

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.

□ 1100

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.

Last May, I introduced the Prisoners of War and Missing in Action Trade Agreement Resolution. This resolution would urge our mutually beneficial trade agreements to include a commitment from our trade partners to continue to search for and recover our missing servicemembers.

Mr. Speaker, on this POW/MIA Recognition Day, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and honor our commitment to bring our servicemen and -women home.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, Sunday marked the 21st anniversary of the September 11 terror attacks. I rise today to remember the innocent lives we lost.

At 8:46 a.m., American Airlines Flight 11 flew into Tower 1 of the World Trade Center. Not long after, Flight 175 roared over Lower Manhattan into Tower 2.

While Americans around the country were grappling with the events that just transpired, a third plane, Flight 77, crashed into the Pentagon.

In southwest Pennsylvania, the fourth flight, United 93, was hijacked and made the abrupt turn toward Washington, D.C. But because of the brave passengers and crew members, it crashed into a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

In the days, weeks, months, and now more than two decades that followed September 11, our country joined together to face the very evil which attempted to take us down.

We will forever be indebted to our servicemen and -women who joined the fight to protect our freedoms.

While today's world has grown no less dangerous, we, as Americans, are resilient. We will never forget, not 21 years later, not ever.

May God continue to watch over our first responders, our men and women in uniform, and all those who keep us safe.

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 9 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

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

God our Savior, break into our world which is rife with bad news, and make known the redeeming proclamation of Your love for us and Your plans for our good and not our harm.

Preserve the welfare of countries and communities around the world from the disasters threatening them. Particularly on this day, we pray for the people of Puerto Rico and the Caribbean as once again they battle the devastation inflicted on them by damaging winds and raging seas.

Grant us redemption from all that seeks to distance us from Your love and distract us from faith in You. Restore our relationship with You that by Your mercy, we would all be welcomed once again into Your embrace.

Lord, You are the ruler of the universe. We appeal to You this day that Your saving hand would hold and protect Your people.

Renewed in Your name, we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the Chamber her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ALLEN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

MIGRANTS WHO SEEK ASYLUM AND REFUGE IN AMERICA

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

Ms. DEAN. Madam Speaker, last week, nearly 50 migrants who sought asylum and refuge in America were met with grossly un-American actions.

Governor DeSantis deceived them and shipped them across the Nation, like chattel, to Martha's Vineyard all in search of hollow political points.

Not only was this a failed political stunt, it was a failure of common humanity—of common decency.

To think of what men, women, children—a 1-month-old—endured to seek asylum in our great Nation. To think of the bravery and the agony to leave your home, your family, your country in search of a better way of life—fleeing communism, political and economic instability in Venezuela.

Madam Speaker, Members come to this floor to give 1-minute speeches

every session, and I hear Republican speeches and I see the signs, the stunts—Biden's border crisis.

No. This is America's problem, our problem. And a "wall" or these recent, cruel stunts by shameful Governors auditioning to be the next Trump offer no solutions, no hope.

Instead, it will take courage—courage by Republicans in both Chambers to come back to the table and work with Democrats to fix our long-broken immigration system. That is the American way.

EMPLOYEE RIGHTS

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

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, we should empower our workforce to flourish. However, Washington Democrats are fixated on dragging us back to an outdated model via their PRO Act, which would strip workers of their freedoms and force every American worker to either join a union or pay dues to a union in order to keep their jobs. This is not the American way.

Freedom of choice is what makes our economy strong, and every American should have that choice. Our workforce is constantly evolving, and we need creative, forward-thinking legislation that gives workers and small businessowners both stability and flexibility. That is why Senator TIM SCOTT and I introduced the Employee Rights Act.

Our bill protects independent contractors, entrepreneurs, gig workers, franchisees, and anyone else seeking to earn a living on their own terms. The Employee Rights Act puts workers in the driver's seat by giving them the protections they need to choose for themselves how to earn a living and build a future for their families.

Republicans stand with the 21st century worker. It is time our labor laws did the same.

HAWAIIAN HISTORY MONTH

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

Mr. KAHELE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to continue to honor September as Hawaiian History Month in my home State of Hawaii. Today, I am honoring Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole. Prince Kuhio was the second Native Hawaiian to represent Hawaii in Congress, when he was elected in 1903, and he served for two decades until his death in 1922.

He is best known for the establishment of the Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu in 1918 and the passage of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act in 1920. Throughout his life, Prince Kuhio, revered by Native Hawaiians as Ke Ali'i Maka'ainana, a prince for the people, was a tenacious leader and used his