

amongst veterans at a rate of twice the national average. The VA is beginning to start to change some of its practices by offering alternative modes of treatment, but even so, that change is not comprehensive and it is not happening everywhere across the country.

A national health crisis of this magnitude requires leadership, commitment, resolve, and partnership at every level of government, within our medical community and within our community itself. I urge my colleagues to join me in calling for further action to hold pharmaceutical companies accountable that are profiting off of America's addiction problems, to hold doctors accountable who are irresponsibly overprescribing these addictive drugs, and to focus instead on finding real solutions that can truly help people.

I urge the U.S. Surgeon General to make combating opioid abuse the 2016 Call to Action, which is a yearly initiative that helps to stimulate nationwide action to solve a major public health program in the U.S. In the past few years, the national Call to Action has addressed exercise and walkable communities, skin cancer prevention, breastfeeding, deep vein thrombosis, and underage drinking. With 78 Americans dying every single day from opioid overdose, this is an issue that demands our national attention and action.

SAUK RAPIDS' 2016 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate April Meyers for being named the 2016 Citizen of the Year in Sauk Rapids, Minnesota.

The Sauk Rapids Citizen of the Year was created by the Sauk Rapids Chamber and is meant to recognize individuals who have impacted the community for the better.

Meyers, who was unaware that she had even been nominated, was selected by a committee made up of city staff, local businesses, and previous Citizen of the Year recipients. Since 1992, April has been involved with the Great River Rotary, the Living Waters Lutheran Church, the Sauk Rapids School District, and she is also the director of housing for the Good Shepherd Community.

Thank you, April. Thank you for your dedication to the less fortunate, to our children, and to the elderly. Thank you for being an inspiration to others. Thank you for making Sauk Rapids such a great city in the Sixth Congressional District. It is because of people like you that Minnesota is such a great place to live and raise a family.

A 100-YEAR CELEBRATION

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor one of the great families in Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District,

the Bernicks, and their business that is celebrating an incredible 100 years of operation.

Bernick's was founded in 1916 in St. Cloud, Minnesota, by Elizabeth and Charles Bernick. Originally a soda pop bottling company, Bernick's used to deliver their products in a horse-drawn wagon. The company has come a long way since then. Over the past century, this family-owned company has passed from generation to generation, expanding into a booming business with more than 650 employees. Today, Bernick's provides full beverage, vending, and food services to the central Minnesota area while maintaining its family roots in St. Cloud.

Running a business is no small feat. Running one successfully for a century is something that we can all be proud of. Congratulations to the Bernick family for their five generations of success.

Thank you for all you do for our community.

REMEMBERING FALLEN OFFICERS

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate National Police Week, a time when we remember the men and women in blue who paid the ultimate sacrifice in order to protect and serve our great Nation.

The great State of Minnesota is home to many phenomenal law enforcement officers—men and women who put their lives on the line each and every day to ensure the safety and security of our communities. They live their lives to serve, and some tragically lose their lives in the line of duty. These are the true heroes.

Just this past year, an officer named Deputy Steven Sandberg was shot and killed in the line of duty in St. Cloud, Minnesota. While his death was both senseless and tragic, today we remember the courageous way that he and many other fallen police officers chose to live and serve their communities. This week, in honoring fallen officers like Deputy Sandberg, we remember and we honor their service and their sacrifice.

ADDRESSING THE OPIOID CRISIS

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address a national epidemic: opioid addiction and abuse.

Addiction is a disease that does not discriminate based on age, education, or wealth, and it even happens in small town Minnesota. Recently I learned firsthand that addiction knows no bounds. Unfortunately, like too many people today, I have seen the danger and the devastation caused by addiction up close and personal.

I come from a small town in Minnesota with a population of, approximately, 5,000 people. We pretty much know everybody. I have had the great fortune to raise seven kids in this great little town, and as a youth hockey coach for almost 20 years, I have had the opportunity to work with and to get to know many of the kids in our community—kids who have big hopes

and dreams. Unfortunately, because of the opioid and heroin crisis in this country, two of them left us way too soon.

Today, nearly one person dies every 12 minutes of a drug overdose. This must stop. It is going to take more than government policy to fight this epidemic, but I am so grateful for the efforts here in Washington, on both sides of the aisle, to take on this epidemic. I just want to thank my colleagues for all of their work on this important issue.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

NATIONAL BRAIN TUMOR AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, nearly 700,000 people in the United States today are living with a brain tumor. Sadly, over 16,000 of them will lose their battles this year alone. Many of them will be children, with brain tumors being the leading cause of death from cancer for those who are under 14.

Unfortunately, the treatment and removal of brain tumors presents significant challenges because of the brain's uniquely complex and fragile nature, due, in no small part, to there being more than 120 different types of tumors. While brain tumor research is supported by a number of private nonprofit research foundations and by institutes at the National Institutes of Health, there still remain daunting obstacles in the development of new treatments. Moreover, there are currently no strategies for screening or for the early detection of brain tumors.

Despite the number of new people who are diagnosed with brain tumors every year and their devastating prognoses over the past 30 years, there have only been four FDA-approved drugs and one device to treat brain tumors. On top of that, the four approved drugs have provided only incremental improvements to patient survival, and mortality rates remain little changed over the past 30 years.

It is clear that much more must be done. That is why I am proud to introduce a resolution designating this May as National Brain Tumor Awareness Month.

Throughout the month, advocates around the country unite to educate the public about brain tumors and to advocate for policies that are vital to the discovery of a cure. Their efforts are crucial for shining a light on the difficulties that are associated with research on brain tumors and the opportunities for advancements in brain tumor research and treatment.

I ask my colleagues to honor those who have lost their lives to a brain tumor and to please support this resolution so we can move one step closer to ending this devastating disease.

OPIOID BILLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the action the House is taking this week to combat the crisis of opioid abuse.

As a registered nurse, I have seen the grim reality of the addiction from all sides. I have witnessed its grip on families—the way it slowly steals the life behind its victims' eyes and how what was thought to be a quick fix can easily spiral into a deadly experience.

We all know that addiction is an equal opportunity destroyer of potential. It does not care about your race, gender, income, or political party. Therefore, the solutions that we offer in Congress must also reach across artificial boundaries to help all who are touched by this epidemic to get back on their feet.

I am proud that, all told, the House will take up 18 bills this week that are aimed at combating opioid abuse. Among these solutions is a bill creating an interagency task force to ensure healthcare professionals have up-to-date guidelines and best practices for treating patients with acute and chronic pain. This is critically important as 17 percent of opioid users today get their highs from medications that are legally prescribed to them by a doctor.

The House also passed legislation that makes it safer for veterans to seek pain management care. Specifically, the bill would require the VA employees who prescribe opioids to receive education and training on pain management while also calling for a government watchdog report on the VA opioid use and treatment.

Importantly, for me as a nurse, Congress has additionally taken steps to protect newborns from the exposure to addictive opioid drugs while in the womb. This includes legislation to authorize residential treatment grant programs for pregnant and postpartum women who have substance abuse problems, as well as a bill calling for a government study on the prevalence of neonatal abstinence syndrome and offering recommendations to improve access to treatment.

□ 1045

While these bills offer an important starting point, Congress cannot single-handedly legislate away the threat of opioid abuse. It takes willing partners in our community to help raise awareness and intervene before addiction sets in.

I was reminded of this recently when I visited and met with the Smith County Anti-Drug Coalition back in my district. This organization is going into schools to arm young people with the facts about drug abuse. They are providing drop boxes in the public spaces so citizens can safely dispose of unused medication, and they are working with law enforcement to ensure that their

efforts are as effective as possible. We can never underestimate the importance of nonprofits and volunteer-supported organizations like this.

Mr. Speaker, opioid addicts are not bad people trying to be good. They are sick people trying to get well. When we come together with an eye on the solution and an emphasis on personal responsibility, we can find victory over this preventable disease and help those who are hurting to reassemble their lives and regain their pursuit of the American Dream.

HOUSTON FLOODING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I and a host of colleagues find ourselves on a mission of mercy. This is a mission of mercy, Mr. Speaker, for people who are suffering in Houston, Texas, and the surrounding area.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congressman GENE GREEN, the original cosponsor of H.R. 5025, the 2016 Tax Day Floods Supplemental Funding Act. I want to thank Congressman JOHN CULBERSON for being the first person to sign on, such that the bill has become bipartisan. It is a bipartisan piece of legislation.

I want to talk about suffering today, Mr. Speaker, because a good many people in Houston, Texas, are suffering for a multiplicity of reasons. I will share just a few.

Before I do this, I want to remind friends and colleagues that tonight, after the Republican hour and the Democratic hour, my colleagues and I will take to the floor to say much more about what is happening in Houston, Texas.

For now, I want to mention the suffering, because suffering can teach us that which we can learn no other way. Some things bear repeating. Suffering and pain can teach us that which we can learn no other way. It is one thing to sympathize and to say, "There but for the grace of God go I" and understand that there is suffering associated with that statement, but it is another thing to empathize because you had the experience associated with the suffering that goes along with the statement, "There but for the grace of God go I."

So in Houston, Texas, a good many people are suffering because they have had their homes flooded not once, but twice—some even more. They are suffering because some of them were just getting back into their homes, and their homes were flooded again. They are suffering because they have lost their means of transportation, the ability to get to work, to sustain the livelihood that causes them to have the ability to take care of themselves and their families.

There is suffering in Houston, Texas. They are suffering because they don't know what the future holds. They don't

know what next year will bring or next month will bring because these 100-year floods are happening quite regularly in Houston, Texas. So they are suffering in Houston.

I want my colleagues and my friends to know, Mr. Speaker, that this suffering is something that we can mitigate. We may not be able to eliminate it totally, completely, and absolutely. No one can stop all of the flooding all of the time, but there are projects that have been authorized that we are currently funding on a piecemeal basis. There are projects that, if completed, Mr. Speaker, would mitigate the flooding. We have a piecemeal approach to a problem that requires a wholesale solution. There is suffering, and we could eliminate much of this suffering. That which we cannot eliminate, we can mitigate.

The suffering I have called to your attention thus far, Mr. Speaker, involves property, real and personal. But I also want to mention the ultimate pain that is being endured by a good many in Houston, and that is losing someone whom you love to circumstances that could have possibly been eliminated.

Eight lives, possibly nine—I am told that there may be another—eight lives were lost, Mr. Speaker. Eight people lost their lives to flooding in Houston, Texas, in the tax day flood, so-called because it occurred on the last day to pay your taxes. Eight lives were lost. The family members of these persons who lost their lives are suffering in Houston, Texas.

So I come to the floor with an appeal to my colleagues. We ask that you kindly give consideration to H.R. 5025, the 2016 Tax Day Floods Supplemental Funding Act, that has now some 60 cosponsors. But it is more than a bill, Mr. Speaker. It is an opportunity to eliminate suffering in Houston, Texas.

I will close with this. I mentioned that suffering can teach us that which we can learn no other way. One of the things that I have learned is that, when a storm hits the East Coast and people are suffering, as a Member of Congress, I have to be there for them. When we have the tornadic activities and people suffer, I have to be there for them. Mr. Speaker, I want people to remember that suffering will teach you that which you can learn no other way.

God bless you, and God bless our great country.

TENNESSEE RADIO HALL OF FAME

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor this year's inductees to the Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame.

Tennessee has a long history in the radio broadcast industry, dating back to the early 1920s. It has since grown to nearly 450 stations which, collectively, reach almost 7 million people.