

Center in May of 2011, an impressive achievement for a first-time composer.

Since then, he has composed numerous operas, including a grand opera based on William Kennedy's 2014 novel, "Roscoe," that received a concert performance with the Albany Symphony featuring Deborah Voigt in 2016.

He also cowrote one of the first-ever operas for Twitter, #IsOperaDead, a five-act opera performed in the span of 1 minute and 40 seconds.

He also serves on the faculty at Skidmore College and was a resident artist at the prestigious Yaddo.

Professor Evan Mack, on behalf of all of your many fans and supporters in upstate New York, congratulations on being named a 2018 Professional of the Year by Musical America.

CONGRATULATING THE RAINES AND MANDARIN HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAMS

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

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Raines High School football team for winning the Florida 4A State championship and, also, the Mandarin High School football team for winning the Florida 8A State championship.

Raines High School now has won two straight State titles, while Mandarin just captured their first State football championship ever. This marks the first time in history that two public schools from Duval County, Florida, have won the State championship in the same season.

Football is a big part of Florida culture. Many kids grow up with dreams of winning the championship under those Friday night lights, and these student athletes have demonstrated the commitment and work ethic to be successful both on the field and in the classroom.

I congratulate them for bringing home some hardware to northeast Florida where it belongs, and I look forward to more championships to come.

Congratulations once again to Mandarin and Raines football on a victory these players will remember for the rest of their lives.

CONGRATULATING ALIQUIPPA HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

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

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, it was a fitting end to an outstanding season for the Aliquippa High School football team. They were victorious in 14 of their 15 games.

The Quips, led by their new head coach and former quarterback, Mike Warfield, fought their way to a resounding victory as they became Class

3A State football champions. The 35-0 win against Middletown High School resulted in the Quips' third PIAA State championship.

The Aliquippa football team has been a perennial contender for State football titles. This season, a powerhouse offense outscored teams by more than 700 points, and a formidable defense shut out 7 of their 15 opponents.

The Quips team also won the WPIAL championship, and Coach Warfield became only the third coach in WPIAL history to win a State championship in his first year.

Congratulations to Aliquippa High School, Coach Warfield, the coaching staff, and the team for their outstanding achievement. They have made western Pennsylvania proud.

FOREVER GI BILL HOUSING PAYMENT FULFILLMENT ACT

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

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my legislation, the Forever GI Bill Housing Payment Fulfillment Act, which will hold the Department of Veterans Affairs accountable for properly and retroactively paying student veterans the educational housing benefits they have earned.

This legislation, introduced in response to the VA's failure to comply with the reimbursement rates set by the Forever GI Bill, requires the VA to correct all delayed payments and underpayments no later than January 1, 2020.

The Forever GI Bill provides housing benefits to thousands of Kentucky's active military reservists and veterans as they pursue higher education.

Our Nation's veterans deserve better than to face financial distress, or even eviction, as a result of inaccurate or late payments. This legislation will remedy this undue hardship placed on veteran students and provide oversight and accountability to ensure these payments are made in a timely manner in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation to provide relief and certainty to our Nation's veterans, and I look forward to its swift passage.

HONORING THE LIFE OF STAFF SERGEANT MAXIMO FLORES

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

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the members of the Arizona delegation to join me.

Mr. Speaker, I and the rest of the Arizona delegation want to take a minute to honor the life of Staff Sergeant Maximo Flores.

On December 6, Staff Sergeant Maximo Flores was killed during a midair collision involving a marine refueling aircraft and a fighter jet off the coast of Japan.

Staff Sergeant Flores always wanted to be a marine, and he did not waste a moment. After his 2009 graduation from Valley Vista High School in Surprise, Arizona, in my district, he enlisted in the Marines and pursued the aviation field.

His military service made his family proud, even as he lived in distant locations such as Japan, where he most recently served with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152 at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni.

As Americans, we are unconditionally bound together by the value of freedom. Staff Sergeant Maximo Flores enlisted in the Marines and gave his life to keep our country safe. His service symbolizes the values America stands for. It represents the freedom he fought for, and for that I am eternally grateful.

We can never repay the debt our Nation owes Staff Sergeant Flores or his family, but we will always remember him and how he led his life in the service of others.

His family and loved ones are in our prayers as they grieve during this trying time, and Arizona is forever grateful for Staff Sergeant Flores' service and dedication to our country.

RECOGNIZING THE STORY OF THE FORCE FAMILY

(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 story of dear friends of mine, Robert and Donna Force, who are deeply committed to carrying on the tradition of family farming.

Robert served honorably as a member of the 106th Rescue Wing, a unit of the Army National Guard. In 1986, Robert and Donna Force purchased 96 acres of land in Gilbertsville, New York. It is where they would spend the next 26 years building their farm and growing their family.

All told, by 2010, the family had expanded to 111 acres of land in the beautiful Catskill region of upstate New York. The family viewed the farm as their retreat, a place of many happy memories. They cleared the land to build a barn, renovated their farmhouse, and planted new trees across the landscape.

Sadly, in 2014, the Forces were forced off their land due to an accounting error in their local county. The county failed to cooperate with them, instead putting their lovely farm up for sale and auction.

Mr. Force, as a veteran, also cared for his wife, Donna, who was suffering grave, life-threatening medical problems through this and up until today. The Force family believes this is part of a larger plan to push families off their property, auctioning land to the highest bidder.

Since that day, the Forces have continued to fight to save their farm, their

property, and their family legacy. For more information, see “Save the Force Farm” on Facebook and social media.

Thank you so much to the Forces and to Mr. Force for his honorable service to our Nation.

HONORING FIREFIGHTERS, POLICE OFFICERS, AND FIRST RESPONDERS

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the brave firefighters, police officers, and first responders who selflessly ran into harm’s way answering the three-alarm call to the devastating fire in my district at First Baptist Church Bossier City, Louisiana, on December 10, 2018.

At 5:36 a.m., the Bossier City Fire Department responded to a fire alarm at the church. The call for a second alarm went out at 5:50 a.m., and the Shreveport Fire Department was called to assist at 6:15 a.m.

During their efforts, there were a total of 30 firefighting units and 65 fire and support personnel from Bossier City and Shreveport working to contain the fire and preserve the church.

First Bossier has such an extraordinary history in our region, and its iconic steeple has been a landmark over Bossier for generations. My wife, Kelly, and I were actually married in First Bossier’s Faith Chapel 20 years ago.

We are so grateful there was no loss of life or major injury to anyone; and for the many extraordinary firefighters and first responders from Bossier and Shreveport who battled the blazes that day, we commend them for their heroic efforts, and we thank them for their service and sacrifice.

We know the First Bossier family will pull together and recover from this tragedy even stronger than before. The Bible teaches that trials produce perseverance, character, and hope, and we believe that to our core. The mission of First Bossier will continue in earnest, and its best days are truly ahead.

PUERTO RICO INTEGRITY IN MEDICARE ADVANTAGE ACT

(Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, healthcare infrastructure in Puerto Rico remains dangerously unstable. Unlike the mainland, most Medicare beneficiaries with part A and part B coverage receive their care through local Medicare Advantage plans.

In 2011, Puerto Rico’s per patient, per month was \$595, and now it is \$511. The national average was \$787, and now it is \$826. That is a negative impact of \$315 for Puerto Rico. That means that, next

year, the average Medicare Advantage rate for Puerto Rico is even 25 percent below the other territories and 43 percent below the national rates.

This is the reason why physicians and medical providers are leaving the island. That is the reason we filed H.R. 6809, which will rectify this disparity with Medicare Advantage rates. That is the reason I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

NEW FARM BILL HELPS AMERICA’S FOOD PANTRIES

(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, during the holiday season, many people step up to help their neighbors in need. Americans are generous and charitable with their time and energy through both monetary donations and volunteer opportunities.

Food pantries play an important role all year long in communities across America. In 2017, an estimated 15 million households in the United States were food insecure, which means they lack consistent access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food.

While this number has decreased from previous years, there is much work yet to be done. That is why, as chairman of the Nutrition Subcommittee on the Agriculture Committee, I advocated for an increase in TEFAP dollars in the 2018 farm bill.

TEFAP stands for The Emergency Food Assistance Program. Along with donations, TEFAP funding is the cornerstone of our food banks.

I am pleased that we were able to increase funding for this important lifeline for so many. Food banks are meeting the needs for low-income Americans, the working poor, and those who have fallen on hard times. We must always work towards the ultimate goal of ending hunger in America.

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HONORING THE LIFE OF FREDI SIMPSON

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, service, and spirit of my friend, Fredi Simpson. Fredi was well known and admired in central Washington. She was filled with passion and dedicated her time to improving her community and lending a helping hand to whomever was in need. She was a dear friend of mine, and I will miss her very much.

Dedicated to the conservative cause, Fredi’s engagement in politics was inspiring to everyone around her. She served as a mentor to young people and encouraged them to get involved at the local, State, and national levels.

As national committeewoman, she represented Washington State with infectious enthusiasm and deep integrity. She traveled across our great State and the entire country leaving a positive impression on everyone she met.

So, today, I reflect on my own joyful memories with Fredi, and I find peace in knowing she is at rest and reunited with God.

My prayers go out for her husband Bruce, her son Kane, and all her loved ones, and I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating her wonderful life.

Fredi, we will miss you.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 88, SHILOH NATIONAL MILITARY PARK BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT AND PARKER’S CROSSROADS BATTLEFIELD DESIGNATION ACT; PROVIDING FOR THE PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM DECEMBER 24, 2018, THROUGH JANUARY 3, 2019

Mr. NEWHOUSE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 115-1084) on the resolution (H. Res. 1180) providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 88) to modify the boundary of the Shiloh National Military Park located in Tennessee and Mississippi, to establish Parker’s Crossroads Battlefield as an affiliated area of the National Park System, and for other purposes; providing for the proceedings during the period from December 24, 2018, through January 3, 2019, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING A REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS REPORTED FROM THE COMMITTEE ON RULES, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. NEWHOUSE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 115-1085) on the resolution (H. Res. 1181) waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

HOURLY MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.