

forward. I am one of those. Together, all the lessons that came from our soldiers and our families create a living history for us to learn from the past and to build a more secure future. As General Douglas MacArthur said, "It is my earnest hope, and indeed the hope of all mankind, that from this solemn occasion a better world shall emerge out of the blood and carnage of the past—a world dedicated to the dignity of man and the fulfillment of his most cherished wish for freedom, tolerance and justice." Your being here today means you understand that you don't forget the importance of remembrance.

Memorials allow us to look past the present and focus on those worthy to honor. They link the past to the present and enable people to frame history and respect the sacrifice of those who died, fought, participated, or were affected by conflict. Memorials are an important source of information for our young people trying to understand the decisions made by past generations and why the world is the way that it is. They are a source of national pride, unadulterated by the politics of the day.

As a nation memorials link us to our allies based on mutual experiences during times of War—the suffering, the triumphs, and the universal price of the ideal of liberty. They can heal the wounds of war, and bring people together. We saw this, this past May when President Obama visited Hiroshima, and we know that Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will be coming to Pearl Harbor later this month. These are really significant symbolic actions that still help heal our world.

It's difficult to imagine that only 4 percent of Americans who served in World War II are still alive today. For those that are here this morning, we give you applause. When we built the WWII Memorial, I didn't know that honor flight would be created; it was in the minds of ordinary Americans who are extraordinary, who managed to ferry tens of thousands of our WWII veterans here for their last call in our nation's capital. I'm sure each of you knows how much that has meant to the families of our country and to those veterans—many from my region, but from every State in the Union. The men and women who helped to do that did it so selflessly. Now we're bringing many of our Vietnam veterans here, and Korean War veterans. We have some Vietnam and Korean War veterans with us here today. Thank you, and thank you for understanding the intergenerational bonds of our country.

But only about 2.3 percent of Americans have firsthand memories of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Of course we know that only about 1% of our families have any connection to the military at all; 99% do not, because we no longer have forced conscription. So you're being here today, and trying to use this opportunity to teach and to elevate—do not underestimate its importance. What you're doing here by your presence is very important today. These statistics make it imperative that we maintain our history. Future generations must know, for liberty's sake, why the Transatlantic alliance as well as our Pacific bases are so essential, they must know why the United Nations and NATO are vital, living instruments of liberty; they must know the amazing potential and devastating effects that attend to nuclear power, and they must know the astounding possibilities of a country united in a common cause.

I would like to thank the Friends of the National World War II Memorial for your existence—you continue to keep alive the legacy of World War II and our Greatest Generation. They never wanted to be called the

greatest generation. I consider them the most unselfish generation, and we can learn a lot from them—to keep alive in the hearts and minds of our current and future generations what their lives stood for. Their carefully developed education programs at Friends provide opportunities to teach our young citizens about the values and spirit of unity and shared purpose, which defined the character of our country during those bitter war years.

I'll tell you something, here in Congress, and I've got to make a little political comment here, I've served through many speakers now, and through many leaders here in these institutions, but I can tell you that when the WWII Generation exited, and retired or left service, the character of the place changed. When I was first here during the 1980s, Democrat Tip O'Neill was Speaker and Republican Bob Michel was minority leader and at Christmas time, you know what—they liked one another. They fought like cats and dogs on political issues, but they were friends. And in December, when the holidays came, they'd call the President of the United States and sing to the President over the telephone, "We Wish You a Merry Christmas"—and they had terrible singing voices. You know what—it elevated America, and America felt unified. That is one of our challenges today and I think the memories of the WWII Generation can help heal the fissures across this country that even exist in the institution in which you are seated this morning. So I want to thank you for coming this morning, and for doing your part to honor the history of Pearl Harbor and heritage of this great country. Most importantly, thank you to our veterans not only for being here today, but for all you've done for our country. We stand, America stands, on your strong shoulders. May God Bless you and may God bless America in the years ahead.

Thank you.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2028, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 612, GEORGE P. KAZEN FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I will vote for the bipartisan Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act, which combines parts of the House and Senate Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) bills passed through each chamber earlier this year. The WIIN Act takes an important step forward in addressing the water needs of Southern California by reauthorizing infrastructure projects nationwide to reduce flood damage, replenish our water supply, and restore our ecosystem.

This final bill includes many bright spots. I was particularly pleased that, following the efforts of Congressman XAVIER BECERRA, Congressman ADAM SCHIFF, and myself, this bill

reflects a strong commitment to the Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration project. The project will rejuvenate Los Angeles park space and wetlands, build new public spaces, create recreational opportunities, and boost the regional economy, creating a healthier, revitalized Los Angeles River. I am also heartened that this bill contains significant improvements for local water suppliers to complete water reuse and recycling projects, and authorizes long-overdue aid to combat the Flint water crisis.

This bill is not perfect. For example, I would have liked it to have shown a much deeper commitment to protecting the Endangered Species Act. However, it was urgent that we pass this bill instead of waiting until next year and the uncertainties of a new Congress and new President.

My vote for the WIIN Act is a vote for our state's long-term water infrastructure. I believe this legislation will provide California with critical help in addressing our ongoing drought crisis.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KANNAPOLIS FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2016

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Kannapolis Fire Department as they celebrate their 100th anniversary. Since its earliest days, the Kannapolis Fire Department has served the people of Kannapolis, North Carolina with steadfast dedication and a commitment to excellence.

As the City of Kannapolis expanded to the thriving community it is today, the fire department has provided more than just emergency services. The men and women of the department have been a staple of this city and actively engaged with its citizens for a hundred years. Never one to shy away from a challenge, this historical department even gained international recognition in 1934 when it set multiple world records for the speed of its reel race teams.

Today, it brings me great honor to recognize the countless men and women who have served throughout the years as members of the Kannapolis Fire Department. This year alone, the Kannapolis Fire Department has received more than 6,000 calls and exhibited countless episodes of heroism and kindness. I am extremely proud of the commitment to service the department has shown throughout its history, and I am thankful to have such outstanding professionals in our community. There is no doubt in my mind that the 108 dedicated firefighters and staff have made their community a better place. I look forward to continuing to work with the City of Kannapolis and the Kannapolis Fire Department as we continue to serve the great people of North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Kannapolis Fire Department and wishing them well as they continue to serve their community.

HONORING THE 2017 ACADEMY NOMINEES OF THE 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2016

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, every year, more high school seniors from the 11th Congressional District trade in varsity jackets for navy pea coats, Air Force flight suits, and Army brass buckles than most other districts in the country. But this is nothing new—our area has repeatedly sent an above average portion of its sons and daughters to the nation's military academies for decades.

This fact should not come as a surprise. The educational excellence of area schools is well known and has long been a magnet for families looking for the best environment in which to raise their children. Our graduates are skilled not only in mathematics, science, and social studies, but also have solid backgrounds in sports, debate teams, and other extracurricular activities. This diverse upbringing makes military academy recruiters sit up and take note—indeed, many recruiters know our towns and schools by name.

Since the 1830's, Members of Congress have enjoyed meeting, talking with, and nominating superb young people to our military academies. But how did this process evolve? In 1843, when West Point was the sole academy, Congress ratified the nominating process and became directly involved in the makeup of our military's leadership. This was not an act of an imperial Congress bent on controlling every aspect of Government. Rather, the procedure still used today was, and is, a further check and balance in our democracy. It was originally designed to weaken and divide political coloration in the officer corps, provide geographical balance to our armed services, and to make the officer corps more resilient to unfettered nepotism and handicapped European armies.

In 1854, Representative Gerritt Smith of New York added a new component to the academy nomination process—the academy review board. This was the first time a Member of Congress appointed prominent citizens from his district to screen applicants and assist with the serious duty of nominating candidates for academy admission. Today, I am honored to continue this wise tradition in my service to the 11th Congressional District.

My Academy Review Board is composed of local citizens who have shown exemplary service to New Jersey, to their communities, and to the continued excellence of education in our area; many are veterans. Though from diverse backgrounds and professions, they all share a common dedication that the best qualified and motivated graduates attend our academies. And, as true for most volunteer panels, their service goes largely unnoticed.

I would like to take a moment to recognize and thank them publicly for participating in this important panel. Being on the board requires hard work and an objective mind. Members have the responsibility of interviewing upwards of 50 outstanding young men and women every year in the academy review process.

The nomination process follows a general timetable. High school seniors mail personal

information directly to the Military Academy, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, and the Merchant Marine Academy once they become interested in attending. Information includes academic achievement, college entry test scores, and other activities. At this time, they also inform my office of their desire to be nominated.

The academies then assess the applicants, rank them based on the data supplied, and return the files to my office with their notations. In late November, our Academy Review Board interviews all of the applicants over the course of 2 days. They assess a student's qualifications and analyze character, desire to serve, and other talents that may be hidden on paper.

This year the board interviewed over 40 applicants. The Board's recommendations were then forwarded to the academies, where recruiters reviewed files and notified applicants and my office of their final decision on admission.

As these highly motivated and talented young men and women go through the academy nominating process, never let us forget the sacrifice they are preparing to make: to defend our country and protect our citizens. This holds especially true at a time when our nation is fighting the war against terrorism. Whether it is in the Middle East, Africa or other troubled spots around the world, no doubt we are constantly reminded that wars are fought by the young. And, while our military missions are both important and dangerous, it is reassuring to know that we continue to put America's best and brightest in command.

ACADEMY NOMINEES FOR 2017, 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Jordan Behrle, North Caldwell, West Essex HS.

James Coyne, Chatham, Chatham HS.

Arielle Fortes, Parsippany, Parsippany HS.

Kurt Hill, Pompton Plains, Pequannock HS.

Erik Jensen, Mendham, Randolph HS.

Noor Khan, Livingston, Livingston HS.

Benjamin Lee, Sparta, Sparta HS.

Pranay Malla, Chatham, Chatham HS.

Matthew Manion, Morris Plains, Morristown HS.

Michael Matarazzo, Cedar Grove, Cedar Grove HS.

Jamie Moul, West Orange, West Orange HS.

MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

Shane Arcilla, Cedar Knolls, Morris Catholic HS.

Anthony Corso, Fairfield, West Essex HS.

Kyle Frey, Sparta, Pope John XXIII HS.

Travis Healy, Andover, Pope John XXIII HS.

Matthew Russo, Cedar Grove, St. Peter's Prep.

NAVAL ACADEMY

Dean Caravela, West Caldwell, James Caldwell HS.

Robert Dromsky-Reed, Kinnelon, Kinnelon HS.

Caroline Duemling, Chatham, Chatham HS.

Shannon Fashbender, Andover, Lenape Valley HS.

Kyle Gonzalez, Wanaque, Lakeland Regional HS.

Matthew Makuch, Lincoln Park, The Academy for Math, Science and Engineering.

Brandon Maravi, Wayne, St. Joseph's HS.

Paul Malatesta, Chatham, Chatham HS.

Emma Noury, Sparta, Sussex County Technical School.

Steven Orciuoli, Livingston, Livingston HS.

Brendan Reilly, Mendham, West Morris Mendham HS.

Grace Sheehan, Fairfield, Mt. Saint Dominic Academy.

Helena Seijas, Mountain Lakes, Mountain Lakes HS.

Jake Siciliano, Fairfield, West Essex HS.

MILITARY ACADEMY

Dylan Berrier, Lake Hopatcong, Morris Catholic HS.

Andrew Bowlus, Carlisle Barracks, PA., Carlisle Area HS.

Timothy Cieslak, Wayne, Wayne Valley HS.

Michael Flanagan, Florham Park, St. Peter's Prep.

Anthony Giachin, Livingston, Newark Academy.

Wilson Maya, Madison, Morristown HS.

Rebecca Morel, Mendham, Villa Walsh Academy.

Ivan Peters, Boonton, Mountain Lakes HS.

Matthew Rothman, Pequannock, Pequannock HS.

Minkyu Yang, Livingston, Livingston HS.

TRAVON GODFREY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2016

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of my constituent, Travon Godfrey, who was tragically killed by gun violence on November 28th, 2016. In this tragedy, Oakland lost a community leader, a voice of truth, and a hopeful soul.

Earlier this year, I had the pleasure of meeting Travon at my town hall on gun violence, where he shared the painful impact that gun violence had in his life. He stated: "It shouldn't even be like that—especially when our kids can't grow up to see the age of 21. We can't even see what it feels like to be grown."

Travon was right. In 2016 alone, more than 13,000 lives have been lost to senseless gun violence.

That is 13,000 lives too many.

Mr. Speaker, Travon was just 19 years young. His life was senselessly cut short by the very violence he was working to prevent.

I do, however, take solace in the fact that he did not let his age prevent him from speaking out against injustice. He did not sit idly by or allow the weight of his pain at losing 9 friends to gun violence to consume him. Instead, he got involved.

Travon was a tireless advocate for his community, his friends and public safety.

He reminded us that senseless gun violence can be stopped—if elected officials find the political will to enact common sense gun reforms. It breaks my heart to stand here today and share his story—a story that he worked so hard to prevent.

Mr. Speaker, we must live in the light of Travon and prevent gun violence from stealing more young people in our community and every community across the nation.

Thank you, Travon, for being an example of what courage and strength looks like. You spoke truth to power in so many ways.

My thoughts and prayers are with the family of Travon during this very difficult time and in