

Plan, the PACE program in Flint, the revitalization of so many parts of our community, and empowering women through the Michigan Food & Farming Systems and the Women in Agriculture program.

There were so many things that Nick did. I can't even go through the long list. But for all of us back home, we will just miss him.

His wife, Kim, and his daughters, Madison and Camryn, I am sure will miss him forever. He loved them, he loved his community, and he gave so much to his community. We loved him. He was a friend, and we will miss him.

RECOGNIZING THE PASSING OF FORMER FIRST LADY BARBARA BUSH

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the passing of a very special person and the epitome of a First Lady, Barbara Pierce Bush. As First Lady, Mrs. Bush was praised for bringing the power of literacy to others, but America will remember her most for her fierce love and commitment to her family.

Mrs. Bush embodied the best of America: strong, compassionate, and spirited. She, like her husband, believed that public service is a noble calling, and she stewarded that calling with class and grace.

Our country would not have been blessed with the principled leadership of both our 41st and 43rd Presidents if it were not for the strong character and devotion of Barbara Bush.

Her dedication to family values wasn't just a political talking point; it was her life's mission, and now, her greatest legacy.

While I grieve with my dear friend, President George W. Bush, and his family, I join them in celebrating a life well lived, and thanking God with gracing us with Barbara Bush.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SONNY MELTON

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

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember the life of Sonny Melton.

Sonny was lucky to find the love of his life while working at the Henry County Medical Center in Paris, Tennessee. As a certified nurse, Sonny would often assist his wife, Dr. Heather Melton, during surgeries.

Sonny and Heather had planned to move into a lake house together. They were in the process of building it in Big Sandy, Tennessee.

They traveled to Las Vegas together to celebrate their 1-year anniversary at the Route 91 festival. When gunfire erupted, Sonny died when he was trying to get his wife out of harm's way.

Sonny's wife and all those who knew him remember Sonny as an enthusiastic man who had an infectious positive attitude.

I would like to extend my condolences to Sonny Melton's family and friends. Please know that the city of Las Vegas, the State of Nevada, and the entire country mourn with you.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF FIRST LADY BARBARA BUSH

(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, I rise today to extend my condolences and my sympathy to the family of former First Lady Barbara Bush.

Mr. Speaker, the Nation was heartbroken upon hearing the news that Mrs. Bush passed away last night at her home in Houston. She was 92.

Mrs. Bush was widely admired and a beloved First Lady. She was a leader not only for her family, but for this Nation.

She served as First Lady from January 1, 1989, to January 1993. She was known for her immeasurable kindness, yet she wasn't afraid to be outspoken—even frank—when the occasion called for it.

She was witty and feisty, and above all else, she was Barbara: a wife, a mother, and a grandmother.

This Nation will remember her as a fiercely and devoted matriarch of a great American family, but also as an advocate for all American families.

Mr. Speaker, I leave you with the words of Barbara Bush: "When all the dust is settled and all the crowds are gone, the things that matter are faith, family, and friends."

May God bless Mrs. Barbara Bush.

CELEBRATING THE BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a historical moment for the great State of Illinois. Two hundred years ago today, in this very building, legislation was passed by the 15th Congress and later signed by President James Monroe which allowed the people of the Illinois territory to proceed with statehood.

This legislation paved the way for representatives in the territory to form a convention from which a State government would later emerge. At the time, in 1818, only 11 counties existed in the territory that could send representatives to the convention to draft governing documents.

Three of these 11 counties are within my congressional district. I have often said how humble I am to represent a

part of Illinois that President Lincoln represented when he served in this Chamber, but I am also immensely proud to represent the area that pioneered Illinois' statehood.

In December of this year, Illinois will celebrate its bicentennial as a State in our Union. I have called Illinois home for over 40 years, and I am honored to stand here today and recognize the history that was made in this building 200 years ago today.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN MARK WEBER

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain Mark K. Weber who died in a helicopter crash on March 15 while serving in our Armed Forces in Iraq.

Captain Weber was a combat rescue officer assigned to the 38th Rescue Squadron based at Moody's Air Force Base in the First Congressional District of Georgia. He was one of seven in the helicopter crash who lost their lives serving our country that day. As a combat rescue officer, Captain Weber's role with his team was to fly into combat and rescue injured soldiers.

I want to thank Captain Weber and his family for his service. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and his friends.

Mr. Speaker, I want all of our servicemen and -women to know that we are ever grateful for their service. They are in our thoughts and prayers, and I could not thank them enough for the work they are doing to spread democracy and freedom across the globe.

HONORING MEMBERS FROM AIR FORCE RESEARCH LABORATORY INFORMATION DIRECTORATE

(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 honor the members from the Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate, otherwise known as Rome Lab.

Rome Lab has been recognized by the Federal Laboratory Consortium for its superiority in technology transfer work. Technology transfer work is a process by which existing knowledge or capabilities developed under Federal funding are used to fulfill public and private needs.

The winners of this year's FLC high-profile award are Ralph Kohler, Frank Hoke, Sean Patten, Joseph Mancini, David Canestrare, Daniel Carpenter, Joshua Sterling, Richard Newkirk, Sam Davis, and Mark Linderman.

This group of brilliant minds created the Android Team Awareness Kit, or ATAK. This is a profoundly useful software collaboration that runs on an android mobile operating system. It can

connect multiple people on the go, giving them a common operation picture right on their handheld phone. It currently has 40,000 Department of Defense users and 32,000 non-Federal users. The winners from Rome Lab created an easy access portal that allows the government to provide ATAK to citizens, enabling better communication and information sharing.

This technology transfer benefits Rome Lab, its mission, the government, and all users. A great example of how ATAK was extraordinarily beneficial was during the 2017 hurricanes. Because of Rome Lab's work, civilian, State, and military teams were able to communicate to rescue people and save lives.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate this group of brilliant young people and thank them for continuing to make the Air Force Research Lab, otherwise known as Rome Lab, a world leader in advanced technology.

CAPITOL HILL COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, next week, on April 24, we will mark the 103rd anniversary of the infamous Armenian genocide. The date of the commemoration marks the anniversary of Red Sunday, the night when the Ottoman Empire Government gave the order to arrest and intern approximately 250 Armenian intellectuals in Istanbul.

Less than 2 months after Red Sunday, the end of May 1915, the government enacted legislation that unleashed unspeakable widespread government-organized evictions, massacres, and deportations. As many as 1.5 million people perished. It was about the annihilation of the Armenian people.

In September of 2000, I held the first-ever hearing on the Armenian genocide here in Congress. Three years ago this month, I chaired another hearing on the 100th anniversary.

At the time, I noted that the Armenian genocide is the only one of the genocides of the 20th century in which the nation that was decimated by genocide has been subjected to ongoing outrage of a massive campaign of genocidal denial, openly sustained by state authority—that would be the Turkish Government. That has to change, and this horrible, horrible genocide needs to be recognized by our government for what it was.

OPIOID EPIDEMIC

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, the opioid epidemic has swept across the country impacting millions of Americans who lost loved ones to this preventable crisis. No community is immune.

Just as the President of the United States has said, this is, in fact, the crisis next door.

This is even more true in neighborhoods in north Texas where we are all too familiar with this fatal epidemic.

Overdose deaths from opioids have increased more than five times in the last 30 years, and it is estimated that more than 115 Americans die each and every day from opiate-related overdoses. There is no question that we must act to stop this crisis.

To that end, I am very grateful to the members of my committee, the Committee on Energy and Commerce. I am grateful to the chairman of the committee for participating in this hour.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN), who is the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. BURGESS and appreciate his leadership on this issue and the hard work he and his members on both sides of the aisle have done on the Subcommittee on Health in the Energy and Commerce Committee.

As we all know, the opioid crisis is wreaking havoc and death on our Nation. It is striking at the heart of communities from one side of the country to the other. On any given day, you can browse the headlines to learn of yet another life lost to addiction or about a raid that seized overwhelming quantities of prescription painkillers or illicit drugs.

At roundtables throughout my district in Oregon over the last few years, I have met with those victims. I have met with their families. I have talked to doctors and treatment advocates. I have met with law enforcement officers on the front lines of this fight. Sadly, their stories are all too similar and all too familiar, but they put the names and faces to this crisis that has touched every community in our country.

We are here tonight because this crisis is having a devastating impact on each of our districts and the people who live in them. No community is exempt from the scourge of addiction. Nobody is immune from the dangers of powerful drugs. The crisis has taken a hold on the very fabric of our Nation, and we must do everything we can to stem the tide of addiction, to help those who are addicted, and to stop the deaths and destruction that follow the abuse of opiates.

Earlier this week, I visited the Prescribed to Death opioid memorial that was stationed at the White House Ellipse. I was able to see the individual faces of Americans who lost their own battles with opioid addiction etched into the 22,000 pills on display. There was one for each fatal overdose in 2015.

□ 1830

It is a daunting visual. It was made only more poignant by the knowledge that those numbers have only continued to climb.

More than 100 Americans die from opioid overdoses every single day, claiming the lives of more than 42,000 Americans who died in 2016 alone. That same year, we lost 506 Oregonians from opioid overdoses.

The committee—in particular, the Energy and Commerce Committee and your subcommittee, Mr. Chairman—has a long history of working to combat this evolving epidemic, from launching our earliest investigations in 2012 to advancing bipartisan legislation like the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, CARA, and the 21st Century Cures Act.

Most recently, we included critical funding to aid in the fight in the recent government spending bill that President Trump signed into law. This legislation included a record amount of resources to combat the crisis, providing billions of dollars to communities across America to tackle one of the biggest public health problems in a generation. But we know that more can and must be done.

Now, the good news is that combating the opioid crisis is our committee's top priority. It is why we have reviewed literally dozens and dozens and dozens of comprehensive, bold, and bipartisan pieces of legislation. In total, these bills will bolster our enforcement efforts, will protect our communities, will advance our public health and prevention efforts, and will address coverage and payment issues within Medicaid and Medicare.

Tomorrow at the Energy and Commerce Committee, we will hear the personal stories from families affected by the drug crisis and individuals who are battling addiction. Then, next week, the Energy and Commerce Committee will mark these bills up in our Health Subcommittee. It is an important step forward to keep us on track in our goal of having legislation to this House floor ahead of the Memorial Day district work period.

We know that there is no silver bullet, there is no one-size-fits-all approach that will remedy the catastrophic effects of this crisis that has been building for the last decade, but much more can be done. We will do much more, and we will do it on a bipartisan basis, to help vulnerable patients get the treatment they want and need, remembering there are some 20 million Americans with chronic pain. And we will ensure these powerful drugs are not getting into the wrong hands.

As I conclude, I think it is important to point out that, if people want more information, they can go to energycommerce.house.gov/opioids and see the testimony that we have received and the work that we are engaged in to rid this country of this terrible scourge and make our communities safer again.