

Catholic School in downtown Miami. Throughout the years, Lourdes has taught at multiple schools and has earned many awards and deserved recognition.

As a former Florida certified teacher, I recognize Lourdes' dedication, and I thank her for all that she has done for the students in south Florida throughout her impressive career.

Congratulations to Lourdes.

RECOGNIZING JOSHUA WILLIAMS AND JOSHUA'S HEART FOUNDATION'S DECADE OF SERVICE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize teen philanthropist Joshua Williams of south Florida and the foundation that wears his heart on its sleeve—Joshua's Heart Foundation.

In 10 years of service to underserved communities in south Florida, Jamaica, Africa, and India, Joshua's Heart Foundation has activated over 7,000 youths to collect and distribute food and personal items that have helped 600,000 families in need. With the help of his supportive mom, Claudia, Joshua began laying the foundation for Joshua's Heart's success when he was only 4½ years of age.

New JHF chapters are springing up all over the country, and I encourage everyone to check out the amazing work that Joshua's Heart Foundation is doing every day and to get involved in a charity or with a volunteer organization that represents your own vision for the world in which you would like to live.

Congratulations to Joshua's Heart Foundation for a decade of service.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the air traffic control at Miami International Airport, which is an area that I am so proud to represent.

This upcoming Thursday, May 19, the Federal Aviation Administration and the Miami-Dade Aviation Department will celebrate this accomplishment and honor the men and women who keep our skies and our airports safe.

Working around the clock, the air traffic controllers direct aircraft and minimize potential troubles in the sky, like the ones that come from severe weather patterns. I am very proud to know so many of these diligent workers—individuals like Mitch Herrick, Jim Marinitti, Bill Kisseadoo, and many others—who, in their professionalism, keep order in the airspace and protect our public.

Mr. Speaker, rerouting aircraft to avoid congestion and minimize delays is not an easy task, especially at one of our Nation's busiest airports; but it is because of the controllers' dedication and commitment that we can feel safe in arriving at our destinations.

Congratulations to my friends—all of the air traffic controllers at Miami International Airport.

PORTER RANCH GAS LEAK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

California (Mr. SHERMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to report to this Congress on the Porter Ranch gas leak, the largest methane leak in the history of our country.

It began last October 23, and it lasted for, roughly, 5 months. The amount of natural gas that escaped is measured in billions of cubic feet. Some 8,000 families were evacuated for months. Our family, because we live just about as close as anyone to the leaking well, chose not to evacuate but, rather, to rely on filtration systems and the fact that we spend much of our time in Washington.

So how should Congress respond?

We must say never again—not again in Porter Ranch, not again anywhere in this country—but it could happen again because this natural gas storage facility was the fifth largest in the country. That means there are four other areas that could have an even larger natural gas leak. There are no Federal regulations for the safe storage of natural gas, and State regulations are so minimal that they are incredibly minimal even in famously green California.

Currently, PHMSA, an agency of the Department of Transportation, acknowledges that it has the authority to write Federal regulations. They have decided to do so, and my hope is that they will have them this fall. This arises, in large part, because I had a chance to discuss this with the President of the United States back in January in front of about 80 or 100 of our colleagues, and he made a commitment that his administration would work to make sure this never happens again. Not only is PHMSA working on the regulations, but the OMB has assured me that they will act promptly on approving those regulations once they are finalized.

We in Congress are working on legislation that is designed to prod PHMSA into acting quickly, but it is important that we not pass legislation that actually narrows the existing statutory power or gives sentences in statutory provisions that could be used by the oil and gas industry to invalidate tough regulations.

That is why it is critical, for example, that any statute we pass, as the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's product provides, states explicitly that we are not preempting higher, tougher State regulations and that the action taken in Congress will not make people less safe than their States would have them be.

Two issues confront SoCalGas, which is the utility that is responsible for this leak.

The first is that they are going to try to get consumers to pay for the cost of their negligence, using the phrase that they should pass through to consumers the "reasonable cost" of dealing with this disaster; so the consumers around Los Angeles should pay for the cost of providing relocation assistance to 8,000

families, many of whom have been out of their homes for 5 months and longer; the "reasonable costs" of plugging the leak should be passed through to consumers. The reasonable costs of repairing unreasonable negligence is never an ordinary and necessary expense to be passed through to consumers.

This leak resulted from SoCalGas' negligence. There was a subsurface safety valve on the well in question that was installed in the 1950s, that was removed by SoCalGas in the 1970s, and was never replaced. This well they used to inject and remove natural gas, not through the piping that was intended or the tubing that was intended for that purpose, but through the casing that was never intended for that purpose; and the pressure, which is the amount of gas crammed into the field, seems to be inconsistent with the age of the wells—some going back 60-years plus—that were being used to inject and withdraw the natural gas. The costs of this event must not be passed through to the consumers of Los Angeles.

Second, realizing they may have to bear the costs themselves, SoCalGas has decided to shortchange the residents who have evacuated. They have decided they don't want to pay for the required cleaning protocol that is necessary to make homes safe. That is in their release of just a couple of days ago. That is outrageous. The cleaning is necessary to make the homes safe. LA County Public Health says so, and SoCalGas should pay that cost, too.

CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, each spring, a nationwide high school visual arts competition is sponsored by the Congressional Institute and Members of the U.S. House of Representatives. Since the art competition was created in 1982, over 650,000 entries have been submitted.

The Congressional Art Competition is an opportunity to recognize and encourage the artistic talent of our Nation's bright and talented youth. The winner of this prestigious award in each congressional district will have his or her artwork hung on display for 1 year in the Cannon Tunnel of the U.S. Capitol.

I rise today to recognize the artistic ability of a young woman from the Second Congressional District in West Virginia—Kayla Barbazette from Capital High School in Charleston. Ms. Barbazette is the winner of the 2016 Second Congressional District of West Virginia's Congressional Art Competition.

Congratulations, Kayla.

Her entry, "Human Water Basin," was chosen from dozens of outstanding entries this year.

□ 1045

The competition was open to all high school students in the Second Congressional District of West Virginia.

Kayla is pictured here receiving her first place prize with West Virginia Cabinet Secretary Kay Goodwin of the Department of Education and the Arts.

I thank all of the impressive artists for allowing us to celebrate their talents. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

INDIANAPOLIS MOTOR SPEEDWAY

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

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to a very special event that will take place later this month in my hometown of Indianapolis.

On May 29, the world's finest automobile racing teams will compete for the very prestigious Borg-Warner Trophy at the 100th running of the Indy 500.

Mr. Speaker, every Memorial Day weekend since 1911, with the exception of a few years during World War I and World War II, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway has been the site of the greatest spectacle in racing. Over the last century, Mr. Speaker, the Indianapolis 500 has become the most attended single-day sporting event on the planet Earth, with estimated crowds of over 400,000 people. Now, these fans add nearly \$500 million to the central Indiana economy each year.

The race is also incredibly popular around the world, Mr. Speaker. With millions of fans around the world, they have been listening to the race on the Motor Speedway Radio Network and watching it on television.

Now, what very few people realize is that the Indy 500 has been a very important influence in the development of passenger automobiles. Rearview mirrors, four-wheel hydraulic brakes, color warning lights, and the first mandatory use of helmets can be traced back to the great Hoosier State in the city of Indianapolis at the Indy 500. Now part of the excitement of watching the race every year, Mr. Speaker, is seeing how these high-tech automobiles have evolved and wondering which technology we will see on our roads in the near future.

I stand here today as a very proud Hoosier who is proud of our State's long racing heritage. I ask my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to join me and to join the rest of the Indiana delegation in recognizing all of those involved with the race over the last century, from the staff to the pit crews, to the drivers, and especially the fans who come out to the track each and every year. So congratulations to all the folks involved.

Ladies and gentlemen, start your engines.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 48 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Rabbi Jay Weinstein, Young Israel of East Brunswick, East Brunswick, New Jersey, offered the following prayer:

Our God in heaven, please grant Your blessing upon our Nation's leaders, our President, Vice President, Members of Congress, and all our officers of government. Grant them courage and wisdom, sensitivity and compassion, as they respond to the needs of our diverse population. Allow them to bring to fruition the hopes and visions, dreams, and goals upon which this country was founded.

Merciful God, we express our deep gratitude for this magnificent country, a home built upon the values of peace, religious tolerance, and respect.

Protect our courageous military forces, who are spread throughout the world. Quickly return them to their family's warm embrace. Guard and shield the members of our country's police force, fire department, emergency personnel, and all those who risk their lives to protect us from harm.

Almighty God, who makes peace in Heaven, from this glorious House of Representatives, our seat of democracy, we ask that You bless our world with peace, safety, and prosperity, so we may fulfill our sacred responsibility of making the world a better place.

And let us respond amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LAMBORN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING RABBI JAY WEINSTEIN

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GRAHAM) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to thank Rabbi Jay Weinstein for delivering this morning's invocation.

Rabbi Weinstein is a native of Miami Beach, Florida. He received his ordination from Yeshiva University. He is now rabbi at Young Israel of East Brunswick, New Jersey, which serves more than 220 families.

I also want to recognize Rabbi Weinstein's parents, Stanley and Lenore, his wife, Sharon, and his four wonderful children, one of whom, Ora, is here with me on the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to live in a Nation where we open our doors and our hearts to invite leaders of all different faiths to offer a blessing. I am very thankful to Rabbi Weinstein for offering such an incredibly meaningful prayer this morning.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

(Ms. STEFANIK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, in my district in the North Country of New York, brave law enforcement officers dedicate their careers and risk their lives each and every day to keep our communities safe.

We are grateful for the outstanding service from men and women like Sergeant Jay Cook of the New York State Police, whose courageous actions put an end to the manhunt for the killers who escaped Clinton Correctional Facility last year.

Sadly, far too many of these brave men and women have lost their lives in the line of duty. Each year communities across our Nation gather to honor in recognition of these heroes and tens of thousands of law enforcement officers descend on our Nation's capital to honor the fallen.

Mr. Speaker, in commemoration of National Police Week, I rise today to thank our law enforcement officers for their service and to honor the brave men and women who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

NABISCO BAKERY

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

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the hardworking men and women at the Nabisco Bakery