

To kill the very people who devote their lives to keeping our country safe is ironically and tragically sad. They were fathers, boyfriends, sons, brothers, and friends whose lives were robbed.

The fallen were:

Gunnery Sergeant Thomas J. Sullivan, United States Marine Corps. He was from Massachusetts. Tommy, as his buddies and family called him, was deployed twice during the Iraq war and received two Purple Hearts. He had been enlisted for almost 18 years. The Sullivan family owns a local bar and restaurant in Springfield, Massachusetts, and pictures of red, white, and blue ribbons memorialize the veteran on the restaurant's Facebook page. He was an avid Boston sports fan who loved Boston-based bands and musicians. A friend said: "He was a short guy, but his personality was a lot bigger than his height. You couldn't just not like Tom." He was 41.

Lance Corporal Squire "Skip" Wells, United States Marine Corps. He was from Cobb County, Georgia, and the service was in his blood. He was a student attending Georgia Southern University when he decided to follow in the footsteps of his family and enlist. God and country flowed deep in his veins. On Thursday, Skip had been texting with his girlfriend of 2½ years about her upcoming visit to Chattanooga. The last text he sent her was two words in capitalized letters that read, "active shooter." She tried desperately to reach him, but she did not learn about the murders until the next day. He was in his early twenties.

Sergeant Carson A. Holmquist, United States Marine Corps. A patriotic outdoorsman from a small town in Grantsburg, Wisconsin, he joined the Marines right out of high school and was taken to the battlefields in a foreign land. He was deployed to Afghanistan twice as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. It was reported that he was so proud of being a marine that, when he finished boot camp, he went right back to the small town of Grantsburg to visit his high school, dressed in his Marine uniform. He and his wife had a young son and were expecting another. He was 25.

Staff Sergeant David A. Wyatt, United States Marine Corps. He was a native of Russellville, Arkansas. He was a husband and a father. He served one tour of duty in Iraq and one in Afghanistan. He was described as a leader, a mentor, quick to help, and was easy to approach. Wyatt was a father who was overjoyed about the upcoming birth of his second child. He also planned to serve at least 20 years in the military. He was 35.

Petty Officer Second Class Randall Smith, United States Navy. He was a former high school baseball star from Paulding, Ohio, joined the Navy in 2010. He was a pitcher for the Paulding High School Panthers, and he accepted a scholarship to play baseball at Defiance College in Ohio. After a shoulder

injury, Smith decided to forego sports and serve his Nation. He was a father and a husband. He had three little girls. According to his Facebook page, he was a passionate sports fan. He was passionate about the United States Women's Soccer team and their World Cup win. He had even a love for the Houston Astros. He was 26.

Good men, good warriors, good Americans—all died before their time. This was a senseless and callous act of hate.

Even though these military facilities in Chattanooga are riddled with bullet holes, they are still a steadfast symbol of the patriotism of our military.

There are not enough tears or words to convey the sorrow that has engulfed this Nation. These volunteers that serve our country are the best that this Nation has, and we continue to mourn their loss and pray for their families and friends.

Ronald Reagan said it best: "We will always remember. We will always be proud. We will always be prepared, so we may always be free."

The Chattanooga 5.

And that is just the way it is.

#### CARING FOR OUR VETERANS HERE AT HOME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize John Enstrom of Elk River and the Disabled Veterans of America organization for all the incredible work they have done and continue to do for our Nation's veterans.

On August 5, John is hosting a charity fishing event in Ramsey, Minnesota. He is hosting the event for disabled American veterans. Along with friends and volunteers, John plans to bring 150 wounded veterans to a private lake for a great day of fishing, games, and simply enjoying the great Minnesota outdoors.

Our veterans have stood for our country's freedom and individual liberty, all the while putting their lives on the line. Disabled veterans have sacrificed in order to protect and serve our great Nation.

It is an extraordinary kind of person who cares for others so deeply. I would like to thank John and the Disabled Veterans of America not only for all the work they have done for this event, but for also recognizing that veterans need and deserve to be cared for once they return home.

#### SMALL COMMUNITY BANKS HARMED BY DODD-FRANK

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the fifth anniversary of Dodd-Frank to share a story from a small community bank that has three locations in my district. This bank is struggling due to the additional regulation that Dodd-Frank has imposed on them.

They were forced to hire a full-time compliance director in addition to re-

taining two outside compliance firms. This has cost the bank nearly \$100,000 more a year. In addition, numerous other staff members now have to take time away from revenue-generating activities to satisfy the compliance regulations of Dodd-Frank.

They told me: "Compliance has always been a cost that is just a part of our business. However, since Dodd-Frank, this cost has expanded greatly. Unfortunately, since there is no offsetting revenue for the expanding cost, we are forced to consider passing on costs to our customers with additional fees."

Mr. Speaker, I wish I could say this is an isolated occurrence, but a recent study shows that Dodd-Frank has added 61 million hours of paperwork and more than \$24 billion in final rule costs for the financial industry in this country. Nationwide, we have lost approximately 1500 community banks already.

The 5 years since Dodd-Frank was signed into law have been marked with 5 years of failure.

#### UNDEFEATED SEASON ENDS WITH STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and congratulate the Anoka-Hennepin Mustangs for being named the 2015 Minnesota State champions in physically impaired adapted softball.

Comprised of students from Andover, Anoka, Blaine, Champlin Park, and Coon Rapids, these players were a force to be reckoned with at this year's State championship tournament. Having earned the number one seed, the Mustangs went into the tournament boasting 11 wins, with more than 167 runs scored during this season.

With the momentum of an undefeated season, the Mustangs cruised to victory at the recent State championship. After scoring nearly a dozen runs and completing a few notable double plays, the Mustangs won the championship game with an 11-8 victory over the Rochester Raiders. Even more impressive, the Mustang championship win ended a 6-year winning streak for the previous defending champions.

I ask that this body join me in congratulating these tremendous athletes.

Well done.

#### SIDING WITH AMERICAN FARMERS

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of the House Agriculture and the Energy and Commerce Committees' actions on the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2015, of which I am a cosponsor.

Biotechnology is nothing new. Norman Borlaug, a researcher and legend in my home State, was the "father of the Green Revolution" while at the University of Minnesota due to his groundbreaking work on high-yield crops that have fed billions of people around the globe.

American farmers already deal with heavy compliance regulations to ensure that our food is safe to eat. Families must know that Borlaug's incredible accomplishment and the hard work of the American farmer is not in vain.

It is no surprise that I am not a fan of the Federal bureaucracy, but on this issue we must stand with American farmers on the health and safety of our food. We should move in the right direction, and the House should pass this bipartisan legislation that will create a voluntary label that supports farmers and American families.

□ 1215

#### 41ST ANNIVERSARY OF TURKEY'S INVASION OF CYPRUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark an anniversary that has pained the Cypriot and Hellenic communities for 41 years.

On July 20, 1974, 41 years ago yesterday, in blatant violation of international law, Turkey invaded Cyprus and captured much of the northern part of the island.

Since the invasion, Turkey has occupied nearly 40 percent of Cyprus. They inhabit homes previously owned by Greek Cypriots, forcibly relocating 160,000 Greek Cypriots and infusing the island with hundreds of thousands of Turkish settlers. Another 1,500 Cypriots remain missing since the 1974 invasion, including four Americans whose remains have not been located.

Religious artifacts and cultural relics have been destroyed in the wake of the Turkish Army's invasion and, after 41 years of displacement, are now lost to time. Hundreds of churches and monasteries have been shamefully desecrated, losing all sense of their historic and religious significance.

Cyprus has been a steadfast ally, and Cypriots deserve an end to this senseless division.

With negotiations underway again for reunification, let's hope this time next year we will be celebrating the end of this illegal occupation. As it builds, Turkey cannot be allowed to stonewall this democratic process any longer.

Today the United States stands in a unique role as a friend of both Cyprus and Turkey. As an honest broker to both sides, we can help them to see that a unified future for Cyprus is far more promising than the present.

The United States' relationship with all its allies—Turkey included—must be based on shared values and mutual respect. At the core, the rule of law must be respected above all else.

Forty-one years of illegal occupation is 41 years too long. Cyprus has long been a strong and faithful ally of the United States, and we owe our support for both peace and the end of this illegal occupation.

I encourage the Cypriot leaders to keep up the hard work of unifying a people divided for over a generation. Many hard issues remain, but, hopefully, this will be the last year we acknowledge this illegal occupation.

#### ELDRIDGE WILLIAMS, TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EMMER of Minnesota). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CURBELO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of one of my constituents, Lieutenant Colonel Eldridge Williams, a Tuskegee Airman who passed away this month at the age of 97.

Born in Texas in 1917, Lieutenant Colonel Williams graduated from Xavier University in 1942 and immediately applied for the Army flight program. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in Miami Beach in 1942.

Lieutenant Colonel Williams trained Tuskegee Airmen who flew overseas to escort bomber planes across Europe. Though he didn't make it overseas, he flew at the Tuskegee Institute and trained other pilots until the end of World War II. He continued to serve during the 1948 Berlin Airlift and the Korean war.

In 1949, Mr. Williams moved to Richmond Heights, a community in South Miami-Dade established for Black servicemen returning from the war. Mr. Williams taught physical education at Richmond Heights Middle School and was soon after promoted to administrator, serving as director of desegregation for Miami-Dade County Public Schools. He retired from the school system in 1985, but remained committed to overseeing programs aimed at assisting kids that had dropped out of school.

President George W. Bush presented Mr. Williams and the other living Tuskegee Airmen with a Congressional Gold Medal in 2007. This was an honor long overdue to these trailblazing heroes.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I send my deepest condolences to Mr. Williams' loved ones and the many lives touched by his positive influence. May they take solemn pride in a life well lived.

#### FIU VETERANS AND SMALL FARMERS OUTREACH

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Florida International University and their outreach to those in our agriculture community.

I recently learned of a new program created by FIU to give veterans, along with minority and women farmers, the opportunity to expand their knowledge of the agriculture business.

The Veterans and Small Farmers Outreach program will provide direct benefits to not only our brave men and women returning from harm's way, but also to the countless small farms in Homestead, an agriculture-focused community in south Florida.

The students currently enrolled in the Veterans and Small Farmers Outreach program at FIU have the opportunity to learn more about tending crops and raising livestock through apprenticeships throughout Miami-Dade and Broward Counties.

I am confident these students will soon enter our workforce and be productive members of the agriculture community. We will all truly benefit from the fruits of their labor.

I thank FIU for their continued innovation in bettering the south Florida community and wish only the best of luck to the hard-working students of this newly created program.

#### IRAN

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my serious concerns over the Iran deal that was recently announced.

So far, it appears that this agreement is bad for the United States and bad for our allies in the region. As I have said before, a weak deal that gives Iran any possibility of achieving a nuclear weapon is unacceptable.

Key components of the nuclear program are still in place. Iran will still be allowed to have centrifuges and continue research and development on them. The Natanz and Fordow facilities will remain in place to purportedly continue their nuclear activities for peaceful purposes.

In addition to these troubling facts, the Iranian regime is going to receive an exorbitant amount of money that they will undoubtedly use, at least in part, to fund Hamas and Hezbollah.

Mr. Speaker, from what I can tell, this deal does not prevent Iran from having the parts needed to reach the nuclear threshold capability down the road and it will boost the regime's ability to support terror in the region.

I strongly urge my colleagues to continue to carefully monitor this situation and consider the security interests of the United States and our allies as we continue analyzing this deal.

#### EAGLE SCOUT RANK CONGRATULATIONS

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate two students from my district, Daniel Auster and Sebastian Torra, who have both achieved the rank of Eagle Scout with Troop 69 of Homestead, Florida. This prestigious accomplishment has only been achieved by 4 percent of Boy Scouts nationwide.

Daniel was the first scout in Troop 69 to attain an Eagle Palm pin in the last 15 years. His fellow troop member, Sebastian, completed 173 volunteer hours at Jack D. Gordon Elementary School for his Eagle Scout project, both impressive accomplishments.

Daniel and Sebastian are exemplary of the Boy Scout slogan "Do a good turn daily." I applaud their hard work and dedication to achieve this honor. They truly embody the Boy Scouts' commitment to our community. I am always pleased to see young people with such dedication to giving back and making our neighborhoods better.