HONORING THE LIFE OF COLONEL EDWARD IRWIN WEXLER

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of Colonel Edward Wexler, of Savannah, Georgia, who passed away on June 30 at the age of 75.

Colonel Wexler was a Savannah native who lived a truly remarkable life. After graduating from The Citadel, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Air Force. Colonel Wexler traveled the world with the United States Air Force, serving in many different countries. He retired from the Air National Guard in 2006, having over 35 years of service.

Following retirement, Colonel Wexler continued to serve his community. He became director of the Combined Federal Campaign for Coastal Georgia, president of the Savannah Military Officers Association, and junior vice commander of the Veterans Council of Chatham County.

Colonel Wexler's dedication to improving the lives of others will never be forgotten. My thoughts and prayers are with Colonel Wexler's family, friends, and all who knew him during this most difficult time.

RESTORING COMMUNITIES LEFT BEHIND

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening to thank Chairwoman MAXINE WATERS for including the Restoring Communities Left Behind Act in her Housing is Infrastructure bill.

This legislation, led by Congresswoman RASHIDA TLAIB and myself, would direct $5 billion toward programs for homeowner rehabilitation assistance, weatherization, improved accessibility for seniors and people with disabilities, refinancing, and property tax relief.

It will restore quality housing in the cities I represent, such as Toledo, Lorain, Sandusky, and Cleveland, which have suffered from decades of job losses, recessions, the foreclosure crisis of 2008, and chronic housing underinvestment.

Congress must serve as a partner to our on-the-ground organizations and local leaders who know what resources are needed where and how best to deploy them to revive their neighborhoods.

These investments will repair homes, stimulate economic growth, and revitalize communities. I urge all of my colleagues to support its passage, and I send my thanks to all who have helped us along this really vital road.

RETURN OF DEBT CEILING

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, the return of the debt ceiling on July 31 should flash fiscal warning signs for every elected official in Congress.

The debt ceiling was suspended for 2 years back in 2019. Since then, Congress has kept up its reckless spending habits like a teenage shopaholic at the mall with a credit card.

Now, government debt is over 100 percent of our domestic product—100 percent, Madam Speaker.

We clearly ignored the spending problems that got us into this mess in the first place. There needs to be a limit on how much debt elected officials can put on the taxpayers' shoulders.

My legislation, the Reforming America's Fiscal Toolkit Act, would amend Congress' budget process to keep government debt lower than our gross domestic product. This would limit how much financial trouble Congress can get the country into.

You know what they say, Madam Speaker: The first step to solving a problem is recognizing you have a problem, and dadgummit, Congress has a problem.

Congress needs to put a spending check on itself, or our country is going to end up like that out-of-control teenage shopaholic: bad credit, high interest rates, broke, and living in their parents' basement.

200 DAYS OF DELIVERING FOR THE PEOPLE

(Mr. AUCHINCLOSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Madam Speaker, last week, we celebrated the 200th day of the 117th Congress and 200 days of getting shots in arms, students in classrooms, money in pockets, and Americans back to work.

Thanks to House Democrats and President Biden, we passed the American Rescue Plan, delivering funding and relief to the Commonwealth and to Americans across the country.

In Massachusetts, nearly 74 percent of adults are fully vaccinated, allowing them to reunite with friends and loved ones, and we have sent over 500,000 stimulus checks to Bay Staters.

When I came to Congress, I promised our students and families that they would return to in-person learning. The American Rescue Plan delivered on my pledge, providing Massachusetts schools with $1.8 billion in Federal relief to support their students and staff as they re-entered the classroom.

We lifted up our care economy, securing over $1 billion to reduce the cost of childcare and pay our care workers a fair wage.

As a parent, I worked hard to provide our working families with the historic tax relief that they deserve. The child tax credit we passed will cut child poverty in half and help nearly 60 percent of children in my district, from Brookline to Fall River.

We passed the INVEST Act, a transformational bill that will reimagine transportation while delivering clean energy and spurring job creation. Now, the Senate has the legislative framework it needs to make our infrastructure plan a reality.

From the depths of the crisis, House Democrats delivered needed recovery for Americans in just 200 days.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 18, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, in Pasco County, one of the counties in my district, we have seen a huge spike in overdoses, including 25 fatalities in the month of June alone. Very, very sad.

During January through June 2021, we have seen more overdoses than any other similar period on record.

Fentanyl continues to be a significant factor. We must do everything we can to prevent fentanyl from flooding our streets, including stopping the free flow at our Nation's southern border.

I have been to the border, Madam Speaker, and I have seen how easy it is to move drugs into our country. We must secure our border.

Additionally, we must implement commonsense safeguards to prevent opioid abuse and improve access to quality treatment options. I will continue to work on these priorities.

Separately, Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

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RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

As someone who spent their career before Congress as a healthcare rehabilitation professional, I experienced