

School of the American Negro, and received her master's degree in elementary education from Hunter College.

As an academic, writer, playwright, avid traveler, and elementary school teacher, Sallie B. Howard has used her vast array of talents and expertise to make a lasting impact on our Nation's children.

She is an active member of St. John AME Zion Church.

Mr. Speaker, the founder and executive director of the Howard School, Dr. JoAnne Woodard, remarks of Mrs. Howard that she is a "phenomenal woman who inspires us to be our best."

I ask my colleagues today to join me in celebrating Sallie B. Howard's 100 years of life and recognizing her selfless service to humanity.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF POLICE OFFICER SCOT FITZGERALD

(Mr. LAHOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a policeman who was tragically taken from us too soon.

In my district of South Jacksonville, Illinois, Police Officer Scot Fitzgerald was on duty on the evening of Friday, March 4, responding to a call for medical assistance, when his car was hit by an ambulance. The 32-year-old father of two passed away several hours later.

In his funeral procession, hundreds of citizens and admirers came to remember the officer who had personally aided them in times of need.

Sobering events like this remind us that our law enforcement officers put their lives on the line when they put on their uniforms.

I offer my prayers and condolences to Officer Fitzgerald's family, his wife, and his two young children, a 4-year-old boy and a 4-month-old girl, as they grieve their loss.

I also want to offer my sincere gratitude to all of our law enforcement officers for their crucial role in keeping us safe.

The community of South Jacksonville has set up a scholarship fund for his children and also a memorial 5K run in his name. I applaud these displays of compassion.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage the citizens of my district and elsewhere to consider supporting these efforts.

I would ask, at this time, that the House rise to pay tribute to Officer Fitzgerald for his public service.

TRI-FAITH INITIATIVE

(Mr. ASHFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, as I rise, my prayers are with the victims of the terrorist attacks in Brussels.

Today, I would like to pay tribute to a multifaith religious organization

that rises above the divisive elements in our Nation and around the world. Each day, Omaha's unique Tri-Faith Initiative makes it clear that what unites us far outweighs what divides us.

The Tri-Faith Initiative is made up of Jewish, Christian, and Islamic religious groups practicing respect, acceptance, and trust. Omaha's Temple Israel, Countryside Community Church, and the American Muslim Institute literally work side by side to realize the dream of three houses of worship on adjacent land.

In three-part harmony, Tri-Faith strives to challenge stereotypes, learn from each other, and counter the flames of fear and misunderstanding. This initiative couldn't come at a more critical time in our history.

America's greatness begins with its diversity. I am beyond proud that my hometown is home to this most important melting pot. Jews, Christians, and Muslims working and praying side by side, that is America.

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PRESIDENT'S BIZARRE TRIP TO CUBA

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in a letter to the President, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman ED ROYCE revealed, "Since your administration announced normalized relations with Havana, the regime's repression of basic human rights has gone from bad to worse. In the first 2 months of 2016 alone, the Cuban Commission for Human Rights has documented a staggering 2,588 political arrests. In spite of this, reports suggest that you will soon announce" "more one-sided concessions that will serve to shore up the communist Castro regime."

While visiting Havana, the President supports plans to end the embargo, yet ignores the fact that increased trade will not reach the Cuban people. It will benefit the Cuban military and intelligence agencies which have stolen Cuba's most profitable industries. The President's bizarre legacy has led to more repression as the failed socialist dictatorship is propped up.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the people of Belgium and Prime Minister Charles Michel as the global war on terrorism continues.

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

(Mr. PETERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, Jacksonville, Florida, November 13, 2015: Travis

James Hiatt, 49 years old; Hayden Rose Hiatt, 5 months old; Kayden Reese Hiatt, 5 months old.

Glendale, Arizona, February 23, 2016: Vic Buckner, 50; Kimberly Buckner, 49; Kaitlin Buckner, 18; Emma Buckner, 6.

Roswell, New Mexico, August 21, 2015: Mere Contreras, 31 years old; Shelly Bird, 25; Damon Oswald-Newman, 19.

Indianapolis, Indiana, February 20, 2014: Walter Burnell, 47; Jacob Rodemich, 43; Kristy Mae Sanchez, 22; Hayley Navarra, 21.

Chesapeake, Virginia, January 27, 2016: Doris Dooley, 74 years old; Lori Dooley, 54; Todd Dooley, 50; Landon Dooley, 22; Brooke Dooley, 17.

Oakland, Maine, November 4, 2015: Amanda Bragg, 30 years old; Michael Muzerolle, 29; Amy Derosby, 28.

IN MEMORY OF ANN PRIDE

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life of Ann Pride, a beloved daughter of Arkansas and a good friend.

Ann served as the director of Federal Government Relations at Entergy, where she had been employed since 1991. She worked closely with the entire Arkansas delegation to support energy programs for low-income Arkansans.

Ann dedicated her life to serving the people of Arkansas and previously served as staff to Representative Bill Alexander and Senator David Pryor, first during his term as Governor of Arkansas and later in the United States Senate.

Ann had a friendly demeanor and was well respected among the Arkansas delegation and on both sides of the aisle. She was a consummate professional.

Her knowledge and experience were indispensable to her fellow colleagues, and I know that she will be greatly missed by those who had the privilege to know her.

DEMOCRATS OUTPERFORM REPUBLICANS ON ECONOMY

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, Republicans often claim that they can manage the economy better than Democrats, but the facts show something very different entirely.

Research by economists Alan Blinder and Mark Watson finds that, by virtually every measure of economic growth and economic health, including GDP growth and job creation, the economy has performed better under Democratic Presidents than Republican Presidents.

Alan Blinder and Professor Watson put it simply: "The U.S. economy performs much better when a Democrat is President than when a Republican is."

The Democratic staff on the Joint Economic Committee updated and expanded on their analysis and found that, on average, since World War II: real GDP has grown about 1.6 times faster under Democrats than Republicans, and private sector job growth has grown nearly 2.5 times faster under Democrats.

This chart tells a story. The Democratic line is blue, and the red is Republican. It shows clearly that job growth was higher and better under Democratic Presidents.

OBAMACARE'S UNCONSTITUTIONAL CONTRACEPTIVE MANDATE

(Mr. FLEISCHMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to echo the remarks of Speaker PAUL RYAN. We must protect the sanctity of the lives of the unborn.

The Little Sisters of the Poor v. Burwell is a landmark case that rightfully challenges ObamaCare's unconstitutional contraceptive mandate. I wholeheartedly agree with the Little Sisters of the Poor and believe that life begins at conception.

Mother Teresa once said: "I feel that the greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion, because it is a war against the child—a direct killing of the innocent child—murder by the mother herself. And if we accept that a mother can kill even her own child, how can we tell other people not to kill one another?"

The unborn are the most innocent and vulnerable members of our society. The Constitution already protects life, and I have sworn to uphold that Constitution. I will continue to serve all east Tennesseans by consistently voting for life.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF EARLINE PARMON

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

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize my colleague and friend, former North Carolina State Senator Earline Parmon, who departed this life last week on Super Tuesday.

Earline was a true trailblazer, public servant, and humble leader. She was Forsyth County's first Black State senator. She also served more than a decade in the North Carolina House and on the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners.

Earline was instrumental in helping victims of North Carolina's eugenics program receive restitution, and she did so much more. She dedicated her life to fighting for justice and fighting for our communities.

I was more than honored when Earline joined my staff as my outreach director, expanding her territory to serve North Carolina's 12th Congressional District.

She was loving, kind, and respected. She broke barriers, and she was inspirational. Earline Parmon has left an indelible mark on North Carolinians across our State and Nation. I have known Earline for many decades, and I am proud to have called her my friend and one of my closest confidantes.

Her legacy will continue to live on for generations to come. We salute her and her service to our State.

MIDDLE EAST CHRISTIANS FACE EXTINCTION

(Mr. BYRNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, we are in the midst of Holy Week, one of the most important time periods for the Christian faith.

Sadly, in too many places around the world, Christians are under attack simply because of their religious beliefs. The stories of rape, assault, and murder are heartbreaking.

Just look at some of the numbers from the Middle East. In 2003, there were 1½ million Christians in Iraq. Now that number is down to 275,000 and falling. In the very land where Jesus once walked, Christians are becoming extinct.

This Holy Week, may we, as the people's House, reaffirm our commitment to fighting Christian persecution abroad. May we not become discouraged or angry, and may we keep fighting to encourage religious tolerance in the Middle East and all around the world.

And, Mr. Speaker, may we remember what is written in the Gospel of John: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

ONE OF AMERICA'S WORST FOREIGN POLICY MISTAKES

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

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in solemn observance today of the 13th anniversary of the week that one of the worst foreign policy mistakes of the 21st century was made, the invasion of Iraq, March 20, 2003.

The human cost of the invasion: 4,491 U.S. servicemembers who gave their lives and countless more who were injured or who came back with difficulties facing the challenges of everyday life.

Iraqi deaths were between 151,000 and 500,000, including many innocent women and children, and millions more were driven from their homes.

The economic cost of the war in Iraq: \$1.7 trillion are the estimates of that cost, money that was taken out of the hands of U.S. taxpayers, away from our roads, bridges, infrastructure, and schools to send to Iraq. And the national security cost of that colossal mistake: namely, the creation of ISIS

and, in fact, arming ISIS with weapons that were paid for by American taxpayers, supplied to the failed Iraqi military.

"When will we ever learn?," in the words of the late, great Pete Seeger.

LIVINGSTON PARISH NEWS

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

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, in recent months, Livingston Parish has lost two important leaders. On October 26 of last year, Jeff McHugh David passed away. Earlier this month, on March 3, Michael Dowty also passed away.

Jeff was the longest serving owner/publisher in the history of Livingston Parish News, and Mike was the 28-year managing editor of the newspaper. Together they had nearly 90 years of newspaper experience.

The Livingston Parish News was established in 1898. It has a 118-year history. During that history, it has been awarded over 600 State and national awards for its journalism excellence.

Mr. Speaker, the Livingston Parish News covered important events like the 1983 floods, which resulted in the Comite diversion authorization, and the LIGO project, which recently discovered for the first time ever gravitational waves.

It is really an amazing newspaper that has done a phenomenal job. They have 1,200 subscribers and over 60,000 online subscribers.

The past 6 months have been a challenging time for the paper. Jeff is survived by his son, McHugh David, who carries on his father's legacy of the Livingston Parish News, as Leesha calls him behind his back, McCutie.

Mr. Speaker, today I recognize and honor these men's service and contribution to our community and to the great State of Louisiana. Both men were institutions in Livingston Parish, and both will be missed.

HONORING JAMIE MICK

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Women's History Month to highlight an outstanding woman in my district. My district has many female role models giving back to our communities. One example of a woman dedicated to service is Jamie Mick.

Jamie has served our district through her role in the Rotary Club, the American Cancer Society, West Pasco Chamber of Commerce, Florida Gulf Coast Association of Commercial Realtors, and other organizations.

Jamie is a cofounder of Women IN Charge, helping to empower women by supporting them in managing their businesses, furthering their professional goals, and promoting their health and financial independence.