

George Macomber will be missed by many, but his legacy of generosity, entrepreneurship, and extraordinary athleticism will live on for years to come. He will be sadly missed.

EVERY LIFE IS PRECIOUS

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

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I stand today in defense of innocent life. My wife Jacque and I are blessed with seven wonderful children, each with their own unique gifts that they bring to the world.

I am and always have been pro-life. I am also opposed to Federal funding of abortion.

On January 6, the House sent the Restoring Americans' Healthcare Freedom Reconciliation Act to the President's desk. This bill would have made Planned Parenthood, the largest abortion provider in the United States, ineligible for much of the Federal funding it receives, instead reallocating those funds to provide for other women's health centers.

Unfortunately, the President put politics ahead of policy and vetoed the bill. The fight is far from over.

This year on the 43rd anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, I join many Americans in mourning the death of the more than 56 million babies who have been lost. The bill passed by Congress is proof the American public is determined now more than ever to maintain the standard and principle that every life is precious and must be protected.

CALIFORNIA WATER LEGISLATION

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform that even if the El Nino rains and snows continue, the drought crisis in California is not over. The need to get California water legislation passed and signed into law in Washington and Sacramento is more urgent now than ever.

While the people I represent are hurting and over 1 million acres of some of the most productive farmland in the world goes unplanted, people in our country and around the world, sadly, go hungry. If this El Nino effect continues, there will be an opportunity to move water to arguably the driest part of California, which I represent a part of. Therefore, Congress must pass legislation that can provide short-term relief so water can be delivered to the San Joaquin Valley, because the livelihood of our farmers, farm workers, and farm communities depend on it. There still is time.

We have a broken water system in California. It is time we fix it. Failing to pass legislation to fix our broken water system is irresponsible and a disservice to all Californians, including the people who I represent.

TERRORISTS ATTEMPTING TO COMMIT GENOCIDE AGAINST CHRISTIAN BELIEVERS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the most ancient Christian communities of all are in the Middle East where faith has been handed down in unbroken succession since the Apostles. It is there that terrorists are attempting to commit genocide against Christian believers.

To an alarming extent, they are succeeding. For the first time in 16 centuries, there is no Catholic Mass offered in Mosul. Christians were once 15 percent of the population in Syria. Now, they are less than 5 percent. The percent in Egypt has been cut in half. ISIS has over 100 Christians captive, even as we speak.

Christian refugees are often afraid to stay at United Nations camps due to the threats of violence even there. As a result, there are disproportionately few Christians among those granted refugee status by the United States. Only about 3 percent of Syrian refugees admitted into the United States are Christians.

While Christians are perhaps the most threatened group of all in Syria, the United States must not allow another genocide to happen on our watch, and we must ensure that we are helping those who are most vulnerable.

SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF HAITI EARTHQUAKE

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the sixth anniversary of the devastating earthquake that struck the nation of Haiti on January 12, 2010. Today marks 6 years since the magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck some 15 miles south of Port-au-Prince, which is Haiti's population center and the seat of its government.

The aftermath of the quake was unimaginable. It is estimated that as many as 316,000 people perished and nearly 1.3 million were displaced. This tragedy struck in a nation already hobbled by grinding poverty, health disparities, and food insecurity.

Today, there remain approximately 147,000 internally displaced people in Haiti with countless others remaining displaced outside of IDP camps.

The world and the American people, though, responded to the earthquake with compassion and generosity. To date, the U.S. has contributed billions to recovery efforts, along with donors from around the world.

The Assessing Progress in Haiti Act, which I introduced in the House—it was a bipartisan effort with Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN—which President Obama signed into law 2 years ago, provides critical oversight

and reporting to ensure that aid be delivered in the most effective way possible. Unfortunately, more work needs to be done.

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PAYING RESPECTS TO NEIL RATCHFORD

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay respects to Neil Ratchford, who passed away peacefully on Sunday at the age of 87.

Mr. Ratchford was born on November 1, 1928. He grew up and lived his entire 87 years in Guyton, Georgia.

He will be remembered as the sausage man because he made hot meat sausage, a family tradition since 1898. He continued this family tradition until 1999, when he passed along the business to his son-in-law.

Throughout his life, he stayed community- and family-minded, believing that the best committee meetings were those with three members and two absent.

For over 50 years, along with his friend Lawton Nease, he spearheaded the 5th Sunday Men's Breakfast, which brings fathers and their sons together for a morning of faithful worship at the Guyton United Methodist Church.

He was a man of few words but believed you should make your words count. In the end, he joins his wife, Mary Olive, having lived a long, fruitful life raising four children and two grandsons, who now attend my alma mater, the University of Georgia.

My thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

A BANNER YEAR FOR THE LAS VEGAS VALLEY

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, 2015 was a banner year for the Las Vegas Valley. We broke records by welcoming more than 42 million visitors from around the globe to enjoy all that Las Vegas has to offer, and that is thanks to the hardworking men and women at our hotels, our restaurants, shops, casinos, and the supporting industries and agencies.

In particular, I would like to acknowledge Rossi Ralenkotter and his team at the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority. The LVCVA has made Las Vegas not just a great place to live and work and visit, but also a brand that is recognizable worldwide.

Last week I had the pleasure of hosting Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx in my district for a tour of the Consumer Electronics Show and a roundtable with local government transportation, tourism, and economic development leaders. We discussed the

intersection of transportation policy and the tourism industry, and we shared exciting new plans about how to revitalize our aging infrastructure.

With the passage of the FAST Act and provisions I helped secure to ensure travel and tourism are part of our transportation planning, we have in place a long-term bill that will help bring this vision to life.

Mr. Speaker, 2016 promises to be an even bigger and better year for Las Vegas. Come and see and enjoy it for yourself.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE THUNDERING HERD

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

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, if it seems like I stand here every year around this same time giving the same speech congratulating the same football team on winning the same national championship, it is because I do.

I am here again to congratulate the North Dakota State University Bison on making football history by winning their unprecedented fifth FCS national championship, defeating Jacksonville State of, yes, Alabama, 37-10 in Frisco, Texas, last Saturday.

Mr. Speaker, Bismarck's own Carson Wentz, our quarterback, earned MVP status for the second year in a row, an accomplishment made more remarkable by the fact that he missed the last eight games with a broken wrist on his throwing arm. His backup, freshman Easton Stick, deserves credit for leading the Thundering Herd to eight consecutive victories en route to Frisco.

Excellence is never accidental, Mr. Speaker. The coaching staff and the athletes at Bison Nation earned their place in history through hard work and exceptional preparation. These are to be admired by our Nation and aspired to by our Nation.

I look forward to standing here next year to celebrate the green and gold on winning an FCS six-pack.

Go Bison.

WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES

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

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, this week we are again taking important and long-awaited action on behalf of farmers, foresters, and anyone who owns land by sending to the President's desk a joint resolution ending the aggressive overreach by the Environmental Protection Agency into private lands.

S.J. Res. 22 is a joint resolution with the U.S. Senate to end the EPA's ridiculous waters of the United States rule seeking to expand the definition of "navigable waters" to include puddles, ditches, and other small bodies of water, making them subject to inspection.

Of course, we all want to ensure that rules are followed to keep our waters clean, but making puddles and ditches subject to inspection just to expand the reach of Federal regulators has nothing to do with clean water.

Mr. Speaker, you might recall that the House voted to put a stop to the waters of the U.S. rule last year, and the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals granted a nationwide stay on the rule. However, this joint resolution is the measure we needed to finally send this bill to the President and put the responsibility for this harmful rule on him.

I will continue to fight against this radical environmental agenda being forced on Americans by this administration through executive overreach. The Congress is right to take steps to stop it.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, recently the Harris County, Texas, Precinct 4 Constable's Office received a phone call from Alaska. The Anchorage Police Department was looking for a missing teenage girl. They knew that she had met some bad people on social media and believed she was in Houston. They were correct.

Human sex traffickers targeted her on social media because slave traders are on the prowl for young, impressionable girls at the mall and online. They act like a friend or a boyfriend until they trap the victim. Then they enslave and force these young girls to sell their bodies over and over again. Mr. Speaker, our kids are sold at the marketplace of sex slavery.

Why was this teenager trafficked from Alaska to Texas? Because of demand. People, sex deviants are willing to buy and force other humans into bondage. We cannot end human trafficking without ending demand.

As we recognize Human Trafficking Awareness Month, Americans must fight for our kids and combat this modern-day slavery. That includes sending the sellers and the buyers of kidnapped young girls to prison and rescuing the victims.

And that is just the way it is.

WELCOME TO HUNTINGTON, DR. GILBERT

(Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Dr. Jerome "Jerry" Gilbert as the 37th president of Marshall University in my hometown of Huntington, West Virginia.

Dr. Gilbert has decades of experience in higher education. He comes to Mar-

shall from Mississippi State University, where he served as provost and executive vice president for 6 years.

I have no doubt that Dr. Gilbert will carry on the legacy of the beloved late Dr. Stephen J. Kopp, whose vision for Marshall University has helped transform it into the tremendous institution that it is today. He will also build upon the work of interim president Gary White, who has faithfully guided Marshall through a difficult time in the institution's history.

I am sure Dr. Gilbert and his wife, Leigh, and his family will see the Huntington community is one that they will be proud to call home.

As the university continues to capitalize on recent successes, including the new Arthur Weisberg Family Applied Engineering Complex, I look forward to working with Dr. Gilbert during this exciting new chapter for Marshall University.

Welcome to Huntington. Welcome to Marshall University, Dr. Gilbert.

Go Herd.

WE MUST SOLVE THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROBLEM

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this is an exciting day as the President presents to us his vision for the Nation. In addition, over the weekend, Speaker RYAN indicated his vision and the opportunity for Members of Congress to pass serious legislation, which includes criminal justice reform.

How exciting it is to be the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations and to work with my colleagues Mr. GOODLATTE and Mr. CONYERS and all of my colleagues on that committee to talk about important issues.

Just today, we passed a bill dealing with mental health programs. A DOJ report found that 64 percent of those in jail, 54 percent of State prisoners, and 45 percent of Federal prisoners have some form of mental illness. Jails and prisons now house more than three times the number of mentally ill individuals than do mental health facilities and hospitals.

It is clear that part of criminal justice reform deals with mental health, but it also deals with rehabilitation and reentry, which we are discussing in the Committee on the Judiciary. In addition, we are working on reforming the juvenile justice system.

My message, Mr. Speaker, is, as the President speaks, as the Speaker has spoken, it is time now that we come collaboratively, Republicans and Democrats, and truly end mass incarceration and find a way to solve the criminal justice problem both by reducing gun violence, reducing crime, and helping the people who need the help.