petting industry in an effort to enhance the safety of our communities.

You may not think about this, but law enforcement has indicated this is a significant issue for them because they are the ones that are called in to handle it. This is an effort to enhance the safety of our communities and protect first responders and safeguard these wild animals.

The other reason it is on is because the Senate has asked, and I think there is a possibility that they will pass this through their unanimous consent process.

Representative JAYAPAL's bill, H.R. 3771, the South Asian Heart Health Awareness and Research Act, will also be on the floor to raise awareness regarding the alarming rate of heart disease in the South Asian community and invest in reversing this trend.

Lastly, I would say that we are going to have Representative LIZ CHENEY's H.R. 4040, the advancing telehealth beyond COVID-19 Act, which would further extend critical telehealth policies implemented during the pandemic, while also making it easier for seniors, especially those in rural areas, to access emergency healthcare technology.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, the House may consider public safety legislation, including legislation marked up yesterday by the House Judiciary Committee with a focus, as well, on accountability in terms of enforcement.

The House will consider bills under suspension of the rules, of course. The

complete list of suspension bills will be announced by the close of business today. As always, additional legislative items are possible, particularly in this last week for us of our planned session prior to the August break.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Republican whip for yielding the time.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, there are a few bills that we have been hearing might come that weren't discussed, and I know the gentleman alluded to the CHIPS Act. I know the Senate still hasn't finalized anything there. We are hearing they may.

There are some other bills we have been hearing might come over. Of course, it seems like we keep hearing talk that something on Build Back Better may come back over on budget reconciliation, whether it is the trillion plus, whether it is something different, whether we would come back in August to deal with that.

I don't know if the gentleman can touch on what he might be hearing from the Senate, and if there would be any plans beyond next week to come back in August where it is currently not scheduled to be a legislative period that we would be in session. I am not sure if the gentleman is willing to share that, but I will yield.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlemen for his question.

Of course, we are hearing rumors all the time and press reports all the time about what may happen. I think most of us don't know actually what will happen. But to speculate, we clearly on our side of the aisle, and, obviously, there is discussion that continues in the Senate about taking some parts of the reconciliation bill that can be agreed upon by sufficient numbers to pass it through reconciliation.

If something does happen, and it doesn't happen next week and it happens the following week when we will not be here, then we may well have to come back.

I tell the gentleman the reason for that is it may well deal with the Affordable Care Act and the premium subsidies that were included in the American Recovery Plan and then further extended in the Build Back Better Act.

The reason that is important is because the insurance companies will be setting prices in September and maybe as late as October. In order to price their product properly, they will need to know what we are going to do.

Now, with respect to the gentleman's—and everybody's interested in this, of course. The gentleman asked the question, I think, that everybody wants to know: Are we going to come back in August?

I don't know the answer to that, but I will tell you this—and you and I have discussed this before—one of the reasons we are leaving next week and the week thereafter is because we have a lot of people with young children. We see them on the floor all the time.

Of course, schools now are going back earlier than they used to. When I was

in school in the 1800s, schools went back after Labor Day. Now, as you know, we have schools going back as early as the middle of August. Therefore, what we have tried to do is have 2 weeks that Members will have to be with their families on vacation.

So my expectation is if we have to come back that we will not come back during the first 2 weeks. That would be from my perspective, and I don't want to guarantee that, but I feel pretty strongly about that.

I am telling our Members that, and I want to respond publicly, but we may have to come back in August, again, because if the Senate passes language, if it has an impact on ACA, then we need to let the insurance companies know, not as a favor to them but as a favor to our constituents, so the pricing of their product will be more affordable.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and I appreciate especially the concern about that first 2 weeks because as with my family and a lot of families, those first few weeks where the families are still together before everybody goes back to school, you know, a lot of plans are made.

We have a lot of work to do. We also have families, and you don't want to, you know, lose that element of having people be able to spend the time back in their districts and back with their families. If schedules have to change, at least give some lead time. I know Members on both sides appreciate that.

Clearly, a lot of this depends on what the Senate does or doesn't do. For those of us that would prefer the Senate work in a bipartisan way or especially work in a way that focused on addressing and being aware of the inflationary problems in the country, and, of course, we just saw last week, 9.1 percent inflation, 40-year high, a lot of that driven by the spending in Washington.

□ 1215

There is still talk that the Senate is trying to reach some agreement that would lead to a potential large amount of tax increases. A trillion dollars is a number that keeps being thrown around. It seems like trillions of dollars keep getting thrown around to the point where inflation has gotten out of control from the spending.

We all know how much families are paying for so many things: gas prices, when they go to the grocery stores, all the things that they buy, if they can afford to buy them, those things are dramatically higher.

Hopefully, the Senate doesn't keep adding to that inflation by coming up with more ways to spend money that we don't have. We will see.

There is also talk that as part of the ObamaCare subsidies—you know, that is an entirely different conversation—that bill still needs heavy subsidies that are not affordable, but they are talking about drug price controls that would be paired with that.

Again, more a message to our friends on the other side of the Chamber in the Senate, just for situational awareness when countries do price controls, there is a cost in terms of lifesaving drugs that are not available in countries where they have done price controls. When you look at the United States, clearly a leader in innovation—we have seen it with Operation Warp Speed where we were able to get three different vaccines approved in less than a year because we encourage innovation in this country, we don't penalize that innovation.

But there are countries that do try to fix prices. While it might sound populist to do it, the cost for those countries is that many lifesaving drugs are not available in those countries. We all hear about Canada. Canada clearly is a country that fixes prices. France is a country that fixes prices. You can see here, almost half of the drugs that are available in America that save lives are not available in Canada and France.

I know there is a temptation, as they are negotiating over in the Senate, to get into the price-fixing business. I am not sure which lifesaving drugs the Senate would like to remove off the shelves of the United States, but there will be lifesaving drugs removed off the shelves. Let's not do to drug manufacturing and lifesaving innovation in America what they have done to baby formula in America, where you can't even find it on the shelves. You will not be able to find many lifesaving drugs on the shelves in America if they go to price fixing.

I know it is a heated negotiation over there. They haven't come to an agreement. Hopefully, they won't come to an agreement on something that would actually take lifesaving drugs off the shelves in this country.

I would yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding. We are all very concerned about inflation, and one of the things that I talked about in the Affordable Care Act, a significant cost for Americans is their health insurance, and that bill is designed specifically to help them with the costs that they are incurring.

But I would point out to the gentleman: Gas prices, which are a significant part of inflation, have come down 36 days in a row, have come down over half a dollar in most areas of the country, and so we are making some progress, but not enough.

We passed a bill, of course, through this House which talked about price gouging. I don't know that anybody is for price gouging. Obviously, how to define price gouging is not simple, but having said that, I think certainly Americans want to make sure that they aren't gouged because they have to have a product.

We have also passed the act related to food and fuel to help with supply lines, to help with competition and help consumers bring their food prices

down and gasoline prices by, for instance, helping out in the Midwest with E-15 being available, which is a cheaper price.

The gentleman is correct. We have and we are dealing with inflationary issues. In fact, hopefully, the CHIPS bill is going to pass the Senate. Hopefully, we are going to pass it here, and it will have other items involved in it, hopefully dealing with manufacturing.

I have an agenda that I think the gentleman has heard me talk about probably ad nauseam, Make It In America. I believe we ought to make things in America, and in doing so, help bring prices down because we will have supply availability here. I don't know if the gentleman has heard me use a phrase, we need to stop relying on the unreliable. I think the gentleman has made some of those comments himself.

I also want to say that there is a lot of, in my opinion, political assertion of the fact that this administration has caused inflation, which I think is completely without any factual support. In fact, although clearly inflation is unacceptably high at 9.1 percent in June, the OECD average of economically developed countries in the world is 9.6 percent, so this is not something unique to America.

It is a global inflation. It is not Biden policy inflation. It is global, largely caused by the pandemic, largely caused by the reduction in supply of goods and the reduction in demand for a period of time. And then with the American Rescue Plan we saw, not only in our country, but all over the world, there came a surge of demand, but because you had had the pandemic and you had sent workers home and they hadn't come in to produce goods, the supply was down, the demand went up, and unfortunately, inflation followed, which is very harmful to our people.

As I say, the average OECD, however, is higher than we are. We are not an outlier. The G20 average is 8.8 percent, just about exactly what we are, and our closest peers—Germany, Canada, and the U.K.—are all around 8 percent inflation, so we are all in that place where inflation is causing our people a lot of pain, and we need to deal with it.

The President has been trying to deal with it, and I think we have been trying to deal with it. As I said, we passed a lot of legislation. I think the CHIPS bill is going to have a really big impact.

The car industry and related industries are one-third of inflation.

Why is that? Because the chips shortage has caused literally millions of cars to be sitting on docks or sitting in parking lots somewhere unable to be sold because we can't get the chips. Used car prices have gone up because they are in greater demand. Again, when you have greater demand, prices go up.

So I would say to my friend, you and I agree 100 percent that inflation needs to be dealt with. The Fed, obviously, is

trying to do that as well because one way you deal with inflation is to increase interest rates and try to slow down the economy. When you slow down the economy what you are trying to do is reduce demand to meet supply and stabilize prices.

So I say to my friend, we have been doing a lot of things to try to deal with inflation. I mentioned a number of those bills that we passed. A number of them are still in the Senate. But let us hope that gasoline prices keep coming down. There are some who expect they may go back up.

They are not set by us. They are set on the international market, and clearly there is no doubt that the war has had an impact on those prices, a significant impact on those prices. That is not the only reason because, as I said in our colloquy a couple weeks ago, the oil companies reduced production by 800,000 barrels per day.

Why? Because demand was down.

Why? Not for a bad reason. The pandemic kept people in their homes, and they weren't driving, so demand went down, so the normal reaction of the supplier was to reduce their supply.

This President believes that inflation is one of the top problems confronting the American people and the administration, and he is going to continue to work to try to bring that down.

I am hoping the CHIPS bill comes over soon, the Senate gets that done. In whatever form it comes, I hope it is more robust than less robust. I think it will have a positive impact on bringing down inflation.

Mr. SCALISE. I know there has been a lot of work by Members on both sides on the CHIPS Act. Mr. McCAUL on our side, through the China Task Force, put out a number of recommendations. The CHIPS Act was one of them. Of course, one of the concerns we are seeing, as that bill continues to be negotiated in the Senate, it is not being negotiated more narrowly, it is being loaded up to the point where we are hearing numbers of well over \$100 billion in unpaid-for new spending as part of that bill.

As we talk about inflation, any economist will tell you, inflation is too much money chasing too few goods, and if we already acknowledge there are too few goods, to put another \$100-plus billion, maybe \$150 billion—it keeps growing every day—of borrowed money, none of that—they are not prioritizing existing money. Everything we are hearing is all of it would be completely borrowed money.

Next week, we are hearing the Fed is going to raise interest rates maybe up to another point, and that is without \$100-plus billion of additional debt being added on. If the Fed is telling us that the spending is leading to higher interest rates, which makes it harder for low-income families to buy their first home, for people to maybe expand their business where they can hire more people to go and meet the needs of the supply chain, they won't be able

to do that if interest rates keep going up.

And yet, as interest rates are about to go up again next week, the Senate is trying to figure out how to keep adding and adding and adding on top of what is already probably well over \$100 billion in borrowed money that they are going to send over here.

I hope that we would keep that in mind as we are also trying to address these other problems like gas prices. I know we have talked about this many times. I shared it with the majority whip last week and would ask the majority leader again. We have identified a number of bills that have strong support that would address the many problems we are hearing that are leading to an inability to produce energy in America.

We saw the President go hat in hand to Saudi Arabia last week. As I and many others predicted, we all knew that they were going to tell the President no, but I also suggested that if the President just saved the 11,000-plus miles on Air Force One and stayed here and called places like Port Fourchon, Louisiana, they would say yes to producing more energy, not in Saudi Arabia where their carbon emissions are much higher, but here in the United States where nobody in the world does it better, does it cleaner, or more efficiently.

That would create more jobs in our country, and it would give more energy security to our country. It would allow us to lower gas prices, not just for us but for our allies around the world. And yet, instead of working with us on these bills, the President chooses to go to foreign countries who have no interest in lowering gas prices, and so we still end up in this situation.

I don't know if there is an opportunity to get any or all of these bills brought up where we could actually come to an agreement on some things that would move the needle and help families in America lower gas prices. Today, we are still over double what the price of gasoline was before President Biden took office.

Wherever the price moves, up or down, when families are paying over \$150 to fill up their car, it is taking a huge hit out of low- and middle-income families' budgets, and that is one of the driving factors behind the sluggish economy.

I don't know if the gentleman wants to make an announcement of some of these bills coming to the floor. I would welcome that, and I would yield.

Mr. HOYER. And it would surprise him.

Mr. Speaker, we have had this discussion for over a month now about these bills, but also every time we have it, there is the plea that we produce, and if we would only produce. I bring this statistic up.

As the gentleman knows, as a result of our going back and forth, my staff has prepared a paper—and they have done an excellent job—as to what actu-

ally is the fact. Fact one, U.S. rig count—that is what drills for oil—is at current levels of 733. That is up 272 from 1 year ago. That is a 59 percent increase from a year ago, so that there is no doubt that we are producing more.

□ 1230

Now, as a practical matter, those of us who believe in the private sector and the capitalist system understand that the reason production goes up is because demand goes up and, therefore, companies want to sell more. But there are also companies that have not chosen to produce more for reasons of their own business judgment as to whether they think producing more will cause them to have better profits or lower profits or stay even.

This administration has presided over greater production in their first year than was true in the first 3 years individually—2017, 2018, and 2019, each one of those 3 years—under the Trump administration.

We are producing oil, and we are producing product. We are going to continue to do that. I can give you statistic after statistic of how many applications have been approved, are ready to go, and are not being used.

Rather than just rehash that, I will simply say, back to the issue of the gas prices, gas prices are lower today in real terms than they were at the end of the Bush administration in 2008. I pause for emphasis. In real dollars, the cost of gasoline at the pump at the end of 2008 was higher than it is today, and it is way too high today.

I was out in Virginia, in a rural area, and I saw gas for \$4.36. At home, it had been almost \$4.95, and that was an extraordinary decrease. I said: Boy, look at that. Then I caught myself because it is still a burden on our consumers, middle-class, working families, when, as the whip says, they confront a price of two or three times what they were used to when filling up their car. So, we need to continue to work on that.

I disagree with the whip in the sense, Mr. Speaker, that I think the President's visit overseas—there was some controversy to it. I get that. I think it was very positive vis-a-vis our close ally Israel, and Israel said it was a very productive visit. I am glad the President did that. I also think that it gave additional stability indicating that this President, although we are focused like a laser on Ukraine and focused like a laser on the Far East, we are still focused on the Middle East and trying to make that region of the world a stable region of the world.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. This debate will continue. It would be great if we were debating these bills next week. I stand to be surprised and happily surprised if the announcement comes out over the weekend that some or all of these bills will be brought to the floor.

I would give the gentleman a prediction that if the House were to take

up and pass these bills, we would see a dramatic reduction in the price of gasoline. I will leave that out there for the gentleman to consider as one more reason why these would be good debates to have, where we could talk together in support of good policy.

We are both blessed with good staff that help us identify really good pieces of legislation that we could bring to address these big, big problems that families are facing.

Mr. Speaker, unless the gentleman has anything else, I yield back the balance of my time.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TORRES of New York). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is always an honor and a privilege to have a chance to address the House. There is so much that is so critically important going on these days, especially this week, and I wanted the chance to address those.

I have a friend from Texas who hopes to address the House, and I advised him I would yield him such time as he may consume. So my friend—people say that a lot, “my friend.” But RANDY WEBER is a dear friend, and I think he will be out at any moment.

In the meantime, I think we had an 11- to 12-hour hearing yesterday in the Committee on the Judiciary, and I will get into that momentarily.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER), my dear friend from southeast Texas.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank Judge GOHMERT for yielding, my friend from northeast Texas. We are going to miss him. He has had quite a distinguished career both before he got into Congress and then when he got demoted to Congress. We appreciate him. I just can't tell you how much we really appreciate him.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of country music legend Mickey Gilley. Mickey Gilley passed away Saturday, May 7, in Branson at the age of 86.

Born on March 9, 1936, Gilley was a native of Natchez, Mississippi, where he grew up around his two famous cousins, Jerry Lee Lewis and Jimmy Swaggart.

In his career, Gilley earned 39 top 10 hits and 17 number one songs.

With six Academy of Country Music Awards and a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and as a member of the 2011 Texas Country Music Hall of Fame, Gilley was also one of only a few artists who have also received the Academy of Country Music's Triple Crown Award.

But it was the opening of the country dance club bearing his name that changed the world of country music forever. It was 1971 when Mickey officially opened the doors of his famous honkytonk.