

security missions until the end of World War II and was honorably discharged in 1946.

After his time in the Army Air Corps, Mr. McCarrick continued down the path of public service, working for the Rochester Community Schools for 31 years.

Mr. McCarrick is an American hero—a patriot, a father, and a proud member of the Lake Orion community. He was recently honored by Chief Jerry Narsh and the Lake Orion Police Department as the 2016 Lake Orion Honored Veteran.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have such an outstanding American hero in my district.

Thank you, Mr. McCarrick, for your service to our country and your commitment to our community.

RECOGNIZING CLARESSA SHIELDS

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a remarkable young woman from Flint, my hometown. Her name is Claressa Shields. Her accomplishments as an athlete and as an Olympian and continued commitment to our State and to our community really make us proud.

Introduced to boxing at a young age, Claressa has built an impressive career that boasts two consecutive gold medals from the 2012 Olympics in London and the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

That feat makes her the first American, male or female, to win back-to-back gold medals in boxing. She also made history in 2012 at the Olympics in London when she became the first American woman ever to win gold in boxing.

Through her victories, Claressa has inspired the dreams of young people in Michigan and across the country. She is an extraordinary young woman who credits her success to hard work and to her faith.

Claressa Shields represents the resilience of the American Dream and the strong, proud spirit of our mutual hometown of Flint. I applaud her for her dedication to her sport, and thank her for her dedication to our hometown. The good news is Claressa Shields is just getting started.

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA'S LUNAR AND PLANETARY LAB

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

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, it is launch day. I rise today to recognize the dedicated men and women at the University of Arizona's Lunar and Planetary Lab, who are leading NASA's historic OSIRIS-REx space mission.

Launching from Cape Canaveral, Florida, tonight, the OSIRIS-REx spacecraft will embark on a 7-year journey to the Bennu asteroid, where it will collect samples before returning to Earth. If successful, the mission will mark the first time a spacecraft has gathered samples from a moving asteroid.

The University of Arizona's leadership of the OSIRIS-REx mission adds to its already impressive reputation in planetary sciences.

I would like to extend my best wishes to all of the scientists at UA and elsewhere working on this project for a successful launch and mission.

□ 1630

JEFF AND DERALYN'S 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Jeff and Deralyn Davis of Fort Worth, who celebrated 60 years of marriage on August 25 of this year.

Jeff met his beloved Deralyn and began a courtship that led them to the sacred union of marriage on August 25, 1956, in Corsicana, Texas. For 55 years of their union, they have been residents of the city of Fort Worth. Throughout the years, Jeff and Deralyn have been very, very active in the community.

Jeff is a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and has served as the assistant superintendent of the Everman Independent School District. Jeff's influence in education was such that he was commemorated by having a school named after him—the Jefferson Davis 9th Grade Center.

Deralyn was a graduate of Jackson High School in Corsicana and was a graduate of Huston-Tillotson University in Austin. She is also active in AKA, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, the Fort Worth chapter. Deralyn was also very instrumental in the creation of the Texas Coalition of Black Democrats during its heyday.

The Davises have two children—daughter Jefflyn Davis and their son, Jock Kevin Davis, who passed away in 2005—and three grandchildren.

I congratulate Jeff and Deralyn on 60 years of marriage.

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT KERSTIENS, SR.

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate a man who, I think, is bigger than life. He is a longtime resident of Red Bluff, California. He is a cattleman. His name is Robert Kerstiens, Sr. He just passed recently here at the age of 92.

Mr. Kerstiens was a World War II veteran and was also a ranger with CAL

FIRE in California. He was a well-respected and revered figure in the community, known for his selfless service, caring personality, and strong leadership.

Straight out of high school, Bob joined the Army and was immediately sent off to training. When recalling his time in serving the country, we learned he was involved in the Battle of the Bulge and in the Battle of Remagen, which earned him a Bronze Star as well as a Presidential Unit Citation for his group. These are places I have read about in history and that movies have been made about. Bob Kerstiens has lived that, and he was an integral part of helping win those battles—very important ones for us in winning the war in Europe.

Following his return from the war, Kerstiens continued his path of service in a new role—as a firefighter foreman for CAL FIRE, where he worked his way up the ranks to the department's ranger in charge, after which he was appointed to the State Board of Forestry. His service and contributions to our community and State left a lasting impact that shaped many of the policies that keep our forests safe and healthy.

In the community, his involvement never went unnoticed. An eight-time board president on the Tehama District Fair Board, a shareholder in the Red Bluff Round-Up Association, and a beloved judge of the Wild Horse Race Rodeo, his involvement never went unnoticed. He was a true cattleman, a true gentleman, a great man from Tehama County in northern California. He will be missed.

PASS THE FAMILIES OF FLINT ACT

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, the ongoing crisis in Flint, Michigan, is a clear reminder that this Congress has unfinished work to do.

Our constituents will rightly judge our job performance by our work, not by our finger-pointing, not by empty expressions of concern. We need to get to work, and we need to work together to provide clean water for the people of Flint; but we can't stop there because Flint is not an isolated incident. We have seen dangerous lead levels in schools that are outside of Fresno, California, and that are even in our own Capitol buildings here in Washington, D.C.

What has happened in Flint is a symptom of a much greater ill of underinvestment in our Nation's clean water infrastructure. A generation ago, it was a Republican President and a Californian, Ronald Reagan, who signed significant updates to the Safe Drinking Water Act in 1986. He knew then that clean water infrastructure was not a partisan issue. Thirty years

later, it is our turn. The bipartisan case for investing in clean water infrastructure has never been stronger.

Every single American deserves access to clean and safe drinking water. So let's get to work. Let's pass the Families of Flint Act, and let's work on a national clean water infrastructure plan to prevent another disaster like this from happening in the future.

THE ZIKA VIRUS AND GUN SAFETY

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to echo the pleas of the American people, especially those in my own home district of the United States Virgin Islands, in calling for this Congress to pass a Zika funding bill and to pass commonsense gun safety legislation.

It has been more than 6 months since the President submitted a plan to this Congress and almost 3 months since House Democrats took to the floor to call for a vote on commonsense gun safety legislation. Instead of passing these bills, Congress has decided to focus its attention on politically charged investigations into investigations. While this Congress was in its longest recess in 60 years, the number of overall confirmed Zika cases and the number of Americans killed and wounded by gun violence continued to grow.

There have been 4,500 lives lost to gun violence in the time that we have been out in recess. This number, sadly, includes the lives of almost a dozen young men and women in the Virgin Islands, including the lives of two police officers and a firefighter. Additionally, there are now more than 11,000 confirmed cases of Zika in the United States, 243 of those confirmed cases being in the U.S. Virgin Islands, and 14 of those are pregnant women.

The lifetime cost of treating a child with microcephaly is estimated to be more than \$10 million for that child—a cost that will only exacerbate the financial woes of this country's and the territories' public health apparatus. The lack of funding for these public health activities will put hundreds of thousands of pregnant women at risk.

Mr. Speaker, I call on this Congress to act quickly and fully fund the President's emergency request to fight the Zika virus as well as to pass lifesaving, commonsense gun safety legislation.

THE ZIKA VIRUS: A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, you have heard the cries of our colleagues. You have heard the cries of the American people. Redundancy is not a question here. It is telling the

truth. In fact, our health professionals have indicated that the Zika virus presents an unprecedented threat to the people of our Nation, especially to pregnant women. We cannot hear this often enough, and although busy with the beginning of the school year and with going back to work, it is important to warn the American people of this impending and ongoing threat.

While we are fiddling and doing things that have no impact on providing a portion of the \$1.9 billion that is needed by the American people, we have 1,600 cases of Zika virus in the United States—200 plus women who are pregnant and 35 known transmitted diseases here in the United States of the Zika virus. We also now know, through health professionals, that it is sexually transmitted. We know that the entire United States is vulnerable, but most of the vulnerable States are in the Gulf region.

It is time now to address the question of funding without riders, like preventing Planned Parenthood from getting funding, and without riders for allowing the Confederate flag to be in a veterans' cemetery.

Where is our concern about the American people—for the people in Louisiana with a lot of water? for the people in Texas with a lot of water? in Florida? in Puerto Rico?

It is important that this funding comes now to rapidly expand mosquito control programs and to accelerate a vaccine. That is really important—to be able to provide the American people with a vaccine. They are in the midst of the research. They need the funding. The CDC and the NIH have reprogrammed more money than they have to try to help those who are desperate.

I make the argument that it is time now for us to do the job. The other body needs to engage in providing a bill, and this body, this House, needs to stop playing those kinds of politics and provide the funding—the funding that does not take from Ebola but the funding that the American people need to be safe.

Mr. Speaker, we are currently in a state of a public health crisis as a result of the growing rate of Zika infections across the country.

Sadly, we are failing as our nation's leaders in our ability to respond to this crisis.

As days and month go by it is alarming and the level of action and inaction my colleagues are taking to hamper the ability of our federal government to respond to this rapidly growing public threat.

In particular, I am concerned that we—as a body of Congress—have not taken the critical steps to move forward and appropriate necessary funding that will help screen, treat, vaccinate and test deadly cases of Zika infections.

According to the Coalition for Sensible Safeguards, Congress should be looking for ways to strengthen our nation's regulatory system by identifying gaps and instituting new science-based safeguards for the public.

I cannot agree more—as we are now in perilous times where the Zika virus presents unprecedented threats to the people of our nation.

As cited by Tom Frieden, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health in an op-ed, dated August 21, 2016:

There have been more than 16,800 cases of Zika infection reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the U.S. and its territories, including more than 2,700 on the mainland.

Laboratory tests have confirmed that 1,595 pregnant women have been infected with the virus, and tragically, 17 babies have been born with birth defects related to Zika.

As highlighted by Frieden and Fauci—"We have an obligation to meet the Zika threat and protect this country"—as "the potential cost of a funding shortfall will be measured in human misery and even death."

Now is not the time to pass measures or engage in futile debates that will undermine or slow the ability of our federal and local governments to address and respond to this growing threat and active cases of Zika infections.

Rather, we need to invest in stopping this deadly, but preventable virus, before it is too late.

We cannot afford to stand by with our hands tied any longer.

Our limited time as the days in September wain down cannot be wasted.

We should be focused on the crucial mission of protecting our nation's people.

That is why, in these critical times of need, I am calling upon my colleagues to place the growing epidemic of the Zika virus at the top of our priorities and demand no less than fully financed measures to timely and adequately respond to this devastating and deadly public health emergency.

[From Time, Sept. 7, 2016]

HOW TO FIGHT ZIKA AND CURE NATION'S AILING PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM—ENACT A LAW TO RESPOND QUICKLY TO THREATS

(By Sheila Jackson Lee)

There is an excellent model that demonstrates how the U.S. should reform the current reactive model of public health emergency management—it is the solution found to address disasters established by the Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. Under the Stafford Act, enacted in 1974 and later updated in 1988, authorizes the President of the United States, when disaster strikes, to deploy the coordinated efforts and resources of the federal government to save lives and property, and restore communities hit hard by a calamity. The federal government provides warnings of hurricanes and floods, and in cases of wildfires dispatches resources to extinguish flames before they threaten people and property.

The knowledge of public health experts, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, policy makers, health-care professionals and patient advocacy organizations should be brought together with the relevant committees in the House and Senate to develop measurable criteria to create baselines for defining, responding and mitigating public health threats to effectively and immediately without the delay engendered by the need for Congress to pass an emergency supplemental appropriations.

The U.S. must be capable of responding quickly to emerging threats that are identified anywhere in the world. The Ebola and Zika viruses for examples existed in other