

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the members of my south Florida community who came out last Saturday to the Live Like Bella Superhero 5K Run/Walk at Zoo Miami.

Live Like Bella works every day to fight pediatric cancer through medical research while offering much-needed support for families and caregivers.

I would also like to recognize the Run, Walk and Stroll 2K for Cerebral Palsy that took place in the Village of Palmetto Bay, located in my congressional district, also on Saturday. This walk brought together patients, families, friends, and volunteers to shed light on how cerebral palsy can impact those afflicted and to provide much-needed assistance for therapy programs and special needs equipment.

Live Like Bella and the Cerebral Palsy Walk are just two of the latest examples of south Floridians banding together to help others.

MUSLIM AND REFUGEE BAN EXECUTIVE ORDER

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my Republican colleagues to think about the message that President Trump's Muslim ban sends to our young people. What the President is telling them is that our doors are closed, that the tired, the poor, the persecuted, and the oppressed are no longer welcome.

I reject that message, and I am glad to say that I have heard from many young people who reject that message.

I want to read from a letter sent by a middle school student from West Orange, New Jersey, in my district. Her name is Calixta.

Calixta wrote: "Immigrants are basically what America is made of. . . . Immigrants work very hard in the country, they get things done. These people fight for their lives."

I am glad that Calixta recognizes President Trump's ban as a threat to American values, but I am concerned that other young people will see it and think it is okay to reject others based on how they look, how they worship, or where they come from.

Mr. Speaker, the President's ban is illogical, it is dangerous, and it sends a terrible message to the young people of this Nation.

RECOGNIZING RARE DISEASE DAY

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rare Disease Day to bring widespread awareness to more than 7,000 rare diseases affecting 30 million Americans. These individual

diseases may be rare, but their impact isn't.

On this particular occasion, I want to remember Chloe Barnes from Minnesota, who passed away at the age of 2 from metachromatic leukodystrophy, or MLD. Her family founded Chloe's Fight, a foundation that is dedicated to supporting research for rare diseases.

There is no better person to honor and remember Chloe than her older sister, Eva, who wrote an essay in Chloe's memory. Eva writes:

"My sister died when she was 2 and this is what happened. My parents were missing a part in their body. I was fine. But my sister Chloe didn't make it. I don't like talking about it. Because it makes me very sad. I only tell a few people that she died. She was very funny. I loved her so much. Her name was Chloe. She was very brave. My mom and dad are doing a foundation called Chloe's Fight. Because every kid should have a chance to fight."

Mr. Speaker, we should not only remember those suffering from rare diseases, but we should continue to support initiatives to find new cures and treatments on their behalf.

SUPPORTING THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. Mr. Speaker, my guest for the President's speech tomorrow is my constituent, Debbie Trueblood. Debbie reached out to my office to support the Affordable Care Act because she knows firsthand the difference the law can make in people's lives.

Debbie suffers from a rare, potentially life-threatening genetic condition. The only treatments for the condition are a handful of specialized drugs that can cost more than \$100,000 per year.

Before the Affordable Care Act, Debbie could have been denied coverage because of her preexisting condition, and she would have faced medical bills greatly exceeding her salary. Because of the Affordable Care Act, Debbie is able to afford the treatment she needs to work, support her family, volunteer in her community, and be of service.

Repealing the Affordable Care Act without effectively replacing it would rob millions of people like Debbie not only of their access to health care but also of their ability to contribute to our great Nation.

□ 1945

MOURNING THE LOSS OF AMERICAN LIVES

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I first start out by mourning the loss of

two Indo-Americans in Kansas, friends of all of us. As I left India last week, you can imagine the horror of hearing of this incident by a Trump sympathizer. We must stop the spread of hate. I want to say to them, this community, and the people of India that we in America will stand by them, and we will stand against hate.

I, too, want to add my mourning for a second time for the loss of the Navy SEAL who died in Yemen on January 28. I came to the floor some weeks ago to acknowledge my shock and concern about the precipitousness of this effort by the Trump administration in the first days of his administration.

I join in asking for a full investigation, the whys, the wheres, the necessity of doing this operation within days of the beginning of the White House term. We don't take operations with our precious military souls lightly. It is important to be thoughtful and deliberative. Certainly it is important to be ready. It is also important not to signal what you are doing. I understand that.

But I can't understand what happened and the tragic loss of this great Navy SEAL leader. We need answers, and we need them quick from the White House. Give them answers now. Investigate now.

THE 2020 PLAN

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

Mr. CRIST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an innovative effort in my hometown of St. Petersburg, Florida. Known as the 2020 Plan, its goal is simple: to reduce poverty by 30 percent in south St. Petersburg by 2020. The plan connects all aspects of society to promote investment, create jobs, and support families, and it is working.

In 2015 alone, the poverty rate in the community dropped by 8.5 percent, compared to 1.6 percent nationally. This effort is truly inspiring. I salute the leadership of Gypsy Gallardo; the Pinellas County Urban League and its president Watson Haynes, my brother; the city of St. Petersburg; and over 100 grassroots community organizations that are working together to reduce poverty in this historically underserved community. Thank you and God bless you.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FORMER MINORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, ROBERT HENRY "BOB" MICHEL

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a resolution and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House; and, further, that it be read in full.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 151

Whereas the death of the late Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, Robert H. ‘Bob’ Michel, on February 17, 2017, has created not only a personal loss to his family, his many colleagues, and friends, but also a great loss to the Nation;

Whereas Bob Michel led a remarkable life, personally blessed with four children, eight grandchildren, and two great grandchildren;

Whereas Bob Michel was born and raised in Peoria, Illinois;

Whereas as a young man, Bob Michel joined the United States Army at the height of World War II, landing on the beaches of Normandy and fighting across Europe through the Battle of the Bulge, earning two Bronze Stars, four Battle stars, and the Purple Heart for his wounds;

Whereas Bob Michel returned home from Europe, graduated from Bradley University, and embarked on a career in public service that would span 44 years;

Whereas Bob Michel was then elected to Congress, going on to serve honorably for 38 years representing Peoria and much of Central Illinois with great distinction, and was chosen by his colleagues to serve them as House Minority Whip, and for 14 years as the elected Republican Minority Leader of the House of Representatives;

Whereas Bob Michel’s formidable legislative skills were invaluable in enacting key initiatives of President Reagan and President George H.W. Bush on behalf of the people;

Whereas Bob Michel will be long remembered by all for his strong dedication to responsible public service and his love of the people of the United States;

Whereas Bob Michel conducted himself as a leader with a commitment to civil discourse, personal dignity, political consensus, and adherence to fundamental human values;

Whereas Bob Michel’s public service culminated in the award of the Nation’s highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom; and

Whereas in the House of Representatives and in his life, Bob Michel’s uncommon decency and generosity of spirit were evident to all who knew and worked with him: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors the life, achievements, and distinguished public service of Bob Michel; and
(2) expresses its condolences to his family on his passing.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE LIFE OF THE HONORABLE BOB MICHEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BACON). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials in the RECORD on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to honor the life, career, and pub-

lic service of Robert H. Michel, known as Bob Michel, former Congressman of the 18th District of Illinois and the longest serving Republican leader of the House of Representatives, who passed away earlier this month on Friday, February 17. He was 93 years old. This Thursday, March 2, he would have turned 94. He served in Congress in this institution from 1956 to 1994.

To staff, friends, and colleagues, Bob Michel was more than a Congressman and House leader. He was a mentor and larger-than-life person. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to stand before you and our colleagues tonight to recognize the remarkable life of our departed leader and friend. Over the past week I have had the opportunity to hear testimony from friends, family, former colleagues, and the public as they reflect on the reputation of Mr. Michel.

Among the many stories that have been told, it has been mentioned time and time again the foundation upon which Bob Michel built his remarkable career and reputation. Throughout Mr. Michel’s 50 years in politics, he never wavered from his values of civility, uncommon decency, and humility. Those values were instilled in him at the earliest age, rooted in his faith and family upbringing, and followed him throughout his life.

Bob Michel was born to German and French immigrants in Peoria, Illinois, on March 2, 1923, to Anna and Charles Michel. Hard work and respect were required among the Michel children. After dinner each night, it was mandatory for the Michel household to read the Bible rather than go outside and play. The young Bob Michel was a product of Peoria Public Schools.

Bob Michel didn’t come from a privileged background or a family that had money. He held numerous jobs, which played a formidable role in his upbringing, teaching him the rewards of hard work and accountability. His early jobs varied from mowing yards, delivering on two newspaper routes, working in a factory, a tailor shop, and a grocery store.

Michel graduated from Peoria High School and attended one semester at Bradley University before enlisting at age 19 as an infantryman in the U.S. Army to fight in World War II. Michel landed in Normandy on the fourth day of the D-day invasion of Europe and fought his way across France and Belgium to the Battle of the Bulge. He was wounded in action and was discharged after earning two Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart, and four Battle Stars. When we talk about the Greatest Generation, Bob Michel was a shining example of the Greatest Generation.

Bob Michel would return to Peoria, Illinois, after the war to complete his business administration degree at Bradley University. He joined the a cappella choir there, where he would meet the love of his life, Corinne Woodruff. They were married for 55 years.

It was immediately after graduation that Michel’s path into politics started

after then-president of Bradley University David Owen approached Bob to inform him about a candidate by the name of Harold Velde running for Everett Dirksen’s congressional seat. After interviewing, Velde hired Michel as a staffer. Years later, Michel would go on to replace Velde in the House after he retired, winning a contested four-way primary and defeating his Democratic opponent. Thus began the service of Bob Michel in the U.S. House, which would lead him to rise to the House leadership and serve a stint as minority whip and eventually minority leader for 14 years.

Throughout his rise in leadership, Bob Michel remained grounded to his district, never forgetting where he came from. Michel was masterful at building personal relationships and represented the gold standard for public service. That reputation derived from his commonsense approach and midwestern upbringing.

This past Saturday, we laid Bob to rest in his hometown of Peoria, Illinois. Bob was remembered at that time and honored as an American hero, a tremendous public servant, a devoted father, husband, and friend. Mr. Speaker, the life of this incredible statesman will never be forgotten, and the legacy he has left behind should serve as a reminder for how we as public servants can continue our work moving forward.

Again, I am proud to stand with my colleagues tonight as a successor to Congressman Michel’s seat and to honor our beloved friend, colleague, leader, and mentor.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS), the dean of our Republican delegation.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and friend, Congressman LAHOOD, for having this tribute tonight.

Bob Michel was a giant here in Washington, and he left this world in a manner in which he probably would liked to have—without fanfare, without parades, just going home.

As was said, Bob Michel actually served in this House for 38 years. He loved the House of Representatives. He cherished this Chamber and he cherished this institution. He served as minority leader for 14 years in, as he lovingly called it, the people’s House, in this institution he dearly loved.

Few are left in this Chamber who actually served with him. It is my hope that Minority Whip HOYER gets to the floor, who served with him. I think STENY also tries to represent that era of time when there were people who disagreed without being disagreeable or who could work across the aisle. I look forward to hearing STENY’s remarks.

Bob was known for his aw-shucks demeanor and his baritone singing voice. I remember once at a Lincoln Day dinner, when he was leaving and I was running, and the people always wanted him to finish the Lincoln Day dinner singing “God Bless America.” Always.