

Congressman TIM RYAN in introducing the Veterans Wellness Act of 2017.

This bill brings mental healthcare to our veterans by establishing a 2-year grant program to provide wellness care and additional therapies at veteran service organizations like the American Legion, the VFW, and AMVETS. Many offer skilled assistance with VA enrollment that could help our veterans get the care that they so desperately need.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House to ensure our veterans receive the best care possible.

OUR NATION'S INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

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

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with hundreds of business, labor, and advocacy organizations to recognize National Infrastructure Week. The purpose of this week is to highlight the state of the Nation's infrastructure and its critical importance to our economy and well-being.

Building and strengthening our infrastructure is vital to all of us, but it oftentimes goes unnoticed. Our Nation's deteriorating infrastructure is hampering our ability to compete in the thriving global economy and create jobs that our Nation needs. As an example, in my home State of Ohio, we face significant challenges: 17 percent of the public roads are in poor condition, and almost 7 percent of all the bridges are structurally deficient.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot continue to turn a blind eye to our Nation's infrastructure needs. Congress must work together to upgrade our Nation's highways, bridges, airports, water systems, energy grid, broadband network, and the like so that our economy can continue to lead the world in the 21st century and beyond.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS DESERVE OUR GRATITUDE

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during National Police Week to pay tribute to the Nation's law enforcement men and women.

Established in 1962 by President Kennedy, National Police Week serves as a reminder of the incredible sacrifice our police officers make every day to serve and protect the people in our States and communities.

Just last week, Lieutenant Kevin Mainhart of the Yell County Sheriff's Department was killed in the line of duty during a traffic stop in Dardanelle, Arkansas. This tragedy reminds us of the danger that all of our men and women who police our streets have to face.

Every American should be proud of our neighbors and fellow citizens who

get up every morning, put on their uniform and badge, leave their families, and serve us all, keeping our cities and towns safe and trying to build the trust and faith among our citizens.

I respect and appreciate the important work of our police and our law enforcement men and women in Arkansas and throughout the Nation. They deserve our gratitude.

PANDEMONIUM COMING OUT OF THE WHITE HOUSE

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, when I was sworn in to office, I made a commitment to support and defend the Constitution of these United States. Our President's latest actions have shown us that we cannot trust him to do the same.

Whether it is a lapse of judgment or just plain inexperience, the pandemonium coming out of the White House is worse than a scene from "House of Cards."

The method in which Trump chose to reveal classified intelligence to Russian officials—impulsive;

The way Trump chose to fire FBI Director Comey—imprudent;

And, if the latest reports are true, the way Trump chose to interfere with the FBI investigation of National Security Adviser Michael Flynn—impeachable.

I don't use this last "i" word lightly, but for love of country and democracy, and as an American, I hope this is not true. If it is, this is a blatant obstruction of justice and a grave, grave offense.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

THANK YOU TO LAW ENFORCEMENT PROFESSIONALS

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

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, during this National Police Week, I wish to, on behalf of myself and the fine citizens of the Fifth District of Virginia, extend our thank-you.

Since 1791, greater than 22,000 law enforcement professionals have given their lives in the line of duty—over 70 in a single day in 2001, including 37 from the NYPD and 23 from the Port Authority Police—an average of over 140 a year. And yet these men and women who look like us—every race, every color, every gender—are the best of us because every day they get up and go to work again.

Mr. Speaker, when I served in the military, I became familiar with Isaiah 6:8, and I cite that verse in thanking our law enforcement professionals:

And then the voice of the Lord spoke to us and said, "Whom shall I send?

And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me."

Mr. Speaker, take that as a thank-you from myself and the citizens of the Fifth District of Virginia to those professional men and women who serve us every day.

HOKA HEY

(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 is time that all of America knows a phrase that the Manvel Mavericks in the 22nd District of Texas know well. The phrase is "Hoka Hey. Hoka Hey." That means be unselfish; compete for team, school, and town. Hoka Hey carried the Mavericks to the men's track and field team title for Texas 5A. That happened last week.

The team started rough. After seven events, they had 8 points. They were in 10th place. But the spirit of Hoka Hey came back during the relays. Our guys burned up the track. When the relays were over, the Mavs had 50 points and Port Arthur Memorial, 41.

Hoka Hey had 85 points when the meet was over. They were the State champions. Congratulations, Hoka Hey Manvel Mavericks, State champions, Texas 5A.

□ 1845

GIVE BACK THE FUTURES OF HARDWORKING AMERICANS

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

Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because, after coming back from Indiana for the last 8 days, I wanted to report what I saw.

What I saw was too much hopelessness, too much despair, in the eyes of too many hardworking Hoosiers, who no longer feel that they have control of their financial future, who no longer feel that they can participate in the American Dream, and who no longer feel that they can start small businesses of their own. But I told them every single day when I was back home this past week what we are doing to change that to roll back the provisions of Dodd-Frank that have put undue burdens on lenders trying to help small businesses across Indiana's Ninth District, and across this country, grow and get started; to help hardworking Hoosiers be able to start small businesses so they have control over their families' future again; to help individuals be able to get jobs at growing enterprises because they have access to capital.

Over the past few years, loan growth has stagnated. In the past 100 years, coming out of recessions, we have typically seen a loan growth of 63 percent, but it has only been 18 percent. It is the difference between those two that

has curtailed the futures of many hard-working Americans. I want to make sure we give that back to them. That is why I am voting in support of the CHOICE Act, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

HONORING LAW ENFORCEMENT

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, on Monday this week, hundreds of families, friends, colleagues, and loved ones from every corner of the country gathered at the United States Capitol for the 36th annual National Peace Officers Memorial Day. They were here to honor all of those names at the memorial, 21,000 names, Mr. Speaker. And this year, 394 more were added. Now, some of those are over past years—not this past year, but prior years—but 394 additional names were added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Their names will ever be etched in our hearts and on the walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, and, as I said, with 21,000 others who came before them.

People who walk by and view these names may not recognize the names or may not know all of the names. They may have a special loved one whose name appears on those hollowed walls. But the thing to remember here is that these are brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, and some even grandfathers. They are real people who sacrificed their lives. Some were ambushed and executed, and some lost their lives responding to a call to save a life or someone who called for help. These are the men and women who gave their lives so we could, in many cases, keep ours.

I have a lot more to say on this, and we have some time. I am going to yield to other Members, Mr. Speaker, who arrived here tonight to share their stories and remember the officers who served their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to Chairman GOODLATTE, chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my appreciation to DAVE REICHERT for taking the lead on this very appropriate Special Order to recognize our Nation's law enforcement. No one better represents that law enforcement here in the United States Congress than former Sheriff

REICHERT. And I thank him for not only his leadership in the House but also for his service as a sheriff for many years prior to his election to Congress.

Our Nation was founded on the rule of law. The Preamble to the United States Constitution stated that its purpose was, in part, to "establish justice" and "insure domestic tranquility." Every day, law enforcement officers carry out this legacy. They fight crime, promote justice, and keep the peace. They patrol late at night and early in the morning, while we sleep in the comforts of our homes.

And over the past 16 years, our Nation's law enforcement officers have often been the first to respond to terrorist attacks. On that fateful day, nearly 16 years ago, first responders were running into the crumbling towers as everyone else was running out. Following the Boston Marathon bombings in April of 2013, Boston police responded immediately to aid the wounded and implement emergency plans. That legacy has carried on through the recent catastrophes in San Bernardino, Orlando, and too many others.

Sadly, many law enforcement officers have made the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf. Just this year already, 50 law enforcement officers have died in the line of duty, including Deputy Sheriff Curtis Allen Bartlett of Carroll County, Virginia, who was killed in a vehicle crash while responding to assist another deputy and a Virginia State Police trooper who were involved in a pursuit. These are tragic reminders that our law enforcement professionals face danger every day as they carry out their duties.

Chillingly, in recent years, police officers have increasingly become targets for violence and ambush-style attacks. Tomorrow, this House will vote to ensure that State and local law enforcement officers receive the same protections as their Federal counterparts. In fact, this week, the House will pass more than half a dozen bills to help officers do their jobs and return home safely.

As chairman of the Judiciary Committee, I have the privilege to work with Federal law enforcement. All too often, we fail to recognize how the dedicated men and women of law enforcement make sacrifices to promote law and order and keep our neighborhoods safe. That is true at every level: our local police and sheriff's deputies, our State police, and Federal law enforcement officers in many different departments of the Department of Justice and other agencies.

As a father, grandfather, husband, and citizen, the men and women in blue have my profound respect and sincere thanks.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman. I thank him for all his hard work in his committee to support law enforcement across the country. I look forward to working with him on some of the law enforcement reforms

that his committee is looking at. I appreciate it.

It is an honor for me, Mr. Speaker, to lead this Special Order. I am very humbled at the response that we have received tonight by the Members who want to be here and talk about their law enforcement officers in their communities.

Another one of our Members who wants to share his thoughts and feelings is the son of a State trooper from Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS).

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, this is a special time as a trooper's kid. When I think about that and I think about this wall and I think about the heroes that I am looking at standing here, I am thinking about my own father who I just talked to a few moments ago—31 years as a Georgia State patrol. My mom is with him right now. They have been the example of what law enforcement goes through so many times.

I will share, in just a few more minutes, about that, but I did want to remind you why we are here, and thinking about this memorial, Georgia officers who have fallen in 2017 already: Deputy Sheriff Michael Butler, Lowndes County Sheriff's Office; and Sergeant Gregory Michael Meagher, Richmond County Sheriff's Office.

In 2016, we saw Jody Carl Smith, Georgia Southwestern State University Department of Public Safety; Officer Nicholas Ryan Smarr, Americus Police Department; Deputy Sheriff Justin Scott White, Newton County Sheriff's Office; Deputy Sheriff Daryl Wayne Smallwood, Peach County Sheriff's Office; Sergeant Patrick Michael Sondron, Peach County Sheriff's Office; Officer Timothy Kevin Smith, Eastman Police Department; Investigator Anthony Joseph Freeman, Bibb County Sheriff's Office; and Major Gregory Eugene Barney, Riverdale Police Department.

And then one, Mr. Speaker, that came at a time in which the Sheriff and I were on the Police Working Group. We were in Atlanta. We were going through discussing the issues that police are going through and how communities are coming together, and we got word of a shooting in south Georgia.

At the time, we just got a name, and we weren't really sure what had gone on, but we found out there was a shooting and there was a fatality involved. What I came to find out later was that the gentleman who was killed was Deputy Commander U.S. Marshal Patrick Carothers of the Southeast Regional Task Force. He was a leader who didn't even have to be there that day. He could have taken a step back. Instead, he led the charge. He went in first, as a leader does, and was killed.

As it became more and more clear, I began to realize I had another special connection to Marshal Carothers. Just