

our border. We also know that, at a time like this, we face threats from Russia and from China, and Iran straight out said that they plan attacks on United States soil.

And yet, with 3.2 million people crossing into our country illegally and 500,000 gotaways from over 60 different countries, we run a risk of being in danger. Think about that, that is almost four times the population of the President's home State of Delaware.

Now it is also having a financial impact on our constituents. It is now costing American taxpayers \$20 billion a year, something completely unsustainable as U.S. debt approaches \$31 trillion.

Americans are struggling right now to get by. They are trying to keep roofs over their own heads. They are trying to pay their utility bills. They are trying to put food on the table for their children, and now the majority wants them to pick up this additional cost for this unsustainable policy.

My own mayor is saying that it is having an impact on New York City and that it is at a breaking point. He is complaining about the Governors who are busing individuals to New York City, but he hasn't said a peep about the President who was flying them in over the last 2 years.

The bottom line is, if my mayor or anyone else has an issue with what is happening in their cities, they need to hold the President accountable and this Congress accountable to make sure that we pass the laws that make sense.

We need to bring up the Border Security for America Act before we leave next week. If not, we are doing a great disservice to the people of this country. We are continuing to increase our debt. We are continuing to make our cities less safe, and we are continuing to put our Nation at risk in the future.

#### HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the heritage, culture, and immense and amazing contributions of Latinos to the United States by introducing a bicameral resolution recognizing September 15 through October 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month.

When you walk into my office, both in my Washington, D.C., office, and the San Fernando Valley office which I represent, you will notice a very important picture of two hard-working gentlemen, two generations of Mexican immigrants, my father and my mother's father, smiling while crouching down picking potatoes in the very hot Stockton, California, sun.

No matter how exhausted, how busy, and how much pain they endured, they never complained, and they took the time to pause and smile because they were so proud to be able to do a hard

day's work and an honest day's work right here in the United States of America.

That same grit and positivity that they demonstrated in that photo are values carried by Latinos throughout our country's history: farmworkers, astronauts, scientists, and many amazing contributors to our great country. They are Latinos who have helped keep our country operating before the pandemic, through the pandemic, and still to this day. It is those same values and stories, those of individuals, many of them immigrants, who encompass an unwavering spirit of perseverance. These are the true stories that will be told at the National Museum of the American Latino.

Latinos have been in what is now the United States for hundreds of years. So current and future generations have the opportunity to visit the National Mall and experience our beautiful history, culture, and contributions that make us the greatest Nation in the world.

Yes, that is right, Mr. Speaker. The beautiful National Mall will soon have a Latino museum on it so that people from all over the world can appreciate the amazing contributions that Latinos have been making to this great country and this continent for hundreds and hundreds of years.

I urge my colleagues in the House to join me in recognizing these amazing contributions of Latinos of the United States, and to encourage everyone to recognize that we are a great country. We are an eclectic country, and we do have much to be proud of. We, as Americans from every part of this world, have made this country their home.

To people who are Latinos, it is sad to hear just a few minutes ago that even Members of Congress will say derogatory things about the southern border and make people believe that you should be afraid of immigrants who come to this country, who seek a better life, people who come to this country and do the jobs that most Americans, including me, really don't want to do but need to be done.

If you are a senior in the United States of America, it is very likely, as you get older and you need somebody to help you in your day-to-day life, it will probably be somebody with an accent. And yes, I smile when I say that; somebody who gives their love and commitment to that person who deserves the dignity of being cared for. Many, many times, it is an immigrant. Many, many times, they speak Spanish. "Of course, they speak Spanish." "Seguro que si, hablan espanol." Like my grandfather who came to this country, my mother who came to this country, and my father who came to this country did.

My grandfather had no formal education; my mother and father only had a first and second grade education.

Why did they come to the United States?

Because they knew that this was a country of opportunity.

And although they suffered many indignities of racism and derogatory comments toward them or what have you, they raised 11 American-born citizens in what some people would call a very tough neighborhood. I say a very beautiful, challenged neighborhood, but a beautiful neighborhood at that.

And now I, as their youngest son, get to be a United States Congressman, to contribute to this country as a U.S. citizen and a Representative of the community that I was born and raised in; yet, at the same time, to advance what is good about our country and to be an example to every single one of us.

We live in a great country, the United States of America, and Latinos have always made contributions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California will provide a translation of his remarks to the Clerk.

#### BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LEGISLATION

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

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, as a 50-year member of the Massachusetts Building Trades, as former president of the Ironworkers Local 7 in Boston, and as a proud member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure here in Congress, I rise in support of and in acknowledgement of the success and benefits to our States, cities, and towns, of President Biden's transformational Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, better known as the bipartisan infrastructure law.

Signed by President Biden this past November, this landmark legislation continues to provide critical investments in our Nation's infrastructure and transportation systems, including \$550 billion in new funding to repair and modernize America's roads, bridges, public transit systems, passenger and freight rail ports, airports, high-speed internet, and water systems.

Importantly, the bipartisan infrastructure law also stands as a testament to what we can accomplish together on behalf of the American people when we set aside partisanship and divisiveness in favor of collaboration toward addressing the most urgent needs of the American people.

In my own State of Massachusetts, the Eighth Congressional District that I represent, we are already putting historic Federal funding delivered by the bipartisan infrastructure law into use.

We have older infrastructure in Massachusetts, especially the city of Boston, the city of Brockton, and the city of Quincy. Over \$8.5 billion will be allocated to Massachusetts to support that infrastructure, to rebuild it over the next 5 years.

In fact, this year alone, \$2 billion in new Federal funding has been announced for our State to date, including more than \$1.7 billion identified for

key transportation and infrastructure projects.

Considering that 472 of our State bridges and more than 1,100 miles of Massachusetts highway has been declared deficient or in poor condition, this funding will not only be used for structural repairs, but also will serve to reinforce our coastal infrastructure against the devastating impacts of climate change.

Our State has already received nearly \$190 million in bipartisan infrastructure law funding this year to support lead pipe replacement and other clean and safe water improvements. This funding will be critical to some of our older historic cities, like the city of Brockton, that struggle with toxic chemicals in their water supply.

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As it does in all 50 States, the bipartisan infrastructure law has already allocated approximately \$534 million this year for Massachusetts to improve our public transportation systems. This funding could not be timelier for the residents of Massachusetts in view of the ongoing safety incidents, operating deficiencies, personnel shortages, and service reductions at the MBTA, one of the oldest transit systems in the country.

Earlier this year, we also broke ground at a new electric bus maintenance facility in Quincy, Massachusetts, that will serve to accommodate a modern electric fleet of MBTA buses and alleviate the carbon footprint of our public transportation that exacerbates the incidence of asthma and respiratory disease.

Just this month, our State delegation joined President Biden at Boston Logan Airport to recognize the \$62 million in bipartisan infrastructure law funding that will be used to modernize and increase the climate resilience of our international terminal and its surrounding roadways. That project is expected to create almost 6,000 jobs.

Mr. Speaker, the bipartisan infrastructure law is supporting similar projects and job creation across this great country to the enormous benefit of the American people. It is also, I remind my colleagues, a worthwhile example of what Democrats and Republicans can do here in Congress when we work together.

#### CELEBRATING RECOVERY MONTH

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

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, every September, we observe Recovery Month to celebrate the millions of Americans in recovery from substance use disorders, and we reaffirm our commitment to passing policies to combat the impact of addiction in our communities.

The impact of addiction is tragically far reaching, extending far beyond the

individual suffering, impacting entire families, especially children.

The opioid epidemic has forced increasing numbers of kinship caregivers, most of whom are grandparents, to take over the role of primary caregivers for children impacted by the crisis. Grandparents like Susan, a grandmother I spoke with recently at an opioid awareness vigil, who had stepped up to be her grandchildren's primary caregiver but is struggling to make ends meet, unable to access services that would be available if her grandchildren were instead placed in foster care.

I introduced the Help Grandfamilies Prevent Child Abuse Act to help ensure that grandfamilies like Susan's have access to the critical services and support needed to keep kids safe and keep them with their own families.

Combating addiction will take all of us working together to support our loved ones and community members. We can't let our families fight this fight alone.

#### SUPPORTING AND DEFENDING THE CONSTITUTION

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, as I walked up the Capitol steps this morning, I was stopped by a reporter who wanted to know if it was a priority of the Democratic Party to pass the Presidential Election Reform Act, which we will consider in the House this week. I was stunned by the assumption in that question that protecting the peaceful transfer of power in the United States of America could ever be a partisan issue. In fact, the legislation under consideration is a bipartisan bill.

I don't care if you are a Democrat, a Republican, a conservative, a liberal, an Independent, if you love this country and believe in a government by the people, for the people, of the people, we all have an obligation to confront the dangers posed by radical extremists who would undermine our elections, abandon the peaceful transfer of power and the rule of law for their own personal or political gain.

I look forward to working with my colleagues of all political stripes to strengthen the guardrails of our democracy and to support and defend our Constitution.

#### RECOGNIZING CELEBRATE COMMUNITY WEEK

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Celebrate Community Week.

Last week, Congressman JIMMY PANETTA from California and I introduced a resolution to designate the week of September 11 through September 17 as Celebrate Community Week and commemorate the efforts of local service organizations across the country.

Mr. PANETTA and I are co-chairs of the bipartisan Congressional Service Organization Caucus. The resolution

recognizes the role of service organizations in promoting community humanitarian assistance while also instilling the value of giving back in our youth. We specifically applauded the Kiwanis International, Lions Clubs International, Optimist International, and Rotary International for encouraging and promoting community service and humanitarian assistance through their local chapters.

The Celebrate Community Week resolution highlights the critical work of our community service organizations. Volunteer service is the cornerstone of a successful, strong, and healthy community, and is an important staple of American life.

I commend our community service organizations like the Lions Club International, Rotary International, Kiwanis International, and Optimist International for everything they do to help our communities flourish.

#### CELEBRATING CONSTITUTION DAY

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because over the weekend, we celebrated Constitution Day. On September 17, we commemorate the signing and adoption of the U.S. Constitution in 1787 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

This day, where we celebrate our Constitution, originated in 1953 when the Senate passed a resolution designating September 17 to 23 as Constitution Week.

In 2004, Congress officially made Constitution Day and Citizenship Day a Federal holiday. Congress also required all publicly funded agencies and schools to provide information on the Constitution on this day.

In 2017, President Trump proclaimed September 17 as Constitution Day and Citizenship Day. Constitution Day serves as a celebration of our American system as well as a reminder that our government exists to serve the people and their freedom.

For 235 years, Congress has been given the responsibility by the people to represent their interests. We should behave like every day is Constitution Day and remember Congress should always serve the people as outlined in the preamble.

#### POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize September 16 as POW/MIA Recognition Day.

Last Friday, we remembered the men and women our Armed Forces who served honorably and have not returned home.

At this time, almost 82,000 servicemen and -women have not returned home from the battlefield. This includes those who served in World War II, the Korean war, the Vietnam war, the Cold War, and both wars in Iraq.

Those who serve in uniform have sacrificed greatly to give us the opportunity to live our lives in freedom and in peace. We thank those who served and returned home, but most importantly we remember those who served and never returned.