

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate 25 years of observing Religious Freedom Day.

On this day, more than 200 years ago, our forefathers in the Virginia General Assembly sought to practice their respective religions freely, so they passed a State law which secured our ability to exercise our faith freely today. The context of this initial law formed the inspiration for the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Our country holds among its most fundamental freedoms the right to practice freely one's religion and associate with others who share those same beliefs.

As we know from experience, freedom is not without cost and it is not free. It must be protected and nourished, and our communities of faith, in particular, need to be safeguarded from government encroachment and intrusion.

It is with this in mind, Mr. Speaker, that I will continue to work with my colleagues to defend our First Amendment and our communities of faith on Religious Freedom Day and every day.

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IT IS TIME WE SHOW OUR NATIONAL CHARACTER

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

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, since the Trump administration announced the end of the DACA program in September, more than 16,000 people have already lost their protection from deportation and their ability to work. Each day we fail to act to protect DREAMers, 122 more people lose those protections and the ability to contribute to their country in the same way they have for as long as they have lived here.

These DREAMers teach our children, care for our loved ones, start businesses, strengthen our communities, defend our Nation, and believe that our country, their country, will see them for the Americans they are.

One of our country's proudest DREAMers, Jose Antonio Vargas, once said:

Citizenship to me is more than a piece of paper. Citizenship is also about character. I am an American. We are just waiting for our country to recognize it.

Jose is right. It is high time our country recognizes the DREAMers for the Americans they really are. It is time we show our national character.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, as we observe Human Trafficking Awareness Month, I would like to recognize

organizations in my home district of Miami that are working to put an end to this modern day slavery.

As a tourist destination and a gateway to the Americas, south Florida is a preferred spot for criminals to commit these types of outrageous human rights violations. But thanks to organizations like Kristi House and The Women's Fund of Miami-Dade, there is a critical campaign afoot to bring public awareness and to stop this terrible scourge.

St. Thomas University has created the Human Trafficking Academy, which offers training and technical assistance to law enforcement, lawyers, and the general public.

Resources like the Human Trafficking Miami Hotline, led by our esteemed Miami-Dade State attorney's office, serves victims and survivors of human trafficking by encouraging calls to 305-350-5567.

We are also blessed to have devoted law enforcement officers who are committed to a zero tolerance campaign to protect victims, to prosecute and dismantle traffickers.

As you can see, Mr. Speaker, south Florida is dedicated to fighting this crime. A future free of human trafficking is out there, and I urge every American to make that a reality.

TAKING ISSUE WITH THE COMMENTS OF THE PRESIDENT

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as an American, I certainly celebrate religious freedom and acknowledge the importance of freedom of religion and speech and the ability to have access to a free press.

Sadly, I rise to take issue with the comments said by the Commander in Chief, well documented by Senator DURBIN and the Senator from South Carolina, LINDSEY GRAHAM, who delicately tried to instruct the Commander in Chief of the ugliness of his words.

I will not say them on the floor, and I have not said the complete word, but over this weekend of the beloved community of Dr. Martin Luther King, everywhere I went, people were appalled. I believe that it is crucial that we pass the Dream Act and that we speak to the racism of this President through 1973, 1980, 1988, and 1989.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MAST). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF MR. BILLY LEE

(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 remember the life of Mr. Billy Lee, who passed away on December 21 at the age of 85.

Mr. Lee owned McDonough's, the oldest Irish pub in Savannah; and the upstairs restaurant, Billy's Place. Mr. Lee and McDonough's are iconic in Savannah. McDonough's has been voted the best karaoke in town for 8 straight years and is an immensely popular watering hole for all Savannahians.

Mr. Lee never met a stranger in McDonough's and he had an extremely sharp memory for its patrons. His kindness is fondly remembered by all who frequented McDonough's, including times when he purchased blankets for the homeless, allowed folks to use his business for charity events, and opened his building for Hurricane Irma evacuees from Florida.

Mr. Lee has commented on his restaurant and bar: That's the story of what we do here. We help people.

Mr. Lee's kind spirit will be missed in Savannah, and I hope that people will continue to learn from his example for years to come.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST VOTE CAST BY A WOMAN IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK

(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 100th anniversary of the first vote cast by a woman in the State of New York. 100 years ago, the residents of Lisle, New York, and Broome County held a special election to decide if liquor could be served in the town of Lisle. This was the first vote held in the State of New York after women had just recently gained the right to vote just 2 months prior, thanks to the efforts of other famous New Yorkers who are memorialized in our historic Capitol rotunda: Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Lucretia Mott.

On January 25, 1918, shortly after 6 a.m., right before the polls opened, on a cold, snowy day in the southern tier, the Ladies of Lisle lined up outside to cast their first vote. When the doors opened, a woman named Florence B. Chauncey was the first to step forward and place her ballot in the box at the Lisle Village Hall.

This year, on January 5, a historic marker was unveiled at the old Lisle Village Hall to commemorate this momentous occasion. This extraordinary act will now be memorialized forever on the Main Street in Lisle.

OUR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IS UNDER ASSAULT

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, it is important to point out that religious freedom is indeed a cornerstone of the founding and the fiber of the United States. What started out in the Virginia General Assembly on this date in

1786, which grew into the First Amendment in our Constitution and other Bill of Rights, that freedom is under assault.

Courts, time and again, try to strike down the ability for people to peaceably assemble, peaceably speak their religious views, whether it is on a football field after a game or even extending so much to people objecting to what they are going to do in their bakery with what kind of products they are going to put out. We have folks that seem to think that religion is some kind of a plague in this country.

Yes, maybe it is an inconvenience if your neighbor worships in a way that is different from you; but that is something that we have always, in the term "tolerance," worked to get along with.

Indeed, this House Chamber, every day, opens with an invocation; and right above the podium here, it says: "In God we trust."

Are we going to trust ourselves as a nation to allow each other to worship freely? Or are we going to have an oppressive shutdown of that by out-of-control courts?

We need to hold on to religious freedom.

HONORING FORMER CONGRESSMAN AND CINCINNATI MAYOR TOM LUKEN

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to honor former Congressman and Cincinnati Mayor Tom Luken, who passed away last week at the age of 92.

Tom Luken was a Democratic stalwart and something of a local political legend representing the people of Cincinnati for 15 years in this body.

I learned firsthand just how tough a politician he was when I ran against Tom in 1988. He won. But I also learned a great deal about Tom Luken, the man, during that race. He was a dedicated public servant who always focused on the needs of the people he represented. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

As many probably know, his son Charlie was also Cincinnati mayor and also served in this body for a term.

Mr. Speaker, even though we were from different political parties and disagreed on a lot of issues, I have always respected Tom for his commitment and dedication to our community and to our Nation. I hope that his wife, Shirley, and his entire family know just how much Tom Luken will be missed.

A BETTER DEAL FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, with all the things that are happening in

Washington, it is pretty easy to feel concerned and to lose faith in what it is that we are doing here. It is language, questions of racism, questions of tax policy, winners, losers.

Mr. Speaker, I decided today to be optimistic, to be upbeat, and to say: Hey, there really are things that we can do if we just put our minds to it and begin to work together.

Before I start these sessions on the floor, I always like to ground myself in what is it that I would like, and that I would like my colleagues, to accomplish. I always turn to Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who brought us through the Great Depression and the Great War. Etched in the marble at his memorial here in Washington, D.C., are these words: "The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much . . ."

I probably ought to repeat that. "The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little."

I always want to start with that because it grounds me as I look at the multiple opportunities we have here to do just this: add more to those who have much.

For example, the tax bill that passed just before Christmas and was signed into law clearly does more for those who have much. Well over 80 percent of the \$1.5 trillion—actually, far more than that—that were involved in the tax giveaway went to the superwealthy and America's major corporations.

But I said I was going to be positive and I didn't want to drag all of us down further in that tax scam, but what I really want to talk about is what we can do to add for those who have too little. So let me start with that.

My Democratic colleagues and I have been talking for the better part of 6 months now about a better deal for America, things that we can do to improve the lot of everyday Americans so we can provide enough for those who have too little. We all know that middle class America has stalled out over the last 20 years. So we set up a series of policies, programs, and legislation to improve the situation for working men and women of America, for those who clearly have too little and those who are struggling every day to meet their mortgage, keep their kids in school. So it is really about investing in America and making it in America, a series of programs and policies.

I am not going to talk about all of those tonight, but I want to focus on this one: making it in America and investing in America.

Before I go on to explain more about it, the rest of the program, really, is this: better jobs, better wages, and a better future.

So when we talk as Democrats about a better deal, a better deal for America, we are really talking about these three fundamental things: better jobs, better wages, and, therefore, a better future for Americans.

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There are many different ways that this can be done. One of the principal ones is this: those of you who follow this—and I suspect there are very few of you—but if you have been following these floor sessions that I and others have been doing for the last, in this case, 6 years, we developed this little placard: "Make It In America. Manufacturing Matters." It is pretty fundamental.

Over the years, we have looked at the hollowing out of the great manufacturing centers of America. Some people like to say it is the Rust Belt. Well, the Rust Belt is coming back, and it can come back, roaring back, if we pay attention to the policies that create manufacturing opportunities.

The President has talked about this, but, unfortunately, the policies that actually have emanated from the administration, in many cases, harm the manufacturing sectors—I am the ranking member of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee—maritime, ocean, inland waterways, the great Mississippi, the Ohio River system, the Great Lakes of America; and, of course, the coasts; the harbors, New York Harbor; Charleston; the harbors in Florida and across the Gulf Coast; in California, the great harbors of San Diego, Los Angeles, Long Beach, and the San Francisco Bay Area; and further North, Oregon and up into Washington.

These maritime opportunities are enormous. And, unfortunately, we, far too often, ignore those opportunities. And so on the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, we are trying to focus on ways in which we can actually rebuild the great American maritime industry.

If you go back in the history of this Nation, back to its very earliest days, in the early policies of George Washington and Alexander Hamilton, they set out policies to encourage the maritime industry. By the way, for those of you who really want to know where the first inheritance tax came into being, it was John Adams. He actually put the inheritance tax in place to build a frigate for the U.S. Navy. So it goes way, way back.

That takes me back to tax policy, and I said I wouldn't deal with that too much, but it is hard to ignore the fact that it was a very bad tax bill for the working men and women. One of the reasons it was a bad tax bill is that we need to build our infrastructure. There is going to be a lot of talk here in the next several weeks about the President's infrastructure plan—\$1 trillion infrastructure plan. Good idea. Let's do it.

What was that movie? That famous line? "Show me the money." It disappeared. It disappeared in that tax bill. Where did it go? It went to the superwealthy. Maybe they will build the infrastructure. I am sure the top 1 percent, the top 10 percent, would be