

taking action to ensure that those who harm local and State law enforcement officers are brought to justice as well. We have to send this clear message: We cannot tolerate this under any circumstances.

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54TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

(Mrs. DEMINGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 54th anniversary of Peace Officers Memorial Day, so I rise tonight to pay tribute to the law enforcement officers from Florida who were killed in the line of duty last year.

Today we remember them and honor them for their service and dedication: Deputy Sheriff Eric James Oliver from the Nassau County Sheriff's Office; Major Jorge Sanchez from the Miami Police Department; Deputy Sheriff Michael Scott Williams from the Taylor County Sheriff's Office; Sergeant Jorge Ramos from the Florida Department of Corrections; Deputy Sheriff John Robert Kotfila, Jr., of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office; Police Officer Henry Malcolm McAleenan, Jr., of the Miami-Dade Police Department; and, as you have already heard tonight, Special Agent J. Scott McGuire of U.S. Homeland Security Investigations.

Mr. Speaker, we remember these brave men and pray for their families and the countless others who have mourned their loss.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LADY EAGLES SOFTBALL TEAM

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, it all started 11 years ago: The Lady Eagles from Fort Bend Baptist Academy won their first Texas State softball title. Years later, the name was changed to Fort Bend Christian Academy, but the dynasty had been born. The Lady Eagles won their sixth Texas title last week by defeating Dallas Christian School with a score of 6-2.

One word can describe the Lady Eagles' playoff run: domination. In the last four games, they scored 37 runs, their opponents only 2. Our four seniors—Claire, Lauren, Danielle, and Kendall—have set us up to make history: our third straight Texas title in 2018.

We will honor them as we honor the Lord.

Congratulations, Eagles.

PRESIDENT SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO FIRE FBI DIRECTOR

(Mr. BROWN of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the

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

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, why did President Trump fire FBI Director Comey? He called Comey a "showboat" and "grandstander" and said he was going to fire him regardless of the rationale outlined by the Deputy Attorney General. He justified firing Comey, who was leading the investigation into Michael Flynn and Russian interference in our elections, by saying it "is a made-up story."

But the President's political removal of Comey without any legal or ethical reason shatters the idea that the FBI is independent and insulated from partisan politics. The President should not be able to fire the FBI Director for political or personal reasons.

That is why, today, I introduced legislation to raise the standard for the President to dismiss the FBI Director. Congress placed similar restrictions on the President's power to remove members of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Director of the CFBP, and special counsels. The FBI should be no different.

Congress cannot continue to be a rubberstamp for this administration. Let's uphold our constitutional responsibility to hold the President accountable.

COMMENDING COMFORT CREW FOR MILITARY KIDS FOR THEIR EFFORTS

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor a nonprofit organization in Austin for their outstanding achievements. The Comfort Crew for Military Kids develops and delivers programs to help support the children in our Gold Star families who serve around the world.

This month, the organization is celebrating their 10th anniversary. As a Congressman from Fort Hood, the largest military base, Comfort Crew for Military Kids holds a very special place in my heart. For too long, military families have faced constant struggles and have had few places to turn. The Comfort Crew helps provide relief for these American families who sacrifice so much for our country.

I have personally met with Comfort Crew both in Washington and, just last month, in Austin, Texas. While I was in Austin, I was fortunate enough to lend a hand, assembling care packages for the military children whose parents are deployed. These care packages may not seem like much in comparison to what these kids are giving up in return; however, they provide some comfort and solace.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the Comfort Crew for their selfless efforts. They have had an impact on over 1 million military family members. In this unstable world, it is vital that we support these military families that give so much to us.

I am proud to represent this organization and will continue to do everything I can to ensure our military children receive the support they need and the support they deserve.

In God we trust.

HONORING LAW ENFORCEMENT AND FIRST RESPONDERS

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of the men and women who protect our families, our streets, and our communities.

Fifty-five years ago, President Kennedy proclaimed May 15 National Police Week. Each year, Americans come together to honor our law enforcement professionals and remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice while protecting our families and our communities.

I remember that infamous day, 9/11, when thousands were running away from burning and crumbling buildings; yet, at the same time, our police and first responders ran into the same burning and crumbling buildings to save lives. These brave men and women knew that they were running to certain death.

Every day, police leave their homes knowing full well that they may not return that evening. Every day, they have our backs. It is our job to make sure that they know that we have theirs.

CONVINCE CHINA TO REIN IN NORTH KOREA

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, like a character out of Looney Tunes, the incorrigible little Kim of North Korea and his minions can't stop rattling their sabers.

New satellite images show a prolonged and heightened level of activity at North Korea's underground nuclear site. Since coming into power, little Kim has continually defied U.N. sanctions and increased testing of missiles and nuclear weapons.

Just this last weekend, North Korea illegally launched yet another menacing ballistic missile. North Korea plans to develop submarines from which to launch these missiles towards the United States.

Despite little Kim's Wile E. Coyote antics, the United States cannot underestimate the war-prone lunacy of Kim Jong-un. Even our old Deputy Secretary of State recently warned that little Kim's weapon capabilities have shown improvement within the past year, resulting in "unprecedented level of activity."

The last administration's appeasement policy of North Korea and its strategic patience has failed. The

United States must cripple North Korea's regime with multiple sanctions. We must convince China that it is in their interest to rein in their puppet state of North Korea, and quickly deploy the new THAAD missile systems throughout the region and in Asia.

And that is just the way it is, Mr. Speaker.

BRING BACK ALL CHIBOK GIRLS

(Ms. WILSON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on May 6, Nigerian Government officials announced the release of 82 Chibok schoolgirls who have been held captive by Boko Haram since April 20, 2014. I couldn't believe it.

It is truly, truly a reason for celebration, and I thank each and every Member of this House who has shown support for this extremely endless cause.

Mr. Speaker, I am thrilled for the families whose daughters were among the 82 released, but we cannot forget that there are still 113 waiting to be freed. Nigerian President Buhari has vowed to bring them all home.

When we began this fight, the lives of more than 200 girls were at stake. Slowly but surely, we are making progress. The release of the 82 underscores why we cannot give up. We have to keep pushing and pressing, doing everything we can to ensure that this fight doesn't end until the last girl has returned home.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is Wear Something Red Wednesday, and I hope that this news will compel every Member of Congress to wear something red and show his or her support for the #bringbackourgirls movement.

Women of Congress, wear your red scarf, a gift for Valentine's Day from Congresswoman DINGELL. Men of Congress, wear a red tie, Republicans and Democrats, and tweet, tweet, tweet.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK AND RECAP OF FIFTH ANNUAL FIRST RESPONDERS TOUR

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

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Police Week and to thank these brave men and women for their service and sacrifice to their communities.

Our law enforcement and first responders run toward the danger when, oftentimes, we are running away from it. There is no way we can ever truly say "thank you" for their willingness to serve.

Last week, I held my fifth annual first responders tour to thank them for their dedication to the communities of South Carolina and beyond. The tour consisted of five of the counties I represent: Newberry, Saluda, Edgefield, McCormick, and Greenwood. I can tell

you that their expertise, focus, and commitment are unmatched.

I visited the facilities and met with the men and women that are on the first line of defense, the ones who are so critical to the safety of our citizens. These folks encounter dangerous and life-threatening situations that require critical, on-the-spot decisionmaking, but they never second-guess answering that call and going towards the unknown to help those in need.

I hope that events like National Police Week and first responders tours encourage more people to learn about the unique challenges that face these heroes every day. It is important for our law enforcement and first responders to know that their hard work and sacrifice is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to all those that serve and have served. They are truly heroes, and we are grateful for their service to make us safe.

May God bless these heroes, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

BACK THE BLUE AND FIRST RESPONDERS

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

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, this week we honor the brave men and women who make it their life's duty to protect and defend our citizens, our Nation, and our way of life. Police officers across the country wake up every morning unaware of the challenges they may face, the threats they must overcome, and the lives they will affect and protect in the process.

The badge officers don is a symbol of their altruism and their devotion to the common good. I believe in "Backing the Blue" and visit first responders throughout my district in Texas to express my unyielding support.

America's police officers represent the best in all of us and are the finest our country has to offer. For their service, their sacrifice, and their selflessness, we are eternally thankful.

PRESIDENT'S BREACH OF INTELLIGENCE

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I too rise to honor this week of celebrating our police officers and hope to be able to speak about their bravery throughout the week.

But I am overwhelmed and shocked at the actions of the President of the United States to have yielded classified information into code-word intelligence inside a room with the Foreign Minister of Russia and the Ambassador.

It is well known that Ambassador Kislyak is reportedly considered by the U.S. intelligence community to be one

of Russia's top spies and a central figure in the FBI investigation into Russia's collusion with Trump campaign officials during the 2016 Presidential election, along with the downfall of General Flynn. This is an absolutely unacceptable way for a President to act.

Mr. President, you have jeopardized the lives of the American people; you have jeopardized the lives of intelligence assets around the world; and you have breached the liaison relationship that we have had with many of our allies.

This needs to have a full investigation, besides a number of tools of the commission, a special prosecutor. This Judiciary Committee on the House side needs to stand up and have full hearings regarding the investigation of these horrific actions, violations that may breach on high crimes and misdemeanors.

It is shocking that the day after the President fired FBI Director Comey to impede the Bureau's investigation of the Trump campaign's ties to the Russian agents and entities that interfered in the 2016 presidential election, we learn that the President recklessly disclosed classified and highly sensitive information to Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Russian ambassador to the U.S. Sergey Kislyak at a meeting held at the request of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Ambassador Kislyak is reportedly considered by the U.S. intelligence community to be one of Russia's top spies and a central figure in the FBI investigation into Russia's collusion with Trump campaign officials during the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

And yet, the President thought it appropriate to disclose to him classified information that had not even been shared with some of our allies.

The President's disclosure of classified and highly sensitive information may have severely compromised a U.S. intelligence partner.

But rather than provide a more thorough explanation for the President's actions, his surrogates are engaged in a bait and switch, feigning outrage over leaks when the President's loose lips are responsible for the crisis he has created for our nation and for himself.

Every day the President gives the nation another reason to question his judgment, doubt his word, mistrust his motives, or question his capacity and competence to manage the national security and foreign policy of the United States.

The American people deserve better.

Beginning with the creation of an independent bipartisan commission to investigate President Trump's ties to Russia and the appointment of an independent special counsel to investigate the Trump campaign's ties to the Russian agents and entities that interfered in the 2016 presidential election.

And Congress must take seriously its oversight responsibilities, and its oath to uphold the Constitution, and be a check on the excesses of the Executive Branch.

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HONORING THE SERVICE OF OUR NATION'S POLICE OFFICERS

(Mr. KATKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1