

Republic of Palau. While they experienced the same fear and loss of last August's fires, they were unable to claim any Federal disaster relief.

On March 8, Congress passed the Compact Fairness Act to restore eligibility for Federal benefits to citizens from the Freely Associated States residing in our country. COFA residents had been unfairly stripped of those benefits in the 1996 welfare reform law.

In correcting this decades-old error, we can begin making good on our commitment to our COFA residents, and at the urging of our congressional delegation, FEMA will allow COFA residents on Maui to apply retroactively for disaster assistance.

COFA residents are a part of our Maui family, and I am grateful to FEMA for taking this important step for them and ensuring they will get the help that they need and deserve.

VIRGINIA GOVERNOR'S FIRE SERVICE AWARDS

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

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, since 2002, the Virginia Governor's Fire Service Awards have recognized outstanding first responders in the Commonwealth.

Chief Monty Coleman of the Forest Volunteer Fire Department received the Virginia Fire Chief of the Year Award. For 35 years, he has served Bedford County, working diligently to meet the needs of their growing response area. I congratulate Chief Coleman on this award and thank him for his dedication.

The city of Lynchburg's fire department was recognized for its Excellence in Virginia Community Risk Reduction after launching Walk-About Wednesday, a project promoting community safety. This successful initiative involved going door to door to inform citizens about emergency preparedness and install critical safety components. I applaud the Lynchburg Fire Department for providing city residents with these important resources.

I also congratulate the Blairs Volunteer Fire and Rescue which received an Outstanding Fire Department Response Award for their quick actions in responding to a large apartment fire last November. With help from Pittsylvania County and Danville, they heroically prevented any life-threatening injuries or deaths.

I am proud of these outstanding individuals, and I am proud to represent all of the brave first responders of Virginia's Fifth District.

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE FOR BRIGID

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

Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say thank you to one of the

most remarkable human beings whom I have ever met.

To be sure, Mr. Speaker, this is a sacred well, and I am here speaking on the floor of the United States House of Representatives, in part, because of her.

I am one of literally thousands of people who have been forever improved because of her. Those of us who have had the good fortune to know her could not possibly think of anyone else with her warmth, her kindness, or her joy.

She is the epitome of a public servant, serving the way she has lived her life: in total devotion to others.

No one has done it better.

Brigid is such an amazing and wonderful human being. We are forever grateful to her, and we love her so much.

UKRAINE AID

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

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address Russia's ongoing efforts to conquer portions of Ukraine.

While additional American financial support for Ukraine is on hold right now, it is imperative we remember why America has supplied military aid.

This isn't merely a territorial dispute. This is a repeated attempt by an imperialist Russia to build an ethnic empire.

You don't have to take my word for it. Vladimir Putin has compared himself to Tsar Peter the Great. For 21 years, Peter the Great waged the Great Northern War to defeat Sweden. His victory coincided with the beginning of the Russian Empire in 1721.

Today, Putin doesn't just want portions of Ukraine, he wants to end the post-World War II order that has underpinned freedom and economic prosperity in Europe and beyond.

While America shouldn't be on the hook to fund the everyday operations of Ukraine's Government, it is imperative that we give the Ukrainians the arms they need to beat back the reincarnation of what Reagan called the evil empire.

RADIOACTIVE WASTE POISONING

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

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on the House to immediately take up S. 3853, the Radiation Exposure Compensation Reauthorization Act.

Missourians are terrified that radioactive waste is poisoning our communities. These innocent victims of the U.S. nuclear weapons program are relying on Congress for restitution.

I am outraged Senate and House negotiators left this urgently needed legislation out of the spending package.

Mr. Speaker, time is of the essence. RECA expires in less than 3 months, and that is the existing law which excludes St. Louis. Just extending the law won't help my constituents dying of cancer. Passing S. 3853 will.

We need to use every opportunity to sign this bill into law. That means scheduling a suspension vote as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I am calling on the House to vote on the bill immediately. The health of my constituents depends on it.

□ 1215

HONORING RAYFORD GUZARDO

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

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate a true American hero, World War II veteran, and former POW, Mr. Louis Rayford Guzardo, who will turn 100 on April 6.

Mr. Guzardo isn't just any ordinary Joe. He served as a B-24 gunner during World War II. His courage and dedication exemplified the finest tradition of our Armed Forces, inspiring us all to strive for excellence as well as selflessness. He is a part of the Greatest Generation.

Despite enduring the horrors of war and being held as a prisoner of war, Mr. Guzardo's spirit remained unbroken, fueled by his love of his country and his unwavering faith.

Mr. Guzardo, thank you for your service. Thank you for your sacrifice and unwavering dedication to your community in Nederland. Happy 100th birthday, and may your days be filled with joy and blessings. Know that your legacy will be in this CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for generations to come, and your love for the United States will always be remembered.

COUNTERING BIDEN'S WAR ON ENERGY

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on his first day in office, Biden launched a war on American fossil fuels when he killed the Keystone XL pipeline, destroying jobs and forcing dependency on Chinese batteries.

Gas prices have doubled since Biden began his war, creating the highest level of inflation in 40 years, with high energy costs accelerating the delivery prices of all products.

Biden is dictating regulations which are overly expensive. With conflicts of interest, Biden is forcing dependency on Chinese batteries, destroying American jobs.

Yesterday, Republicans continued to counter the energy war by passing two

bills for energy independence and to end the Biden push for Chinese batteries.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism moves from the Afghanistan safe haven to America. We do not need new border laws. We need to enforce existing laws. Biden shamefully opens borders for dictators as more 9/11 attacks across America are imminent, as warned by the FBI.

Our prayers for the family of the late Richard Quinn.

PROTECTING AMERICAN ENERGY PRODUCTION

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

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, Americans are feeling the harsh impact of President Biden's assault on domestic energy production when they fill their gas tanks or pay their electricity bills.

Instead of relieving these costs and unleashing domestic energy production, President Biden is choosing to push the Green New Deal again by threatening to place a moratorium on fracking. Since 1947, fracking has been instrumental in safely unlocking vast reservoirs of oil and natural gas, lowering energy costs, providing jobs for hardworking Americans, and propelling our Nation toward energy independence.

Permitting the use of this technology is detrimental to our energy security and represents a significant Federal overreach of State sovereignty by undermining their authority to regulate production within their own borders.

It is time we put an end to President Biden's anti-American energy policy and pass legislation, such as H.R. 1121, to protect American energy production, preserve State regulatory authority, and lower energy costs for families around the country.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE MARCIA FUDGE

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

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marcia Fudge, my friend, former colleague, and the current and soon-to-be-former Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. I recognize Secretary Fudge for her service to our Nation, to our great State of Ohio, and to her local community.

I had the privilege of working alongside Representative Fudge for 9 years in this Chamber, working together to tackle the issues that matter the most to Ohioans. She has been a tireless advocate for Ohioans, willing to reach across the aisle to find common ground on key issues, like advancing access to affordable housing.

While we, of course, didn't always see eye to eye on everything, Marcia and I shared the important goal of helping Americans have the opportunities and resources needed to achieve the American Dream.

I am grateful to have had a fellow Ohioan working as Secretary on behalf of so many of my constituents. Public servants like Secretary Fudge, always willing to roll up her sleeves and get to the business of the American people, are a credit to our community.

I wish Marcia the best on the next stage of her journey.

GETTING GOOD VALUE FOR TAX DOLLARS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, when people earn their paycheck, their wages, money off of stocks, whatever it is, they are going to spend their money on things that are a good value for them. Why isn't government, when they take their tax dollars involuntarily, getting a good value for them?

I am speaking, in California, of the high-speed rail system. I call it high-cost rail. The price has quadrupled over what the voters were sold back about 15 years ago when they were told a high-speed train from Los Angeles to San Francisco could be built for \$33 billion. The price tag is well over \$125 billion, and it is many years behind as well.

They are still about \$100 billion short of the funding it would take to complete this project. They don't even have the route mapped out.

Instead, why don't we invest tax dollars that are taken from the people involuntarily in things that can really benefit them, such as a water supply, a stable water supply, better communication systems, more rural broadband, things that can help people be connected in more ways besides a silly train, which is deemed the biggest boondoggle in a long time, connecting L.A. to San Francisco? Instead, it is connecting an orchard in Bakersfield to a place called Merced—not a good deal for taxpayers.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF VISITORS TO THE UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 46 U.S.C. 51312(b), and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Merchant Marine Academy:

Mr. SUOZZI, New York

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT A CARBON TAX WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE UNITED STATES ECONOMY

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1085, I call up the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 86) expressing the sense of Congress that a carbon tax would be detrimental to the United States economy, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1085, the concurrent resolution is considered read.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 86

Whereas a carbon tax is a Federal tax on carbon released from fossil fuels;

Whereas a carbon tax will increase energy prices, including the price of gasoline, electricity, natural gas, and home heating oil;

Whereas a carbon tax will mean that families and consumers will pay more for essentials like food, gasoline, and electricity;

Whereas a carbon tax will fall hardest on the poor, the elderly, and those on fixed incomes;

Whereas a carbon tax will lead to more jobs and businesses moving overseas;

Whereas a carbon tax will lead to less economic growth;

Whereas American families will be harmed the most from a carbon tax;

Whereas, according to the Energy Information Administration, the share of energy consumption during 2023 in the United States that was derived from fossil fuels was approximately 80 percent;

Whereas a carbon tax will increase the cost of every good manufactured in the United States;

Whereas a carbon tax will impose disproportionate burdens on certain industries, jobs, States, and geographic regions and would further restrict the global competitiveness of the United States;

Whereas American ingenuity has led to innovations in energy exploration and development and has increased production of domestic energy resources on private and State-owned land which has created significant job growth and private capital investment;

Whereas the energy policy of the United States should encourage continued private sector innovation and development and not increase the existing tax burden on manufacturers;

Whereas the production of American energy resources increases the ability of the United States to maintain a competitive advantage in today's global economy;

Whereas a carbon tax would reduce America's global competitiveness and would encourage development abroad in countries that do not impose this exorbitant tax burden; and

Whereas the Congress and the President should focus on pro-growth solutions that encourage increased development of domestic resources: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that a carbon tax would be detrimental to American families and businesses, and is not in the best interest of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The concurrent resolution shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways