

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING BLAKE VANDEVER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Blake Vandever. Blake is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 81, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Blake has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Blake has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Blake has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Blake Vandever for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

COMMENDING UZBEKISTAN ON 25
YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD an opinion piece written by our former colleague, the gentleman from American Samoa, Mr. Eni F.H. Faleomavaega, who was the first Asian-Pacific American in U.S. history to serve as Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and the Global Environment, which had broad jurisdiction for U.S. policy affecting the region, including Central Asia. Mr. Faleomavaega also founded the Congressional Caucus on Central Asia, and his work continues to influence the region today.

2016 marked the 25th anniversary of Uzbekistan's independence from the Soviet Union. For some 15 years, it has been my privilege to work closely with the government of Uzbekistan in various capacities—as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Foreign Affairs; as Chairman of the Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and the Global Environment; as Ranking Member; and as founder of the Congressional Caucus on Central Asia.

I am proud of Uzbekistan for the great progress it has made on its march to democracy, and I especially commend Uzbekistan on its recent presidential election as well as Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev on his victory. In an act that demonstrated Uzbekistan's commitment to a transparent process, Uzbekistan invited about 300 international observers, including a full-scale election observation

team from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), to monitor the election, which was held on December 4, 2016 upon the passing of the late President Islam Karimov who served as Uzbekistan's president since independence. While every government, including the United States, has room for improvement, I am pleased that Uzbekistan's first election upon the passing of President Karimov was carried out peacefully and in accordance with Uzbekistan's constitution.

Following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States until now, Uzbekistan and the United States have built a broad-based relationship. During U.S.-led operations in Afghanistan, Uzbekistan provided the use of a military base to serve as a hub for combat and humanitarian missions and, later, permitted the U.S. to move equipment and supplies through Uzbekistan to Afghanistan in support of U.S. troops. In the past 25 years, our relationship has also grown in other ways, including economically, politically, and strategically.

In fact, Uzbekistan and the United States belong to a number of the same international organizations including the United Nations and the OSCE, as well as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Uzbekistan is an observer to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and has attracted investment from Caterpillar, Coca-Cola, Lockheed Martin, Boeing, and so on.

From firsthand experience, I know Uzbekistan's accomplishments have been fast-paced, and I have recognized those accomplishments in the Congressional Record for historical purposes. As Uzbekistan continues to excel, I am reminded of these words from the late President Karimov who said that the people of Uzbekistan are "a creative people who deeply realize their identity, take pride of the fact that they live on sacred land and are the descendants of great ancestors, capable to subdue any peaks."

Uzbekistan is a land more than 2,500 years old. Its history is rich and deep, spanning far beyond its brief encounter with the Soviet Union. Its leaders—then and now—have sought for security and stability at home and abroad. And so, I wish President Mirziyoyev well as he assumes his duties. I have every reason to believe he will succeed for and on behalf of the people of Uzbekistan who have put their hope in him, especially the youth and women, who showed up at the polls to support his candidacy.

I thank my dear friends including Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov who previously served as Uzbekistan's Ambassador to the United States, and Senator Sodik Safoyev who once served as Foreign Minister as well as former Ambassador to the United States and currently as Chairman of the Foreign Political Affairs Committee of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan. I commend them for their hard work in developing stronger U.S.-Uzbekistan relations, and for dedicating their lives in service to their country.

I also commend Uzbekistan's Ambassador to the United States, H.E. Bakhtiyar Gulyamov, and Uzbekistan's former Ambassador to the United States, H.E. Ilhom Nematov, as well as the many other leaders in Uzbekistan who have contributed to building an independent nation.

I join with the people of Uzbekistan in celebrating 25 years of independence, and it

is my sincere hope that Uzbekistan, like all freedom-loving nations, will hold these truths to be self-evident—"that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

EPS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. BRENDA L. LAWRENCE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2017

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the EPS Improvement Act of 2017. Michigan is a success story for clean energy job growth. For many years, the press reported on Detroit's urban decline and the lights literally going out. While this may have been true in the past, Detroit has been making a comeback.

After generations of urban flight, the population of Detroit is rising. Along with that growth has come revitalization. All across town, the lights are coming back on. The LED project cost \$185 million and was paid for by the city and the state. The Public Lighting Authority of Detroit, also received support from the Obama Administration with Department of Energy advising local officials on how to brighten up the city.

Investments by the Obama Administration in energy-efficient lighting has reduced costs across the industry, making LEDS feasible for a city like Detroit. Only three years ago, nearly half of the 88,000 streetlights in the city were out of commission.

This major infrastructure project in my city of Detroit, created not only smart urban design to an aging city, but it brought jobs. City officials told me that since 2014, using Federal Department of Transportation funding, Detroit has added buses, hired dozens of drivers and increased ridership by approximately 100,000 a week. Like the streetlights that are now on across the city, buses restore the fabric of the streets and re-establish a semblance of normalcy.

Mr. Speaker, infrastructure projects like the LED project in Detroit and the transportation funding for buses are what we need to get America back to work. These funded projects have a ripple effect on the community and not only rejuvenate it but put people back to work.

I support H.R. 518 and more projects that support clean energy growth.

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNUAL
"HEALTH FOR HUMANITY
YOGATHON"

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh's tenth

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

annual "Health for Humanity Yogathon" or "Surya Namaskar Yajna." Surya Namaskar integrates simple yoga postures in 10-steps that, along with teaching easy breathing techniques, can provide immense health benefits to both the body and the mind.

Each year, Hindus worldwide celebrate January 14th as Makar Sankranti—a day that marks the change of season as the sun enters the sign of Capricorn or Makar. To mark this occasion, Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh has organized the "Yoga for Health, Health for Humanity" Yogathon from January 14, 2017–January 29, 2017. The 16-day event will raise awareness about yoga and its advantages in achieving a healthy body, mind, and spirit.

Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh is a voluntary, non-profit, social and cultural organization, which aims at preserving and passing on the Hindu heritage and cultural values to the next generation of Hindus and raise awareness around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 10th annual Health for Humanity Yogathon.

HONORING CHIEF WILLIAM G.
FRAHER

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.
OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the outstanding achievements of Chief William G. Fraher as he prepares for his retirement today as Chief of Police from the Paterson Police Department.

Chief William Fraher is an Alumnus of Rutgers University, where he received his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and Government. Chief Fraher then went on to receive his Master's Degree from Rutgers University in Public Policy Analysis. He is also a member of Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Police Honor Society.

Chief Fraher was appointed to the Paterson Police Department in January of 1975. He has served my hometown of Paterson for over 42 years.

It came with no surprise that on February 1, 2012 William G. Fraher was appointed Acting Chief of Police for the City of Paterson, where he has lead the men and women of the Paterson Police Department in the third largest city in the State of New Jersey. Chief Fraher makes it a point to work with the Police Director, Administration and community activists to make the City of Paterson more safe and secure.

Under Chief Fraher, the Paterson Police Department became the largest accredited municipal agency. His dedication to the job and the city has resulted in numerous accomplishments, including being a founding partner in the development of CORESTAT, a law enforcement partnership within the Passaic River corridor, which includes police departments from Bergen County, Hudson County, Passaic County, Essex County, and the NJ State Police. His presentations at the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) have encompassed numerous affiliations with the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS), American Society of Criminology (ACS), and the Integrated Justice Information Systems In-

stitute (IJIS). Currently, Chief Fraher is an adjunct professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City.

Today, I take pride in recognizing and commemorating the achievements of an extraordinary individual. Chief William G. Fraher is a man of exceptional character and is truly deserving of this esteemed acknowledgement. Chief Fraher is very well respected by all law enforcement officials throughout the tri-state area and beyond. I am forever grateful for the service, dedication, and the security Chief Fraher has provided to my hometown of Paterson.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, family and friends, all those whose lives he has touched, and me, in recognizing the work of Chief William G. Fraher's years of service, dedication, and excellence to the City of Paterson.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for roll call votes 60 and 61 on Monday, January 23, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted "Yea" on roll call votes 60 and 61.

HONORING GARETT OLSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Garrett Olson. Garrett is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 81, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Garrett has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Garrett has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Garrett contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Garrett sorted the clothing inventory and the restored the drop-off shed at the Better Living Center in Macon, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Garrett Olson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

MITCH MORRISSEY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mitch Morrissey as he completes his tenure as the

Denver District Attorney. I would also like to thank Mitch's wife, Maggie, for lending her husband to the Denver community for so many years. During his time in office, Mitch made it his mission to protect the public, advocate for victims of crime, and respect the rights of the accused. He worked tirelessly to promote stronger relations between law enforcement and the Denver community.

For 11 years, Mitch has been the chief prosecutor for the Second Judicial District. Prior to his election, he worked in the Denver District Attorney's office for 20 years, 10 of which he served as the Chief Deputy D.A. In his role as D.A., Mitch was responsible for thousands of felony and misdemeanor prosecutions each year, supervising over 70 attorneys and 120 staff members, all while prioritizing victims' needs. Mitch led an invaluable team of Victim Advocates with a particular focus on those in under-served areas and communities. He is nationally known for his expertise in DNA technology, applying it in criminal prosecutions and working to ensure DNA science is admissible in our courtrooms. In addition, Mitch's relationship with and support for Colorado's law enforcement community has been exceptional. Thanks to his hard work, Mitch is also the recipient of numerous awards, including "Prosecutor of the Year," by the Colorado District Attorneys Council and the "Patriot Award," by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

Mitch is also a true son of Colorado. He is a Denver native, a graduate of the University of Denver College of Law, the University of Colorado at Boulder, and Mullen High School.

I congratulate Mitch for his achievements. I applaud his dedication, leadership, and commitment to justice for Colorado's citizens. I am proud of the work he has accomplished and wish him all the success and happiness in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, due to an illness I was unable to vote on the following: Roll call No. 60 Roll call No. 61

Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GOVERNOR
SONNY PERDUE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, recently, President Donald Trump selected former Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue to be Secretary of Agriculture.

President Trump correctly announced that, "From growing up on a farm to being governor of a big agriculture state, he has spent his whole life understanding and solving the challenges our farmers face, and he is going to deliver big results for all Americans who earn their living off the land."

I am confident that Governor Perdue will be a positive advocate for the agricultural community. The dynamic agriculture industry of

the district I represent is appreciated for its vital significance and extraordinary employment opportunities, and creating jobs.

Congratulations to Governor Perdue, his wife Mary Ruff, and their entire family on this tremendous honor. I look forward to working with his successor in this new position in the tradition of Governor Perdue's success as Governor of South Carolina's sister state.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops and may we never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE 75TH
BIRTHDAY OF CHARLES A. WEISS

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to acknowledge the 75th birthday of Charles A. Weiss, my friend and roommate from the University of Notre Dame Law School. Charlie Weiss is a true legal giant who continues to be an extremely active litigator with the renowned Brian Cave law firm. A proud lifelong resident of Missouri, Charlie graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Missouri before attending Notre Dame Law School where he was an editor of the Law Review and received his Juris Doctor degree in 1968.

During his distinguished legal career, Charlie has practiced in state and federal courts throughout the country, including 39 different federal district courts, 8 federal courts of appeals and the United States Supreme Court dealing with significant cases which include class actions, intellectual property, securities, antitrust and constitutional law. Charlie has also been active in local, state and federal bar associations serving in such key positions as President of the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis, President of the Missouri Bar Association and a member of the House of Delegates and the Board of Governors of the American Bar Association, plus being on numerous ABA standing committees. Charlie has done much for the Notre Dame Law School, serving as President of the Notre Dame Club of St. Louis and President of the Notre Dame Law Association. In 2013, Charlie was the recipient of the Law School's Rev. Michael D. McCafferty C.S.C. Award.

Charlie's commitment to justice is demonstrated by his extensive pro bono work on behalf of indigent clients, most notably leading a team of lawyers to win the release in 2009 of an innocent man who had spent 17 years in prison for a murder he did not commit.

Charlie and his wife Susan are outstanding people who are proud parents and grandparents. As a friend and fellow Notre Dame graduate, I know that I speak for the countless people whose lives have been enriched by our association with Charlie Weiss in wishing him a very Healthy and Happy 75th Birthday and many more after that. Go Irish.

IN HONOR OF THE 80TH BIRTHDAY
OF JACK MCCONNELL

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize the birthday of Jack McConnell. He will turn 80 on February 7th.

Jack was born on February 7, 1937, to John Richard and Mary Heath McConnell in Lee County, Alabama.

Jack graduated from Beaugard High School in 1956. He later attended Columbus Technical College in Columbus, Georgia.

He used his technical skills as a mechanic and machinist at Perfect Plastics, Ampex Corporation and Uniroyal-Goodrich. He retired from Uniroyal-Goodrich in 1992 after twenty one years of service. After retirement he pursued his life-long dream of becoming a cattle farmer.

He is a lifelong member of Hopewell United Methodist Church and currently serves as chairman of the Board of Trustees, a position he has held for many years.

He was elected and served on the Lee County School Board for 6 years. He is currently serving on the Board of Directors of the Lee County Cattlemen's Association and the ALFA Farmer's Federation Board of Directors.

Jack and his wife Carolyn reside in the Beaugard Community. They have six children, Jason McConnell, Judi McConnell, Jennifer Sanavitis, Norman Rudd, Rob Rudd and Angie Rudd and they have eleven grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the life and achievements of Jack McConnell and wishing him a happy 80th birthday.

HONORING CLARKE BLODGETT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Clarke Blodgett. Clarke is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 81, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Clarke has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Clarke has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Clarke has mastered the bugle, led his troop as the Senior Patrol Leader, and earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Clarke also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Clarke built, installed and organized shelves inside a shed at Sacred Heart Church in Bevier, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Clarke Blodgett for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE SS "EXODUS 1947"

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary events surrounding the SS *Exodus 1947*, to which a historic memorial will be dedicated in the Port of Haifa in Israel this coming July.

The SS *Exodus 1947*, originally known as the *President Warfield*, was a passenger ship operating on the "Old Bay Line" between Baltimore, MD and Norfolk, VA. The ship served in that role for nearly 15 years before being repurposed during World War II, when it served both the Royal Navy and the United States Navy. Following the war, the ship returned to the U.S. and was placed in the Naval Reserve Fleet in Virginia, where it was to be sold for scrap.

Before the ship could be scrapped it was sold to the Haganah, the precursor to the Israel Defense Forces. The Haganah intended to use it, amongst 9 other ships, to evacuate displaced Jews from Europe to what was then Palestine, at the time under British Control. Before undertaking this mission the ship was towed to Baltimore, where it was refitted and crewed, primarily by volunteer Jewish-American ex-soldiers.

Once in Europe, the ship originally designed for 400 passengers was loaded with 4,454 Holocaust survivors and departed from the French Port of Sète. The ship was intercepted in international waters by a task force of eight British Naval vessels and was boarded by Royal Marines. While the unarmed crew and passengers fought back with whatever could be turned into weapons, they were eventually overwhelmed and taken back to France and then to displaced persons camps in Germany on British prison ships.

The events on the *Exodus* garnered international media attention and are considered by historians to have played a role in the passage of United Nations Resolution 181, which established the State of Israel. The mayor of Haifa in 1950 dubbed the *Exodus* the "Ship that Launched a Nation."

Memorials and historical markers for the *Exodus* have been placed in the Baltimore Harbor, as well as France and Germany. I am proud of the small role that Baltimore played in these historic events and also commend the work of my constituent, Dr. Barry S. Lever, with the Jewish American Society for Historic Preservation to dedicate a memorial to the *Exodus* in Israel, and I congratulate them on their successful efforts.

SAN BERNARDINO SHERIFF'S CAPTAIN SAM LUCIA RECEIVES PROMOTION

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding public service of outgoing Victorville Sheriff's Station Captain Sam Lucia, who has spent 13 of his 27 years in law enforcement servicing the people of Victorville,

California. His departure from the Victorville station is due to his promotion to lead the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Employee Resources Division.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I would like to thank Captain Sam Lucia for his tireless work and dedication to the residents of the high desert. It has been a pleasure to work with him over the years, but I know he will continue to excel in his new role with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, on January 23, 2017, a series of votes were held. I was not present because bad weather caused my flight to be cancelled, and I arrived too late to vote. Had I been present for these roll call votes, I would have voted Yes on Roll Call 60, and Yes on Roll Call 61.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, due to weather conditions my flight was cancelled and I was unable to be present for votes on the House Floor on January 23, 2017.

Had I been present, I would have voted Yes on H.R. 423, the Anti-Spoofing Act of 2017, which will make it illegal to send false caller ID information to any individual in the United States via Voice-over-Internet (VoIP) calls or text messages. This prevents criminals from defrauding individuals via text or VoIP call services; and Yes on H.R. 582, the Kari's Law Act, which will require all multiline telephone systems to be able to dial 911 without having to dial any additional digits or area codes. This can save lives by ensuring that every phone can access an emergency dispatcher by simply dialing 911, regardless if another digit is typically required for outside calls.

PEACEFUL REGIME CHANGE IN
IRAN IS A MUST FOR PEACE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in a little over two weeks, we will mark the 38th anniversary of the Iranian revolution. The 1979 revolution in Iran was supposed to herald a better future for the Iranian people. Instead, the revolution ushered in an age of repression, tyranny, and persecution.

For 38 years, the Iranian people have been living under one of the most brutal regimes in the world. This regime is a maniacal theocracy that wields an iron grip over its people.

The regime has been described by Human Rights Watch consistently as a "regional lead-

er in executions." In 2015 alone, Iran executed approximately one thousand people with virtually no due process.

Iranian authorities announced in August 2016 that they had executed 20 prisoners found guilty of "enmity against God" which carries the death penalty.

Other crimes that can get you killed in Iran are "attempts against the security of the state," "outrage against high ranking officials," and insulting the Supreme Leader.

The Iranian regime routinely jails journalists, human rights defenders, and anyone who speaks out against the deplorable practices of the regime.

Once in jail, prisoners can expect to be tortured and abused. The State Department's Human Rights report claims that Iranian prisoners are commonly subjected to threats of rape, sexual humiliation, threats of execution, electroshocks, and severe beatings.

This is a sick tyrannical government that imposes its will on its people through brute force. The Iranian people have suffered immensely since 1979.

Unfortunately, since its founding the regime has also sought to "export the revolution," code for wreaking havoc abroad.

Iran's awful human rights record rivals only its long record of sponsoring terrorism throughout the world.

Iran remains the world's number one state sponsor of terrorism. In fact, Iran has only increased its support to terrorist groups in the past two years.

The regime uses its Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps to implement its foreign policy goals and create instability throughout the Middle East. The IRGC cultivates and supports terrorists abroad in service of Tehran.

It provides financial assistance, weapons, and training to groups like Hezbollah in Lebanon, Palestinian terrorists Hamas and Islamic Jihad, Shia militants in Bahrain, and terrorist militias in Iraq.

Its support for these groups has helped Tehran's ally in Syria Bashar al Assad butcher over half a million of his own citizens.

But it doesn't just end there. Iran has a tacit agreement with al-Qaeda, allowing the terrorist group to move money, arms, and fighters through Iran since at least 2009.

On February 11 the clerics in Tehran will celebrate 38 years of oppressing the people of Iran.

On that day we should remember the many victims of this evil regime, both in Iran and across the world.

The Iranian people deserve better.

They deserve a democratic government whose priority is not to keep themselves in power no matter the cost but to improve the lives of the Iranian people.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING DAVID BUTLER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize David Butler. David is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the

Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

David has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years David has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, David has led his troop as the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, became a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow, and earned the rank of Tom-Tom Beater in the tribe of Mic-O-Say. David has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. David built five wooden storage boxes to hold the seat cushions for the swings at Immacolata Manor, a home for adults with developmental disabilities in Liberty, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending David Butler for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF DEADLY FORCE
TRANSPARENCY ACT

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, the fact that after the Michael Brown shooting in Ferguson, the Eric Garner killing in Staten Island, and so many other, similar tragic events around the country, we still don't have reliable statistics about when, where and against whom law enforcement uses deadly force is shameful.

Even FBI Director James Comey has said it is, "ridiculous that [he] can't tell you how many people were shot by the police last week, last month, last year."

If we are serious about addressing excessive force, we need to know the full scope of the problem. For example, how often is deadly force used? Are minorities disproportionately the victims? Could other, non-lethal measures have been taken?

That is why today I am introducing the National Statistics on Deadly Force Transparency Act. It would require collection of this type of information. Although a provision of the 1994 Crime Bill requires the Attorney General to collect statistics on the use of excessive force, there is no enforcement mechanism and the federal government has been unable to gather data from many local police departments. Since excessive force can be difficult to define, this bill would be limited to just instances where deadly force is used.

Specifically, this legislation would require any law enforcement agency receiving federal funds to provide data to the Department of Justice on when each instance of deadly force occurred, including the race and gender of both the victim and the officer involved. It would also require an explanation as to why law enforcement felt deadly force was justified and any non-lethal efforts that were taken before deadly force was used.

The Department of Justice would make this data publicly available but would not disclose any personally identifying information.

This is information the public should already have. The fact that we don't is absurd. I urge my colleagues to fix this problem and pass the Deadly Force Transparency Act without delay.

IN APPRECIATION OF JOHN
TENSEN'S SERVICE TO IDAHO
AND CITY OF BOISE

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank John Tensen for his service to the State of Idaho and specifically the City of Boise. The opportunity to work with John has been an absolute pleasure for me personally, and for my staff.

John started working for the City of Boise in 1986 and has served in several capacities ranging from Civil Engineer to Interim Public Works Director. For the last 14 years, John served as City Engineer which allowed him to directly oversee projects that we benefit from every day.

One initiative I was fortunate enough to work with John on, was the geothermal heat project which expanded to Boise State University in 2012. With John's expertise and the collaboration between Boise State, the Department of Energy, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, 600,000 square feet of building space on campus is now heated with clean and affordable geothermal energy. It was an honor to work alongside John to make this possible.

Another project where John played a central role, was the recently completed Dixie Drain Project. In Idaho, water is life and even the smallest water issue can be fraught with complexities. That is why the Dixie Drain Project is considered a success, not only here in Idaho, but as an example the entire nation can look to when addressing water quality issues. Thanks to John's innovative engineering, the city was able to come up with a sound solution to divert the water from the drains into settling ponds to remove phosphorus which would enter back into the river system. While the project was far more intricate than this simple explanation, the underlying point is the same—John saved the city and ratepayers countless dollars with exceptional results. This is the ultimate example of federal, state, and local partnership and would not be possible without John.

There are many more projects that highlight John's incredible work. We all know these sites including the Boise Whitewater Park where technicians shape the perfect wave during the summer and the brand new Esther Simplot Park that is truly a gem for the city. However, what is equally impressive to his legacy here in Boise is what he plans to do after.

This fall, John will follow his family to Belize where his son-in-law's foundation, Restoration Smile, will provide dental and oral surgeries to patients that need it most. However, John will make the journey so the local communities can draw on his expertise in the areas of water quality and sewer systems. John certainly has earned a quiet retirement, yet his ambition compels his desire to continue serving and for that, we are all grateful.

My staff and I consider it an honor to have worked with John Tensen. His institutional knowledge and creative engineering are a legacy to the City of Boise and we are touched by his work. I wish him and his family the best in retirement and I hope he finds time to watch

his beloved Oregon State Beavers alongside his family of Julie, Kristyn, Cole, Brad, Oliver and Max.

I am proud to honor John's service and look forward to staying in touch with him and his family.

TRIBUTE TO THE DIRECTOR OF
THE ALDEN B. DOWN MUSEUM
OF SCIENCE AND ART BRUCE
WINSLOW

HON. JOHN R. MOOLENAAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bruce Winslow, the Director of the Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art, upon his retirement.

Bruce was born and raised in Midland and has kept his heart in his hometown. After graduating from CMU he went on to attend the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York, where he honed his skills as an artist. After graduating in 1988, he found employment at the Midland Art Council, which later became the Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art.

When starting his career he was the Coordinator of Public Relations for nine years, became the Curatorial Director and quickly after that the Director of the Museum. Since he took the helm in 1997, Bruce has taken the museum in many rewarding directions that have brought interest back into museum from unconventional museum goers. He has helped many see how science and art play a vital role in everyone lives. Now, during his final days as director, the museum is holding a new exhibit just for him, "35 Years: The Bruce Winslow Retrospective." It is to celebrate his life in the arts, his family and his career.

Bruce has been especially helpful to Michigan's Fourth District, ensuring its participation in the Annual Congressional Art Competition for many years. During that time, not only has Bruce built an exhibit to showcase the artists' work from throughout the district, but he has also served as an integral member of the Art Competition Committee as a judge, helping select the piece to be displayed in the United States Capitol building. He also has given of his time and talents to help coordinate a special ceremony to honor all of the participants.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Michigan, I am honored today to recognize Bruce Winslow for his lifetime of work in the arts and for his commitment to the people of Midland.

JACK STANTON

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend, Jack Stanton, who passed away last Friday in Anderson, Indiana.

Jack was born in Mishawaka, Indiana on November 3, 1935. He served in the U.S. Army, the U.S. Navy, and dedicated fifty-five years of his life to the Indianapolis Life Insurance Company. He was known by his col-

leagues as a hard worker, dependable teammate, and humble leader.

On a personal note, Jack Stanton was my friend. He was always quick with a smile and an encouraging word. And he was one of my most trusted advisors on issues impacting the insurance industry. I will miss him.

He will be mourned most by those who knew him best, and he will be missed by all. Jack is survived by his wife of fifty-five years, Hattie Mae Stanton, his daughters Deborah Kay Coats and Wendy Lou Haines, his three grandsons Joseph David Haines, Daniel Jackson Haines, and Jessie Coats, his twin sister Janet Byer, his son-in-law R. Dean Coates, and many nieces and nephews to whom I give my deepest sympathies. Mrs. Stanton, your husband was a great man who had a profound impact on countless Hoosiers, and his life should be an inspiration to us all.

HONORING WILLIAM TRUITT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize William Truitt. William is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 81, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

William has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years William has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, William has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending William Truitt for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

KARI'S LAW ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2017

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 582, Kari's Law Act of 2017.

H.R. 582 addresses a very serious problem. The bill requires Multi-Line Telephone Systems to provide direct dialing to 9-1-1. The bill is named after Kari Hunt who was tragically murdered by her estranged husband in a hotel room while her daughter tried to dial 9-1-1 but could not get help because the Multi-Line Telephone System required a prefix to be dialed first.

When we dial 9-1-1 from a hotel or office—when seconds matter—we shouldn't have to dial "9" or some other prefix to get help. I strongly support the overall goals of this bill which is identical to legislation passed by the full House in the 114th Congress by voice vote.

I also think location accuracy for Multi-Line Telephone Systems is just as important. First

responders have to know exactly where an individual is calling from, especially if the caller is unable to communicate to the dispatcher, or the caller simply doesn't know where they are. If first responders have to spend time searching buildings or going door to door, the time it takes to do this can be the difference between life and death.

During the subcommittee and full committee markups of this legislation in the last Congress, I offered an amendment to require a location accuracy proceeding at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) within 180 days of enactment of the bill. Unfortunately, my Republican colleagues did not agree to accept my amendment and instead proposed language requiring the FCC to conduct a Notice of Inquiry (NOI) to solicit public comment on requiring location accuracy for Multi-Line Telephone Systems. I did not accept this proposal because I thought and still do, that an NOI does not move the ball forward. That view is shared by the FCC and the public safety community.

The FCC has studied location accuracy technology for Multi-Line Telephone Systems since 1994, and as recently as 2012, Congress directed the FCC to issue a Public Notice Seeking Comment on the feasibility of Multi-Line Telephone Systems to provide the precise location of a 9-1-1 caller. This was included in Section 6504(b) of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 and was modeled on legislation I introduced with my colleague and fellow bipartisan Co-Chair of the NextGen 9-1-1 Caucus, Representative SHIMKUS, known as the Next Generation 911 Advancement Act of 2012.

Despite the extensive history surrounding location accuracy, the FCC has failed to take action to require this essential technology in Multi-Line Telephone Systems. Not doing so places lives at stake in my view.

Last Congress, I introduced H.R. 5236, the Requesting Emergency Services and Providing Origination Notification Systems Everywhere (RESPONSE) Act, which would require the Federal Communications Commission to complete a proceeding requiring all Multi-Line Telephone Systems to provide first responders with the precise location of a 9-1-1 caller. I intend to reintroduce the RESPONSE Act in this new Congress and I'm hopeful my colleagues will work with me to pass this important bill and build on the work of H.R. 582.

Although H.R. 582 does not address the critical issue of location accuracy, it is nonetheless a step in the right direction that will save lives and make progress. For these reasons I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 582.

RECOGNIZING MS. SUE BRACK AS
THE 2016-2017 WALTON COUNTY
EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Sue Brack as the 2016-2017 Walton County Educational Support Professional of the Year. For almost three decades, Ms. Brack has served the Walton County School

District with exceptional enthusiasm and an unwavering commitment to excellence.

In Northwest Florida, we are blessed with exceptional educational professionals and schools, as evidenced by the fact that Walton County School District is among the top performing school districts in the state.

Ms. Brack's contribution has been integral to the success of this district, working diligently to meet the requirement of high expectations, paramount to the mission of the District. As an incredibly knowledgeable Bookkeeper, Ms. Brack has admirably managed a multitude of budgets and projects for the District. Her colleagues have expressed their extreme gratitude for her many years of service. Ms. Brack's innumerable skills and historical knowledge make her an invaluable and greatly appreciated resource.

Ms. Brack has also generously shared her expertise by serving as a mentor to new school bookkeepers. The guidance that she has provided throughout so many schools has been a significant contribution to the success of countless staff members and students. For all of these reasons and more, I am truly proud to have Ms. Brack as a constituent in Florida's First Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Ms. Sue Brack for her accomplishments and her continued commitment to excellence at the Walton County School District. I thank her for her service and wish her all the best for continued success.

HONORING BISHOP FRANK OTHA
WHITE

HON. KATHLEEN M. RICE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in honor of Bishop Frank Otha White, who passed away on Friday after serving for many years as the Senior Pastor of Zion Cathedral Church of God in Christ in Freeport, NY.

Born in 1940 in Oakley, South Carolina, Bishop White moved with his family to Long Island as a child, and went on to become a pillar of the Freeport community. In 1971, while serving as Assistant Pastor, Bishop White was the driving force behind the construction of the Zion Cathedral Church, a beautiful place of worship that still graces the Freeport skyline and will long stand as a visible testament to Bishop White's leadership, faith, and commitment to the Church.

I knew and worked with Bishop White both in my current position, and when I served as the Nassau County District Attorney. He was, first and foremost, a man of God, a man who dedicated his life to bringing people together and helping them to find in themselves the same enduring faith that motivated his work. And he was a leader not only in the Church, but in the community. He was deeply committed to the pursuit of justice, and to helping those who are most in need and so often overlooked by our society—the homeless, the poor, the sick, the elderly. He was a powerful advocate for children and for education. He saw tremendous value in every human life, he recognized that every human being had some-

thing unique to contribute to the community, and he worked to make others see the same.

I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to know Bishop White and tremendously grateful for all that he did to strengthen the community in Freeport and beyond. I offer my prayers and deepest condolences to Bishop White's family and loved ones and to the entire Zion Cathedral congregation as they mourn his loss and celebrate his life. I pray that he will rest in peace, and that his memory will continue to inspire us all to act with love and commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice in our communities every single day of our lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, due to a medical emergency involving a member of my family, on January 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th, 2017, I was unable to return to Washington, DC in time to cast my vote for roll call votes 24 through 54. Had I been present, my votes would have been the following:

Aye on roll call votes: 24, 25, 28 through 30, 34, 37 through 44, 46 through 50, 53.

Nay on roll call votes: 26, 27, 31 through 33, 35, 36, 45, 51, 52, 54.

HONORING JIM MUNSON

HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jim Munson, the former head coach of Tottenville High School's football team.

Throughout his 24 seasons as head coach, Coach Munson demonstrated nothing but unconditional dedication to his team and his players. His devotion to the game is just one of the many reasons that the Tottenville Pirates were so successful. Under his leadership, the Pirates won the Public Schools Athletic League City Championship in 1997 and 2003. Moreover, Jim retired with a stellar 178-88-3 overall record.

Among his many achievements, Coach Munson coached two future NFL players: three-time Super Bowl champion Joe Andruzzi, an offensive lineman for the New England Patriots, and Adewale Ogunleye, an All-Pro defensive end who played in Super Bowl XLI for the Chicago Bears. But one of Coach Munson's proudest moments was coaching his son James, who now plays for Navy as a safety, from 2011 through 2014. I am sure that Jim will spend a lot of time in retirement cheering on James from the sidelines. Luckily, the Pirates won't lose Jim entirely, as he will remain at the school as assistant principal and athletic director.

Mr. Speaker, Jim Munson has served his team, school and community for dozens of years. I thank him for everything he has done for Tottenville High School and wish him nothing but the best in his retirement.

HONORING JAMESON KING

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jameson King. Jameson is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 81, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jameson has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jameson has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jameson contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Jameson led a team of scouts in building a new sign for the historic Macon Presbyterian Church in Macon, Missouri, refurbishing the old sign and landscaping the north side of the building.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jameson King for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN HONOR OF LAMP MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL: A NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Loveless Academic Magnet Program (LAMP) High School in Montgomery, Alabama upon its being named a National Blue Ribbon School in November of the year 2016.

LAMP Magnet High School is more than deserving of this recognition. The school is currently ranked as the best high school in the State of Alabama and the 34th best high school in the country according to U.S. News and World Report.

The school consistently maintains a 95 percent graduation rate though it is currently ranked by The Washington Post as one of the most challenging high schools in America.

LAMP is also to be commended for the strong emphasis it places on extracurricular activities, community involvement and service, and parent engagement.

The City of Montgomery is fortunate to have the exceptional educational opportunities that LAMP Magnet High School offers. The school truly makes Montgomery and the State of Alabama proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate Loveless Academic Magnet High School on being named a National Blue Ribbon School and celebrate this outstanding accomplishment with its students, faculty, staff, alumni, and all who cherish this remarkable school.

IN HONOR OF NAVY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION'S GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share some very good news. Navy Federal Credit Union, the largest credit union in the world, has decided to significantly expand its activities in the 10th Congressional District. After a groundbreaking ceremony on Tuesday, January 24th, the corporation will begin erecting a new office building and parking garage that will allow for the addition of 1,400 new employees, nearly doubling the size of its operations center in Frederick County which is in the western part of my District.

On behalf of my constituents in the Shenandoah Valley, I wish to express gratitude to the leadership of the corporation for the confidence it has placed in the hard-working people of the Shenandoah Valley and the county government whose policies have created an environment that is conducive to business growth.

Navy Federal Credit Union, whose corporate headquarters is in Vienna, Virginia, has been recognized as one of Fortune Magazine's 100 Best Companies to Work for in 2016. The company was founded in 1933 based on a "culture of service" and the 15,000 current employees take great pride in serving our nation's heroes, the current and retired men and women of our military and their families. In visiting the Winchester/Frederick County Operations Center, I was pleased to see the beautiful photos of our men and women in uniform and their families that adorn its hallways. I was also impressed by the many ways that the company provides for its employees, including a recreation center and shower facilities, a medical clinic staffed by a full-time Physician's Assistant and Nurse, and visiting professors from Lord Fairfax Community College who help further the employees' educational goals.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating and thanking Navy Federal Credit Union for excellent service to our national heroes and for hiring an increasing number of fellow Americans to provide this important service.

RECOGNIZING MS. KATHLEEN REDFERN AS THE 2016-2017 WALTON COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Kathleen Redfern as the 2016-2017 Walton County Teacher of the Year. For several years, Ms. Redfern has served the Walton County School District with exceptional passion and an unwavering commitment to serving others.

In Northwest Florida, we are fortunate to have some of the best teachers in the Nation. It is recognized that the teaching profession is

one of the most difficult yet rewarding professions in existence. Ms. Redfern has exceptionally performed her teaching duties, while also striving to be an active and supportive member of her community.

Ms. Redfern is revered by her Principal and colleagues for her incredible kindness and positive attitude. She thoughtfully engages her students by employing interesting and exciting methods of focusing on their interests.

Her support and outreach extends far beyond the walls of her Kindergarten class through her sponsorship and involvement with the K-Kids Club, a Kiwanis Club program. Ms. Redfern has displayed remarkable leadership and dedicated teamwork through her outreach projects in her community. I commend her for her steadfast willingness to serve those that matter most, the students and youth of our Nation.

For all of her admirable contributions, I am truly proud to have Ms. Redfern as a constituent in Florida's First Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Ms. Kathleen Redfern for her accomplishments and her commitment to excellence in the Walton County School District. I thank her for her service and wish her all the best for continued success.

MAKING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE SECOND TO NONE

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent some of our nation's leading innovators in Congress, who are pioneering unprecedented improvements in manufacturing and infrastructure from Washington's First Congressional District. The exciting work being conducted by forward-thinking companies like Modumetal, a woman-owned business in Washington state, has the potential to lower the long-term costs of rehabilitating our roads and bridges while also making them safer and longer-lasting.

Christina Lomasney, co-founder of Modumetal, published an open letter to President Trump on January 6, 2017, highlighting the importance of performance-based standards as he begins to work with Congress on investments in our infrastructure. I am pleased to share her letter with my colleagues, as we look to develop infrastructure solutions that will allow us to get the best return on our investments.

President-elect Trump, on election night, you promised cheering supporters, "We're going to rebuild our infrastructure, which will become, by the way, second to none."

As we move from the script of campaigning to the act of execution, you may find a more challenging landscape than your statement belies. That's not because you won't endeavor to achieve nor that Congress won't collaborate with you to fund. But the challenge of bringing the United States back to a "top 10" infrastructure position in the world, much less number one, is one that many have tried and failed and that could, in present reality, undermine the solvency of our Nation.

In the span of the decade that precedes your Administration, we have fallen from 1st

place in Global Competitiveness, according to the World Economic Forum, to between 3rd and 7th place. This has been attributed in great part to the decades-long decline in the viability and competitiveness of our national infrastructure. (We've not even been in the top 10 of transportation infrastructures for several years).

More to the point, to keep up with expected infrastructure decline, the American Society of Civil Engineers estimates we'll need to spend \$3.6 trillion just in the next five years. This estimate doesn't get us to 1st place, this just keeps us from failing further!

Why has this issue of infrastructure become such a burden to competitiveness and our deficit? For one thing, if we continue rehabilitating our infrastructure as we have, our Nation will be stuck installing and repairing infrastructure using outdated technology from the 1930s.

Today, through the Departments of Transportation at state and federal levels, the regulatory frameworks for materials of construction define requirements that, in most cases, were set several decades to almost a century ago. For a case in point, hot-dipped galvanizing, one of the most commonly used corrosion resistant coatings technologies in the world, was specified in 1928. This specification (ASTM A123) is still actively required by most state and federal DOTs around the country. Epoxy-coated rebar, considered a "new" and now widely specified technology, was finally specified for use in the 1970s, and that only after over 20 years of field trials and testing.

As these regulations are defined as a snapshot in time—focusing on how the materials are manufactured instead of how they should perform—new technologies that offer better performance and cost advantages can't currently qualify for major infrastructure programs. And, since it takes about 17 years to take a new technology through the regulatory specification cycle, most innovative technologies fail to ever reach beyond the test phase, much less to ever achieve full scale deployment.

Using these last-century manufacturing techniques means we have to use more metal and spend more, when more durable and safer innovation would work. It means that now and for the foreseeable future, infrastructure requires more frequent replacement or the possibility of major failure when degradation and corrosion set in.

Why is it so important we employ the best-available metals technology? Because corrosion is a quiet infrastructure killer. Corrosion degrades—sometimes catastrophically. When you read about bridge collapses and unsafe structures, think corrosion. Corrosion is a budget-buster—using lower quality metals which corrode quickly creates a ruinous cycle of more maintenance and faster required replacement of our infrastructure. The National Association of Corrosion Engineers pegs the direct cost of corrosion in the U.S. at over 4 percent of the Gross Domestic Product of our Nation.

Innovative companies across our Nation have answered the call to improve America's infrastructure by reinventing the metals industry. As an example, our nanolaminated metals—using a different manufacturing technique than traditional metals—corrode significantly less, are stronger and lighter, and can require less energy and materials to produce. At Modumetal, we have demonstrated structures that resist corrosion thirty times longer for the same basic cost as the currently-specified materials. This means our bridges could last hundreds of years instead of decades. The net result: safer, longer-lasting infrastructure for less money.

Mr. President-Elect, you have the opportunity now to work with Congress to approve legislation that incentives industries to use innovative materials of construction, based on safer performance-based specifications. Such legislation could provide an incentive tax credit for technologies that extend the life and performance of our infrastructure, thus encouraging competition and adoption of best-performing, lowest-cost, state-of-the-art corrosion mitigation technologies for our Nation's infrastructure and industrial applications.

You don't have to accept the status quo, and I hope that our Government will work together to seek and take on the challenge of innovating, to achieve a national infrastructure that is second to none, at a price that will be sustainable for generations.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, Friday we commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day. A day that was established by the Israeli Parliament in 1951, to coincide with the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

This is a time to mourn the millions of victims of the Holocaust. And it serves as an annual reminder to Americans, and indeed to all humanity, that we must never forget the evil that mankind has visited upon itself.

History must serve as a template to right the wrongs that humankind has committed. Famously said, those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it.

This week we must reflect on grave consequences of which vilifying individuals based on race, religion, ideology or sexual orientation could yield.

I encourage all those in Western New York and across the country to join in memorializing the victims of the Holocaust, in hope that a tragedy of this scale is never committed again.

HONORING REECE DWIGGINS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Reece Dwiggin. Reece is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 81, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Reece has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Reece has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Reece earned the rank of Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Reece also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Reece sorted, filed and cataloged all of the choir, organ and piano music for his home church, Macon First Christian Church in Macon, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Reece Dwiggin for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TRANSITION-TO-SUCCESS MENTORING ACT

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing the Transition-To-Success Mentoring Act to help local education agencies prepare at-risk students for the transition from middle school to high school.

During middle school, studies show that many students struggle to balance priorities between school, peer groups and their lives at home. Research also indicates that school-based mentoring is an innovative supplement to the traditional learning that takes place in the classroom. Mentoring provides underserved and at-risk students with much needed attention and support to help keep them engaged in school. For these reasons, I am proposing the creation of the Transition-To-Success Mentoring Program. With this bill, students participating in the program will develop and execute a plan for academic progress with the assistance of a school faculty member or volunteer from the community.

RECOGNIZING ROSE BLACKWELL

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rose Blackwell on her retirement and to recognize her outstanding career as City Clerk of Corning, New York.

Mrs. Blackwell was appointed City Clerk by Corning Mayor Daniel Killigrew in 1984 and worked in that capacity for over 30 years. She served through numerous changes in city government and clerked under eight city mayors. It was during my own time as Mayor of Corning that I came to recognize Mrs. Blackwell for her dedication and caring service to the people of our community.

Mrs. Blackwell completed training at Syracuse University, Maxwell School in 1993 and received the designation of Certified Municipal Clerk from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks in 1994. In 1996, she was appointed Registrar of Vital Statistics for Corning, New York, a responsibility she maintained alongside her duties as City Clerk to the end of her career.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Rose Blackwell for the dedication with which she served the citizens of her community and wishing her all the best in her well-earned retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for the following Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on Roll Call No. 60 (H.R. 423 Anti-Spoofing Act) and "YEA" on Roll Call No. 61 (H.R. 582—Karis Law Act).

TRIBUTE TO DR. RAYMOND
GORDON KLOCKOW**HON. TODD ROKITA**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great Hoosier and my dear friend, Dr. Raymond Gordon Klockow who passed away January 13, 2017. Not only was he a constituent in my district, but he was also a good friend to our family and to our office. Most recently, he served as our county coordinator in Jasper County.

Gordon was born in South Bend, Indiana and graduated from South Bend Central High School in 1965. He then attended Purdue University and received a Bachelor of Science in 1970, graduated from the Loyola University School of Dentistry in 1974 with a Doctor of Dental Surgery, and completed his General Practice Residency at Berkshire Medical Center in 1975. That same year he moved to Rensselaer, Indiana and began practicing dentistry at the Clinic of Family Medicine.

Gordon took a lot of pride in his work. He practiced general dentistry in Rensselaer at the Clinic of Family Medicine from 1975–1983, Hillcrest Family Dental Center, P.C. from 1983–2011, and Sheets Medical Practice from 2014–2015. It was at his dental office where I first met Gordon. It seemed we talked for hours about my family's profession, dentistry. And of course we talked politics in that first meeting, and every conversation since. But talk from him of politics and American Exceptionalism in every conversation is not surprising to all who knew Gordon. He put a lot of care and dedication to the smiles of so many Hoosiers during the course of his career. Gordon himself was rarely ever seen without a smile on his face and it was infectious to those around him.

One of the many things I admired about Gordon was his servant's heart. He served as the Jasper County Coroner, a Jasper County Deputy Coroner, and a Newton County Deputy Coroner. He was board certified in Pain Management, Forensic Medicine, Forensic Dentistry, and as a Forensic Examiner. Gordon was also currently a managing partner of Ritz Cinema in Rensselaer where he took great pride in the service he provided for the community.

Some of my most vivid memories of Gordon were at the town hall meetings we have in our district. I frequently asked him to help us with the meetings, sometimes as a host and other times as a participant in the reading of the Constitution. He was the perfect leader, in body and temperament, to do so. Gordon was

the type of individual who always asked what he could do to help and would go above and beyond for anyone who needed him.

Gordon leaves Nancy, his beloved wife for over 27 years, three children, and seven grandchildren to carry on his legacy of service to fellow Hoosiers. Anyone who knew him well knows what a great loss his passing is for the community. Mr. Speaker, we lost a good one last week. He will be missed. Rest in peace Gordon, you will not be forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for the vote on the passage of H.R. 423, the Anti-Spoofing Act (Roll Call No. 60), I would have voted "aye." This bill would expand prohibitions on "spoofing," the changing of a cell phone's identification in order to mislead the recipient of a call or a text message. Fraudulent calls and texts are on the rise, and Congress should update the tools that law enforcement can use to address and prevent lawbreakers.

Had I been present for the vote on the passage of H.R. 582, the Kari's Law Act (Roll Call No. 61), I would have voted "aye." This bill would require multiline telephone systems to allow direct emergency 911 calls without first dialing out of the system.

HONORING HODGSON RUSS, LLP
AS IT CELEBRATES ITS 200TH
ANNIVERSARY**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I stand before you to recognize and honor Hodgson Russ, LLP as the firm celebrates its 200th Anniversary.

Hodgson Russ is not only Buffalo's oldest law firm, but the city's oldest continuously operating business, with roots dating back to 1817. The firm has played a pivotal role in the City of Buffalo's history and has been instrumental in the growth and expansion of the region.

One of the first independent law firms in the nation, it was founded in 1817 by Mr. Hodgson Russ. Today, the firm employs 208 attorneys and more than 275 staff members who continue to follow the same philosophies upon which Mr. Russ originally founded the firm.

The firm extends into industries such as health care, construction, life sciences, railroads, steel, banking, milling and manufacturing. It practices in areas that extend from business transactions and compliance to environment and energy, immigration, tax and real estate to name but a few. Since the firm's inception, Hodgson Russ provides representation to its clients with the utmost respect and integrity.

Notably, Hodgson Russ has a long and substantial record shaping early Buffalo, producing notable attorneys that played key roles both locally as well as on a national stage.

The founder of Hodgson Russ's earliest predecessor firm, Mr. Asa Rice, played a key role in the completion of the western terminus of the historic Erie Canal project in 1825.

In 1832, partners Joseph Clary and Millard Fillmore drafted the first Buffalo city charter, playing a pivotal role in the city's municipal incorporation. A few years later, it was partner Nathan Hall who led the effort to create the Buffalo public school system, the first tuition-free, tax-supported public school system in the State of New York.

The Hodgson Russ legal family more than made its contribution in and around elective public office as well. In 1849, Millard Fillmore was sworn in as the 12th Vice President of the United States, and sixteen months later, upon the death of President Zachary Taylor, was inaugurated the 13th President of the United States. A few years later, Grover Cleveland joined the firm as a clerk and in 1859 was admitted to practice, after which he would, during the period 1870–1892, be successively elected Sheriff of Erie County, Mayor of Buffalo, Governor of New York and twice as President of the United States. The firm's role in the history books continues in 1901 when Hodgson Russ partner John Milburn played an instrumental role in bringing the Pan-American Exposition to Buffalo. A sad postscript: President William McKinley—wounded by an assassin's bullet at the Exposition—succumbs to his injuries at Mr. Milburn's home on Delaware Avenue, on the site where Canisius High School now stands.

While the firm honors its illustrious past, it remains focused on the future, providing emerging businesses and new industries with business-focused legal advice that contributes to the growth of our overall economy. The firm is also known for providing charitable contributions through their financial support of more than 250 organizations, as well as its work providing pro-bono legal services throughout local communities.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to recognize and honor the Hodgson Russ Law Firm. I would also ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Hodgson Russ, as they celebrate their Bicentennial with an event planned for Thursday, January 25, 2017 at their offices at the historic Guaranty Building, a National Historic Landmark designed by renowned architect Louis Sullivan. Hodgson Russ has produced leaders in Congress and the Court System, in the NYS Senate and Supreme Court. This local Buffalo firm produced a president of the World Bank and not one, but two Presidents of the United States. It is my distinct honor to join current president Rick Kennedy and the many partners, associates, clerks, and other members of the Hodgson Russ legal family as they celebrate this momentous occasion.

SOLIDARITY WITH AMERICANS
PARTICIPATING IN WOMEN'S
MARCHES**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with the millions of Americans who participated in Women's Marches around the country on Saturday.

I attended the march in DC, and it was heartening to see such incredible enthusiasm.

According to Metro, the system has not seen crowds that large since Barack Obama's first inauguration.

But not even 72 hours after more than 500,000 mothers, daughters, husbands, and fathers descended onto our nation's capital in collective opposition to President Trump's appalling misogyny, the House majority has decided to double down on its anti-woman, anti-health care assault.

The only bill to be considered under a rule on the floor this short work week, H.R. 7, is yet another attempt by the majority to restrict a woman's right to choose and put Congress between a woman and her doctor.

As it cloaks itself in a complete state of denial about the message America sent them on Saturday, the House majority is taking its cue from President Trump.

The House majority and the White House seem bound and determined to ignore the powerful message sent by a protest march that no doubt shook the Eisenhower china.

COMMENDING KAZAKHSTAN ON 25
YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD an opinion piece written by our former colleague, the gentleman from American Samoa, Mr. Eni F.H. Faleomavaega, who was the first Asian-Pacific American in U.S. history to serve as Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and the Global Environment, which had broad jurisdiction for U.S. policy affecting the region, including Central Asia. Mr. Faleomavaega also founded the Congressional Caucus on Central Asia, and his work continues to influence the region today.

In 1991, Kazakhstan gained its independence from the Soviet Union. For some 15 years, I have been honored to work closely with the government of Kazakhstan in various capacities—as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Foreign Affairs; as Chairman of the Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and the Global Environment; as Ranking Member; and as founder of the Congressional Caucus on Central Asia.

I am proud of Kazakhshtan for the great progress it has made since independence, and I especially commend President Nursultan Nazarbayev for his leadership on nuclear non-proliferation. Upon inheriting the world's fourth largest nuclear arsenal and the world's second largest test site from the Soviet Union after its collapse, President Nazarbayev voluntarily chose to dismantle and disarm with the help of U.S. assistance.

His act was both heroic and principled. For this, I have repeatedly called upon the Nobel Peace Prize Committee to recognize the deeds of President Nazarbayev as well as former Senators Sam Nunn and Richard Lugar, who co-authored the Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) program, which has contributed to world peace, in untold ways.

While I have no illusions about whether or not we can bring about a nuclear-weapons free world, I do have some thoughts because, like Kazakhs, Pacific Islanders share a similar history. From 1946 to 1958, the United States used the Republic of the Marshall Islands—a Micronesian nation of atolls and islands in the middle of the Pacific Ocean—as its Cold War nuclear testing ground, detonating 66 nuclear weapons including the first hydrogen bomb, or Bravo shot, which was 1,000 times more powerful than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Acknowledged as the greatest nuclear explosion ever detonated, the Bravo test vaporized 6 islands and created a mushroom cloud 25 miles in diameter.

The U.S. nuclear testing program in the Marshall Islands also set a precedent for France to use the islands of the Pacific for its own testing program after getting kicked out of Algeria where it conducted 17 nuclear tests from 1960–1966. To this day, radioactive material is still seeping out of the Sahara desert as a result of French nuclear testing.

Having been defeated in Algeria and emboldened by U.S. nuclear testing in the Pacific, France detonated approximately 218 nuclear devices in Moruroa and Fangataufa atolls in French Polynesia. Consequently, these islands also seep radioactive materials and are no longer inhabitable.

This is why I share President Nazarbayev's vision, especially as Kazakhstan has just celebrated its 25 years of independence. My position regarding this matter is no different than the position the United States took during a joint meeting between President Obama and President Nazarbayev on April 11, 2010 when President Obama noted that “the U.S. appreciates the leadership of President Nazrbayev and the contribution of Kazakhstan to nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation.”

My position is also no different than the stance taken by former President George H.W. Bush, who welcomed President Nazarbayev to the White House and his son, President George W. Bush, who also welcomed President Nazarbayev to the White House and declared our commitment “to strengthen the long-term, strategic partnership and cooperation between our nations.”

I thank Kazakhstan for all it has done to re-shape the world, post Cold-War, and I stand with President Nazarbayev as he champions nuclear disarmament among possessor states and prevents proliferation to new states.

In broader terms, I also commend Kazakhstan's Ambassador to the United States, H.E. Kairat Umarov for all he has done to strengthen the U.S.-Kazakhstan relationship. I have known him for nearly 15 years and I know firsthand of his tireless efforts to promote goodwill between Kazakhstan and the United States. His great work for and on behalf of our nations is deserving of inclusion in the Congressional Record for historical purposes, as his contributions are unparalleled.

I also commend Mr. Roman Vassilenko who now serves as Deputy Foreign Minister and previously served as Chairman for the Committee for International Information of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, and also as Counselor for the Embassy of Kazakhstan to the United States. Like Ambassador Umarov, I have known Deputy Foreign Minister Vassilenko for nearly 15 years. I have watched his career soar as he has put his talents to use for the Republic of Kazakhstan. His impact in communicating Kazakhstan's policies to its citizens and communicating its foreign policy to international audiences and governments

through digital diplomacy has been nothing short of revolutionary.

I also note the work of Mr. Aibek Nurbalin who I also met some 15 years ago when he worked as the Congressional Liaison for the Embassy of Kazakhstan to the United States, and later as Deputy Chief of Staff to the Secretary of State for the Republic of Kazakhstan. Mr. Nurbalin left no stone unturned in promoting the cause of Kazakhstan and in making certain that President Nazarbayev's policies and agenda were known and supported, especially in the U.S. Congress.

I have known many diplomats during the course of my service as a Member of Congress. Never have I known diplomats who worked harder on behalf of the Republic of Kazakhstan than Ambassador Umarov, Deputy Foreign Minister Vassilenko, former Deputy Chief of Staff Aibek Nurbalin, Secretary of State Kanat Saudabayev, and current Foreign Minister Erlan Idrissov. It was often said that Roman and Aibek were the left leg and the right leg of my dear friend, Kanat Saudabayev, when he served as Kazakhtan's Ambassador to the United States. If they were the legs, Ambassador Umarov was his heart. And, current Foreign Minister Idrissov is to be fully commended for taking the U.S.-Kazakh relationship to the next level, and beyond. His service, like the service of Ambassador Umarov and Secretary Saudabayev, is also unmatched.

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Kazakhstan's independence, I would be remiss if I did not publicly honor these outstanding diplomats for all they have done to help build an independent nation worthy of its place in the world community. I also cannot let this historic occasion pass by without once more commending President Nazarbayev for leading the way for a nuclear free world. As a Pacific Islander, it is my sincere hope that the world will follow his lead as we work together for this cause, which is good.

HONORING QUINN HALL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Quinn Hall. Quinn is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Quinn has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Quinn has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Quinn has led his troop as the Patrol Leader, became a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow, and earned the rank of Warrior in the tribe of Mic-O-Say. Quinn has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Quinn constructed an octoball arena for his youth group at Liberty United Methodist Church in Liberty, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Quinn Hall for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, days after hundreds of thousands of women marched in my hometown of Portland, Oregon and cities across the world, Congressional Republicans once again are seeking to limit women's access to safe reproductive health care. H.R. 7 is a sweeping ban on abortion coverage and another callous attempt to insert Congress into the most personal of conversations between a woman and her physician, and had I been present, I would have voted "no" on final passage of H.R. 7 (Roll Call No. 65).

This legislation comes on the same week we mark the 44th anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision, *Roe v. Wade* and the same week Donald Trump reinstated the global gag rule, or 'Mexico City policy,' which bans all foreign non-profits that receive U.S. aid from offering abortion-related services. H.R. 7 and the Mexico City policy are flawed and ineffective policies that will harm health and economic security of women around the world.

I have repeatedly voted against attempts to limit a woman's right to a safe and legal abortion. Once again, these actions by Congressional Republicans and the Trump-Pence Administration make it clear that the GOP does not care about the rights and autonomy of women anywhere, not just in the United States.

As we clearly saw this past weekend, Republicans have no mandate to take away women's basic rights. Women everywhere will continue to fight these harmful policies, and I will continue to be one of their strongest allies in this fight.

Had I been present for the Motion on Ordering the Previous Question, Roll Call Vote No. 62 I would have voted "no."

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on H. Res. 55 (Roll Call Vote No. 63).

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on the Democratic Motion to Recommit (Roll Call Vote No. 64).

THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST
EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS ACT

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Pacific Northwest Earthquake

Preparedness Act, a comprehensive bill to address the earthquake risk facing the Pacific Northwest.

The Pacific Northwest is at extraordinary risk of a magnitude 9.0 earthquake on the Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) followed by a tsunami. The question is no longer if, but when, this event will occur.

The CSZ stretches from northern California up into British Columbia. Historically, the Cascadia Subduction Zone slips every 300 years or so causing major earthquakes. The last quake was in 1700 and evidence suggests it was a magnitude 8.7 to a 9.2. Thursday is the 317th anniversary of the last major Cascadia earthquake.

Experts agree that Oregon is due for another major earthquake. Some forecasts suggest there is a ten percent chance of a magnitude 8 to 9 quake on the CSZ in the next thirty years, while others predict a thirty-five to forty percent chance of a major quake on the south end of the CSZ in the next fifty years.

The Cascadia Subduction Zone is a minor image of the subduction zone off the coast of Japan that caused the magnitude 9.0 earthquake and triggered the devastating tsunami in 2011. That event caused an estimated \$300 billion in damages and killed over 15,000 people.

We can expect similar, if not more, damage in the Pacific Northwest and beyond. The United States Geological Service estimates that over 22,000 people live in Oregon's tsunami inundation zone and even more enter the zone daily for employment purposes. The State of Oregon predicts thousands of deaths and injuries plus approximately \$32 billion in infrastructure and economic damages in Oregon alone. Hundreds of thousands of survivors will be displaced, some possibly for years.

The next big Cascadia quake will likely cause massive damage. Critical lifelines, such as power, natural gas, and petroleum lines, roads and bridges, water and sewer systems, buildings, and communication systems over large parts of California, Oregon and Washington will likely be damaged, complicating response and recovery efforts. It may take years to fully restore utility services. State and local economies will be decimated.

It is important to note that this is not just a Pacific Northwest issue, this is a National issue. Yes the impact of an earthquake and tsunami in the CSZ will be felt the most in Oregon and Washington, but there will be Nation-wide effects. Seismic shaking is expected to be felt as far as Sacramento, California. Most infrastructure in the United States as a whole has not been constructed to withstand seismic shaking of the magnitude that sci-

entists predict has a high likelihood of occurring.

The national economy will be impacted by this event. Fortune 500 companies, such as Microsoft, Amazon, and Nike, are headquartered in Oregon and Washington. International ports used to export U.S. goods and to import foreign goods could be closed for months or longer. In fact, the ports of Portland, Oregon, and Seattle and Tacoma, Washington accounted for a combined 75 million tons of goods in 2012. Major highways and other thoroughfares used for interstate commerce will be damaged and rendered unusable.

This is not a question of if an earthquake will happen, only a matter of when. We need to start taking this threat seriously and begin to prepare for the event. There is a saying that "earthquakes don't kill people, buildings do." This means we need to start investing in the Nation's infrastructure to ensure it can withstand seismic activity and minimize potential damage and economic disruption.

My bill proposes to address the earthquake risk in several ways. First, the bill proposes to save lives, reduce injuries, and minimize infrastructure damage by requiring FEMA to prepare a plan to fund the purchase and installation of an earthquake early warning system for the Cascadia Subduction Zone. It also clarifies that FEMA may use hazard mitigation funds to improve the earthquake early warning system.

An early warning system can send alerts to trigger automatic shutdowns of trains, manufacturing lines, and close bridges. An earthquake early warning system worked during the 2011 Japan earthquake and it can work here.

An earthquake early warning system is only the first step though. The bill also directs the President to establish an Earthquake and Tsunami Task Force to develop a comprehensive strategy and recommendations on how the Nation should prepare and plan for, mitigate against, respond to, recover from, and more successfully adapt to an earthquake and tsunami in the CSZ. This will ensure that Federal, State, local, and tribal governments as well as individuals begin preparing now for a smarter response and recovery.

If we want to save lives and mitigate the damage, we cannot afford to wait. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill and taking the threat of a catastrophic earthquake seriously.