

and put the slave masters in the jail-house, where they belong.

And that is just the way it is.

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR JAPANESE INTERNMENT

(Ms. GABBARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GABBARD. Madam Speaker, over 120,000 Japanese Americans were incarcerated on American soil during World War II.

On the annual Day of Remembrance, we are reminded of the brave men, women, and children who lost everything. They lost their homes, their belongings, their businesses, really keeping only what they could carry with them.

But their spirits were not broken. Countless stories of bravery, courage, and resilience defined an entire generation, including the Nisei-only "Go For Broke" 442nd Infantry Regiment, becoming the most highly decorated unit in Army history.

The anniversary of this shameful blight on our history remains a powerful reminder of the fragility of civil rights and the threat that prejudice and divisiveness and bigotry continue to pose to our way of life today.

We must follow in the footsteps of those Japanese Americans who volunteered to serve this country, even with their loved ones incarcerated on American soil, and find the light and love of the Aloha spirit to stand up and fight against intolerance, bigotry, and hatred.

TY MUSE IS BROOME COUNTY'S DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

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

Ms. TENNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ty Muse, the CEO of Visions Federal Credit Union, who was recently honored by the Boy Scouts of America and the Baden-Powell Council as the Broome County Distinguished Citizen of the Year.

Each year, this award is given to an individual in the Broome County community who sets a positive example for others and demonstrates concern and significant care for their community.

Mr. Muse moved to the Broome County area 5 years ago and hit the ground running. He has been honored for his commitment to helping young leaders throughout the region by sponsoring a free track program, donating to several local school districts and colleges, and working to raise awareness in financial literacy.

Madam Speaker, I extend both my congratulations and my thanks to Mr. Ty Muse for his hard work and dedication to the Broome County community and for his commitment to inspiring leaders of the future.

THE CFPB—HOW TO KILL A GOOD THING

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, a leader must believe in the mission of the organization he or she heads.

But Donald Trump turned this principle on its head by appointing Mick Mulvaney to head the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Mr. Mulvaney doesn't believe in the agency's mission to protect consumers. In fact, he once said that he doesn't "like the fact that the CFPB even exists."

When he was a Member of Congress, he cosponsored legislation to eliminate it. Now, as Director of the CFPB, he wants to zero out its budget for this year.

He eviscerated the CFPB's rules against predatory payday lending, and then dropped all the lawsuits against them. He halted its investigation into Equifax.

As Senator ELIZABETH WARREN pointed out, you should not put someone in charge of an agency when they want to destroy it. He is running it into the ground, and we must stop it. Consumers will pay dearly.

□ 1215

CONGRATULATING GREGORY OLSEN

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Gregory Olsen from Chaska who was recently appointed to serve on the National Honey Board by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Greg will serve a 3-year term alongside 19 other members as the importer-handler representative. The National Honey Board is one of the 22 industry-funded boards authorized by Congress under USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service. Its purpose is to expand domestic markets for honey and honey products.

The National Honey Board is responsible for research and development, advertising and promotion, consumer education, and industry information of the honey industry.

Madam Speaker, Greg brings important industry experience to the table and will assist the National Honey Board in their mission of successful innovative research, education, and promotional work for honey products that many people rely on in Minnesota and across the world.

Congratulations again to Greg Olsen.

CUTTING EPA'S BUDGET

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

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, 26 percent—that is how much Trump and Pruitt want to cut the EPA's budget, a starved agency cut again by a full one-quarter. That is massive cuts of staff, massive cuts to our health and safety, massive cuts to the EPA's ability to do its job.

The day after they proposed those cuts, we learned that Mr. Pruitt likes to fly first class on the taxpayer's dime. Over one stretch last June, taxpayer-funded travel for Scott Pruitt and his aides cost at least \$90,000. If the administration wants to look for cuts, maybe Scott Pruitt shouldn't be flying first class to his meetings. Maybe he should have to sit next to the constituents he represents.

Madam Speaker, the EPA's mission is to protect our environment. President Trump's dirty budget wants to cut its budget by \$3 billion.

Madam Speaker, we need to be able to protect our health and environment and prioritize funding to do so. It doesn't look like Mr. Pruitt is capable of doing that, even from 40,000 feet in the air.

AMERICANS ARE THRIVING BECAUSE OF TAX REFORM

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

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share just a few examples of how the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is already helping businesses in Georgia's Third District. It is helping them to grow, and it is helping them to reinvest in their workers.

Last month, I had the opportunity to visit such a business, Custom Truck and Body Works, in Woodbury, Georgia. This is a unique company that builds specialty vehicles for first responders. Because of the changes made by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, this small business has been able to hire new workers, is beginning a facility expansion, and, in fact, told me they are still looking for folks to fill positions today.

This isn't the only business in the Third District that is thriving because of tax reform. Another small business, Shred-X, which is a small business that has 10 employees and provides recycling and shredding services to 3,000 clients throughout Atlanta and west central Georgia, plans to use the additional savings to buy a new truck and potentially hire a new employee. For a company of 10 people, this is a huge difference.

Madam Speaker, I am thrilled to see our Main Street job creators thriving because of tax reform, and I look forward to seeing our economy continue to thrive as Americans reap the benefits of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

ADDRESS GUN VIOLENCE

(Ms. SHEA-PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, children and families across the country rely on their leaders in Congress for much more than thoughts and prayers. They need us to take action to keep them safe.

Gun violence in this country is a horrifying epidemic. There have been 18 school shootings in the past 7½ weeks. It is even hard to talk about this.

It is difficult to argue, though, with people who are looking at Congress and wondering whether too many Members in Congress are too close to the NRA and the gun manufacturers. Congress actually passed a law to prevent the CDC from even studying gun violence.

In difficult times, I, too, seek thoughts and prayers from friends, clergy, and family, but this is not stopping the slaughter. I agree with police officers across the country who say: Get the AR-15s out of the hands of dangerous people now. Our children are being massacred in their schools.

Madam Speaker, Speaker RYAN must put bills on the floor to address gun violence or his party will go down in history as the party that blocked solutions to this crisis.

HONORING SHELAGH SWEENEY

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

Mr. FASO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize Hurley Fire Department member Shelagh Sweeney.

Shelagh was named Hurley Fire Department's first female Firefighter of the Year. Her service and dedication to her community as a firefighter, EMT, and field training officer for mobile life support services is most admirable.

Her inspiration to join the fire department came from her attendance of a first-aid class during her time at SUNY Ulster. Continuing her education by taking classes at Marist College is a testament to the dedication she reflects with her service to her community.

Shelagh's selfless service to the community, while striving for further personal growth, is greatly appreciated, and I wish her the best in continuing on her journey.

INVESTING IN THE NATION'S INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Mr. McNERNEY. Madam Speaker, this week, the President unveiled a budget proposal that would not only endanger the health and safety of the American people and our environment, but also jeopardize the long-term stability of our infrastructure systems.

It completely ignores what we know about climate change, proposing a 61 percent reduction in funding for renew-

able energy research and cutting critical enforcement tools and public safety regulations.

It also lacks the foresight to produce a forward-thinking plan that will ensure a stable and resilient infrastructure future. In fact, it seeks to eliminate essential programs like ARPA-E, which supports early stage energy research and development.

Nationwide infrastructure systems like the electric grid must be updated to anticipate severe weather and climate conditions. We have seen the toll that national disasters take on our electric grid.

Smart planning and investment is essential to ensuring that we have the proper resources to maintain and operate these essential structures.

The President has spoken at length about investing in our infrastructure. Now let's see some action.

WORKING WITH ASIA DURING YEAR OF THE DOG

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

Mr. YOHO. Madam Speaker, this week commences the Lunar New Year, a time of thankfulness and new beginnings for the United States and many of our Asian partners.

Reflecting upon last year's Year of the Rooster, we have enjoyed tremendous political, social, and economic achievements. Filled with enthusiasm for diplomacy and cooperation, we continue to look to our partners in Asia to promote peaceful international relations.

During the Year of the Dog, I believe that our friends will continue to embody loyalty, honesty, and integrity, working with us to craft mutually beneficial international policies. In turn, the United States will encourage effective diplomatic behaviors among all of our Asian counterparts.

As lawmakers, we have an obligation to protect the interests of the United States, as well as those of our strong allies around the globe, especially in the Asia-Pacific region.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to continue to work toward policies that will positively shape strong, multinational Asian foreign relations in 2018.

UNDERFUNDING NATIONAL PARKS

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, from the mighty redwoods to the headlands and beaches of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in my bay area, backyard to the ancient sequoias of Yosemite, to the scorching deserts of Death Valley, we know our national parks are worth protecting.

Parks not only protect nature and wildlife but our history, too. And they

are economic engines supporting thousands of jobs. But Donald Trump's dirty budget and infrastructure scam would bulldoze right through this American success story.

Trump is proposing a 7 percent cut to the National Park Service, meaning even less maintenance and visitor services, and a 17 percent cut to the Department of the Interior overall, while giving Secretary Ryan Zinke free rein to continue his drilling spree on our public lands.

These cuts, combined with Trump's ongoing effort to hike entry fees for working families, threaten access to these places that drive millions of visitors to our communities and small businesses each year, while generating hundreds of millions of dollars in economic activity.

Underfunding our national parks puts visitor access at risk. We should reject this budget and work together.

ADA IMPROVEMENTS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, the Americans with Disabilities Act has played an important role in improving accessibility for many years.

Unfortunately, it is often taken advantage of by dishonest attorneys who file drive-by lawsuits against small businesses in order to get a quick payday. This entails coercing a business owner into paying expensive settlements or legal fees for unintended or technical violations and vague interpretations of the ADA. This practice has risen dramatically. From just 2013 to 2017, ADA lawsuits in Federal courts have increased by 182 percent, and it goes beyond that for many years previously as well.

This practice violates the spirit of the law and hurts small businesses without really improving access. One example, a small business, a minimarket in my district, went through a renovation. They put in a nice ramp there on the front of their business, a concrete structure that had been inspected, and they were working with the county all along. Then, when they were done, someone came and said: This is 1 degree off on incline.

How is a small business supposed to deal with issues like that when the regulators themselves can't even keep track of what they are supposed to be doing? This only benefits corrupt attorneys. That is why I support the ADA Education and Reform Act which will end this shady practice and give property owners a reasonable chance to fix potential issues.

COMMONSENSE GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION

(Ms. FRANKEL of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)