

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

guilty. We are very pleased with the leadership that ACORN is taking in addressing the needs of those who cannot speak for themselves.

They understand the need for transparency; they understand the need for audits; they understand the need for new leadership in many of their areas. And they are doing it. And I'm grateful for the fact that we have congressional oversight. But I'm not going to demonize an organization that helps those that cannot help themselves.

Very quickly, it is important for the President to be addressing the question of: What do we do in Afghanistan, counterinsurgency or counterterrorism? I believe we should surge up diplomacy, fight the terrorists, and gain the friendship of the Afghan people, and let the Afghans fight the fight alongside of us—and not send 40,000 troops into Afghanistan.

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WHAT HAPPENED TO AUGUST?

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, before I return to my district this weekend, I thought I might ask the question on this floor once again, what happened to August? What happened to August? What happened to those town hall meetings? What happened to the pleas we heard from average, everyday Americans coming to town hall meetings by ones, twos and threes, coming with families, not coming bused, not coming organized, but just coming out of a concern about what we were about to do on this floor.

And yet I returned here after that period of time, and I have heard deafening silence from the White House about August. I have heard an absolute repudiation of August by the Democrats in the House and in the Senate.

No. We are talking about health care reform as if August did not exist, as if the American people did not exist and as if their concerns were not our concerns.

What happened to August? What happened to August?

HATE CRIMES BILL

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, today we had a conference report after just voting to send the matter to conference last night on the Defense authorization bill.

This authorizes what is being done in the military. On the backs of our soldiers is put the hate crimes bill. That is unbelievable. As if our soldiers don't have enough to do, we are going to put social bills like that on their shoulders and say, If you don't pass this to help

the soldiers, then we are going to say, gee, you're against the soldiers.

It's outrageous. They deserve better treatment. They deserve a straight-up vote on the Defense authorization without a hate crimes bill that will be, when coupled with 18 U.S.C. 2(a), the mechanism to muzzle ministers. I stood with dozens of African American ministers out here who knew they would be muzzled under this bill. It's not the right thing to do.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. DAHLKEMPER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

DANCING WITH CZARS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, we have 45 czars in America, and the dance card keeps growing. The President has the right to get advice from as many people as he wants to. And that's not new with our Presidents, and that is not a problem. Advisers are one thing, but policymakers are another thing altogether.

If someone is putting a policy in place, if someone is to govern and rule over the rest of us, they must be confirmed by the United States Senate. That's what the Constitution says and demands. After all, article II, section 2 states in part that the President may appoint ambassadors and other public ministers with the advice and consent of the Senate.

The American people have been asking a lot of questions about these czars. Who are these czars? What do they do? Is this a shadow government? What are the Cabinet secretaries doing? Why aren't they in charge of implementing policy instead of these czars? Do Cabinet secretaries report to our shadow government czars? Is that what happens? And why haven't we had transparency or confirmation hearings on these czars?

Now, Madam Speaker, here are some of the czars that we have. It's not all 45, but it's some of them. And let me list some of them for you. We have the Afghan-Pakistan czar. We have the AIDS czar and the auto recovery czar. We are getting a behavioral science czar. Now, what's that about, spanking of kids? No. It is actually about the study of human behavior and how the government can influence human conduct. Sounds a bit like the book "1984" to me.

We have a bailout czar. We have a border czar. Is the border czar supposed to secure the border or open up the border? Who knows? Nobody is telling us.

We have a climate change czar, a copyright czar, a counterterrorism

czar. We have a cyber security czar and a communications diversity czar. Let me repeat that one. A communications diversity czar. Ironically, this communications diversity czar is now barred from talking or communicating with the media. Now isn't that lovely? That's kind of odd in my opinion.

We have the disinformation czar. Now what does that person do? It sounds like he should be called the government propaganda czar to me.

We have two economic czars. We probably could use a few more of those. We have an education czar. We have an energy CIA. There's a food czar, the government performance czar, the Great Lakes czar, the Gitmo closure czar and the health care czar.

We have an info tech czar—well, we had an info tech czar, Madam Speaker. His last day in D.C. Government was March 4, but on March 12 the FBI raided his office and arrested two staffers. That position is still open for people who want to apply.

We have an intelligence czar. We have a Latin American czar, a Mideast peace czar and a Mideast policy czar. We have a pay czar and a regulatory czar. We have a religion, or God, czar; a safe school czar and a science czar. Now there's a beaut. Our science czar wrote a controversial book promoting population control.

We have a stimulus czar. And then, of course, there's the TARP czar, the technology czar, the trade czar and the urban affairs czar. We have the war czar, the water czar and, of course, there is a weapons czar.

Now, Madam Speaker, we know very little about those czars or what they do. We don't know who pays them or whether they paid their income tax. So Congress should defund these czars and no taxpayer money should go to pay for them or their salaries or their staffs.

After all, Madam Speaker, since we continue to dance with the czars, it would be nice to know who brought us to the dance.

And that's just the way it is.

COMMENDING OUR FIRST RESPONDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. SUTTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SUTTON. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 731 to commend our first responders for their tireless efforts to ensure our safety as they serve on our Nation's front lines. These brave men and women are often the first ones on the scene and the last ones to leave.

Firefighters in Lorain, Elyria, Barberton, Akron, Brunswick, Strongsville and throughout my district and our Nation deserve our deepest gratitude. In spite of all of the cuts that our firefighters are facing, they continue to put their lives on the line to save ours.

Far too many communities in the 13th District of Ohio have had to lay