

Mr. Speaker, on this historic centennial, I congratulate the people of Willcox on preserving this gem of the Old West and wish them many years of future success.

#### WE NEED TO DO MORE TO BUILD THE WATER SUPPLY FOR THE WEST

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, this week, we made some important strides on water in the West, especially in the time of drought we have in California.

We need to do much more to build the kind of supply that is necessary to get out of the drought. Unfortunately, the bureaucracy doesn't reward that with slow permit process or even some of the things we had to battle this week, such as deferring more water for fish that isn't even in records of decision or been feasibly shown to be scientifically sound.

At the same time we have to curb the bureaucracy, we have to be positive moving forward with new storage projects, such as Sites Reservoir, such as other obstacles we have in the State of California and throughout the West to address this drought, not just take it to the "church of climate change" and think that is the whole problem.

We are going to have to be proactive, as we have been in previous generations.

□ 1100

#### FOSTER CARE MONTH

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

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join President Obama in recognizing May as National Foster Care Month.

The goal of this special month is to raise awareness about the experiences of more than 400,000 youth in the foster care system and to recognize the essential work that foster parents, social workers, and advocates have in the lives of children in foster care throughout the United States.

Foster care was created as a temporary placement for children who have been abused or neglected. The act of removing a child, even from an abusive home, is traumatic; yet, even in the face of these challenges, the resiliency of foster youth remains strong.

For example, Maurissa, a young woman who spent most of her high school years in a residential facility in Los Angeles, was able to graduate high school with honors and go on to Oxnard College. It took Maurissa almost 10 years to complete community college. She explains: "I was living on my own and working a minimum of 40 hours per week, and I had to take algebra nine times to pass."

Maurissa struggled to get past her experiences but was able to find some-

one who believed in her. Dr. Adam Grudberg, a faculty member at the residential facility, encouraged her to reach her dreams.

When Dr. Grudberg died at the young age of 30, Maurissa knew she couldn't let him down. She went on to graduate from California State University with her undergraduate degree in psychology and then on to Harvard Graduate School of Education to receive her master's degree in human development and psychology.

In honor of Maurissa's courage and Dr. Grudberg's inspiration, I invite my colleagues to join the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth and cosponsor the bipartisan resolution in recognition of National Foster Care Month.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF GUILLERMO OCHOA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARDY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life of a beloved leader in the Ceres community, former Ceres City Councilmember Guillermo Ochoa. The beloved father, son, son-in-law, brother, and uncle died at the age of 54 on Monday, March 2.

Guillermo was born on August 29, 1960. He immigrated to Ceres, California, from Mexico when he was 9 and became an American citizen. He attended school in Ceres at Caswell Elementary School, Mae Hensley Junior High School, and Ceres High School.

After graduating from Ceres High in 1979, Guillermo attended Modesto Junior College and transferred to St. Mary's College of California. He earned a BS in business administration and economics from St. Mary's in 1984.

Over the course of 17 years, Guillermo was employed in an administrative capacity for several employers, including Campbell's Soup, Diamond of California, Yellow Roadway, and ConAgra Foods.

Guillermo became a dedicated public servant in 2005, when he was appointed to the Ceres City Council. He ran for a seat on the city council 2 years later and won, making him the first Latino immigrant to become an elected city councilmember in Ceres.

"Working and succeeding together" was a slogan Guillermo lived by. He demonstrated his dedication to community service through the many committees, boards, and organizations he was a member of.

The list includes the Ceres Chamber of Commerce, the Society for Human Resources Management, the StanCOG Policy Board, the Tuolumne River Regional Park committee, the Mello-Roos joint powers authority board, the City-School Committees, the Ceres Partnership for Healthy Children Committee, the Howard Stevenson Memorial Com-

mittee, the Daniel Whitmore House Preservation Committee, and the Latino Community Roundtable. He also served as president and vice president of the Hispanic Leadership Council during various periods of his life.

He was a true servant to the public and a strong community leader. He motivated Ceres students to actively learn, working diligently with a Modesto group of students in an HLC organization called Hispanic Youth Leadership Council. The council has had a lasting impact on the educational success of students in both communities.

Although he was not reelected again in 2011, a few years later, he achieved his true dream of opening his own business, Garcia's Market, a new grocery store in Empire, California. To this day, Garcia's Market remains a vibrant testament to the economic vitality of the American free enterprise system.

One has to admire men like Guillermo Ochoa, who display consistent dedication to public service. He remained active in the community even after he was unseated from the city council.

Guillermo was once asked what sets him apart. His response was: "My business and professional experience, as well as being a product of two diverse cultures, which helps me understand the issues that face our community as a whole."

Guillermo has set a loving standard of humanity for us all to remember him by. Guillermo leaves behind his wife, Martha Ochoa; a daughter, Kimberly Ochoa; and a son, Christian Ochoa—each of them from Ceres, California.

Also from Ceres, he leaves behind his father, Guillermo Ochoa, Sr.; mother, Maria Ochoa; sister, Luz Ochoa; nephew, Alexis Ochoa; sister, Irma Ochoa; brother-in-law, Rosendo Ruiz; nieces, Kassandra Ruiz and Clarissa Ruiz; and nephew, Angel Ruiz.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and recognizing my very, very good friend for his unwavering leadership and many accomplishments and contributions to our community.

He had a genuine love for the people and community he worked so hard to help. We will have a long memory of him.

I now yield to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY).

#### SYRIAN ATROCITIES

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to lend a voice to the people of Syria, many of whom have been silenced by a cruel and oppressive dictator.

This very moment, 5,500 miles from this Chamber, in the country of Syria, innocent people are suffering under a regime bent on crushing freedom.

I met recently with a group of Syrian Americans in Charleston, West Virginia, my congressional district. Many of them have family members and loved ones in Syria. The stories I heard are alarming.

Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad is waging an all-out war against his own

people, with one goal in mind, to muzzle any voice that speaks out in opposition to his regime.

People are suffering. Four out of five Syrians live in poverty. More than 200,000 people have been killed; 1 million have been wounded, and more than 3 million Syrians have fled the country.

Assad has shown that he will use any means necessary to maintain his dictatorship. He has rained down chemical weapons from the sky onto neighborhoods. He has dropped cluster bombs and barrel bombs into residential buildings occupied by women and children.

He has placed entire communities under siege, starving peaceful residents into submission. He has even bombed hospitals full of people recovering from his attacks.

I would now like to share a few stories that I have heard from my constituents, with whom I met just this previous Monday.

First, Dana Ashbani has family that lives in Syria. Several of her cousins were brutally killed by the Assad regime.

One summer night, in 2013, gunfire rang out in the streets of the neighborhood in which Dana's cousin lived. Fearing for her life, she grabbed her husband and her three young children and rushed toward a nearby basement for safety; but they were met by Assad's thugs and mercilessly gunned down, their bodies mutilated beyond recognition.

Dr. Rhagda Sahloul is an endocrinologist in Charleston. Her sister Dalia lives in Syria with her husband and their two children, Shahed and Omar, aged 7 and 11. Their town fell under siege by the Assad military in 2013.

The residents are running low on food and are surviving on a diet of dry noodles and, if they are lucky, vegetables that they grow on their rooftops and balconies. Without electricity, they have stripped their streets bare of trees to keep themselves warm on cold nights. No one even wants to think about next winter.

Recently, a foreign humanitarian organization dropped relief materials for the town, and Dalia's husband set up a marketplace in his home to facilitate the bartering of goods, but it didn't last long. The Assad regime bombed their home, destroying their little market and killing three people.

Dr. Khaled was an orthopedic surgeon in Aleppo before the conflict in Syria began, but he was forced to flee to Idlib, as he was targeted by the government. In Idlib, he worked in several field hospitals and witnessed numerous aerial attacks.

One of these attacks occurred on a new orthopedic center on the day of its opening in March 2013. The missile struck the hospital, killing one patient, injuring several people, and forcing the facility to shut down.

In June 2012, government forces entered Douma, a suburb of Damascus,

and ordered everyone out of their apartments. Citizens were lined up and told to face the wall.

Mattessem, an 11-month-old baby at the time, was held by his mother, with his father and 10-year-old sister Fatima by her side. Fatima asked the soldiers to spare the life of her baby brother, offering \$2, all the money she had in her pocket. The soldiers shot anyway.

As Fatima's father was shot, he fell onto Fatima, protecting her from the bullets. One bullet went through Mattessem and killed their mother. In a family of 25, only four survived.

These are just a few of the stories that I have heard, but they should be a call to action.

The Commander in Chief of our powerful military, President Obama, appropriately recognized the severity of the situation in Syria, drawing a red line at chemical weapons; but Assad has crossed that red line repeatedly, with impunity, and the President has failed to rise to the challenge. According to press reports, Assad's regime launched another chemical weapon on the Syrian people just this past week.

We need leadership from the President in the face of grave human rights violations in Syria, not faux red lines and empty threats. President Obama is not providing that leadership, and people in Syria are suffering because of it.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### SUPREME COURT NEWS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, this has been an interesting week, with all the activity here on the Hill. The Prime Minister of Japan came and spoke. He did a very admirable job. There has been a lot of activity across the street at the Supreme Court. It was rather interesting.

If you look at the history of the Supreme Court, until 1810 or thereabouts, the Supreme Court did not have a courtroom here in the Capital—or anywhere, really—and they often had to borrow a room from the House and Senate in order to have oral arguments.

They were thrilled on the Supreme Court in 1810 when the Senate Chamber on the second floor was open, what is now referred to as the Old Senate Chamber. The Senate moved up to that Chamber just straight down the hall out here, and the Old Senate Chamber downstairs was converted into a Supreme Court courtroom.

The Justices were thrilled. They were thrilled that they finally had their own nice courtroom. Now, it is not much more than a museum room. People can tour that room. There were some important decisions that were considered down there, some very poor decisions that were made in that room and some

very good decisions that were made in that room.

One of them involved the Spanish ship the *Amistad*. It was a great movie. A guy who grew up in Longview, Texas, in my district, Matthew McConaughey, played the trial lawyer in the case.

□ 1115

Anthony Hopkins did a great job playing John Quincy Adams, and I commend that movie to anyone that cares to see it. I don't think as many people saw it as have seen McConaughey's other movies. He didn't take off his shirt in this one.

The basic story can be found in the likes of history books,—unfortunately, not many that you can find in any school in America these days. But it was a very important case in establishing propriety in America.

There was a group of Africans who were captured by other Africans, taken to the coast of Africa, sold into slavery, put in chains, sailed across the sea to the Atlantic, to the Caribbean. There, this particular group of Africans was put on a Spanish ship called the *Amistad*.

After they sailed, the Africans were able to get free, take over control of the ship. They didn't know anything about sailing a ship like that and ended up landing in the United States, on the United States coast.

Immediately, the Spaniards began proclaiming that the Africans were their property. They were slaves. They were their property, as was the ship, and they wanted to take their ship. What they said were slaves, or were actually Africans, should have been free, but they wanted to go and leave with them. So there was a lawsuit.

It took a while to find someone who could speak the Africans' native tongue. Their version was a little different. They were minding their own business. They were free Africans, and that is what they wanted to be. They are not anybody's property. But fellow Africans had sold them into slavery, and they just wanted to be free like they started.

So the lawsuit went on. There were a couple of trials, some apparent improprieties in the process, but it made its way to the Supreme Court in the 1830s.

By that time, John Quincy Adams had become the first son of a former President to be elected President. Someone told me it has happened since then, but he was the first son of a former President to be elected President. He had argued cases before the Supreme Court before, including just 2 or 3 years before he got elected President. In 1828, he was defeated, so he never got a second term.

Two years after that, he did, for a President, what was fairly unthinkable. He ran for the House of Representatives. No President has ever run for Congress before or since John Quincy Adams. But he had an abiding sense that he had a calling, like William Wilberforce in England, with whom he had