

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.

## FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

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

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, politics is the art of what is possible, what is achievable—not the measure of our differences.

We come to this Chamber—we should—to seek common ground, to solve problems, to address challenges. That is what I have done over the course of the last 4 years: work with my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to improve quality of life in our country, in our communities, and to show the American public that this institution is capable of responding to its concerns and its aspirations.

In Congress, progress is measured in small units, the way our Founding Fathers intended.

On climate and the environment, we broke the ice, bringing Republicans and Democrats together in the Climate Solutions Caucus, the first meaningful bipartisan dialogue and collaboration effort on this subject in a generation. We also filed landmark legislation that would make massive investments in American infrastructure while reducing carbon emissions and creating clean energy jobs.

Climate change and transportation infrastructure—twin challenges threatening the future of my home, Miami-Dade County. The Market Choice Act would make it more likely that our children and grandchildren can live out their years in our paradise, an area marked and blessed with countless natural treasures.

On immigration, we forced the House to process and debate comprehensive reform for the first time in nearly a decade. While for many, using this subject and the many victims of a broken immigration system for political gain is the preference, ours was a solution that would secure the border, reform our asylum laws to prevent abuse, keep families together, and secure a future for 2 million American Dreamers—the young immigrants who went to school with our own children and today are contributing to our economy and to our communities.

While the forces of obstruction and cowardice prevailed, this institution grew from the debate, and dividends will be reaped in the future, I have no doubt. This issue is also a special one for Miami-Dade and south Florida. It is personal for us. We are a community of immigrants. We believe immigration should be legal and orderly, and we know immigrants made America great and will continue making it greater still.

Guns—another issue that deeply divides our country. We proposed solutions modeled after what was achieved in Florida in the wake of the tragic massacre at Parkland's Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. It is

possible to protect gun rights for law-abiding citizens while keeping deadly weapons out of the hands of those who seek to harm others or themselves. We are reforming our criminal justice system in order to truly give people a second chance.

We secured funding for Everglades restoration, for water quality improvements in the Florida Keys, for important infrastructure projects in south Florida. We honored our troops by guaranteeing them the resources they need and granting them the raises they have earned. We also invested in American children, making it easier for immigrant students to learn English and protecting the accountability framework that put all students at the center of the public education system. And we delivered historic tax relief for Florida workers and families while making American businesses more competitive.

In our hemisphere, I have advocated for the oppressed people of Cuba, Venezuela, and Nicaragua, and encouraged the administration to forge strong relationships with leaders committed to human rights, the rule of law, and economic growth and prosperity in countries like Brazil, Colombia, Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Panama, and others.

In the Middle East, I have worked to support and bolster the critical U.S.-Israel alliance while holding the terrorist mullah regime in Iran accountable for its countless transgressions. And further east, I have advocated for closer relations with important allies like Japan and Taiwan in the face of China's growing hostility.

Most importantly, every day I have put my south Florida community and the country above any partisan or personal interest. My goal has always been to serve with sincerity and decency, to call it honest no matter who might get upset. And even if political consequences would follow, to focus on ideas instead of petty politics, to speak in truth instead of talking points, to be both direct and decorous.

While I have learned much from this institution, it never changed me. I have served to the fullest every day, and I now begin a new chapter in my life overflowing with gratitude for this wonderful opportunity to serve, for the many colleagues I have come to know, for my team, for my family, my God, and for the community that trusted this child of political refugees with the privilege of representing it here in the Congress of the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS).

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Florida for yielding. I know he is probably worried about what I might say in this final speech here on the floor tonight, but I have got to tell you about a friend that I met just shortly after going to a meeting across the street

where I had the honor of becoming a mentor to a candidate who wanted to run for Congress.

His name was CARLOS CURBELO, and I knew we were going to get along well when I called him the first time on the phone and he said: "Why are you my mentor?" I said: "Because you have Key West in the district you are winning in. I would like to come visit you."

He took my first joke well, and we hit it off and became very close friends. And imagine my glee when, on election night, in 2014, my mentee became a newly elected Member of Congress. And to see him walk into this institution, to see him immediately become, not just a friend to me and to many others, but a legislator and one of the best legislators I have ever had the opportunity to serve with.

It is bittersweet for me to stand here tonight and wish him the best in his next endeavors. I know he will have plenty of opportunities to spend a great deal of time with his wife Ceci and their two lovely young daughters in one of the most beautiful places in the world, in Miami-Dade.

But I have got a feeling this isn't going to be the last for my friend, Mr. CURBELO. And this speech may be the last one he delivers as a Member of this institution, but whether it is he comes back here or whatever his next step is, he knows that it is not only me who is going to be standing there right behind him, but so many of his colleagues and friends that he has met along the way and has meant so much to.

I thank him for being a great friend. I thank him for being a member of the wolf pack, and I will always know him as my good friend, CHUCK CURBELO.

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois, who indeed is a wonderful friend. Sometimes his jokes aren't as good, but his advice has been very good here since I started running for the House for the first time in 2013.

The people of southern Illinois are blessed to be represented by Mr. DAVIS. He is a wonderful family man. He is a great friend, and even though I am moving on, I am very happy to know that people like RODNEY DAVIS will remain a part of this institution working for his community and for our wonderful country.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO), another wonderful friend. We have shared many great experiences together. We have worked hard on the issues that are important to our communities, to our districts.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank CARLOS for his service to this country, to his constituents. He has been an exemplar of what it means to be a gentleman, somebody who comes in to work here every day in the Halls of Congress, serving the people, doing his best, giving it 110 percent.

What I would like to do, if I could, is just thank those residents in my congressional district residing in Chester