

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, it has been almost 1 year since two-thirds of the Senate—Democrats and Republicans—voted for comprehensive immigration reform. So House Republicans have had 1 year to address the 4.3 million families languishing in the immigration backlogs separated from their loved ones for decades, 1 year to bring the 11 million undocumented immigrants who are already in the fabric of our society out of the shadows so they can earn their place in society, and 1 year to allow the brightest minds in the world to graduate from our schools and contribute to the economy. They have had 1 year to reduce the deficit by nearly \$1 trillion, as this bill will do.

They promised the American people reform; all we have heard are excuses for the delays. That is why I helped to introduce H.R. 15, a bipartisan immigration bill. This bill has the votes to pass today.

I urge Republican leadership to put politics aside and bring this bill to the floor. It is time to fix our broken immigration system once and for all.

BORDER CRISIS

(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, the surge of illegal immigration on the southern border of Texas is one of the largest security and social issues facing our Nation today. Thousands of illegals crossing into the United States directly impact our schools, our hospitals, government budgets, employment, crime, and all parts of American life.

Sadly, this surge is no coincidence; instead, it is a direct response to President Obama's failed policies.

News reports stated:

White House officials acknowledged some of the thousands of children seeking refuge are coming, in part, because they think they will be allowed to stay in the United States because of President Obama's policies.

This is totally unacceptable. We are a Nation of laws. The President has a duty to fully enforce our laws and protect our borders.

Texans and all Americans want, need, and deserve a secure border, period.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT DICK SHIGEMI HAMADA

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

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize Staff Sergeant Dick Shigemi Hamada, a Japanese American World War II veteran born in Hawaii who served under the Office of Strategic Services, a precursor to the CIA.

He volunteered for the renowned 442nd Regimental Combat Team in 1943, shipped off to the fearsome battle-

fields of the Burma-India-China theater, and later parachuted into what is now Beijing in order to rescue more than 600 prisoners of war.

Throughout his military career, Staff Sergeant Hamada stayed true to the aloha spirit. His love of our country and determination to do whatever it took to accomplish the mission are an inspiration to all who have raised their hands to wear the uniform and serve.

Staff Sergeant Hamada passed away on May 27 at the age of 92, leaving behind a legacy of courage and servant leadership. He will be interred later today at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl, and we send to him our deepest gratitude and say "aloha" to this Hawaii hero.

WE NEED TO SECURE OUR BORDER

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

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, in May of 2011, President Obama gave a speech in El Paso, Texas, where he effectively said: Mission accomplished—our border is secure. In fact, he mocked those of us who disagreed with him, suggesting that we wouldn't be happy until there was a moat guarding our southern border.

Mr. Speaker, as we witness tens of thousands of children crossing our border today, I hope the President remembers his speech in El Paso and owns up to his administration's failure in enforcing our immigration policy.

We need a secure border before we can address any kind of immigration reform, which is why I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 2220, the SMART Border Act—tough, smart legislation to finally get operational control over our Nation's borders.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WORKERS OF WARREN MILL

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, last December, in Stafford Springs, Connecticut, Warren mill, a textile mill that had been in operation for 161 years, sadly closed its doors and laid off its workers.

It was a day where many were sort of writing obituaries for the textile industry in New England, but for many, the memory and the reputation of the high quality of that factory lived on.

Fast forward to this past Wednesday, a new owner, American Woolen, closed on a deal to reopen the plant, which the looms will be humming by the end of this month, hiring back the workers whose quality workmanship, again, resurrected this industry for New England.

It was because of the combined effort of my office, which worked with the

parties, to bring them together, and Governor Dan Malloy, who provided some low-interest financing, to help the transaction move forward. It all came together, so that by the end of June, 80 workers are going to be back at the looms producing wool and delivering it with a "Made in America" stamp, which is not just a dream, it is a reality. It is good business practice for people to invest in America's workers.

Congratulations to the workers of Warren mill in Stafford Springs, Connecticut, for setting an example of how we, as a Nation, can lead again in manufacturing.

GI BILL ANNIVERSARY

(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. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the original GI Bill, also known as the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944. This legislation has had an enormous impact on the lives of millions of veterans, creating access to low-cost home loans and educational and vocational training.

Signed into law on June 22, 1944, the GI Bill came into being during the height of World War II, when America was mobilized into war around the globe. These veterans returned from war, utilized access to education and training, and began building an America that would lead the world economically and militarily for generations to come.

Since then, veterans from other conflicts, including Korea, Vietnam, and others, have used the GI Bill. Recently, it was amended to allow a new generation of veterans to gain access to a variety of benefits to transition to civilian life. The post-9/11 GI Bill builds upon the success of a bill signed into law 70 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, our veterans have paid a high price to earn these benefits, and they deserve as much.

HONORING MABON "TEENIE" HODGES

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of an outstanding guitarist, songwriter, singer, and legendary Memphis musician, Mabon Hodges, better known as "Teenie" Hodges, who passed away in Dallas just yesterday.

Teenie started playing the guitar at age 12, and he and his brothers were part of the Hi Rhythm Section, which was part of Royal Studios and Hi Records music that produced Al Green and Otis Clay and others, a great part of the Memphis sound in the seventies under Willie Mitchell, a great producer and great musician himself.

Willie Mitchell kind of adopted Teenie and taught him something about playing guitar and helped him in his career. Willie's grandson, Boo Mitchell, now runs that studio.

Teenie has been a part of it in the heart of the Hi Rhythm Section, which is well known throughout the world. He cowrote, with Al Green, "Love and Happiness" and "Take Me to the River" and other great tunes.

He continued playing through the spring. He fell ill with emphysema, which he had for years, but the emphysema got so strong that he had to be taken to the hospital in Dallas this spring, and then he passed away from emphysema. Services will be held in Memphis next week.

I was a friend of Teenie's. He was a great Memphian, a wonderful spirit, and a great talent. All of Memphis will miss him, and all of us in the country appreciate his great music and contribution to our culture.

RECOGNIZING JUDGE JOHN WILSON OF TENNESSEE'S FIRST DISTRICT

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate my remarks with my friend, Mr. COHEN, from Memphis.

Today, I rise and recognize Judge John Wilson of Tennessee's First District for his commitment to serving the Third Judicial District of Tennessee and our Nation. His dedication to freedom, liberty, justice, and many other principles that make our country great is both a testament to his character and an achievement to be proud of.

Judge Wilson was born and raised in east Tennessee. He graduated from East Tennessee State University, located in my hometown of Johnson City, Tennessee, with his undergraduate degree, and graduated law school at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

Since his graduation from law school, Judge Wilson has served in the United States Air Force as an assistant district attorney and, most recently, as a circuit court judge for the Third Judicial District of Tennessee for 35 years, representing Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, and Hawkins Counties.

Judge Wilson would be the first to say that he could not have done it without his lovely wife, Nancy, who has been by his side for 48 years. I am proud to call both of them my friends.

I thank Judge Wilson for his service to our community, our State, and our Nation and wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

OUTSTANDING ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AT UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED

(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 outstanding environmental research being conducted at the University of California, Merced.

In the midst of California's worst drought on record, scientists at UC Merced are studying the effects drought, fire, and global warming are having on soil and water resources.

One such researcher, Dr. Berhe, along with her students and collaborators, supported by the National Science Foundation, are investigating the impacts of fire, erosion, and climate change on soil processes.

Extreme drought and other catastrophic events can alter the carbon storage potential of the soil, its water-holding capacity, and lead to high rates of surface runoff.

Research such as Dr. Berhe's is critical for addressing challenges to the soil's ability to sequester atmospheric carbon, water security, and the health of the ecosystem.

Continued Federal support of science and research is needed to provide better information for formulating solutions to the challenges in the world around us.

TEXAS IMMIGRATION CRISIS

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, we are experiencing an unprecedented crisis on the Texas border, but this is not the result of a natural disaster. This is an entirely manmade crisis caused by the executive branch.

The number of young undocumented immigrants has nearly tripled over the last 2 years. This is not a coincidence. Two years ago, the President essentially rewrote the Nation's immigration policies and promised amnesty to children of a certain age.

Central Americans heard this message loud and clear and have sent their children to the United States in droves, oftentimes under the care of paid-off drug lords who are abusive and dangerous.

I visited the holding facility at Lackland Air Force Base yesterday and heard the stories firsthand of the difficulties these children experience during their trip to the United States.

The Obama administration has said it is committed to ending human trafficking; but, Mr. Speaker, when you are complicit in this degree of human trafficking, I would call you an enabler.

I urge the President to reverse his course for the sake of these innocent children, for the sake of our hard-working border agents, and on behalf of the taxpayers.

HONORING THE USS PENNSYLVANIA FOR COMPLETING THE NATION'S LONGEST STRATEGIC PATROL

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

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor the sailors of the USS Pennsylvania's gold crew for completing a 140-day patrol.

This is the longest strategic deterrence patrol ever in an Ohio class submarine and the longest of any kind since the 1970s.

The servicemembers of the Pennsylvania ought to be proud of their accomplishments. They have done an extraordinary job of demonstrating the resilience of our sailors and the capability of our platforms.

We must also thank and pay tribute to the families of those servicemembers who went without their loved ones for more than one-third of a year.

President Kennedy once said:

Control of the seas means security, control of the seas means peace, and control of the seas means victory.

The Pacific Northwest is proud—this country is proud—of the accomplishments and sacrifices of our sailors and their families. We are thankful for what you do for our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO OUR MILITARY AND VETERANS AT CORNERSTONE CHURCH IN SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, I had the opportunity to speak at Cornerstone Church in Salisbury, North Carolina. The service was a tribute to America, our military, and our veterans, and it was an uplifting experience.

Cornerstone was founded over 20 years ago. The first service had 12 attendees, five of whom were related to the founding pastor, Bill Godair. Pastor Godair continues as lead pastor and seeks to use the ministry to attack racism and poverty. The church is growing and serves the people of Salisbury without regard to age, race, or political affiliation.

Mr. Speaker, it was refreshing to join the congregation at Cornerstone and pay tribute to our men and women who serve or have served in our Armed Forces.

As the scriptures tell us in John 15:13:

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

CHILDREN AT AMERICA'S BORDER

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as the founder and cochair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I rise to talk