

The report cites a recent study of bottlenose dolphins that had become stranded and died in San Diego waters. The dolphins died from sepsis caused by water contaminated by feces. This is the same water our troops train in and our kids swim and surf in.

Avoiding the water alone will not make you safe. Air quality monitors that were recently installed in the region have confirmed what residents have known for years, that the air itself is also polluted. Sewage that washes up on land dries, sending dangerous levels of hydrogen sulfide into the air around people's homes.

The solution is simple. The United States owns and operates a wastewater treatment plant on our side of the border that has not been maintained. It is in desperate need of repair and expansion to handle the flows. President Biden included \$310 million in his supplemental funding request that would make those repairs and upgrades possible. This is a small price to pay for the health of our community, our brave servicemembers, and our environment.

Many of the communities hit hardest by this pollution are low-income communities of color. I can't help but think if this was happening somewhere that wasn't 3,000 miles from here, like the Chesapeake Bay or even the Great Lakes, it would have been taken care of long ago.

We know that Mexico must also do its part. Much of their infrastructure has also fallen into disrepair. The good news is that Mexico is bound by a treaty we signed in San Diego in 2022 to spend nearly \$150 million to fix their treatment plant.

Mexico, to its credit, has made great strides in the last year. They have repaired and replaced key infrastructure, like sewage pipes that redirect the contaminated water, and they have broken ground on a new wastewater treatment plant.

Madam Speaker, this is a public health, business, and national security disaster. The more we delay in addressing cross-border pollution, the more costly and difficult it will be to fix. I urge my colleagues to support this funding and ask that congressional leadership and appropriators include this funding in any upcoming spending package.

HONORING TEXAS RANGER ROBERT "BRANDON" BESS

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

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of a longtime Texas lawman, constituent, and good friend, Texas Ranger Robert "Brandon" Bess.

On February 29, 2024, he hung up his signature Stetson cowboy hat, and he unpinned the legendary Texas Rangers cinco-peso badge for the last time.

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Brandon is a native of Kirbyville, Texas, and graduated from Kirbyville High School in 1990. He earned a degree in criminal justice from Kilgore College before attending East Texas Police Academy. After he graduated from the academy, he served as a patrolman for the Henderson Police Department and as a deputy in the Rusk County Sheriff's Office.

In 1995, Brandon joined the Texas Department of Public Safety where he served as a highway patrol trooper from 1995 to 2005 and as a sergeant and special agent in criminal intelligence from 2005 to 2013.

In July 2013, he joined the prestigious Texas Rangers, the oldest law enforcement organization on the North American Continent with statewide jurisdiction. Since April 2021, he has served as the Unsolved Crimes Investigation Program Ranger, "cold case," for Texas Ranger Company A, encompassing 35 southeast Texas counties, where he has done a marvelous job.

Brandon worked on countless criminal investigations throughout the Lone Star State for the ranger division during his distinguished career. He perfected the use of DNA tracing and other cutting-edge technologies to bring multiple criminals to justice finally, often many years after the case was considered cold. It has been a great privilege to assist him in cutting through the Federal bureaucracy for several of those cases.

Brandon married his wife, Mary Beth, on March 13, 1999. Together they share children, Marshall, Walker, and Mattie. The Bess family are active members of Anahuac Methodist Church, where Brandon has served as a Sunday school teacher, on multiple committees, and currently chairs the church's board of stewards. Additionally, he is a cancer survivor and a veteran of the United States Army Reserve and the Texas Army National Guard.

Madam Speaker, in its 200-year history, only the very finest law enforcement officers have had the great honor of calling themselves Texas Rangers. I am proud that Ranger Brandon Bess is among them.

I wish him, Mary Beth, and their family the very best in the next chapter of their lives, and I look forward to working with him in the future as well.

SUPPORTING UKRAINE

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

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, as a member of the Subcommittee on National Security, I rise in strong support of our international ally, Ukraine, and the more than 37 million Ukrainians who remain determined to defend their independence in the face of more than 2 years of state-sponsored terrorism at the hands of Vladimir Putin's Russia.

In submitting his annual budget request to Congress just yesterday, President Biden again appealed for immediate emergency funding for Ukraine—a request the administration first made back in October of 2023. According to the President, absent congressional action on this emergency request, the United States will not be able to continue to provide support to Ukraine to meet their battlefield needs as they defend against Russian attacks each and every day.

Ukrainian armed forces are already enduring the direct impact of this congressional impasse on Ukraine aid. While Russia is dropping guided bombs on Ukraine's positions and firing 10,000 artillery shells per day, Ukrainian soldiers on the front lines have been left to ration munitions and other critical supplies.

It is not surprising that the past several weeks have witnessed the fall of the strategic Ukrainian city of Avdiivka and additional Russian advances in eastern Ukraine. Only through their steadfast will and courage have the Ukrainian people been able to effectively resist the brutal Russian onslaught.

Beyond the battlefield, the United Nations and the World Bank recently estimated that the total cost of reconstruction in Ukraine and recovery after 2 years of war now stands at almost \$500 billion.

Russian attacks against Ukrainian civilian population centers have caused devastation and loss of life and damage across several critical areas, including the housing, energy, and transportation sectors. Moreover, nearly 40 percent of the Ukrainian population, or almost 15 million people, are in dire need of basic humanitarian assistance.

Last month, the U.S. Senate overwhelmingly passed a bipartisan national security funding bill that includes more than \$62 billion in security and humanitarian assistance for Ukraine. Inexplicably, the House Republican leadership has refused to consider this legislation, even though I believe the majority of Members have indicated that they would vote for it.

The House Republican leadership is also sitting on bipartisan legislation that would provide President Biden with the authority to confiscate and transfer frozen Russian Central Bank assets to Ukraine for its reconstruction. The bill would also establish an international framework to facilitate the transfer of Russian assets frozen in other Western countries. In total, \$300 billion worth of foreign holdings that Russia stashed across the globe could immediately be diverted to support the Ukrainian people.

Importantly, President Biden and his administration have already expressed support for this transfer of funding. As underscored by Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen's statement to the G20 world leaders last month: "This would be a decisive response to Russia's unprecedented threat to global stability."

It would “ . . . support Ukraine’s continued resistance and long-term reconstruction.”

There is also a precedent for such action. In 2003, the U.S. seized \$1.7 billion in frozen Iraqi Government assets under Saddam Hussein and transferred those funds toward the benefit of the Iraqi people.

Madam Speaker, Vladimir Putin once said: “The borders of Russia do not end anywhere.” He recently threatened the “destruction of civilization” and warned NATO countries that the consequences for potential interventionists will be much more tragic.

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge the House Republican leadership to act on these bills before it is too late for the Ukrainian people and U.S. national security. Our democratic allies around the world hang in the balance.

PRESIDENT BIDEN’S STATE OF THE UNION APOLOGY

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

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, last week the President gave a campaign kickoff speech on the House floor masquerading as a State of the Union Address.

Over the weekend, the mainstream media praised the President’s speech, although the speech failed to address the skyrocketing crime impacting our cities, our overrun southern border making every town in Tennessee a border town, and rapidly rising energy and grocery costs. The only thing the President did do following this speech was apologize to an accused murderer.

It is a shame that the President of the United States took the time out of his day to say that he regretted calling an illegal immigrant and accused murderer an illegal.

The President continues to embarrass not only himself but our entire Nation when he cowers to the extremely far-left base of his party in an attempt not to offend an illegal immigrant who allegedly murdered a U.S. citizen.

Instead of this embarrassing, groveling, and apologetic display of regret, the President should have taken the time over this weekend to call the family of Laken Riley, the murder victim whose name, not on his teleprompter, he misstated during his campaign speech on the House floor. I am sure there were many others he could have called and apologized to for his open-border policies that have allowed massive amounts of fentanyl into our country, leading to the death of thousands of Americans.

Unfortunately, an apology won’t bring those lives back. Even when presented with a solution to the President’s self-created and self-inflicted border crisis, he has denied it. House Republicans like myself passed H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act of 2023, almost 10 months ago which would enact

the strongest border security measures our country has ever seen.

This was in direct response to the border crisis caused by the President’s disastrous decision to end the remain in Mexico policy, to end title 42, to end border wall construction, and to abuse parole authority.

Madam Speaker, we can only hope the President’s State of the Union Address was the last of his tenure as President of the United States because the Tennesseans I represent cannot afford another 4 years of the catastrophes caused by this President and his administration. They would much rather have a secure border, strong national security, and a lower cost of living so that they can enjoy their lives as God intended them to do.

It is because of this and many other examples that are far too many to mention in just one 5-minute speech that we must denounce these policies, Madam Speaker.

That is why I urge Members on both sides of the aisle to join me in voting for H. Res. 1065, introduced by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. DE LA CRUZ), who delivered, frankly, a phenomenal rebuttal speech in Spanish to the President’s speech that denounced the Biden administration’s feckless immigration policies.

H. Res. 1065 condemns President Biden and his administration for their disastrous open-border policies and holds them accountable for creating the worst border security crisis in U.S. history.

RELEASE THE HOSTAGES HELD BY HAMAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, on the morning of October 7, 2023, Keith Siegel and his wife, Aviva, were abducted from their home in Kibbutz Kfar Aza during the Hamas terrorist attacks.

Aviva was later released, but Keith, a native of North Carolina, remains in Hamas captivity as one of six Americans still being held hostage.

Siegel family members attended this year’s State of the Union Address at the invitation of North Carolina Senators THOM TILLIS and TED BUDD. I gladly join in to advocate for Keith’s release.

As a nation, we must stand united in our resolve to defeat Hamas and ensure the safe release of all hostages.

We will not rest until Keith and all hostages are reunited with their families.

CONGRATULATING SHENANDOAH VALLEY SHORT CIRCUITS WINNING FIRST PLACE

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

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to shine a spotlight on the remarkable achievements of the Shenandoah Valley Short Circuits from Virginia’s Sixth District.

These driven students formed a club which has now gained international acclaim at the Electric Vehicle Grand Prix in Abu Dhabi.

Thanks to local support and a grant funded kit, these hardworking students emerged victorious in 2023, winning both the Shenandoah Valley Electric Vehicle Grand Prix and the Washington DC Electric Vehicle Grand Prix, earning their spot on the global stage.

Faced with international competition, the Short Circuits secured a first-place triumph against 28 teams from around the world.

Their ascent from a Virginia school club to top contenders in Abu Dhabi is a testament to perseverance, technical skill, and the pursuit of excellence.

I would like to take a moment to congratulate the members of this team: Mary Farris, Hailey Preuss, Andrew Berry, Jaxon Stadjuhar, Lauren Farris, Lily May, and Madison Miller.

The students’ monumental success is more than a victory in competition. It is a demonstration of American innovation and proof of what our young people can achieve with the support of their community.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate the Short Circuits.

PUTTING A STOP TO COMMUNIST CHINA’S INFLUENCE

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, today I stand before this Chamber to raise a very serious concern: the growing threat emanating from China, not through conventional means, but through the digital specter of surveillance and manipulation, specifically via TikTok.

The Communist Party of China is penetrating American society and harvesting data on 170 million American users from just TikTok alone. This is a clear and present danger to our national security.

The legislation we bring forth this week, the Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act, directly addresses this threat.

We must close the door on China’s access to our citizens’ personal and sensitive information.

China’s manipulation of TikTok and other applications empowers them to shape narratives and spread disinformation, targeting the vulnerabilities of our democracy, creating division, and undermining our values.

The evidence is clear. From deceiving content to secret data harvesting, China’s digital choke hold on our Nation is tightening.

Our bill is not an act of censorship. It is a safeguard for our citizens and a firewall against foreign adversary controlled applications. We must act decisively to ensure that the CCP cannot weaponize information and turn our freedoms against us.