

Syrian civil war, and victims of numerous horrific crimes committed during the conflict are still waiting for justice.

In recent months, regional powers and dictators have sought to sweep the war criminal, Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad's heinous, horrific crimes under the rug and welcome him back into the international arena. Shame.

Assad's regime committed some of the worst atrocities of the 21st century, including using chemical weapons literally on his own people and widespread use of horrific torture on his own people.

I introduced the Justice for Syrians resolution, and I urge my colleagues to bring it to the floor for a vote. This bill directs the U.S. through the United Nations to finally hold war criminal Assad accountable for crimes against humanity at an ad hoc international court of law.

This is critical. Please join me in demanding justice for our Syrian people and our families that are directly impacted that live here in the United States and push to hold war criminals like Assad accountable for their crimes against humanity.

#### MAKING MEDICALLY NECESSARY NUTRITION AVAILABLE

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

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, today hundreds of thousands of children and adults all across America, including over 177,000 just from my State of Florida, live with digestive gastrointestinal liver or pancreatic disease or inherited metabolic disorders, commonly referred to as "IMD," that actually inhibits their bodies from being able to process typical foods.

When left untreated, Madam Speaker, inherited metabolic disease or gastrointestinal conditions actually cause the body to fail to absorb nutrients, and the food can actually become toxic.

Without necessary nutrition, patients can face severe health risks, including unnecessary surgeries, hospitalizations, intellectual disabilities, or death.

Our health system must be structured to support proven treatments so that these patients can continue to live with these diseases.

I recently introduced legislation with Representative MCGOVERN that would make medically necessary nutrition more easily accessible to patients across the Nation.

H.R. 6892, the Medical Nutrition Equity Act, builds on coverage Congress passed for TRICARE and would actually cover medically necessary food, vitamins, and individual amino acids for these Americans with digestive and inherited metabolic disorders and allow them to lead normal, healthy lives.

As co-chair of the Crohn's and Colitis Caucus where I advocate for these di-

gestive disorders, I urge my colleagues to consider supporting this legislation as we work to pass it into law.

#### HOLDING RULE BREAKERS ACCOUNTABLE

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, as a former sheriff, I dedicated my life to holding rule breakers accountable, and I am here to tell you this morning that President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas are rule breakers.

Their inaction on securing the southern border is not a failed policy, Madam Speaker—it is their policy. For over a thousand days now they have refused to secure our southern border.

The House tried to intervene when we jointly passed H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act, the strongest border security bill in history.

While Senator SCHUMER and President Biden refused to act on this bill, we continue to see record numbers of illegal immigrants at our border, increasing rates of fentanyl poisoning, and an uptick in our national security threats.

Senator SCHUMER and President Biden falsely claim that they need additional authority to fix this situation at the southern border. That is blatantly false.

If the President cared about truly securing the border, Madam Speaker, all he has to do is undo the 94 executive actions that he has taken since becoming President that have created this crisis at the southern border and support States like Texas and others in their efforts to secure their own borders, and he can sign H.R. 2 into law.

I am proud to join with Representative HINSON and my other colleagues in demanding that the President enforce our laws on the books today to immediately address this crisis at the border.

I have to say that the President's inaction is costing American lives and billions of dollars. For 3 years, Republicans have been the balefire to America that our southern border was in crisis—3 years.

It takes a Presidential election and the impeachment of the Homeland Security Secretary to actually get Democrats to finally admit that there is a crisis at our southern border. That should not be.

#### HONORING KEN MIYAGISHIMA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. VASQUEZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. VASQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Ken Miyagishima on the occasion of his retirement and to recognize his more than three decades of work as a public servant who has tirelessly represented Las Cruces as the longest serving mayor in the city's history.

In 1992, Mr. Miyagishima was the first American of Japanese-Mexican descent to be elected to public office in New Mexico as a county commissioner for Dona Ana County.

He later served on the Las Cruces City Council before being elected mayor of Las Cruces, becoming the first person of Japanese-Mexican descent in New Mexico to be elected to this position.

Mayor Miyagishima has served with integrity and courage. He has fought to improve the lives of the residents of Las Cruces and elevated our city at the national level.

On behalf of the great people of New Mexico's Second Congressional District, I thank Mayor Ken Miyagishima for his life of service to Las Cruces and to Dona Ana County.

His work has made our community and New Mexico a stronger and more equitable place to live. We wish you well in your next chapter, Mayor.

#### WAR ON AMERICAN ENERGY

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

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, since stepping inside the Oval Office, President Biden has waged war against American energy.

This costly campaign against American energy producers, workers, and consumers has caused prices to skyrocket for almost everything.

Now, signaling his dedication and unwavering support to Green New Deal activists instead of everyday hardworking Americans, President Biden has paused all pending approvals of liquefied natural gas, or LNG, terminals.

His reason for doing so, he claims, is the so-called climate crisis, which he goes on to say is the existential threat of our time.

Madam Speaker, to the hardworking folks of Tennessee, the existential crisis of our time is putting food on the table and keeping the lights on, which have become far more difficult under President Biden and his administration's anti-energy policies.

Thankfully, House Republicans have taken action. Last year, we passed the Lower Energy Costs Act, H.R. 1, which would unleash America's energy dominance and bring back our energy independence by reforming the permitting process and cutting bureaucratic red tape to help drive costs down for all Americans.

Instead of joining Republicans in this commonsense approach to increasing energy production and lowering costs for all Americans, President Biden has instead chosen to raid the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and beg foreign dictators to increase their energy production when we have what we need right here at home under our feet.

The United States of America shouldn't have to rely on foreign dictators for our energy needs, and that is exactly what banning LNG exports will lead to.

That is just one of the many reasons why we are continuing our efforts to fight back against President Biden's war on American energy, this time by

passing the Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act, which was introduced by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER).

This bill is simple. It reverses President Biden's latest attack on the American energy industry by reversing his decision to ban American LNG exports.

American LNG helps to strengthen our economy, reduces worldwide emissions, and provides security to our Nation and our allies.

According to the American Petroleum Institute, increasing LNG exports could add as much as \$73 billion to the U.S. economy and upwards of 453,000 high-paying American jobs by 2040.

Additionally, more than 87 percent of LNG exports in December 2023 went to the European Union, the United Kingdom, and our allies in Asian markets.

Without a doubt, American LNG helped to reduce natural gas prices in Europe by over 83 percent from the 2022 levels following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in voting "yes" on H.R. 7176, the Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act, to ensure American energy leadership and security. This bill is a commonsense approach to increasing our energy production and lowering costs for all Americans.

I am proud to support its passage and will always fight against President Biden's war on American energy and American energy independence and the energy needs of the American people.

□ 1045

#### CELEBRATING LGBTQI+ AMERICANS ON VALENTINES DAY

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

Ms. PORTER. Madam Speaker, Valentine's Day is a time for us to cherish the loved ones in our lives. I rise to celebrate love in all its forms and to stand in solidarity with the LGBTQI+ communities in California and across the Nation.

While we have made progress to protect the rights and safety of queer Americans, there is still more to be done.

Last year, a record number of bills restricting LGBTQI+ rights were introduced in legislatures across the country, an extremist Supreme Court effectively legalized discrimination against the queer community, and House Republicans targeted LGBTQI+ in dozens of hearings.

These attacks are unacceptable. As a member of the Congressional Equality Caucus, I will always seek to champion and protect LGBTQI+ Californians.

May this week serve as a reminder to my colleagues that we must relentlessly celebrate and defend love.

COMMENDING UNITED TO END HOMELESSNESS MILESTONE

Ms. PORTER. I rise today to commend Orange County's United to End

Homelessness initiative for reaching a remarkable milestone. Its WelcomeHomeOC program has housed more than 1,000 people experiencing homelessness, including 103 former foster youth and 242 veterans.

This nationally recognized program pairs property owners with those given a voucher to reduce their housing costs. This public-private partnership helps people avoid homelessness and housing insecurity. Its focus on veterans and former foster youth who may lack adequate support systems helps the most vulnerable in our community.

Let's be clear: This program is a patch on a massive problem. California's housing crisis is the result of decades of inaction in Washington.

I have pushed for expanding the housing choice voucher program. The Federal Government must step up to help local and State governments in preventing homelessness.

I am proud to recognize the United to End Homelessness initiative and look forward to its continued success.

RECOGNIZING 44TH OC BLACK HISTORY PARADE

Ms. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Orange County Heritage Council on a wonderfully successful Black History Parade and Unity Festival.

Madam Speaker, 44 years ago, the late Helen Shipp, founder of the Orange County Heritage Council, envisioned an event that would bring the community together in celebration of Black excellence.

Now run by Helen's son, Dwayne, the Orange County Black History Parade and Unity Festival continues to thrive—just as Helen imagined. The event features interactive Black history lessons, college and scholarship information, health screenings, and business connection opportunities.

I applaud how the Unity Festival promotes inclusivity, understanding, and equality. It honors the diverse and resilient history of Black Americans and their historic and ongoing contributions to California.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate the Orange County Heritage Council on their successful event.

COMMENDING CALOPTIMA'S STREET MEDICINE PROGRAM

Ms. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend CalOptima Health for their new street medicine program, which offers critical mobile health services to unhoused individuals in Orange County.

Logistical barriers make it difficult for people experiencing homelessness to receive the healthcare that they desperately need. CalOptima, which provides health services to low-income Californians, is reducing these barriers by bringing healthcare directly to homeless people, meeting them where they are.

The mobile health program includes a fully equipped medical van and an experienced team to administer healthcare and connect individuals to services, including housing assistance.

CalOptima's Street Medicine program is just one example of how Californians step up to help our neighbors in crisis. Expanding this program would reduce emergency room visits and first responder interventions and keep our communities healthier.

I will continue fighting in Washington to lower housing costs, which is the only way to permanently end homelessness.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 49 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MEUSER) at noon.

#### PRAYER

Pastor Zach Terry, First Baptist Church, Fernandina Beach, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, as we gather in this Chamber, recognizing You as the only sovereign over these United States, we acknowledge our dependency upon You alone.

May Your holy spirit awaken within our Representatives those timeless truths of scripture, whispered from the lips of their ancestors and thundered from the sacred desk.

Those principles of liberty and justice transcend both time and culture and serve as a beacon amid the stormy seas of governance.

May this Congress embody the most sacred ideals of their constituents and honor the legacy of their honorable predecessors.

The good citizens of this Nation have elected them, but You, O Lord, have appointed them for such a time as this.

May the decisions that they make this day honor the prayer of our Lord, "Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven."

I ask all these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Mrs. BICE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.