

Thompson. Rose is 79 years old and has voted all her life, but this November she will likely be turned away. Rose was born at home in Jackson, Mississippi, and never received a birth certificate, so she can't obtain a voter ID as her State requires. Without an ID, Rose loses a fundamental right that was guaranteed to all Americans.

Now is the time for action. I urge my colleagues to support the bipartisan Voting Rights Amendment Act and restore our ability to have a voice in this democracy.

VETERANS CONTRIBUTE TO HSA

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, you know, we have heard the horror stories of our veterans experiencing long wait times, subpar care, or worse, no care at all at VA's across the country. While we can't fix a broken VA system overnight, we can do something now to help our brave men and women in uniform.

That is why I am introducing the Helping Veterans Save for Health Care Act that would allow veterans who receive care through the VA to contribute to a health savings account. Such savings could then be used by the veteran or their family.

Veterans want, need, and deserve more choices when it comes to saving for health care, particularly when our VA is failing to provide the care they earned. We must continue to put our veterans first, and we can start by making it easier for them to save through an HSA for quality care.

I ask my colleagues to join me in this effort. It is the right thing to do.

HONORING OFFICER SCOTT HEWELL

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Scott Hewell, a police officer in Stockton, California, who died as a result of injuries in the line of duty.

On May 28, Officer Hewell and his partner were headed to assist another officer with an armed suspect when their car crashed. Both officers sustained serious injuries, and Officer Hewell, sadly, died on June 11.

Only 33 years old, Officer Hewell was a graduate of San Francisco State University and joined the Stockton Police Department in September 2012. He was well-liked on the force. He trained at the Sacramento Police Academy and worked with the Sacramento Sheriff's Department.

Officer Hewell was the 11th officer to die in the line of duty in Stockton, the first since 1993. Our law enforcement officials risk their lives every day to work to protect ours.

Our community mourns the loss of Officer Scott Hewell, and our thoughts and prayers are with his family. I ask my colleagues to remember Officer Hewell and all the fallen officers and to thank our first responders for their service.

BORDER PATROL: PRESIDENT'S AMNESTY PROMISE CAUSES SURGE

(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, tens of thousands of unaccompanied minors are surging across our southern border.

According to an internal Border Patrol report, the blame falls squarely on the President. The report shows that 95 percent of the illegal immigrants interviewed came to the U.S. to get a "free pass" from the President's announced amnesty policy. His failure to enforce immigration laws and his promise of amnesty by executive order entices these immigrant children to enter the U.S. illegally. The estimate for this year alone is expected to reach 90,000—15 times more than 4 years ago.

The President's solution is to issue public service announcements in Central America, but the administration's actions speak louder than their words. The President's pro-amnesty policies have caused this crisis. The real solution to the border surge is to enforce current immigration laws, not undermine them as the President has done.

RECOGNIZING ANTWON LAMON

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as kids across the country celebrate the end of the school year, I want to take a moment to recognize the outstanding students and educators who make our communities better. When good teachers, involved parents, innovative curriculum, and motivated students come together, our communities shine.

Today I recognize Antwon Lamon of Washington High in Chicago, who was recently recognized by the President at the White House Maker Faire. This event celebrated students whose innovative technologies and techniques will transform America's way of life.

Along with a team of pioneering Washington students, Antwon created "Baller's Life," a 3-D interactive game whose objective was to provide a non-violent educational experience that stimulates the minds of adults and children alike. It is so good, that even the President noticed.

Antwon's achievements include placing in Chicago's academic decathlon, completing rigorous AP courses, maintaining an honor average, all while competing on Washington's football,

wrestling, track, basketball, and volleyball teams.

As Antwon prepares for college at Northern Illinois University this fall, my alma mater, I am reminded that not only was the Second District made better by him, it has a brighter future because of students like him.

RESCUING THE CREW OF AQUA QUEST

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask for the collective prayers of this Chamber to help bring my constituents back home to Tarpon Springs, Florida. Robert Mayne, James Kelly Garrett, Devon Butler, Nick Cook, Steve Matanich, and Michael Mayne are the crew of the Aqua Quest, a boat company hired to teach locals in Honduras how to safely scuba dive.

On a quest to do good, these men have been illegally detained without benefit of due process for 44 days and have spent several, as I said, several weeks in a dilapidated Honduran jail living in unacceptable conditions.

Together with my colleague, Congressman MIKE FITZPATRICK, we have urged the State Department and Honduran officials to work towards a quick resolution to free these men so that they may return to the loving arms of their families.

Your prayers are appreciated, and I have confidence that we will bring them home.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF FREEDOM SUMMER

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, this year we mark the 50th anniversary of the 1964 Freedom Summer, when hundreds of Americans traveled to Mississippi to fight discrimination and advance voting rights and equality under the law.

Today I rise to recognize three Americans who gave their lives in that struggle: James Chaney, Michael Schwerner, and Andrew Goodman. On June 21, 1964, these three activists—one African American and two Jewish—were kidnapped and murdered for working to register Black voters.

Their lives, the lives of James Chaney, Michael Schwerner, and Andrew Goodman, were claimed by hate, yet their faith in equality and justice and the right to vote lives on today through the historic Black-Jewish alliance born out of the civil rights movement.

I proudly support honoring these three activists with a Congressional Gold Medal and would like to thank the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding for championing this cause.

For 25 years, the foundation has advanced the values shared by the Jewish

and African American communities, including tolerance, equal rights, and justice. As a Jewish American, it is an honor to fight for these values here in Congress today and every day.

RALLYING TO THE FAMILIES OF THE FALLEN AND WOUNDED

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

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, the situation unfolding in Iraq is a tragedy.

Almost 4,500 fellow Americans made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq defending our freedom and fighting oppression and tyranny. More than 32,000 men and women who served our country in Iraq bear the wounds of war, and all who served had extraordinary pressures put on their families.

Unless you have lived it, one cannot begin to know the pain experienced by the families of the fallen and the wounded. Our men and women in uniform fought for an ideal. That ideal is freedom: the freedom of religion, the freedom of speech, the freedom to assemble and vote and make one's voice heard, freedoms like those we have right here in this Chamber. That ideal will never die.

During these difficult days, Mr. Speaker, let us make sure we are mindful of the sacrifice of so many and let us always rally to the families of the fallen and stand in solidarity with all of our veterans.

VA HEALTH CARE

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Senate voted last week to pass comprehensive legislation aimed at addressing the long-standing issues within the Department of Veterans Affairs' health care system. Now it is time for the Republican House leadership to bring a comprehensive package to the floor.

With more than 8 million veterans turning to the VA for medical care each year, it is absolutely critical that we thoroughly address these issues in a timely fashion. That is why I commend Congresswoman KIRKPATRICK for introducing companion legislation to the Sanders-McCain bill to improve the quality of care within the VA.

Our veterans should not have to endure excessive long waits, tolerate canceled appointments, and question the quality of care they are receiving, nor should the persons reporting these activities be punished. The legislation would increase access to care while also improving on the quality of care, and it is something that we can act upon today.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation will be judged by how we treat our veterans. I urge this Congress to act swiftly on comprehensive legislation so that we

can bring real accountability—and some sanity—back to the VA.

HONORING KANE COUNTY'S EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

(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 honor the Kane County Educator of the Year, Carol Mertes of East Aurora School District 131. For Carol, teaching is in her blood. Her grandfather was a principal and her aunt was a teacher in Chicago public schools.

Carol has been an exemplary first grade teacher for decades who has touched many lives through her exceptional teaching skills and care for her students. She has served on the East Aurora District's School Improvement Review Team, Language Arts Curriculum Council, Reading Leaders Committee, and the Reading Task Force.

Teachers like Carol have one of the hardest but most influential jobs in the country. They are in charge of shaping our future generations, and they have the ability to make a huge impact on our youth.

I am grateful for Carol's undying patience and care for our children in Kane County, ensuring that the impact is a positive one.

HONORING JUNETEENTH

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Juneteenth.

Each June 19th, we celebrate Juneteenth to commemorate the announcement of the end of slavery in the United States. Juneteenth is a celebration of African American freedom, but it is also an opportunity to reflect on opportunities for self-improvement and set goals for the future.

This past weekend, I was honored to take part in the 39th annual Juneteenth Festival in Buffalo. Started in 1976, this festival has grown over the years to become one of the largest of such celebrations in the world and has established its position as an important tradition within the Buffalo community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Juneteenth today to celebrate our Nation's rich African American history and express my thanks to those who organize these important community celebrations of culture and heritage.

IN FAVOR OF A STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE

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

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, events in Iraq over the past week serve as a

chilling reminder of the fact that the world is not getting safer. I am disturbed by these events, but I am not surprised. Over the past few years, my colleagues and I have warned against our Nation's weakening foreign policy and the devastating defense cuts this President insisted on making on the backs of our men and women in uniform. The result is a strained military and a world where our enemies don't fear us and our friends no longer trust us.

On Monday, the USS *Mesa Verde*, one of our Navy and Marine Corps' amphibious warships in the LPD class, entered the Persian Gulf with 550 marines onboard. These ships have a long history of supporting our missions and responding to numerous threats all around the world. This LPD ship sitting in the Persian Gulf full of marines sends a clear message: we will not waiver in defense of American interests or protecting American lives.

I believe we need to keep sending that message. We must adequately fund our Nation's military, and we must provide for more ships like the LPD class amphibious warships so we can ensure the safety and security of our Nation and those who defend it.

□ 1230

NONDISCRIMINATION FOR LGBT FEDERAL CONTRACTORS

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, with the stroke of a pen, President Obama will extend workplace protections to 14 million LGBT Federal contractors.

Thankfully, LGBT San Diegans are already protected by State law, but this is not the case for all Americans.

I applaud the President for doing the right thing. Now it is time for Congress to end discrimination for all workers.

California and 17 other States have shown that these protections aren't just the right thing to do, they are good policy and good business.

Discrimination has no place in government. Discrimination has no place in the work place.

It is past time for Congress to listen to the American people. The Senate has already passed the Employment Nondiscrimination Act. Let's bring ENDA to the floor and pass it today.

WISHING MARTELL AND RHONDA MENLOVE ALL THE BEST

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, Utah has some large educational shoes to fill.

Martell Menlove, the State superintendent of public instruction in Utah, is ending a nearly four-decade career in public education. He has