

during the Christmas season. Their crowning annual event is a gumbo fundraiser, where they raise thousands of dollars for their service projects. In this year alone, they have raised over \$8,000 that will be used to buy new playground equipment, send children to camp, and sponsor softball teams. I am always very proud to see people and organizations like these in the Monroe area, and in my entire district in Louisiana.

Over the past 100 years, the Monroe Rotary Club has worked tirelessly to improve the city and the quality of life for those who live there.

□ 1015

They inspire me and others by the changes that they direct, that they make, and the positive impact that they bring to the Monroe area.

Today, not only do I congratulate them on their 100th anniversary, but I stand in recognition and certainly thanks for their century of service to the city of Monroe and the State of Louisiana.

#### LOUIS ZAMPERINI POST OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MAXINE WATERS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life and legacy of an American hero, Louis Zamperini.

Louis Zamperini was an Olympic runner who, while serving as an airman during World War II, was captured and held as a prisoner of war. Many remember Louis Zamperini as an inspirational symbol of resilience, athleticism, and service.

The city of Torrance and the residents of our community in the 43rd Congressional District of California are especially proud and inspired by Louis Zamperini.

Louis Zamperini was the son of Italian immigrants. He moved to Torrance, California, at the age of 3 and was a graduate of Torrance High School. It was during his tenure at Torrance High School that Zamperini's abilities in track and cross country first gained notoriety.

Nicknamed the "Torrance Tornado," Louis Zamperini set the national high school record in the mile at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum in 1934. His record time of 4 minutes 21.2 seconds was unbroken for 20 years.

As a teenager, Zamperini qualified and competed in the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin, Germany, where he finished eighth in the 5,000-meter run. After the Olympics, Zamperini earned a scholarship to the University of Southern California, where he became one of the university's most celebrated student athletes.

Louis Zamperini enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps and served in World War II as a B-24 Liberator bombardier in the 372nd Bomb Squadron.

During a rescue mission on May 27, 1943, Zamperini's plane crashed into the sea. Zamperini spent 47 days adrift in a life raft fending off starvation and fighting to survive. The United States military believed he had perished in the crash and informed his parents of his death in June 1943.

In actuality, Zamperini was captured by a Japanese patrol boat and held as a prisoner of war. Over the next 2 years, he was regularly beaten and starved. Louis Zamperini was finally liberated following the Japanese surrender in September of 1945.

Zamperini became an evangelical Christian and gave inspirational speeches across the country. He also founded the Victory Boys Camp, a wilderness camp, to assist at-risk youth.

Louis Zamperini passed away on July 2, 2014, in Los Angeles at the age of 97 years old. Zamperini was married for 54 years to his wife, Cynthia, who preceded him in death. He was survived by his son, Luke, his daughter, Cynthia Garri, and his grandson, Clay.

People across the country are familiar with Louis Zamperini's story, which was told in the 2010 book, "Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption," by Laura Hillenbrand, which rose to number one on The New York Times Best Seller list. In 2014, director Angelina Jolie released a movie about Zamperini adapted from Hillenbrand's book.

Because of his remarkable athletic abilities and heroic service to our country, Louis Zamperini will forever be remembered as a hero and favorite son of Torrance. That is why I am so very proud to announce that today, in collaboration with California's senior United States Senator, DIANNE FEINSTEIN, I have just introduced a resolution to rename the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1433 Marcelina Avenue in Torrance, California, as the Louis Zamperini Post Office Building. My legislation has the bipartisan support of the entire California delegation in the House of Representatives.

Over the Memorial Day holiday weekend, as we honor the memory of the brave military servicemembers who have given their lives for our country, let us all reflect on the legacy of Louis Zamperini and countless other American heroes who have sacrificed to protect our ideals, our democracy, and our country.

#### CONGRESSIONAL FOSTER YOUTH SHADOW DAY

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

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Foster Youth Shadow Day.

Today, I have Wini visiting us from Omaha, Nebraska. She is a junior at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, studying criminal justice, with a minor in communications. Wini is in Wash-

ington, D.C., along with more than 100 young adults participating in the seventh annual Congressional Foster Youth Shadow Day.

Currently, there are more than 400,000 youth in the foster care system, and we need to make sure the system is working well for all of our children. I look forward to learning from Wini so I can better advocate for these children in Congress as the newest co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth. As a foster parent myself, I know how important it is for every child to have a safe, supportive, and loving family.

Wini is an inspiration for all of us, as she wants to attend law school and continue using her voice as an advocate for young people.

Thank you for being here today, Wini. I know you have a bright future ahead of you, because you have an indomitable spirit, you have heart, and you have character.

#### PROFESSOR SLOCUM AND THE SOCIAL SAFETY NET

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the life and legacy of Rutgers Law School Professor Alfred Slocum.

Professor Slocum was a titan in the legal and civil rights communities. While still a student at Rutgers Law, he spoke out on behalf of minorities and people of color. He worked with professors and other students to help create the Rutgers Law Minority Student Program, which is the most extensive and renowned program to train minority lawyers in this country.

During his career, Professor Slocum served many roles in the legal profession and in the public service sector. He was an executive director of the Council on Legal Education Opportunity. He served as public advocate of the State of New Jersey in 1986 and, later that year, was appointed public defender.

For 5 years, Professor Slocum championed the causes of the voiceless and the indigent. Then in 1990, he returned to law school, where he taught until retiring from the faculty in 2001.

I speak for myself, for the city of Newark, and for the State of New Jersey when I say that Professor Slocum's life was well lived. I ask my colleagues to join me in honor of this great man's legacy.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, Professor Alfred Slocum was a champion for the voiceless and for people in need. Mr. Speaker, the people who are in the greatest need in this country rely on our social safety net for food, for shelter, for healthcare, and for many necessities that help them scrape by. We cannot leave them to despair.

These people are not just a statistic. They are not just an idea. They are human beings. They are Americans.

They are people who just need a helping hand.

I have said this before, but let me say it again. I have never met a person who wakes up in the morning and says, "I want to be poor today." That is just not a reality.

Let me add this. I have never met a person who wakes up at 5 a.m. to go to her first job, comes home at 1 p.m. to take a nap, and heads out to her second job at 4 p.m., yet still lives paycheck to paycheck, still relies on SNAP and Medicaid to make ends meet, but thinks to herself, "I like to struggle." She does not exist, because that is just not how the world works.

Programs like SNAP, Medicaid, housing assistance, our entire social safety net is a supplement that helps people struggle just a little bit less.

Yet my colleagues across the aisle and their friends in the White House keep pushing the false narrative that people who rely on government assistance to make ends meet are just freeloaders who take advantage of the government handouts and buy drugs. The majority party and the 45th President keep pushing their callous, immoral narrative in order to tear apart the social safety net.

Mr. Speaker, the United States Government should be making it easier for Americans to maintain a decent standard of living. We have to protect our most vulnerable and those who are in need. Let us end this administration's war on the working poor and help make lives better for our constituents.

The American people deserve A Better Deal.

#### LET'S PUT OUR KIDS BEFORE CONGRESS

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

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, today, once again, we are going to debate what we need to do to stop these senseless attacks on our schools.

Our schools are a place of memories. Think about it. We can all, every one of us, recite stories of when we were in elementary school. We all know stories about friends or things that happened in junior high school and in high school. Our life's memories are filled back in those schooldays, those memories.

The children today, the kids today, have different memories of school. No child in America should go to school afraid, and no parent in America should worry about their children, if they are going to come home safely, when they send them to school.

As I stand here right now, outside these doors there are armed guards with machine guns, guard dogs, metal detectors to keep us safe. But today, once again, children will go to school across America and sit like sitting ducks in a classroom.

When a crazed madman attacked my colleagues and friends at baseball prac-

tice, our response was instant. It was immediate. Democrats and Republicans, we all agreed we need more security for Congress, we need more money to secure our offices, to secure our staff to make sure they are safe. We even found money to provide security for us at home. People move pretty fast here when it is about themselves and their families.

Why do we think that our lives are more important than the lives of any parent's child in America?

Why do we think we are more important that we can find security for ourselves so quickly?

We should take every metal detector in this building and send it to some school tomorrow until we find the money to secure our schools like we did for ourselves.

I read an article where root canals and colonoscopies have a higher approval rating than Congress. Maybe the American people will think differently if we put our kids before Congress.

□ 1030

#### HONORING SPECIAL FORCES SOLDIER AARON BUTLER

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

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, this week, I had the privilege to speak to the parents of Special Forces Soldier Aaron Butler from Monticello, Utah.

From the time Aaron was in the first grade, he wanted to join the military and serve our country. After a legendary career as a four-time State wrestling champion at Monticello High School, Aaron joined the Utah National Guard.

Within a few years, he was one of just four soldiers who graduated with honors from the Army Green Beret Special Qualification Course.

Throughout his service, Aaron's teammates and superior officers regarded him as a natural leader with an unmatched work ethic.

He was tough and dedicated. He loved our country, and he took his responsibility to protect it seriously.

On August 16, 2017, Aaron was serving as a staff sergeant in Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group of the Utah National Guard on his first combat deployment that should have ended in October.

Tragically, an explosion occurred while he was clearing a booby-trapped building in Afghanistan, killing Aaron and injuring 11 teammates.

His family, seven siblings, parents, and fiancée, as well as his teammates, were devastated. His hometown and the rest of our State mourned this tragic loss.

His sister said that if Aaron had given his own eulogy, he would have said: I came. I lived. I killed bad guys. I died.

Aaron and his courageous sacrifice will never be forgotten. Our country is

forever indebted to the service of Aaron and countless others who make daily sacrifices to protect our country and keep us safe.

And our country is, likewise, forever indebted to the families that have supported them.

Like many others, I have been blessed by the dedicated military service of a family member. My father served in the Navy during World War II. I was reminded of his great service during a recent visit to the U.S. Naval Academy, where I had the honor to meet with a group of Utah cadets, and again during a visit with U.S. troops stationed in Poland and Abu Dhabi.

This weekend, we will celebrate Memorial Day and take the opportunity to express our deepest and most profound gratitude to those who have fallen in the service of our country. I thank them, their families, and all those who are willing to serve. Our way of life and every ideal we hold dear has been built on the sacrifice of these heroes.

This week, I am proud to speak in support of the proposals in the National Defense Authorization Act that will provide our troops with support to increase capability and capacity in a force that has been asked to do too much with too little for too long.

In this, I am pleased to support a well-deserved pay raise for our troops and extend special pay and bonuses to servicemembers in high-demand fields, something our servicemembers and their families have more than earned.

After heroically serving this country, our veterans deserve the very best that we can give them back home.

This week, I was honored to support more than a dozen veterans bills that passed the House. These proposals will help improve the lives and honor the men and women who have served so selflessly.

This legislation will help provide for disabled veterans who have been wounded in service. It will ensure our veterans have access to the care and resources they have earned. It will keep our homeless veterans off the street. It will ease educational burdens placed on our veterans by the Federal Government. It will protect our veterans from the dangers of opioid abuse. It will increase accountability at the Department of Veterans Affairs to guarantee those brave individuals and their families receive the quality of service they deserve.

This Memorial Day, we honor the dedicated generations of men and women who have fought for our country and ensured our freedom. May we all strive every day to live worthy of their sacrifice, and may God bless the United States of America.

#### THE MEDAL OF HONOR

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

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, "For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at