

was substantial. The flooding stranded many Tennesseans, who had to be rescued by boat.

It breaks the heart to see so many lose everything they own.

First responders and local leaders are out every day and have been since the flooding started. In many communities, mayors—in fact, in one community, Mayor Carroll was out in a boat delivering food and water to residents of Perry County.

We are working hard to help these Tennesseans return to normalcy, and I hope you will join me in keeping everyone affected by the floods in your prayers.

LIFTING OF SANCTIONS AGAINST OLEG DERIPASKA

(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 in strong opposition to the Trump administration's very curious lifting of sanctions against Russian energy magnate Oleg Deripaska.

The President and our allies must strengthen sanctions against Russia, not weaken them.

Russia illegally invaded the sovereign nation of Ukraine and has killed more than 10,000 people, including civilians. She has seized 24 Ukrainian sailors and not released them. Russia cyberhacks our firms and even our democratic election process.

That is why Congress passed significant sanctions in 2017 by an overwhelming majority to raise the costs on Putin's sinister aims. Yet the Trump administration caved to foreign influence and, astoundingly, announced it would lift sanctions on Deripaska.

Madam Speaker, America's first job is to protect liberty. It should not sell off our liberty to billionaires, especially mob bosses who enable cold-blooded murder in Ukraine. It does make you wonder what forces pull the strings of the Trump administration.

The free world must not be soft on the Russian command structure, and I look forward to hearing what additional sanctions our President proposes to replace his ill-advised removal on sanctions.

Stand fast, liberty lovers. Pay attention.

CONGRATULATING KAREN MILLER ON HER RETIREMENT

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Karen Miller from Richland, Washington, on her retirement and to honor her 20 years of service to the ratepayers of the Benton Public Utility District in Washington State's Fourth Congressional District.

Karen has been a tireless advocate for the Tri-Cities community and for

the reliable, affordable power generated by central Washington's hydroelectric dams. She has been at the forefront of the community's efforts to "Save Our Dams," spearheading rallies and events like RiverFest, to celebrate the countless benefits of the Columbia and the Snake River dams.

While I know the team at Benton PUD will sorely miss Karen's enthusiasm and friendship, I am confident her service to the community will continue.

I wish Karen and her husband, Ken, the best as they spend more time enjoying golfing, traveling Europe, and enjoying time with their beloved grandchildren.

Congratulations, Karen.

CELEBRATING GINNY WALKER'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

(Ms. FOXX of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise to wish Mrs. Ginny Walker a happy 100th birthday. It has been a delight getting to know Mrs. Walker and her family since they began splitting their time between homes in Greensboro and Land Harbor in North Carolina's Fifth District.

Mrs. Walker is a mother of two, grandmother of three, great-grandmother of six, and beloved by all of them. Shortly after moving to North Carolina, her husband, Delmer, started Delta Electronic Plating Company, and she went back to school to learn how to keep books and even helped in the plant and driving trucks.

Mrs. Walker remains an engaged citizen to this day, especially in bridge circles and First Baptist Church, where everyone enjoys her pies.

At 100, I hope to be as full of life as Mrs. Walker, and I wish her a wonderful birthday and many, many more to come.

CALIFORNIA'S HIGH-SPEED RAIL SYSTEM

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight some new legislation I am introducing this week, H.R. 1515, the High-Speed Refund Act.

Simply put, California's proposed high-speed rail system has been a total disaster. It will not meet the legal requirements of true high-speed rail from San Francisco to Los Angeles. The total projected cost has now ballooned to \$100 billion, tripling what the voters were told back in 2008.

The Trump administration has already canceled a \$929 million grant, but I think they should take the entire \$3.5 billion in Federal dollars that California is wasting under the Stimulus Act of 2009, 10 years ago. That is why my bill, the High-Speed Refund Act,

would require California to refund all Federal funding for high-speed rail and repurpose it to highway and transportation projects that would actually benefit people and be economically viable.

Madam Speaker, \$5 billion has already been wasted. Let's not make it \$100 billion. Undertaking the project was a huge mistake. I think Californians and the other 49 States deserve a refund and to have this money channeled into something that would be more useful for all Americans.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CLASSIC CHEVROLET

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

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, 10 years ago, March 2, 2009, big changes happened back home in Sugar Land, Texas. Bill Heard Chevrolet went to the dustbin of history. It was replaced by Classic Chevrolet. It opened on the same lot at Southeast U.S. 59 and U.S. 90A. Don Kerstetter got it rolling. Jeff and Tiffany Sebastian kept it rolling stronger.

In 10 years, Classic has made Sugar Land and Fort Bend County better. In fact, they have been fully engaged in our community. A few examples:

They participate every year in an annual Classic Chevy Chili Cook-Off, raising tens of thousands of dollars for first responders;

They support local schools, the Fort Bend Education Foundation, last Saturday, with Ray Aguilar of Classic emceeding the event;

They support the Boy Scouts, Child Advocates of Fort Bend boys choir, Impact A Hero for combat-wounded veterans, and on and on and on.

For 10 years, Classic Chevrolet has had no need to find new roads. All roads lead to Classic Chevrolet.

□ 1930

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE WALTER B. JONES, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, we are here tonight to honor our colleague, Walter B. Jones.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Congressman PRICE for the effort he has put in to making this evening a time for us to honor Walter, our esteemed colleague.

Madam Speaker, Walter Jones will always be remembered for his dedication to North Carolina's Third District and his steadfast support for all of our Nation's men and women in uniform. I know that many of the speakers will