

We have to work together to provide justice and relief for these victims. That is why Congress has passed 16 bipartisan bills to combat this human trafficking epidemic.

These bills ensure that all law enforcement officers at the State, Federal, and local level have the resources they need and the support they need to fight this overwhelming crisis.

I am proud to support these measures, and I will continue to work with my colleagues to ensure that we crack down and drop the hammer on human traffickers.

#### FUNDING TO BUILD A BORDER WALL

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

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the proposed border wall funding.

Instead of wasting \$1.6 billion in taxpayers' dollars on an unnecessary border wall, the DHS should focus its limited resources on more important border security priorities.

This includes upgrading and hiring more personnel for ports of entry, the main path for illegal drugs. This could include better and more technology so that border security agents will have a better idea what is happening along the borders.

The border wall will be dangerous. Violence, poverty, and family ties ensure that migrants will continue attempting the risky journey through the border region's hostile zones.

The border wall will be divisive. We need to do our job, Mr. Speaker, and come together as a Congress for a comprehensive immigration plan; at the least, reform of our immigration policies. Building a wall sends a toxic message to one of our closest neighbors, a country on which we, the United States, depend on.

#### RECOGNIZING HUCK PLYLER

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a young man whose thoughtfulness and generosity has stirred the hearts, souls, and patriotic spirits of people across my district in Arkansas.

Earlier this year, 6-year-old Huck Plyler from Hope, Arkansas, started what is now known as Huck's Military Care Package Project. Huck's project is comprised of putting together care packages for nearly 700 members of the Arkansas National Guard currently deployed to the Horn of Africa.

Huck's care packages include items such as nonperishable snacks, lip balm, sunscreen, personal hygiene products, socks, and more.

When asked why he decided to start this project, Huck's answer was: "We

do this because they help us, so we help them."

Though simple, this reply is wise beyond his years.

Huck's dedication to this project has enabled him to collect enough donated items and monetary donations to send over 50 boxes to our troops thus far.

Mr. Speaker, Huck's kindness and thoughtfulness brings honor to himself; his parents, Caleb and Brianna Plyler; and to the benevolent people of Hempstead County and Arkansas.

I commend and thank Huck for his hard work and commitment to our military members serving overseas. It is young men and women like Huck that give me hope for the future, hope that the giving and caring spirit is still alive and well in our young people and country today.

#### A BETTER DEAL

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, Democrats unveiled A Better Deal for the American people. This is an economic agenda that will create 10 million good-paying, full-time jobs; raise pay; lower costs; and give workers the tools that they need to get ahead.

A job is much more than just a paycheck. It is about knowing that your hard work is valued and honored. It is about being treated with the dignity and respect that every human being deserves. We don't have enough of that in this country today.

People in my State and all across America feel like the system is completely stacked against them. And do you know what? They are right.

Our Tax Code rewards companies that ship jobs overseas. Millionaires and billionaires don't pay their fair share. Corporate special interests spend secretly in our elections. It doesn't have to be this way; and with A Better Deal, it won't be this way.

We are going to invest in our infrastructure, we are going to build a new manufacturing economy, double investments in apprenticeships, and we are going to make sure that working families are valued again.

The American people have had enough broken promises to last them a lifetime, but Democrats are going to deliver real results to them with A Better Deal, better jobs, better wages, for a better future.

#### CONGRATULATING JACK AND MARIANNE COX

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Jack and Marianne Cox on the occasion of their upcoming golden wedding anniversary.

Jack served for many years as chief of staff for Congressman Barry Gold-

water, Jr. In fact, I first met him in that capacity when I was still in high school. I have done quite a bit of aging since then. Jack and Marianne have not, which I find annoying, but there it is.

Jack was the quintessential congressional chief of staff. He was always one step behind Barry, whispering names in his ear as he went from handshake to handshake.

Jack was also one of the moving forces behind the creation of the Republican Study Committee.

Somehow he also found time to marry and raise a family in those years. And, even more surprisingly, Marianne put up with it.

Jack and Marianne have sort of retired to the town of Copperopolis, and I extend to them heartiest congratulations on the celebration of this family milestone.

#### THE RIGHT TO HEALTHCARE

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, even as our colleagues in the Senate try, once again, today to strip lifesaving healthcare away from millions of Americans, I find that there is reason to hope and to have faith not in this Congress, where the work of cruel indifference to suffering precedes once again, but, rather, in the American people, because it has been the efforts of ordinary citizens whose calls and letters and protests have been making all the difference in this issue. It has been the collective voices of people telling their stories of struggle and survival who have slowed the system roller of repeal.

I salute each and every one of them. Your voices count. Your stories are important. Keep them coming because you, your health, and your healthcare matter.

#### RECOGNIZING LOUISE JOHNSON

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding service of Mrs. Louise Johnson, this year's recipient of the Friends of the Fair Award from the Clinton County Fair.

Mrs. Johnson has dedicated herself to the people and organizations of Clinton County for many years, particularly the Clinton County Fair.

She served as chair of the Hershey Baking Contest for 22 years, as co-chair for Open Show for 19 years, and created the Sizzling Senior Talent Show in 2010.

Beyond her involvement at the fair, Mrs. Johnson has served at the Monument Church of Christ for more than six decades, teaching Sunday school, playing the piano, and serving as treasurer.

She has further enriched the community by teaching crochet classes, serving residents at Haven Skilled Rehabilitation and Nursing, and assisting at Lock Haven Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, the time and dedication Mrs. Johnson has given to her community is truly inspiring. I am so proud to congratulate her on this well-deserved award.

I congratulate Mrs. Johnson, and I thank her for all that she has given in services to the communities of both Centre and Clinton Counties.

#### BORDER SECURITY

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

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, after more than 6 months of failing to pass any major legislative bills, House Republicans are becoming desperate for a win. So desperate, they decided to sneak in \$1.6 billion into a funding bill to start construction on an unworkable wall along our border. While I support real border security, this stunt is a far cry from that.

I believe in investing our Federal dollars wisely. Instead of building a medieval solution that will not work, why don't we use those billions of dollars for a big, beautiful jobs package? Or big, beautiful bridges, roads, and infrastructure throughout this country? Or to ensure that our children can access higher education and job training, healthcare, and housing?

Instead, my Republican colleagues are attempting to distract us from their failures by passing this bill. You would think that with their back against a wall, they wouldn't be this eager to start building another one.

#### CONGRATULATING THE SERGEANT ANDREW BRUCHER VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 5499

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

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the Sergeant Andrew Brucher Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5419, located in Kauneonga Lake, New York, which will soon be celebrating its 50th anniversary.

At the anniversary dinner, the post will honor two very special people: Mrs. Mabel Brucher, a Gold Star mother whose son Post 5499 is named for; and Mr. Raymond Jankowski, a veteran of the Second World War and founding charter member of Post 5499.

Honoring those who have served our Nation should be a top priority for all Americans, and the VFW is an essential organization that fosters camaraderie among American veterans and advocates on their behalf.

Congratulations to Post 5499. I look forward to honoring this important milestone with members of the post this weekend.

#### BORDER WALL

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to oppose the inclusion of \$1.6 billion that would be a waste of taxpayer money on this useless wall. The funds will go towards an unnecessary wall along the Southern border. This wall that the President promised voters that Mexico would pay for is now being put on the taxpayers' backs.

\$1.6 billion can be used for better things. It can pay for thousands of jobs in the U.S. and workforce development programs and apprenticeships.

And one other thing: agents protecting our border don't even want it. They do not see themselves as defenders of a wall.

Mr. President, please come back to reality. This is not "Game of Thrones."

This administration needs to stop demonizing people outside of our borders. We need to fix our immigration system, and we can do it in a humane and pragmatic and effective way, and in a way that will supercharge our economy and actually create American jobs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to the President.

□ 1230

#### IN RECOGNITION OF BRIAN BERG

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

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, as the House co-chair of the bipartisan Paper and Packaging Caucus, I rise today to recognize an individual from my district who has dedicated his entire professional life to an industry that is the lifeblood of a rural community in my State, Toledo, Oregon. I am talking about Brian Berg, who, after 41 years with Georgia-Pacific, will be retiring Friday.

For 50 years, GP has been an integral part of Lincoln County and a community partner, providing paper and packaging products that are used around the world.

For over 41 years, Brian has been a leader at GP in helping ensure that the mill continues to thrive and be successful and provide for this community now and into the future.

I want to thank Brian for his dedication, his service, and his commitment to an industry that has been critical to my district and many of my constituents. I wish you all the best and hope you get to enjoy some time with your lovely wife, Janet, and kids, Savannah, Ashley, and Riley.

#### PRESIDENT TRUMP WILL DENY TRANSGENDER PEOPLE THE RIGHT TO SERVE IN THE MILITARY

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, Donald Trump announced via Twitter, how else, that he is going to reverse the Obama-era decision and deny transgender people the right to openly serve in our military.

I think it is shameful to divide Americans, in the face of their service and sacrifice, for his political gain.

This is not about national security, it is not about saving money, and it is not about fabricated claims of disruption. What is disruptive is discrimination against an entire class of Americans who are or who want to protect and defend America. That is the same argument that was used against women in the service, against gays and lesbians.

We ought to welcome any American who is qualified and willing to serve to protect our great country, to protect America and our values, even as the President undermines both.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3219, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 473 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

#### H. RES. 473

*Resolved*, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed two hours equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. An amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 115-30 shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the five-minute rule and shall be considered as read. Points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived.

SEC. 2. (a) No further amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution, and pro forma amendments described in section 4 of this resolution.

(b) Each further amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules shall be