

Dog Meat festival, for human consumption, which poses a risk to human health by exposing people to a multitude of diseases, including rabies and cholera. In addition, more than 10 million dogs are killed annually in China for the dog meat trade. This festival epitomizes the cruelty of the industry. Many of these dogs are stolen from their owners and are still wearing their collars when they reach the slaughterhouses. Many die during transport to the slaughterhouses after days or weeks without food or water, and others suffer illness and injury during transport, such as broken bones.

The festival takes place in residential areas and public marketplaces, imposing scenes of extreme animal cruelty on local residents, including young children who may, as a result, suffer psychological trauma and desensitization. It is a spectacle of extreme animal cruelty for commercial purposes. This practice, in my opinion, is completely unacceptable, and can be stopped by the diligent efforts of members of the Chinese government.

Tens of millions of people around the world have called upon the Government of China, the Governor of the Guangxi Autonomous Region, and the Mayor of Yulin to officially end the Dog Meat Festival and stop the mass slaughter of dogs all year round in Yulin. In addition, it is often wrongly assumed to be a Chinese tradition, however, the majority of people in China do not consume dog meat and dog meat is not a part of mainstream Chinese culinary practice. Millions of Chinese citizens recently voted in support of a legislative proposal by Zhen Xiaohu, a deputy to the National People's Congress of China, to ban the dog meat trade. Alongside these voices, I have already written a letter to the Chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee urging him to draft legislation to prohibit this festival from taking place ever again.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and sincerely hope that the House Republican Leadership will bring this critically important measure to the floor without delay.

LIVING IN A WORLD OF MAKE BELIEVE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the VA is not the "Happiest Place on Earth." It is not Disneyland, and our veterans are not living in a world of make-believe. Secretary McDonald should be ashamed of himself for belittling our veterans. Dying in line waiting for medical services is not the same as waiting for Mickey Mouse.

Disneyland wait times are a matter of hours—not months. Reports find that nearly half of vets never see a doctor because of failure of VA staff to schedule an appointment. The VA owes our veterans an apology. Veterans should be allowed to get vouchers for private physicians.

Next week we observe Memorial Day—honoring our warriors who died for America. We also will honor those who fought in faraway distant lands just to come home and be a casualty of the VA's incompetence.

Secretary McDonald should be replaced with someone who respects America's heroes and ensures that no one else dies in line waiting for care at the fault of the VA.

And that's just the way it is.

PHELAN RESIDENT NATHANIEL STOCKS RECEIVES AWARD FOR BRAVERY

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nathaniel Stocks of Phelan, California. On Friday, May 13, 2016, Nathaniel was awarded the "Hope and Courage Award" from the Fire & Burn Foundation.

Nathaniel was selected to receive this award because of his heroic actions during the early morning hours of November 7, 2015. A fire started in his bedroom and awoke five-year-old Nathaniel from his sleep. Fearing for the safety of his grandmother, young Nathaniel crawled below the smoke to her bedroom and alerted her. Both Nathaniel and his grandmother escaped from the home without injury.

The San Bernardino County Fire Department also deserves recognition for their role during this incident. Just two days prior to the fire, Nathaniel attended a school tour of County Fire Station 10 where the students were given fire safety lessons. Without a doubt, the firefighters at Station 10 gave Nathaniel the knowledge and skills necessary to ensure this positive outcome.

I would like to congratulate Nathaniel Stocks for this momentous achievement. It is an honor to represent you in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING ROBERT AND ELLEN MULFORD

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert & Ellen Mulford of Versailles, Indiana, and celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Dr. Robert and Ellen Mulford have enrolled over 238 acres into six different CRP practices that focused on wildlife habitat and environmental preservation by creating wetlands and planting trees.

CRP is an important program that helps preserve wild life habitats by reducing soil erosion and encouraging the planting of native species that will improve environmental quality. In five years, with the help of CRP, Robert and Ellen Mulford have been able to completely change the landscape of their farm. The Mulfords plan to continue to showcase and improve the Capability Farm as a commitment to nature and hope to share it in as many different ways as possible.

As the CRP marks this important milestone, I ask the entire 6th Congressional District to join me in congratulating Robert & Ellen Mulford. We can all appreciate and learn from their deep commitment to the environment and their community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SHERIFF J.B. ROBERTS

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Sheriff J.B. Roberts who served the people of Cabarrus County, North Carolina from 1956 to 1982. He passed away on Monday, May 9, 2016 after complications from an injury he sustained while working on the family farm. We send our prayers and sincerest condolences to his entire family as they celebrate the life of this extraordinary man.

Except for his time at Mars Hill College and a stint in the Navy during WWII, Sheriff Roberts spent his entire life living and working on his farm in Midland, NC. During the war, he served his nation on the U.S.S. *Yorktown* as a trainer on one of the ship's five-inch guns. Roberts' service took him to several major engagements in the Pacific theater including the Battle of Coral Sea and the Battle of Midway where he spent several hours in the water before his rescue when the *Yorktown* was sunk.

As Sheriff of Cabarrus County, Roberts earned the respect of everyone he worked with. Never one to sweat the little things, he was known as a selfless, humble, and incredibly hardworking man. He continued to serve as a mentor and role model for the next generation of public servants even after his retirement. Almost everyone that knew Sheriff Roberts could share a story of how he impacted their life in one way or another. You would be hard pressed to find a man who was more admired by the people he served than Sheriff Roberts.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in commemorating the life of Sheriff J.B. Roberts for his service to God, country and his community.

PEARLAND ISD CAMPUS GLENDA DAWSON FIRST-YEAR TEACHERS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the following teachers of Pearland Independent School District for being named Campus Glenda Dawson Teachers of the Year.

Each school year, principals, teachers and staff members are recognized by the school district with various awards as a reflection of their hard work and dedication to their students and the school as a whole. This year 20 teachers were awarded with the title "Campus Glenda Dawson Teachers of the Year": Elandrea McMillan from Carlestone Elementary, Caitlin Walsh from Challenger Elementary, Page Madison from Cockrell Elementary, Holly Martinez from C.J. Harris Elementary, KellyAnn Walker from Lawhon Elementary, Joanna Kelley from Magnolia Elementary, Amanda Delgado from Massey Ranch Elementary, Jennifer Rayner from Shadycrest Elementary, Laura Kessler from Silvercrest Elementary, Amy Klepper from Silverlake Elementary, Britany Suarez from Alexander Middle School,

Charlotte Raggette from Rogers Middle School, Jessica Stone from Sablatura Middle School, Carl Coleman from Berry Miller Junior High, Jennifer Crutcher from Pearl Junior High East, Katie Bruno from Pearl Junior High South, John Aleman from Pearl Junior High West, Daniel Nava from Dawson High School, Brittany Doyle from Pearl High School, and John D. Robinson from Turner College and Career High School. These teachers go above and beyond to inspire their students and create a supportive educational environment. We are grateful for their commitment to education and providing a safe, inspirational learning environment for our students.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to these dedicated Pearl teachers for being named Campus Glenda Dawson Teachers of the Year. We thank them for all that they do.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 235, had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

On Roll Call No. 237, had I been present, I would have voted Aye.

On Roll Call No. 238, had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

WELCOMING JAMESHIA SHEPHERD TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in welcoming my constituent, Ms. Jameshia Shepherd, to Congressional Foster Youth Shadow Day.

Today, I am honored to be joined by Jameshia Shepherd, who is shadowing me as part of the 2016 Congressional Foster Youth Day. Throughout her time with me, I have had the opportunity to learn more about Jameshia and she has had the opportunity to learn more about my work in Congress.

Jameshia is a remarkable young woman who has dedicated herself to help enrich the lives of those who, like her, have grown up in the foster care system. Like me, Jameshia is studying social work. She hopes to pursue her law degree with the intention of eventually working with juvenile delinquent youth. Using her experiences as a template for a brighter future, Jameshia has shown a great dedication to her fellow community members. I am confident that her passion to impact young lives will prove to be a determining factor in the futures of young individuals like her. Her commitment is commendable, and I am honored to have had the opportunity to meet her.

Foster Youth Shadow Day, launched in 2011, provides Members of Congress the opportunity to meet foster youth in order to dis-

cuss and develop policy recommendations to strengthen the child welfare system and improve the overall well-being of youth and families throughout the United States. It has been an honor to take part in this program.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I applaud Ms. Jameshia Shepherd for her dedication to serve those in her community and commitment to helping young individuals like her to build a bright future.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,212,492,715,543.24. We've added \$8,585,615,666,630.16 to our debt in 7 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

CONGRATULATING CHARLES SKILES ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE EULESS POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Charles 'Chuck' Skiles on his well-earned retirement from the City of Euless, Texas, Police Department after thirty-two years of dedicated service.

Charles' esteemed career began when he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1977. Stationed in Oceanside, California, he achieved the rank of Sergeant during his two tours and was granted a reserve commission with the Oceanside Police Department. In 1983, after receiving an honorable discharge from the Marine Corps, Charles, wishing to continue his career in law enforcement, joined the Euless Police Department.

Since joining the department, Charles has honorably served his community and built a reputation as a hardworking and respected officer. In his thirty-two years of service, Charles has received over 28 police commendations, recognizing his professionalism and service to community. Charles has been described as an excellent detective with outstanding investigative skills and a dedicated, self-sacrificing police officer. Charles has been nominated for the Police Officer of the Year Award, Distinguished Service Award, and two Life Saving Awards.

Charles' dedication as an officer is apparent in his pursuit of continued education and trainings to help provide a better service to his community. He has completed his basic, intermediate, advanced, and masters police certifications, as well as over 1,200 hours of police in-service trainings including Special Weapons and Tactics, criminal investigation, and crime

scene investigation. Charles is also a certified advanced accident investigator and accident reconstruction specialist.

Charles' contributions to the law enforcement operations in the City of Euless have helped to ensure that countless officers have been adequately trained and prepared for the challenges they face in their everyday duties in the police force. His legacy will leave a lasting mark on the City of Euless and the Euless Police Department for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the exhaustive efforts Charles has contributed to the City of Euless. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing Charles Skiles and his many years of service.

HONORING MRS. CLARISSA (T.C.) FREEMAN

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my friend, Mrs. Clarissa (T.C.) Freeman. T.C. passed away last Thursday morning after a long, courageous battle. She was a personal friend, but more importantly, she was a friend to every man and woman who wears our Nation's uniform. Her dedication to the United States Army endured throughout her life and her distinguished record of service to our country has left a lasting impression on everyone who knew her.

This point became abundantly clear during her funeral service over the weekend where several hundred people came to pay their respects to the woman affectionately known as "Fort Campbell's Mom." Among those was General Richard A. Cody, former Vice Chief of Staff of the United States Army and former Commanding General of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and Fort Campbell, who provided the eulogy. General Cody's remarks perfectly captured what made T.C. so special to us, and with his permission, I share his words again today:

"As we gather here today to celebrate the life and the gift of T.C. Freeman, I have the distinct privilege and honor of putting into words and trying to capture a very extraordinary human being and how she touched each and every one of us. As difficult as this is, I hope my thoughts and words represent the feelings of so many of you.

In describing T.C. Freeman many clichés come to mind, like "one of a kind—a true force of nature—a friend to all and a stranger to none—small in stature but larger than life." She was those things—but T.C. was anything but cliché. We will never meet another T.C. Freeman. She wore many hats, played many roles—as she championed her many causes; every one of them having to do with Soldiers, their families, her beloved 101st Airborne Division, the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, and 5th Special Forces Group. She was an untiring champion of all of Fort Campbell and we will all feel a little bit lost without her in our lives.

The list of her accomplishments is significant and long—T.C. has been honored here within the gates of Fort Campbell and this community—in the Corridors of the Pentagon—and in the Halls of Congress. I believe