

I am extremely proud of our women's basketball team on their stellar performance and their record-breaking season. Job well done.

Congratulations to the University of Iowa women's basketball team on winning the Big Ten Tournament.

Go Hawks.

□ 1215

ECONOMIC STATISTICS MISSING FROM STATE OF THE UNION

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, last week, President Biden delivered hopefully his final State of the Union Address that included heavily selective statistics that painted a one-sided account of the state of our economy. I rise to add some important context that gives a better snapshot of the economic conditions facing working families I represent in Tennessee.

For starters, American families now spend an average of \$1,000 more per month than 3 years ago just to get by. This means they are paying 20 percent more for necessities like food and rent and nearly 30 percent more to power and heat their homes. It is a staggering \$11,400 more every year just on the basics, just to get by.

The average monthly payment on a new home was \$1,746 before this President. Now, the average mortgage on a new home is \$3,322 every month. That is almost double. These rising mortgage payments are a direct result of higher interest rates, which are due to the reckless and runaway spending of this administration.

I believe it wouldn't have been this way if President Biden had heeded the advice of economists from both parties and fiscal conservatives like myself. Had he not advocated for the disastrous spending bills, which passed on a mostly partisan basis, the economy would not have overheated to the extent that it has.

The \$1.9 trillion stimulus package that the President proposed and passed early in his administration directly links to the soaring inflation that immediately followed, and it was to be expected. In fact, former Democratic Treasury Secretary Larry Summers predicted exactly this outcome.

Making matters worse, this administration has hardly mentioned the ballooning national debt, which now approaches \$34.5 trillion. In the first quarter of this fiscal year, the Federal Government spent half a trillion more than it collected. This is simply unsustainable.

In his address last week, we also heard the President tout small business growth and low employment. The speech, however, did not include the barriers employers around the country endure because of his administration's policies. To date, the Biden administration has finalized 838 new regula-

tions, which come with a projected negative economic impact of \$470 billion annually and 291 million hours of additional paperwork for American workers.

I will close with another statistic. A recent national poll shows that only 38 percent of voters approve of this administration's handling of the economy. More than half of those polled believe President Biden's policies will continue to increase prices. I agree.

That is just one of the reasons I am committed to supporting policies that foster economic growth, unburden our job creators, and end the reckless and unnecessary deficit spending.

Our children, my children, cannot afford the reckless spending policies of this administration, and I will do everything in my power to ensure that they do not have to foot the bill for this administration's mistakes and misguided policies.

REMEMBERING MARION CAMARDO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and remember the extraordinary life of Marion Camardo.

Marion was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother who passed away on November 1, 2023. Throughout her long and admirable life, she made a significant contribution to her family and community in historic Auburn, New York.

I am so grateful that I had the honor and privilege to meet Marion. Her kindness and love shone through her gleaming and welcoming smile.

I also welcome here in the Chamber today her son John and grandson Anthony as they sit and actually get to witness a beautiful memory of their great mother and grandmother.

Marion was born in East Rochester, New York, to Ralph and Argerinda Reginelli on August 28, 1929, and moved to Auburn as a child. After graduating from Auburn Central High School, she worked at several clothing stores and went on to manage Stevens Department Store.

Marion married Joseph Camardo in 1955 and eventually grew their family to include their children, Joseph Jr., MaryAnn, Donna, John, and Lisa. Leaning on her good business sense, she earned a small fortune and was able to send all of her children to college.

I can say from experience that Marion raised her children to be kind, tenacious, and community-oriented, as her son, John, who is here today, has become a good friend and is a leader in our community.

Marion was also a respected community leader herself, being part of the Italian Heritage Society and a patron of the Auburn Civic Band. She continued her civic duty as an elections inspector for the board of elections and participated in elections, serving on

the Cayuga County Republican Committee. She was known for her flair for design, which she took to create a beautiful home for her family to host parties throughout the decades in the community.

Marion led her community based on her faith, having served as a parishioner of St. Francis of Assisi Church and serving as a Eucharist minister and on the school and parish committees. Marion always served with distinguished humility and graciousness, having put faith and family ahead of herself.

For fun, Marion enjoyed the classic movies and music such as Frank Sinatra, Jr., and Cristina Fontanelli, both of whom she was instrumental in bringing to Auburn through her work at the Italian Heritage Society. Her joy in life was helping others and her family all while keeping herself humble and committed to embodying her faith outwardly.

As she was a woman of strong faith and devotion, it is heartwarming and maybe not coincidental that she passed away on All Saints Day, but not without waiting to be with her family one last time during her final moments. She parted her family with one last piece of advice, which is to never give up hope no matter how difficult life may be.

Today, we honor and remember Marion and her wonderful family. She is an inspiration for all to strive to maintain the values of compassion and commitment to our communities.

My sincere thanks to Marion for her wise advice. May God bless Marion, her family, and her community. We are grateful that she lived and this wonderful soul was part of our community.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds Members not to refer to persons in the gallery.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 22 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. D'ESPOSITO) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Praise be to You, O God our creator. In all that has been revealed to us, in all that we have received by Your grace, we greatly rejoice.

Though we face a multitude of challenges in our work, in our Nation, and

in our own families, yet we rejoice. In the face of trials, troubles that threaten our well-being, our security, our certainty, yet we give thanks.

As gold is proven pure when refined by fire, may our faith, which is so much more valuable than gold, also be proven genuine.

Though we have not seen You, may we demonstrate our love for You, even as we love our neighbor. Though we cannot see You, may we live out our belief in You, even as we approach the labor of this day.

With an unspeakable and wondrous joy for the steadfast, loving care You offer us, we offer ourselves to You.

To You be glory and honor now and forever.

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. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX 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.

MARKING 1-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF JULIE SU'S TENURE

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 1-year anniversary of Julie Su's tenure as Acting Secretary of Labor.

Why 1 year as Acting Secretary? Su doesn't have the support or votes to be confirmed.

As California's Secretary of Labor, Ms. Su allowed fraudsters to steal \$32 billion in unemployment insurance, and she supported AB5, a State law she now wants to make Federal law that denies workers the freedom to choose their work.

Now, she is pursuing a radical agenda at the Department of Labor, writing 75 new regulations that will hurt workers and job creators.

Acting Secretary Su continues to thumb her nose at Congress and the American public. Under Ms. Su's leadership, the DOL has stonewalled congressional oversight. In fact, in December, she failed to comply with a duly served congressional subpoena.

The American people deserve better leadership at DOL. The President should withdraw Ms. Su's nomination.

MAUI MINUTE: DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE FOR MAUI

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

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, the fires last August devastated our Maui "family," "ohana" in many ways. Adding to the unbearable weight of losing loved ones and homes, the tremendous economic loss from businesses destroyed and the steep drop in tourism compounded the suffering for thousands of families.

In the months after the fires, there were over 10,000 new claims for unemployment. Not everyone impacted qualified for regular unemployment insurance. Thankfully, under President Biden's major disaster declaration, disaster unemployment assistance, or DUA, filled the gap, providing \$7.8 million to thousands of Maui residents.

DUA benefits for Maui expired on February 10, but our people are still hurting. As of January, the unemployment rate for the island of Maui stood at 6.2 percent, an increase compared to 5.8 percent in December and well above our State average of 3.1 percent.

Last week, I led the Hawaii congressional delegation in introducing legislation to extend disaster unemployment benefits from 26 weeks to 39 weeks for Maui residents impacted by the fires. My bill applies those benefits retroactively to qualified individuals.

Our people are focused on recovery, but we need the House to pass this bill now, continue this critical relief, and help our people get back on their feet again.

UTILIZING FEDERAL OFFICE SPACE EFFICIENTLY

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Utilizing Space Efficiently and Improving Technologies Act, or the USE IT Act.

This legislation, which was introduced by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY), directs the Office of Management and Budget, OMB, and the General Service Administrations, GSA, to establish standard methodologies to measure occupancy in public buildings and federally leased space.

It also requires GSA and OMB to take steps to reduce or consolidate space if utilization falls below 60 percent. Currently, Federal office space utilization averages an unbelievably low 25 percent or less for most major agencies.

This bill, which I am proud to support, would ensure our Federal workers are utilizing the workspace taxpayers are paying for.

Mr. Speaker, it has been 4 years since the pandemic. It is past time Federal

workers return to the office where they are most efficient to ensure they remain accountable to the taxpayers.

FULL FUNDING FOR WIC

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

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight that last week, Congress came together to deliver full funding for WIC nutrition assistance.

Without this action, access to this critical program would have been put at risk for thousands of mothers, children, and families, including 1 million Californians.

As someone who knows the difference that Federal nutrition programs make in our communities, I was proud to see us reach a bipartisan solution to deliver funding needed to avoid a benefits cliff later this year.

WIC helps put food on the tables in central coast communities. It helps our children grow strong and do better in school. It helps expecting mothers by protecting their future children's development.

Every dollar we invest in WIC saves more than \$2 in other expenses. That is a win-win.

I advocated for full funding of WIC, and I am proud to see this common-sense win for families signed into law.

FAMILY FARMS ARE IN CRISIS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, during President Biden's politically charged, factually inaccurate, and often confusing State of the Union speech, we heard a lot of excuses about the problems American families are facing.

One line from the President's speech stood out to me: Because of my investments, family farms are better able to stay in the family.

Well, this rosy picture painted by our President doesn't tell the whole story, and his own Department of Agriculture's data proves it.

Under President Biden, rural America and our family farms are in crisis. We are in the middle of the largest agricultural trade deficit on record. Farm input costs from fuel to fertilizer have skyrocketed. Interest rates are sky high. Grocery prices are up 21 percent since Biden took office.

The state of the Union is expensive. Rural America is struggling. Our family farms are in dire straits.

As the New York Post recently said: "Shrinkflation and many other problems are the bitter harvest of Bidenomics."

Thankfully, we have the opportunity to course correct, to revitalize rural America, and truly get our family farms back on track. We will do this