

Staff Sergeant Price found himself 10 feet away from an armed Chinese militant hiding in the bushes, utilizing the vegetation as concealment.

□ 1245

Robichaux, using his uncanny observation and combat skills, noticed the looming threat and physically ushered Staff Sergeant Price into a nearby vehicle before he could be captured or killed, ultimately saving his life. Because of this heroic act, the two men were able to continue providing real-time information to American intelligence agencies.

During their 10-day operation, Robichaux and Price were able to cover 90 miles of border between Afghanistan and Tajikistan, remaining undetected by countless Tajik, Russian, and Chinese military patrols, all while avoiding Taliban-infested areas and checkpoints.

These examples, and countless others that cannot be shared due to their sensitive nature, underscore the exemplary efforts undertaken by both Americans behind enemy lines to collect the critical information needed to bring so many to safety.

Mr. Speaker, I am humbled to stand before the House to honor their courageous bravery and willingness to sacrifice their lives for their fellow man. The mission that these men completed has saved and will continue to save hundreds and possibly thousands of lives.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I express my sincere gratitude. God bless Chad Robichaux and Staff Sergeant Price for their service to our country.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL CLEAN ENERGY WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Clean Energy Week and the benefits of alternative energy sources.

National Clean Energy Week is a time to recognize and celebrate innovative policies that allow the United States to limit greenhouse gas emissions.

Iowa leads the Nation in clean energy production, and Iowans are constantly seeking ways to make clean energy more affordable, accessible, and abundant. Just last year, the American Clean Power Association reported that over 50 percent of Iowa's electricity is generated by renewable sources, ranking it highest in the United States.

Clean energy sources, including renewable fuels, organic materials, wind, and solar, create affordable electricity and power our transportation sector. Additionally, alternative energy sources bring jobs and revenue while allowing the United States to remain a global leader in energy production.

Since taking office, I have advocated for conservative, climate-friendly leg-

islation that promotes alternative forms of energy. Consumers should always be provided with choices as it promotes competition for businesses and lowers the cost of goods and services, which is crucial now with record-high inflation.

I have also introduced bipartisan legislation, such as the Biochar Research Network Act of 2022, to expand clean energy in the United States. This bill would create a national biochar research network, where the benefits of biochar can further be tested and explored. Research would include how well biochar works to sequester carbon, how biochar increases crop production, improves marginal soil health, improves water quality, and reduces the amount of fertilizers and pesticides regularly used. I was proud that Senator GRASSLEY introduced the same bill in the U.S. Senate last week.

Additionally, I have supported numerous bills, such as the Lower Food and Fuel Costs Act, which expands year-round E15, and the Home Front Energy Independence bill, which would prohibit the imports of petroleum from Russia while expanding production and availability of biofuels.

Increasing domestic energy production and the use of biofuels would also help our allies around the world wean off from Russia's dirty oil and cut off the funding for the Russian war machine.

Iowa's vast farmland is why alternative forms of energy like biofuels and wind and solar are successful. However, when determining our Nation's energy strategy, we must analyze geographic composure and natural resources in the area. Different geographical features allow for clean energy to succeed, such as solar in the Southwest, natural gas in Texas, hydropower in the Pacific Northwest, or nuclear energy in the South.

As we continue pursuing clean energy production, I hope my colleagues will look to Iowa as an example of an any- and all-of-the-above approach. In order to leave a healthier planet for our children and grandchildren, we must enact policies that benefit a wide variety of energy sources where they work best and flexibility within the States to do so.

I also wish a happy birthday to Kendyl Willox, who is an amazing health policy portfolio manager in our office. Happy birthday to Kendyl.

#### FARM OVERTIME WAGE THRESHOLD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight a looming catastrophe for New York farmers, farmworkers, and consumers across New York State and the country.

On September 6, the New York State Farm Laborers Wage Board voted to advance a proposal to lower the State's

overtime wage threshold for farm laborers from 60 to 40 hours per week, despite overwhelming opposition to the recommendation.

During the public comment period, farmers, farmworkers, and consumers all turned out in droves to oppose the recommendation. Farmers, who are struggling with inflation already, are now very worried about keeping up with yet another price hike. Farmworkers are gravely concerned about the possible lost hours on the job, cutting their wages. Consumers should fear even higher increases to food costs, which have already increased 11.4 percent over the last year, the biggest increase since 1979, with prices continuing to go up.

Their fears are real. Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences projected that the overtime rule's implementation could force two-thirds of dairy farmers to make significant changes to their operations, including, and dramatically bad, leaving the industry or investing in other States.

New York State already leads the Nation in the highest out-migration of people and jobs. This would be a disaster for our agricultural community.

Cornell University Ag Sciences also found that half of New York's fruit and vegetable farmers likely would have to reduce operations or leave the industry altogether. The second largest apple-producing county in the entire Nation is Wayne County, located in upstate New York.

Despite all this, the board still voted to advance the recommendation anyway. We are incredibly disappointed that the board ignored such compelling input from important stakeholders, worsening the already difficult headwinds for New York's agriculture industry. The board ultimately decided to undermine the very industry and workers they are supposed to be serving.

This week, I joined upstate farmers for a roundtable discussion hosted by Dale Hemminger and his son, Clay, at Hemdale Farms in Seneca Castle, New York. The feedback from the farmers was unanimous: Lowering the overtime threshold will devastate New York's agricultural industry and have a critically difficult impact on the future of family farms in New York and could leave New York as one of the few States in the country with such an onerous and unreasonable restriction on family farms.

Family farms, large and small, are the lifeblood of New York's economy. Everyone thinks it is New York City. It is actually agriculture.

Now, the recommendation is with the State labor commissioner, Roberta Reardon. I have and continue to urge her to reject this change and maintain the current 60-hour threshold. New York family farms and consumers simply cannot bear any further price increases.

I have also joined my other New York colleagues, Representatives ELISE

STEFANIK and CHRIS JACOBS, in introducing legislation in Congress known as the Protect Local Farms Act to stop this misguided policy from taking effect.

If there are no farms, there will be no nutritious food to feed our State, our Nation, and, yes, the world, as we face a potential food shortage worldwide.

#### REDESIGNING THE MARKETPLACE OF IDEAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because Americans are divided. Our public discourse is broken. Instead of fostering open and honest political debate, our flawed information environment creates echo chambers and partisan silos.

At times, it feels like the very fabric of our Nation is being torn at the seams. This toxic polarization has infected the Capitol, too, where it is becoming increasingly difficult to get things done in a bipartisan manner.

The nonstop outrage and anger must end.

To begin solving some of these issues, I propose an idea, which I developed in partnership with my former science and technology policy adviser, Eric Saund, a phenomenal cognitive science and artificial intelligence researcher. Together, we call for redesigning what is popularly described as the “marketplace of ideas.”

As economists point out, markets are information systems. The invisible hand of supply and demand discovers the value of goods and services, and the equal access to information in a market yields collective efficiency.

Now, imagine a market where suppliers or, in this case, speakers of ideas hawk their wares in a public square, while consumers, or listeners, sample and choose the news, stories, and opinions they prefer. The best ideas would win by virtue of the audience's discernment and collective wisdom, right?

But what if the market's information architecture, the modes and pathways of information exchange and processing, is fundamentally broken? Just like a market wouldn't function properly if the vendors' loudspeakers and telephones were damaged, the algorithms, programmatic methods, and platform designs that govern our marketplace of ideas are clearly not working. When a market is broken, it is the responsibility of government to act.

How do we fix it? We start by leveling the playing field and modifying the shape, not the content, of our ideas marketplace to facilitate healthy exposure and competition among all ideas within our political discourse.

As it currently stands, our marketplace has been distorted to resemble a dome-like shape in which discourse is driven to the extremes of each side. Instead, we propose bending the dome

shape of our marketplace into a bowl shape, encouraging people to seek common ground and creating space for productive conversation among ideological foes and compatriots alike.

By leveling the playing field through tweaks to both the supply and demand side, we can create a marketplace of ideas where fairness and civility are rewarded and extremism is discouraged.

On the demand side, we can invest in civics education initiatives that teach children critical reading, listening, and thinking skills, like how to spot disinformation on social media. Adults, too, can lose awareness of how their buttons are being pushed by sophisticated propagandists.

As our Founders recognized, our democracy requires an educated citizenry. However, the demands of our modern media environment require our education system to grow and adapt accordingly.

We could borrow from the playbooks of other countries, like Finland and the Baltic states, which have developed robust civil defenses against insidious disinformation campaigns emanating from neighboring Russia. We can even motivate public awareness and engagement through playful, competitive, and financial incentives to reward people for knowing basic civics and following factual, unbiased news and information sources. We should encourage participation in nonpolitical areas of life, such as sports, hobbies, recreation, civics projects, and family activities, to reinforce the common bonds between us.

Solutions arise on the supply side, as well. In a traditional public square, each speaker's identity is known and thereby can be held accountable for their speech. But on social media, phony accounts and troll farms can spread lies, disinformation, and distorted narratives without consequence. A solution may be found in modern technologies for digital identity tools, which can ensure that every social media account is held by a unique, real human being.

Congressman BILL FOSTER's Improving Digital Identity Act of 2021, of which I am a proud cosponsor, advances associated frameworks and standards and promotes the adoption of privacy-preserving digital identity technologies.

This is a complicated issue, but I think it is worth giving thought to.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 59 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

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

Almighty and powerful God, our creator and defender, we call upon You this day to speak into the whirlwind of the life-threatening storm surge and catastrophic winds that now bombard the Florida peninsula and have left behind unfathomable destruction in Cuba.

As Hurricane Ian rages, those who are caught in its ravages are filled with dread. Their personal calamity is its own whirlwind around them. In their distress and anguish, they—and we on their behalf—pray to You for their safety and refuge.

For You alone have the power with but a word to cause the tempest to still and the wind and waves to be hushed. Speak Your word. Shine Your light into the darkness of these days.

Listen to these fervent prayers. Deliver the thousands of evacuees from their plight. Lead them to find shelter in You from all that threatens them this day.

And for all the National Guardsmen, first responders, and those who will provide security and offer assistance for yet another natural disaster, we pray for their strength and fortitude. Use them to bring Your hope to those who cannot see their way through the destruction of their homes and their lives.

In Your sovereign and saving name, we pray.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

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

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. OWENS 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 PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following