

foundations of European security and recklessly endangering the lives of millions.

One such victim of Russian aggression is Joseph Stone, the 36-year-old American medic who was killed by a landmine while on patrol in separatist-controlled eastern Ukraine with the OSCE's Special Monitoring Mission on April 23rd. If it weren't for Russia's unjustifiable aggression toward Ukraine's sovereignty there would be no need for such a monitoring mission. And yet, day after day, OSCE monitors put themselves in harm's way to try to reduce the tensions created by the reckless conduct of Russia and its proxies in eastern Ukraine. It is a conflict that has already claimed over ten thousand lives, and sadly is sure to claim more.

Russian aggression is not a localized phenomenon—it threatens the entire region. Moscow has seized sovereign territory by force, threatened to use tactical nuclear weapons against other countries, harassed U.S. and NATO military assets, and abandoned key transparency measures and commitments. These actions are unacceptable.

In the face of such provocations, the United States must leave no doubt that we stand behind our Eastern European and Baltic Allies. There is no time to waste: we must ensure the confidence of our friends at this critical juncture.

One way to do this is to continue building a credible conventional deterrent to Russian aggression alongside our allies, in particular Poland and the Baltic States. I have consistently supported robust funding for the European Reassurance Initiative. With the support of this initiative, since 2014, NATO members have held over 1,000 military exercises in Europe. ERI has allowed the U.S. to participate more extensively in such exercises and increase its deployment of soldiers and military assets in allied countries. Furthermore, it has helped us to build the capacity of our partners and generally make our commitment to European security felt. These kinds of activities must be sustained and expanded to ensure that we are ready to counter any threat at any time.

Mr. Speaker, the United States must act, bilaterally and within NATO, to robustly deter, defend against, and roll back Russian aggression in the OSCE region. This includes ensuring that Ukraine has the defensive weapons it needs to more effectively repel Russian occupying forces and respond to Russian-backed proxies. As Ukraine President Petro Poroshenko told a joint session of Congress several years ago, "One cannot win the war with blankets." That is at true today as it was then.

If Russia's invasion, occupation, and fracturing of Ukraine stands, then Russia will be emboldened to do likewise in other neighboring countries. It is in the interests of the United States to help ensure that the Russian Federation does not become the new Soviet Union, invading, occupying and annexing its neighbors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL'S WORK TO PROTECT CITIZENS' INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2017*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Human Rights Council for their advocacy and efforts. The AHRC has been a steadfast champion in ensuring that all Americans, regardless of background, are able to exercise their civil liberties.

Founded in 2014, the AHRC brings together community leaders and civil rights activists to promote and defend human rights defined in the United States' Constitution and by the United Nations' Declaration of Human Rights. Initially focused on protecting and preserving the rights of prisoners, the AHRC has expanded its advocacy efforts to address pressing humanitarian issues in the United States and abroad. In addition to its work on prisoners' rights, the organization has also strongly pushed for a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Yemen and relief for the humanitarian issues facing the country's citizens, as well as opposed the Syrian government's attacks on innocent civilians during the Syrian civil war. The AHRC also recognizes outstanding individuals who work to further the group's mission during its annual Spirit of Humanity Gala event.

The AHRC has played a critical role in protecting and advancing human rights both in the community and around the world. By working with state and local partners, the AHRC has been able to draw attention to human rights issues by hosting public forums and educational awareness events. In the past year, AHRC has investigated dozens of inmate inquiries relating to issues in prison facilities and participated in multiple community forums, including discussions about community policing initiatives and an annual Capitol Day visit to Lansing in order to highlight the organization's mission and its concerns with elected officials. These efforts have helped raise awareness while driving action to further the AHRC's mission of promoting human rights.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the American Human Rights Council for its work to protect and preserve Americans' civil liberties. The AHRC's work has helped safeguard our nation's fundamental rights.

RECOGNIZING M. SMITH COFFMAN FOR HER INSPIRATIONAL POEM, *GHOSTS OF THE PAST*

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2017*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize M. Smith Coffman for her powerful poem and kind words of inspiration to many. While the poem is meant to move and inspire our service members and veterans in times of need, I believe everyone should experience it. I intend for everyone to procure

some good fortune and hope from her message.

**GHOSTS OF THE PAST**

The fog shrouded, silent vale,  
comes to life before my trail.  
Ghosts of the past, ride in the predawn mist,  
in their stirring I am by angels kissed.

Here, the plan of war was born,  
and there, soldiers' lives were torn.  
Brave warriors on snorting, restless steeds,  
our heroes against men of evil deeds.

See Lexington and Concord's men of pride.  
Rebs and Yanks who at Chickamauga died.  
See the tired, straggling wagon train,  
faces parched by sun, in battle's strain.

Indians silently move their camps,  
past sod houses lit by dim oil lamps.  
I see the brave men from the Alamo,  
as on, and on, and on they go.

Oh, ancient rocks, you saw it all,  
you saw where gallant man did fall.  
You echoed the shot, felt the glance of spear,  
the price for freedom, we hold dear.  
Our troops who fell on foreign soils,  
they the victors, won the spoils.

There were those from the sky  
and from the sea,

They gave of themselves to keep us free.  
Their souls, at last, are at home,  
no more foreign lands to roam.

All are soothed in the mist,  
as o'er their separate paths they twist.  
Their laughter softly echoes from the rills,  
and across the windswept, rugged hills.  
Mingling, they have enemies no more,  
here at home or foreign shore.

In cadence, I heard them say,  
"Let not our sons go this way.  
Alas the new born cries at birth,  
but men must know of joy on earth.  
Oh, that we could right the wrong,  
Oh, that we could leave but song."

Oh Lord, many of our brave, gallant men of  
pride,  
put their lives upon the line, fought and  
died.

Men with bodies and emotions torn,  
this great loss we all should mourn.  
I stand and salute you, one and all.  
You went through hell, for country's call.

Dear Lord, I pray their pain relieve,  
give them strength and hope, and ease.  
They should receive the best of care,  
FOR 'TIS BY THEM WE BREATHE FREE  
AIR.

For freedom's cause they did not bend,  
they pledged their allegiance to the flag  
until the end.

"Children, Listen," the midst does sing.  
"We know not what this day or the years  
will bring.

Stand brave and strong for liberty's call.  
Your country needs you one and all.  
Give thanks for all that was and is.  
and for the heroes who lived, and live.  
Give thanks for freedom that was not lost.  
Give thanks to those who paid the cost."

The mist soon melted into the morning sun.  
THEY ARE OUR HEART'S BLOOD  
THEY ARE NOT GONE.

These brave men and women did not live or  
die in vain.

Our flag unfurled we will sustain.

IN GOD WE TRUST

AMEN

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing M. Smith Coffman for her encouraging words.

IN RECOGNITION OF PETTY OFFICER MICHAEL JOHN CRUTCHFIELD

**HON. DAVID A. TROTT**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2017

Mr. TROTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise, today, to highlight the distinguished career of one of my constituents, Petty Officer Michael John Crutchfield.

On April 27, 1970, when others were awaiting their draft notices, 20-year-old Petty Officer Crutchfield took it upon himself to enlist in the United States Coast Guard and serve his country.

A true patriot, in February 1972, Petty Officer Crutchfield, once again, decided to volunteer for our country, this time in Vietnam. Despite landing unarmed with a dozen of his colleagues, Michael fulfilled his mission and returned to Barbers Point, Hawaii, where he served the balance of his three-year assignment.

Following his service in Hawaii, Petty Officer Crutchfield served as a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Heilo No. 1377 crew, conducting search and rescue missions in a HH-52A helicopter based out of Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

Petty Officer Crutchfield's service to our nation is exemplified by such acts as saving a young man from having his legs amputated and aiding the search of 29 crewmen who perished when the Edmund Fitzgerald sank in the icy water of Lake Superior in November of 1975.

But, Petty Officer Crutchfield is more than one man—he is a testament of the selfless patriotism and sacrifice embodied by the over 35,000 veterans in Southeast Michigan.

He is a representation of the bravery and honor embodied by so many servicemen and women in my district.

Today, I would like to recognize each and every one of them, especially Petty Officer Crutchfield, for their outstanding service to our great nation.

Representing them in Congress is my utmost honor, and I will continue to work tirelessly for them to give them the recognition and respect they deserve.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE FLOOD PREVENTION ACT OF 2017**

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2017

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Flood Prevention Act of 2017. The bill would amend the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (CZMA) to include the nation's capital in the definition of "coastal state." Our bill would correct an apparent oversight in the omission of the District of Columbia, and would make the District eligible to receive federal funding and provide oversight for federally issued permits/facilities/ actions that affect the coastal waters of the District. The District urgently needs the protection of the CZMA because of serious flood risks that currently affect both residents, businesses and

federal assets, including the National Mall and the cluster of downtown federal agencies.

In an effort to reduce coastal flood risk, Congress has authorized a number of programs to help states and territories respond to floods and mitigate risk through resiliency projects. Among these programs, the CZMA provides planning and technical services to assist states in protecting, restoring and developing coastal communities and resources. Once the federal government approves a state's coastal management plan, the state becomes eligible for grants. Federal actions must be consistent with the state plans and vice versa.

Even though the District is located on two rivers and has suffered substantial coastal floods in the past, D.C. was omitted from the list of eligible states and territories in the CZMA. This oversight may have occurred because the CZMA was passed in 1972—before the District achieved home rule or had a Member of Congress. Under Section 304 of the CZMA, "coastal state[s]" include the states and the U.S. territories (Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands, and American Samoa). Absent from this definition is the District, even though the District, including the federal complex, is under a serious threat from rising sea levels. Because the territories are included in the definition of "coastal states," it appears that D.C.'s omission is a mistake, which only Congress can correct.

Scientists have predicted that the tides on the Atlantic Coast could rise two to four feet by the year 2100, causing property worth as much as \$7 billion in the District to be routinely under threat by floodwaters. This damage not only includes private homes and businesses, but the National Mall, federal buildings, and three military bases located in the District. The Anacostia and Potomac rivers are both tidally influenced, showing tangible salt water effects (and fish) and are part of an "intertidal-zone" existing between high and low maritime tides. In addition, the Maryland and Virginia coastal zones each include the tidal Potomac River, with Maryland's zone ending at the District line. Because of these factors, the District should be eligible for CZMA grants just like the states and territories already listed in the CZMA.

I urge support for this bill.

**IN RECOGNITION OF MR. STEVE ANDREWS**

**HON. JACK BERGMAN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2017

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it's my honor today to acknowledge the life of a devoted public servant and United States Veteran, Steve Andrews, who died at the age of 67 on Saturday, January 28, 2017 in Petoskey, Michigan.

Steve was born on October 15, 1949, to Tracy and Barbara Andrews and grew up in the heart of Northern Michigan in the city of Gaylord. Following his high school graduation in 1967, Steve joined the United States Navy where he worked as a medic on a number of bases around the world. Steve served with

distinction from the U.S. Naval Hospital in Guam to the 1st Marine Division and Marine 1st Force Reconnaissance Company in Vietnam and was awarded the Purple Heart and the Navy Commendation Medal for his role in saving countless Marines' lives during the Vietnam War.

After coming back home, Steve became a successful entrepreneur, and in 1978, Northern Michigan residents recognized Steve's commitment to community service by electing him to serve as State Representative for the 106th Michigan House District. Steve retired from the Michigan legislature in 1982 after serving two terms and refocused his efforts on his small business and family.

During the next 35 years, Steve and his wife, Karen, grew their small business, Sturgeon River Pottery, into a well-established and widely respected Midwest retailer with a robust operation and thousands of supporters across the country. Further, Steve's creative talents and generosity led him to be an active member in his community where, in addition to being a successful small business owner, he coached youth football and baseball teams, served on the Board of Trustees of North Central Michigan College, served as President of the Petoskey Regional Chamber of Commerce, and was a founding member of Petoskey's Art in the Park.

Mr. Speaker, Steve's contributions to Northern Michigan cannot be overstated, and his family and community can take pride in knowing that Northern Michigan is a better place thanks to his life's work. On behalf of Michigan's 1st Congressional District, I ask you to join me in recognizing an outstanding public servant whose contributions will continue to bless Northern Michigan residents for many years to come. May God bless Steve and his family always.

**TRIBUTE TO MARGARET R. GAITER**

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2017

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to pay tribute to a longtime friend and one of the finest women I have ever known.

Margaret Gaiter recently passed away on May 12, 2017 at the age of 91. I was honored to know Mrs. Gaiter and her late Husband, Felix. They both helped me as a young attorney by giving me the privilege of representing their business. Mrs. Gaiter had always been very kind to me and was a person who treated everyone with love and respect.

A 1947 graduate of Knoxville College, Ms. Gaiter worked for the Knoxville Housing Authority in the 1950s and 1960s where she helped families relocate from dilapidated homes and buildings. She also worked for the Knox County Public School System's parent involvement program which she retired from in 1988.

A member of Rogers Memorial Baptist Church in Knoxville, she served as minister of music for the church for over three decades. Mrs. Gaiter always lived her life by the Golden Rule.

In 2007, Mrs. Gaiter and her late husband Felix were awarded the Knoxville Area Urban