

I want to tell a brief story related to some topics that were discussed earlier tonight about the opioid epidemic here. Yes, we are concerned about the people who are addicted. We are concerned—and rightly so—about the families who are trying to deal with that addiction and the danger that it presents to the person addicted, the danger it presents to the family, the tragedy it presents to that family and the addicted individual and the community in the entirety.

But sometimes we forget to include the police officer in that group of people that is endangered by this epidemic that has ripped our Nation. They are the first people there. They are the first ones called to a scene where someone might be acting up as a result of being addicted to heroin or some other drug.

I can remember a night. I just want to share this short story so that, Mr. Speaker, you can understand this is something that happens to police officers across this country every day of the year.

I was with a team of officers who were assigned to serve a drug search warrant on an apartment. We were all assigned a room to go to. I kicked in the door and I went to the right to a small bathroom.

When I entered that door and went into the bathroom, there was a young man in the bathroom with a rubber band around his arm and a needle injected in his arm. His eyes were glazed over. He was standing by the toilet.

He saw me come in with my badge over my heart and my gun in my hand. I said: Raise your hands above your head and drop to your knees. He raised his hands, but he didn't go to his knees. He stood there and stared at me for a short time. Eventually, his right hand moved to the right behind a half wall and came out with a gun.

At that moment, I had to make a decision. Every police officer across this Nation has to make a split-second decision: Do I shoot? Is my life in danger? Am I going home to my family? Am I not going home to my family? Is this the time? Those things go through your mind in a millisecond. In the snap of a finger, you have to make a decision.

Something told me I could talk to this young man. And so I continued to talk, and he finally leaned back and dropped the gun in the toilet, fell to his knees, and we handcuffed him and took him to jail.

I share that story to just emphasize the fact that police officers are going through these dangerous situations every day, having to make those decisions. And then, Mr. Speaker, every day after that they second-guess themselves, if they had decided to pull the trigger, and then the community will continue to second-guess.

And, yes, we need to be questioned. And, yes, we need to be held accountable. And, yes, we need to be trained. All of those things are true. But it is so easy to Monday-morning-quarterback.

I had a partner that was killed in 1982. We were tracking down a murder suspect. In the process of that, my partner was ambushed and shot in the chest and killed. He had five sons. They are all grown men now. They grew up without their father.

In 1984, another friend and partner was stabbed and killed with a World War II sword. His name was Michael Rayburn. My partner's name was Sam Hicks. But just a few years before that, Mike Rayburn saved my life.

I was directing traffic in the middle of the night, at 2 o'clock in the morning, on Pacific Highway just south of Seattle. It was a pretty major accident. I had my back turned to the ditch behind me. Deputy Rayburn drove up.

Just at the moment he drove up, somebody jumped out of the ditch. He had a knife in his hand and was running across the lanes of traffic to bury that knife in my back. Mike Rayburn was there just in the nick of time and tackled that man who was about to stab me. Two years later, Mike Rayburn was dead. His kids grew up without their father.

I am here tonight to honor them. I am here tonight to honor every police officer in this country. I am here tonight, Mr. Speaker, to ask people across the Nation to say thank you to the police officers that protect their community, protect their children, and protect their homes each and every day.

I will be there on Sunday at the memorial in front of the Capitol and be with those families. I have held the widows in my arms, as the sheriff. I have held the children and cried. I will be doing that again on Sunday.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

TAX DAY FLOOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am honored tonight to stand here in the U.S. House of Representatives to call to the attention of my colleagues, my friends, H.R. 5025, a bill that will bring some relief to much suffering in the Houston area in the State of Texas.

But before I get into the bill itself, I think it appropriate to thank some people for what they have done to help us get to this point.

I thank my colleague who will be speaking in just a moment, the Honorable GENE GREEN, who serves in the 29th District, which is adjacent to the district that I serve. I want to thank my friend GENE GREEN because he is the original cosponsor of this legislation. He was there to help shape it, and it means something to know that you have a friend that you can work with to this extent.

I want to thank my friend Congressman JOHN CULBERSON. He is the first to

make this legislation bipartisan. This is not a partisan issue. Flooding is not a partisan issue. The homes that are damaged, the lives that are lost, none of this is partisan. I am grateful to Congressman CULBERSON for signing onto this bill.

I would like to thank the 60-plus cosponsors of this legislation who have said that they want to see what has been authorized materialized, such that, in Houston, Texas, we cannot only eliminate a lot of flooding—and we will. We can't eliminate all of it, but we can mitigate that which we cannot eliminate.

I thank Chairman MCCAUL of the Homeland Security Committee. He published the letter for us, the members of the delegation, to sign and send to the President of the United States, asking that Texas have certain areas within the State declared disaster areas because of the horrific flooding that took place on what we call Tax Day.

I thank the leadership for allowing us to have this team on the floor tonight on both sides. The leadership makes these things possible, and I am grateful to all leadership for doing this.

Finally, I want to thank President Barack Obama because he did, Mr. Speaker, declare certain areas in Texas disaster areas so that we might receive the help of FEMA and funds to help people recover and to restore their lives and continue with their lives.

So tonight I will say more about some of these things mentioned, but now I am asking to ask the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN), my colleague, who is the lead cosponsor of this, to have his commentary.

Because his district has suffered greatly not just this time, but in the past, from these floods. I will not go into it. I will leave all to be said about it to him.

But I think it appropriate that I acknowledge his great work in the Congress of the United States of America not only on this issue, but on many other issues impacting people within his district and across the length and breadth of this great country.

□ 1830

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and neighbor and friend for setting this Special Order tonight for what we call the tax day floods in Houston and Harris County, Texas.

Our district was hit by flooding, but not near as much as in Congressman AL GREEN's, because I was in his district that week, and also in the neighboring districts, Congressman CULBERSON, Congresswoman LEE and Congressman MCCAUL, and Congressman BRADY.

But I was just looking at a memo. In our district, we have Hunting Bayou, which is part of the legislation, that was overflowed; and the people who live in that area, along Interstate 10 East, they cleaned out their homes, the Sheetrock and everything else, and it is literally a tragedy.

On April 18, the city of Houston and Harris County, Texas, was subjected to paralyzing flooding which claimed the lives of 9 of our citizens and required the rescue of at least 1,200 others.

Approximately 2,000 housing units were flooded, and we are currently working to figure out where to house the folks who cannot return to their homes.

This is the second major flooding disaster Houston has experienced in the last 6 months. The city is expecting additional rain, even this weekend, tomorrow and Saturday.

Residents of our congressional district, as well as other Members' districts, have been severely affected, and we must do everything we can to stop the needless loss of life.

The President has recognized the significance of the catastrophe and fulfilled a request for a disaster declaration. Now it is the job of Congress to help our constituents. That is why I have worked closely with my neighbor and friend and colleague, Representative AL GREEN, to introduce the Tax Day Floods Supplemental Funding Act, H.R. 5025.

The legislation would provide \$311 million to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the construction and, in most cases, completion of our bayou and flood projects in the Houston and Harris County, Texas, area.

Flooding is not new to Houston, but we have learned how to control it. Our bayou system has saved countless lives and millions of dollars in damage since the creation of them. Unfortunately, due to the consistent budget pressure, the Army Corps of Engineers cannot adequately fund these projects.

This bill would ensure that our Federal, State, and local authorities have the resources necessary to expedite these flood control projects we know protect people and property.

My colleagues and I have requested the Director of FEMA and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to tour our districts and see the damage firsthand, and I renew that request again today.

The support in the community is overwhelming. The Greater Houston Partnership, our chamber of commerce, supports this legislation, and they estimate that the total lost is about \$1.9 billion.

It is also supported by our local—in Harris County we created a flood control district that partners with the Corps of Engineers. Our Harris County Flood Control District also supports this legislation.

Additionally, I want to make sure that the folks on the ground have the information they need to get back in their homes.

FEMA has opened disaster centers in our community, but if you are not near one of those centers, you can apply to FEMA by phone. Call 1-800-621-3362. That is 1-800-621-FEMA. 1-800-621-3362.

FEMA can offer two types of assistance: housing assistance, temporary

housing, money to help repair or replace your primary residence.

Non-housing needs include medical, dental, funeral costs, clothing, household items, tools, home fuel, disaster-related moving and storage, replacement of a disaster-damaged vehicle. After 24 hours, FEMA will follow up with you.

It is important in our district to know that, if your Spanish-speaking households have children that are U.S. citizens or legal residents, FEMA can help you if there is a legal resident or a citizen living in that home.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that we help victims in our neighborhoods so we can get back on top and help them.

I urge our body, this House, to pass the emergency funding legislation and do so as quickly as we can.

Again, I want to thank my colleague and friend. I was impressed that day when we were in his district, in Westbury, at the flooding and the outpouring of people.

I have seen it in my district where people will literally move everything from their house; they have to throw it away. It is out on the curb. The city of Houston is cleaning it up as fast as they can, but we need to get these people back into their homes.

But this bill that we have will make sure their homes are not flooded again because, that way, we don't need to have these repetitive floods like we have had in the last few years.

Again, I want to thank my colleague for this Special Order tonight but, more importantly, I want to thank him for his leadership on this piece of legislation. I am proud to be his cosponsor.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. I thank the gentleman very much. I greatly appreciate all that he has done to help us, especially coming into my district, and being there with the mayor, if you recall, who was there.

We had a county commissioner in attendance, County Commissioner Gene Locke, Mayor Sylvester Turner, and persons from that neighborhood. This was not your district, but the people were people that the gentleman cared about, and they are grateful, as am I, for the gentleman's coming in and visiting with us.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. If the gentleman will yield to me; we also had the press conference, and everybody was confused. We also have the gentleman's city council member, Larry Green. So they had Congressman AL GREEN, Congressman Eugene Green, and City Councilman Larry Green. They can call all of us and we will help them.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Absolutely. In Houston, Green is a good name if you want to become a member of the political order.

Again, I thank my colleague.

Let me elaborate for just a moment on the letter from the Greater Houston Partnership because a good many people are not aware that this is another way for us to say chamber of commerce

in Texas. We have gone beyond a simple chamber of commerce. We call ours a partnership because it is an effort among the many to make sure that commerce excels, but also to make sure that people have great opportunities.

Houston is a city of opportunity, and I want to thank the Greater Houston Partnership for the letter that has been sent to us supporting H.R. 5025.

But now let's be a little bit more specific. I want to thank Mr. Jamey Rootes. He is the chairperson of the Greater Houston Partnership. He and I have been talking, and he has been working with me and with my colleagues to try to make sure that we have an opportunity to get our message out to the masses. He has done what he can to help us with this messaging, a message that includes the position of the Greater Houston Partnership, I must add.

Also, Mr. Bob Harvey, who is the president and CEO of the Greater Houston Partnership. We made a call to them one morning, asking if they could get a letter to us indicating their support, and that afternoon we had the letter in hand, the letter that I hold in my hand currently. And that letter is, without question, a solid indication of support for this project.

The last paragraph of it reads: "We want to make sure that we do all that we can to help you and your staff as you consider every potential opportunity for Federal support. Please do not hesitate to call." And they give names and numbers.

They are committed to doing what they can to not only help with this legislation, but to help people in their recoveries, and to prevent this from happening again.

The Harris County Flood Control District, Mr. Michael Talbott, sent the letter, the executive director. And in his letter, he speaks of how this can benefit the Houston area to the amount of about \$2.4 billion.

He goes on to talk about the jobs that can be created—6,220 created if we can get this legislation done, if we can get this money into Houston.

I must add this: this money is money that we will get eventually into Houston. This is not money that we won't ever get. These projects have been authorized. They are already in progress. It is just that we are getting the money in a piecemeal fashion, and we need a wholesale representation of this emolument for Houston, such that we can get on with these projects, such that we can prevent future damages, such that we can save lives. What we cannot eliminate, we can mitigate in terms of damages.

So I am honored that the Corps of Engineers has these projects that they are working on, and I am especially honored that the Harris County Flood Control District has let us know that they are absolutely in support of what we are trying to accomplish with H.R. 5025.

Now, having said all of these things and making it clear that this is money that has to be matched, that this is money that we will eventually acquire, I think it's appropriate for me to say this:

This is about more than money. It is about more than things, inanimate objects. This is about more than homes and personal property, cars, and all of the things that we call creature comforts. It is about more than these things. It is about people. This legislation really is about human beings. It is about human beings who are in a recovery phase right now, many of them recovering from the tax day flood, some still recovering from the Memorial Day flood which took place last Memorial Day. Mr. Speaker, it is about these people, but not only these people, it is about people who lost their lives in this flood.

My colleague mentioned that there were nine—nine persons, that we know of, lost their lives. And wouldn't it be a shame to remember the flood, remember the damages that were imposed upon the homes, and the cars, and the furniture, remember the damages, but not remember the people who lost their lives?

So tonight I want to take just a moment on behalf of my colleague and many others in this House and just recognize, memorialize the lives that were lost in this horrific flood, a tragedy that, quite frankly, could have been mitigated if we had all of these projects to completion.

Let's just remember these persons and not forget them. So with a degree of solemnity, I would like to just call their names and say a little bit about each of the nine.

The first, German Antonio Franco. He was 66 years of age, Mr. Speaker. He was a retired HEB produce manager. HEB is one of our food stores. He also worked as a part-time contract limousine driver. This was a man who had children—three children and four grandchildren. The circumstances of his death are that he died after an encounter with high water, something we will see consistently as I go through this. But he lost his life in Houston, Texas, in a flood.

I would like to mention Ms. Claudia, last name is Melgar. Claudia Melgar. She lost her life, 25 years of age. She was a college student. She died in an encounter with high water.

Now, there are those who would say that you can avoid an encounter with high water. I believe that in many circumstances you can, but in Houston, Texas, we have what are known as flash floods, floods that occur in a flash, and there are many times when you can be caught in a circumstance such that you cannot extricate yourself.

Because of this, the waters will envelop you and you will find yourself in a position such that you cannot even leave the car that you are in because of the way the electronics can malfunction.

And if you don't have some device, some tool to break windows, to move yourself through some passageway other than that door, you will find yourself in harm's way and you can lose your life.

□ 1845

This has happened to many people. It happened to Claudia.

I would also like to mention Pedro Rascon Morales, 61 years of age. He was a big rig driver, a father, and a grandfather. He died in the cab of his 18-wheeler while trapped in a flooded roadway in Houston, Texas.

All of these persons are in and around the Houston area. They all lost their lives in water due to flooding with the tax day floods as we call them. These are lives that we can never forget. I think that we should remember the damages that were caused to property and the destruction, but we shouldn't forget the lives that were lost because there are families that are grieving to this day because they lost people that they loved.

These were the daughters and sons of somebody, and we should never forget that they lived and that they lost their lives, some, I might add, in a needless circumstance—this is my opinion—because of our not fulfilling our obligation to fund what has been authorized.

Next, we have Charles Edward Odum, 56 years of age, seventh grade social studies teacher, married, with two children. Circumstances of his death: died after encountering high water.

Then there was Teri White Rodriguez, 41 years of age, a wife and mother of three. Circumstances of death: died in her vehicle after an encounter with high water, an encounter with high water in Houston, Texas.

It was an unfortunate circumstance, and we should not forget that lives were lost.

I know it is going to be easy for many of us to go on with our lives. This will be put behind us. We have a moment when we focus on these things, but life is such that there are so many other things that we encounter that our focus is lost or that we focus on something else. That is important, so I don't begrudge anybody who has to focus on other things. I just believe that I have a duty, an obligation, and a responsibility to make sure that we don't forget these lives that were lost. There will be others, but we don't want to forget these. There have been others, but we won't forget these.

We won't forget Sunita Singh, 49, an electrical engineer, a wife and a mother of two children, drowned in her car after an encounter with high water.

Let's not forget Suresh Kumar Talluri, 49, a husband and father of two young children ages 6 and 8, drowned in his car after he was trapped by high water.

We shouldn't forget and we should commemorate the life of Dharamendra Uppal. This is an unfortunate circumstance wherein we have the age of

the person undisclosed, the circumstances of the death undisclosed in the sense that we don't know personal information about this person who lost his life, or her. I am assuming that from the name it was a female, but this person died and was found deceased in his car, a male, deceased in his car which appears to have been submerged. He was a male. The name is important. The identity is not known completely because we don't know the age and we don't have personal information.

Then there is a woman with an undisclosed name, with no personal information available to us at this time who drowned after an encounter with high water.

All of these unfortunate circumstances involved people. I want to make sure tonight that while we will talk about the billions of dollars in damages—and there were billions of dollars in damages, billions of dollars. It is estimated that it is as high as \$8 billion in damages when you combine the Memorial Day flood with the tax day flood, as much as \$8 billion.

That \$8 billion, by the way, is 25 times the \$311 million that we might use to take preventive action.

This money will not go to help people get new homes. This money won't go to help people get personal items that have been destroyed. All of this money will go to projects that have been authorized, projects that, if completed, can possibly prevent the loss of future lives and projects that, if they had been completed, may have prevented the loss of some of these lives.

So I take it as my personal responsibility to call this to the attention of this House and to ask my colleagues to please consider H.R. 5025. The President has declared the area that I am speaking of as a disaster area. FEMA is there. This is an opportunity for us to act. We have done it before, and we should do it now.

I want to assure my colleagues that, when there is a disaster of this magnitude, you can count on our good offices being with you to help you through your time of need. We understand that we should be there for people. This is what we have done in the past, whether it was Sandy, hurricanes, or whether it was tornadic activities. Whether it is fires or hurricanes along the Gulf Coast, we want to be there for our people.

This is our country, and a country is more than bricks, buildings, skyscrapers, and military. It is people who live ordinary lives, who expect that they would have the opportunity to fulfill their dreams, to go to work and come home safely and not find themselves in harm's way by virtue of waters that are not expected, floodwaters that can come in a flash and take them away.

So, Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues who have signed on to this piece of legislation. I want to again thank the President of the United States, the Honorable Barack Obama,

for making his desires known by declaring certain areas in Texas a disaster area. I thank the Governor of the State, by the way, Mr. Speaker, because he acted quickly, swiftly, and promptly to make the request of the President.

I have mentioned Mr. MCCAUL. I thank the gentleman again for his actions in circulating the letter so that all of the members of the Texas delegation could be on it requesting that certain areas in Texas receive this attention from the President.

Finally, I know that these are difficult times for us across the Nation and across the world. There are many things that are happening that are challenging for us. But among these things, let us not forget that there were people who lost their lives in Houston, Texas, and let us not forget that these floods occur with a degree of regularity such that it is predictable that it will happen again.

We can prognosticate now that this will happen again. If it does, I will find myself back here as a reminder that there are things that we could have

done, should have done, and hopefully will do to eliminate much of the flooding and mitigate that which we cannot eliminate. I am grateful.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 4328. An act to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act and the Local Public Works Capital Development and Investment Act of 1976 to modernize terms relating to minorities.

H.R. 4336. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the inurnment in Arlington National Cemetery of the cremated remains of certain persons whose service has been determined to be active service.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 32. An act to provide the Department of Justice with additional tools to target extraterritorial drug trafficking activity, and for other purposes.

S. 125. An act to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2020, and for other purposes.

S. 2755. An act to provide Capitol-flown flags to the immediate family of firefighters, law enforcement officers, members of rescue squads or ambulance crews, and public safety officers who are killed in the line of duty.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, May 13, 2016, at 9 a.m.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the fourth quarter of 2015 and the first quarter of 2016, pursuant to Public Law 95-384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, JOYCE MEYER, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAR. 29 AND APR. 7, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Joyce Meyer	3/31	4/2	Philippines		588.00		(³)				588.00
	4/2	4/6	Australia		1,718.00		(³)				1,718.00
Committee total					2,036.00						2,036.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

MS. JOYCE MEYER, Apr. 21, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO IRELAND, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAR. 23 AND MAR. 28, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Peter King	3/24	3/28	Ireland		2,034.00		2,983.16				5,017.16
Hon. Richard Neal	3/24	3/27	Ireland		1,908.00		3,455.26				5,363.26
Hon. Michael Fitzpatrick	3/24	3/28	Ireland		1,725.00		1,142.86				2,867.86
Hon. John Katko	3/25	3/28	Ireland		1,599.00		2,323.90				3,922.90
Hon. Brian Higgins	3/24	3/27	Ireland		1,908.00		3,429.86				5,337.86
Hon. Daniel Kildee	3/24	3/28	Ireland		1,725.00		2,070.66				3,795.66
Committee total					10,899.00		15,405.70				26,304.70

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. PETER T. KING, Apr. 27, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☐

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY, Chairman, Apr. 8, 2016.