

Madam Speaker, that lady still stands at the harbor telling us: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to be free." That message is heard across the country. My family heard that message.

Madam Speaker, I am sure that even across the country in California, your family heard this message, a tremendous message that is at the very center of America, at the heart of America.

Last spring, in an act of political theater, Republican Governors began transporting asylum seekers to New York City and other cities across the country. In response, New Yorkers have welcomed them because this is America. They reaffirmed our commitment to ensuring that the American Dream is available for all those who want to seek it and want to make their case before government.

We should allow people to come and make their case before our government, and then we will determine whether or not they can remain in our country.

Since last spring, my city has welcomed over 60,000 new New Yorkers who are seeking asylum in our country. I congratulate and thank Mayor Eric Adams for his remarkable leadership in taking on this great challenge.

Over the past year, New York City has opened up eight new humanitarian response and relief centers and 122 emergency shelters. These shelters are currently providing over 37,000 asylum seekers with beds while their cases are being processed.

However, New York City cannot do it alone. We must get the help of FEMA. This is why I and New York City's congressional delegation fought so hard to secure nearly \$40 million for much-needed Federal funding.

New York is a proud right-to-shelter city. It requires the city to provide asylum seekers with shelter, along with their families.

This week, I led a letter by the congressional delegation of our city to FEMA to oversee the immediate release of an additional \$360 million in shelter and services funds. We must get that aid.

Madam Speaker, I will address another issue, the weaponization of immigration. Every day, right on this floor, we hear some of our colleagues weaponize immigration for political purposes, particularly during election season. We hear them weaponize this issue to try to score some cheap political points.

They try to say that it is the moms who walked for thousands of miles with their children fleeing violence that are carrying fentanyl and other dangerous drugs when, in fact, all the evidence from law enforcement shows us that those drugs are being transported through the ports of entry.

Madam Speaker, let's invest in making our ports of entry stronger and safer so that these dangerous drugs, weapons, and human trafficking do not continue to occur.

□ 1030

This political theater of weaponizing immigration must stop. It divides the Nation, it makes us look foolish across the world, and it diminishes us as a beacon of hope and opportunity that has that lady still on the harbor.

Madam Speaker, I encourage New York and other places in need of funding for asylum seekers to apply for a variety of benefits made available to them through the Department of Education, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Department of Health and Human Services.

Madam Speaker, this is a nation of immigrants. Don't allow immigration to be weaponized. Let's make sure we address the issue in a comprehensive way.

Keep the faith.

LOWERING COSTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. NICKEL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NICKEL. Madam Speaker, it has been just over 100 days since I was sworn into office, and it is an amazing honor and privilege to represent the people of North Carolina's 13th District.

Over the last few months, I have had the pleasure of hearing from so many of my constituents through phone calls, emails, texts, townhall meetings, and meetings all over the district.

Right now, the reality is that North Carolinians need help keeping up with the rising costs of goods and services. Seniors and young parents alike deserve the opportunity to build their families and put down roots. However, with an unfair and overburdensome tax system, coupled with the increasing cost of living, making ends meet is tough.

To show this, I commissioned an economic impact report using a sample budget based on the median costs for basic necessities through the Economic Policy Institute and the United States Census. The report shows that working families are finding it hard to pay for things like rent, groceries, childcare, and healthcare.

Madam Speaker, when you take a closer look at the budget breakdown, it is a real wake-up call. A working family could spend about 19 percent of their income on childcare, 21 percent on housing, and 22 percent on healthcare.

I have collected testimonials and survey responses from hundreds of constituents who shared their personal experiences dealing with the rising cost of childcare and the rising cost of housing.

I heard from a former State employee and mother of three who shared that she spends 50 percent of her income on childcare. She noted that over the past several years, childcare prices have not decreased and that salaries are not

commensurate with inflation and the cost-of-living increases.

I also heard from a family whose youngest son, a recent college graduate with a job at the median salary in North Carolina, can't pay rent or purchase a small home in Raleigh or in the suburbs. They are worried because we want our young people to succeed, but it is hard to do so under the current circumstances.

Madam Speaker, it is clear, working families are struggling to keep up. Working families deserve to know that their leaders are willing to roll up their sleeves and find bipartisan solutions that will make a real difference in their lives and their budgets.

I am working to do just that. In Congress, I am working in a bipartisan way to level the playing field for working families by lowering out-of-pocket costs and creating a fair tax system that benefits everyone.

I am leading the charge against a proposal to implement a 30 percent national sales tax instead of a Federal income tax. That would be a disaster for working families.

I have cosponsored the COVER Now Act to lower healthcare costs, I have cosponsored the Food Deserts Act which will increase access to grocery stores and help address the cost of food. I have cosponsored the Child Care for Every Community Act to expand access to affordable childcare.

I have also just introduced today the ACRE Act to help lower mortgage costs for rural communities and enable North Carolina farmers to have greater access to credit through community banks.

Madam Speaker, as I stand here in this absolutely magnificent Chamber, I am constantly reminded just how fragile our democracy is—our government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

As the Representative for the people of North Carolina's 13th District, I will keep working hard in a bipartisan way to find solutions to get results for our families, our friends, and our neighbors.

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 10 o'clock and 34 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:

O Lord, our God, Your thoughts are not our thoughts, neither are Your ways our ways. But we pray that You would grant us insight into Your gracious plan and provide evidence of Your steadfast love for creation even as war continues to rage in Ukraine and senseless attacks are visited upon the Ukrainian people.

You look from Your heavens and permit humanity to continue on its course toward destruction. Lord, we pray that You would redeem our foolish ways and show us the path toward peace.

The heavens are indeed higher than the Earth and Your ways beyond our comprehension. Lord, we pray that You would magnify our understanding of Your presence in the midst of the mayhem that rages throughout the world.

Your thoughts are most certainly higher than our own. We acknowledge that we cannot fully know Your purpose as we hear of innocent people having to endure unspeakable strife in their own families, in their communities, in the sanctity of their homeland. Lord, we pray that You would enlighten our minds, temper our will, that our thoughts and ways would serve to carve the way toward reconciliation.

Hear our prayers as we offer them in the hope of Your saving name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. CORREA 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.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages in writing from the President of the United States were commu-

nicated to the House by Ms. Deirdre Kelly, one of his secretaries.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

MEMORIALIZING OKLAHOMAN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

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

Mrs. BICE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Police Week, which serves as a reminder to remember and memorialize law enforcement officers who gave their lives in the line of duty.

Tragically, this includes two Oklahomans, Sergeant C.J. Nelson and Sergeant Bobby Swartz. These officers have 32 years of combined service for their respective forces, and both leave behind loved ones.

I offer my deepest condolences and prayers to their families. We will always remember the sacrifice of these two heroes, and we cannot thank them enough for protecting and serving our communities.

From Isaiah 40:31, "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."

UNITED STATES NORTHERN BORDER FINALLY REOPENS

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, after 3 long years of COVID restrictions, on May 12, the United States' northern border finally reopens fully to our Canadian neighbors. This is a turning point in rebuilding the relationships and economies along the U.S.-Canadian border.

In 2019, prior to the pandemic, domestic and international travel spending reached \$3.1 billion in my western New York district alone.

As we emerge from a global health crisis and celebrate National Travel and Tourism Week, let's seek out opportunities to encourage and ease travel in the United States. This includes adequately funding Federal agencies to support travel, investing in infrastructure, and modernizing NEXUS and passports to improve the travel experience.

Together, we can highlight U.S. destinations ready to be explored and grow the economy.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that

the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 346. An act to establish a task force on improvements for notices to air missions, and for other purposes.

REMEMBERING SERGEANT FIRST CLASS BAILEY GILLESPIE

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

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Sergeant First Class Bailey Gillespie, who lived in Rutherford County in my district and passed away on April 11.

Sergeant Gillespie was a member of the 27th Infantry Regiment during the Korean war. In November 1950, he was captured. He spent the next 2½ years as a POW.

During this time, he was tortured, starved, and nearly died. He was the last POW survivor of the 27th Regiment. Throughout, he kept his faith in God.

Sergeant Gillespie survived and returned home victorious. For many veterans, talking about their experiences is painful, but Sergeant Gillespie spoke about it frequently. He helped other veterans heal. He also became one of Rutherford County's most active citizens, a leader in every sense of the word.

To his beloved wife of 70 years, Joy, I extend condolences and thanks from a grateful Nation.

HONORING ANAHEIM POLICE CHIEF JORGE CISNEROS

(Mr. CORREA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the career and service of retiring Anaheim Police Chief Jorge Cisneros.

Chief Cisneros is a 33-year law enforcement veteran and has served as police chief for the past 13 years for various southern California cities. He started his career way back in 1990 at the Long Beach Police Department, where he worked his way up through the ranks to become a commander.

At Long Beach, Chief Cisneros developed and administered a 15-week Spanish Community Academy for officers to enhance trust and partnership with the Latino community that then made up 40 percent of the residents of Long Beach.

In 2018, Chief Cisneros was selected as Anaheim's police chief, leading 600 employees in that department.

Chief Cisneros holds a master's degree in criminal justice from Chapman University in the city of Orange and has served as a member and current vice president of the Orange County Chiefs and Sheriffs Association.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call Jorge a good friend and mentor. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and