

The University of Houston was designated as a tier 1 research university by the Carnegie Foundation, making it only one of three tier 1 public universities in Texas and one of only three Hispanic-serving institutions that are also tier 1 in the entire country.

For over 90 years, Mr. Speaker, the University of Houston has been providing affordable, world-class education to the people of Houston and Harris County and students throughout the country who come to U of H for its renowned academic programs and professional training.

Our Chancellor Khator is here today in Washington. Thanks to her team and our board of regents for their leadership.

The University of Houston Cougars is one of the top college football teams this season with an 11–1 record, ranked number 17 in the country, and can win the American Athletic Conference and go to a New Year's Day bowl game with a win this weekend.

Mr. Speaker, as a native Houstonian and a graduate of the University of Houston, it makes me proud to see our university succeed and continue to be one of the most important institutions serving our State, city, and our country. Go Cougars.

□ 1230

LET'S GET OUR PRIORITIES STRAIGHT

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

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, let's get our priorities straight when it comes to American leadership. Rather than showing leadership in the fight against ISIS or reassuring our allies in this fight, our current administration is still claiming that our greatest threat to national security is, believe it or not, climate change.

I am all about science, but we need to be realistic as well. The biggest threat, according to them, isn't radical Islam, Russia, Iran, or North Korea. It is a couple of degrees Fahrenheit over the next century or so.

And the remedy is costly. At a cost to whom? At a cost to hardworking Americans. Their government mandates mean higher energy costs for families, less energy reliability, higher manufacturing costs, and smaller take-home paychecks.

I know that most Ohio families can't afford this, Mr. Speaker. Coal plants are already shutting down up and down the Ohio River, costing us jobs and reliable energy. We need American leadership that is willing to lead the fight and defeat ISIS.

This week, the House voted to protect American families and consumers from the administration's price hikes. Let's get our priorities straight, Mr. Speaker, and bring the fight to ISIS, not burden Ohio families.

PROTECT AMERICAN FAMILIES

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, the terrorist attacks in Paris reminded us that ISIS recruits fighters from across the globe and even here at home. Already, the FBI has arrested over 60 Americans connected with ISIS.

The terrorists who attacked Paris got their guns from the black market. But here in the United States, even suspected terrorists are allowed, under Federal law, to freely and legally buy assault weapons, buy guns, and buy explosives.

The GAO reports that, in the last decade, suspects on the FBI's terrorist watch list attempted to buy guns and explosives over 2,200 times. And guess what; 91 percent of the time they succeeded.

Now, I know that the gun lobby opposes any effort to toughen background checks; but can we not, at the very least, agree that this is a matter of national security, that when the FBI has reasonable suspicion that someone is connected to terror, we should stop him from buying weapons of mass murder?

To any of my colleagues on the floor today, is there anyone in Congress who actually believes that you should be able to buy a gun while on the terrorist watch list? Is there anyone in America who believes that?

If you are on the terrorist watch list, you shouldn't buy a gun. Can this body please take this meaningful step to protect American families. Let's put it to a vote, and let's do it before we leave here for the holidays.

HONORING OFFICER LLOYD REED

(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, I rise today to honor the life, legacy, and work of Officer Lloyd Reed, Jr., who will be remembered for his kind and helpful nature. Officer Reed, a St. Clair Township, Pennsylvania, police officer, was tragically shot and killed last Saturday, November 28, while responding to a domestic dispute.

A graduate of Conemaugh Township High School, he was an avid trout fisherman and a NASCAR and, of course, a Steelers fan.

Officer Reed courageously served his community as a law enforcement officer for 25 years before his life was taken. I offer my prayers and deepest condolences to his loved ones: his friends, his colleagues, and his wife.

All men and women who serve to protect us from harm deserve our deepest gratitude and respect. They choose to risk their lives so that the rest of us can lead peaceful, productive, and meaningful lives.

Officer Reed's life and death are a testament to all those who serve honorably as law enforcement officers.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CONGRESSWOMAN SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and legacy of Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm.

Last week, she posthumously received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our Nation's highest civilian honor. Congresswoman Chisholm is truly deserving of this honor.

In 1969, she became the first African American woman to serve in Congress. She was the first majority party African American candidate and the first Democratic woman to run for President. She was also a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Congresswoman Chisholm—or Mrs. C, as we called her—was my mentor and role model. The course of my life changed, when I met Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, as a student in Mills College. At that time, I was the Black Student Union president, and I had invited her to speak her eloquent speech focused on the power of women and people of color to change the world. As she said: If you don't have a seat at the table, bring a folding chair. She explained why it was important for everyone to get involved in the policy-making process, because too often the voices of women and people of color are unheard.

I know that today many of us, including myself, would not be here. We would not have the privilege to serve in this great body had it not been for Shirley Chisholm. She is truly deserving of our Nation's highest honor.

I would also want to wish Mrs. C a very happy belated birthday. She would have turned 91 on the 20th of November.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S FINALIZED RENEWABLE FUEL STANDARD

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

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the Environmental Protection Agency's finalized Renewable Fuel Standard, otherwise known as the RFS.

The biofuels industry has created good-paying, technical jobs in rural economies, helped lower gas prices for consumers, protected the environment, and reduced reliance on foreign oil.

On Monday of this week, the EPA finalized RFS levels for 2014, 2015, and 2016. While they are a slight improvement from the proposed rule, they still fall short of congressional intent put into law in 2007. Unfortunately, this decision raises questions about the administration's commitment to rural

America and domestic biofuels. Despite public assurances to support the biofuels economy, the EPA has done just the opposite.

The disconnect is startling. A reduction in RFS levels increases uncertainty and stifles investment in the advanced biofuels sector. We should all be concerned by the precedent this decision sets for other renewable energy sources. It allows the administration to ignore the facts and the law in order to set a standard of its choosing.

The RFS is working. It is time the EPA started listening to the people impacted by their rules and regulations.

I am committed to supporting the biofuels industry, its producers, its farmers, and its consumers, and to continue fighting against any attempts to undermine it.

EVERY CHILD SUCCEEDS ACT

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to speak today about what the House will face on educational changes in bringing forward S. 1177, the Every Child Succeeds Act, which takes us away from No Child Left Behind.

I am very delighted that the Jackson Lee amendment offered during the House consideration of the bill dealing with bullying is now in this bill. It is now the law of the land once we pass it. It supports accountability-based programs and activities that are designed to enhance school safety, which may include research-based bullying prevention, cyberbullying prevention, disruption of recruitment activity by groups or individuals involved in violent extremism, and gang prevention programs as well as intervention programs.

CNN had a report just last night, I believe, that talked about the extensiveness of cyberbullying. One in seven students in grades K-12 is either a bully or a victim of it; 90 percent of fourth to eighth grade students report being victims of bullying; 56 percent of students have personally witnessed some type of bullying; 71 percent of students report incidents of bullying as a problem; 15 percent of all students who don't show up for school report they have been bullied; 1 out of 20 students has seen a student with a gun at a school; and 282,000 students are physically attacked in secondary schools each month. This is something that is a key part of education. To be in an education environment where you want to learn and where you are protected is key.

Let me ask everyone to support this legislation. I am delighted that we have been able to come together in particular around this issue of preventing bullying and cyberbullying in our schools.

RECOGNIZING BEST BUDDIES INTERNATIONAL

(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 rise to give recognition to Best Buddies International, an organization that assists individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities to become thriving members of our society. Founded in 1989, Best Buddies International has positively improved the lives of nearly 900,000 individuals.

I am particularly proud of the success of this organization in my home State of Florida, where there are programs like Best Buddies Colleges in which schools like my alma mater of Florida International University and the University of Miami participate.

This program nurtures one-to-one friendships between college students and adults with IDD so that they can be involved in campus life beyond the classroom.

Through this and other worthwhile programs, participants create a bond that can truly last a lifetime while becoming inspirational leaders and living a more independent life.

I would like to extend my best wishes to Best Buddies International as it continues on this noble endeavor and encourages all to get involved and support people with special needs and their families.

AFL-CIO 60TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the 60th anniversary of the AFL-CIO.

The AFL-CIO serves as the voice for more than 12 million working Americans throughout our Nation. Through negotiating with employers, the AFL-CIO has fought and won better wages, fair hours, and more friendly family policies for millions of Americans. I fought alongside AFL-CIO for decades, and I will continue to stand with them and our workers.

Thank you to the president of the North Carolina AFL-CIO, James Andrews, to Timothy Rorie with the Central Labor Council, Charlie Hines with the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, Essie Hogue with the Union for Government Employees, and more than 30 other members of the North Carolina AFL-CIO executive board. Thank you.

These leaders pour everything they have into fighting for workers in our communities.

For more than 60 years, the AFL-CIO has represented the best in our unions and has given our workers the support they need to stand up for themselves. On this 60th anniversary of the AFL-CIO, let's continue to support our workers by making sure that they have

wages that they can live on, fair hours, retirement protections they deserve, and access to health care they need.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF HOWARD HENDERSON

(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 today to pay tribute to the life of Howard Henderson, a man who was cherished by many throughout southern Arizona.

Howard moved to Douglas, Arizona, in 1984, when he became the owner and president of KDAP-FM and KAPR-AM radio stations. He wasted no time making his mark, both on the air and in the community.

Howard hosted "The Trading Post" morning show, one of the most popular and listened-to shows in the area. He broadcasted over 1,000 high school games and supported community events, including serving on the local fair board. His on-air personality and active presence in Douglas earned him the nickname, Mr. Wonderful.

I got to know Howard over recent years. Like many, I was touched by his professionalism, his grace, and his dedication to the community.

On November 20, Howard passed away, after battling cancer, at the age of 65. We will miss hearing his voice on the airwaves and seeing his smiling face around Douglas, but we will never forget his impact on southern Arizona.

HONORING JEFFERSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTY JERROD RIGDON

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

Ms. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Jefferson County Sheriff's Deputy Jerrod Rigdon, whose heroic actions saved the life of a Florida State University student in my district.

When Deputy Rigdon arrived at the crash scene on the morning of October 31, the scene was horrific. The car was mangled, and the freshman student inside had life-threatening injuries. His neck was severed, and he was quickly losing blood.

The deputy quickly assessed the scene, worked to stop the bleeding, and called for a helicopter to airlift the victim. Because of his fast response and heroic actions, Billy Fowler, the 18-year-old freshman in the car, is alive today.

I want to thank Deputy Rigdon and all of the north Florida first responders. Thank you for risking your lives to save ours.