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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KUSTOFF).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 21, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID KUSTOFF to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2024, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

INFLATION UNDER THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, since President Biden took office, the price of gasoline has risen 55 percent, the price of electricity is up close to 30 percent, the price of groceries is up more than 20 percent, and the price of baby food is up 30 percent.

Across Pennsylvania, families are feeling the effects of this inflation. On

average, they are paying an additional \$70 a month for housing and an additional \$240 a month for transportation. Since 2021, Pennsylvania households have spent over \$20,000 more than they would have because of inflation.

Recently, President Biden has attempted to claim that inflation was already at 9 percent annually when he took office, when, in fact, it was only at 1.4 percent.

What we are seeing is a President who has failed in his duty to protect American families. In central Pennsylvania, more than 100,000 families make less than \$50,000 a year. Mothers shouldn't have to make a decision on whether to buy gasoline or to buy school lunches. Parents should not have to worry at the kitchen table about paying their credit card bill or their rent.

This is the reality that President Biden's radical spending spree has created over the past 4 years. It is time to return to fiscal sanity, and it is time to once again be responsible stewards of the taxpayer dollar.

No matter what President Biden says in his campaign speeches, inflation is the fault of his administration, and it is time to put a stop to the President's failed policies.

RECOGNIZING MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as we recognize Memorial Day, we remember and honor the over 1.1 million Americans who have given their lives while serving in the Armed Forces. These men and women are heroes. The American story is not told without recognizing the price that they have paid to ensure our continued freedom.

In Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, we understand the terrible price that freedom costs. It was in Gettysburg, following the bloodiest battle of the Civil War, that President Lincoln said we must: "take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion."

In the western part of our district, Cambria County was home to both United States Marine Corps Sergeant Michael Strank and U.S. Army Captain Harry Cramer.

Sergeant Strank was one of the Marines who raised the American flag on Iwo Jima. He was killed several days later during heavy fighting on that island.

Captain Cramer was a Green Beret, one of the Army's most highly trained warriors who, in 1957, would become the first American casualty during the war in Vietnam.

These stories are very representative of the men and women across our country who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

This weekend, amid graduation parties and summer barbecues, please take a moment to recognize these brave men and women who swore an oath to defend our Nation and gave the ultimate sacrifice in the service of our freedoms.

ENDING HUNGER IN CUBA

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Office of the Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights expressed concern over the worsening of food insecurity in Cuba.

They noted how this situation disproportionately affects the most vulnerable, including older people, pregnant women, children, and those with chronic illnesses. This is not a problem just in Havana. Most of Cuba's provinces are experiencing high levels of food insecurity.

In March, the BBC reported that, for the first time, the Cuban Government has asked the World Food Programme for help amid food shortages. The WFP

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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said it had received Cuba's request for help to provide powdered milk to children under age 7.

According to the Inter-American Commission, the Cuban Government approached WFP for help to continue the monthly delivery of milk for children throughout the country and to help with the delivery of flour for subsidized bread in the basic food basket.

The Commission went on to describe how hunger is increasing on the island due to a combination of low economic growth, high inflation, reduced food production and distribution, and infrastructure problems, especially interruptions in electricity.

It also cited recent economic measures adopted by the Cuban Government, including higher prices for fuel and electricity, the elimination of subsidies for the basic food basket, and the devaluation of the country's currency.

The Inter-American Commission and the Special Rapporteur then underscored that U.S. policies and sanctions are intensifying and worsening the social and economic condition throughout Cuba and especially affecting the Cuban people's access to food, medicines, and basic necessities.

In brief, Mr. Speaker, the United States is increasing hunger and poverty in Cuba. This is being done deliberately and knowingly. It is a human rights violation. It also appears it is being done with a degree of indifference and callousness that I find shocking. It makes me ashamed.

During all my time as a Member of Congress, I have fought to end hunger and food insecurity here at home and around the world. I do not believe that food and medicine should ever be used as weapons against innocent civilians, not in Sudan, not in Ukraine, not in Gaza, not anywhere.

I have coordinated hearings that highlight how governments and armed actors use food as a weapon against civilian populations they view as adversaries.

To see our own government deliberately imposing and maintaining sanctions that we know make hunger worse in Cuba is unconscionable to me.

It is also unconscionable, Mr. Speaker, that some Members of Congress, who cling to Cold War policies, appear eager to support actions that punish and increase the suffering of ordinary people on the island. They actually raise money off the Cuban people's suffering. They say they care about human rights but contribute to making the human rights situation worse. They deliberately create chaos because they can, with absolutely no regard to how it hurts the Cuban people.

Sadly, President Biden has adopted and maintained Donald Trump's policies against Cuba, policies that he rightly denounced as a candidate and when he was Vice President, policies that hurt the very people he says he most wants to help, like independent entrepreneurs, young people, Afro-Cubans, women, and the poor.

President Biden knows that keeping Cuba on the State Sponsors of Terrorism list means no one in Cuba has access to the international financial system. Our European and Latin American friends and allies are unable to provide help to the Cuban people out of fear of being punished by U.S. sanctions. Then we wonder why hundreds of thousands of Cubans are leaving the island and migrating to our borders.

I am puzzled and deeply disappointed by the President's inaction. The situation has become desperate, with little hope for a better future. U.S. stubbornness sends a clear signal to the Cuban people that there is no reason to believe that change will happen.

President Biden, your policies are hurting not the Cuban Government but the Cuban people. Your policies are helping to drive mass migration from the island. Mr. President, stop increasing hunger and poverty in Cuba. Remove Cuba from the State Sponsors of Terrorism list, and let's move toward normalizing relations between our two countries. It is in the interest of both our peoples. Take action and please do it now.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL CLARENCE E. "BUD" ANDERSON

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend, Brigadier General Clarence E. "Bud" Anderson, probably known best, at least by me and some others in the neighborhood, as Colonel Bud.

In recent years, Representative TOM MCCLINTOCK and I petitioned the Air Force to upgrade him to brigadier general, which he certainly deserved and he earned, but I think most folks kind of know him as Colonel Bud.

What you see there in his countenance and smile goes even beyond his exploits as a triple ace in World War II to the kind, nice, and decent man that he was.

You could sit down with Colonel Bud and just chat about anything. He was willing to talk about his time serving in World War II, especially as a fighter ace, a triple ace. "Ace" means five kills of enemy aircraft. He did that over three times.

He was known as everybody's friend in the Auburn area of northern California. It was certainly a pleasure for me to know him since somewhere around 2011 when I first got to meet him at a special event there.

He was always out participating in the community when he could. Health issues more recently made that tougher. He was out there sharing and just being an inspiration to so many, especially young people. He would take the time to sit with and chat and talk

about his experiences. That is very special because his service was an incredible experience in helping keep our Nation safe and helping free Europe in World War II. Not a lot of veterans want to talk about that publicly. It is difficult for them. He was the guy who could do that.

You see him here with his aircraft. He flew three different types of aircraft in World War II, but the one most known was his P-51 Mustang named the "Old Crow," of which there are replicas that you can see at certain air shows. I am very proud of that, and it is well known because of his amazing exploits.

We are very saddened by his passing, but our hearts are filled with what a great man and a nice man he was.

He would talk with us about engines and airplanes and the dogfighting in World War II that got him to that point of being a triple ace, and he would even talk about NASCAR racing.

Interestingly, there is a special edition Ford Mustang done up like his aircraft that he got to see, which was pretty cool as well. It was done, I think, by Roush Racing.

He was a northern California native. He grew up on a rural farm in Newcastle, and he loved to watch the airplanes back then.

He graduated from Placer High School in 1939 and earned his private pilot license in 1941 through the Civilian Pilot Training Program. In January of 1942, when duty called, he entered the U.S. Army aviation cadet program, receiving his wings that September of 1942.

In Europe, Bud served two combat tours, escorting heavy bombers in the P-51 from 1943 to 1945, which was some severe duty.

If you have ever watched any documentaries, the duty they had in those daylight raids to try to bomb Germany out of the war is incredible. Those "Little Friends," as these Mustangs were known, escorting those bombers in that difficult mission were indeed valuable and loved by them.

He flew 116 combat missions, 480 hours' worth, destroyed 16¼ enemy aircraft, as they divided them up amongst a couple other pilots as well.

□ 1215

Bud flew in the 357th fighter group known as the Yoxford Boys and was the highest scoring ace in the 363rd fighter squadron. Bud came home from Europe and married Eleanor Cosby in 1945. They had two children, James Edward and Kathryn.

After the war, he became a fighter test pilot and later chief of fighter operations. He flew many models of early jet fighters and was involved in some very unusual flight test programs, including down at Edwards Air Force Base where much of that came from. He has flown over 130 types of aircraft and logged over 7,500 flying hours in his career.

He was also assigned in postwar Korea as a commander of a F-86 jet