

the Cure has raised more than \$4.5 million and has reached hundreds of thousands of people through educational outreach and grassroots efforts.

Volunteers are dedicated to ending breast cancer by making it a nonlife-threatening disease through community grants to support research, education, screening, and treatment.

More than 465,000 die from this disease every year, Mr. Speaker. But there are more than 2.5 million breast cancer survivors alive in the U.S. today, the largest group of all cancer survivors.

The Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure helps them fight the disease through breast cancer survivors networks. Thanks to this Race for the Cure, we are making great strides toward a world without breast cancer.

I encourage all in our community in south Florida to participate on Saturday, October 20, at Bayfront Park in Miami, to fight breast cancer.

DISCOVERY OF GLOBALLY RARE PLANT COMMUNITIES

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

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. I rise to congratulate the Prince William Conservation Alliance, the Prince William Wildflower Society, and the Prince William County Park Authority for their discovery of globally rare plant communities at Silver Lake Park. The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation confirmed that the diabase flatwoods and a pin oak-white oak upland depression swamp qualify as globally rare or threatened species.

Diabase flatwoods are a rare type of oak-hickory forest that are only found in northern Virginia and central Maryland. It's very rare to find a site such as this, which has not been substantially disturbed by land development or incursion of invasive species.

The rare pin oak-white oak upland depression swamp habitat is characterized by small wetlands with hardwood forests. These environments have often been disturbed by past development.

I applaud local activists in Prince William County in my district, the 11th District of Virginia, for their work to protect these rare plant communities and offer them my full support and congratulations in permanently preserving these important ecological resources.

DEDICATION TO OUR FIREFIGHTERS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, this is National Fire Prevention Week. Last weekend, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation held their memorial service out in

Emmitsburg, Maryland. They added the names of 103 firefighters who died this year in the line of duty. That brings the total to 3,330 names on the memorial to fallen firefighters since it was established in 1981.

As a volunteer firefighter and EMT, I've seen the bravery and dedication of the men and women who face infernos to save lives and property. They walk into hell, and they do so knowingly. Many never walk out again. That was the case on September 11, 2001, when 343 firefighters lost their lives.

There are more than a million firefighters across this country who respond to more than 2 million calls per year. We owe them a debt of gratitude that cannot be repaid.

But there is something we can do. This week I cosponsored H. Res. 729, a measure to request that the President designate a day as National Firefighters Memorial Day to commemorate Federal, State, and local firefighters killed or disabled in the line of duty. It's the least we can do for these heroes.

AVOID MISTAKES OF THE PAST

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

Ms. JENKINS. "This is not a war of choice. This is a war of necessity." But just 7 weeks after the President spoke those words, White House political advisers consider rejecting General McChrystal's assessment.

To win in Afghanistan, we must provide the general the resources he needs. Insufficient troop levels is a mistake that must not be repeated.

Servicemembers from my district from Fort Leavenworth, Fort Riley, and the Kansas National Guard are putting their lives on the line in this war of necessity. As the President decides on his strategy in Afghanistan, I remind him of his words.

Leaving our brave soldiers in Afghanistan without the resources they need is indefensible. Our duty is to avoid the mistakes of the past.

Mr. President, please listen to the generals you have placed in command.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK JOYCE, JR.

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

Mr. ENGEL. I rise today to speak on behalf of a fallen hero from my district. On October 2, Patrick Joyce, Jr., and his fellow firefighters responded to a call of a burning building in Yonkers, New York. He was searching the burning building when an explosion of flame hurled him and two other firefighters out of a third-story window. The other two survived with serious injuries; but, sadly, Patrick, married and the father of two little girls, did not survive.

Patrick and his wife, Tara, met as teenagers in my neighborhood of Riverdale the year before I first came to Congress. They married and had two daughters, Charlotte and Isabella. The family was planning to visit an apple orchard this weekend. Instead, they attended his funeral.

I also attended Patrick Joyce's funeral mass. He was beloved by not only his family but by his fellow firefighters and his community. The loss of any life is one to be mourned, but the loss of a life such as Patrick's is doubly devastating. The Nation truly honors people like Patrick who are willing to risk their lives to save others.

Little Charlotte said of her father, "This wasn't supposed to happen. Daddy fixed everything. He made everything better." Now he's gone at age 39, and we all miss him.

It's become almost a cliché to praise our firefighters since the heroism shown on 9/11 but, for me, there will never be enough. Patrick Joyce, Jr. was taken from us far too early. On behalf of his wife, Tara; his children, Charlotte and Isabella; his friends and family; and the people of Yonkers, I would like to state for the record, in conclusion, in the words of Charlotte, that this was not supposed to happen. You did make everything better.

Patrick, you will be sorely missed by everyone you touched in life and those of us who are saddened by your death.

DEFUND ACORN ACT

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

Mr. INGLIS. Recently on this House floor, Mr. BOEHNER was successful in getting the Defund ACORN Act attached to the student aid bill. By a vote of 345-75, this House voted to cut off funding to ACORN.

My constituents are very relieved by that because throughout August I heard from them very clearly that they don't want an organization that's been up to the things that ACORN has been up to receiving Federal funds.

In fact, since 1994, according to Leader BOEHNER's office, they may have received directly as much as \$53 million; more than that indirectly through block grants that may have come from State sources.

Madam Speaker, that's got to stop. It's a good step that we took in the Defund ACORN Act, but we're not through yet, because something tells me that throughout the appropriations process there's money tucked away.

And so we must remain vigilant and see this organization associated with voter fraud and other irregularities must be cut off at the Federal trough.

WHAT TO DO IN AFGHANISTAN

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Very quickly, I know that all of us understand you're innocent until proven