

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Avery M. Stringer, one of the secretaries.

□ 1730

NEW YORK TAX

(Ms. MALLIOTAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise to point out that New York State has never seen a tax that it does not like. Sadly, in New York, we are once again looking at a \$15 cash grab to enter Manhattan city center, affecting constituents of mine in Staten Island and Brooklyn, shifting traffic to the outer boroughs of New York City, and of course, hurting our economy when we are trying to get back on our feet post COVID.

It is unconscionable that the Biden Administration rubber-stamped the congestion pricing cash grab of the MTA at the request of Governor Kathy Hochul without even requiring an environmental impact statement as required by Federal law. The NEPA process is clear, and this is a clear violation, which is why myself and others, including some in this Chamber, have sued to try to stop this cash grab.

We call on the Biden administration to reverse course. Do not allow this toll to go through. You are hurting the people of New York State. You are hurting New York City's center, which is an economic engine for the entire country.

I hope my colleagues will join my legislation to stop it.

SOCIAL SECURITY FAIRNESS ACT

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

Mr. LANDSMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call for real action on the Social Security Fairness Act and have it be brought to the floor. There are over 300 of us who have signed onto this bill, and once you hit 290, it should come to the floor.

Now, the bill itself will be a game changer for public employees who are retired and aren't getting all of their Social Security, even though they paid into Social Security throughout their career.

The bill aims to ensure that retired public servants receive their full Social Security benefits. This is obviously so critically important as people are working to pay their bills, visit family, buy groceries, et cetera.

Americans pay into Social Security. They have for decades so that they can receive their hard-earned dollars when they retire. By fixing the program, millions of families will know their full Social Security benefits will be there for them when they retire.

I will say that people come up to me all the time and say, if this passes, we are talking \$1,800, \$2,000. Please bring it to the floor.

HONORING ALEXANDRIA CARBONE AND MARISSA RAMIREZ

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroic actions of two Claxton High School students.

Dedicated soccer players, Alexandria Carbone and Marissa Ramirez were at their local Dairy Queen for an after-practice treat when they witnessed a medical emergency. Both Alexandria and Marissa jumped in to perform CPR on the man as they waited for first responders.

Their situational awareness and preparedness saved a life that day. While many people may know the basics of CPR, it can be very challenging to put knowledge into action in high-pressure situations.

Both of these young women demonstrated selflessness and bravery by stepping up and stepping in. They want this to serve as a reminder to be aware of your surroundings and to always be compassionate towards those in need.

They were recently honored by their city council, and it is my pleasure to honor these outstanding individuals here today. I thank Alexandria and Marissa for their actions and example.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JUSTIN MATURO

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

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I pay tribute today to an outstanding public servant, Justin Maturo, who is ending his nearly 6-year tenure as my legislative director.

He joined my team in 2018, and I quickly came to trust Justin's analytic mind to sort through the myriad of bills going to the floor each day as well as his political judgment and prudence. He has helped me secure important legislative wins as that was part of his job, but his service was always connected to the success of our Nation, not just to the success of his boss.

While my heart is heavy upon the loss of my highly valued lieutenant, our country is the richer as Justin assumes a role as special assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs.

I wish him well in his new position and thank him for the service he has rendered to me, my constituents, and our Nation. In turn, all I ask him to do is continue to do great things for us all.

SPREAD OF ENCAMPMENTS AT UNIVERSITIES

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

Mr. KILEY. Madam Speaker, the spread of tent encampments and all of the associated illegal and anti-Semitic activity at our universities is deeply disturbing, disruptive, and dangerous. We are seeing scenes that absolutely defy belief, that I never would have expected to see in this country.

At UCLA, Jewish students are being physically blocked from entering campus or going into the library. Our university administrators have allowed this to happen. It never should have gotten to this point.

Enough is enough. I am calling on university leaders to work with law enforcement to immediately clear the encampments, arrest lawbreakers, and put a stop to this chaos.

Cancelling classes, as some universities have done, punishes all students and is not the answer. The Education and the Workforce Committee is expanding its investigation to California, and the chancellor of UC Berkeley will be testifying in a few weeks.

We are closely watching events at our universities and will hold university leadership accountable for inaction.

REMEMBERING ADMIRAL JOHN C. AQUILINO

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

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, this Friday at Kilo Pier, Pearl Harbor, Admiral John C. Aquilino, call sign "Lung," relinquished his command of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command and closes four decades of service to our Nation.

Throughout, Admiral Aquilino has exemplified loyalty to his oath. At INDOPACOM, he has been fiercely realistic about the challenge we face and fiercely focused on the path we must take.

His rock has always been his wife, Laura, and their daughters, Jess and Lisa. We owe them a true debt of gratitude.

When he assumed command 3 years ago, Admiral Aquilino quoted Admiral Nimitz doing the same in December 1941 at Pearl Harbor: "It is a great responsibility, but I shall do my utmost to meet it."

Admiral Aquilino has more than met his responsibility, and we are truly grateful.

HONORING REAR ADMIRAL MING ERH CHANG

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

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of the first naturalized Asian American to become a flag officer in the United States Navy, Rear Admiral Ming Erh Chang.

He was born in Shanghai, China, in 1932. Just over a decade later, in 1946, his family immigrated to the United States to escape the Chinese Communist Party.

His dream was to attend the U.S. Naval Academy. However, because he was not a citizen, he was not allowed to do so. He was not deterred.

Instead, he attended the College of William and Mary. After graduating, he joined the Navy in 1958, becoming one of the first officers to earn the rank of admiral after completing officer candidate school rather than the Naval Academy.

Rear Admiral Chang served our Nation honorably for 34 years before retiring in 1992. He dedicated the rest of his life to mentoring and promoting young Asian Americans so they could achieve the American Dream as he had done.

Rear Admiral Chang passed away in October 2017. He embodied what it meant to an American, to serve our great Nation, and to carve a path forward for future generations of Asian Americans. It is a privilege to honor his legacy here today.

HONORING THE POLISH-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, the relationship between Poland and the United States and the contributions of Poles and Polish Americans to liberty during and since our American Revolution in 1776 are legendary.

As Polish Constitution Day approaches this Friday, May 3, our bipartisan House Polish Caucus will introduce a resolution recognizing the 105th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Poland and the United States. Those began on May 2, 1919, following the devastation of World War I.

Our Nation's enduring friendship dates back even further to Polish Generals Tadeusz Kosciuszko and Casimir Pulaski who nobly served during America's Revolutionary War fighting for America's independence.

During World War I, famed pianist Ignacy Jan Paderewski and Henryk Sienkiewicz traveled to the United States to promote the idea of an independent Poland.

Following World War I, President Woodrow Wilson delivered a compelling speech to Congress on January 22, 1917, advocating for Polish independence.

Let us pay tribute to the many contributions of Polish Americans and Poles to liberty on this Earth.

As Poland's first President Lech Walesa observes: "Every Pole is born with the Freedom gene."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to co-sponsor this bipartisan resolution.

WILDFIRE SEASON APPROACHING

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

Mrs. KIM of California. Madam Speaker, with California's peak wildfire season approaching, many of my constituents are weary of the increased threat of wildfires. First responders' ability to detect wildfires and share information rapidly and securely during a wildfire is a matter of life and death.

That is why I am thrilled that the House this week passed the Fire Weather Development Act, which I helped introduce with Representatives GARCIA and CARAVEO. This bipartisan bill includes two bills I worked on that boost fire weather forecasting technologies and public safety communication standards, which I introduced after hearing from local, State, and Federal first responders.

I am proud to co-lead this common-sense bill, and I will continue to fight to get this across the finish line so we can improve wildfire readiness and protect our communities.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE COMMISSION CORPS

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

Ms. TOKUDA. Madam Speaker, the United States Public Health Service Commission Corps is one of the Nation's uniformed service branches on the front lines of public health access across our country and our world.

Since wildfires destroyed Lahaina last August, 86 officers have been deployed to Maui to support behavioral health, disaster recovery, and environmental health responses.

They provided clinical care, created safe spaces for people to face their trauma, and made sure that first responders got the mental health support they needed, too. They even help initiate a biosurveillance program to monitor toxic exposure on first responders and the Hawaii National Guard.

Understanding the importance of meeting people where they are at, they provided services at schools, at congregate and non-congregate shelters, and at community events. Working with trusted local entities, they developed a mandatory cultural briefing for all responders, greatly enhancing their ability to care for a community in crisis.

The next time you thank our uniformed service branches for their service to our country, remember the men and the women of the Public Health Corps. When the health and wellbeing of our communities are on the line,

when you need them, they will be there.

HONORING TERRY ANDERSON

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

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Terry Anderson, who recently passed at his home in Greenwood Lake, New York. Terry served our country with honor and distinction, first as a marine and later as a journalist.

In 1985, while reporting on the Lebanese civil war as the AP's chief Middle Eastern correspondent, Terry was abducted by terrorists from Hezbollah and held hostage for 7 years. Terry never lost his sense of humor or his fiery spirit.

After his return to freedom, his extraordinary humanitarian efforts uplifted lives in our community and across the globe. Terry cofounded the Vietnam Children's Fund, building over 50 schools for communities in need. It was my privilege to fight alongside him to end veteran homelessness through the Rumshock Veterans Foundation on whose board he served.

My thoughts and our whole community's thoughts are with Terry's family and the countless friends and colleagues that come from a life well lived and grounded in service.

I want to share in closing words from Terry himself: "If you keep the hatred, you can't have the joy." I think we can all learn something from Mr. Terry Anderson, a true American patriot.

□ 1745

RECLASSIFYING MARIJUANA

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

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the news that the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration will soon reclassify marijuana as a less dangerous drug.

Reclassifying marijuana from a schedule I drug to a schedule III drug while not legalizing marijuana is an important step in normalizing cannabis use in the United States and recognizing that marijuana is not cocaine, and it is not heroin.

The order will broaden access to the drug for medicinal purposes and move us further away from a time of prosecution and incarceration for simple possession, something that has had damaging effects to Black and Brown communities across this country.

I commend President Biden for his important work on this issue. From pardoning thousands of Americans convicted of simple possession of marijuana to reviewing all Federal marijuana laws, the Biden administration is taking the necessary steps to improve marijuana policy in the United States.