

For 27 years, the Americans with Disabilities Act has made a difference in millions of lives, including my own, by prohibiting discrimination on the basis of a disability and requiring accessibility in places of public accommodation.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 620 decimates the underlying intent of the ADA by allowing entities to wait before addressing barriers to access. It would roll back years of progress, and it sends a message to the disability community that we are not worthy of being included like everyone else. I urge my colleagues to consider the true implications of this policy.

Mr. Speaker, I was injured in 1980, a full 10 years before the ADA was enacted. I remember what our country was like before the ADA. I do not wish to go back. Instead of weakening our civil rights, let us work together to protect them.

□ 1215

CONGRATULATING ACCUWEATHER ON ITS 55TH ANNIVERSARY

(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 congratulate AccuWeather as it celebrates 55 years of serving communities, businesses, and institutions around the world.

In 1962, Dr. Joel Myers founded AccuWeather to help people plan their lives, protect their businesses, and to make the most of their days.

Dr. Myers has led an impressive career as a fellow of the National Meteorological Society and one of the top entrepreneurs in American history. Today, AccuWeather is the world's largest weather and digital media company, reaching nearly 2 billion people at least 29 million times each day. Proudly, it is headquartered right in State College, Pennsylvania.

Throughout the years, the company has expanded its offices to New York, Montreal, and Tokyo, just to name a few, but it has always called Pennsylvania home, and it has been a major employer for decades in the Commonwealth.

Over 55 years, AccuWeather continues to build upon its main mission: to improve people's lives.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate AccuWeather on 55 years of service, accuracy, trust, and protection they have offered to people around the world.

RAISING AWARENESS FOR CENTRAL COAST VETERANS CEMETERY

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

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of veterans

from the 20th Congressional District in California: Rick "Phin" Phinney, Steve "Pops" Culver, and Hy "Crash" Libby, the three "black sheep" from the American Legion Post 31, who are about to complete an epic motorcycle ride across our country to raise awareness and financial support for the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery.

Two weeks ago, I met and sent off the three riders and their crew at the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery, and tomorrow, all of them will arrive at the Arlington National Cemetery. Throughout that epic ride, they have been carrying a large American flag, and once they get here, that flag will be flown over the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The veterans will then return that flag to Central Coast Veterans Cemetery where it will be proudly flown over that hallowed ground.

Having driven 10,000 miles through 21 States, the three black sheep will truly have an epic ride. From our community's veteran cemetery there on the central Coast to our Nation's veterans' cemetery here in our Capital, this journey will not only support the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery, it will serve as another demonstration of what our veterans do best: serve those who serve our Nation. And for that, I not only recognize Phin, Pops, and Crash, I honor them and I thank them, once again, for their service.

PULMONARY FIBROSIS AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to September being National Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month and the bipartisan resolution that I and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) have introduced.

Pulmonary fibrosis is an incurable lung disease that impacts 200,000 Americans, and for those who aren't familiar with it, you may be surprised to learn that the mortality rate for those with pulmonary fibrosis is as high as those with breast cancer. It kills one American every 13 minutes—40,000 Americans die each and every year. There is no known cure, and there is no known reliable treatment to relieve its symptoms nor prolong the life of its victims.

Eighty percent of those who contract pulmonary fibrosis do not live more than 5 years after receiving that diagnosis, and the median survival rate is just half that time.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue my efforts in working with the National Institutes of Health as well as patient advocacy groups to find a cure for this deadly disease.

UNITED UNDER THE DREAM ACT

(Mr. LOWENTHAL asked and was given permission to address the House

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, too often we hear about our country being divided, and yet when it comes to the Dream Act, the message is clear: our country is united.

A wide majority of Americans and nearly 70 percent of Republicans want us to pass this legislation. They want us to provide permanent legal status to DREAMers—800,000 people who are working hard, studying in our universities, contributing to our economy, and serving in our military.

Mr. Speaker, I demand that we bring up the Dream Act for a vote. We cannot force these young people, who have received DACA, to wait any longer to know that America wants them to live here.

THANKING ALL WHO RESPONDED TO HELP AFTER HURRICANE IRMA

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, this week, Hurricane Irma brought devastation to south Florida and many parts of the Southeastern United States, including the 12th District of Georgia.

In times of disaster, Americans come together and show their love and support for one another, and I thank all of our first responders, law enforcement, our military, and Good Samaritans for their extraordinary service in this time of need. Your selflessness saved countless lives in this unprecedented storm.

I thank Governor Deal, President Trump, and FEMA, and all 19 counties in the 12th District of Georgia that were included in the Federal emergency declaration authorizing FEMA to provide direct Federal resources to our district.

Visit disasterassistance.gov to learn about the options available to you. It is the greatest honor of my life to represent the people of Georgia's 12th Congressional District, and my office is here to help in any way we can. If you need any help in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma, please do not hesitate to reach out. America is resilient.

The American people are resilient when we come together as one, and now we must assess the damage and help each other rebuild our communities.

PROTECTING DREAMERS

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, DREAMers are bright, hardworking people who simply want to live in peace and contribute to the only country they know as home. They worship in our churches, serve as teachers and nurses in our schools and hospitals, and some even defend our country in the military.

Additionally, every DACA recipient passed extensive background checks

and came forward to register with the Federal Government. There is no security reason that DREAMers should not stay and continue contributing to our community and our local economies. There is no way to disguise that their deportation would just be the worst of what our country is all about. We have to protect them.

Being Members of Congress, it is so important that we step up, that we answer the call, and that we offer these young people the opportunity to continue to stay in our country, continue to work, go to school, and contribute so much because they have already given our country so much.

I urge my Republican colleagues to work with House Democrats to immediately pass the Dream Act. It is the only way we can provide peace of mind to nearly 150,000 DACA recipients in my home State of Texas.

CONGRATULATING MISS NORTH DAKOTA CARA MUND

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

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Miss North Dakota Cara Mund, who was crowned Miss America last Sunday.

A native of Bismarck, Cara made history in our State when she became the first North Dakotan to be crowned Miss America. Throughout the competition, Cara shared her desire to make her home State proud, and boy did she do that, encouraging others to follow their dreams, saying: "... it doesn't matter where you come from geographically."

When asked what she hoped to gain from her year as Miss America, Cara said she is focused on what she can do for others. Cara has been giving back for years, having raised more than \$78,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation through her Passion for Fashion Show that she founded when she was just 14 years old.

As she travels the United States, I know she will inspire and impress everyone she comes in contact with. This former Capitol Hill intern plans to attend law school, become the first woman Governor of North Dakota, and perhaps even represent her State in Congress one day. I hope she waits a while. But anyway, Kris and I join all North Dakotans in congratulating our new Miss America.

We are proud of you, Cara, and we look forward to hearing the positive message you are going to be sharing throughout this Nation throughout the next year.

PROVIDING CRITICAL FINANCIAL AID

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

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of half a million students across the country who will lose access to critical financial aid without action by Congress.

Perkins loans are an important resource for low- and middle-income students. A majority of those receiving this aid come from families with household incomes less than \$30,000 a year. In my district alone, this program is used by students at Clarkson, Paul Smith's College, and SUNY Potsdam, SUNY Canton, and SUNY Plattsburgh.

Without congressional action, these students will lose access to these important loans after September 30 when this program expires. I have introduced H.R. 2482, the Perkins Loan Program Extension Act, that will reauthorize this aid for two more years. I have been grateful to receive support from 160 bipartisan cosponsors.

Mr. Speaker, we must ensure that low-income students have access to a quality education, and the Perkins Loan Program is a critical tool to help them succeed. I urge the House to swiftly pass my bill before the end of the month.

RESTORING THE RULE OF LAW IN AMERICA

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

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government's first duty is to protect its citizens. For too long, dangerous gangs like MS-13 have exploited our Nation's immigration laws and made our communities less safe. Hoosiers are tired of it, and it is well past time to crack down on this illegal activity and restore the rule of law in America.

Today, the House passed a common-sense reform that does just that, ensuring violent gangs are kept off our streets. The Criminal Alien Gang Member Removal Act would allow law enforcement to detain and deport criminal alien gang members who pose a serious threat to our safety.

Instead of waiting on another tragedy, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement could remove these criminals before they have a chance to harm innocent Americans.

The bill would also prevent these criminals from ever entering the United States again. It is really just common sense. This bill will make America safer, and it is worthy of our support.

CONGRATULATING JOHNSON CITY ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 125th anniversary

of the village of Johnson City in Broome County. Founded in 1892, Johnson City was first named Lestershire. The village was later renamed Johnson City in honor of George F. Johnson, a factory worker who rose through the ranks at the Endicott-Johnson Shoe Company, a local manufacturing firm started in Binghamton in 1854.

Under Johnson's leadership, Endicott-Johnson evolved into an economic hub in the region. Through the square deal and his generosity to both the community and his employees, George Johnson played a pivotal role in shaping Johnson City into the village we know today.

Part of the Tri-Cities, Johnson City is now home to over 15,000 people and will soon be home to Binghamton University's School of Pharmacy.

On behalf of the entire 22nd District, I extend my sincerest congratulations to Johnson City on this landmark anniversary.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION MUST EXPLAIN IMPROPER USE OF FUNDS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, a recent Federal audit found that the Obama administration improperly used, via the Bureau of Reclamation, \$84 million on California Governor Jerry Brown's pet project, the Delta tunnels. In planning, this is a project that would transfer water from northern California, where my district is, to southern California.

This comes after years of assurance that no tax dollars would be spent on the Governor's controversial legacy project, nor was there even an appropriation made by Congress to do so, and that is where the problem is. It is the illegal use of Federal dollars in the planning of this project.

Taxpayers ended up paying for a large portion of this project's planning costs without their knowledge and, again, without Congress' authorization, which is obviously unacceptable.

The Bureau of Reclamation needs to explain to Congress how and why this happened, and the employees and the appointees who carried it out must be held responsible.

More importantly, California needs to repay every penny to the Federal Government and the taxpayers of the other 49 States for this illegal use and improper use.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a small thing. Congress and the American people need to know what is happening with this and not be lied to.

□ 1230

TRIBUTE TO PAT HILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) is recognized for 60