

record funding under the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. I thank the Secretary for coming to my district.

The funding will help support a 1.8-mile extension of the Q line. Some people seem to think that America cannot build a subway anymore. Yes, we can. Yes, we can when we put people over politics.

This new initiative on the East Side of Manhattan will connect the Q line from 96th Street to 125th Street to Harlem and will relieve an over-crowded Lexington Avenue line which is the most overcrowded line in the Nation, if not the world. It will transport over 200,000 riders on a daily basis in the most heavily used transit corridor in America.

Saturday marked the start of a vibrant economic future for families across East Harlem, and we worked with the Charles B. Rangel Infrastructure Workforce Initiative at City College that Congressman Rangel and I have been working on to ensure that we train those young people in our communities so they can have access to prevailing wage jobs.

This project is also called Uptown Grand Central. As you can see, Mr. Speaker, we will have a transportation hub that will connect Harlem to the rest of the world. You can see the lines here that will go from 125th Street to 96th Street.

Now, the first phase went uptown right through the Silk Stocking District, the richest ZIP Codes in the country. Maybe they weren't too open about the jobs, but we are laser focused on making sure that the second phase creates thousands of jobs.

The first phase created 16,000 jobs and generated \$142 million in wages and produced \$2.87 billion in economic activity during the construction. This second phase will lift that district, East Harlem, not only producing jobs but injecting oxygen to our economy.

Yes, we can when we put people over politics.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to be here to tell you that this project will connect Harlem to the rest of the world. It will connect the Second Avenue Subway to the Metro-North line and 14 counties outside of New York City.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here to say we have a bright future.

CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF CORPORAL LEONARD TURNER

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 celebrate the achievements of Corporal Leonard Turner who recently celebrated his 100th birthday.

Corporal Turner is a World War II veteran who was part of the revered Marine Raiders, an elite infantry group that took on the most dangerous tasks during the war.

As his 100th birthday approached, his children decided to honor him and celebrate his very special birthday by inviting an array of veterans, generals, colonels, and dignitaries from the State.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Corporal Turner on reaching this incredible milestone of 100 years. His journey through life, including his valiant service during World War II, is an inspiration to us all.

His dedication, courage, and sacrifices have left an indelible mark on history, and we will be forever grateful for his service to our country.

CONGRATULATING WILLIAM "BILL" EASTERLIN

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Queensborough National Bank president William Easterlin on receiving the James Collier Award from the Georgia Bar Foundation at their annual grants meeting in July.

The James Collier Award is reserved for individuals, lawyers or nonlawyers, who make exceptional efforts to advance the foundation's primary objective of providing legal assistance to Georgians in need.

Mr. Easterlin has shown extraordinary support for the foundation through his counsel as a banker and dedication to assisting disadvantaged Georgians.

From growing his family-owned bank's assets from \$106 million to \$2 billion and expanding to 27 locations, he is committed to providing exceptional financial services and giving back to the community he serves.

Mr. Speaker, Bill has done great work. I look forward to seeing what else he achieves.

REMEMBERING ARLIE MAXTON MCNEILL

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Arlie Maxton McNeill, a resident of Brunswick, Georgia, who passed away on August 16, 2023, surrounded by his family after battling cancer.

Arlie was born in Seagrove, North Carolina, in 1936. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1955 where he became a dental assistant and soon realized he wanted to be a mortician.

In 1961 he married his wife, Sheila McNeill, and the following year he graduated from John A. Gupton College mortuary school in Nashville, Tennessee.

Arlie returned to Brunswick and started working at Edo Miller and Sons Funeral Home where he served for over 50 years and became part owner with Johnny Wilson.

Arlie was a well-known auctioneer and a 50-year Mason at Lodge 214 F&AM. In 1977 he became an ordained deacon at Norwich Street Baptist Church. He also served on the Georgia State Board of Funeral Services from 1998 to 2004. He was the area manager for the Loewen Funeral Group for 5 years and was a devout Christian.

He will be remembered by all, including his family and the community that he served well.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. GEORGE SKARPALEZOS, SR.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. George Skarpalezos, Sr., an American hero and a father to three children.

Upon graduating from basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia, First Lieutenant George Skarpalezos led a platoon of the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne during the Vietnam war.

After serving in the military, George returned to his roots of Brunswick, Georgia, to raise three children.

Mr. Skarpalezos was also a musician. He performed at many local establishments on St. Simons Island. He also played in several bands, including the Ascots, the Gypsies, and The Fabulous Sixty Minute Men.

He also found enjoyment in real estate, leading him to open his own real estate company called Skarpalezos Realty.

While we are all sad that he is no longer with us, we will remember the life of Mr. Skarpalezos, his service to the United States, and the contributions to the State of Georgia.

UAW TENTATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH THE BIG THREE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as a grateful and proud daughter of the United Auto Workers, I am heartened to see General Motors, Ford, and Jeep Stellantis reach tentative agreements with the hardworking brothers and sisters of the UAW.

This historic strike is deeply personal to me. I know firsthand from my parents and constituents the difficult jobs they do day in and day out, sometimes 10 hours a day 6 days a week.

While too many manufacturing jobs have been shipped overseas to penny wage havens, I salute companies inside our borders, the largest consumer market in the world, for agreeing to pay fair wages with good benefits that our hardworking American autoworkers have earned.

Firms in other nations should follow suit. Our trade negotiators should focus on reciprocal contracts for market access to achieve fair trade globally to stop the exploitation of workers in the automotive industry in the Third World.

Let's recall after the United Auto Workers conceded major benefits during the 2008 Great Recession to literally save the Big Three from bankruptcy. These agreements represent a monumental step toward finally making these workers whole again.

They say that when unions fight, all workers win. Last week we saw Toyota raise wages for their workers knowing they must now compete.

RECORD profits should mean record contracts. Americans must honor people who work hard hour by hour building the economic prosperity of our great Nation.

From Toledo to Wayne to Wentzville to Belvedere, their vigilance, fortitude, and guts have made this new progress possible. I salute those in our unions who have fought so hard and have dedicated their lives to building our middle class from the middle out and the bottom up.

Onward.

BACK TO WORK

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss my priorities for protecting America's future. We need to reduce and reprioritize government spending, secure the border, and end the weaponization of the Federal Government.

The Biden administration's spending has created massive inflation and increased our national debt to \$33 trillion, and \$2.4 trillion of that debt has accrued over just the last 365 days. That is over \$76,000 every second.

The Biden administration's spending is out of touch with what Americans want, and it is crushing our economy. We are all feeling it, especially in middle America where new and costly regulations are forcing small businesses to close, gas is nearly \$4 a gallon, and people's paychecks are overtaxed.

House Republicans have offered commonsense solutions to these problems. We have passed the Limit, Save, Grow Act to stop wasteful taxpayer spending, reclaim unspent COVID relief money and promote pro-growth economic policies, and we must stand firm in our commitment to reducing and reprioritizing government spending.

While the Biden administration is burning through taxpayer dollars like there is no tomorrow, there is also a humanitarian crisis raging at our southern border, and it is getting worse every day. This is a national security emergency. As we speak, fentanyl is flooding American streets, victims of human trafficking rings are getting abused and killed, and our brave border patrol agents are overwhelmed.

The funding to secure the border had already been appropriated by Congress before President Biden even took office, and then he killed the completion of the border wall by executive order. In response, House Republicans passed H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act, which would force the Biden administration to resume construction of the border wall, increase the number of Border Patrol agents, protect unaccompanied children from human trafficking, and terminate catch-and-release policies.

We also passed the Schools Not Shelters Act and the HALT Fentanyl Act. We must keep pressing to secure the border and protect Americans.

In addition to wasting taxpayer dollars and ignoring the border crisis, the Biden administration is overseeing and directing an unprecedented

weaponization of the Federal Government. President Biden's Department of Justice refuses to apply justice equally, and House Republicans are constantly fighting back against overreaching government regulations that are hurting agricultural producers and small business owners.

Even the Supreme Court had to step in and declare the Biden administration's definition of Waters of the United States was unconstitutional.

When government grows, freedom shrinks. So we must stop the weaponization of the Federal Government to protect our freedoms. The appropriations process is a critical opportunity to address all of these concerns. We must restore fiscal sanity. Americans deserve to have their taxpayer dollars used wisely, and giving the President endless, no-limit credit cards is no way to govern in a democracy.

It is hard for me to imagine how anyone would love \$33 trillion of debt or love the open border or love losing to China or love \$200 billion of unaccounted for COVID relief dollars so much they would be willing to shut down the Federal Government to maintain them.

We have 10 days to pass the remaining appropriations bills in a fiscally responsible way. We owe it to the American people to work tirelessly toward that end and to get our country back on track.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BISHOP EMERITUS TOD BROWN

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of my good friend Bishop Emeritus Tod Brown, who recently passed away at the age of 86.

Bishop Brown led our diocese for 14 years in a community that is now 50 percent Roman Catholic. Under his leadership, the diocese more than doubled in its membership, and by the year 2012, there were more than 1.2 million Roman Catholics in Orange County, California.

In recognizing the diversity of our church, Bishop Brown ordained the Nation's first Vietnamese Roman Catholic bishop in 2003 and one of the first Hispanic bishops in the United States in the year 2000.

On a personal note, Bishop Brown administered first communion to my children in the good old days.

Bishop Brown will be remembered. God bless him. We thank my good friend for all the good work he did.

HONORING JERRY MUMFORD PATTERSON

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the extraordinary career of Jerry Patterson, a lawyer, educator, and former U.S. Congressman who dedicated his life to public service.

As a UCLA alumnus just like myself, Mr. Patterson served Santa Ana as a city councilmember and as Santa Ana mayor.

He fought to double the size of city-owned parks and created the first nationally recognized golden circle bikeway. After serving in Congress, Mr. Patterson came home and represented our community as an educator until 1999.

Jerry Patterson always put the needs of his communities first. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his service to our great Nation.

□ 1030

HONORING ORANGE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL'S MARINE CORPS JROTC

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Orange High School's Marine Corps Junior ROTC program.

The JROTC program at Orange High School began in 1995 under the leadership of Master Gunnery Sergeant James Fearn, but not without a fight. After having his request denied over and over again, Master Gunnery Sergeant Fearn flew to Washington, D.C., himself to demand a meeting with the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and he got it done.

Today, Orange High School has one of the largest Marine Corps ROTC units in the Western United States, and it teaches over 160 cadets the values of citizenship, service, discipline, and responsibility. I must say these cadets are the leaders of tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate them, and I wish the Marine Corps a happy birthday. They are 248 years old this year.

CALIFORNIA'S HIGH-SPEED RAIL IS BIGGEST BOONDOGGLE IN U.S.

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

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I will be voting for the transportation appropriations bill, and one of the reasons why is that it provides exactly the right amount of funding for California's high-speed rail, which is zero dollars.

Zero dollars are appropriated for high-speed rail in this bill, and it is well past time that we stop throwing good money after bad.

High-speed rail was an idea in the early 2000s in California that might have initially had some promise, but because of sheer political dysfunction, it has become perhaps the biggest boondoggle in United States history.

The price tag is now pegged at \$128 billion, and a decade and a half after it was approved, there is still absolutely nothing to show for it. When you look at the press releases that come out from the high-speed rail authority, it is almost beyond belief what now counts as success.

This press release is from just 5 days ago: "California High-Speed Rail Authority Moves Closer to Designing Tracks and Systems."

This is a decade and a half after the project was conceived. According to The New York Times, at the current