

district that, for more than a decade, has served the community by providing information and resources to help children, the elderly, and vulnerable individuals protect themselves from violent crimes.

Christopher's Clubhouse was started in 1996 after Mika Moulton's son, Christopher, was kidnapped and murdered at 10 years old. The family made the brave and selfless choice to turn their grief into something positive. They realized that, while they had done everything right like telling Christopher not to talk to strangers, no one had told them that there was more that they could have done. They realized that they had not taught him what to do if someone had grabbed Christopher.

They didn't want any parent to face that same realization and that same grief, so they started Christopher's Clubhouse to provide safety skills and personal defense techniques for children, teens, and the elderly throughout the Coachella Valley.

Over the years, Christopher's Clubhouse has served more than 100,000 people through their programs in schools, community events, and churches. There is no doubt that they have made a difference and saved lives, preventing other parents from going through their pain.

I thank them and I applaud them for their years of service. While Christopher's Clubhouse may be closing, the legacy of their work will be felt for generations.

HONORING THE MEMORY AND SACRIFICE OF NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory and sacrifice of New York police officers killed in the line of duty.

Every day, women and men don blue uniforms and head out to the streets, unsure of what danger they may encounter. They protect my family and the 8 million people who live in New York City. I thank them for risking everything to keep us safe.

The following men and women, New York's finest, have met their end of watch while carrying out their duties since I came to office in Congress in May of 2015. I would like to honor them by reading their names here in the House Chamber:

Lieutenant Jeffrey Francis, 9/11-related illness

Detective Miosotis Familia, gunfire

Officer Michael Hance, 9/11-related illness

Sergeant Terrence Scott O'Hara, 9/11-related illness

Deputy Chief James Molloy, 9/11-related illness

Detective Steven McDonald, gunfire

Detective Stephen Kubinski, 9/11-related illness

Sergeant Paul Tuozzolo, gunfire

Assistant Chief Michael Quinn, 9/11-related illness

Detective Michael Glazer, 9/11-related illness

Lieutenant Kenneth Rosello, 9/11-related illness

Officer Kenneth Wolf, 9/11-related illness

Officer Deborah Garbutt-Jeff, 9/11-related illness

Detective Andrew Siroka, 9/11-related illness

Officer Juan Feliciano, heart attack
Sergeant Donald Scott Conniff, vehicular assault

Sergeant Michael Galvin, 9/11-related illness

Sergeant Wayne Jackson, 9/11-related illness

Lieutenant Marci Simms, 9/11-related illness

Officer Charles Karen, 9/11-related illness

Sergeant Louis Pioli, 9/11-related illness

Detective Randolph Holder, gunfire
Sergeant Gerard Beyrodt, 9/11-related illness

Detective Ronald Richards, 9/11-related illness

Sergeant Edmund Murray, 9/11-related illness

Lieutenant Rebecca Buck, 9/11-related illness

Officer Alexander Figueroa, 9/11-related illness

Lieutenant Luis Lopez, 9/11-related illness

Officer Matthew Gay, 9/11-related illness

Officer James Betso, 9/11-related illness

Detective Leroy Dixon, 9/11-related illness

Detective Michael Kenneth Davis, 9/11-related illness

Sergeant Charles Gunzelman, 9/11-related illness.

May their families continue to be in our prayers.

AMERICA NEEDS A COORDINATED 21ST CENTURY NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, it is Infrastructure Week. You can tell from all of the activity across the country: all of the rebuilding of the 140,000 bridges that need repair or replacement; the 40 percent of the national highway system that has failed to the point where we have to rebuild the whole thing, not just resurface it; and the \$100 billion backlog in transit. It is all—well, actually, none of that is happening.

In fact, despite the President being right here and talking about a \$1.5 trillion plan—wow, a big surprise, up by \$500 billion—during the State of the Union, the net result of what this President and this administration have done is actually to reduce spending on infrastructure and put forward a paper

plan that would say you are on your own.

It is called devolution; that is, we are going to say to the States and the territories: It is your obligation to build a national coordinated transportation infrastructure.

This is a grand new idea from some of the rightwing think tanks: Make the States do it.

How is that going to work?

Well, actually, it is not a new idea. We tried it once before. Actually, we tried it by default until we had the Eisenhower plan, a Republican President, to build a national highway system.

This was the net result of devolution: Kansas, Oklahoma; you build it, we will build it.

Well, Kansas built it.

What is this?

Oh, that is the State line.

This is Oklahoma: Sorry, we don't have the money to build and continue that beautiful new freeway—1956.

For 3 years, cars crashed through a wooden barrier they built at the end at the State line into Amos Sweitzer's farm field until we had a national transportation plan, from a Republican President, funded by a user fee, a gas tax, to build out the system nationwide.

And then it was Ronald Reagan who said: Wait a minute. Wait a minute. We can't just have highways. We need to have transit to serve our Nation's largest cities and our hubs.

So we added transit into this.

That is all well and good. We built a system that was the envy of the world 40 years ago, 30 years ago, maybe even 25 years ago. Since then, it has been crumbling with neglect.

We haven't raised the Federal gas tax since 1993: 140,000 bridges need repair or replacement; \$100 billion backlog in transit, just to build out to a state of good repair for what we have and not even give people new transit options to get out of the congestion and the traffic.

We are wasting billions of dollars a year, wasting fuel from people sitting in gridlock all around the country. They are damaging their cars through potholes, and they don't have the transit options that were promised to them.

So what is going on? Well, it seems like the Republicans love to talk about it. Oh, they just love to talk about infrastructure. Everybody loves to talk about it—we are going to fill those potholes; we are going to build those bridges; we are going to take care of you—but they refuse to fund it. That is the bottom line.

We need to fund an ambitious new national infrastructure plan: transit, roads, bridges, highways, harbors and ports, wastewater, clean water, and the list goes on and on and on.

You can't be a great nation if your people are mired in gridlock, if your roads are potholed, if your harbors are silted in, if your jetties are failing, if your wastewater systems are 50 years

old and can't take any new capacity and actually are polluting our rivers, and clean water is not available to people in some of the largest cities in the United States of America.

Where is the Federal partner? There is no Federal partner with the Republicans in charge. Let the States do it. Let's devolve this obligation to the States. That is their solution: The States should pay for it.

Well, it didn't work in the fifties. How the heck is that going to work in the 21st century?

Even if one State decides now to increase capacity to move freight—say California wants to move all of the freight that comes into Los Angeles out of California to the rest of the Nation where it is going and bring the goods in to export from there, how is that going to work when you get to the Nevada State line and there is a two-lane road—or no road—on the other side?

This is an abject failure, and it is time for Congress to act. If the Republicans won't act, maybe we need to replace them with a party that will act to rebuild America and make us competitive in the world for the 21st century, not devolution. We need a Federal partnership. We need Federal investment. We need a coordinated 21st century national transportation system.

RECOGNIZING REBECCA OBERT-THORN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DONOVAN). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize an educator in my district who is making a lasting difference in the lives of Bucks County students.

Rebecca Obert-Thorn, of Pennwood Middle School in Lower Makefield, was recently named the winner of the Axalta All-Pro Teacher of the Year Award. For this distinction, Rebecca has secured \$7,000 for Pennwood to be used on materials that promote STEM education and opportunities for students.

This program, which is in collaboration with the Philadelphia Eagles, honored Rebecca due to her dedication in the classroom, along with her work on the board of directors at Silver Lake Nature Center in Bristol and through STEM work at the Bucks County Community College. It also featured an event at Pennwood Middle School with Eagles wide receiver Bryce Treggs.

I applaud Rebecca for her work in promoting STEM education and her commitment to building our next generation of leaders in Bucks County.

RECOGNIZING COUNCIL ROCK HIGH SCHOOL SOUTH

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. Speaker, NASA is known for hiring the brightest and most adept people in the world to execute the functions of space exploration and research. I am proud to rec-

ognize some of their youngest employees, who work not out of Houston, Texas, but from Council Rock High School South in Pennsylvania.

Council Rock South is one of 125 schools in the Nation, and the only school in Pennsylvania, that participate in a unique program that enables students to develop projects that ultimately could be used by NASA itself. Indeed, NASA is currently working on one of the projects that originated from Council Rock South several years prior: a vibration isolation chamber that would protect fertilized eggs.

I applaud these students for their contributions and would like to thank the technology education teacher, Fred Bauer, for the guidance and direction he provides these impressive young women and men.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about something critical to each and every person in the House and the millions of Americans whom we represent: our health.

It is no secret that the Affordable Care Act was an important start toward increasing access to care and addressing long-lingering health disparities that plague our communities. Thanks to the ACA, millions of Americans have access to quality, affordable healthcare, many for the first time. The impacts have been positive across the country, but especially in the African American community, where the uninsured rate has been cut in half.

Mr. Speaker, this is remarkable progress, but we still have a long way to go. Globally, the U.S. ranks 24th in healthcare. Let me say that again. We, the United States, the richest country in the history of the world, ranks 24th when it comes to healthcare. Nations like Slovenia, Antigua, and Barbuda outrank us. Mr. Speaker, that is outrageous. We can and must do better.

One area we desperately need to do better in is mental health. One in five Americans—that is more than 40 million of us—suffer from a mental health condition. Thankfully, the Affordable Care Act mandated, for the first time, that mental health services be included in coverage.

But stigma and a persistent lack of access to care continue to prevent many from seeking and receiving treatment. It is estimated that more than half of those struggling with a mental health condition cannot, or do not, receive the care that they need.

This Mental Health Awareness Month, I want to challenge my colleagues to join efforts to end stigma and bring these issues out into the open: join a rally, send a tweet on available services in your district, or host a roundtable with veterans who are struggling.

□ 1030

Do something, anything, to help deconstruct the stigma.

If every Member of this House did something, that is more than 440 moments to help tear down this stigma that keeps too many struggling without care.

This month, May, is also Lupus Awareness Month. Despite affecting more than 1.5 million Americans, lupus is poorly understood and often overlooked even by medical professionals.

It is estimated that a patient with lupus will go 6 years before they finally receive an accurate diagnosis.

More than 90 percent of those living with lupus are women, and a disproportionate number are people of color. In fact, African Americans, Latinos, Asians, and Native Americans are as much as three times more likely to be diagnosed with lupus than White Americans.

I hope that this House will mark May and Lupus Awareness Month by committing research, improved awareness, and increased access to care to support the 1.5 million Americans living with lupus.

This month, I also want to draw attention to the fact that more than 75 million of us suffer from high blood pressure.

Tragically, more than half—or 38 million—of us do not have this condition under control, leading to worsening complications, including heart disease and stroke, two of the leading causes of death in this country.

High blood pressure is often called the silent killer, and I know that nearly every one of us in this House has a story of losing a friend or loved one to stroke or a heart attack.

Again, as with nearly every disease, African Americans are disproportionately impacted. In fact, more than 40 percent of African American women and men have high blood pressure.

Our community often tends to develop this disorder earlier and experience it more severely than our White counterparts.

So this month I challenge everyone to “embrace the squeeze” and get your blood pressure checked. Knowing is half the battle, and it can save your life.

We have a chance for Congress to tackle these issues head-on.

Next week, my dear friend, mentor, and colleague, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, will introduce the Health Equity and Accountability Act, also known as the HEAA bill.

This bill, that I have personally had the honor of introducing last Congress, takes a comprehensive look at where we need to address Americans' health disparities crisis.

I hope that all Members will take a careful look at this important bill and join us as cosponsors.

While many of these health disparities have existed for years, they don't need to persist. We can address them, we can solve problems, so let's get to it.