

One of the most memorable encounters I had was in China itself, in 1994. I had the awesome privilege of a private meeting with Bishop Su Zhimin. Bishop Su was the leader of the underground Catholic Church in Hebei province.

We met at dawn, for an outdoor Mass with many other believers. As we spoke and then prayed, the Bishop prayed for his persecutors, he prayed for the misguided leaders of the Chinese Communist Party. Bishop Su's body bore witness to the brutality of China's Communist Party. He was beaten, starved, and tortured for this faith and spent some 40 years in prison. Yet, he prayed not just for the persecuted church, but for the conversion of those who hate, torture and kill. His witness and his faith absolutely amazed me. Love those who hate you as Christ did from the cross? Do good to those who persecute you? For Bishop Su these were more than words, it was his faithful and faith filled response to one of our Lord's most difficult teaching. Unfortunately, only couple years later Bishop Su was arrested again and disappeared. He has not been heard from since.

Over and over in the lives of these heroic witnesses, we see that the effort to stand up for the truth against the communists cost them a great deal. Sometimes it cost them everything but their lives—and almost that too.

To follow in their footsteps, to remember the truth of what communism really was and did, will cost us something too. We will have to remember that what was at stake with communism was not a question of competing economic systems or system of social organization, but the question of God—the human being deprived of any divine connection. This will require us to swim upstream, against the dominant mentality. We will have to think, and at times to speak and act, differently. And this will not always be welcome.

We owe a profound debt of gratitude to the foundation and its supporters, who have done so much to honor the memory of the victims of communism.

IN RECOGNITION OF WALLY NUNN

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2017

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Mr. Wally Nunn of Newtown Square, Pennsylvania, for his honorable service in the U.S. Army, his continued service to his community, and his work to honor fallen soldiers.

Mr. Nunn served as an Army door gunner in the Vietnam War, attached to the 17th Assault Helicopter Company with both the First and Third Platoons.

After serving eight years in the service, Mr. Nunn returned to Pennsylvania to pursue a successful career in the private sector. But Mr. Nunn also wanted to continue serving the public. He became Chairman of the Board of the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge. In 1964, ground at Valley Forge was dedicated to Medal of Honor recipients. Over the years this grove was ignored and became dilapidated. Mr. Nunn took the initiative to create and lead the nonprofit, "The Friends of the Grove," who restored this land and care for it today. Thanks to Mr. Nunn's efforts, 3,500

Medal of Honor recipients are recognized again for their courageous acts in support of our nation.

Mr. Nunn continued his service to his community, serving as a member of Delaware County Council and eventually becoming its Chairman.

I thank Mr. Wally Nunn for his dedication to our nation and community. He has shown a selfless devotion to helping others and honoring our nation's heroes. His invaluable impression he made on his community to restore Medal of Honor Grove will be felt for decades.

REPUBLICAN TAX PLAN

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2017

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON. Mr. Speaker, both House and Senate Republicans have introduced separate plans to update the U.S. federal tax code. Proponents have long argued that the federal tax code is overdue for an overhaul that will incentivize businesses to create jobs, while opponents feel that the existing proposals do not go far enough for middle- and lower-income families.

It has been 31 years since Congress passed its last major tax reform overhaul known as the 1986 Tax Reform Act, signed into law by President Reagan. Since that time, the tax code has continued to grow more intricate in response to the complexities that accompany globalization and the unique challenges that we face in a 21st Century economy. While I agree that a modern tax code is desperately needed to help shore up funding for critical infrastructure projects, scientific research, and education, the Republican tax plan falls short of helping to address these dire needs.

The current plan introduced in the House will expose an estimated 38 million middle class households to increased taxes, while simultaneously reducing the tax liability for some of our wealthiest corporations. The bill proposes disastrous cuts to Medicare & Medicaid, which many seniors and underprivileged Americans rely on for medical care. The plan also eliminates many tax deductions that are favorable to middle class Americans, such as the medical expense deduction, student loan interest deductions, and the state and local Tax deduction. Despite all of these reductions, the House Republican plan will cost the American people \$1.7 trillion dollars over the next 10 years in order to pay for tax cuts for corporations and wealthy Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that many of my colleagues will agree that we are due for a major reform of our tax code. However, we must be extremely careful not to do so at the expense of millions of middle and lower class Americans who are already struggling to get by. An increasingly globalized economy means that we will need to delicately balance our national interests against our ability to compete overseas. However, the current tax reform plans in the House and Senate must do more to protect American workers, their families, and the critical social programs on which they depend.

VETERANS CRISIS LINE STUDY ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4173, the Veterans Crisis Line Study Act of 2017. This legislation would create a five year study in the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) on the Veteran Crisis Line.

A troubling 2016 study published by the VA reported that in 2014, 20 veterans died by suicide each day. These numbers are heartbreaking and unacceptable, and we must do more to support veterans' access to mental health services.

Launched in 2007, the Veterans Crisis Line is a subsection of the suicide prevention life-line, and is a resource created to connect veterans with professionals trained to address their specific needs and prevent suicide. Men and women who have served and their families can reach out for help on this toll free hotline, online chat, or text. H.R. 4173 aims to study the efficacy and outcomes of this resource, pinpointing how the hotline is helping our veterans, and how we can improve it to better address the troubling suicide rates among our nation's heroes.

Veterans are owed the best care and utmost respect when they return from duty and I am deeply troubled by their increased likelihood of suicide. H.R. 4173 will help build our arsenal to combat mental illness and develop resources for the men and women who have selflessly served our nation. I support H.R. 4173 and I urge my fellow members to lend their support as well.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF FOUNTAIN BROTHERS AMERICAN LEGION POST 1619

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2017

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize dedicated individuals of the Fountain Brothers American Legion Post 1619 who are working to reduce the prevalence of hepatitis C among Vietnam Era veterans.

Vietnam Era veterans are at a significantly higher risk for hepatitis C infection than the general population due to dangerous health practices applied to service members before the virus was discovered. Consequently, many veterans continue to die as a result of complications from hepatitis C.

Due to scientific breakthroughs, hepatitis C is now easily diagnosed and largely curable. To ensure that all Vietnam Era veterans receive proper testing and follow up care, the Fountain Brothers American Legion Post 1619 in my district has been holding regular outreach testing events with the local VA. Post 1619 has tested over 1,200 veterans in the past year, providing the first step for diagnosis and potential life-saving treatment.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I want today to recognize the work that the members of

Post 1619 have accomplished and thank them for their dedication to our veterans. Those who serve deserve the respect of a grateful nation, and the hard work of Post 1619 represents an important step in the right direction.

IN RECOGNITION OF JAMES HARRELL, JR.

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2017

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Mr. James Harrell, Jr. of Delaware County, Pennsylvania, for his service in the United States Navy and his continued service at home with the Veterans of Foreign War post in Norwood, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Harrell served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. Upon returning home, he committed to selflessly serve his community and fellow veterans. He joined VFW Post 7213 of Norwood and eventually became Commander of the Post after holding several leadership positions with the organization.

In 2011, Mr. Harrell helped create the Interboro School District Memorial Day Contest to better connect students and veterans. Additionally, he helped implement the annual Flag-In Ceremony, where students place flags on the graves of over 5,000 veterans at Holy Cross Cemetery in our district. Mr. Harrell continues to dedicate his life to the service of our nation and even manages to help young people recognize the sacrifice that so many Americans have made for our country.

I commend Mr. James Harrell, Jr. for his honorable service to our country and I thank him for his continued effort to bring together his community to honor our country's veterans.

SECURING ELECTRONIC RECORDS FOR VETERANS' EASE ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 3634, the Securing Electronic Records for Veterans' Ease (SERVE) Act of 2017. This is an important piece of legislation and I am proud to support it.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill is an educational benefit program for veterans who have courageously served our country since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Through this bill, tuition and fee payments, as well as a monthly housing allowance, are paid to schools on behalf of veterans based on the length of their period of active duty. H.R. 3634 directs the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide these veterans with verification of the amount of their monthly housing stipend. This verification would also be available online in the same way that the VA provides information about other benefits it offers.

This bill is the simplest way to clarify a living expense for those who have sacrificed for their country. Since 2009, this program has

provided benefits to over 773,000 veterans and their family members, providing over \$20 billion in benefits. As a representative from Georgia, a state that hosts a number of military bases, supporting this bill is the least I can do to make life easier for veterans and their family members who are transitioning to life after active duty.

TRIBUTE TO DR. TAKASHI KITAMURA

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2017

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dr. Takashi Kitamura, assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Texas Southwestern. On November 12, 2017, Dr. Kitamura received the Peter and Patricia Gruber International Research Award, from the Society for Neuroscience. Supported by The Gruber Foundation, the award recognizes young neuroscientists for outstanding research and educational pursuit in an international setting.

Dr. Kitamura has made three major contributions in his career to date. First, he demonstrated that there are two types of excitatory neurons in layer II of the entorhinal cortex, "island cells" and "ocean cells," both of which he named, and that pyramidal island neurons cluster in a series of bulblike structures while stellate ocean cells surround the structures. Second, in collaboration with another graduate student, he determined the function of each cell type, revealing island cells to control timing and navigation and ocean cells to encode static location. Third, he identified engrams and circuits crucial for systems consolidation of memory, which leads to the formation of long-term memories in the neocortex.

Dr. Takashi Kitamura earned his doctorate in biology at Kyushu University in Japan. His thesis, "Molecular Mechanisms of Adult Hippocampal Neurogenesis," sought to identify the role of entorhinal hippocampal neuronal circuits in the formation of episodic memory and revealed important insight that formed the basis for his postdoctoral research at the Mitsubishi-Kagaku Institute as well as further research at the Picower Institute for Learning and Memory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Dr. Kitamura's work is significant because it contributes significantly to the federally-funded research investment in my congressional district.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Dr. Kitamura. With distinguished academicians work like Dr. Kitamura, we will have better understanding of cognitive impairments and Alzheimer's disease.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2017

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, my vote was not recorded because I was traveling with the

Secretary of the Navy. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 622.

IN RECOGNITION OF FREDERICK M. LYNCH

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2017

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Mr. Frederick M. Lynch of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania for his military service in the U.S. Air Force, and continued service in his community, particularly his efforts to improve his community's relationship with their law enforcement.

While in the Air Force, Mr. Lynch served in the Honor Guard and as a Security Specialist. Following his service he returned home to North Wales, Pennsylvania with a commitment to continue serving the public.

After his decision to dedicate his life to public service, Mr. Lynch enrolled in and graduated from Upper Gwynedd Township's Police Academy. After entering the force, Mr. Lynch realized he had found his calling. He particularly enjoyed his work to help bring closer his community and their law enforcement.

This effort took many forms. He became a leader at the Upper Gwynedd Junior Police Academy where he trained young officers for twenty-one years. He also taught the Drug Abuse Resistance Education, or DARE, program in local schools, expanding the program's positive impact on youth throughout Southeastern Pennsylvania. Today, Mr. Lynch continues to be active in the Police Academy, as well as the area's Boy Scouts troop, where he serves as a mentor to young scouts so they may contribute to their community just as he has throughout his career and beyond.

I thank Frederick M. Lynch for his service to the United States. Through his time in the military, to his many contributions in his local community, his commitment to be a positive influence for others has been unwavering and invaluable.

VETERANS APPRENTICESHIP AND LABOR OPPORTUNITY REFORM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 3949, the Veterans Apprenticeship and Labor Opportunity Reform (VALOR) Act. H.R. 3949 aims to increase access to apprenticeship training programs for veterans.

Currently, apprenticeship programs are registered state-by-state, creating a cumbersome paper trail and bureaucratic barriers to opening new programs. This legislation aims to streamline this registration process to ensure that veterans have access to as many apprenticeship training programs as possible.

It is crucial that returning veterans have the skills to join the workforce, and apprenticeship programs are a great way to ensure that these