

Mr. Speaker, today, on National Farmers Day, I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking the men and women who rise before the sun each and every day to make sure our families are fed.

#### HELPING FLOOD VICTIMS IN NEED

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge Congress to help the neediest and most vulnerable flood victims from our Nation's recent hurricanes.

Our district in Houston and Harris County, Texas, is familiar with hurricanes and disaster recovery. We rebuilt our communities after Allison in 2001, and again in 2008, after Hurricane Ike.

Texans are proud and independent people. We take pride in our self-reliance and can-do attitude. However, many members of our community—low-income families, seniors, and disabled Americans—are in the greatest need and must rely on others for help.

Current rules can prevent the neediest victims from receiving assistance they need to recover and rebuild their homes, including denying individuals Federal assistance for being able to afford flood insurance premiums that can exceed over \$4,000 a year. That is out of range for most of these folks.

As America's elected representatives, we have a moral responsibility to act and protect our Nation's most vulnerable disaster victims, especially our seniors and disabled, from being left with nothing.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF JAMES B. BRIEN, JR.

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Mr. Jim Brien of Mayfield in Kentucky's First Congressional District, who passed away on Friday, October 6.

Jim's decades of service established him as a titan within the western Kentucky legal community. Having served as assistant prosecutor for Mayfield, an assistant Commonwealth attorney, and as a partner at the Law Offices of Neely, Brien, Wilson, and Toombs, he developed an unparalleled legal knowledge and community network which he utilized to defend his fellow citizens and work tirelessly on their behalf.

He was widely respected for his selfless service to his family and community, as evidenced by his leadership in community organizations and his membership at the First Baptist Church in Mayfield.

For all who knew him, he was a dedicated public servant and a staunch advocate for Graves County, whose passion for bettering the community was rivaled only by his love for University of Kentucky football and basketball.

May God continue to bless his sons, James B. Brien III and Joshua V. Brien, and his family and friends, through which his legacy lives on.

#### NATIONAL FARMERS DAY

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the people of west Texas, home to 14 million acres of farmland, making it one of the largest agriculture production regions in the world.

I have spent a lot of time with these plowboys and cowboys over the years, and I can tell you this: these men and women don't work our land and our cattle for the money, and they certainly don't do it for recognition.

But today is National Farmers Day. Let's pause and pay tribute to the American farmer.

Farming was man's first profession. Farming saved and sustained our first colony at Jamestown. Farming helped fund the Revolution, securing the very freedoms we have and cherish today.

Farming has allowed us to feed and clothe our own people, and that food and fiber independence has contributed to America being the most powerful, most prosperous, and most generous Nation in the history of the world.

God bless our farmers.

#### BEWARE OF POLLS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a recent Washington Post/ABC News poll professed to find that a majority of Americans supported amnesty for illegal immigrants. That is not hard to do, given how the survey was conducted.

The pollsters asked to speak only with the youngest adult at home; oversampled Democrats by at least 4 percent; used the word "undocumented" rather than "illegal;" questioned illegal immigrants, at least 3 percent of the population; and conditioned amnesty on requirements that can't be met.

Other than that, I am sure it was an accurate poll.

Beware of polls done by liberal media organizations that have an agenda of their own. The American people may not be getting the facts. They deserve better.

#### ADDRESSING OUR COUNTRY'S NATURAL DISASTERS

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

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives of the victims of the California wildfires.

We have seen some devastating fires throughout California, specifically huge fires in northern California, that have already burned over 142,000 acres. It is one of the deadliest weeks in California wildfire history, already seeing 23 lives perish in those fires.

Today, we will see disaster relief funding here on the floor. It is important that, while we have already passed one funding bill, we pass another to address all natural emergencies across the entire country. We must also have funding available for Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria in devastated areas like Puerto Rico, Texas, and Florida.

We have had big challenges in this country, and it is time to make sure that we pass a second relief funding bill that will address many of those concerns in the disasters that we have seen across the country.

Shortly hereafter, we are going to see another funding bill come forward that will address some reforms. While some of our States have building codes and are addressing the impacts so that we don't see this devastation in the future, we need to make sure that these reforms are passed in the coming bill as well.

We have three major bills. We will pass one today. Another one is soon to follow. We have to address the country's national emergencies.

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#### HONORING STAFF SERGEANT RYAN MCCARTHY AND STAFF SERGEANT CHAD HICKEY

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

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two valued members of Missouri's defense community, Staff Sergeant Ryan McCarthy and Staff Sergeant Chad Hickey. They are both stationed out of Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri's Fourth District, and these soldiers are exceptional representatives of their base, their State, and their service branch—the United States Army.

Both men recently received top honors at the Association of the United States Army's Annual Meeting and Exposition, where they were recognized for their leadership, excellence, and achievements.

Staff Sergeant McCarthy, who is right here, was named the Noncommissioned Officer of the Year by AUSA. A combat engineer with more than 9 years of service, McCarthy has served multiple deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan. His dedication and leadership represent the best ideals of our Army and America's fighting forces.

Another Fort Leonard Wood soldier, Staff Sergeant Chad Hickey, pictured here, was named Drill Sergeant of the Year. Hickey received the honor after winning a grueling fitness, endurance, and combat-readiness competition

against the Nation's top drill sergeants.

The fact that Staff Sergeant McCarthy and Staff Sergeant Hickey are both from Fort Leonard Wood is no surprise. The men and women stationed there serve with strength, seriousness, and purpose, setting an example of military leadership for the entire Army.

To Staff Sergeants McCarthy and Hickey, and to all of the soldiers stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, I wish to extend to each and every one of you and your families our gratitude and congratulations.

#### CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE

(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, technology connects the world in ways like never before. From everyday conveniences at our fingertips to improved communications, technology plays an ever-increasing role in our lives.

We are becoming more dependent on applications, or apps, and the students of today will become the leaders of tomorrow by developing such technology. That is why my office is proud again to participate in the Congressional App Challenge.

This competition allows K-12 students from across the country to practice their code-writing skills by developing an app. Winning apps will be displayed in the Capitol Building later this year.

The 2015 winner from my office, Lachlan Campbell, created an app to store recipes and discover new dishes. I am proud that this State College student was able to show off his talents in our Nation's Capitol.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that students from across Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District will put their skills to work, create an app, and submit it to the Congressional App Challenge.

Submissions will close on November 1, and I can't wait to see what our students create.

#### RECOGNITION OF BIOENERGY DAY

(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 in recognition of Bioenergy Day, a day we celebrate natural renewable energy in America. On October 18, organizations across America will mark this special day by opening their doors to the public and highlighting how bioenergy is fueling America.

Forest by-products are a primary source of bioenergy, making my home State of Arkansas a leading producer in this field.

Across the country, bioenergy keeps the lights on and so much more. Bio-

energy produces just under 6 percent of the Nation's total energy supply and provides full-time jobs for tens of thousands of Americans, with more plants coming online in the near future.

We need to do more research to find economical ways to harness renewable energy in our abundant biomass that we all too often continue to see going up in flames and wildfires. As we approach October 18, I encourage all Americans to learn more about bioenergy, forest by-products, and the environmental benefits derived from our natural resources.

#### CREATING A TURNING POINT FROM A TRAGEDY

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

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise as a cosponsor of the Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act the House will be voting on later today.

Dr. Kirkpatrick was a promising young clinical psychologist assigned to the Tomah VA in Wisconsin. Committed to finding innovative treatments for PTSD, he expressed alarm that patients of the VA were being overmedicated, preventing him from providing the treatment they so desperately needed.

Rather than listen to his concerns, the VA retaliated against him and, ultimately, Chris was fired; and that very day, he took his own life. The VA investigation later found that Chris' concerns about overmedication were entirely founded.

Chris' story is a tragedy, but can also serve as a turning point. Just as our veterans have earned world-class care, their allies such as Chris deserve full protection should they bravely decide to document VA wrongdoing or abuse. By increasing these protections today, we are honoring Chris' memory, serving as a fitting memorial to a life that was tragically cut short.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or if the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken later.

#### ADDITIONAL SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR DISASTER RELIEF REQUIREMENTS ACT, 2017

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 569) providing for the concurrence by the House in the

Senate amendment to H.R. 2266, with an amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 569

*Resolved*, That upon the adoption of this resolution the House shall be considered to have taken from the Speaker's table the bill, H.R. 2266, with the Senate amendment thereto, and to have concurred in the Senate amendment with the following amendment:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the Senate amendment, insert the following:

#### SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act, 2017".

#### DIVISION A—ADDITIONAL SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR DISASTER RELIEF REQUIREMENTS ACT OF 2017

The following sums are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and out of applicable corporate or other revenues, receipts, and funds, for the several departments, agencies, corporations, and other organizational units of Government for fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes, namely:

#### TITLE I

#### DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY DISASTER RELIEF FUND

#### (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for "Disaster Relief Fund" for major disasters declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), \$18,670,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$10,000,000 shall be transferred to the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General for audits and investigations related to disasters: *Provided*, That the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall publish on the Agency's website not later than 5 days after an award of a public assistance grant under section 406 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5172) that is in excess of \$1,000,000, the specifics of each such grant award: *Provided further*, That for any mission assignment or mission assignment task order to another Federal department or agency regarding a major disaster in excess of \$1,000,000, not later than 5 days after the issuance of such mission assignment or mission assignment task order, the Administrator shall publish on the Agency's website the following: the name of the impacted State, the disaster declaration for such State, the assigned agency, the assistance requested, a description of the disaster, the total cost estimate, and the amount obligated: *Provided further*, That not later than 10 days after the last day of each month until a mission assignment or mission assignment task order described in the preceding proviso is completed and closed out, the Administrator shall update any changes to the total cost estimate and the amount obligated: *Provided further*, That for a disaster declaration related to Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, or Hurricane Maria, the Administrator shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, not later than 5 days after the first day of each month beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, and shall publish on the Agency's website, not later than 10 days after the first day of