

CELEBRATING ST. CHARLES' 180TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the city of St. Charles' 180th anniversary this May.

Known as the "Pride of the Fox," St. Charles has earned its reputation, boasting beautiful parks, innovative schools, and unique architecture.

Formerly known as Charleston, the city was incorporated 3 years before the city of Chicago. In 2011, St. Charles was named the number one city nationwide in which to raise a family by Family Circle magazine.

From RiverFest to the nationally acclaimed Scarecrow Festival, from Hotel Baker to high schools that graduate an average of 95 percent of seniors each year, St. Charles has been an ideal center of commerce, family, fun, and rest. The city leads by example in Illinois, and I am proud to celebrate its many years of prosperity.

As we celebrate this 180th anniversary, I would also like to give special recognition to someone's 18th anniversary—of birth, that is. My daughter Kylie, who is my princess, turns 18 today. I wish I could be with you today, Kylie, but happy birthday.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Teacher Appreciation Week.

We know that a good education is critical for today's youth to have a successful future. We owe our thanks to the teachers who dedicate themselves to providing this.

The need for education begins early, setting children on a positive path for learning at a young age. And, as students get older, it is essential to provide them with the skills, especially math and science education, that will give them the ability to compete in a globalized economy.

Mr. Speaker, Congress should use this week to recommit ourselves to fund and support programs that improve education for our children. Education is the most powerful tool we have to fight poverty in our neighborhoods, improve opportunities for our youth, build stronger communities, and create a more successful tomorrow.

SUPPORTING THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON BENGHAZI

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the establishment of the select committee on Benghazi.

Constituents in my district demand to know what really happened on Sep-

tember 11, 2012, in Libya. Almost 2 years have passed, and Congress continues to get stonewalled by the administration. The most serious of these offenses is that the terrorists who are responsible for this action have not yet been brought to justice.

The creation of a House select committee is a serious matter. We owe this to the families and loved ones that were lost. This is the best way forward to uncover what actually happened. Under the leadership of Congressman TREY GOWDY, I am confident we will get to the bottom of this.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting the creation of the select committee on Benghazi.

BRING THEM HOME

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, my colleague from New York just recently talked about education and why it is so important and what a great tool it is to fight poverty and provide for the future of our young people, which is why what I am going to say is even more serious.

In the middle of the night on April 15, hundreds of girls were abducted from their beds in a school in Nigeria. The militant terrorist group Boko Haram is now planning to sell these young women into sex slavery for just \$12 a girl.

I have just gotten back from the Nigerian Embassy. My colleagues and I met with Nigerian officials for updates on this ongoing tragedy and to stand in unity behind strengthened efforts to bring these girls back home to their families.

As a mother and a grandmother, I cannot imagine the pain the parents of these girls are experiencing. Many of these parents are terrified to speak to the media for fear of what might happen to their daughters.

I appreciate our President's new commitment to help the Nigerian Government bring these girls home. These girls were pursuing their education, despite threats from a terrorist group bent on preventing the education of women.

We cannot stand idly by while fear and violence oppress the freedom and dreams of women around the world.

MEDIA IDENTIFY AS DEMOCRATS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there are lots of reasons why the national media leans liberal. Surely, reporters' political party affiliation explains some of their bias.

A new study of the media by two Indiana University professors found that among journalists who choose a side, Democrats outnumber Republicans by

four to one. Maybe that explains why the liberal national media have largely ignored the IRS and Benghazi scandals, dismissed climate change skeptics, and sugarcoated ObamaCare.

It shouldn't surprise us that journalists have removed from their code of ethics the requirement that their "news reports should be free of opinion or bias and represent all sides of the issue."

Isn't it incredible that it has been removed from the journalists' code of ethics?

The media should give the American people the facts, not tell them what to think.

STOP THE GAMES

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, while the Democrats are working hard to address the needs of working Americans, over 2.5 million having been left out in the cold since the Republicans refused to bring up a bill, which is paid for, to extend unemployment insurance. Republicans are busy with yet another partisan, political exploitation of the tragedy in Benghazi.

Yesterday, citizens had to go to the steps of the Capitol to talk about how they have lost their jobs and their unemployment insurance, and now they are at their wits' end and at the end of the family's budget. They need a responsive government to step up. Yet Republicans are announcing a select committee on Benghazi, despite already having had 13 hearings, 25,000 pages of document requests, and 50 briefings.

This is an exploitation of a serious tragedy. We know what happened. But, you know what? It is politics.

Unfortunately, the American people need a responsive government to help them, like the 2.5 million people who are desperately in need of the opportunity for their government to step forward to help them with this unemployment crisis.

We can do more. We have got to do it now. Stop the games.

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MOLDOVA

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, with Russian-backed militants creating chaos in Ukraine, neighboring Moldova has put their forces on high alert.

Moldova and Ukraine share a similar problem of breakaway states within their borders. In fact, there is evidence that Russian forces located in the Transnistria region of Moldova have been involved in the recent violence seen in Odessa, Ukraine.

Moldova, just like Ukraine, wishes for a better relationship with their European neighbors, but could see its attempts to cement friendships undermined by pro-Russian provocateurs.

We should make it clear that any effort to undermine Moldova's sovereignty will not be tolerated. Last week, I introduced a bipartisan resolution that calls on this House to support Moldovan independence and oppose aggression by the Russian Federation.

It is clear that Vladimir Putin will take advantage of any sign of weakness. We need to display strength on behalf of our friends in the region, engage them, and support their right to defend the independent Republic of Moldova from aggressive actions.

INTRODUCING THE PLANNING ACTIVELY FOR CANCER TREATMENT ACT

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to draw attention to the serious gaps in our cancer care system, a system the Institute of Medicine has deemed in crisis.

For too many cancer patients, the process of a cancer diagnosis and treatment is overwhelming. Patients must navigate treatment provided by multiple providers, with little help to coordinate the treatments, the side effects, and the psychosocial impacts.

While some providers involve their patients actively in their cancer care, we need to make it the standard, not the exception. That is why I have introduced the Planning Actively for Cancer Treatment, or PACT, Act with my Republican colleague, Representative BOUSTANY from Louisiana.

The PACT Act would provide a personalized roadmap to cancer care developed by the patient and provider. These plans have been shown to improve patient outcomes, increase patient satisfaction, and reduce unnecessary utilization of scarce health care facilities.

That is why cancer patient research and provider groups like the Lymphoma Research Foundation and the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship, they all support this bill.

With the PACT Act, we have an opportunity to make cancer patients better, along with the health care systems that care for them.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important bill.

BLATANT MISMANAGEMENT OF THE VA

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

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I am outraged over reports involving the care of our veterans and the blatant mismanagement at the VA.

We have made promises to our Nation's veterans, and, yet, wounded veterans are waiting months and even years, with some even dying due to backlogs at the VA.

I found out yesterday a veteran in my district died from excessive delays because he was unable to get necessary heart surgery. Delays at the VA hospital in Phoenix may have led to additional deaths.

Reportedly, VA officials have ordered hospital workers to shield this information in order to hide incredibly long waits. Workers at a VA clinic in Fort Collins, Colorado, were supposedly told to falsify appointment records to escape retribution for not meeting agency-imposed goals. If they didn't do that, they were going to end up on a bad boys list.

Mr. Speaker, if true, these reports demonstrate a serious problem within the VA. The brave Americans who served our country did not wait months or years to answer the call to protect our freedom. They deserve the best care that we can give them in a timely manner.

Unfortunately, under current leadership at the VA, that seems impossible. If Secretary Shinseki can't get this done, President Obama needs to find somebody who can.

ENSURING THAT ALL VETERANS AND THEIR SPOUSES HAVE ACCESS TO EARNED BENEFITS

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, last week, during the VA approps debate, I spoke about Madelynn Taylor, a veteran being denied the right to be interred with her spouse, Jean, in the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery because they are lesbians.

Idaho does not recognize their marriage and is denying the couple the honor and dignity earned through Madelynn's service in the U.S. Navy. Clearly, LGBT veterans continue to face discrimination.

Nearly a year after the landmark decision striking down DOMA, the VA still does not have a clear policy to ensure all veterans and their spouses have access to their earned benefits.

In response to the situation, Idaho resident and 27-year Army veteran, Colonel Barry Johnson, offered Madelynn and Jean his plot at the State cemetery stating:

Madelynn loves her country. She wants her partner by her side, and she wants to eternally rest among veterans in the State she made home.

She deserves that. We need more people like the colonel here in Congress, willing to speak up on behalf of all our veterans and their families who deserve to receive the benefits that they have earned.

CONGRATULATING HEBREW ACADEMY JUMP TEAM

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the team from Hebrew Academy in South Florida for winning this year's National Council of Synagogue Youth JUMP competition.

Schools across the country were charged with creating events related to Israel advocacy, Jewish values, Holocaust remembrance, and bullying prevention. Through this competition, students develop and build critical aspects of leadership that can be applied throughout their lives.

For their team's winning project, the Hebrew Academy JUMP team created an Israel awareness day, developed a bullying awareness week and discussion groups about cliques and bullying, and created a remembrance project that engaged Holocaust survivors to have their stories integrated in their school's Holocaust curriculum.

I congratulate these impressive students on what they have accomplished for our community and for their victory in the national competition.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit into the RECORD the names of the exceptional Hebrew Academy JUMP team members.

They are students Jackie Olemberg, Alix Klein, Ariela Stein, Jacob Mitrani, Ariela Isrealov, Merah Frank, Adina Bronstein, Shane Hershkowitz, Madison Emas, Danny Bister; and faculty Rabbi Avi Fried.

CONDEMNING THE ABDUCTION OF THE NIGERIAN SCHOOL GIRLS

(Ms. WILSON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last night, I introduced a bipartisan resolution condemning the abduction of Nigerian school girls by the terrorist group Boko Haram, which has claimed responsibility.

Leadership of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Subcommittee on Africa joined me and co-sponsored House Resolution 573.

Mr. Speaker, I am personally deeply disturbed by this atrocity, and it shines a light on the terror that so many girls face around the world every day in attaining the basic right of an education.

We must do everything in our power to ensure the safe return of these precious children and strengthen efforts to protect them from those who conduct violent attacks.

I support Secretary Kerry's decision to send a security team to Nigeria. It will take the efforts of the Nigerian Government, the United States Government, and the international community to rescue the missing young