

serve the entire workforce, no matter what color their collar is, how dirty their hands get when they work, or whether they work independently.

The end of Big Labor, in our hearing room, is over.

#### FULFILLING OUR COMMITMENT TO AMERICA

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this week, we will take historic steps to reverse the crises created by President Biden's administration and fulfill our Commitment to America.

For the past 2 years, the Biden administration has chosen to appease the radical left that continues to undermine American families. Now, it is time to turn the page. It is time to return to serving the American people.

Pennsylvania families need results. They do not need empty promises. That is why on day one we voted to stop IRS agents from going after small businesses who are simply trying to follow the law. That is why we will vote to keep American oil from being sold to the Chinese Communist Party. That is why we will vote to support our law enforcement and send the clearest message yet that Republicans will never allow the far left to defund the police. And we will vote to save the lives of unborn children by finally passing the Born Alive Survivors Protection Act.

These pieces of legislation are the beginning of enacting our Commitment to America. It is time to build an economy that is strong; it is time to fortify a Nation that is safe; and it is time to deliver a government that is accountable. That is our commitment to Pennsylvanian families. That is our Commitment to America.

#### HELPING THE RICH AND POWERFUL AVOID TAXES

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, after 4½ days and 15 votes to find a Speaker, we started with our business by passing rules. The Republican rules and first day's activities were to help the rich and the powerful avoid taxes.

The government, like any entity, just like any business, has to have revenue. When people don't pay their fair share, they are cheating. They are committing crimes. They are defrauding their fellow citizens because their fellow citizens either have to pay more money to make up the differences or they don't get services that they otherwise would be provided through the government.

By revoking all of those monies to the IRS to hire new employees, they are giving wealthy corporations and

wealthy individuals, like Donald Trump, who had only one auditor looking at his return, which was not looked at within the time period it was supposed to be looked at under the law, the policy of the government at the time, they are giving those people an open door to continue to make their IRS payments—really not payments but their first offers. That is what they do. It is not filing your return. It is filing your first offer.

So if they get away with that, which I don't think they will in the Senate, they are depriving the middle class who they said they are trying to support, services and fairness, and the middle class will have to pay more money because it is the wealthy and the higher corporations that get away with fraudulent returns.

Then they are talking about banning or protesting, through H. Con. Res. 3, violence against pro-life centers, anti-abortion centers. I hope everybody in the House is against violence against those facilities. But there is nothing in there about violence against Planned Parenthood or abortion provider facilities. Both are equally as anti-American and wrong as the other, but there is nothing about that.

So we are seeing a very slanted agenda, and there is no opportunity to amend that resolution. Even though they talked about an amendment process to give everybody an opportunity, it is really kind of transparency-ish but not transparency and not open. It is not openness; it is open-ish.

You have got to look closely at what is going on here. There are a lot of things that look good on the front but really aren't fair and right to the majority of the people. Much of what is projected here is to try to maintain the status quo in the name of freedom. It is the freedom of people not to comply with Federal Government laws and regulations. It is the freedom to basically live independent of the law and independent of the Federal government and attempts to starve the Federal Government of the revenue it needs.

The bill yesterday would increase the debt by over \$100 billion. That is not fiscal conservativeness. That is trying to starve the Federal Government.

#### HONORING WALTER RAYMOND BOWERS

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

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a 95-years-young Walter Raymond Bowers from Jacksonville, Florida.

Walter was born March 16, 1927, in Dayton, Ohio. He moved to Jacksonville, Florida, as an infant and was raised by his maternal grandmother, Sadie Perry.

When he was 17, Walter joined the United States Navy and served in the Pacific theater during World War II

where he earned the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, one star; the World War II Victory Medal; the American Campaign Ribbon; and the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, five stars.

After the war, Walter was assigned to the USS *Pine Island* and participated in Operation Highjump, which established the Antarctic research base known as Little America IV.

At the rank of boiler technician III 3rd class, Raymond Bowers was honorably discharged from the Navy on July 19, 1948. Just one week later, on July 26, 1948, he married Mary Dopson, the love of his life and mother of their three children: Walter, Jr., Margaret, and Paul.

Walter returned to Jacksonville and enlisted in the Naval Reserves where he served for 8 more years. He then began working for the city of Jacksonville road department where he spent 20 years of faithful service.

Walter and Mary both surrendered their lives to Christ in 1950, which led him to a new calling, one of a real ministry.

Walter joined A.B. Wainwright, and for 18 years they were planting and pastoring Pentecostal churches all across Jacksonville. Even after his professional retirement in 1968, Walter continued this ministry by planting a new church in Jacksonville's Dinsmore community. He started Wayside Assembly of God in 1973 where he served as senior pastor for more than 32 years.

His commitment to our Lord Jesus, his family, his community, and his country have contributed to this incredible legacy. May God continue to richly bless Walter for his amazing life of selfless service.

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#### HONORING THE LIFE OF FREDA FLANSBURG

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

Mr. HERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my mother, Freda Flansburg.

My mom was born on March 5, 1944, and peacefully passed away last week, last Monday, January 2, 2023, at 12:20 a.m.

She was truly a fighter. She lost a child, my older sister, Kimberly, just after birth. She fought the loneliness of being a mom of two boys while my dad was away on multiple deployments to Vietnam. When the weariness of war destroyed our family, she started a new journey in life that traversed many unplanned hardships.

Life was truly tough as we grew up. My siblings, Jeff, John, Jayme, and Kia, knew from an early age that our life was different from those around us. We had no running water, no indoor plumbing. Times were tough.

My mom worked to do the best she could to provide for us. She never backed down from the challenges that came before her.

She never cared much for us using our life lessons as excuses. Rather, she pushed us to use our experiences to become better and to keep moving on.

Like all moms, she was an encourager. As the oldest child, she looked to me to set the example for my brothers and sisters. She wasn't sympathetic when things weren't going my way.

The world is full of opportunities, she would say. The challenge was always: go to school, make good grades, work hard, treat people with respect, and see where life takes you. The government will never make you wealthy, she said. You will have to do that on your own, she would always tell me.

My mom became a nurse and spent long hours taking care of the elderly in nursing homes. Many of my visits with my mom over the years were in the skilled nursing facilities as she would take a break from the grueling work schedule that she had that demanded so much of her.

After the long years of losing a child, raising five children, being a grandmother of countless grandchildren, and the arduous work of being a nurse, my mom's body had withered away.

Her heart had tired, and her eyes could no longer see. The last 4 years have been especially hard for me to watch her health rapidly decline.

Last Monday, my mom took her last breath on this earthly world. We all know she is in Heaven looking down upon us with Kimberly by her side. Her heart is strong, and her eyes are new.

My mom would have never wanted me to stay home and not do my job last week. She was with me all week as the world watched our great Nation debate the future of our Republic.

I especially thank the nurses and doctors who cared for my mother in her last years, months, and days. Your kindness will never be forgotten.

I thank my congressional colleagues for their kind words, sincere thoughts, and prayers over the last week.

I was truly moved by the outpouring of love from both Republicans and Democrats over the past week. I thank Democratic Leader JEFFRIES, Caucus Chair AGUILAR, and so many of my Democratic colleagues for setting politics aside and offering quiet condolences.

To all of my Republican colleagues, I simply want to say thank you. From Leader SCALISE, who contacted me immediately upon hearing the news, to the members of our freshman class, thank you all.

Finally, I thank my loving wife, Tammy, and my children, Ashtyn, Kelby, and Kaden, for their warmth and love during these difficult times.

To my mom in Heaven above, I simply want to say, I love you, and I miss you.

#### RECOGNIZING THE PELLA MARCHING DUTCH

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 the Pella Marching Dutch of Pella High School, who recently participated in the Rose Bowl Parade.

Each year, only 21 bands across the world receive an invitation to play in the parade. The Pella Marching Dutch have joined the ranks as one of the greatest marching bands of our time.

This is not the first time the Pella Marching Dutch have received this high honor, having appeared in the parade in 1988 and 2002. I was fortunate enough to watch the Marching Dutch on Monday, and I was amazed by the talent that was demonstrated by the students at Pella High School.

I congratulate the Pella Marching Dutch again on representing Iowa in the Rose Parade, and I look forward to watching their future performances.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS).

GO DAWGS

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, how 'bout them Dawgs?

It is an honor this morning to rise and deliver my first speech on the floor of the people's House, and what a special occasion it is.

After last night's resounding victory, it is clear that the Georgia Bulldogs haven't gotten tired of winning.

I congratulate the University of Georgia, especially the players, who left it all on the field during practice and the games and earned another championship last night.

Because of their passion and talent, the number one State for business is now the number one State for college football for the second year in a row.

As the Representative for Georgia's 10th District, the proud home of the University of Georgia, I could not be prouder of the team or happier for our State because the Dawgs are on top of the SEC and all of college football once again.

Go Dawgs.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, it was difficult to yield—I had to pause a little bit, as a TCU Horned Frog—to my colleague, but in the spirit of camaraderie, I did so.

#### UNLEASHING AMERICAN ENERGY DOMINANCE

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Protecting America's Strategic Petroleum Reserve from China Act, which will work to unleash American energy dominance.

In an election-year gimmick, President Biden raided oil from our Strategic Petroleum Reserve, depleting it to its lowest level in decades and allowing it to be sold to a company affiliated with the Chinese Communist Party.

Selling off American oil to the Chinese Communist Party for its own strategic

use poses a direct threat to our national security. The petroleum reserve is our insurance card. It is to be used to protect our great country during national emergencies or weather events. Depleting it is dangerous, and restocking it at higher prices is foolish.

Let's restore some sanity here. Protect America and end the foolish practice of sending oil to our enemies that would hate us for free.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to pass this important legislation this week to stop this reckless, America-last practice from happening again.

CONGRATULATING THE ALLEGHANY HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Alleghany High School girls' cross-country team for winning their Class 2 State championship. This victory marks the first-ever Alleghany High School girls' team to win a State title.

By training hard, staying motivated, and keeping the pressure on, the Mountaineers left it all on the track, tallying a total of 65 points.

These talented athletes include Kiera Lowman, Gracie Barron, Macyn Cash, Meredith Minter, Lucy Nicely, Alivia Hoover, and Bryce Leitch.

Freshman Kiera Lowman blazed to the finish line with an impressive time of 18 minutes and 59 seconds, becoming the first-ever freshman to win the individual State title.

Two other top-10 finishes from Alleghany High School were Gracie Barron and Macyn Cash.

All of these young ladies are a true testament that with hard work and determination, you can achieve your dreams.

Congratulations again to the Mountaineers. Virginia's Sixth Congressional District is incredibly proud of your accomplishment.

#### SECURING OUR BORDER

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

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, we have, right now, a situation where the President is visiting the border.

In my line of work, as a young lieutenant, I flew along the border and knew that there was a problem in the early 1990s. As a matter of fact, in the mid-1990s, as a forward air controller, we had to stop operations at nighttime as vans bouncing around in the middle of our operations made us cease fire so we could chase illegal immigrants out of our firing ranges. Then, as an emergency medicine doctor, I treated patients who came here illegally.

Most people don't realize the consequence of our actions, of our poor border security, and what it has done. We understand the numbers. We understand the millions that are coming across the border, 4 million since we have had a new President, but not the downwind consequences when you provide laws that encourage bad behavior and punish good behavior.