

Obama, we talked about these very weaknesses with semiconductors. We knew then we needed to do something. COVID hit, and there was a chips shortage, a chips crisis. Of course, I slammed my fist down on the table so hard I nearly bruised it when we didn't have a CARES Act, when we didn't have a rescue act, when we didn't have a plan for the industrial sector of this country, which we as lawmakers then came up with.

It is not just about being a First World nation but being an innovative nation. Public-private partnerships work. We don't will for another Great Recession and another action like what we had to take with the auto rescue. We can look back and say that the government acted alongside the workers of this country.

We can look even now, a year and change on since the passage of the CHIPS Act, a large-scale investment saying that we are actually going to make chips in this country again. We are going to do it with union work, by the way. We are going to do it in places like Michigan and Ohio.

We innovated the chip, and then it was shipped overseas. Incentive structures, beating us at our own game, low labor costs, and then what?

We are over-reliant on unfriendly markets, high shopping costs, and energy demands. The government with the CHIPS Act, \$52 billion allocated, not all of it has been nearly spent or begun to be spent. We are so proud of the chips team's hard work at the Department of Commerce, resembling, I believe, what took place in the auto rescue because these are very hard-working individuals doing big things with long hours and long days.

That \$52 billion beget \$200 billion of private-sector contribution without it being required. That legislation paid for itself within a quarter.

Fifteen years on from the auto rescue and as lawmakers, we ask ourselves: What is next?

It wasn't just chips. It is not just semiconductors that we need to bring back here to the United States of America, critical minerals and critical materials. Our environmentalists are talking about permitting reform to achieve the energy revolution of the quarter 21st century that the Inflation Reduction Act is helping to usher in.

Yes, we will beat the game at this. We will renovate. We will do big things. We will succeed. We will lower carbon emissions as a result. The auto industry stepped up. We saw that day arrive. Environmental groups and the auto industry said: We want this bill. We want the Inflation Reduction Act.

The next phase must turn to the industrial policy model that had been adopted under the CHIPS Act for minerals, materials, quantum, and AI, all these exciting and great things. It is a strategic vision for this Nation.

President Biden will be in this very Chamber in less than a month's time, delivering his State of the Union Ad-

dress, delivering that strategic vision built and building off the successes that we have achieved in many bipartisan ways: infrastructure, chips, and veterans' assistance and benefits.

Where are we going, and how will we continue to be a beacon for this world?

I believe it exists in the place that I humbly and dutifully call home in southeastern Michigan, Oakland County, Michigan. It is home to Automation Alley. It is home to Chrysler's now namesake, Stellantis. It is home to countless men and women of the UAW and the building trades unions, those who are putting the pipes in the ground for hydrogen to succeed. We are looking at battery-electric vehicles.

Be optimistic, my friends. Be proud.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Oversight and Accountability:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, February 14, 2024.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,  
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington,  
DC.

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON: Following my reappointment to the Committee on Ways and Means, I hereby resign from the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, effective immediately.

It has been an honor to serve on the Oversight Committee since I joined the House in 2017, and I am grateful to the Democratic Caucus and the House for the privilege of being nominated and elected to the Committee.

Sincerely,

JIMMY GOMEZ,  
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

#### HOUSE REPUBLICANS' LEGISLA- TIVE EFFORTS THIS WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, tonight, Members will cover a variety of topics, as will I. We will cover particularly the Biden administration's war on American energy.

I am going to make a very, very clear point on what is going on with the Biden administration's foreign policy. While he limits and restricts what American exports can do with respect to liquefied natural gas, it makes it harder for our allies to have their energy needs met. It forces them to turn to Russia, where Russia can make revenue to wage war in Ukraine.

If every American could actually understand what is going on, the U.S. is not allowed to export LNG to our allies overseas, at which point Russia can then continue to sell to desperate nations with these energy needs. They take that revenue and wage war on Ukraine. We are now constantly pushing to be able to spend more U.S. tax dollars to go to Ukraine.

Wouldn't it be more productive to make strong energy policy to limit what Russia can do overseas? We would be in a better position to help Ukraine, which I am very supportive of. We are going to make this point.

We will talk about the impeachment of DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, China's poor treatment of the Uyghurs, and President Biden being unfit for office.

Mr. Speaker, as we talk about these important topics and House Republicans' legislative efforts this week, I want to take a moment to share this story and honor the memory of Tamir Adar.

Tamir was a 38-year-old father of two who was killed defending his home and loved ones from Hamas on the morning of October 7. His body was mercilessly abducted to Gaza by terrorists and remains there today.

□ 1845

Tamir was part of the kibbutz's emergency response squad on the morning of October 7. He bravely left his home at 6:30 in the morning, while warning his wife and two children to shelter in place. He died protecting a neighborhood where he had lived his entire life, ensuring that his family would survive.

I stand here today to demand that Hamas return Tamir's body to Israel immediately, along with every single one of the 133 remaining hostages. Hamas continues to violate every norm and international humanitarian law, subjecting its hostages to horrific conditions without access to medical care from the International Red Cross.

This cannot continue. Israel has proven its willingness to pause the fighting for hostages to be returned home. Unsurprisingly, it was Hamas who broke the first hostage deal just as it broke a cease-fire that was in place before October 7.

Now it is time for the United States to stand with Israel as it seeks to destroy Hamas, free its citizens, and return the bodies of the fallen back to where they belong.

The U.S. must also put pressure on Qatar and other regional partners with

ties to Hamas to increase their own leverage on this terrorist group to immediately free all those it is holding captive. It is time to bring Tamir's body home. My sincerest thoughts and prayers are with his family as they mourn his loss.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for the first remarks of the evening.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the impeachment of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas followed a year-long investigation into his failure to enforce the law and keep Americans safe.

Even as the border crisis has grown worse each month, with more than 300,000 illegal immigrants entering our Nation in December alone, Secretary Mayorkas has done nothing to secure our points of entry.

These crossings represent a failure of President Biden's catch and release program that has allowed illegal immigrants to live in the United States for up to a year before even receiving an immigration hearing.

Instead of utilizing the remain in Mexico policies that have proven effective, the Biden administration has opened our doors and opened our border, effectively making every State a border State and every city a border city.

We cannot afford to wait any longer. It is time to resume construction of a border wall. It is time to give Border Patrol agents the tools they need. It is time to, once again, secure our southern border. This impeachment was a vote for law and order in our communities and a vote to restore the rule of law at our southern border.

This vote was the constitutional duty of every Member of Congress to impeach a member of the cabinet who has failed to uphold his constitutional obligation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for holding this Special Order tonight.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania, and I appreciate his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT).

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my brother for allowing me to speak tonight.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are not as blind and they are not as stupid as this administration and the mainstream media makes them out to be.

Everyone in this world can see that this President is not well. The Justice Department recently released the report by Special Counsel Robert Hur, and in that report was some very damning notes that were made, facts, I guess I should say, that were stated. The President wasn't charged in the

case of mishandled documents, but they couldn't rush to judgment fast enough against President Trump in a similar situation, but the report said: "It would be difficult to convince a jury that they should convict him—by then a former President well into his 80s—of a serious felony that requires a mental state of willfulness."

That was the quote. Let me read that again: "It would be difficult to convince a jury that they should convict him—by then a former President well into his 80s—of a serious felony that requires a mental state of willfulness."

This wasn't my friends on Newsmax or OAN or FOX; this was the prosecutor, the Special Counsel Robert Hur.

President Biden's own Justice Department knows that he is not in any condition to run this country as do our enemies and our friends abroad. The whole world knows that he is not in a condition to run this country. I have said for a long time that this would happen.

I said when everything goes down the drain for him and he is having to take the stand, they will use his mental condition as an excuse and they will kick this can not down the road, but off a cliff. If he is not fit to be prosecuted, Mr. Speaker, he definitely is not fit to be the Commander in Chief.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from that same wonderful State of Tennessee (Mr. ROSE).

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Vice Chairman MOORE for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, it has been 279 days since House Republicans passed H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act of 2023. Since then, there have been more than 1.4 million additional illegal immigrant encounters at our southern border. That number doesn't include encounters from January 1 through today, but we have every reason to believe those numbers will be more of the same, more of what we have come to expect month after month.

In fact, December marked 33 straight months in which the total number of illegal immigrant encounters surpassed even the highest month under President Trump.

And just a few days ago, we learned encounters for fiscal year 2024 have already surpassed 1 million which, as everyone in this Chamber knows, began on October 1 of last year. That is about 100,000 more than Border Patrol experienced during the same period last year.

House Republicans continue to believe that the White House could act today to curb the unprecedented flow of illegal immigrants crossing our Nation's borders. President Biden knows there are multiple executive actions at his disposal to tackle this issue. He knows because he signed more than 90 executive orders in his first 100 days in office just on immigration.

President Biden created the crisis intentionally at the southern border. It

is the policy of his administration to allow these illegals to come into our country.

We have laws on the books right now that the administration continues to usurp or refuse to enforce. The House-passed Secure the Border Act of 2023 would put a stop to that. It would force the administration to end its unconstitutional, large-scale, catch and release operation. It would require construction of the border wall to restart and increase the number of Border Patrol agents, and also provide bonus pay.

H.R. 2 would also strengthen and streamline our existing asylum process. And—this one is critical—it would finally put a stop to the flagrant abuse of executive immigration authority taking place under the Biden administration.

There have been more than 8.3 million illegal crossings nationwide and more than 7 million crossings of our southern border alone since President Biden took office. We know also of at least 1.7 million got-aways, and we know there are tens of thousands of people we don't know who are on parole. We don't know where they are, and we have no way of tracking their locations.

The Secure the Border Act of 2023, the House-passed, commonsense measure is the strongest border security bill we have seen in a long while, and yet it has been sitting on Leader SCHUMER's desk in the Senate for almost 9 months. It deserves serious consideration so that we may begin to slow the flow of illegal immigration by forcing President Biden and his administration to follow the law and gain control of our southern border.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) to hopefully talk about what is going on at the border. I think that part of the confusion—and I get a lot of this from constituents—is the difference between immigration reform and border security. It is something that is being lost right now in the dialogue in our country about the acute nature of the issue. We have absolute immigration reform that both parties need to come together on and figure out a path forward. There are many things associated with that. However, addressing border security is the acute issue that is allowing fentanyl to become ubiquitous in every one of our communities.

So if you are not talking about the border, I apologize for leading you in that direction, but you have been an incredibly sound voice on that. I appreciate the guidance that I have had as a Member from Utah not dealing with it as closely as you, but that is affecting all of us.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Utah for yielding. I appreciate it.

Tonight, I am going to talk about the fitness of our President.

Mr. Speaker, “a sympathetic, well-meaning, elderly man with a poor memory,” these were the words used by Special Counsel Robert Hur to describe Joe Biden, the President of the world’s greatest and most powerful Nation.

They are also the justification for why no criminal charges are being pursued for Joe Biden’s willful mishandling of classified documents.

Just so that we are clear: The Justice Department is going to let Biden off the hook because he is old and now has a bad memory, and yet continue its aggressive persecution of Donald J. Trump because he is, what, 2 years younger and still mentally with it?

Most of those in this country will agree with me when I say, as we say in Texas: that dog won’t hunt. The left screams that no one is above the law. I guess they mean no one but Democrat families like the Bidens and the Clintons.

Americans are fed up with the double standard of justice repeatedly displayed by our Nation’s top law enforcement authority at the Department of Justice. We are witnessing blatant, government weaponization. It is despicable and must not be tolerated.

If Joe Biden’s mental capacity is too diminished to stand before a jury as the opposition has made Donald Trump do numerous times, then he is clearly unfit to serve as our Commander in Chief.

America is a global superpower—the strongest, most capable country in world history. Nearly 250 years’ worth of blood, sweat, and tears were the cost of this historic status, but today, our adversaries are watching our leader fail miserably at home and abroad.

While our enemies are hard at work exploiting this President’s numerous weaknesses, the entire world is taking note as Biden turns the United States into an international laughingstock.

Mr. Speaker, leadership is everything. As Alexander the Great once said: It is not an army of lions led by a sheep that I fear; it is an army of sheep led by a lion.

The American people deserve better from our highest office, and for the sake of our Nation’s survival, we need a mentally sound President that we can rely on.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for his remarks. I appreciate it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER), my good friend and colleague.

□ 1900

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, the vice chair of our Conference, for his leadership on these important issues.

Mr. Speaker, Mark Twain once said: Loyalty to the country always. Loyalty to the government when it is deserved.

From Joe Biden’s self-induced crisis at our southern border to the repeated

assault on American energy to foreign policy blunders, this administration’s policies have been a disaster for our country.

It seems every decision coming from this White House from a national security standpoint and an economic standpoint makes the United States weaker and more vulnerable both here and abroad.

Even the latest LNG export pause is of great concern to our European Union allies, who stopped purchasing natural gas from Russia because they invaded Ukraine and are now counting on the United States. They are rattled by this White House’s so-called pause.

The whole country now knows that we, the United States of America, are allowing a record number of potential threats into our country at our southern border, including deadly drugs, terrorists, human trafficking, and crime.

On top of the nearly 10 million persons here illegally who have crossed the border under Joe Biden’s watch, 361 individuals were on the terrorist watch list. How many were there under the previous administration, under the Trump administration, over a 4-year period? Just 11.

Why has there been a 3,000 percent increase in terrorists crossing our border? Is it because our enemies know that this is a good time to take advantage of the United States of America? The threats aren’t just coming from Central or South America or the Middle East for that matter. The threats are coming from all over the world.

Customs and Border Protection says they have encountered illegal immigrants from 120 different countries, which is deeply troubling given the geopolitical conflicts created around the world in the last 3 years. Even “60 Minutes” expressed concern that 37,000 Chinese nationals crossed our border illegally last year, 50 times more than the previous 2 years.

What does the Biden White House propose to solve the crisis? Symbolism of a policy, well over substance, really a do-nothing, politically motivated bill that fails to include reimplementation of the Trump administration’s remain in Mexico policy. Per Customs and Border Patrol, this is the most crucial piece to solving the border catastrophe.

If we don’t require illegal migrants to claim asylum in the first safe country they enter, we will simply never solve this crisis. This is why we are not favorable to the Senate bill, because they will just keep on coming illegally.

Mr. Speaker, I am sorry to say, the Biden administration really doesn’t seem to care about protecting the interests of the United States. They made that clear by failing to enforce the laws that exist, which the Trump White House used to secure the border.

From an economic standpoint, the Biden White House made a surprising and inexplicable decision to pause American LNG exports. This misguided policy failure will only drive our allies, as stated, into the arms of our adversaries, supporting Russia’s economy.

This White House can be counted on for one thing, and that is to blame others for the crises they create. Harry Truman was known for his saying, which sat atop his desk: The buck stops here. The name placard sitting in this Oval Office should be: Pass the buck. That is why Republicans have taken decisive action to hold the Biden administration accountable.

We impeached Secretary Mayorkas just yesterday for his failure to enforce our border laws and for the blatant dereliction of duty and violation of his oath of office that has created grave dangers for our country. Tomorrow, we will pass the Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act to repeal the ill-conceived, ideologically guided restrictions on the export and import of natural gas.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans will continue to fight for American energy, American national security, the American economy, and the American people because this administration simply will not.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for his remarks. I saw an interview this weekend with Secretary Mayorkas. He basically made an admission that the remain in Mexico policy is effective.

Many on the left will say it is an effective way to control our border. It doesn’t feel like there is debate on that. What Secretary Mayorkas said was, well, it could be challenged in the courts. However, every single executive action can be challenged in the courts. That is, unfortunately, where we are in our Nation right now, in this ping-ponging situation from one administration to the other.

Yes, the remain in Mexico policy may be challenged in a court situation. Somebody could run a lawsuit against this. It could find its way to various levels within our judicial system. The policy works, though. We saw that. We have evidence of that from the Trump and Pence administration on working with Mexico in a partnership to limit the amount of cartel activity that exists, that is killing people, trafficking people, and creating a fentanyl crisis in every single community in this country. Yes, it might actually be challenged in the courts, but implement it. We know that it works, and we will work through it.

If there were leadership, Democrats would admit that it has been effective. Well, take the leadership to tell Congress we should pass this into law. If you don’t like every aspect of H.R. 2, there is one really important aspect of H.R. 2 that, if we could agree on, we could pass legislatively, which you keep calling for.

Even Secretary Mayorkas says Congress needs to fix the problem. Well, encourage Democrats to vote in favor of the remain in Mexico policy. We have data to show that it works.

This is what is the frustration. What we can do to fix most of the acute

issues at our border is right in front of us. It is beyond me that we can't look at a good policy, take data, and be able to reimplement it.

We will continue to sound the alarm on this and call out the nature of why the Biden administration is so inept at doing this.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY), my good friend. I assume that he will highlight some of this as he gives his remarks.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, President Biden is the first President in history to flat-out refuse to take a cognitive health test. Given all of his memory issues frequently and clearly displayed in his public remarks, the least that he could do is prove to the American people that he is fit to serve as the leader of the free world and take a cognitive health and acuity test as part of his annual physical.

Let me give you a few examples of the President's recent memory issues.

On February 8, President Biden publicly confused the President of Egypt with the President of Mexico when he was discussing Israel aid in a press conference in a very embarrassing moment.

At a recent public event, he recalled talking to the President of France, Francois Mitterrand, at a G7 meeting in 2021. The only problem, Mitterrand died in 1996.

A week ago, as President Biden was urging Congress to pass foreign aid, he appeared to forget the name of the terror group Hamas. They were responsible for the egregious murders and terrorist rampage of the October 7 attack on one of our greatest allies in the world, Israel.

Similarly, in June 2023, President Biden said that President Putin was "clearly losing the war in Iraq" instead of Ukraine. Clearly, the President was stuck in his time in the Senate.

These are scary mixed signals that you send around the world when those clips go viral.

In one of the most painful examples, while giving remarks at the White House, he publicly asked if the late Congresswoman Jackie Walorski was in attendance only a month after she was tragically killed in a car wreck.

The DOJ has issued a damning report based on their interview with President Biden, saying that he presented a "sympathetic, well-meaning, elderly man with a poor memory," who did not remember when he was Vice President or when his son Beau died.

I could sit here all night and list example after example of the President's mental decline that has been on display for the American people, but I am not going to do that to my colleagues.

It is simple. The President of the United States must be able to portray strength on the world stage. He must be able to lead our Nation through whatever challenges the future holds.

I am discouraged by what I have seen from the President recently and, hon-

estly, sad that his handlers have convinced him that he should run for another 4-year term. We know that President Biden is not the one steering the ship in the White House right now.

This is not about personal attacks or political agendas. It is about the integrity of our democracy and the stability and strength of our Nation. We owe it to the American people to ensure that their leader is capable of fulfilling the duties of the office with competence and the utmost clarity.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the remarks of the gentleman from New York. I have seen the passion he has demonstrated for his constituents in numerous ways.

I now yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF). I appreciate his willingness to share his remarks.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on a very heavy subject. I have images of a very disturbing and graphic nature here with me showing the violent, horrific reality of abortion. This should shock every American.

What would you do if you found the dead bodies of five babies inside a cardboard box? Would you call the police? Would you throw the box out? Would you let it be taken away to a medical waste incinerator and forget you ever found it?

This is not a hypothetical. This is exactly what happened right here in this city just 3 miles from this House Chamber. On March 25, 2022, Laurel Handy and Terrisa Bukovinac found these children in a box labeled "medical waste" outside the Washington Surgi-Clinic abortion facility.

They suspected it contained human remains, and the medical waste services truck driver agreed to give it to them for a proper burial. What they found inside scared them: the bodies of five late-term aborted children. Experts attest that these babies were between 26 and 32 weeks of development when they were aborted. They had lungs, beating hearts, fully formed fingers and toes, eyelids that would open and close. These children could feel pain.

As these images show, their bodies were disfigured, crushed, chemically burned. One baby girl bore wounds, a deep laceration to the back of her neck that likely indicates an illegal partial birth abortion.

Another baby girl had the marks of a D&E abortion, dilation and evacuation in which the abortionist dismembers the baby limb by limb and crushes its skull to remove it from the womb.

This occurred nearly 2 years ago. Yet, shamefully, neither the Department of Justice nor the D.C. Metropolitan Police nor the D.C. Medical Examiner did anything. No autopsies were done. No investigations were opened. The entire case of the D.C. five was swept under the rug.

Something is very sick in our society. When a baby at 30 weeks in utero is wanted, a doctor will do anything to save its life. However, when a baby is

unwanted, the abortionist takes its life.

When a mother miscarries, we mourn with her for the loss of her unborn child, but when she gets an abortion, we are told there is nothing to mourn, nothing to see. These aren't human beings. These aren't real babies. They are only medical waste. Move along. Don't be bothered. Don't open the cardboard box.

Lauren and Terrisa opened the box. They recognized the dignity and inherent value of all human life, even babies still in the womb.

Five days after discovering the box, Lauren was arrested on charges of protesting outside an abortion clinic. Today, she is still detained and could face 11 years in prison.

□ 1915

What has gone wrong in our country, that a woman who found these babies is imprisoned while the man who killed them, the notorious late-term abortionist, Dr. Santangelo, goes free?

The District of Columbia allows abortion up to and including the moment of birth. In other words, in this city, a baby's right to life depends on which side of the birth canal it is on.

Location, mere geography, is the difference between legal abortion and murder. One pro-abortion surgeon became pro-life the instant he witnessed the abortion of a 19-week-old baby. He wrote: "And it has happened that you cannot reason with me now. For what can language do against the truth of what I saw?"

These are second- and third-trimester babies. What can any pro-abortion argument say against these images?

The D.C. 5 were children, human beings with distinct DNA, weeks from birth, before their lives were brutally and barbarically snuffed out.

The DOJ must immediately investigate the likely violation of the partial birth abortion ban. I demand the D.C. medical examiner allow an autopsy, and I stand with my House colleagues in calling for Congress to investigate. Justice for the D.C. 5 demands no less.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for his remarks.

I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN). I thank him for his willingness to share his thoughts. I appreciate it.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address something that happened in this Chamber earlier this week, something that we haven't done or seen in over a century in this country, and that is the impeachment of a Cabinet member.

Impeached was Secretary Mayorkas, Homeland Security, for ignoring his duties, and by ignoring his duties, creating a situation which I think is the biggest crisis in this country in my lifetime.

That, of course, concerns his inability to address the huge problems at the

border. I will remind the American public that only 4 years ago during the final year of the prior administration, the number of people being let in this country at the southern border bounced back and forth between about 6,000 and 25,000.

A good estimate of the number of people who came here in the last month is 37,000, so it has gone up by a factor of about 18 to 1.

Not only have this many people crossed the border—think about that. I guessed 37,000. In addition to this many people crossing the border—because around the world, it is known the United States is not enforcing our border—we have people dying in the Pacific Ocean trying to get around the wall over there. We have people dehydrating in the Arizona desert. We have people drowning in the Rio Grande, all horrific instances in and of themselves, because of the inability to address people coming across our border.

I have been told by law enforcement that the price of fentanyl in this country is as low as it has ever been—it is a matter of the law of supply and demand.

We have 108,000 Americans dying of illegal drug overdoses every year, twice as many people as died in 12 years in Vietnam.

We have, through our negligence, created wildly wealthy drug cartels, wealthier than ever. I have been at the border at least eight times, and every time I hear the Border Patrol is under the impression that the Mexican cartels—which are currently corrupting the Mexican Government—are making more money allowing people across the border than they even are selling drugs. A complete disaster.

Along with this 300,000-plus people who are let in every month are 8,000 to 10,000 unaccompanied minors. There was a time when people in this body used to care a little bit about breaking up families, but that is 8,000 to 10,000 unaccompanied minors.

There was a time where we checked DNA tests to see whether these minors were related in any way to perhaps aunts or uncles who claim they were related. We stopped that policy.

The New York Times said that at one time—I think this number is a little bit high, but they had lost 83,000 unaccompanied minors in this country.

I personally think it is more like 50,000 or 60,000, but in any event, can you imagine losing track of 50,000 or 60,000 unaccompanied minors?

As a result of the negligence taking place at the border, we have all of these disasters, and I would argue it is creating a situation in which I think in the final year, well over 2 million new people were let in the United States, some of which are suspected terrorists from all over the world.

It will take the United States perhaps decades to recover. Again, there are so many of them, we are incapable of doing a background check.

We are capable of doing a background check on crimes committed in the

United States and crimes committed in Canada, but that is about it.

You hear anecdotal evidence of crimes, including sexual assault being committed by people, when you talk to local district attorneys.

Again, the Biden administration doesn't care. I think the reason the Biden administration doesn't care and the reason Secretary Mayorkas doesn't care—when they could so easily go back to a stay in Mexico policy or wait in Mexico policy pending an asylum hearing—is because they want to change America.

President Obama said he wanted to fundamentally change America, and that is what you are going to get when you have people from all around the globe coming here.

We want to point out that this is hardly the time in which it is necessary or cruel to turn people around. In the last 4 years, we have had more people sworn in as legal new citizens than any 4-year period in the last 100 years, at least, so it is not like we are being mean or overly strident.

People are coming here all the time and finding ways to become citizens completely legally. The only reason for allowing this deluge of people in here is if you do want to fundamentally change America, invite people who do not understand the background of freedom and of limited government that is necessary of our new citizens to keep the Republic which our forefathers gave us.

In any event, I thank this body for impeaching Secretary Mayorkas. I urge the Senate to take up that impeachment because it is mandatory that the people of this body—and by this body, I mean both the House and Senate—do whatever we can to send the message that ignoring the crisis at our border can no longer be tolerated.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin for his comments. I appreciate his focus on this very, very important issue.

I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA), my good friend and colleague.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. MOORE of Utah for leading us once again at this important time to get the message out in front of the American people that wish to pay attention.

Just following up a little bit on what Mr. GROTHMAN was talking about on the border and the horrific illegal immigration and how many are coming into this country is just overwhelming.

I had an experience last week in Tucson, myself and Mr. TOM TIFFANY from Wisconsin. We both, after a border tour, attempted to stop in at an illegal—well, they call them migrants. That is a euphemism. They say we are migrants. It drives me crazy listening to that—an intake area that had been a Ramada Hotel there run under the guise of a group called Casa Alitas.

It is run not with a whole lot of daylight on how they operate there. Again,

we have many NGOs, nongovernment organizations, that are making a lot of money that are incentivized to move a lot of illegal immigrants into this country and place them where have you.

They have busloads going here and there and everywhere and plane rides. My understanding is there have been approximately 5,000 plane rides, with planes full, since the start of the Biden administration, moving people around the country.

We attempted to meet with people there and see. It was quiet. They weren't intaking anybody at the time, and they would not see us. They would not see us, even though we had our IDs.

Two Members of the U.S. House of Representatives wanted to sit down with somebody and see what they are doing and have them at least give us a few minutes, an overview.

They refused to do that. They basically kept us outside in the parking lot and called the sheriff's office in case we decided to try and go knock on the door and talk to somebody in charge.

It was amazing that the people that are in charge of the U.S. House, those that are elected to make taxpayer expenditures, taxpayer appropriations, were shut out of being able to ask questions about how the tax dollars are being used on the intake of these illegal immigrants in Tucson. Folks, obviously we have a giant problem. The numbers are horrendous.

Mr. GROTHMAN was talking about the fentanyl. What is interesting about that, there is so much fentanyl coming into this country and it is so negatively affecting and taking lives so much is coming in.

He talked about the market price; the price is so low. The price of actually buying it is really low now because there is so much of it.

Price and demand. When a high volume comes in, they have to cut their prices. It is such a high volume now, the price of it is getting dirt cheap, they are saying.

It is just another example of the Biden administration working against the people and working against American values.

There is no reason it needs to be this way. They say: Oh, you guys, the Republicans, aren't passing a law in Congress. No bills.

Biden has the tools. He could do eight executive orders that are perfectly legal, perfectly constitutional.

There is the remain in Mexico policy and several others he could do without us even passing a bill. There are plenty of laws to already enforce that that they are not doing.

Yes, we added H.R. 2 to that to help define better asylum because asylum is being abused and other good aspects, beefing up the personnel at the border, finishing the fence.

They don't want to do any of that. That is all double talk. That is a bit of my experience at the border just the other day.

Another thing that President Biden has done that has caused unnecessary harm to our country is our energy policy or lack of.

The core of so many of our problems with the cost of inflation and hiked prices of everything starts with the cost of energy.

Whether it is electricity that is generated—and they are tearing out hydroelectric dams in my district—as green renewable power, electricity generated by nuclear power. We need to do a lot more on that.

For years and years, that has been held down by permitting and the inability for government to move on that.

Also, natural gas is a very important component for heating homes as well as operating electricity generation.

Biden has stepped forward to make it almost impossible to explore for oil and gas in this country, and there was also a recent decision to slash all pending and future liquefied natural gas export permits.

This is important because we were exporting this to Europe, for example, to Germany or others. Instead of them relying on Russian gas coming in in that big pipeline, we could be helping because we have such an abundance.

The Biden administration has another wrongheaded approach on energy, harming Americans and harming our allies around the world.

He systematically destroyed key energy initiatives, canceling the Keystone pipeline, shutting down already authorized oil and gas programs in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, a really tiny part of a 1.3 million acre refuge in Alaska. It has been approved. They are shutting it down.

The high prices of everything start with the cost of energy. Americans suffer from the high price of food, transportation, and everything else because energy costs way more than it needs to.

We lay that at President Biden's feet. We have the ability to be energy independent like we were under President Trump, an energy exporter helping our allies. Yet, what we have is a ban on being an exporter and a ban on new exploration to make us energy independent.

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The Biden administration is way out of whack on this, and we need to do something. The American people need to let them hear about it. The American people need to make themselves heard on that as we try here in this time here in Congress with speeches like this tonight to do so.

I appreciate the time, and I appreciate Mr. MOORE leading us on this Special Order to talk about these important topics of energy independence and controlling our border—two of the most important components to a more orderly society in this country.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I agree with the gentleman from Cali-

fornia. Horrible energy policy, horrible immigration and border policy, mental incompetency—these are all great Valentine's messages today.

Thank you to many of my colleagues for their willingness to come and share their thoughts and talk about these important issues.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL), a distinguished gentleman and very good friend and colleague. It is hard to pick your favorite member of the Arkansas delegation, so I won't do that now, but he would be in my top four.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Utah for yielding. Just for those two people that are listening at home, there are only four members of the Arkansas delegation, so that was an easy comment from my good friend.

I thank my friend from Utah, who is doing an outstanding job helping lead our Conference and lead our Conference's messaging on this House floor and in our home districts as we draw a distinction between what House Republicans would be doing if we were able to be guiding the executive branch or have both Houses here in Congress, and the failures of the Biden administration.

Mr. Speaker, I want to address a couple of issues I think that are key that are confronting the American people and that we are touching on this week in the House.

Mr. Speaker, the United States went from importing liquefied natural gas just 15 years ago to now being the world's largest exporter. That is a powerful testament to America's technological advances and our ability to harness this clean, abundant, affordable source of baseload power for our own use and for the ability to export it.

President Biden's recent decision to halt the export of American liquefied natural gas is not in the interest of the American worker, the American economy, our allies' national security, or the globe's goal of a clean energy transition.

This is just another one of President Joe Biden's poor decisions in a long line of other failed energy policies since he took office in January 2021: As noted by my good friend from California shutting down on day one the Keystone XL pipeline, denying new permits, discouraging new drilling, discouraging new pipelines, and coercing banks and securities firms across this country to discourage badly needed loans and capital investments in the energy industry by way of environmental social governance, so-called ESG policies.

These reckless decisions have weakened our global leadership and weakened America's energy independence. While President Biden's nanny state regulators consider going full California on the whole Nation by banning your gas stove, Republicans support an all-of-the-above approach to our energy needs and our long-term energy transition.

Republicans believe that we need to tap into American's abundance of natural resources that are crucial to enhancing our own energy security and our own energy independence.

The United States stands ready to export more LNG to Europe, but pipelines and other needed infrastructure are not adequate in this country in order to advance more assistance in the short term. In my view, Mr. Speaker, upstream and downstream infrastructure investments in natural gas are not stranded assets, which is typically the argument made by the opposition.

According to a recent U.S. Energy Information Administration, International Energy Outlook, by 2050, global energy use will increase nearly 50 percent compared to today. Now, let that sink in—50 percent greater than today in just 25 years.

Although the primary energy consumption sources for renewables is expected to grow from 15 percent today to 27 percent by 2050, still 83 percent of consumption will need to come from coal, oil, natural gas, and nuclear.

Clearly, based on global power demands and despite new renewable sources, this globe, this Nation, needs decades of liquefied natural gas access and natural gas in our reserves.

We need to invest and create that infrastructure leading to our own development and crucial export development, which will, if we export, add \$73 billion it is estimated to our U.S. economy over the next 15 years, bolstering energy trade, stimulating domestic production while assisting friends and allies abroad.

Increasing U.S. liquefied natural gas exports will benefit our allies, as I note, in Europe and in Asia by adding the U.S. as a reliable source of energy on the global market and offsetting the risk that is being dominated by one supplier—like in the case of Germany being completely dependent on natural gas from Russia at the time of Russia's invasion to Ukraine—or countries being caught in a supply crisis due to war in the Persian Gulf or a war or shipping challenges in the Red Sea.

Just last year, Mr. Speaker, about 13 percent of Europe's natural gas went through the Red Sea. That has now been impacted by the Houthis in Yemen attacking shipping of all flag vessels trying to go up the Red Sea through the Suez Canal to service Europe.

We have natural gas fields across our Nation in Pennsylvania and New York that rival and may even be more abundant than those in the Middle East.

Yet, we will never see, in my view, Mr. Speaker, a pipeline—a new pipeline—built from Pennsylvania over to the East Coast ports under this administration or under future Democratic leadership. I don't think we will see new jobs or development of New York's massive, abundant natural gas in the Marcellus shale under Democratic Governors.



Again, these kinds of policy officials and Biden officials have doubled down, tripled down, on policies that not only raise costs for everyday American families but do nothing in the long run to impact the climate.

Likewise, to aid American technology exports, the Biden administration should work to ensure that international financial institutions like the World Bank or the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development will finance natural gas projects and nuclear power as a part of the energy transition.

Right now they are very reluctant to do that. In the case of the EBRD, they will not finance nuclear.

Now, think about that. They certainly won't finance natural gas.

The EBRD has been insisting on financing renewable green energy projects only to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars, yet ignores an all-of-the-above energy strategy.

International financial institutions like the EBRD should finance beyond nuclear and include sources of energy like liquefied natural gas to improve access and diversification, particularly in Europe, their energy backbone, their energy sources. It is in their best interest to do that.

Energy policy is a long-term investment in the needs of the globe's future both at home and abroad, and as more and more countries grow and develop and their people become wealthier and their incomes rise, their energy consumption will increase, as well.

We cannot wait and have nothing to offer and certainly cannot impose the Biden administration's energy policies on the world and expect a good outcome or rising wages or incomes.

We should be investing in all of our energy options like oil, nuclear, renewables, and natural gas—not hurting our ability to export and remain energy dominant worldwide but to benefit the entire economy of the globe.

President Biden's mistakes and failed policies today will lead us to not having the energy capacity that we need for tomorrow, and he will be making the transition to a clean energy future even harder and more costly for our families.

Mr. Speaker, this week the Senate completed work on funding for military assistance for Ukraine, Taiwan, and Israel, all critical partner countries to the United States, each a Nation where we have a national security interest in seeing their security needs met, benefiting our economy, benefiting our jobs, benefiting our global reach across the globe. As Americans, it should feel very natural to us that we partner with other nations to help a nation fight for freedom.

Why? Well, Mr. Speaker, as Americans, we are all versed in our own founding, our own struggles with the American Revolution. We recall the lack of food, the lack of pay, the lack of socks and shoes, the misery of the winter at Valley Forge. Every school

child in this Nation knows about Washington on his knees at Valley Forge.

What we must remember is that we did not win our independence alone.

From 1775 to 1781, the United States would not have seen victory at Yorktown ending the American Revolution in victory were it not for allied nations making a bet on the grit and the tenacity of colonial Americans taking on the world's largest Navy and the world's largest Army.

France, the bankers in Amsterdam, the Spanish, all opposed Great Britain's empire and backed General Washington's struggling rag-tag Army.

Mr. Speaker, 80 percent of the muskets and uniforms worn by the colonial Army were supplied by France. The French and the Dutch supplied loans and cash, the Spanish supplied gunpowder, and the French Navy were critical to our victory.

Without this help of the other nations, we would not have had the resources to win the American Revolution or become an independent, democratic, dynamic country 250 years later.

As Americans, we understand that sense of partnership that it takes when you are fighting for freedom. This week, once again, I traveled across the Atlantic to meet with President Zelenskyy in Ukraine joining a codel led by MIKE TURNER, the chairman of our Intelligence Committee, to assess what is Europe doing? What is Ukraine's strategy? How are American investments audited and protected and transparent? What are our options there to make sure that Putin is not successful in Ukraine?

Instead of reading something on the internet, Mr. Speaker, let's go investigate it for ourselves. Let's look Zelenskyy and his generals in the eye. Let's look at American advisers in Germany and in Poland in the eye and ask them: Should Putin be allowed to win in Ukraine? The answer, Mr. Speaker, is clearly no.

Along with dozens of allied nations, the United States should continue to back the freedom fighting, freedom loving Ukrainians to ensure that Vladimir Putin knows he is not going to stay in Ukraine. Let me be clear, he will be denied that opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, in polling, the American people are clear. They do not want Putin victorious in Ukraine. It is bad for Europe, the sovereignty of Ukraine, and for the world.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Utah has 20 seconds remaining.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL).

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, let me be clear: We need to complete our work effectively on this House and find that sense of partnership that we find the right funding, the right balance of au-

ditioning and talent necessary to back the Ukrainians' success in defeating Putin.

Mr. Speaker, the innocent people of Ukraine have been under unprovoked attack for over two years, their lives upended by the vengeance of a megalomaniac illegally invading and attempting to overthrow a sovereign neighbor.

This war commenced in 2014 in the Donbas and Crimea and exploded into a full invasion on February 24, 2022.

American military aid to Ukraine is running out and Ukrainians battling on the frontlines to defend their homeland are running out of ammunition and other crucial military supplies.

They are losing the ability to defend themselves and win this war that they have so valiantly fought for 24 months—and politically and emotionally for a painful decade.

To my colleagues in Congress, it is essential that we pass further aid to Ukraine.

Time is running out.

And when the war ends, and Ukraine hails victory, Putin must bear the responsibility for the death and destruction he has caused in their sovereign nation.

He must bear responsibility of paying for Ukraine's reconstruction.

Alongside my friend and House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman MIKE MCCAUL, we passed our REPO bill out of committee, which would seize Russian sovereign assets for the sole purpose of Ukraine's eventual reconstruction.

Similar legislation has successfully been passed by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Considering most Russian sovereign assets are located outside of the United States, it is critical that our allies around the world draft and pass companion legislation.

In January, European Union (EU) members unanimously agreed to set aside frozen Russian central bank assets in Europe, taking the first step to benefit Ukraine and its reconstruction from Russia's destruction.

This is a strong signal from our European allies that we are one step closer to seeing crucial draft legislation.

Although the EU has taken a step in the right direction, their action needs to go further. In my view, the ideal proposed draft legislation needs to encompass all Russian assets, not just liquid central bank accounts.

In the meantime, the United States and our allies need to continue to press Putin with further sanctions to deter his aggression.

We also need to ensure Ukraine remains an open economy.

Despite the damages caused by the war, over the past two years, Ukraine's economy is hanging in there.

Ukraine's battlefield victories in 2023 include pushing the Russian Navy to rear, freeing the western Black Sea, reopening it to Ukrainian exports of grain, iron, and fertilizer.

Although Russia's invasion drove Ukraine's GDP down in 2022, their economy is reported to have grown by roughly 3 to 4 percent, in 2023.

More economic recovery and more exports mean Ukraine is generating revenue to support itself and its needs.

Given the nation's current state in the face of devastation and in the wake of Putin's madness, this is remarkable.

As Ukraine is one of the world's largest grain producers, it's key that they continue to maintain an open, thriving economy.

In sum, it's simple: the U.S., Europe and global partners need to continue to support Ukraine with financial, military, and humanitarian assistance; hold Putin responsible for paying for the damages he has caused in this sovereign nation; and discourage him with further and more aggressive sanctions, including secondary sanctions on all nations that help fuel his terror.

For if Russia wins, it opens the door for other foreign adversaries like China to follow in their pursuit of taking over Taiwan, jumpstarting a global war.

If Russia wins, it threatens the 75 years of peace and prosperity in Europe, and risks dragging the United States into a war like we have never witnessed.

We can defeat Russia in Ukraine, if we see their struggle for freedom in the same way we fought for ours nearly 250 years ago.

Failure in Ukraine is not an option.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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#### CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH HONOREES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS) for 30 minutes.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join in the celebration of Black History Month and to honor the profound contributions of Black Americans in my hometown of Pacoima, California, and the broader San Fernando Valley.

Following World War II, as redlining policies segregated communities of color in Los Angeles and across the country, Pacoima became the center of African-American life in the valley as African Americans led a cultural resurgence through the creation of dozens and dozens of churches, schools, and successful small businesses.

Today, we take a moment to recount that rich and extensive history as we honor men of faith, women who always lend a helping hand, a group of young trailblazing ballplayers, and a historian who has chronicled these incredible stories.

By celebrating Black History Month in the northeast San Fernando Valley, we honor not only the struggles but also the triumphs that have made our community the diverse and resilient tapestry it is today.

#### HONORING THE GREATER COMMUNITY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the Greater Community Missionary Baptist Church for Black History Month, a beacon of faith and community service located in Pacoima.

Established in 1942, Greater Community Missionary Baptist Church holds the distinction of being the first African-American church founded in the San Fernando Valley.

In the face of racial adversity, the Greater Community Missionary Baptist Church has flourished, growing

from its humble beginnings with 6 families in 1942 to a congregation of around 500 African-American members in the 1950s and 1960s.

It is my privilege to honor the indomitable spirit of Reverend T.G. Pledger, whose visionary leadership paved the way for an extraordinary legacy beyond the walls of Greater Community Missionary Baptist Church. He was the founder and the first pastor of Greater Community Missionary Baptist Church.

Born in Alabama, Reverend Pledger later moved to Los Angeles and was instrumental in the church's early days. In 1942, Reverend Pledger and his wife came to the San Fernando Valley from Torrance, California. Pledger got a job at the Polsom Packing Company and bought a house next to the plant.

After moving to the San Fernando Valley, Reverend Pledger had an encounter that inspired him to establish a church there. A young man relayed to him the struggles to find a place of worship in the area. Many of the African-American residents had to travel to Pasadena or other communities to find a church.

In 1942, Reverend Pledger began Greater Community Missionary Baptist Church on the corner of Ralston Avenue and Pinney Street at a former dance hall known as Laurel Hall.

By 1945, Reverend Pledger and the original congregation finished construction of the first African-American church in the San Fernando Valley on the corner of Norris Avenue and Pinney Street.

As the population increased and the need of a larger facility was evident, Reverend Pledger rebuilt Greater Community Missionary Baptist Church in 1958.

Reverend Pledger was an influential voice during the fair housing movement, which led to the establishment of the Pledgerville Senior Citizens Villa, a testament to his enduring dedication to uplifting the lives of our seniors and families in Pacoima.

The successful realization of this housing project stands as a shining example of Reverend Pledger and his congregation's commitment to compassion, service, and the betterment of our community.

Pledgerville Senior Center sits adjacent to Greater Community Missionary Baptist Church along Van Nuys Boulevard.

After Reverend Pledger, there came Reverend D.D. Chatman, who served as pastor for 31 years, emphasizing the church's evolving role in a changing community.

Reverend Chatman began his service to Greater Community Missionary Baptist Church in 1987 and played a crucial role in obtaining government funding for the Pledgerville Senior Citizens Villa.

Under Reverend Chatman's leadership, a 16,000-square-foot community room was completed called the Great Room. The Great Room was host to

various after-school programming, job training classes, and food and clothing distributions.

His tireless efforts in revitalizing the Baptist Ministers Association, founding numerous churches, and advocating for the community on various platforms reflects a profound commitment to the holistic well-being of those he served.

Although Reverend Chatman passed away in 2019, his impact continues to resonate in the hearts of the people and the enduring mission of the Greater Community Missionary Baptist Church.

The Reverend Jeffrey Martin continues the church's legacy of service and inclusivity to this day. During the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Reverend Martin was on the forefront in ensuring families had the resources they needed. They opened the door of the Great Room and hosted unhoused residents in their winter shelter, which holds a capacity of 138 individuals each night.

We applaud the "mother church of the San Fernando Valley," the Greater Community Missionary Baptist Church, and its congregation for its 82 years of service, resilience, and dedication to fostering unity in our community. The impact of their outreach programs, particularly in addressing homelessness, is a testament to the church's commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of others.

May the Greater Community Missionary Baptist Church continue to be a shining example of faith, compassion, and community service for many years to come.

#### HONORING DEACON ROBERT WINN

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished individual whose life has been defined by service, leadership, and an unwavering commitment to justice.

Deacon Robert Winn, known affectionately as Bob, is a beacon of inspiration, a founder of the African American Leadership Organization, the AALO, and a lifelong advocate for racial, economic, and social justice in southern California and the San Fernando Valley.

Bob Winn was born in Birmingham, Alabama, a city steeped in the tumultuous history of the civil rights movement. Inspired by the indomitable spirit of Martin Luther King, Jr., Bob's journey of activism began with a profound commitment to equality. His dedication was not merely words; it was action.

A distinguished veteran, Bob served in the United States Army with honor and distinction. His sacrifice and service laid the foundation for a lifetime dedicated to uplifting and empowering his community.

After his military service, Bob pursued higher education, earning a degree in business administration from the University of Maryland.

In the pivotal year of 1965, Bob walked alongside Congressman John