

termination of the National Center for Environmental Research, also known as the NCER, and its affiliated programs. By preventing such changes, my bill will safeguard critical research into the effect of chemicals, climate change, and air quality on children's health.

Mr. Speaker, the time to act is now. I urge you to think of our future and to bring this bill to the floor for a vote.

CANN PARK OPERATION

(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 the work of agents with the Savannah Police Department.

In 2016, gangs that were regularly trafficking drugs and guns in the Cann Park neighborhood just south of Savannah's downtown were identified by the Savannah Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives as part of a 6-month undercover investigation.

In this joint operation, local law enforcement arrested 24 gang members, confiscating their drugs and firearms. Since the police apprehended these individuals, crime has sharply decreased in Cann Park—a 40 percent drop in violent crimes and a 75 percent drop in aggravated assaults with guns.

Members of the operation team, ATF's Special Agent Lee Hoover, SPD's Sergeant Samuel Hunt, III, and Detective Michael Dobson, have been invited to Washington, D.C., to receive the TOP COPS award. This award pays tribute to the bravery that our law enforcement officers exhibit every day risking their lives to improve the quality of life for our citizens.

I am glad to see these officers getting the recognition that they so richly deserve.

37TH ANNUAL PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, each day law enforcement officers all across our Nation risk their lives to keep our communities safe. Today at the 37th Annual Peace Officers' Memorial, we remembered the 21,541 fallen officers lost in the history of our Nation.

It was an honor to sit in solidarity with the families of Officer Gil Vega and Lesley Zerebny, two fallen heroes from my district.

I am proud to welcome Officer Vega's wife, Susana; daughters, Andrea and Vanessa; son, Isaac; and grandchildren, Marshal, Raul, and Sophia; and son-in-law, Raul, who are in the House gallery with us today.

It is our solemn duty to honor and respect the sacrifice of our law enforce-

ment and their families, and I am humbled to author H.R. 5006, the Heroes Lesley Zerebny and Gil Vega First Responders Survivors Support Act. This legislation will help ensure that no officer has to worry whether or not their family will be all right if something happens to them in the line of duty.

It is an honor to serve in this great House, and we must do what is right for those who serve us and risk their lives in the streets.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BACON). Members are reminded to refrain from referring to occupants in the gallery.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN WILKERSON, JR.

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

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. John Wilkerson, Jr., who died on May 9, 2018. He was born in Hickory Grove, South Carolina, and remained a South Carolina local throughout his life.

As a young man, he served in the United States Navy and graduated from Clemson College with a degree in physics. After graduation, Mr. Wilkerson went on to lead a very successful business career. He was the owner of Wilkerson Oil Company, along with his brother, Merritt, and he later became the owner of River Hills Realty.

Mr. Wilkerson was also an active member in his community as a member of the River Hills Community Church, River Hills Lions Club, and the Lake Wylie Chamber of Commerce. In his life he was the recipient of both the Businessman of the Year Award and the Citizen of the Year Award.

Additionally, he was a well-known historian who authored the book "York County: Yesterday and Today 1550 to 2005."

Mr. Wilkerson was a valued member of our community, and he will be missed by his devoted wife, Sandee, and the entire State of South Carolina.

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HONORING OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN BLUE

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute all the men and women who make up the police forces across this great country. As well, the men and women in blue have served this country and protect us.

I especially want to salute the 135 officers who gave up their lives this past year. I also want to say thanks to my own father, who served as chief of police in El Dorado, Kansas, for 25 years.

My heart is especially warmed as I look out and see the tens of thousands

of police officers in Washington, D.C., this week as they honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

RECOGNIZING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize that yesterday marked the 70th anniversary of statehood for Israel. Israel is our close ally and a beacon of democracy in a dangerous part of the world.

Throughout history, Israel has made numerous concessions in the pursuit of peace while seeking only the right to exist. A strong Israel is paramount to our Nation's interests in the region, and strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel is vital to the well-being of both countries.

I was also proud to introduce H. Res. 835, which passed the House by unanimous consent last week. The resolution calls all nations to enter into robust diplomatic relations with Israel, highlights Israel's recent advances in diplomacy, and affirms the importance of diplomatic recognition of the nation globally.

A strong Israel benefits all nations, and I will continue to stand with our friend and ally, Israel.

PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY AND POLICE WEEK

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

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week to show support of those who put their lives on the line every day to protect Nebraskans and all Americans. These law enforcement professionals protect the life, limb, and property in assigned patrol areas during long hours, keeping them away from their own families.

To those on the front line of our safety, it is not about the pay, the hours, or the conditions they work in; it is about making the world a better and safer place. Because of this, I have introduced three pieces of legislation to support those who serve on the front lines.

H.R. 1970, the Kerrie Orozco Act, allows the immediate relatives of first responders who die in the line of duty to continue to process their immigration application in a timely manner, despite the death of their loved one.

H.R. 5134, the STOP Straw Purchases Act, will increase punishment for those who purchase guns for someone who is prohibited from possessing one.

H.R. 4896 allows each State to extend the training requirements for those carrying under the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act from every 12 months to up to 36 months because

they already received extensive training.

I want to thank those who have served for their dedication to protect and serve and to defend our communities. Your service will not be forgotten.

FLORIDA'S SUCCESS UNDER TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the subject of tonight's Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor tonight to host my colleagues from the great State of Florida to highlight the successes we have seen since passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

With job growth, wages, and labor participation all up since the passage of this bill, hardworking Americans and businesses are already experiencing the many improvements that are the result of these reforms to our Tax Code.

In its April report, the U.S. Labor Department announced that the unemployment rate dropped to 3.9 percent, the lowest level we have seen, Mr. Speaker, in 18 years. The tax cuts and simplification of our Tax Code that we passed only a few months ago, along with our President's regulatory reforms and progrowth policies, are creating jobs and restoring confidence in America's economy.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, we celebrated National Small Business Week to recognize the importance of small businesses across the country. Small businesses are the backbone of the economy and create millions of jobs to help Floridians and Americans pursue a better future for themselves and for their families.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is working for small businesses. According to the National Federation of Independent Business, small businesses are the most optimistic that they have been in nearly three decades. This is no surprise. The reforms in this bill have dramatically improved the way that small businesses are treated under the Tax Code, unleashing hundreds of billions of dollars in tax cuts.

Just last month, Mr. Speaker, I toured Magellan Transport Logistics, a service-disabled, veteran-owned logistics company in my hometown of Jacksonville, Florida. They are adding at least 100 new jobs in the next 5 years

and were able to acquire a new 47,000-square-foot facility.

During the tour of the facility, we were told by the company's CEO that this expansion is a direct result of the tax cuts that the business received from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. This is just one example of the differences that these cuts are making to improve the way of life for countless Americans in Florida and across the Nation.

I have heard from many small businesses throughout my district who are thriving unlike never before because of these landmark reforms.

As the Representative of Florida's Fourth District, I am proud to represent the historic city of St. Augustine. St. Augustine is known around the world, Mr. Speaker, as the oldest city in America. It is full of unique family and community-owned businesses, including the St. Augustine Distillery.

Located in the site of Florida's oldest ice plant, the St. Augustine Distillery's opening in 2014 marked the first time that spirits have been distilled and created in northeast Florida since Prohibition.

As a young business facing more than their share of regulatory challenges, the St. Augustine Distillery was relieved, to say the least, when the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was signed into law. The distillery announced shortly after the bill's passage that they would be using their savings to make further investments in their employees and increase their equipment and inventory, creating new local jobs and hiring additional staff to manufacture, market, and sell their products.

Small businesses are an important part of my community and our economy, but they aren't the only ones that have been given relief under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

Mr. Speaker, last September, northeast Florida was devastated by Hurricane Irma. The storm surge was over 5 feet and dropped more than a foot of rainfall. Our community saw some of the worst flooding in over 100 years along the St. Johns River, and many areas are only now recovering.

Because of the Federal tax savings that they received, Tampa Electric, Florida Power & Light, and Duke Energy Florida all announced that their customers would not receive a rate increase for power restoration costs associated with these companies' response to the hurricane damage. With the money that they would have paid in corporate income taxes, these companies were able to recover the cost of restoring power and repairing the damage after Hurricane Irma, which has spared thousands of Floridians an increase in their energy bill this year.

Mr. Speaker, these are just a few of the many ways that the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act has already made a difference in the lives of hardworking men and women in northeast Florida and across the State by allowing them to keep more of their hard-earned money in their paycheck.

Tonight, we will hear from a number of my fellow Floridians about the great successes of this bill and helping the lives of Florida families in our district.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida's First District (Mr. GAETZ). He a great colleague of mine on the Judiciary Committee and a defender of a strong, booming economy.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I cannot say how proud I am to be a Floridian taking the floor this evening to talk about the great value that the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is bringing to the folks in the Sunshine State.

I am particularly proud that Florida was prepared for this uplift in the economy as a consequence of the work of Congress. Since Governor Scott took control of the Governor's mansion, our State has reduced over 50,000 regulations. We have cut taxes over 50 times.

Folks like my colleague, Mr. RUTHERFORD from Florida, served in our law enforcement community and led to safer streets and safer communities so that we could grow and prosper in a way that was conducive to a family-friendly life.

For so long, while we had been cutting taxes and fighting for a more competitive economic ecosystem, the Federal Government had thrown a wet blanket over the economy. With a corporate tax rate that was one of the highest in the world, Florida companies weren't able to leverage the great talents that were coming out of our State to go and compete because the rules were stacked against us as a consequence of bad policies in Washington.

I am so proud that during the 115th Congress we were able to pass the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act so that States like Florida could realize the great benefit of conservative leadership.

In my district in north Florida, where we have got a number of hardworking folks particularly in the manufacturing center, there is a new sense of economic optimism and prosperity that is sweeping across our State and my region.

The National Association of Manufacturers' 2018 first quarter Outlook says that 93.5 percent of manufacturers now have a positive outlook regarding the growth of their businesses. This is entirely consistent with the feedback I have gotten from manufacturers such as Ascend Materials and American Elite Molding, where we are competing with the best around the world, and we are winning and growing.

Manufacturers in my district have said that one consequence of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is that they are able to reinvest in their facilities: buy new, cutting-edge equipment and grow and expand their physical plant. This creates jobs and better competition—absolutely outstanding.

Energy cost is something that impacts our small businesses and families alike. As a result of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, Gulf Power, the independently owned utility in my district, is cutting rates so that ratepayers will