

In my State of Texas we are always open for business. Now we are open to illegal behavior every single day, thanks to President Biden.

In God we trust.

#### ONGOING CONFLICT IN THE TIGRAY REGION OF ETHIOPIA

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss the ongoing conflict taking place in the Tigray region of Ethiopia.

For over 10 months, the Tigray People's Liberation Front and the Ethiopian National Defense Force have clashed in and around Tigray. The TPLF and the Ethiopian government must come to a true ceasefire agreement and move toward peace.

The people of Ethiopia are suffering in the most horrific ways imaginable; starvation, murder, rape as a weapon of war, and other crimes against humanity. They are losing their lives, homes, and security.

Now is not the time to bicker about where the fault lies, with both parties blaming each other for varied and heinous acts. Innocent civilians are suffering as a result of this brutal conflict. Both the TPLF and the Ethiopian government must put the good of the people first.

It is time that we address the needs of the suffering Ethiopian people by prioritizing refugee visas, and aid that actually reaches displaced people. We must support peace in the region.

#### HONORING CAPTAIN BILL ROBINSON

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my good friend, Captain Bill Robinson, as Tennessee's Second District Veteran of the Month.

Captain Robinson was born in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina. In 1961 he enlisted in the United States Air Force. He was trained as a helicopter maintenance technician and worked at Air Force bases in the United States, South Korea, and Thailand during the Vietnam War.

On September 20, 1965, Captain Robinson's helicopter was shot down over North Vietnam during a rescue mission. He was captured and taken as a prisoner of war. During his time in captivity, Captain Robinson endured inhumane conditions at infamous camps like the Hanoi Hilton and the Briarpatch. By the time he was released on February 12, 1973, Captain Robinson had spent 2,703 days as a prisoner of war, making him the longest-held enlisted prisoner of war in American history.

Captain Robinson credits four faiths for his survival during his 7½ years in

captivity: Faith in himself, faith in his fellow prisoners, faith in his country, and faith in the Lord, Mr. Speaker.

After he returned home, he continued serving in the Air Force until his retirement on December 1, 1984, to Madisonville, Tennessee.

Since his retirement, Captain Robinson has dedicated his life to helping his fellow veterans. He is heavily involved in Chapter 1078 of the Vietnam Veterans of America, which made me an honorary member, which is now named after him.

Thank you Captain Robinson for your service and your sacrifice. It is an honor to recognize you on the House floor and call you my friend.

#### FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL MARITIME HERITAGE GRANTS PROGRAM

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act authorizing funding for the National Maritime Heritage Grants Program.

The competitive matching grant program, intended to enhance public awareness, education, and appreciation for United States maritime history, has not issued grants for the last several years due to lack of funding.

The Buffalo and Erie County Naval and Military Park in my community is home to several decommissioned Naval vessels that serve as floating museums, allowing visitors to be immersed in the incredible stories of historic military battles and brave U.S. soldiers.

Without resources, ships like these across the country are deteriorating and, in some cases, are literally sinking.

I ask my colleagues to support our amendment authorizing \$10 million for the National Maritime Heritage Grants Program and join me in protecting irreplaceable maritime history from being lost forever.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF SAYED OBAIDULLAH AMIN

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

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sayed Obaidullah Amin, who served heroically in Afghanistan and risked his life as a translator for U.S. forces in Sangam Valley.

Sayed had a pending SIV, P1, and P2 application to get to the United States. He had the help of marines who he served with, as well as the help of my office. Unfortunately, he and his wife were killed at Abbey Gate during the Kabul airport attack fighting to get to safety. Their two infant children survived, and they are P1, P2 applicants, and they need the help of our State Department to get to safety.

My heart continues to be with his children, the marines he served with, and all those who worked so hard to get him to safety. Our mission is not over. We have lives to save.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF CHARLES BOLDEN

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a valued member of my team, Charles Bolden, who recently departed my office for a new challenge.

Charles began working in my office in 2016 and has proven himself time and again to be a vital and integral part of the team. He started out as a staff assistant in the office enthusiastically greeting guests and savoring every conversation with constituents. His dedication to serving the people of Illinois' Second Congressional District, which is also his home, stood out.

Charles handled the gun violence portfolio for the office, which is personal to him as he personally lost close friends to gun violence. This is an issue that is so important to both Charles and me, and I am grateful for his many years of service working to save lives and bring gun violence prevention resources to the people of Chicagoland.

While I am so sad to see Charles Mackie Bolden, aka Charlie, to me, move on, I am very grateful for his years of service, and I wish him the best in his next endeavor.

#### INFLATION UNDERMINES AMERICAN FAMILIES

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, American neighborhoods are under terrorist threat due to the Biden catastrophic blunder of the Afghan surrender with an open southern border. This is not his only failure as inflation undermines American families.

Under Biden, borrowing and spending has already caused inflation to surge to the fastest pace in 13 years, according to the Labor Department. Sadly, we have price increases: Gasoline, 42.7 percent; bacon, 17 percent; chicken, 7.2 percent; fish and seafood, 10.6 percent; eggs, 9.9 percent.

Whatever the increase in wages, inflation has wiped out gains. Americans keep less under Biden. Now, Biden proposes \$3.5 trillion in more borrowing, taxing, and spending, which will destroy private sector jobs, add to the debt of younger citizens, and weaken retirement accounts.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years, as the global war on terrorism continues moving from abroad to our neighborhoods.