

Mr. Mahoney graduated from Savannah's Benedictine Military School in 1954 and earned his law degree from the University of South Carolina.

In his first career after college, he worked as an FBI Special Agent in Chicago, Baltimore, and Washington. During this time, Mr. Mahoney met the love of his life, Judy, with whom he had four children.

After 2 years in the FBI, Mr. Mahoney returned to Savannah and joined the law firm Mahoney & Cole, P.C. Through his hard work and determination, he worked up the ranks to become its president and CEO.

He used his legal knowledge to make coastal Georgia a better place to live, serving as the Chatham County attorney, city attorney for Tybee Island, judge for Tybee Island, and assistant city attorney for Savannah. He also served as the special assistant attorney general for the Georgia Ports Authority since 1987, helping it to grow to its current, impressive size.

Thank you, Mr. Mahoney, for everything you have done for the Savannah community. You will be missed.

□ 1615

VICTIMS OF SEX TRAFFICKING

(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, we all know that human trafficking is a major problem right here in the United States. It is happening in every one of our communities.

This week, as millions of Americans gather to watch the Super Bowl, I would like to shine a light on another troubling fact, and that is that there is an increase in the human trafficking and sex trafficking in the days surrounding the Super Bowl.

Last year, in a few weeks leading up to the Super Bowl event, the Santa Clara Sheriff's Office identified 42 potential victims of sex trafficking during a series of stings and cited 30 additional men for soliciting prostitution.

The good news is, Mr. Speaker, we are drawing attention to this fact and working hard to end this heinous practice. Next year, my home State of Minnesota will be hosting the Super Bowl, and our host committee is already working hard in collaboration with Federal and local law enforcement, with government agencies, with advocacy groups and victims' service organizations to develop a comprehensive and coordinated plan to address the issue. That is because, Mr. Speaker, over the next year, we will continue to end the practice of human trafficking, working tirelessly, and this is a wonderful opportunity to showcase how we can have freedom from the ugliness of trafficking.

THIDWICK BOOKS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Thidwick Books is a small, 865-square-foot bookshop that has been in the same building since 1999, but now it is being forced to either close its doors forever or move away.

Serial plaintiff Craig Yates has sued multiple other merchants, including Thidwick Books. He generally makes vague claims about the designs of retail stores and claims that they violate the Americans with Disabilities Act.

These small businesses do not have the resources to contest unfounded lawsuits or, in many cases, even know what the alleged violations are. The businesses are told to either pay a settlement or get sued with further litigation. Oftentimes, small businesses choose to pay the extortion rather than to defend the expensive, unfounded drive-by lawsuit.

The bipartisan bill, the ADA Education and Reform Act of 2017, improves access to public accommodations for the disability community while preventing well-meaning business owners from falling victim to drive-by lawsuits.

Mr. Speaker, the ADA was designed to improve access for the disabled, not to enrich unscrupulous lawyers and the plaintiffs.

And that is just the way it is.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PROTECTS SENIORS' SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS

(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, I am thankful we have in the process here as elected officials the ability to hold accountable Federal agencies and new rules that will be made at midnight. I am speaking of legislation passed today to allow, in many cases, seniors who might see their Second Amendment rights limited or taken away by a last-minute rule that would require them to be turned in to the national background check system in this country, thereby, because they might be on SSI or disability, losing their ability perhaps to own a firearm under their Second Amendment rights.

The House of Representatives took steps today to ensure their ability to not be singled out because they might be in a particular system and assumed to be a risk—unlike anybody else. So we can do good work sometimes, and we do when we strike out for protecting people's rights.

SUPPORTING JUDGE NEIL GORSUCH'S NOMINATION TO U.S. SUPREME COURT

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

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support of the

President's selection of Neil Gorsuch as nominee to the United States Supreme Court. Mr. Speaker, it is my sincerest hope that the Members of this body and our body down at the other end of the building will recognize just what a wonderful selection Mr. Trump has made.

In fact, candidly, Mr. Speaker, were it my selection, I probably would not pick someone who had clerked for liberal jurist Byron "Whizzer" White or the split vote on the Court, Anthony Kennedy. In fact, I wonder if the habits of the individuals in the Senate—who might have the opportunity to confirm—to resist every single thing that comes across their desks these days might not, in fact, lead to a more conservative nominee should Judge Gorsuch not be nominated.

I would again commend Mr. Trump for this middle-of-the-road selection. I think he will maintain the balance on the Court that Mr. Kennedy has here today.

I hope my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are wise enough to understand just what a benevolent and middle-of-the-road selection Mr. Gorsuch is.

LET US SHOW MERCY

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is going to be a devastating day for so many. For decades, America has been engaged in resettling refugees. I remember the Vietnamese, the Iraqis, and the people from Afghanistan. More importantly, I remember the excitement I had in visiting the Statue of Liberty and being reminded of what a great country this is.

Tomorrow, with the 120-day suspension, we will literally devastate refugee families, some of whom waited 10, 12, 15 years, who have sold all their goods and who are good people who want to come to this country, and, as well, their documents will expire.

I am asking the administration to have mercy and to be as the Chaplain ordered us to do: to find our grounding in being able to be servants.

I would ask that we not devastate these families causing them to completely be derailed from moving toward being refugees in this country. No terrorist has been found in refugees.

I believe it is crucial that we show mercy in the spirit of prayer, as in the prayer breakfast this morning. Let us show mercy.

SUPPORT FOR BLM METHANE RULE

(Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, late last

year, the Bureau of Land Management finalized its methane rule, which will reduce harmful emissions by curbing the wasteful venting, flaring, and leaking of natural gas.

Not only is methane a potent greenhouse gas, but every cubic foot of gas that is wasted cheats New Mexican taxpayers out of precious royalty and tax payments which go toward public education, infrastructure, and community development programs. Considering that the Governor of New Mexico has proposed cutting money from school districts to close an estimated \$70 million deficit, we simply cannot afford to let money disappear into thin air.

Unfortunately, the House of Representatives is considering legislation that will not only rescind BLM's methane rule, but also prohibit the consideration of any similar rule to curb methane emissions and protect taxpayer interests ever again.

I strongly support efforts to work with all stakeholders, especially small, independent producers who may, in fact, have difficulties implementing BLM's new standards, but taking a sledgehammer to our Nation's energy policy is irresponsible and counter-productive.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation and instead work to make this rule work for both producers and taxpayers alike.

NEW MEMBERS WORKING TOWARD A COMMON GOAL

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is good to be back on the floor. We have had a productive week so far. Things are moving along. We are doing exactly what we promised the American people, and that is removing regulatory burden, that is beginning to move toward an economy that looks after the needs of our communities—our moms, dads, aunts, uncles, and grandkids. They come together to know we are working toward a common goal, and that is looking ahead and making sure that what we do is in the best interests of our neighbors and our communities.

Today, I want to continue in what we started, Mr. Speaker, just a week or so ago. We are introducing the folks that the country has sent from our side to be Members here, to join myself and others, to take this fight from the majority not only from their streets in the campaigns, but now onto the floor of the House.

So this afternoon, we are going to start off with one of our new Members from New York's 19th Congressional District, JOHN FASO. I found out as I was looking through his background that JOHN comes from the same hometown as President Martin Van Buren

and also our former colleague Chris Gibson, who was here for a while.

I think if there is anything that sums up what I have heard from JOHN's heart, it is the economic condition that we are in and the fact that our debts cannot continue to be sustained, and we have to put in good practices that not only take into account his district—which is a wonderful part of New York State—and the growing application there, but how we can take that all over the country.

So with great pride, it is my privilege to introduce the newest Congressman from New York's 19th Congressional District, JOHN FASO, to tell us a little bit about why he is here and his vision for what we have.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. FASO).

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that, and I appreciate the gentleman from Georgia's hospitality in yielding the floor to me at this time.

Mr. Speaker, indeed, I am privileged to represent the 19th Congressional District of New York State. This encompasses a wide area of the mid-Hudson Valley and the Catskill region. The district touches Vermont in the northeast corner and Pennsylvania in the southeast corner. We go out to Cooperstown, and we have great local locations like Woodstock. Many people are familiar with Woodstock, where the concert was supposed to be back in the late 1960s, but also where the concert occurred in Bethel, New York, in Sullivan County. The district encompasses all or part of 11 counties.

The gentleman from Georgia referenced the fact that I have resided for the last 30, almost 34, years in Kinderhook, New York, the hometown of Martin Van Buren, our eighth President. Our district also has within it the town of Hyde Park in Dutchess County, which is the home of a President who was extraordinarily well-known and recognized for his great contributions to our country, Franklin D. Roosevelt. I encourage people to come visit Hyde Park and the Roosevelt home and mansion, and also Kinderhook.

I would be remiss if I did not also mention that the 19th District has the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, where I know a number of Members will be coming up later this year to play a game of baseball in a charitable fundraising event.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. COLLINS had made reference to the economic condition. The economic condition in upstate New York is extremely difficult. Of the 11 counties in my district, for instance, all 11 have lost population in the last 5 years. What has happened is that people are leaving because of high local taxes and burdensome rules. These come not just from Albany, but also from Washington. This is one of the things that I think the people sent me here to Congress to work on.

I ran on a platform of economic growth. We must get our economy moving, and we must get it moving

fast and growing at rates that are not in the anemic 1.5 to 1.8 percent level, but up to 3, 3.5, and 4 percent if we are going to produce enough wealth and opportunity for our children and grandchildren. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, we cannot allow this generation to leave to the next generation a country that is immeasurably poorer and less well off than the country that we were given by our parents and grandparents.

I am privileged to serve on three committees here in Congress: the Budget Committee; the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, where I am honored to serve as the vice chairman of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials; and also the Committee on Agriculture. All three of these committees are going to be vitally significant in terms of my tenure here in these 2 years of Congress, but also for the people of our district.

Agriculture, we have a robust and growing agricultural economy. It is dairy, where a lot of dairy farmers are struggling with the low price of milk, but also fruits and vegetables. We have got a remarkable number of new producers—yogurt producers, cheese producers, and beef and pork producers—because we live only 125 to 150 miles away from the city of New York and the tremendous metropolitan area and the tremendous market that that entails.

On the Agriculture Committee, I will be fighting hard to protect the interests of our dairy community and small farmers and to make sure that we encourage our young people to go into agriculture. I am pleased to soon support a measure which will encourage young people to go into agriculture.

On the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I mentioned the Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee. Our district is blessed to have the beautiful Hudson Valley. The Hudson Valley—the Empire State corridor of Amtrak—is one of the busiest in the Nation. It is also one of the profit centers for Amtrak. Many, many people ride the train between Albany and New York City on a daily basis, in fact. It is vitally important to our commerce and to our business interests in our district.

We also have a number of freight rail facilities. I will be working closely with folks out in Otsego County and Oneonta for the project that they are looking at for their rail facility in that community.

Lastly, as I mentioned, I serve on the Budget Committee. Just today, we heard a report from the Congressional Budget Office. The chief of the CBO came before us. He indicated that today we have almost \$20 trillion of national debt.

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That is just the on-the-books government national debt. He also said to us that within 10 years we are going to be facing another \$10 trillion on top of