

CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAY SEASON

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

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as Christmas approaches, I rise again to share the history behind one of the most beloved carols, "Away in a Manger."

People still call this delightful song "Luther's Cradle Hymn" and believe that Martin Luther sang his own children to sleep with it in the 15th century.

None other than the song's composer, James Murray, promoted this charming fable. We really don't know who wrote the words, only that they appeared anonymously in a Lutheran publication titled, "Little Children's Book for School and Family" in 1885.

When the music first appeared in a children's hymnal 2 years later, it was titled, "Luther's Cradle Hymn." James Murray, the editor of the hymnal, wrote that the song was composed by Martin Luther for his children and still sung by German mothers to their little ones.

Murray, who was a student of Lowell Mason, composer of "Joy to the World," then added his own initials at the end of the song, thereby ensuring over a century of confusion.

The words of the hymn are as follows:

Away in a manger
No crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus
Laid down His sweet head
The stars in the sky
Look down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on the hay
The cattle are lowing
The poor baby wakes
The little Lord Jesus
No crying He makes
I love Thee, Lord Jesus
Look down from the sky
And stay by my side
'Til morning is nigh
Be near me, Lord Jesus
I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever
And love me I pray
Bless all the dear children
In Thy tender care
Take us to heaven
To live with Thee there.

Mr. Speaker, I hope we keep the history behind this beautiful song in mind as we celebrate the holiday season. On behalf of us in central Texas, I wish you a merry Christmas, happy Hanukkah, and a delightful Christmas season.

RECOGNIZING JORDAN DUNCAN

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

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, today I take a moment to recognize Jordan Duncan, an exceptional educator and firefighter in my district.

Jordan has been teaching in Washington State for a decade, and during this time, he has made a real impact on

the students with his innovative teaching techniques.

□ 1030

From taking his students to nearby forests to teaching them the ecological importance of timber to using his firefighter experience to teach them about wildfire safety, he has continuously made his students excited to learn about STEM through real-world applications and outdoor, hands-on experiences.

Jordan's unwavering dedication to his students and contributions to the field of education have not gone unnoticed. This year, he was awarded the FieldSTEM Teacher of the Year award by the Pacific Education Institute. This recognition is a testament to his efforts in educating the next generation.

Jordan's passion for promoting outdoor learning for students is admirable, and I hope he continues to inspire and brighten the future of our youth through hands-on education.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Jordan for his hard work, and I congratulate him on this well-deserved recognition.

PLASTIC TREES ANTITHETICAL TO ENVIRONMENTALISM

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to share that I was deeply disturbed to read some antifarmer propaganda in a national news publication.

Going out and buying a plastic Christmas tree that will take 5,000 years to degrade is antithetical to the real spirit of environmentalism.

My county, Lewis County, is the number one producer of Christmas trees in Washington State, and we grow Christmas trees for a living in the State, so this is a big deal.

This terrarium view of nature, where you can buy plastic to celebrate nature, is antithetical to the true spirit of American values and environmentalism.

I applaud all of our farmers who are fighting hard to keep this tradition alive.

RECOGNIZING IMPORTANCE OF CRANBERRY GROWERS

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the hard work and the importance of cranberry growers in southwest Washington.

Washington is the fifth largest producer of cranberries in the country, and cranberry growers have been cultivating the land for more than 100 years.

Pacific County's Long Beach Peninsula in my district is one of the three main cranberry regions in Washington, with about 1,300 acres of land dedicated to production.

This year, the price of cranberries is expected to increase to an estimated \$42 per barrel, according to Malcom and Ardell McPhail, two Ilwaco-based cranberry growers.

While there was an oversupply of cranberries in 2017, the dry summer this past year caused a water shortage

that has seriously affected bog irrigation. As the effects of climate change continue to reach across agricultural industries, I commend the resilience and dedication of cranberry growers in southwest Washington.

I remain committed to fighting for policies that sustain and strengthen the agricultural sector and will continue to focus on Federal policies that support small family growers like Malcolm and Ardell during times like this.

SUPPORTING UKRAINIAN REFUGEES ENRICHES COMMUNITIES

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a community effort in southwest Washington.

The ongoing war in Ukraine has resulted in countless Ukrainian citizens being forced to flee their homes, leaving behind everything they once knew. However, in the midst of all this chaos, turmoil, and pain, it fills me with hope to witness Washington extend a welcoming hand to many of these refugees, offering a safe haven and a chance to rebuild their lives.

One example of this is the School of Knowledge, a place where Ukrainian children can learn important subjects, like reading, math, music, and Bible studies, all in their native Ukrainian tongue.

For Ukraine refugees in my district, this Saturday school serves as a vital lifeline, allowing them to stay connected to their culture and heritage while forming new bonds with our community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering that as we support Ukrainian refugees in their journey to start anew, we also enrich our local communities' culture and self-sufficiency.

KNUCKLEBUSTERS PROVIDE HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE THROUGH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Skamania County Knucklebusters Association Skills Center in my district, a place that resonates with my own background as the owner of an auto repair and machine shop.

I visited the Skamania County Knucklebusters this past May, and I learned about the free auto repair program they offer to teenagers.

The diverse range of hands-on skills development classes they host include shop safety and tool usage and brakes and tires. These classes equip young students with essential life skills, like how to use a wrench.

Nobody sitting in these classes asks themselves when they will use this in real life, yet they deeply complement STEM and fields like geometry and physics.

In addition to their educational efforts, they also provide services to the community at a reasonable cost, making it accessible to all and providing teenagers with access to hard skills and self-sufficiency.

What is even more commendable is that the Knucklebusters are an all-volunteer organization, which means they are motivated by the simple desire to

pass on their knowledge to the next generation. They are discerning about their volunteers, ensuring that they are all quality mechanics committed to producing quality, safe work.

I am so grateful for folks like the Knucklebusters for embodying education principles beyond just theoretical learning and instead involving practical, hands-on experiences through community engagement.

REFLECTING ON DECEMBER 8, 1941

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and reflect on one of the darkest days in Guam's history.

Mr. Speaker, 82 years ago, on December 8, 1941, the Imperial Japanese military launched a surprise attack on Guam just hours after the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. This day in our history is a dark one, and we will always remember how life changed for all Americans 82 years ago.

Today, let us also remember and thank the Greatest Generation, our "manamko," "seniors," for their sacrifice and contributions they made for our island. I always enjoy listening to the countless stories they share. Their stories are ones of bravery, patriotism, and resilience. When faced with danger and threats, they never backed down and are a great inspiration for our island and community.

While many in Guam associate this day with despair, this day is also a day of celebration and faith in our community. To the large Catholic community in Guam, December 8 is a very important day. It is the feast of Guam's patron saint, Santa Marian Kamalen. On this day in 1941, it began as any normal Sunday, with people going to church. However, life changed with bombs dropping and planes flying overhead. It drowned out the otherwise quiet island.

Despite the surprise attack on Guam, Santa Marian Kamalen survived and is a representation of the people of Guam. No matter what happens, our people are strong, and there is no event that can break our communities.

This is true for every major setback Guam faces. Most recently, in May of this year, the strongest typhoon to strike Guam in 20 years breached our shores. When homes and businesses were destroyed and when people felt down and despaired, it was the community, our friends, and family who helped us get back on our feet. This is the "hafa adai" spirit that lives in everyone who calls Guam home and is a value that keeps our island moving and on our feet.

While these moments in Guam's history are merely a single thread in the fabric of our people and island, they make our island what we know it as today. These stories live on, and it is important to reflect on them always.

I could not be prouder to represent and advocate for such a diverse and

strong district. Because of our people, Guam is strong.

While we reflect on the history and sacrifices made 82 years ago, let us fill our hearts with gratitude, reverence, peace, and faith.

Mr. Speaker, God bless Guam, God bless our "manamko," "seniors," and God bless America.

TIME TO CUT SPENDING

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, our national debt eclipsed \$33.8 trillion. This means that we have now crossed a dangerous new threshold of over \$100,000 of debt for every man, woman, and child in the United States.

This rampant and wasteful spending has only been made worse by President Biden's reckless budgets that have led to soaring inflation and more pain for Pennsylvanians.

From canceling student loans to handing out cash reimbursements for electric vehicles, Joe Biden has shown that he is more worried about appeasing his far-left base than our financial well-being.

In the past year, the average family was forced to pay an additional \$11,000 to cover the cost of just everyday goods.

It is time to cut spending and stop borrowing from China to pay for reckless liberal policies.

The trillions of dollars that we pay in interest on this debt does nothing to keep our Nation safe. It does nothing to fund Medicare. It does nothing to secure our open southern border.

It is time to pass a Federal budget that addresses our debt and puts an end to the mismanagement of our finances brought on by President Biden's Green New Deal initiatives.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION IMPOSES BURDENSONE REGULATIONS

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, far too often, we have seen the Biden administration impose onto American energy producers burdensome regulations that only serve to drive up costs and limit production.

Instead of turning to power sources like natural gas, oil, or propane, President Biden has focused his attention on using taxpayer dollars to subsidize inadequate and unreliable projects like windmills and solar farms.

In places without gas pipelines, which have been difficult to build due to the President's own actions, power alternatives like propane can be a vital tool in order to keep refrigerators cold and our homes warm.

We have heard from experts who have testified to the dangers of potential rolling blackouts this winter as our grid struggles to meet demand without the aid of coal-fired plants that have been a cornerstone of our energy production literally for decades. As we

look to confront these potential blackouts, it is critical that we utilize energy resources that are so abundant in Pennsylvania.

We cannot afford to waste any more time investing in Green New Deal initiatives. It is time to return to our baseload power and ensure that our families are protected from energy blackouts.

EPA DATA DOESN'T SHOW INCREASING TEMPERATURES

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, importantly, where we get our data from is extremely useful and key to making wise decisions around here.

Since about half the focus of the speeches at this place and at every committee and at every agency of the Federal Government seems to be on what they call climate change, it is good to know where we are getting our data. It tends to follow what percent of the atmosphere is CO₂ and what the temperatures are.

Well, here is an interesting little piece from the EPA on their data and on the climate stations they have. They have all sorts of weather monitoring devices across the country, a little over 1,060, I believe it is. In some cases, the way they are set and where they are placed is a whole conversation unto itself.

The old rules require that they be placed in areas that are not skewing the temperature one way or another, but sometimes, you will find them on rooftops next to air-conditioning units, parking lots, areas that are going to be more prone toward heat sinks and to keeping temperatures higher.

Nonetheless, a recent set of data that EPA themselves has allowed to get out is that, since 1948, only 19 percent of those weather stations have shown a mild increase in temperature. That means 81 percent did not show an increase in temperature as per their own data.

□ 1045

Over 800 of those stations, I think 863, reported either a decrease or no change in the number of hot days.

Interesting, isn't it? You would think that we are melting down. We hear all this talking—even the committee I was just in—oh, sea level rise. Well, you look at pictures, and the sea level hasn't risen; certainly not to the extent that we are being threatened in the way they are not asking us but forcing us to change our lives.

It is one thing if you want to buy an electric vehicle because that might work for you in your commute. Hey, great. When you see my own State of California forcing these mandates by 2035, or whatever round year number they make up, as to when we have to get to what they call net zero on CO₂,