

flu and that the government's actions bordered on martial law.

We were told it would take 2 weeks to flatten the curve. Well, were we played or how did that really turn out when it became 3-plus years?

Instead of allowing citizens medical freedom, they forced the jab onto all of us, encouraging employers to threaten employees with termination if they didn't comply and keeping kids out of college. In order to return to their classes, they had to take the jab.

One of the common controversies came from ivermectin, which we now know, and many knew at the time, works as a very effective early treatment for COVID-19. How many people were harmed because they weren't allowed this early treatment because it was politicized?

Indeed, recently, the FDA finally had to walk back an early-on smart-aleck tweet they made trying to compare real ivermectin that is prescribed for people and formulated for people to something that would be comparable for livestock. After having suffered that embarrassment, they had to walk it back.

In the meantime, how many lives were lost because this early treatment was not available? Instead, they were forced into other types of treatment or flat out being ignored when doctors and hospitals said: Well, come back to us when it is really bad, then we will check you in.

Americans should have the right to make their own informed decisions with doctors they trust, including the choice to use alternatives such as ivermectin, especially in early treatment.

It is very troubling that the government actively suppressed information about treatments for COVID-19, including ivermectin, hydroxychloroquine, and other materials that were available, while promoting instead a one-size-fits all approach centered around vaccines. Safe and effective, we were told.

In fact, the FDA's censorship of information about ivermectin has had real-world consequences for medical professionals who dared to speak out. Again, what you see is that the FDA had to walk back their lies and their deception about this. They also were browbeating hospitals and doctors into selling the same thing. We see that even in my own local area where people were asking legitimate questions about ivermectin and were made fun of: Oh, this is just horse paste. You don't want to do that.

Medical experts were contradicting themselves time and time again since the beginning of the pandemic. We were told to lock down for 2 weeks, right? Then it was masks, and then it was double masks. Then it was something called social distancing. For a while, they thought ventilators were going to be the issue for that, so they hurried manufacturers into making ventilators, and then they found out maybe those were harmful.

Before Trump left office, we had top officials saying: Oh, I will never take it if it is Trump's medicine. Then immediately after they were forcing it on people when Biden took over. Interesting how that works.

Commonplace therapeutics with decades of human usage and proven success—including ivermectin, which won a Nobel Prize in 2015 for its lifesaving qualities—again, as I mentioned, were branded as unsafe horse medication.

Treatment methods should be a topic of debate or discussion and, indeed, the experts should be allowed to bring this forward that have all people's best interests in mind. If a treatment works, then it should be distributed as widely as possible or at least allowed, whether it is a vaccine, a dosage of ivermectin, or an infusion of monoclonal antibodies.

The politicization of differing treatments hurt Americans by restricting their ability to receive lifesaving medications, especially early treatment, when it probably could have saved thousands of lives.

As we stand today, there are multiple options that have been proven effective in treating the virus, but we hear the same old saw about the latest iteration of vaccine being forced upon people and making billions for pharmaceutical companies.

We should be able to choose what we want. If you want to take therapeutics, you should have the ability to take them. In a lawsuit filed in Texas, three doctors claimed that the FDA's actions interfered with their medical practices and harmed their reputations. Pharmacists have refused to fill ivermectin prescriptions for patients, and doctors have faced professional repercussions for simply advocating for the use of ivermectin.

There is much more, but when these people ask for forgiveness for lying to us like that, no way. There needs to be prosecution.

COMMEMORATING ARMENIAN GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE DAY

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

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, as the only Member of Congress of Armenian-Assyrian descent, I rise to commemorate Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day, which will be observed next week by the Armenian community in the United States and around the world.

On this solemn occasion, we remember the 1.5 million Armenians and hundreds of thousands of Assyrians, Greeks, Chaldeans, Syrians, Arameans, and Maronites who were systematically slaughtered by the Ottoman Empire between 1915 and 1923. What all the victims had in common is that they were Christians, and among them members of my own family.

To honor my ancestors and all who perished, I worked with so many other Members for nearly three decades to

pass a resolution recognizing the Armenian genocide. For many years, the conventional wisdom in Washington was that a misguided policy of genocide denial served U.S. geopolitical interests.

However, thanks to the determined advocacy of the Armenian-American community, we overcame this entrenched opposition, and in October 2019, the resolution passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 405-11, ending over 100 years of official U.S. silence. As the vote total was announced, I thought my parents, grandparents, and extended family were applauding from Heaven.

Now nearly 5 years later, it is important to acknowledge that the fears of the resolution's detractors never materialized.

Rather than diminishing America's standing in the world, our recognition of the Armenian genocide has done the opposite: strengthening American global leadership by affirming our commitment to human rights. I am proud of the progress we have made, but we have more work to do to combat the lasting effects of genocide denial, which has left many Americans unaware of this dark chapter of history.

My legislation, the Armenian Genocide Education Act, addresses this issue by establishing a program within the Library of Congress to develop educational resources on the Armenian genocide to be used in American schools.

With nearly 90 cosponsors, this legislation is the most cosponsored bipartisan bill pending before the House Administration Committee. I urge Chairman STEIL and Ranking Member MORELLE to report this bill out of committee as soon as possible. I am confident that it would pass with a large bipartisan vote when it comes to the floor of the House. This bill is critical because it is so often said that those who forget history are doomed to repeat it.

Alarmingly, it felt as if history were repeating itself last September when Azerbaijan perpetuated an ethnic cleansing campaign against the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh that bore a disturbing resemblance to the mass displacements committed by Ottoman forces a century ago. This atrocity was preceded by a grueling blockade that deprived civilians of food, medicine, and other essentials for over 9 months, bringing them to their knees.

We must not wait another century to hold Azerbaijan accountable for the crimes it has committed against the Armenian people. That is why I once again call on the State Department to end U.S. military aid to Azerbaijan, sanction Azerbaijani officials for human rights abuses, and provide desperately needed aid for the 120,000 Armenians who were forced from their homes at gunpoint last year.

The best way to honor the legacies of those who perished in the Armenian genocide is by using our voices to prevent atrocities today.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JAMES WRIGHT

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

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and celebrate a selfless civil servant who has served the Second District of Nebraska for well over 20 years in Federal, State, and local government. James Wright currently serves as our district director and has made a lasting impact for our constituents.

In 2001, James started a decade-long position with my friend and former congressman, Lee Terry, as a constituent liaison and special projects coordinator, a role in which he handled constituent casework and developed outreach projects that addressed the needs of local governments, private civic organizations, and other constituents.

One of his most impactful achievements was leading the district's transition assistance program after the FCC directed the conversion of all TV and radio systems from analog to digital. His model comprehensive program included information, education, and engagement to many who needed assistance to make a smooth and seamless transition.

After a decade with Congressman Terry, former Governor David Heineman, also my friend, asked James to head up the Office of Violence Prevention, where he was responsible for developing, fostering, promoting, and assessing violence prevention programs throughout the State of Nebraska.

James served there for a year before returning to Federal service and working with U.S. Senator Mike Johanns, a man I respect very much. He served as a special projects coordinator and constituent services representative, where he continued his passion for helping constituents by finding resources and solutions to resolve their cases.

Following his time in the U.S. Senate, James once again took a detour from his Federal service and worked for the city of Omaha under another one of my friends, Mayor Jean Stothert, as the director of community outreach. In that role, he assisted neighborhood groups and alliances through the development of community outreach programs.

After working in city government, James served under my friend and predecessor, Congressman Brad Ashford, as director of constituent services, where he provided direct assistance to constituents, delivering guidance and assistance to the constituent services team. He also worked with the senior staff to develop and maintain strategic relationships with relevant stakeholders in State and local government related to issues of importance to the congressional district.

During this time, his leadership was key to the authorization of the first-ever public-private partnership that

constructed a modern veteran healthcare center that has become the standard across the Nation in how to deliver better, faster, and more effective VA care.

James joined our team in January of 2017. As our district director, James oversees the management and operation of the office, supervises and mentors our staff, and leads engagement with a multitude of local organizations, constituents, and elected officials across a wide variety of issue areas.

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James also supervises all of our constituent services, delivering the best constituent services in Congress as recognized by the Congressional Management Foundation in 2021.

James' service to the community goes way beyond his 20 years of Federal civil service. He is a semi-professional actor. James has served as a board member of the Omaha Community Playhouse since 2019 and has starred in several of their productions, including roles in "Fences," "Sweat," and "Parade."

He also is a board member for Lutheran Outdoor Ministries focusing on the promotion of Carol Joy Holling Camp, which provides Christian education, spiritual, psychological, social, personal, and professional development in an environment that is free of any discrimination based on race, religion, color, creed, disability, national origin, age, or ancestry.

Most importantly, James is a loving husband to his wife, Angie, and father of 7-year-old son, Lincoln. He offers much of the credit for his success to his mother, Sherry, a commissioned officer in the United States Air Force, who taught him to stand up for himself and that through hard work and determination he could accomplish anything he set his mind to.

I want to add on a personal note, James is a great supervisor. He cares for people, he is strategic, and he has been a blessing as our district director running our Omaha office.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate James on his 20-plus years of service to his community and the Second Congressional District of Nebraska.

IN SUPPORT OF UKRAINE

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

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Subcommittee on National Security, I rise in strong support of aid for a free and independent Ukraine. I also stand in solidarity with the more than 37 million Ukrainian people who have never relented in their fight for freedom in the face of more than 2 years of state-sponsored terrorism launched by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

This past weekend, the Commander in Chief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces

reported that with U.S. assistance depleted, Ukrainian army positions along the country's 600-mile eastern border have "worsened significantly in recent days."

With Ukrainian soldiers facing a critical munitions shortage, Russian troops are currently firing 10 artillery rounds for every Ukrainian round. Until the prolonged impasse on Ukraine funding here in Congress, the United States was the primary ammunition supplier for the Ukrainian army. Now, the top American military commander in Europe describes the situation succinctly when he says: "If one side can shoot and the other side can't shoot back, the side that can't shoot back loses." It is as simple as that.

Ukraine's air and missile defense systems are also similarly depleted. In reference to a recent Russia air strike targeting a key power plant in the Kyiv region, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy indicated that Ukraine simply ran out of the missiles necessary to defend its critical energy infrastructure.

Russia, in fact, has taken full tactical advantage of escalating lapses in the Ukrainian air defenses, launching aerial offenses against almost every power plant in the country.

Not surprisingly, Russian troops are continuing to advance in the Donetsk region in eastern Ukraine, a primary goal of Vladimir Putin. Russia has brutally bombarded the city of Myrnohrad, also known as the City of Peace, and is now well-positioned to capture the strategic town of Chasiv Yar, whose high ground will enable Russian forces to launch direct offensives against the last Ukrainian strongholds in the east.

Meanwhile, over 40 percent of Ukraine's civilian population—or nearly 15 million people—are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance. The United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine reports that the country endured a 20 percent increase in civilian casualties and injuries last month over February of 2024, with double the number of children killed or injured.

Moreover, large-scale coordinated attacks on Ukraine's civilian energy infrastructure destroyed or damaged 20 energy facilities across the country, leaving millions without electricity and running water.

According to the Global Rights Compliance, an international human rights organization that is assisting the Ukrainian Government investigating and prosecuting Russia war crimes, "The stark reality is that more and more Ukrainians are dying by the day as the Ukraine aid package remains stalled in Congress."

After several months of refusing to even consider aid for Ukraine, Speaker JOHNSON is now indicating that he plans to bring up a foreign package as soon as this week. Unfortunately, the House Republican majority is still playing politics with a matter of grave