

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

a few months earlier, I had the privilege of appointing his son to the United States Naval Academy.

It is a matter of family. It is a matter of heart. As someone growing up, who thought that it was sort of awkward having your dad come and pick you up at school in his State patrol car, and he thought it was pretty cute when he put you in the back seat, and the kids were laughing. They would talk about it, and they would say: A State trooper is coming to pick you up. I would look at them and say: It is my dad. But what they didn't also see were the times when he would come home, and I would wake up at night, and my dad would be coming home to change his shirt because it was ripped and torn and bloody from where he had been involved in a fight. What they didn't know was a young son, who had listened to all of the things people would say about police officers, and say: They are talking about my dad.

As one who has supported me all of my life, I cannot pass this time up without recognizing those who gave the ultimate sacrifice and those who continue to serve every day. It still amazes me the Georgia State patrol has gone on. And now folks, when I look in those blue and gray cars and the sheriff's deputy cars, and those that I grew up watching, they were my big brothers. Now I look in there and say: Who are those younger people riding in their cars? They are just carrying on that blue line tradition. They are just carrying on that public service that means so much.

So tonight, Sheriff, you have done a wonderful job of getting us here, because these folks have families, they have kids, they have a responsibility, and they never turn from it. I thank the families who have lost and gave their loved ones, and I thank the families who get up every day still with their loved ones in the fight, and I thank my father who gave so much.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia. As he shared his story about his father, it reminded me of my own story of coming home to my three young kids and my uniform being torn and bloodied, in some cases. I never really thought about what my kids or my spouse was thinking when I came home. I was still wrapped up in the shift that I had just come from and the struggles that I had been through on the streets.

□ 1900

I served for 33 years in the King County Sheriff's Office, and I would do that job all over again, Mr. Speaker. I loved it.

But I wanted to share another story, too, of Officer Jake Gutierrez from the Tacoma Police Department, which is a city just south of Seattle. Officer Gutierrez tragically died in the line of duty. He lost his life while protecting a woman from domestic violence. Jake was supposed to exchange wedding vows with his fiancée just a few weeks

later. Instead, his fiancée, his three daughters, and his granddaughter attended his funeral. They struggled—and I am thinking they are still struggling today—to picture a life without him.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. GOWDY). Our U.S. Attorney, prosecutor, knows law enforcement well, and he has a story to tell about one of his officers.

Mr. GOWDY. Thank you, Sheriff. I want to start by thanking you for your service as a law enforcement officer and in Congress. And I call you sheriff when I pass by you because I always believe in calling people by their highest title. And as much as it is wonderful, and I am sure the people in your family are proud of your service in the United States Congress, I am proudest of your willingness to sacrifice for the people of Washington as their sheriff.

Kevin Carper was a uniform patrol officer with the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office. He was not a detective. He was not in management. He was just a regular police officer like the ones we see every day in our towns and cities.

Kevin responded to a domestic violence call. Those who are unfamiliar with law enforcement have a tendency sometimes to refer to those as routine calls. There is nothing routine about a domestic violence call, and everyone in law enforcement knows it.

Off of Airport Road in Spartanburg, South Carolina, Kevin and his partner arrived to find William Seich on the front porch of his small home pointing a large caliber gun at his wife, Judy.

Judy was crouched down in the front yard, trying to protect herself, trying to shield herself behind a tree, and William was pointing the gun at her and, alternatively, pointing the gun at law enforcement who had just arrived on the scene.

You know, Sheriff REICHERT and Mr. Speaker, it all seems so easy in hindsight. Do you shoot? Do you pull the trigger? Is the gun real? You have split seconds to make these decisions only to have them second-guessed for months, if not years afterward. Is the gun real? Is it loaded?

William Seich finally turned the gun toward his wife and he shot her. As he was turning the gun towards law enforcement, no doubt to shoot them, they returned fire. They struck William Seich. As one officer ran toward his fallen wife, Judy, Kevin Carper ran to the front porch to make sure that William Seich didn't shoot anybody else.

As he got on the front porch, Mr. Speaker, he heard the cries of children. Unbeknownst to Kevin and his partner, there were children inside that mobile home, and the bullets from one of the officer's guns had struck one of the children.

William Seich survived and was charged with murder. Both of the little girls ultimately survived, although one was badly injured.

I met Kevin when we were preparing for trial. He was an essential witness, so I needed to prepare him for what would come during this trial. He would be second-guessed. His every move would be scrutinized. In a very real sense, he would not only be blamed for Judy Seich's murder, he would be blamed for shooting one of the little girls inside that home, and then he would be blamed for not doing enough to protect Judy Seich, not making the right split-second decision.

I tried to prepare Kevin for what would be a grueling cross-examination, and it was clear to me his mind and heart were somewhere else. So, finally, I said: Kevin, you didn't do anything wrong. You didn't have a choice.

He said: I know, Solicitor GOWDY.

He had tears streaming down his face in my office.

He said: I know, Solicitor GOWDY, but I shot that little girl.

Objectively, Kevin Carper did everything right that night. He responded to an incredibly tense domestic call. He was confronted with a man holding a gun. Was it a real gun? Was it loaded? All of these thoughts going through his mind; and as soon as William Seich shot and murdered his wife, he returned fire.

Objectively, we know everything he did was right, but it didn't matter how many times I told Kevin: You did the right thing. Deputy Kevin Carper heard me. Father, husband, Kevin Carper had tears streaming down his face at the thought that he would have hurt a child.

Well, we went through the trial, and he was, as you might imagine, an indispensable witness.

Mr. Speaker, he could not have done a better job in that murder trial. Yeah, he was a tough police officer in a uniform, but when it came time to describe walking on the front porch and hearing the cries of children, he became a husband and a father again, and in front of a jury, Sheriff—and you know this is hard for police to do in front of a jury—this tough, brave man broke down in tears, and the jury had a chance to see the humanity of police officers. The jury had a chance to see that “protect and serve and defend” part of police officers.

William Seich was convicted, in no small part, because of Kevin Carper's help. In South Carolina, the sentencing takes place immediately after the trial, so there was family to talk to and to prepare them for the sentencing hearing so they could allocate on what Judy Seich's life meant to them and what the proper punishment should be.

Mr. Speaker and Sheriff REICHERT, I wanted to tell Kevin what a great job he had done. I wanted to tell Kevin how impressed I was with his humanity. I wanted to tell Kevin—I intended to tell Kevin that he took a cynical old prosecutor and he made him believe again that there are women and men who go into this line of work for all the right reasons. That is what I intended to tell

him. But in the hustle and bustle of sentencing, he slipped out the back of the courtroom and we went on with the sentencing hearing.

But I knew that I would see him again and I would have a chance to tell him. I would have a chance to tell his boss: You need to watch that guy, make him a homicide detective. He is really good.

I would have a chance to tell him he did great by those little girls. I knew I would see him again and I would have a chance to tell him again.

And I did see him again, laying beside a roadside, shot to death during a routine traffic stop. He was shot by a man who had been arrested more than 30 times.

If you have ever attended an officer's funeral, the finality of that death hits you the very hardest at the end where they do the radio call: Deputy Kevin Carper, do you read? Deputy Kevin Carper, can you hear us? And, of course, there is silence. And then at the end, it is: Deputy Kevin Carper, you are clear to go home.

I never told Kevin what I should have told him. Deputy Kevin Carper, you were a credit to law enforcement. Husband, father, Kevin Carper, you are a credit to humanity and your family. I wish I had told you when I should have told you.

I hope that all of my other friends in prosecution and in law enforcement now will not wait too long to tell the men and women of law enforcement how grateful they are for their service.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. GOWDY, I have a feeling that Kevin knew anyway when he left that courtroom how you felt. Thank you for sharing that powerful story. I think it really clearly points to a lot of things:

One, the job is tough and you have got to make those split decisions, and they are life and death decisions;

Two, that the human side of the police officer is not very often recognized; that the connection to their family—as I said in my opening statement, these are people that are fathers, they are sons, they are sisters, they are mothers, in some cases they are grandparents.

Sometimes we see a person just wearing a uniform, but there is a human being inside that uniform wearing that badge and carrying that gun to make sure that we can get home to our families and enjoy our families.

I lost a best friend and partner in 1982. It still hurts today. If I can get past the emotional part, I might share that story a little bit later.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE).

Mr. POE of Texas. Thank you, Sheriff.

I appreciate your comments, Lawyer GOWDY; as I call him, his comments.

I know that the outlaws in Washington State are glad you are in Congress and you are not back in Washington arresting them and putting them in the jailhouse where a lot of

them belong. But thank you for the opportunity to speak at this very important Special Order.

As you know, while you were a sheriff in Washington, I was down at the courthouse in Texas, first as a prosecutor, like Lawyer GOWDY, and then, for 22 years, I tried criminal cases, felonies, everything from stealing to killing.

I met a lot of police, as I call them, during that time. Some of them, as Mr. GOWDY has pointed out, gave their lives in the line of duty. I met them in the middle of the night when they would come bringing a warrant to me to sign so they could go arrest somebody while the rest of us all slept. They are doing what they do best, and that is protecting and serving our communities.

A lot of police officers—and I don't think it has been said yet—their job is being a police officer, but most of them have other jobs just to make ends meet. They have an extra job, as we call it, because they don't make a lot being a police officer. None of them ever do it for the money—none of them anywhere in the world do it for the money. So to support their families, they have to have other jobs to do that.

I think we as a nation need to understand and appreciate that they do what they do because they feel, and it is, an important service to our community.

Last year, 135 police officers throughout the Nation were killed; 64 of them were shot and killed, and 21 of those were ambushed.

Among the States, my home State of Texas had the most police officers killed. Twenty-one were killed last year in the line of duty. We also had five canines that were killed that worked with police.

I have here a photograph—or a poster of the 21 officers killed in the line of duty in the State of Texas last year; all races, both sexes, all ages throughout the State of Texas. Last year, we saw probably more than I can remember, this phenomena of hate and ambush of police officers.

□ 1915

On July 7, 2016, five Dallas police officers were shot and killed as they were protecting a protest demonstration in downtown Dallas.

What occurred was a sniper who had been preparing, obviously for some time, was watching this procession go by and he opened fire on those police officers. Other than 9/11, this was the most deadliest day for police officers in the United States.

Shortly before 9 p.m., a domestic terrorist—and I am not going to give his name. His name is not important. The names of the officers are what is important—parked his black SUV on Lamar Street. He put on his body armor. He got his automatic weapon ready to fire, and he started stalking Dallas police officers.

As those Dallas police officers and a DART officer—DART is Dallas Area Rapid Transit officer—marched along

with the protesters, he opened fire on them with the intent to kill as many as he could. So gunfire rang out and bullets struck and killed Senior Corporal Lorne Ahrens, Officer Michael Krol, Officer Patrick Zamarripa, and three Dallas police officers were wounded, along with a civilian.

But the sniper wasn't through yet. He headed back up Lamar Street—and that is in downtown Dallas—shooting out the windows of a nearby college campus, El Centro College campus. During that time, he injured two El Centro College police officers trying to get into the school.

He had continued on his quest to kill officers and he snuck up behind a DART officer—his name, Brent Thompson—and shot him in the back and killed him. He then turned his way on to Elm Street nearby and shot his way back into El Centro College.

All of this took about 20 minutes. Police officers were following this sniper, trying to capture him, but this individual went up to the library in the school and started firing down. His next victim was Officer Michael Smith, and he injured yet another DART officer.

He was cornered in the library. Chief of Police Brown said: During that 2-hour-long negotiation, the individual lied to us, played games, laughed at us, sang, and continually asked how many of those coppers did he kill?

Eventually, the Dallas SWAT team took care of the sniper, and he was killed.

In total, five officers were killed, seven others were wounded. And these officers were killed for the sole reason that they wore a uniform, that they wore a badge or a star over their heart, symbolizing protecting us from the do-bads. That is why that badge is there over their heart. They were willing to give their life so that we might have peace, order, and safety; and on that day, five of them did.

In total, like I mentioned, 21 officers were killed in Texas last year, the most in any State. I include in the RECORD their full background and the departments that they worked with.

Their names are: Officer David Hofer, Patrolman David Ortiz, Trooper Jeffrey Nichols, Border Patrol Agent Jose Barraza, Officer Endy Ekpanya, Sergeant Stacey Baumgartner, Officer Calvin McCullers, Jr., Sergeant Michael Smith, Officer Michael Krol, Officer Patricio Zamarripa, Officer Brent Thompson, Senior Corporal Lorne Bradley Ahrens, Officer Marco Zarate, Correctional Officer Mari Johnson, Officer Justin Ryan Scherlen, Officer Amir Abdul-Khaliq, Deputy Sheriff Kenneth Maltby, Corporal Robert Ransom, Border Patrol Agent David Gomez, Commander Kenneth Starrs, and Detective Benjamin Marconi.

ROLL CALL OF HEROES

1. Officer David Stefan Hofer, Euless Police Department. End of Watch: March 1, 2016.
2. Patrolman David Ortiz, El Paso Police Department. End of Watch: March 14, 2016.

3. Trooper Jeffrey Don Nichols, Texas Department of Public Safety—Texas Highway Patrol. End of Watch: March 26, 2016.

4. Agent Jose Daniel Barraza, United States Department of Homeland Security—Customs and Border Protection—United States Border Patrol, US. End of Watch: April 18, 2016.

5. Officer Endy Nddiobong Ekpanya, Pearland Police Department. End of Watch: June 12, 2016.

6. Sergeant Stacey Allen Baumgartner, Patton Village Police Department. End of Watch: June 19, 2016.

7. Officer Calvin Marcus McCullers, Jr., Southern Methodist University Police Department. End of Watch: July 5, 2016.

8. Sergeant Michael Joseph Smith, Dallas Police Department. End of Watch: July 7, 2016.

9. Officer Michael Leslie Krol, Dallas Police Department. End of Watch: July 7, 2016.

10. Officer Patricio Enrique Zamarripa (Zamarrepa), Dallas Police Department. End of Watch: July 7, 2016.

11. Officer Brent Alan Thompson, Dallas Area Rapid Transit Police Department. End of Watch: July 7, 2016.

12. Senior Corporal Lorne Bradley Ahrens (Lorn Bradley Aarons), Dallas Police Department. End of Watch: July 8, 2016.

13. Officer Marco Antonio Zarate (Zah-rot-ee), Bellaire Police Department. End of Watch: July 12, 2016.

14. Corrections officer Mari Anne Johnson, Texas Department of Criminal Justice. End of Watch: July 16, 2016.

15. Officer Justin Ryan Scherlen, Amarillo Police Department. End of Watch: August 4, 2016.

16. Officer Amir Abdul-Khaliq (kah-leek), Austin Police Department. End of Watch: September 4, 2016.

17. Deputy Sheriff Kenneth Hubert Maltby, Eastland County Sheriff's Office. End of Watch: September 7, 2016.

18. Corporal Robert Eugene Ransom, Gregg County Sheriff's Office. End of Watch: September 30, 2016.

19. Agent David Gomez, United States Border Patrol, US. End of Watch: November 16, 2016.

20. Commander Kenneth Joseph Starrs, South Texas Specialized Crimes and Narcotics Task Force. End of Watch: November 16, 2016.

21. Detective Benjamin Edward Marconi, San Antonio Police Department. End of Watch: November 20, 2016.

K9

1. K9 Ogar, Smith County Sheriff's Office. End of Watch: January 19, 2016.

2. K9 Ledger, La Salle County Sheriff's Office. End of Watch: May 29, 2016.

3. K9 Rex, San Juan Police Department. End of Watch: June 2, 2016.

4. K9 Bruno, Amarillo Police Department. End of Watch: June 12, 2016.

5. K9 Mojo, Arlington Police Department. End of Watch: July 19, 2016.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, these were real people. And as Sheriff REICHERT said earlier, these people have families.

Lastly, I would like to mention one other officer whose name I read. His name was Sergeant Stacey Baumgartner. He worked at a little bitty police department called Patton Village in Texas, right outside of Houston, and he was killed when his patrol car collided with another vehicle while he was involved in a hot pursuit.

He is survived by his wife, his son, and his daughter, Chloe. This is a pho-

tograph of Chloe taken last week in Austin, Texas, at the Texas Peace Officers Memorial Service event. This is her. It was posted by the police chief of Patton Village, Texas. It expresses the families, the humanity of their fathers and their mothers, and how we as a people need to understand the consequences when people murder our finest.

God bless the thin blue line.

And that is just the way it is.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Judge POE for his words. When he mentioned police officers don't do this for the money, I always considered it a calling. And I think if you talked to any police officer or deputy out on the street today, I think they would tell you that they felt called to serve, and called to serve in the uniform, and called to put their life on the line and to risk their life for others.

I was going to share the story of my partner, Sam Hicks, who was killed in 1982. He left behind five sons. He was ambushed and shot in the chest and killed instantly.

The killer was a man who was already wanted for murder. One of the hardest things I ever did—I was the only homicide detective at the scene when they captured him—was to sit in the back seat with this killer, advise him of his rights, and get him a glass of water and something to eat because he had been on the run for 3 days. I spent an hour in the back seat of that cop car with this killer, knowing that Sam's five sons no longer had a father.

Thank you for your words tonight, Judge.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Jacksonville, Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD), the second sheriff in the House.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be here this evening with my friend, Sheriff DAVE REICHERT, and all of my colleagues who stand with our law enforcement officers, their families, and their communities for this National Police Week.

It is a time where we come together as a country to recognize the sacrifices our police officers make for us every time they put on that uniform.

Last week I had the privilege of attending the Nassau County Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Memorial Service in Florida, where we recognized those who have lost their lives in the line of duty. And in a very special way, we honored the life of Officer Eric James Oliver, who was killed in the line of duty on November 22, 2016.

Officer Oliver died doing what he loved, protecting and serving his community. Before he joined the sheriff's office, Officer Oliver served our Nation in the United States Navy. But his most important job, Mr. Speaker, was being the loving father to his 6-year-old daughter, Shelby.

Tonight I commend the many sacrifices made by each and every law enforcement officer in Florida's Fourth District, but this year we give special

recognition to Officer Eric Oliver and the great loss felt by his family, his Nassau County Sheriff's Office colleagues, and our entire northeast Florida community.

Tonight I also want to honor in a special way two Department of Homeland Security officers who lost their lives in service to their country.

First, I rise to honor Special Agent Jeremy Scott McGuire. Scott served with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, assigned to the National Security Investigations Division at the Homeland Security Investigations office in New Orleans, Louisiana.

On January 25, 2016, Special Agent Scott McGuire lost his life while on special assignment in Miami, Florida. In his final assignment, he was conducting investigations to identify, disrupt, and dismantle transnational criminal enterprises and terrorist organizations that threatened the security of the United States.

He is survived by his wife, Suzy, and son, Finn. Special Agent McGuire earned an extensive list of awards and accolades in recognition of his academic accomplishments, and his investigative successes. In fact, posthumously, Scott received the HIS national award for top illicit drug trade investigator of 2016.

Special Agent McGuire left behind the greatest legacy a man can live. He was truly a man of distinction and a man of devotion to not only his work, but also to his family and friends, and he lives on as a hero.

Second, I rise to honor fallen Officer Brian Beliso, a U.S. Immigration and Customs enforcement officer assigned to the Fugitive Operations Unit at the Enforcement and Removal Operations office in San Francisco. Officer Beliso began his work with ICE in 2007. Very early in his career, Brian distinguished himself as a charismatic leader and a dedicated employee who always went above and beyond in all of his duties.

In his final assignment, Officer Beliso conducted field operations to locate at-large criminal and fugitive aliens who are in violation of our Nation's immigration laws. He was directly responsible for prosecutions of numerous criminal aliens who illegally reentered the country following their deportation.

On June 8, 2016, Officer Beliso died in the line of duty. Not only was Brian greatly respected by his colleagues and superiors, he was also known for his selfless service to his family and community. He was a beloved husband and father. He is survived by his wife, Christina, and their three children, Noah, Sophia, and Bella.

Mr. Speaker, law enforcement is a noble profession, and it is a noble profession not only because these men and women serve, but because they serve with self-sacrifice. Officer Oliver, Officer Beliso, and Special Agent McGuire laid their lives on the altar of freedom, and we must never forget them and the many other men and women who have

lost their lives so that we may experience the safety and freedoms that we enjoy today.

On behalf of a very grateful nation, we thank them for their noble service and we honor them for their duty and sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I didn't mention two other officers. I had the great honor for 12 years of being sheriff of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office in Jacksonville, Florida.

□ 1930

During my tenure, I was deeply saddened to bury two of my officers who died in the line of duty. They were Officer Scott Bell, who gave his life in service in 2007, and Officer Christopher Kane in 2008.

I say again, on behalf of a very grateful nation, we thank them for their noble service, and we honor them for their duty and sacrifice.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the sheriff for being here tonight honoring those who fell in his community and under his command. I thank him for his 40 years with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office. I am proud to serve with him in Congress. We need more sheriffs in Congress, by the way.

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

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I would first like to thank the gentleman from Washington for organizing this event for us to thank the brave men and women who keep our community safe day in and day out. Like him, I have the honor and privilege of serving with Sheriff RUTHERFORD and Chief DEMINGS. It is quite an honor to be with both of them in the 115th Congress.

The men and women of law enforcement are moms and dads, sons and daughters, siblings and friends to the very people who they serve. We ask these brave men and women to uphold the law, but so often this seemingly straightforward mandate sends them into the most difficult and tragic situations that our society faces: terrible accidents, domestic disputes, and the strife that threatens the hearts of our towns and communities. Their bravery and courage is unimaginable to someone like me. The complexity of their jobs and the tolls that it takes on their lives is often underestimated.

Having a safe community offers our citizens more than just peace of mind. It offers them a place to live, grow their businesses, provide a living for their family, and to be not only economically secure but socially secure. Law enforcement officers play a very critical role in community development.

Each generation of our law enforcement community evolves as society changes and their technology and training improve. This allows them to police our communities more responsibly, effectively, and sometimes even to right wrongs of the past generation.

I want to highlight one specific example in my district, Georgia's Third District.

Nearly eight decades ago, an African-American man named Austin Callaway was lynched in the town of LaGrange, Georgia. This terrible crime has been a dark part of the town's history for a long time. Recently, law enforcement officials have taken steps to begin the reconciliation process.

LaGrange Chief Louis Dekmar partnered with the president of the county NAACP chapter, Ernest Ward, to facilitate an official apology to the Callaway family from the police force for failing to investigate the lynching nearly 77 years prior.

I commend Chief Dekmar and Mr. Ward for their actions to begin to heal this old wound. I am proud to represent this community that has engaged in the hard work of reconciliation.

Police officers like Chief Dekmar do so much more than enforce the law. They work actively every single day to bring the communities they serve together. I am so proud that there are such great examples of law enforcement in the Third District of Georgia.

Law enforcement officers do more than just keep us safe. They help our communities, they show love and compassion, they bring us together. We owe them a debt of gratitude. I am proud that there are such brave men and women willing to serve in all of our communities and hometowns. I want to extend my deep gratitude for the hard work of these brave men and women and offer a special thanks and special prayer to their families.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DESJARLAIS).

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Police Week and the courageous law enforcement officers who protect the great State of Tennessee.

This week, we have thousands of police from across the country here in Washington, D.C., to honor the valiant men and women in blue.

Among the 145 heroes who lost their lives in the line of duty in 2016, six hail from the Volunteer State. I would like to recognize Special Agent Frazier with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, Sergeant Allred with the Livingston Police Department, Deputy Sheriff Larned with the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Officer Moats with the Maryville Police Department, Sergeant Smith with the Memphis Police Department, and Deputy Sheriff Sturgill with the Humphrey County Police Department. I stand today to recognize their service and extreme sacrifice.

Tennessee law enforcement officers often risk their own lives to protect the safety of others. I honor and respect these brave men and women, and I pray for them and their families.

Mr. Speaker, during National Police Week, and throughout the year, let us all remember to "Back the Badge."

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. KUSTOFF).

Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I thank the sheriff so much for his leadership tonight and throughout the course as we honor law enforcement and police here and across the country.

I rise today to honor the brave men and women of our police forces in the Eighth Congressional District and across the Nation.

I have got to tell you that it is challenging to find the right words to thank those who literally lay their lives on the line for others each and every day—most of the time for people who they have never met.

This past Monday, I had the incredible privilege of joining the Jackson Police Department and the Madison County Sheriff's Office at a memorial service in Jackson, Tennessee. I was moved to see not just the active and retired officers there but also the family members of those who died in the line of duty.

During the ceremony, there was a wreath for all those who have lost their lives in the line of duty in the Jackson and Madison County area. The names of those officers, sheriff's deputies, and law enforcement officials who laid their lives on the line, going back to the 1800s, were read. For some of those who died many years ago, there were no family members there. There were family members for those who died going back 60 and 70 years ago in the line of duty.

Each of those family members were given a rose that they would place in a wreath—a memorial for all those who have died in the line of duty. It was very moving to see those family members and, obviously, to hear the names of those people who have given their lives in the line of duty.

The ceremony reminded me of the daily sacrifices that our law enforcement make in order to protect and serve their communities, their State, and their country. These men and women have families, hobbies, and places of worship. They are heroes living among us who deserve our praise each and every day.

During my time as the United States Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee, I worked closely with our police departments and law enforcement agencies to tackle violent crime. Our men and women in law enforcement were on the front lines of some of the most incredibly dangerous and sensitive situations. I feel fortunate to have seen how their tireless work saves lives and changes communities for the better.

I also want to take time to thank those in the United States Capitol Police here in Washington, D.C. They are some of the finest, sharpest men and women in the country. We can rest easier knowing they are watching closely over our Nation's capital and protecting our democracy.

This is a pivotal time for our country. We must not forget the significance of maintaining law and order. At

a time when it seems so many in our society have grown distrustful and disrespectful of law enforcement, the overwhelming majority of the people in the country respect our law enforcement. They need to know that they have our support now more than ever. Too often, their courage and selfless deeds go unnoticed and unacknowledged. Whether it is bringing violent criminals to justice, rushing to the scene of a terrible incident, or keeping constant watch over our schools and neighborhoods, our police officers serve with such distinction. We must not take their service and steady presence for granted.

I have never been more appreciative of law enforcement for all that they do to keep us safe. National Police Week is a solemn time as we remember those we have lost. We must also celebrate our active police officers and law enforcement who will continue to serve our country for future generations.

I thank the sheriff for allowing me to speak this evening on behalf of all those in law enforcement. We truly appreciate their service.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS).

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Police Week. It is also Mental Health Awareness Month. I want to thank my colleague, whom we affectionately call sheriff, who served his great State for 33 years.

I want to express my profound gratitude to the men and women in uniform and their families who serve and sacrifice so much to protect our safety.

I think we also need to talk about a way that we can repay these men and women for their sacrifice by making mental health services more available to our law enforcement officers so that they have the resources to handle so many difficult on-the-job situations that they deal with every single day.

Police officers are under constant attack, often on the job, caught literally in the crossfire of violent domestic violence disputes; violent crime; finding and recovering bodies of murder victims, some of whom are young children; targets for lone wolf shootings and attacks; injecting Narcan, the overdose reversal drug, into people who have overdosed on heroin, trying to save them.

Think about all of the different things that the men and women in uniform have to do day in and day out. For most people, just one of these experiences would be enough to cause trauma. But our police officers face these and other unthinkable situations daily, sometimes leading to significant mental health challenges for officers like suicidal thoughts, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, and depression.

Fortunately, we have many law enforcement groups, including the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department and the Indiana Fraternal Order of Police, who are working to offer our

officers the support and treatment they need to continue to protect themselves and our communities.

Since 2010, officers in Indianapolis have been able to receive counseling and referrals to doctors and clinicians through unique, in-house programs staffed by fellow trained officers.

To help police departments develop and implement similar programs, I have introduced, along with my good friend, a new Member of Congress from Florida, VAL DEMINGS, the former police chief of Orlando, H.R. 2228, the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act.

This bill will improve the sharing of Federal best practices by the Department of Justice, the Department of Defense, and the VA with local police departments. It will make grants available to initiate peer-mentoring pilot programs and develop training for mental health providers specific to law enforcement, study the effectiveness of crisis hotlines, and get officers mental health checkups.

If our police officers are healthy, our communities will be even safer. We owe it to all of our heroes in law enforcement across the country to protect their mental health and well-being, and I urge passage of this legislation.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR). The gentleman from Washington has 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS), the former police chief of Orlando.

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Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, one of my greatest honors was serving as a police officer in Orlando for 27 years. My husband is a sheriff in Orange County, and he has been serving for 35 years in law enforcement. But today I am here to talk about how we can better take care of our law enforcement officers as they continue to take care of us.

Our law enforcement officers are called to some of the most horrific situations and run into harm's way to protect us and our families every day. Almost a year ago, officers responded to the Pulse nightclub shooting, known now as the site of the deadliest mass shooting in our Nation's history: 49 persons lost their lives that night and more were severely injured.

Imagine the scene as the officers responded. One officer said one thing he will never forget is hearing the sound of the cellphones ringing as loved ones called the victims, but, of course, the victims could not answer.

During the most dangerous and most tragic of circumstances, our law enforcement officers may appear superhuman, but they are only human, and responding to scenes like this—or any other horrific scene—no one can really prepare for that. It is just one example of what our officers face.

I believe we have a responsibility to our first responders. That is why I am very proud to cosponsor H.R. 2228, the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act of 2017, with my good friend SUSAN BROOKS from Indiana. The bill would direct the Departments of Justice, Defense, and Veterans Affairs, as you have heard, to share best practices that can help law enforcement officers in tragic situations.

I am so proud to share this legislation with my good friend and urge other colleagues within Congress to join us to make this vision a reality. Mr. Speaker, we must do everything we can to protect the men and women who keep our cities, our towns, and our communities safe.

Again, I thank the sheriff so much for his service, and I thank the gentleman for helping us to honor the men and women who are so deserving of this honor.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chief. It is an honor to serve with the gentlewoman. I know the gentlewoman has a special quality about her now that I heard her husband was a sheriff. The gentlewoman is all thumbs up on my team, and I thank her for her sincere, thoughtful comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. O'HALLERAN) who is a former Chicago police officer.

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Washington and the sheriff.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the men and women who have paid the ultimate sacrifice to protect our communities.

In 2016, two brave Arizona officers died as they responded to calls: David Van Glasser, Phoenix Police Department; and Darrin Reed, Show Low Police Department, which is in my district. Both of those men left behind family and loved ones.

As a former police officer and homicide investigator, National Police Week has a special meaning to me. I have lost friends, partners, brothers, and sisters in the line of duty. I have grieved with their families during the most difficult times, and I have experienced firsthand the real sacrifices they make.

Each of the 135 officers from across the country who died in the line of duty in 2016 worked to keep our neighborhoods safe. While we can never repay the debts we owe them and their families, we will forever remember their service.

As we look to the future, it is important to highlight the work being done in cities and towns across the country to not only better protect our families, but also the lives of our law enforcement officers. In Arizona, successful community policing programs in Flagstaff, Phoenix, and countless other cities and towns have improved relationships.

I am proud to join my colleagues from both sides of the aisle on the House Law Enforcement Caucus. I look

forward to continuing the bipartisan work we are doing to identify and solve the challenges facing our law enforcement community.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ALLEGED RUSSIAN COLLUSION

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I will continue to join my colleagues in honoring our law enforcement officers across America, particularly in my home State, and look forward to providing that tribute in days to come. I thank my colleague, the sheriff, for his work.

I have come to the floor today, however, to again comment on the appointment of a special counsel to investigate the Russian collusion, alleged Russian collusion of the President's campaign operatives and the President as relates to the 2016 election.

Director Mueller is a well respected law enforcement leader. I look forward to his quick response. But I believe it is important for this Congress, and I ask Speaker RYAN to ensure, that the committees of jurisdiction—Oversight and Government Reform, House Judiciary Committee, and House Intelligence Committee—do their work as well. That work would include hearings on the issues before us and an impeachment inquiry to determine the facts.

I believe that we can do this together, Mr. Speaker, not as Republicans and Democrats, but as Americans. The truth must be found, and America will be better for it.

INFRASTRUCTURE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous materials on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this is Infrastructure Week in the United States, and while Hallmark may not quite yet be making cards to observe Infrastructure Week, I hope those of us here in Congress can take a moment to recognize that this is a unique opportunity to talk about the importance of the state of our Nation's infrastructure.

This is a time, as I was mentioning, really to focus on all modes of trans-

portation and our utility systems that most of us only tend to notice when they are broken.

Well, Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of broken infrastructure in our country to notice lately. In fact, even President Donald Trump has recognized that the roads, bridges, and all the other underpinnings that make our modern world possible are crumbling and need urgent attention.

So the President has vowed repeatedly, both as a candidate and as President, to invest at least \$1 trillion in our infrastructure system. That was a key promise of his campaign and critical to his appeal to working class Americans, including in my home State of Pennsylvania.

But that promise is, so far, as broken as our Nation's infrastructure. Instead, 4 months into his administration, this President is laying the groundwork to shortchange American workers and manufacturers. Mr. President, it is most disappointing.

I stood Monday morning at Philadelphia International Airport. I stood with the former Governor of our State, Ed Rendell, who is part of a bipartisan group called Building America's Future. I stood with both Democratic and Republican Members of this body who happen to represent the greater Philadelphia area. I also stood with Senator COONS of Delaware, who, himself, lives not too far from the Philadelphia International Airport. We used that setting to talk about the importance of Infrastructure Week and reinvesting in our Nation's infrastructure today and for tomorrow.

I mentioned in those remarks something that I am going to mention here tonight: 100 years ago, there was no doubt that the United States of America was the leader in the world when it comes to infrastructure. Our roads, our bridges, our waterway systems, our mass transit, and our gas lines were rated number one. Today, if you seek out the report of the American Society of Civil Engineers—these are not Democrats; they are not Republicans; they are really nonpartisan; they are civil engineers—we are rated a D-plus.

The International Civil Engineers do not rate the United States of America in the top 20 when it comes to infrastructure. That should bother all of us, whether you are Democrat or Republican or Independent or nonpolitical.

I have to say, as someone who believes in this country and believes that we should always strive to be number one, not even being in the top 20 bothers me, and it is simply not good enough. It is unwise economic policy.

Part of why the 20th century became known as the American Century is because we were the number one world leader when it came to our infrastructure. How are we supposed to compete today and in the future if we are not even in the top 10 or the top 20?

Mr. Speaker, for the needs of our infrastructure and for a myriad of other issues related to this, I have cofounded

the Blue Collar Caucus. I have spoken on this House floor about the need for our country's leaders to pay attention again to our blue-collar workers and our blue-collar economy.

I am so happy that, while tonight might be specifically about infrastructure and that sliver of the overall blue-collar economy, I am joined in this effort with my cofounder, the co-chairman of this caucus, MARC VEASEY of Texas. He will be speaking in a moment, as well as a few other members of our caucus, about the importance of reinvesting in our Nation's infrastructure and why that is critical to our economy.

Mr. Speaker, if we really want to put Americans back to work and put them back to work not in low-paid jobs but in good-paying jobs—family-sustaining jobs—the way to do it is to reinvest in our Nation's infrastructure. I have many other things to say on this topic that I will be saying throughout the next hour or so.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY), the co-chairman of our Blue Collar Caucus. He is someone who has been a real leader on this issue and feels just as passionately about it as I do.

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from the great State of Pennsylvania for helping cofound the Blue Collar Caucus and just doing a tremendous job. As you know, the hardworking men and women of Pennsylvania, and particularly the Philadelphia area, have been so responsible for many of the things that have really made our country what it is, many of the great public works, many of the amazing museums, and many of the amazing things, bridges, just things like that that people take for granted that there was someone that built those things, there was someone that toiled possibly in the heat and in the snow, but they were able to bring home a good wage doing it. They were able to take care of their families. They were able to send their kids to college.

I love when the gentleman talks about his family and the sacrifices that the gentleman's parents made working in a blue-collar job that ultimately helped him go to one of the most prestigious universities—Notre Dame. So I just really appreciate the fact that the gentleman appreciates the hardworking men and women that really make this country great.

We need to do more for them. One of the ways that we can do more for them is to pass an infrastructure bill. I don't think that there is any doubt about that.

We know that this is Infrastructure Week. With roughly \$700 billion a year that is being invested at the local, State, and Federal level, infrastructure is vitally important to our economy. We have to have good infrastructure to meet the basic needs of the American people. That may sound like quite a bit of money, but we can't spend enough