

Thank you for everything, Joshua. You're worth it. Rest in peace.

IN MEMORY OF OFFICER GREGG BENNER

(Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Gregg Benner of the Rio Rancho Police Department, who was killed in the line of duty on March 25.

I offer my heartfelt condolences to the family and loved ones of Officer Benner as they mourn the loss of a husband, a father, grandfather, and friend who was taken from them far too soon.

Officer Benner dedicated his life to protecting his community and his country. From his career in the Air Force to the Rio Rancho Police Department, Officer Benner put his health and safety on the line to make us safer, and he leaves behind a legacy of valor and service.

The loss of any police officer is a painful reminder of the dangers they face. While we are shaken by Officer Benner's loss, we can take comfort in the memories he has left behind for all those who knew him and the example that he set.

While a tragedy such as this is unexpected and shocking, the response has brought out the best of the residents of Rio Rancho who have displayed an outpouring of support and sympathy.

My thoughts and prayers are with Officer Benner's family, fellow officers, and the entire Rio Rancho community. I hope they find peace in the most difficult time.

Officer Benner, may God bless you, and may you rest in peace.

HONORING DR. JUAN M. ORTIZ

(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 am delighted to wish a happy and healthy 90th birthday to Dr. Juan Ortiz.

As one of the oldest full-time practicing M.D.'s in the U.S., Dr. Ortiz has provided exemplary care to his family, friends, and patients in our south Florida community. Dr. Ortiz has always shown impeccable leadership in both his professional and charitable endeavors, and his reputation for excellence is widely known.

When he is not treating his patients locally, you will find Dr. Ortiz volunteering his medical services during catastrophes in remote locations throughout Central America, the Caribbean, and Africa.

Not only is Dr. Ortiz a seasoned medical professional, but he is also a poet, a writer, and an avid traveler, with destinations extending as far as Antarctica.

Dr. Ortiz, once again, I would like to express my appreciation for your contributions and your service to south Florida. I wish you a happy and healthy 90th birthday.

URGING SUPPORT OF H.R. 2615 AND H. RES. 291

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 2615 and H. Res. 291, both of which I introduced earlier this week.

Nearly a century ago, the United States purchased the Virgin Islands from Denmark for its geopolitical importance. The citizens of the Virgin Islands of the United States commemorate the events of that date, March 31, 1917, each year.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 291 asks the United States Postal Service to create a commemorative stamp in honor of the centennial.

The purpose of H.R. 2615 will form a bipartisan congressional commission to research, plan, develop, and carry out activities the commission considers appropriate to commemorate the 100th anniversary.

The commission will bring a national awareness to the events commemorating the centennial, engage lawmakers here in Congress, as well as the administration, and a new national discussion around the relationship and place of the Virgin Islands with the United States.

The coming centennial anniversary of the inclusions of the Virgin Islands in America affords us an opportunity to revisit this history and our ongoing relationship. It is also an opportunity to highlight the enormous contributions to the United States by Virgin Islanders and the richness of our Virgin Islands heritage.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF ERIK HITE

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

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the life of Erik Hite, a Tucson police officer and former Air Force member who was killed in the line of duty 7 years ago this week, as well as the great work of his wife, Nohemy, following his tragic death.

Erik was a model public servant and an exemplary cop. To honor his memory and his commitment to family, Nohemy founded the Erik Hite Foundation in 2009 to support construction of a daycare facility for the children of police officers, firefighters, military personnel, and other emergency responders. The foundation also runs enrichment and outreach programs that offer a safe and positive environment for these children.

Today, the facility cares for up to 45 children a day in a flexible setting that matches the around-the-clock hours that men and women of law enforcement are assigned. It has become a lifeline for many families who sacrifice to protect and to serve our community, just like Erik did.

Though nothing can make up for Erik's tragic death, Nohemy has kept his spirit and the ideals he lived for alive through her amazing efforts. She has shown tremendous courage and perseverance, and I commend this incredible woman for the difference she continues to make in southern Arizona.

REMEMBERING THE APOLLO-SOYUZ TEST PROJECT AND LIEUTENANT GENERAL TOM STAFFORD

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

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a momentous event in this Nation's history and honor the men and women who worked so diligently to make it happen.

The Apollo-Soyuz test project, which took place in July of 1975, was the first international human spaceflight, a joint operation between two rivaling superpowers: the United States and the Soviet Union. The Apollo-Soyuz test project was so successful, many historians attribute the handshake in space between Apollo Commander Tom Stafford and Soyuz Commander Aleksey Leonov to be the beginning of the end of the cold war.

Lieutenant General Tom Stafford was born in Weatherford, Oklahoma, in 1930. After graduating from the Naval Academy, earning his wings from the Air Force in 1953, and graduating from the Air Force Experimental Flight Test Pilot School, Stafford went on to serve as a pilot on Gemini 6, a commander of Gemini 9, commander of Apollo 10, and, finally, commander of the Apollo-Soyuz test project.

Thomas Stafford is a true patriot, a man who served this country in inspiring ways for over 60 years. I want to congratulate him on his accomplished service and his distinguished career.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA LADY GATORS SOFTBALL TEAM

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

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Florida, in Gainesville, Florida, the Lady Gators softball team. The Lady Gators won the Women's College World Series in Oklahoma City last night, defeating Michigan 4-1. This is the Lady Gators' second national championship in 2 years. It is a back-to-back national championship.

Again, congratulations to the Lady Gators' awesome softball team and their coach, Tim Walton, for his great coaching and leadership.

I would just like to end by saying it is great to be a Florida Gator.

CONGRATULATING VIC STORY, JR., ON BEING NAMED 2015 SWISHER SWEETS/SUNBELT EXPO FLORIDA FARMER OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Vic Story, Jr., on being named the 2015 Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Florida Farmer of the Year. This is a tremendous honor and one he truly deserves.

As the head of his family's citrus business, Mr. Story has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to the citrus industry. He is not only a successful grower, but he is widely regarded as a leader in Florida agriculture.

He has played a key role in educating the media, the general public, and elected officials like me about the importance of citrus to the State of Florida and this country. He has taught me a lot, and I am proud to count him both as an adviser and a friend.

On behalf of the 17th District of Florida, Florida's heartland, I would like to commend Mr. Story for his contributions to the industry and to his community. I wish him the best of luck as he competes with other State winners in October for the title of Southeastern Farmer of the Year.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN GLENN SULMASY

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a career of service both to our country and to those preparing to defend it.

Since 1988, Glenn Sulmasy has served our Nation as an officer in the United States Coast Guard. Since 2001, Captain Sulmasy has served on the faculty of the United States Coast Guard Academy as a professor of law and risen to the chairmanship of the department of humanities.

In each role, Captain Sulmasy has worked tirelessly to engage and educate cadets, faculty, government officials, and the public on national security law, public policy, and international conflict. He is a recognized expert in these areas.

Captain Sulmasy's expertise has not been limited to the academy. He is the author of multiple books and countless publications, a noted academic on the topic of national security, and a fellow in Homeland Security and National Security Law for the Center for National Policy here in Washington, D.C. There

is no doubt his knowledge has been an asset to our Nation as it struggles to understand the security intricacies of our current world.

His commitment to the protection and defense of our Nation is commendable. And as he prepares to retire from the Coast Guard Academy, I join with countless other Americans in thanking him for his service and wishing him the best of luck in the future.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO MINNESOTA'S TOP SPELLER MAXWELL MEYER

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Minnetonka's Maxwell Meyer, who is a seventh-grader at Minnetonka Middle School East, for his performance at the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Maxwell was among the 49 survivors of the preliminary round last Wednesday when 234 other spellers were eliminated. Maxwell then spelled both of his words right in the nationally broadcast semifinal round on Thursday and, unfortunately, came up just short of the finals after failing to score enough points on a written vocabulary test.

The National Spelling Bee, Mr. Speaker, showcases some of the brightest, most dedicated young students across the country, and Maxwell makes his community and the State of Minnesota proud.

To reach this stage of the spelling bee takes countless hours of hard work, learning the skills and knowledge to be an accurate speller. For some, that means even reading the dictionary.

Maxwell's efforts had folks all over the State of Minnesota cheering him on, and we congratulate him on his success.

COMMUNICATION FROM LEGISLATIVE CORRESPONDENT, THE HONORABLE BILL SHUSTER, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Anthony DeThomas, Legislative Correspondent, the Honorable BILL SHUSTER, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, June 3, 2015.
Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a grand jury subpoena for testimony, issued by the United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois.

After consultation with counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena

is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

ANTHONY DETHOMAS,
Legislative Correspondent.

TIME FOR CONGRESS TO AUTHORIZE WAR IN IRAQ AND SYRIA

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

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today, along with my colleagues WALTER JONES of North Carolina and BARBARA LEE of California, I introduced House Concurrent Resolution 55 in order to force this House and this Congress to debate on whether U.S. troops should withdraw from Iraq and Syria. We introduced this resolution under the provisions of section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution.

As all of my House colleagues know, last year, the President authorized airstrikes against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria on August 7. For over 10 months, the United States has been engaged in hostilities in Iraq and Syria without debating an authorization for this war.

On February 11 this year, nearly 4 months ago, the President sent to Congress the text for an Authorization for Use of Military Force, or an AUMF, on combating the Islamic State in Iraq, Syria, and elsewhere, yet Congress has failed to act on that AUMF, or bring an alternative to the House floor, even though we continue to authorize and appropriate the money required for sustained military operations in those countries.

Frankly speaking, Mr. Speaker, this is unacceptable. This House appears to have no problem sending our uniformed men and women into harm's way. It appears to have no problem spending billions of dollars for the arms, equipment, and air power to carry out these wars. But it just can't bring itself to step up to the plate and take responsibility for these wars.

Our servicemen and servicewomen are brave and dedicated. Congress, however, is the poster child for cowardice. The leadership of this House whines and complains from the sidelines, and all the while it shirks its constitutional duties to bring an AUMF to the floor of this House, debate it, and vote on it.

Our resolution, which will come before this House for consideration in 15 calendar days, requires the President to withdraw U.S. troops from Iraq and Syria within 30 days or no later than the end of this year, December 31, 2015. If this House approves this resolution, Congress would still have 6 months in which to do the right thing and bring an AUMF before the House and the Senate for debate and for action. Either Congress needs to live up to its responsibilities and authorize this war,