

DINGELL, sent a letter—we did it together—to the National Weather Service seeking answers, asking them to provide insight into why no tornado warning was issued for our residents.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot normalize these severe weather patterns and the devastating impacts they have on our families. It is clear that these extreme weather events, including tornadoes and flooding in southeast Michigan, are becoming more frequent due to climate change. We also need to understand the root cause of these extreme weather patterns.

That is why I am hoping we can all work together to hold corporate polluters accountable and protect our planet from the impact of the fossil fuel industry for generations to come.

BIDEN FITNESS COMPLICITY

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, as much as the White House would like to move on from the terrible debate performance we saw less than 2 weeks ago, it is still on the minds of many Americans, including my own. Like many, I am not only concerned about who is in the Oval Office in 2025, but I am concerned about the weeks and months between now and Inauguration Day.

The American people deserve to know their Commander in Chief can do the job. They deserve to know why he requires pictures of stages and podiums before he attends events. They deserve to have their many, many questions answered.

Unfortunately, President Biden has decided that one recorded, in-person interview and a politically charged letter will suffice.

We would be well served not to forget Special Counsel Robert Hur's report from February describing the President's memory as significantly limited. More importantly, we must not forget his conclusion that a potential trial over the President's apparently intentional illegal possession of classified documents would result in a jury essentially feeling bad for a forgetful old man.

Following that frank and damning report, the President's chief of staff responded by saying: No one works harder and asks tougher questions than the President.

In hindsight, it appears he was willing to surrender his personal credibility in an attempt to keep the President's cognitive maladies hidden. Mitch Landrieu, national co-chair of the Biden campaign, said of the President: "He's on his game."

Again, in hindsight, perhaps the game he was referring to might have been shuffleboard.

Weeks before the debate, we saw the headline "Biden Appears to Freeze," detailing an event from the White House. We have endured 3½ years of similar stories.

Just days into his Presidency, The New York Times published a story titled: "The Many Ways That Joe Biden Trips Over His Own Tongue."

In May of 2022, The Washington Post published an article titled: "Three theories on Biden's repeated Taiwan gaffes."

The one I remember most is from Reuters 2 years ago which reads: "Gaffe or insight? Deciphering Biden's unguarded answers."

The American people should not have to decipher anything, Mr. Speaker. I, along with many of the Tennesseans I represent, believe we are still the shining city on a hill that Ronald Reagan referenced.

In this country, the First Amendment enables us to ask frank questions. In this country, we hold our elected officials to account.

Many of us remember 2 months before the debate when the President literally read the words: "Four more years. Pause" at an event.

We also recall this year when President Biden mistakenly claimed he was Vice President during the pandemic.

I, along with many other Members of the House of Representatives on our side of the aisle, have expressed our serious concerns with what strongly appears to be a debilitating, cognitive decline for quite a while now. Yet, those concerns were dismissed by the mainstream media as rightwing propaganda for all these years, and Congressional Democrats made similar allegations or remained silent altogether. They all knew these concerns with the President's cognitive limitations were credible.

Now, since the debate, the American people share these concerns, too. They are used to worrying about the consequences of the open-border policies of this administration and the crippling inflation that the administration's policies have produced, but now they are also concerned about whether he can even withstand the job itself.

Since the debate, we have heard nothing but weak excuses: a cold, a lack of sleep, jet lag from travel that took place 15 days before. The list continues to grow.

Those who have spread the notion that President Biden is as sharp as a tack and at the top of his game will have to answer for this big coverup. Indeed, they are complicit in the credible anxiety that the American people feel.

If we suffer a major national security incident which our impaired President fails to handle properly, they will be complicit in something much worse.

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Mr. Speaker, it is past time for our President to pass the baton on to another and for my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who have helped to perpetuate this coverup to switch course and do the right thing.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

TAXING BILLIONAIRES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. MAGAZINER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I want you to take a look at this graph. There are two lines. The dark blue line is the effective tax rate paid by the 400 highest income earners in America, and the light blue line is the effective tax rate paid by the bottom half of income earners in our country.

In the 1960s, the people at the very top, the richest 400 Americans, paid about twice the tax rate that the average middle-class family did, but in 2018 during the Donald Trump Presidency and for the first time in our history, the billionaires started paying a lower tax rate than nurses, teachers, firefighters, and most other middle-class Americans who put in an honest day's work and make our economy run.

It is unfair, it is absurd, and it is wrong.

How did we get here? For years, corrupt rightwing politicians gave tax break after tax break to the billionaires and big corporations who funded their campaigns. When the billionaires and big corporations don't pay their fair share in taxes, you know who has to carry the load? Working people carry the load—working people who can't afford to pay thousands of dollars to go to Mar-a-Lago or Trump Hotel, working people who don't get to move their money overseas or hire an Army of accountants to find them tax loopholes or hire an Army of lobbyists to create new loopholes for them, working people who have their healthcare cut and their veterans benefits cut, working people who have to send their kids to crumbling schools all because the politicians tell them there isn't enough money left.

But there is always money when those billionaires come asking for more tax cuts, isn't there?

When Donald Trump and the Republicans were in charge, they passed a \$2 trillion tax cut that went almost entirely to the wealthy, and then they turned around and tried to repeal the Affordable Care Act and kick 16 million Americans off their health insurance. We know what their priorities are, and we know what they will do if they return to power in this election.

Already, Donald Trump and House Republicans are meeting with industry lobbyists and billionaire donors to scheme how they can give away even more tax breaks to the people at the very top and cut the programs that working people depend on to get by.

Look at Project 2025, their policy plan for what they will do if they take control. That plan calls for cutting Social Security by raising the retirement age. It calls for repealing the Affordable Care Act, eliminating Head Start programs that provide preschool for 1 million children, eliminating the Department of Education, eliminating the National Weather Service. Republicans

propose cuts, cuts, cuts to programs that help working people, and at the same time they propose giving even more tax cuts to the people at the top who don't need it.

It doesn't have to be this way.

We can go back to a system where the tax code is fair, and working people aren't asked to pay an unfair burden. By asking the people at the top to pay their fair share again like they used to, we can do incredible things in this country.

We can ensure that Social Security benefits keep up with the cost of living and that the program's life is extended indefinitely. We can cut the cost of healthcare. We can ensure that every child receives a world-class education. We can provide tax relief to working people who actually need it.

The possibilities are right there in front of us, but we need to reverse this dangerous trend. We need to stop the corruption. We need to start working for working people, not the big donors and the lobbyists, and we need to put people over politics.

IN MEMORY OF MATTHEW WYATT

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a fallen hero: Corporal Matthew Wyatt of Millstadt, Illinois.

Matthew was a marine serving in Iraq's Al Anbar Province when a suicide bomber approached his base in a truck loaded with explosives.

Matt and another marine took quick action to stop the attempted breach. An explosion killed both servicemembers instantly. Matt was just 1 week from his 22nd birthday.

Matt's commitment to our military service came from his father, Marine Gunnery Sergeant Alan Wyatt, and his two grandfathers—one Army, and one Navy.

Matt enlisted during his senior year at Belleville West High School. When his mother, Verlene, asked if he was willing to go to war, without hesitation Matt instantly answered: Yes.

Matt cared deeply for those he served with—so much so that he gave his life protecting them.

For his bravery, Matt was awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star. His commanding officer personally traveled to Millstadt, Illinois, to present the family with his medals.

To honor his sacrifice today, I am introducing legislation to rename the United States Post Office in Millstadt in his name.

I thank all Members of our Illinois delegation—Republicans and Democrats—for cosponsoring the bill. I thank my colleagues from North Carolina for their support and Representative MANNING for cosponsoring, as well.

This is a small but meaningful tribute to a small-town southern Illinoisan

who made a big difference for his country.

It has been 20 years since we lost Matt, but his legacy burns bright.

In a local news interview years after the loss, Matt's father, Alan, the marine gunnery sergeant said: "I do think of him every day. I still love and miss you, son."

It is a love that also carries on in the hearts of his mother, Verlene; stepmother, Lauren; grandmother, Millie; aunts; uncles; numerous cousins; and dear friends.

It has been said that one of life's greatest gifts is to be remembered. Corporal Matthew Wyatt will be remembered, and that is never going to change.

Semper fi, marine.

HONORING IAN BASTEK

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

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Captain Ian Bastek who recently retired as the commanding officer in the Air Station Sacramento Command.

Captain Bastek's career began in 1997 in the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and has been marked by exemplary dedication and leadership in the 27 years since.

From training pilots at the Coast Guard Aviation Training Center in Alabama to serving as Senior U.S. Coast Guard Joint Task Force East adviser to NORAD and U.S. NORTHCOM, Captain Bastek has made immense contributions to our Nation's security throughout his decorated career.

His contributions have earned him multiple prestigious military awards, including three Meritorious Service Medals, the Coast Guard Commendation Medal, and four Coast Guard Achievement Medals.

Captain Bastek's leadership at Air Station Sacramento was particularly notable. Under his leadership, the air station solved a critical fuselage issue that grounded the world's C-27J fleet.

While serving at Air Station Sacramento, Captain Bastek worked closely with my congressional office. His insights and advocacy were instrumental in ensuring that our Coast Guard units received the necessary funding to continue their essential missions.

As he transitions to his new role as the deputy director of response in California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, I am confident that his leadership skills and expertise will continue to benefit our State.

Please join me in congratulating Captain Ian Bastek on his remarkable career and new position.

RECOGNIZING JAREK NECZYPOR

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Jarek Neczypor for his perseverance and participation in the Department of Defense's 2024 Warrior Games.

A native of Sacramento, Lieutenant Neczypor joined the Navy with a desire

to serve his country and see the world. His service took him across Asia, where he proudly represented our Nation.

Following his injuries, Lieutenant Neczypor's involvement with the Navy Wounded Warrior connected him with fellow servicemembers fostering a supportive community crucial to his healing journey.

In this network, Lieutenant Neczypor and his shipmates have shared valuable resources related to education, employment, and veteran support organizations. These experiences inspired him to attend law school where he continues in his commitment to serve others through his involvement in Yale's Veterans Legal Services Clinic and Medical-Legal Partnership.

This year in the Warrior Games, Lieutenant Neczypor competed in cycling, precision air sports, track, wheelchair basketball, and wheelchair rugby.

Please join me in celebrating Lieutenant Jarek Neczypor's outstanding achievements and continued dedication to his fellow veterans.

CALIFORNIA CAPITAL AIRSHOW

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the upcoming California Capital Airshow set to take place this weekend at Mather Airport in Sacramento County. Established in 2004, this annual event not only honors our region's rich aviation heritage and our brave veterans, but it also inspires the next generation with the power and magic of flight.

This year's airshow promises to be a spectacular celebration, featuring the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds and Italy's Frecce Tricolori. As we mark the 75th anniversary of NATO this week in Washington, this event underscores the strength of our alliances and the collaborative spirit that underpins our international partnerships.

The California Capital Airshow offers exhilarating aerial performances, interactive exhibits, and educational programs that engage and inspire our community.

It is time for families to come together, for us to celebrate our shared history and to look forward to the future of aviation and aerospace innovation.

As a proud Representative of Sacramento County, I am thrilled to support an event that brings such pride to our community. Let us celebrate this dedication of our servicemen and -women and the enduring power of international cooperation. It keeps our skies safe.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TRIXIE AVERILL

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and service of my constituent and friend, Trixie Averill, who passed away on May 25, 2024.