

I thank them for all the work that they will do on behalf of their patients.

OUT OF CONTROL INFLATION

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today, we recognize the problems that we are facing with a country that has spiraling out of control inflation. We have an opportunity with the Republican Commitment to America, the commitment that the Republican Party has put forward, to make a Nation that is safe, to make a Nation that is accountable.

As Republicans, we have brought forth a four-part statement that will have the necessary oversight to control and have the citizens have the ability to have their voices heard.

The Commitment to America is the path forward throughout this spiraling inflation that is affecting each and every American today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Americans to look at this valuable commitment that we as Republicans will bring forward.

HAWAIIAN HISTORY MONTH

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

Mr. KAHELE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to continue to honor September as Hawaiian History Month in my home State of Hawaii.

Today, in "olelo Hawaii", "Hawaiian language", I will honor Joseph Kaho'oluhi Nawahi.

Joseph Kaho'oluhi Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u was born on January 13, 1842 in Kaimū, Puna on the Island of Hawai'i.

Keaweolalo was his true mother. Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u was his true father. Joseph Pa'akaula was his foster father. Joseph Pa'akaula was a teacher at Ke Kula 'Aiakalā.

Nāwahī attended 4 schools, Ke Kula 'Aiakalā, Ke Kula Hānai O Hilo, Ke Kulanui O Lahainaluna and ke Kula Ali'i O Kahehuna.

Ua hānau 'ia 'o Iosepa Kaho'oluhi Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u ma ka lā 'umikūmūākolū o Ianuali makahiki 'umikāmāwalu kanahākūmālua ma Kaimū, Puna, Moku o Keawe.

'O Keaweolalo kona lūau'i makuahine. 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u kona lūau'i makua kāne. 'O Iosepa Pa'akaula kona makua hānai. He kumu 'o Iosepa Pa'akaula ma ke Kula 'Aiakalā.

'Ehā kula a Nāwahī i komo ai. 'O Ke Kula 'Aiakalā, Ke Kula Hānai O Hilo. Ke Kulanui O Lahainaluna a me Kula Ali'i O Kahehuna.

Mr. Speaker, these words that I just shared are a simple recitation of biographical facts regarding Joseph Kaho'oluhi Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u, who was a Native Hawaiian nationalist leader, legislator, lawyer, newspaper publisher, and painter.

This speech has been memorized by hundreds of elementary school students—my own keiki included—who attend the Hawaiian language immersion school, Ke Kula 'O

Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u. These keiki not only honor these Native Hawaiian heroes but ensure that their names are heard, and their work lives on through them for generations to come. "E ola kou inoa e Nawahi."

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

□ 1230

SHOULD WE HAVE RURAL TOWNS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I am pointing to a map here showing the several fires we have had in Northern California. This is only a small snippet. There is much more besides that that I could show you.

This is mostly in my district, the First District of Northern California here over several years. The Dixie fire being the big one here last year, about a million acres. The Camp fire that a lot of people have heard about that consumed the town of Paradise back in 2018; but there are many others.

So what am I talking about here today? The idea that rural America isn't worth saving; isn't worth having. So as we contemplate fire after fire and the recovery from there, there are those who are questioning should we have rural towns anymore; should we have people living in them; should we help them recover?

I go back to the root of the problem. First, I think the answer is yes because we need rural towns. We need people out there that are the productive people that used to do amazing things before regulations and environmental groups shut them down; we would not have the products that come from these areas.

So, not only rebuild them, but let's do the things that help them to thrive. Because it isn't just about some jobs in a rural town, it is also about everybody in this country prospering from the products that come from there.

What am I talking about? In this area, timber, lumber products, paper products. Heaven knows, we use a lot of paper around here. Do we want that to come from the United States, from our workers, from our productive lands, or do we want to continue as the United States, for some reason, is the Number 2 importer of wood products in the world. And yet, we are burning millions of acres across the West every year. Why is that?

I could also say mining used to occur more heavily here and in other parts, anywhere from Minnesota all through the Western States, as well.

And farming, which is under attack. The water is being taken away from many of the farmers in my district and in California in general because it is going for environmental purposes.

So yes, rural America feels under attack. So a recent Los Angeles Times article comes out saying, should billions continue to be spent rebuilding burned towns? This is the case for calling it quits.

I appreciate the L.A. Times is covering the fires that affected California; most recently, the Dixie fire in the town of Greenville, which is 75 percent wiped out from that fire; the town of Paradise 4 years before, 90 percent wiped out.

But I wish they would tell the whole story. They didn't tell my part of the story. Yes, it is difficult to keep asking for money back in D.C. to come help, whether it is one of my disasters—I am sure my colleagues in the South like right now are dealing with in Florida. Do they enjoy having to come back to help get rebuild money for Florida after the hurricanes they are dealing with, or flood or what have you?

No, they don't enjoy that, and I don't think we want to have to ask taxpayers for it.

But fire is something we can manage. We can't manage the weather. We can't stop hurricanes. We can't stop other things like that. But do we have the ability to manage our forests in such a way that towns would not be subject so much to immediate wildfire; harvesting buffers around them; putting fire breaks up, things like that.

And then when you do rebuild the town, they are building them with newer, better materials for the housing and things like that. There are underground power lines, so it is not going to be the same town that went up a hundred years ago that started out as a timber town, as a mining town, or even an ag town.

So it does improve. It does get better. It is worth the value because, the bottom line is, even though we want to blame climate change and say that is the big problem, we have got to kick people out of rural areas; we have got to kick them out of these communities because of climate change.

Well, if the climate is changing, then what are we going to do about it? Are we going to not have timber products? Are we going to not ensure the safety of those areas? Because we still need these people out there producing these products. If you want to have electric cars, someone has got to do some mining somewhere, right?

And the mandate keeps coming down the pike in my own State and more and more around the country, and we are not going to have those products. We are not going to have wood and timber products, paper products coming from somewhere besides being imported; and you know what happens when we get too dependent on import. Ask anybody getting natural gas in Europe what that looks like.

Our food; everybody is seeing food prices skyrocketing at the shelves, and sometimes that very shelf is empty. With all the acres that got left out because the water got taken away this

year in California, food shelves are going to be even more empty and prices even higher.

Someone in rural America has to be producing something. So for people to say that well, climate change, times are changing, we have to shift in a new direction, and we don't need these people there, and we don't need these towns there, we do need these towns. We need them there, and we need to help them to thrive by letting them manage the timber to begin with.

DISASTER RELIEF IN PUERTO RICO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN) for 5 minutes.

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, we were thinking about the 5 years since Hurricane Maria, and 5 years felt like nothing. Maria was one of our greatest natural disasters, causing collapse of all of the essential infrastructure in Puerto Rico. We still see the effects linger.

My colleagues in Congress came with me to the Island and responded with funding for recovery. Staff from FEMA and other agencies have been working hard, but the effects have been slow to be seen. Major obligations for permanent infrastructure rebuilding began only in late 2020.

Meanwhile, challenges continued: Earthquakes, COVID, supply chain crisis, a power grid that remains unreliable, uncertainty about the continuity of Medicaid and nutritional assistance funds. The people were exhausted and stressed.

Then came Hurricane Fiona. Fiona did not bring Category 4 or Category 5 winds but, instead, rainfall like never before, up to 30 inches in some locations. It was raining 2 days before the hurricane and 2 days after the hurricane.

Fiona caused a lot of flooding. It was historic and, in many places in the south of the Island, and the West, and the central mountains, beyond what was experienced for Maria. Thousands of families needed to be moved from flood waters in places like Salinas, leaving behind everything.

In rural areas like Arecibo, San Lorenzo, Orocovis, Utuado, Barranquitas, bridges that had been repaired or replaced after Maria, and roads that had been cleared and repaved, are again washed out, damaged, and blocked by landslides.

Housing and transportation work done after the last disaster, some even barely finished, now needs to be addressed again.

The power system again fell into a blackout. Although a majority is back up, it is still shaky. More than 70 percent of the Island now has power. Plants at Aguirre and Costa Sur are running available units at the edge of capacity; distribution networks at Aguadilla, San Sebastian, and Baya-

mon needed to be attended by local governments. This slow-down recovery of the water system is a problem for citizens needing life support devices, and keeps businesses closed.

Although there are sufficient fuel and supplies in the depots, communities have difficulty receiving enough because of transportation problems at a time of increased demand.

The agricultural sector, that was expecting finally the first normal productive year after devastation of Maria, lost everything again. We lost 90 percent of our agriculture in plantains, bananas, and many others; back to square one. Across the land, in Lares, Patillas, Aibonito, Guanica, mostly small or family farms now are at risk of simply never coming back; a lot from damage, and others from heartbreak.

Our low-income families face faster depletion of the funds for Medicaid and for nutritional assistance programs. It is not just a matter of more eligibility but continuity of the funding.

A real answer to this would be true permanent equal treatment for Puerto Rico in these Federal programs, instead of a special provision over and over every year.

I have engaged the President and many Federal agencies on this and other issues, to seek the needed support for the Island at this moment.

Some Members of Congress, of this House, are traveling to Puerto Rico after Fiona, and I am, again, inviting all my colleagues who want to come and join me to see the need directly and hear from those who can tell you what is really happening.

Today, we watch Florida also face a major disaster, and knowing firsthand what that means, I keep the people of Florida in my heart. Take care, and God bless and keep you in this time.

I am sure that both Florida and Puerto Rico, we will come back from this disaster, and, as Americans, we must all stand together, in a bipartisan way, to make sure the rebuilding happens visibly and promptly.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF CHAD ROBICHAUX AND STAFF SERGEANT DENNIS PRICE

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

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary heroism of Chad Robichaux and Staff Sergeant Dennis Price during the Afghanistan evacuation last year. Their selfless actions evacuating tens of thousands of Afghan interpreters and their families, vulnerable women and children, persecuted Christians, and American citizens, represents the highest levels of patriotism.

I met Chad through his work supporting our Nation's veterans as the founder of the Mighty Oaks Foundation, a leading nonprofit serving the

military, veteran, and first responder communities around the world. Through faith-based combat trauma and resiliency programs, Chad has been instrumental in ensuring our brave warriors are supported when they return home from the battlefield.

Chad's work doesn't stop there. He is also the co-founder of Save Our Allies, a nonprofit focused on the evacuation and recovery of Americans, our allies, and the most vulnerable people trapped in Afghanistan. Save Our Allies began as a personal quest for Chad, as he set out to rescue his longtime friend and Afghan interpreter. However, the mission quickly evolved because of Chad's compassion for all people and his servant's heart.

While the U.S. military held the Kabul airport in Afghanistan, the Save Our Allies Task Force successfully extracted approximately 17,000 evacuees in a period of 10 days. Despite these courageous efforts, a report from the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff estimated over 142,000 vulnerable Afghans remained in the country following the exit from Kabul.

With the complete takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban, the report projected 20 million women would be vulnerable to sexual abuse and slavery; Christians would be persecuted and executed; Afghan interpreters and their families would be hunted down and killed; children would be abused through religious manipulation; and the 1,000-plus Americans left behind would be killed or held hostage for ransom.

Understanding the ruthlessness of the Taliban as a former Force Recon Marine, Chad Robichaux knew the rescue mission had to continue. In response, Save Our Allies launched several operations to explore new ways for extractions. Robichaux and his team first identified possible ground evacuations that could be feasible by cross-border movements into Tajikistan and quickly planned a reconnaissance operation. Robichaux hand-selected Staff Sergeant Dennis Price, a Force Recon Marine and Scout Sniper, to take part in the mission.

I want to share two stories from that mission to highlight their incredible acts of sacrifice, service, and bravery. Early in the mission, Staff Sergeant Price sought a higher vantage point to evaluate a potential river crossing area. Upon his ascent up a mountain, he came under sniper fire two separate times, pushing him back to return to the safe house to reconvene with Robichaux and discuss moving forward with the operation.

These two brave men humbly discussed their families, loved ones, and all that would be left behind should they not make it out of this mission ahead. Still, both men agreed to continue their mission of building safe passage for American and Afghan evacuees.

During day 3 of the mission, and upon confirmation of possible river crossing,