

our Nation, including the first Jewish Federal judge in the United States, Judge Jacob Trieber.

B'nai Israel was a founding member of the Union for Reform Judaism and is the home for Reform Judaism in central Arkansas. The congregation has a strong link to the American civil rights movement and has embraced diversity and inclusiveness in actions and words.

In the heart of Little Rock, B'nai Israel's current temple building has been a beacon for Jewish faith and empowerment in Arkansas for over 40 years.

I would like to extend my congratulations to Congregation B'nai Israel and wish it much continued success for generations to come.

MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of National Mental Health Month, which is being observed during the month of May.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, or NAMI, approximately one in five adults in the United States, or more than 43 million people, experience mental illness in any given year. Mental illness is responsible for lost earnings of nearly \$200 billion each year.

In addition, mood disorders, including major depression and bipolar disorder, are the third most common cause of hospitalization in the United States for both youth and adults between the age of 18 and 44 years old.

National Mental Health Month was created to draw awareness to these conditions and attention to the efforts to help those who are suffering. As someone with a background in the mental health care industry, including 28 years as a therapist, a rehabilitation services manager, and a licensed nursing home administrator, this is something that is very important to me.

I signed on as a cosponsor to the resolution declaring May as Mental Health Month and remain committed to helping improve, through legislation here in Congress, the mental health of people all across this Nation.

REMEMBERING BEN HATFIELD

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

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart and with profound sadness to remember West Virginian Ben Hatfield, who we tragically lost last Sunday.

Born and raised in Williamson, Ben knew the value of hard work. He went into the mines to help pay for college

and then continued his work in mining for the rest of his life. He was a mentor to so many in the coal community who remember him as a friend and as a brother.

Ben cared deeply about giving back, donating anonymously to many charities and causes. He was also a man of deep faith, attending River Ridge Church and supporting the Ambassador Christian Academy in Williamson.

Ben lived for his family. For more than 12 years, he stood by his wife Debbie as she battled cancer. You might say he never left her side and was with her to the very end, where she lay waiting for him.

I send my prayers to his children, his mother, his brothers and sisters, and everyone who called him a friend. Ben will be laid to rest this weekend. We will miss him. May he rest in peace.

INDIANAPOLIS 500

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

Mr. ROKITA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a uniquely Hoosier event that will be taking place this weekend in honor of those who have given the ultimate sacrifice.

Every Memorial Day weekend since 1911, with the exception of a few years around World War II, hundreds of thousands of race fans have come to Speedway, Indiana, and millions more have tuned in on their TVs and radios to partake in what has been called the greatest spectacle in racing, the Indianapolis 500.

This year marks the 100th running of the 500-mile race and gives another chance for Indiana to showcase our Hoosier hospitality to the world and all that our State has to offer.

Though it is true every weekend when I head back to my beloved Indiana, this weekend it will be especially wonderful, Madam Speaker, to be back home again in Indiana.

TAKE AN EXAMPLE FROM DISNEY

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

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I rise today, disgusted that the Secretary of the VA this week compared veterans waiting in line for much-needed health care to waiting in line at Disney. People don't die waiting in line for Space Mountain.

The Secretary said: We care about the overall experience, like Disney does, not the specifics. Well, guess what. Disney cares about wait time. In fact, there is an app for that. I can get on my phone right now and tell you it takes 90 minutes to get on Space Mountain in Florida.

The VA needs to take an example from Disney. They are legendary for their customer service, cleanliness, ef-

ficiency, and the fact that they never say no to anyone.

Our VA right now is a national disgrace. Despite Congress passing numerous reform laws giving the VA virtually everything they ask for, including billions of dollars in appropriations, our veterans are still waiting for the health care they earned.

Madam Speaker, it is absolutely imperative that the VA learn from Disney. We have to get the President and the Secretary of the VA to deal with this national disgrace. Americans, our veterans especially, deserve better.

MEMORIAL DAY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, we recognize Memorial Day, this last Monday of May. We remember those who have given their lives in service to our Nation's Armed Forces.

Recognition of this sacrifice began following the bloodiest conflict in our Nation's history, the Civil War, and today remains as significant as ever.

From the Revolutionary War to Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, from Vietnam to today's struggle against the tyranny of ISIS, Americans have dedicated their lives to protecting freedom at home and abroad.

As we contemplate this weekend as a holiday, we also need to remember what this really looks like for those that we are truly remembering.

This morning a group of us were able to visit Arlington Cemetery and take that in and remember that sacrifice as we laid a wreath. It was a unique opportunity to visit with spouses of those who have fallen and see what it really feels like.

They were grateful not just for our visit, but also that people across America take time to pause and remember and be grateful for their service and say thank you to those Gold Star families whom we will never be able to repay.

Madam Speaker, we ask for God's blessings on those families.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 26, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 26, 2016 at 8:52 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to S.J. Res. 28.
With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF PERMANENT SELECT COM- MITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Speaker laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 26, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER RYAN: I, Luis V. Gutiérrez, am submitting my resignation from the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence effective immediately.

It has been a privilege and honor to have served the last three Congresses on this Committee, whose work and service is absolutely vital to the security of the United States and whose oversight over the Department of Defense and the intelligence community safeguards the civil liberties and safety of all Americans.

Stepping down from the Committee will allow me to commit more time and energy to other priority issues of my constituents, as well as allow another one of our colleagues the opportunity to serve on this important Committee. Serving on the Intelligence Committee has been one of my greatest honors while in Congress and I am deeply grateful to have had the chance to serve in this capacity.

Sincerely,

LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. RUSSELL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. RUSSELL. Madam Speaker, since December 15, 1791, nearly 225 years, our Congress has operated under the constitutional requirement to do the following. Amendment 1 of the Bill of Rights to the Constitution of the United States of America:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

I am saddened, Madam Speaker, that, in our current day, the greatest assault on the free exercise of religion is being perpetuated, seemingly, by those most responsible to protect it: those who are sworn to uphold the law.

Worse still, we see our Armed Forces, whose singular purpose is to support and defend the Constitution, now perpetually being used as the vehicle to subvert the very document that they risked their lives to defend.

In a recent example, we have seen executive guidance with regard to religious corporations, religious associations, religious educational institutions, and religious societies placed in jeopardy.

More than 2,000 Federal Government contracts a year are awarded to religious organizations and contractors that provide essential services in many vital programs. Now many of these services are being impacted due to conflicting, ambiguous executive guidance.

Here are some examples:

Chaplain services. Multiple organizations provide chaplains and related services to the military and other government agencies.

□ 1200

Chaplains have faced significant religious liberty challenges in pursuing contracts with religious education directories, youth ministers, musicians, and other religious service providers who adhere to the teachings of their particular faith. Without protecting free exercise of religion, chaplains have been forced to hire people that work directly against their teachings, tenets, and faith. This is a clear violation of the First Amendment.

Here is another example: refugee service providers. The vast majority of refugee and suffering vulnerable population relief is done by religious service organizations. I have worked with many on battlefields in my time as a career soldier.

Because of bad agency guidance, now these organizations are facing mounting liability related to their performance under grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements. Sadly, when these organizations cannot partner with the government, the relief of human suffering just goes away, seldom being replaced.

The groups under assault are often the best—if not the only—organizations able to offer the assistance they perform, doing invaluable work to relieve the suffering, aid the returning combat warrior, assist in the rehabilitation of substance abuse for those not adjusting well, and many other such services that have been going on for many decades.

To curtail the blatant discrimination against these groups, I offered a simple amendment to protect them under existing law which passed in the National Defense Authorization, and that existing law upheld is the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act.

You would have thought I had killed someone's mother. Instead of upholding the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment, we have now seen this body continue its assault on faith in America. It is not enough to level accusations of injustice by some. They will not be satisfied until their assaults of intolerance on people of faith in this country has produced an elimination of God in public life in America.

We are accused of hatred, called out as shameful on this floor, and enjoined to use the whole Constitution to support an opposing view that embodies behavior, mores, and outcomes that not only violate our conscience, but have been prohibited under the laws of nature and nature's God.

In the last 50 years, we have seen the Constitution used by these ideologues to kill American children in the womb, eliminate family structure, elevate behavior over belief, redefine marriage, and assault into silence and inaction any who may oppose them. Not satisfied, we see them without rest on their quest to eliminate free exercise of faith in the United States.

Do we really want a Nation without God?

They would call it progress, yet our conscience knows differently. The Apostle Paul explains why when he said this:

For the wrath of God is revealed from Heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world, His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools.

Therefore, God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature, rather than the Creator.

The Creator, our Nation has always been anchored in the Creator, from its inception throughout our history. God has been the foundation of our Republic as seen in the sweeping lines of the Declaration of Independence, when it drove our Founders to proclaim "the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation."

"We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness."

That life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness could not be realized without God in our Republic. George Washington spoke for all Americans in his first inaugural address, that "No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the Invisible Hand which conducts the affairs of men more than . . . the United States."

Our Nation's survival and prosperity in the future were understood to be dependent upon faith. When Washington left office in the most remarkable, peaceful transfer of power the world had seen, he warned of a future that somehow supposed that we could have order and prosperity without faith. In his last address to the Nation, he declared:

Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to the political prosperity, religion and