

the aid that Ukraine so desperately needs, why hesitate? Why put this off?

Putin won't in his quest to conquer Ukraine. Hamas won't in its mission to destroy Israel. We cannot afford to delay in our defense of freedom and democracy.

Madam Speaker, the clock is ticking. May it sound in our ears as loudly as the Russian salvos that batter the trenches in Ukraine, the missiles that slam against the Iron Dome in Israel, and yes, the bombs that fall on the helpless.

Madam Speaker, the tens of thousands of Ukrainian children abducted by Russia don't get to adjourn their captivity, neither do the 134 hostages held in captivity in Gaza, nor do those who are craving humanitarian relief in Gaza.

When Russian troops encircled the city of Avdiivka last month, the Ukrainian defenders within didn't get to pack up and head home for 2 weeks. No, the city fell so quickly that hundreds of Ukrainian soldiers were trapped even before they received the order to withdraw. Why? One soldier who made it out explained: It was the lack of ammunition, no question.

There are 435 of us that sit in this body that can send that ammunition today, or at the latest tomorrow, yet we fail to act. This is not a partisan issue. This is an American issue. The world relies on America to be its leader, to bring stability where stability can be accomplished, to bring safety and freedom where it is achievable.

Madam Speaker, let us act. Let us act together with the over 300 votes with respect to Ukraine and some 400 votes with respect to Israel. That is the American majority that we represent. Not Republicans and Democrats, but America that is willing to stand not only for its own freedom but for the freedom of others around the world.

I was at the Elton John concert last night. It was a wonderful concert by a wonderful musician. He stood and said to us at the end of that concert: As I was growing up as a teenager and in my early 20s, all of my heroes were American.

He was talking about the spreading of American music throughout the world and particularly to his home country of England.

America has been the hero in coming to the aid of those in Europe and other places in the world whose freedom was at risk. Yet we remain silent in the sense of voting to pass a bill that was passed by 70 Members of the United States Senate, Republican and Democrats, all Americans, saying: We are here, we are coming, and we will stay steadfast to defend you, your people, and your freedom against the aggressors who would undermine freedom's holy light.

We are America. We have a responsibility that no other nation has, and it is to be that city on the hill, to be that beacon, to be that torch of liberty, and to be that country that will respond in

a timely fashion to defend freedom here and around the world.

Let us act before we leave this town.

A TRIBUTE TO BEVERLY PINGERELLI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. LESKO) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an accomplished woman whose public service to Arizona has left a lasting impact on thousands of Arizonans.

Beverly Pingerelli began her career at Henry Ford Hospital after receiving her bachelor's degree from Wayne State University. From there, she went on to work in the molecular medicine laboratory at St. Joseph's Hospital.

Eventually, Ms. Pingerelli moved on to public service where she was elected to the Peoria Unified School District Governing Board from 2015 to 2019. After serving on the board, Pingerelli chose to continue her public service in the Arizona State Legislature.

While serving Arizona Legislative District 28, Beverly Pingerelli has put a focus on economic prosperity, student success, and parental rights. She even sponsored legislation to expand parental oversight of public school library books and materials and cosponsored legislation to require voter ID and prohibit human smuggling.

Beverly Pingerelli is truly a force to be reckoned with in the legislature, and Arizona is lucky to have her representation.

TRIBUTE TO KIMBERLY YEE

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a woman who has led our State with strength and helped to create one of the most prosperous economies in Arizona history: Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee.

Kimberly Yee was born and raised in Arizona and was the first Chinese-American Republican woman to be elected to a major statewide office in the history of the United States. She is the first Asian American elected to a statewide office in Arizona history.

Yee began her career in public service in 2010 when she was elected to the Arizona Legislature where she served for 8 years between the house and the senate. She was the second woman to serve as Senate majority leader since U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor served in Arizona in that same position.

□ 1015

During her time as treasurer of Arizona, the Permanent Land Endowment Trust Fund hit record highs. She also led the effort to pass a State law requiring financial education for high school students prior to graduation.

Treasurer Yee's service to Arizona has raised financial literacy rates, improved Arizona's economy, and helped show young women and girls across the State that anything is possible.

AMERICAN CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

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

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, Congress needs to fully fund the American Connectivity Program, also known as ACP. This landmark initiative helps all Americans afford home internet access that is essential today to achieve work or education success.

In my district, Nancy Mendez said that one-half of the people in the United Palatine Coalition's beginning computer class relied on the ACP for their first-ever home internet access.

More broadly, Cook County estimates that more than 250,000 households in Cook County have been helped by the law. I want to congratulate and thank Toni Preckwinkle and Cook County for their successful implementation of the ACP.

Be that as it may, if the House doesn't act, those families in Cook County and elsewhere will lose their home internet access.

Let's pass the ACP reauthorization act now.

SEIU HEALTHCARE

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, in Illinois and across the country, America is in the midst of a childcare crisis. Today parents face a desert of childcare options, and the options available to them are increasingly unaffordable.

In addition, childcare workers face low wages and a lack of benefits that leave them unable to meet their own basic needs.

In Illinois, nearly 60 percent of parents live where there are not enough childcare providers. Parents and workers are shouldering the cost of care through massive enrollment fees, lower wages for care workers, and a steep decline in the number of licensed childcare providers. This situation is untenable and unacceptable.

SEIU Healthcare is fighting to create living wages and affordable services. Now it is our turn in Washington to meet the challenge. We must support the needs of parents and care workers alike by fully funding President Biden's request to stabilize childcare resources now.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, partisan gamesmanship over the southern border is causing this House to neglect the needs of thousands of legally admitted children and families for whom hunger and homelessness await.

Catholic Charities of Chicago estimates they now serve five to six times as many people at their pantries compared to 2020. These increases mirror those reported by other food banks, religious organizations, and not-for-profits nationwide, and they are all struggling to bridge the gap created by our inaction in Washington.

The blame game will not feed the hungry. We can and must do better now.

HONORING THE LIFE OF THE HONORABLE VIRGIL MARCUS JONES, SR.

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the Honorable Virgil Marcus Jones, Sr., who passed away peacefully at the age of 60.

Mr. Jones graduated from the Bradwell Institute in Liberty County where he played varsity basketball. After high school, he attended Morris Brown College as well as Georgia State University.

He served his community at the Liberty County Tax Commissioner's Office as a clerk before becoming the first African-American male to become Liberty County's tax commissioner in 2007.

Virgil was also a leader at St. James A.M.E. Church where he served as trustee, the finance steward, the youth adviser, and as a member of the gospel choir and male choir.

Georgia's resolution, H.R. 1302, was adopted to honor Virgil's memory as one of Georgia's most distinguished citizens.

Virgil Jones, Sr., will be remembered by all the lives that he touched.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF HERB CAMPBELL

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my condolences to Herb Campbell, a World War II veteran, who passed away at the age of 98.

Born in Kirtland, Ohio, Herb enlisted in the U.S. Army to fight in World War II, proudly serving our country and earning three Bronze Stars.

Herb used the skills and expertise he gained while fighting in the Pacific theater to create his company, Campbell's Erosion Control, which dutifully served the people of the First Congressional District.

Herb was a member of Ohio Operating Engineers, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Christ Church.

Herb was a father to his 13 children and a grandfather to his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Among many other hobbies, he liked to garden, dance, and, above all, spend time with his family.

Herb's legacy will live on as the prime example of what it means to serve and put others before yourself.

RECOGNIZING MANFRED "FRED" HARPOLE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fred Harpole for his hard work and leadership as he retires from his position as assistant director for FLETC Core Training Operations Directorate.

In his position, Harpole is responsible for providing oversight of the firearms division, driver and marine division,

enforcement operations division, and physical techniques division. Additionally, he manages oversight of the FLETC Artesia, New Mexico, training delivery point.

Harpole became a member of the FLETC team in March of 2020 as the deputy assistant director for CTO. Shortly after, Harpole was promoted to the position of assistant director.

Prior to his service at the FLETC, Harpole served in multiple operations and training positions for both TSA and the Federal Air Marshal Service. His background, skills, and firsthand insight have made him a valuable source of information for public officials.

Mr. Harpole, who began his law enforcement career in 1987 with the Milwaukee Police Department, will be revered into the future for his dedication to public service and the protection of the American people.

REMEMBERING BOB COBLE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Bob Coble, a local Savannahian who positively impacted the lives of his families, friends, and others within the community.

Though born in North Carolina, Coble lived most of his life in Long and Liberty Counties. He served in various industries and accumulated multiple skills throughout his adult life. Before retiring as an electrical engineer, Coble was a bailiff for the Long County Probate and Superior Courts. He also demonstrated his devotion to his country by serving in the U.S. Army, during which he fought in Vietnam.

In addition to his other roles, Coble served the younger citizens of Georgia's First District as he repeatedly served as a helper for Santa Claus and Easter Bunny festivities along with supporting youth development at the Masonic Children's Home.

Coble's achievement and works of service for the community and the Nation have left a lasting mark that will be remembered far into the future.

SUPPORT UKRAINE'S EFFORT TO DEFEAT PUTIN'S ILLEGAL INVASION

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

Ms. HOULAHAN. Madam Speaker, I am really proud to say, in large part, thanks to the leadership of President Joe Biden, that when the U.S. has been called upon to help our allies, we have answered that call.

When I was standing with President Zelenskyy years ago, we warned him of the pending attack that was coming his way. We shared intelligence with him. Frankly, it was intelligence that he didn't believe. We shared that intelligence with the world as well, and we clearly demonstrated the clear and present threat that was coming his way.

When Ukraine then called us for help in the immediate aftermath of Russia's illegal attack on Ukraine, we, the United States, answered. When the Ukrainian people held off Putin's advance and called, again, for additional resources to sustain their defenses, we, the United States, again, answered.

When Ukraine's military offensive took back the Black Sea and asked, again, for more advanced weaponry for their battle-tested troops, we, the United States, answered.

Yet now, when the Russian military is retreating in some regions and on the brink of doing so in many more areas as well, we are not answering Ukraine's repeated attempts and calls for help again. When Ukraine is now literally running out of bullets, we are not answering their call for help.

This is why my pride in our leadership and in the United States has become overcome with anger because, yet again, this Chamber is about to recess without having provided aid to Ukraine.

Yesterday, in the House Armed Services Committee, I heard one of my Republican colleagues say not once, not twice, but three times that Putin is, indeed, a war criminal.

I am quoting him here: As we see the attacks from war criminal Putin on the democracy of Ukraine, we are so concerned by the efforts of war criminal Putin and their allies of Iran and China.

The question was: What is your assessment of China and Iran helping war criminal Putin?

Madam Speaker, I agree with my colleague. Putin is a war criminal, which is exactly why we must be providing aid to Ukraine.

The inaction of Congress, and specifically this House, this body, and specifically Speaker of the House, Mr. JOHNSON, to support Ukraine is putting the United States and the world in peril.

My dad was born in Lviv, which was then Poland and now Ukraine. He was born in 1942. His father, my grandfather, was murdered during the Holocaust along with nearly every member of his immediate family. We know what happens when the United States does not lead but rather turns a blind eye and turns inward.

My family tree is bare and hollowed out and is a stark reminder of what happens when we allow tyrants to invade other nations and to wage merciless and illegal wars. My family is not alone. Millions of lives were lost because of the United States' reticence to engage in 1939.

I would also like to remind my colleagues that this is not a handout. First, many of these munitions are developed by Americans, supporting U.S. businesses. Second, we are giving Ukraine our aging weaponry and purchasing new and more advanced technologies for our troops. Finally, we are supporting Ukraine and supporting our American way of life without a single loss of Americans.