

available to address the debt ceiling. So here we are. We are willing to have a discussion about how to get control over spending. There are really good ideas. In fact, many of these ideas will strengthen Social Security for our seniors.

I talked a little bit earlier about getting people that are being paid not to work back into the workforce. That will strengthen Social Security. How about we restore some of the work requirements that used to be there?

This goes back to Bill Clinton, a Democrat, who signed those work requirements. It helped get more people into the workforce. It helped give them a chance to achieve the American Dream, but it also strengthened Social Security. When the government is paying people not to work, they are not paying into Social Security. That undermines the program. We should be wanting to strengthen it.

By the way, there is also a long list, and we are going to be getting these lists out. I hope Democrats will go down this menu, and say, okay, we agree paying people tens, if not hundreds, of billions of dollars to get tax credits who don't even have Social Security numbers, who don't even live in America. If a tax credit is there, it is there for people who pay taxes, not for people who manipulate the system because, for whatever reason, this administration won't even verify a Social Security number. Just doing that verification would save tens, if not hundreds, of billions of dollars—we are talking about real money.

Those things could all help. These aren't cuts to things, these are savings for fraud; real fraud, waste, and abuse that equals hundreds of billions of dollars. We have been outlining these things. I haven't found any takers yet, but I am not going to give up. I think eventually we will get a lot of takers on the other side who will recognize this is something we all need to come together and do because there is no reason that the families who are working hard should be paying for somebody else to cheat the system. There are many, many examples.

We will continue to highlight them. We will actually bring bills to address those exact problems. All of that should be a part of this discussion so we don't keep maxing out the Nation's credit card.

Again, nobody just says, here, if their kid maxed out the card, they are not just going to give them a new card and say, go max out the next one. They are going to sit down and have an adult conversation about how you don't put the country in this situation again.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, let's go over the basic facts here just briefly once again. What the House GOP did fight for in 2017 was a \$2 trillion in tax giveaways for our largest corporations and for the wealthy because that is who they work for; the rich, the very rich, and the super rich.

Under the Trump administration, we had record job loss of 3 million jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I would say on that, you can go look at the tax cuts. After those taxes were cut, the Federal Government took in more money than it has ever done in the history of the country because more people were working, and lower- and middle-income people were making higher wages, lifting those at the bottom into the middle class, which was evaporating under the Obama years.

The data is very clear on that. Those tax cuts actually brought more money into the Federal Treasury. If anybody wants to dispute it, I challenge them to go to President Biden's Treasury website and find the numbers because they are there.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, the numbers are there, \$8 trillion in deficit under the Trump administration; a direct correlation to a tax policy that only benefits the very wealthy.

I thank the gentleman for joining me today and look forward to many more conversations to come. In the meantime, our caucus is thrilled to welcome the President back to this Chamber on Tuesday for his State of the Union Address.

We hope the majority will draw some inspiration and work with us in service of the people who sent us here. Let's put people over politics; put them back on the table here in Congress.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. I enjoyed our first of many of these colloquies. As we look toward hearing from the President, which we welcome together into this Chamber, I look forward to working with the President to address these problems our country is facing so we can get the country back on track and focus on the challenges ahead. There will be many more conversations we will have.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT FROM THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2023, TO MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2023

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on next Monday, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MORAN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FRED LAMASTER

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

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply honored to be here today to recognize the life and the legacy of a great man of God named Fred Lamaster.

He died January 29 at the age of 92, a life well lived. He was born in Chicago. He graduated high school and went into the Marine Corps as a sergeant, and continued his education at the University of Illinois and Rockhurst University.

For 30 years, Fred worked for Pepsi in Kansas City and retired as a vice president and general manager. Fred wrote gospel tracks and distributed thousands of these, spreading the good news of Jesus Christ in his later years.

He also helped his son, and my good friend, Scott Lamaster, with his charity, taking it to the streets, feeding the homeless, and supporting first responders.

Fred leaves behind a wonderful legacy, a love for God, a love for his family, a love for this Nation, and a love for humanity.

Well done, sir. A good and faithful servant. We salute you.

MAKE CALIFORNIA MORE DROUGHT RESILIENT

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

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, for roughly two decades, Western States have endured extreme drought conditions. This hurts our economy, endangers life, and increases costs for Californians.

To avoid importing costly water from distant watersheds, we have to continue to make bold investments to make California more drought resilient.

Last year, I brought Secretary Deb Haaland to Orange County to announce a \$12.2 million grant for the Irvine Ranch Water District's Syphon Reservoir Project. This will expand recycled water storage capacity by 1.6 billion gallons.

The recent storms proved just how effective these reservoirs are. Irvine Lake has collected over a billion gallons of water so far in January; enough water to serve 11,000 households for a year.

I applaud these investments that make full use of water supplies, and I will continue pushing to increase our resiliency and lower costs for families.

HONORING GEORGE AND NORMA CARPENTER OF ALLEN, MICHIGAN

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the love, dedication, and faithfulness of George and Norma Carpenter of Allen, Michigan.

In 1943, in the midst of a war George bravely served in, George and Norma were married. Soon they will be celebrating their 80th anniversary.

Throughout the years, George and Norma have continued to set an example for our community, not only

through their dedication to each other, but also to their faith as devoted members of the Countryside Bible Church.

George and Norma are currently 98 and 97 years old, respectively, and are still strong in their health as well as their love for each other.

With over 100 descendants, the Carpenters have left a tremendous mark on the community and beyond. I would like to recognize this remarkable couple and congratulate them as they celebrate their extraordinary milestone.

□ 1330

SHOW ME THE CRIME

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

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose the removal of Congresswoman OMAR from the Foreign Affairs Committee.

I begin by asking: What is the crime?

You see, Mr. Speaker, this is a question that many in this country have been asking over the last week: What is the crime?

Now, many were referring to Tyre Nichols, but I am asking this question as it relates to Congresswoman OMAR.

Was her so-called crime allegedly committing fraud in Brazil?

Was her so-called crime allegedly breaking campaign finance laws during her election to Congress?

Was her so-called crime stealing from a roommate?

Was her so-called crime defrauding and outright lying to her constituents?

No, it was none of the above. These are crimes that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have no qualms in countenancing when it is politically expedient.

I ask again: What is the crime?

There are those who have been accused of and/or under investigation for participating in attacking our very democracy here on January 6, and they have been seated on committees.

Here we are with our first African-born Member of Congress, who has not been accused of the above crimes or any crime, and we are wasting taxpayer dollars debating her removal from her duly appointed position on the Foreign Affairs Committee.

I ask again, Mr. Speaker: What is her crime?

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose the removal of Congresswoman OMAR from the Foreign Affairs Committee and I begin by asking what is the crime?

You see this is a question that many in this country have been asking over the last week. What is the crime? Now many were referring to Tyre Nichols, but I am asking this question as it relates to Congresswoman ILHAN OMAR.

Was her so-called crime allegedly committing fraud in Brazil?

Was her so-called crime allegedly breaking campaign finance laws during her election to Congress?

Was her so-called crime stealing from a roommate?

Was her so-called crime defrauding and outright lying to her constituents?

NO. None of the above.

But these are crimes that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have no qualm in countenancing when it is politically expedient.

So again I ask, what is the crime?

There are those that have been accused of and or under investigation for participating in attacking our very democracy here on January 6th and they have been seated on committees.

So here we are with our first African-born Member of Congress who has not been accused of the above-crimes or any other crimes and we are wasting taxpayer dollars debating her removal from her duly appointed position on Foreign Affairs.

So I ask again—what is the crime?

I certainly hope my colleagues across the aisle will do more than claim the moral high road and actually take the moral high road and acknowledge the hypocrisy and do what is right. The country is tired of the consistent double standards.

Finally, while I am still unclear of what the alleged crime is, I sure hope Rep. OMAR's so-called "crime" isn't the same as Tyre's.

RECOGNIZING ISABEL BLOOM SHOP

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th anniversary of the Isabel Bloom shop in Davenport, Iowa, and what would be the 115th birthday of sculptor Isabel Bloom.

The original Isabel Bloom was a Davenport native who attended the Art Institute of Chicago and the Vogue School of Fashion. She and her husband married in 1938 before settling in Davenport with their three children in the early 1940s.

In 1963, Isabel and her husband opened a small studio in Davenport's East Village. Bloom received multiple awards for her ceramics but perfected garden art to sell in her store. Because it was sturdy and weather resistant, her preferred base was concrete.

Though ownership has since changed, and the Isabel Bloom shop has continued to grow, the current owners, Donna Young, Cathy Nevins, and Bill Barrett, have stayed true to Bloom's original vision: to create art that brings comfort and joy to their community. As an owner of a few Isabel Bloom pieces myself, I can say their vision rings true.

Congratulations to the Isabel Bloom shop. I wish them many more years of creativity, friendship, and success.

REPUBLICANS REFUSE TO ADDRESS VIOLENT RHETORIC

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H. Res. 76, re-

moving Congresswoman ILHAN OMAR from the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Instead of focusing on real issues impacting American families, Republican leadership is attempting to exact political revenge.

The effort to remove Representative OMAR is inconsistent with previous actions taken by the House to remove Members from committees. In the past, this has only been used for Members who incited violence against other Members, and those removals received bipartisan support.

This bill is partisan, hypocritical legislation that ignores Republicans' constant refusal to address the violent rhetoric, election denialism, and extreme ideology among their own Conference.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to oppose this bill.

CHALLENGES FACING RURAL SMALL BUSINESSES

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

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, the House resoundingly passed my bipartisan bill, the Expanding Access to Capital for Rural Job Creators Act.

Rural small businesses face unique challenges that big city businesses do not. Nearly 20 percent of the U.S. population lives in rural areas, yet businesses in rural areas raised under 2 percent of total capital over the last 3 years.

My home State of West Virginia is a very rural State where no city has a population greater than 50,000 people. My legislation simply requires the United States Securities and Exchange Commission's Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation to identify and report to Congress those challenges rural small businesses face when trying to access our capital markets.

My bill will make it easier for Congress to do our jobs to make sure rural small businesses, like those in West Virginia, are not left behind.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the Senate takes this bill up very soon.

HONORING FRANCIS "BILLY" RAYMOND

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

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Billy Raymond, a letter carrier in my hometown.

In October, Francis Raymond, better known as Billy, will celebrate 30 years of carrying mail along the same postal route.

Billy is well known to residents on his longtime Delaware County route and vice versa. Billy knows the names of the kids and dogs on his route, and he greets them on his rounds.