

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, last week, President Biden claimed here in this House that the state of our Union is strong, but the American people disagree.

From soaring inflation, the national debt, a catastrophe at our southern border, an assault on American energy, rising crime, and geopolitical chaos, the state of our Union, sadly, is not strong. It has been in decline for 3 years, 1 month, and 22 days.

Americans feel the cost of inflation whenever they check out at the grocery store. They feel the anti-American energy agenda whenever they fill up their gas tanks as they remember the prices of January 2020.

They see this administration's failure as they watch millions of migrants illegally cross our border and watch the world thrown into global conflict as a result of the policies of appeasement.

The President has claimed that crime is improving. Not only is crime not down, but it is out of control. Americans, unfortunately, feel it and see it in our streets almost every day.

What is needed is a recognition of the realities our Nation faces and a real plan to correct course. Rather than the state of the Union, President Biden's address was a state of delusion.

REMEMBERING ROBERT RAMIREZ

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

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, today, we remember Robert "Bob" Ramirez, a devoted Angeleno and founding member of the El Rio Veterans Collaborative, who passed away at 78.

Graduating from Cathedral High School, Bob served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam war, earning the Air Force Commendation Medal.

Following his military service, he dedicated over 30 years to the IBEW as general chairman.

He earned a degree from the California State University, Los Angeles and taught at Los Angeles Trade-Technical College.

Bob's impact extended beyond his professional and academic endeavors. He played a crucial role in the El Rio Veterans Collaborative, changing the lives of people across our district.

Bob is survived by his wife, Caroline, and their two children. Let us honor his life of service and leadership and remember his impact on our community and the United States of America.

REMEMBERING ROBERTA "BERT" MCCARTHY

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of a very special woman from Bakersfield, California,

Roberta "Bert" McCarthy, who recently passed away at the age of 83 years old.

Bert left this world peacefully on March 3 while surrounded by her loving family, including her proud son, Speaker Kevin McCarthy.

Bert resided in Kern County since she was 6 years old. While attending East Bakersfield High School, she fell in love and eventually married her high school sweetheart, Owen McCarthy, who passed away in 2000.

Outside of being the matriarch to the McCarthy family, Bert devoted her energy to many charitable organizations. She concentrated on alleviating the financial burdens of families paying for cancer treatments. Bert also sponsored Kern County's Anti-Graffiti Program, which helped keep her hometown of Bakersfield clean from vandalism and preserved the city's historic charm.

Mr. Speaker, there was no such thing as a stranger to Bert. When people entered her life, she forged profound connections and created lasting friendships.

Bert's passing strikes a chord in the hearts of all who understand the pain of losing someone close to them, especially a mother. She is survived by her three children, including Speaker Kevin McCarthy, her four grandchildren, and a great number of other family members who carry on her spirit and cherish the loving memories that they had with her.

Mr. Speaker, I wish the McCarthy family nothing but love, friendship, and support as they grieve this terrible loss.

HONORING FREEDOM FIGHTERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the graciousness of Ms. KAPTUR for this time.

I honor, in this month, Women's History Month, and salute the many women who have invested in the lives of so many.

I honor the teachers who have taught young people. I honor Ivalita Jackson and Valerie Bennett, who came from Florida, my aunt and my mother, as two young women and made their way and provided opportunities for me.

I salute the first person who was nominated as a Presidential candidate, Hillary Clinton. I salute Rosa Parks, who opened the doors for opportunity and integration and who refused to back down. I honor those in my own community, like Maxine Seales.

I honor those who are yet to be recognized, the young girls who question whether or not they can be the very

best. My commitment to them and my message to them is that there is no limit to the opportunities that you can have. As this month honors women who have created history, you have a pathway for history as well.

I will continue, as a Member of the United States Congress, to invest in opportunities for girls so they can see there is no limit and to make sure that, as we move forward, our young men will understand there are no limits for them equally.

This is Women's History Month, and I stand here today and salute these women.

Might I finish by saying I honor those women who have stood up against human trafficking and fought against the scourge of mistreatment of women around the world and who have looked for the equality of girls around the world.

Since I just met with her just a few weeks ago, I honor Malala, a strong fighter for education in Pakistan, a young woman who should be honored during Women's History Month.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Texas for her words.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to share some history.

Two of the greatest freedom fighters I have ever had the privilege to know were two Polish Americans, a husband and wife.

The husband, who escaped capture from a Soviet work camp during World War II, lived to age 97. He also survived three Nazi death camps.

Each of them lived by the motto: Freedom means never surrender.

A 30-minute film about their valiant lives can be viewed online at PBS or YouTube at no cost under the title "Freedom Means Never Surrender."

I ask all Americans to learn something about Colonel Marian Wojciechowski and Wladyslawa Poniecka-Wojciechowski.

These great Americans were born in Poland after World War I. Separately, they endured horrific torture as their homeland of Poland was invaded and obliterated by Nazi Germany on the west and Stalinist Russia to the east. Their lives were changed forever.

Then Poland, as a nation, was squeezed out of existence as 6 million of its citizens were slaughtered into submission by two tyrannies. No nation on Earth lost a higher percentage of its citizens during World War II than did Poland.

Here in America, our land of comforts and possibilities, the blessings of liberty to date have shielded us from the harsh reality of dictatorship. Most people could not possibly imagine the torture and cruelty that bore down on the lives of this particular couple.

What a high privilege to be afforded the deep honor of representing human beings of such noble bearing. I bow low to their dignity and resolve, having borne such enormous suffering.

They went on to lead constructive lives and become citizens of the United States of America.

By sharp contrast, recently, I watched the latest Russian dictator, Vladimir Putin, be interviewed by a very shallow American TV commentator. With a straight face, Putin presented this gullible American with a complete fabrication of what happened to the Polish city of Danzig and the entire Polish nation during World War II.

The American TV anchor swallowed Putin's sadistic comment that Hitler offered Poland an amicable choice during World War II as to whether it should be invaded. Wow. What a lie. For any American to sit in front of that lying mass murderer and reply "okay" is not only offensive, but it is dead wrong.

That vapidness cuts through the hearts of Poles, Polish Americans, and people of Polish heritage across our world. What an embarrassment for any U.S. broadcaster to utter such drivel.

Here are some facts. Poland lost a higher percentage of its citizens in World War II than any nation in the world, 6 million people, 25 percent of its population, 3 million of Christian heritage and 3 million of Jewish heritage, at the hands of Hitler and Stalin. Try that on for size.

Across Europe today lie the bodies of over one-half million of our fellow citizens, Americans, 500,000 soldiers who gave their lives in the last century, ushering in for our generation the longest period of peacetime ever in history between great powers. Think about that.

This latest lying Russian dictator, unprovoked, is again threatening Poland and greater Europe, our closest allies, with nuclear weapons. Putin has directed, with no provocation, the invasion of the adjacent nation of Ukraine, an independent nation since 1991, throwing off centuries of repression.

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The people of Ukraine are fighting to be free.

Putin is responsible for the loss of at least 100,000 Ukrainian lives and God knows the abduction of how many children—30,000? He is trying to take them back to Russia and reprogram them. Think of the Ukrainian mothers and fathers.

Likely 300,000 Russians have died already.

So how can any U.S. broadcaster call himself an American patriot when he becomes a pawn of a mass murderer?

Let us turn to Putin's most recent torture and execution of an innocent man in a frigid prison above the Arctic Circle. Just a couple of weeks before Putin's reelection campaign this month, he killed a potential opponent, Alexei Navalny. Most Americans really had not heard the name Alexei Navalny, he was laid to rest earlier this month in Russia, his motherland. He was a freedom fighter. He was a freedom fighter with thousands and thousands of supporters.

Putin could not stand Navalny's opposition to Russia's brutal dictator-

ship, but Navalny stood tall to pure evil with every breath of his being. Navalny's sheer heroism, sharp humor, and beautiful poetry reveals his deep, soulful cry for liberty for all of Russia's people.

Alexei Navalny never flinched. He even humored his captors. He had such courage. He uttered poetry to his beloved wife. He knew his fate, and he was not afraid. He walked into the sun. He stood tall despite torture 24 hours of every day.

For him, too, freedom meant never surrender. He was a prophet in his own town, like the Ukrainian poet laureate, Taras Shevchenko, who two centuries ago wrote words affirming the human quest for liberty and the worth of each person.

He harkened the birth of Ukraine as a free nation. Shevchenko knew, like Navalny, his imprisonment, punishment, and ultimate death in a grim St. Petersburg, Russia, prison would lay a cornerstone for liberty for generations to come, and this is that moment for the people of Ukraine.

Liberty remains so frightening to Putin and to those who impose serfdom, persecution, and death on those who do not submit to ownership. It is hard to believe this savagery exists in our current era.

During the past century, Europe's hallowed ground was blessed with over 500,000 American lives so our youth would never have to meet Navalny's fate. Navalny gave his life for liberty over tyranny, just as our soldiers did across Europe in World Wars I and II. The free world we have inherited after 1946 was created from a new order of allied nations supported by NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, our defense shield.

So to see a craven son of liberty give airtime to a cold despot who is killing innocents as the cameras roll is an international affront to liberty.

Let us recall the prophetic words of the Ukrainian poet, Shevchenko, from his poem: "My Friendly Epistle."

In fields commissioned by the devil . . . And what will sprout? You soon will see what kind of harvest there will be.

Break then your chains.

In your own house you will see true justice, strength, and liberty.

Seek the highest good that stands—true liberty, that sacred good, in fair fraternal brotherhood.

Alexei Navalny said, just before his passing, to his wife Yulia: "Baby, you and I have everything like in the song: again cities between us, airport's runway lights, blue snowstorms and thousands of kilometers. But I feel that you are with me every second, and I love you more and more."

Those were his last words to his wife, to his children, and to the free world.

Let us remember the cornerstones of liberty that are built through the sacrificial lives, not just of our soldiers but by people hundreds of years ago in Russia and today's Ukraine who are giving everything—everything—so that their people may be free.

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

AND STILL I RISE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise. And still I rise.

I rise as a very proud unbought, unbossed, and unafraid liberated Democrat. In the spirit of Shirley Chisholm, she was, as she proclaimed, unbought and unbossed.

I rise also as the scion of the enslaved Africans whose lives were sacrificed to make America great. I rise as the progenitor of Slavery Remembrance Day, August 20, Slavery Remembrance Day. All of these things are important to me because all of these things are associated with my history.

So I rise today in the spirit of Shirley Chisholm. I rise to speak and address an issue that is little known to most persons. The issue has to do with domicile.

Domicide. I will repeat this again in just a moment, but I think it will serve us well to articulate it at this moment. Domicide is the widespread or systematic destruction of homes, often during conflict.

I will be saying more about it in just a moment.

This is to whet your appetite, if you will, Mr. Speaker, to get you in the frame of mind such that you will start to give some thought to this word "domicide," which more than likely you have not seen prior to today. Domicide is something that is new to most of us.

In addressing this issue of domicile, I would like to read from an article published by NPR styled: "What is 'domicide,' and why has war in Gaza brought new attention to the term?"

It is an article that was written by Becky Sullivan on February 9, 2024, in NPR. These are the words of NPR:

"One of the most staggering statistics to emerge from the war between Israel and the militant group Hamas is this: More than 650,000 residents of Gaza will have no home to return to once Israel completes its military campaign, the United Nations estimates."

Once Israel completes its military campaign, there will be no home to return to.

According to NPR: That total amounts to nearly 30 percent of the territory's population. And 'many more' will be unable to return home immediately due to damage to infrastructure and the danger of unexploded ordnance, the U.N.'s Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, OCHA, says."

It is disturbing to note that some 650,000 residents in an area that has approximately 2 million persons, a little more than 2 million, will have no home to return to, and it is indicated that