

There are also 2.6 million Americans still waiting on their 2023 tax refunds while facing hours-long wait times when calling the IRS.

Since the start of this year alone, my office has assisted with more than 500 passport requests, nearly triple the number we assisted with all of last year. These numbers are unacceptable. This backlog exacerbates American citizens' frustration with Federal institutions and undermines their trust in our government's ability to serve them effectively.

This is not the fault of our Federal workers. They are working tirelessly, including nights and weekends, to improve these delays, but they don't have the resources and bandwidth that they need.

Now, House Republicans have proposed funding cuts to the IRS and the State Department that would only worsen these delays and the backlog, inhibiting Americans from accessing these essential services. Congress must reject these cuts and, instead, support these agencies with increased staffing and reliable funding.

SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chair ROGER WILLIAMS and Ranking Member NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ of the Committee on Small Business for allowing me to sit in on their hearing yesterday focused on the challenges that face rural small businesses.

I thank Representative SHRI THANEDAR for allowing me to be the Republican lead on his bill, H.R. 4661, also known as the One Stop Shop for Small Business Licensing Act of 2023.

Small businesses are vital to Guam's economy and are the embodiment of the American Dream and entrepreneurial spirit.

Guam's economy thrives thanks to the hard work of committed, dedicated, and resourceful small business owners. It is not easy owning and running a small business, and these enterprises face issues that are not concerning to large corporations.

A common issue that I have heard about from small business owners from the Guam Chamber of Commerce and the witness panel in yesterday's hearing is the limited access to capital. This continues to be increasingly difficult with high interest rates and inflation continuing to be a burden on how business is conducted.

Consequently, small businesses are forced to invest less in their company and find it difficult to expand, offer more goods and services, and provide more jobs.

While Guam is not exempt from the macroeconomic issues that plague our economy, we have our own set of challenges that make doing business in Guam more difficult.

Every business across the Nation is currently feeling the effects of infla-

tion, labor shortages, and supply chain issues. In Guam, these challenges are magnified because of the island's geographic location. Shipping costs greatly increase the cost of goods, and Guam's labor shortage is worsened because of this isolation, requiring the use of H-2B visa workers.

As a small island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, nearly every business in my district qualifies as a rural small business.

The issues small businesses face are my issues, and I will continue to do everything in my power to support them and, by extension, the people of Guam.

CONGRATULATING THE GUAM ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate the Guam Association of Realtors, or GAR, for the launch of their assistance program for both homeowners and renters and for receiving a grant of \$500,000 to fund their program.

It was several months ago when my island community was struck by Typhoon Mawar, leaving it in devastation. Many were left stranded, homeless, and without the means to rebuild their lives. It is through programs like this that we can rebuild our community and provide a much-needed lifeline for our people.

GAR's legacy dates back several decades and is part of one of the largest and most influential trade industries in the Nation, the National Association of Realtors. Their primary objectives include promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct, providing a unified medium for real estate owners, and creating an atmosphere of unity.

I applaud the executive director, Peggy Llagas, the hardworking staff and management of GAR, and the board of directors for their contributions on Guam and for giving our community hope.

SUPPORTING OUR MILITARY

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

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, during the debt ceiling negotiations, some of my colleagues across the aisle baselessly claimed that Republicans were cutting funding for our Nation's veterans, which was entirely unfounded and untrue.

As Members of this House, Republicans have always supported those who served our country, and our MILCON-VA funding legislation this past week further proves this fact.

In this year's appropriations bill, not only did we not cut funding for veterans, but rather we fully fund their healthcare and benefits programs to ensure our veterans receive the timely care they have rightfully earned and deserve.

Additionally, the GOP is continuing to fight to improve the quality of life of Active Duty servicemembers by sup-

porting the construction of new family housing units and childcare centers. In my district, Fort Indiantown Gap is receiving a significant level of funding for necessary upgrades.

Our bill, Mr. Speaker, also keeps ideology and politics out of the care of veterans by, quite frankly, rightfully prohibiting from our military the use of funds to advance such things as critical race theory and disallowing the implementation, administration, and enforcement of President Biden's executive orders on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

These functions and plans probably have a place in society, where appropriate, but certainly not in our military because in the military, we continue to respect all Americans who are willing to serve.

Republicans as well, Mr. Speaker, just recently passed the strongest NDAA in history, which included the largest pay raise in 20 years for our soldiers, our sailors, our airmen, and our marines. Despite this, only a handful, Mr. Speaker, of our Democrat colleagues voted for it.

House Republicans have supported and will continue to support our military and those who risk their lives and make the sacrifices necessary to serve our great country, and I am appreciative.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to continue to support H.R. 4366.

NYC OVERWHELMED BY MIGRANTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. SANTOS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to bring attention to the state of chaos that the Biden administration's border policies have created in New York's Third District.

Today, at 1 p.m., there is a press conference taking place back home in front of the new mega-structure tent being built at Creedmoor Center across the street from an elementary school, P.S. 18, in Queens.

Mr. Speaker, when I visited the border just a couple of weeks ago, I toured a similar facility to the one being built in my district. It is safe to say what is going on at the southern border can be felt as far north as New York.

This problem is no longer out of sight, out of mind. Thanks to the Biden administration's policies, all districts are border districts.

I am calling on Mayor Eric Adams to stop this madness, declare a state of emergency for New York City, and stop taking in these migrants. The city is overwhelmed by a constant influx of migrants, alongside being plagued by rising crime.

As the only Republican representing Queens in Congress, I call on my counterparts on the other side of the aisle to join me in efforts to end this madness in our county and in our city. New Yorkers deserve a better quality of life

than the one imposed by its one-party rule government.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL BLUEBERRY MONTH

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize July as National Blueberry Month.

Georgia might be known as the Peach State, but our top fruit is actually blueberries, making it a critical part of our State's economy.

From May to July, this fruit is harvested, and a 2019 study found Georgia blueberries generate an annual economic impact of over \$520 million.

Being a farmer is difficult. Most of their success depends on things outside of their control, such as supply chain issues, worker shortages, and, most notably, weather issues.

In March 2021, Georgia's blueberry farmers lost more than \$140 million worth of crops to freezes, which, contrary to popular belief, we do get from time to time down in south Georgia.

Unfortunately, freezes are not covered losses and do not qualify for Federal assistance funds. That is why, in this year's farm bill, I am fighting for freezes to qualify for the same protections as other natural disasters such as floods or hurricanes.

This small legislative fix will give security to growers of Georgia's number one export. Let's make this National Blueberry Month the last one without this commonsense protection for blueberry farmers.

REMEMBERING HOWARD ALLAN POE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Howard Allan Poe.

Howard was born on January 6, 1961, in Sanford, North Carolina, to Allan Augustus Poe and Evelyn Grace H. Poe.

Mr. Poe was a resident of Brunswick for 22 years, where he was a member of Cowboy Church, as well as the owner of American Dock Builders and Coastal Marine Center.

He was the life of the party. He was loved by all who were blessed enough to know him. Fondly known as Captain HAP, Howard competed in the Southern Kingfish Association trail and SKA Pro Tour for over 25 years. He was proud to be the 1996 SKA National Angler of the Year.

However, Mr. Poe's proudest accomplishment was his children, who he watched grow and succeed, both personally and professionally.

Howard's legacy will live on in the positive impact he had on his community, and I extend my deepest sympathies to his family.

CELEBRATING MARION VIRGINIA DELOACH

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 90th birthday of Marion Virginia DeLoach, a lifelong educator from Chatham County and mother of Eddie DeLoach,

the former mayor of Savannah, Georgia.

Throughout her career in education, Marion served as a substitute teacher, middle school teacher, Sunday school teacher, curriculum specialist, principal, and president of her local parent-teacher association.

There is no doubt that over her decades of service to her community, Virginia has impacted thousands of students' lives, helping instill in them values of hard work, courage, and dedication.

In her free time, Virginia enjoyed softball, reading, and camping. As she celebrates nine decades of life this September, I wish her good health and bountiful enjoyment and pleasure from these hobbies over the next decade of life.

CELEBRATING MILITARY MARRIAGE DAY

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the upcoming Military Marriage Day, which is celebrated on August 14 of each year.

My district is particularly blessed to have such a large veteran and Active-Duty servicemember population, and Military Marriage Day provides an opportunity to honor the sacred bonds these servicemembers share with their spouses.

Strong military marriages are vitally important to the strength and well-being of our Armed Forces. When one spouse decides to serve their country, both spouses take on that responsibility. They can't do it alone, and we are so appreciative of all the sacrifices made by our servicemembers and their families to defend our freedoms.

I congratulate our district's new military marriages on their recent unions and vows, and I am continually inspired by the persistence, strength, commitment, and love of the many longstanding military marriages in our district.

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

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MOORE of Utah) at noon.

PRAYER

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

Gracious God, in this summer season, when many have opportunity to take time with friends and family to enjoy rest and relaxation, we pray that in the August recess that is before this body

that You would grant to our legislators respite to their bodies, counsel to their spirits, and renewal to their souls.

When year-round so much draws so necessarily yet heavily on their energy and attention, grant them opportunity in these coming weeks to allow their minds and their souls to pause from their grueling schedules. In the quiet of these moments, may they listen for Your voice, yield their wills to Your will, and realign their priorities to Your desired direction for their efforts.

Remind the rest of us, too, to take Sabbath from the onslaught of news and media. Silence our desire for the buzzing of the latest sound bite or the thrill of the hottest political contest. Give us pause from the critique and analysis and inspire in us the compassion and concern for those whom we have elected to carry the heavy mantle of responsibility of governing our Nation. May we dedicate this break in the congressional grind to pray for the health and welfare of our leadership.

May all who labor and who are heavy laden come to You in this season and always, that in You they would find rest for their bodies and peace in their souls.

To You be the glory as we offer ourselves and our prayers to You.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ROSS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. ROSS 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to the following resolution:

S. RES. 316

Whereas Lowell P. Weicker, Jr.—

(1) was born in Paris, France, in 1931; and
(2) graduated from Yale University, in New Haven, Connecticut, and the University of Virginia Law School;

Whereas Lowell P. Weicker, Jr. served in the United States Army from 1953 through 1955, achieving the rank of first lieutenant;

Whereas Lowell P. Weicker, Jr. was elected to the House of Representatives in 1968;

Whereas Lowell P. Weicker, Jr. was first elected to the Senate in 1970 and was re-elected in 1976 and 1982;

Whereas Lowell P. Weicker, Jr. served on the Senate Watergate Committee, where he