

water is black. It is black because the flowing waters in from the Atlantic Ocean can't keep up with the toxic waters that are discharged into that estuary, into that nationally recognized estuary, by the hand of the Federal Government, by the hand of the U.S. Corps of Engineers.

Where the water isn't black, the water is green, like this, with toxic algae and cyanobacteria, things that no person should ever have to come in contact with.

I will tell you, this body recently did a good job for what has to occur to fix this issue in the long term. We passed the Water Resources Development Act, where we went out there and put a placeholder into that bill for a southern reservoir, a reservoir south of our area to send this water so that they don't have to send this water to the epicenter of human population in our area.

We did a good job of doing something known as asking for a LORS review, a review of the schedule at which level we can keep the Lake Okeechobee water in that lake so that they don't have to discharge that water into our community. We did a good job in making sure that we put resources toward how you can clean up algal blooms.

Those were all very important things for the long term, but it doesn't help the people in my community today and tomorrow, the people who have to worry about their children coming in contact with the water because of the human health risks associated with it.

It doesn't help the business owners, whom I have to see day after day with tears in their eyes because they are closing their doors for the last time because they can't survive because of the way this devastates our economy from top to bottom.

When you destroy the environment in our community, you destroy us. You destroy every one of us in our community. This cannot continue. This has to stop.

I call on the U.S. Corps of Engineers that, until the moment comes where you can say the water you are sending into our area is not toxic whatsoever, until that day comes where you would go into that water yourself or bring your own family members for a vacation and for a swim in our waterways, then don't send one more drop of that water into my community.

I put on the same uniform as the members of the Corps of Engineers. We wore the same Army uniform, and I know that we carry the same passion for how we do things. We had an ethos: You always place the mission first; you never accept defeat; you never quit; and you never leave a fallen comrade. Right now my community is being left behind by the Corps of Engineers, and it is not right.

I could say that not one moment during my time in the military would I have ever considered risking the life of one community in the name of something that may potentially happen in

the future. It is not right; it can't occur in our community; and that is why I call on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to stop their discharging of toxic water immediately.

#### CONGRATULATING MANHEIM TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL BOYS LACROSSE

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

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Manheim Township High School boys lacrosse team, who recently won the program's first-ever PIAA State title. The Blue Streaks defeated La Salle, 6 to 4, in the PIAA Class 3A championship game this past Saturday to bring the title to Lancaster County.

Manheim Township of District 3 became the first school from outside Districts 1 or 12 to win the boys lacrosse title since the tournament began. This historic championship is a fitting end to an excellent season that also included a program best 26-1 record and both the Lancaster-Lebanon League and District 3 titles. These young men have put in countless hours of hard work to achieve this incredible result.

As I have said before, high school sports are about more than just winning. They are about teaching our children valuable skills such as teamwork, commitment, and perseverance. They build character and create memories that will last a lifetime. These young men have displayed these valuable skills throughout their entire season, and I am proud to represent them. I look forward to the team's future successes.

Congratulations to the Manheim Township High School boys lacrosse team, the coaches, their families, and the faculty, staff, and students who enabled this historic title.

#### COMBATING OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address another topic this morning. I want to speak in support of the House's efforts to combat the opioid epidemic that has swept across Pennsylvania and across the Nation. This week, the House is voting on more than 30 opioid-related bills, with many more to come next week as well.

Sadly, you would be hard-pressed today to find someone who hasn't been impacted by this epidemic or who doesn't know someone who has. It transcends socioeconomic and geographic lines and makes no distinction between age, income, race, gender, or politics.

Hundreds of thousands of American lives have been cut short by drug abuse. In my region of Pennsylvania, prescription drugs, heroin, and fentanyl are the leading causes of death in several communities. In fact, our region has experienced a 23 percent increase in opioid-related deaths in 2018 as compared to the same time period in 2017.

Too many families feel broken and feel lost. Those whom we know personally—our neighbors, our family, and our friends—are working to save the lives of those whom they love.

Our constituents should know that we here in Congress have their backs. They should know that we are working to provide them with the resources necessary to prevent addiction, to treat abuse, and to help families and individuals recover.

This week and next, the House is passing legislation that changes the way opioids are prescribed and encourages alternative methods and medications to treat pain. We are cracking down on deadly synthetic drugs like fentanyl. We are giving law enforcement tools to get dangerous drugs off our streets and out of our communities, and we are improving data used to help at-risk patients, families, and those who are already struggling with addiction.

Our communities are coming together and standing side by side to help each other through this difficult time. Those struggling with addiction and their family and friends are getting some much-needed assistance from Congress. Both in Washington and in Pennsylvania, I will continue to work with my colleagues, community leaders, healthcare professionals, and law enforcement to prioritize an immediate and effective response to save the lives of those we love.

#### LUNCH BUDDY APP BUILDS FRIENDSHIPS

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate four exceptional students from New Jersey's Point Pleasant Borough High School—Luke Boylan, Theresa Cardone, Jaspreet Kaur, and Adrian Wittmann—for their amazing app designed to ensure that their classmates with special needs have a lunch buddy to build friendships, share conversation, laugh, or talk about each other's hopes and dreams.

Lunch Buddy app helps make all participating students more understanding, knowledgeable, kind, and empathetic. Lunch Buddy app helps all participating students see the world from each other's eyes.

Everyone has good days and bad, strengths and weaknesses, and things we want to talk about to a friend. For many, high school can be difficult and lonely. Lunch Buddy app recognizes this and enables participating students to better grasp the God-given worth, inherent value, and innate goodness of everyone and says with neon lights: You are welcomed and cherished here.

Working together, under the incredible guidance of their advanced software engineering teacher, Mr. Nick Gattuso, Luke, Theresa, Jaspreet, and Adrian created a Lunch Buddy app

which earned them the top prize in New Jersey's Fourth Congressional District App Challenge.

Several weeks ago, the team came to the Capitol, where they were nationally recognized.

Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of seeing the app in action when I visited the high school in February and was struck by the extraordinary care and kindness of the winners and, frankly, all the students in the class. These young people are truly amazing.

Allow me, Mr. Speaker, to say a brief word about the teacher, Nick Gattuso.

After the terrorist attacks of 9/11, Mr. Gattuso was so inspired by the selflessness of so many that he left a highly successful career at Bell Labs and took an early retirement and huge pay cut to teach because he said he just wanted to give back to others. He said he was too old to be a firefighter and too old to be a cop, but he chose the noble profession of teacher.

Today, with great skill, energy, and passion, Mr. Gattuso teaches his students, in his words, "how to use their programming, engineering, and problem-solving skills for good." Lunch Buddy app epitomizes that good.

Lunch Buddy app, Mr. Speaker, sprang out of a broader initiative to create a better learning environment for students with disabilities. In 2012, Point Pleasant Borough High School established The Panther Assisted Learning Software, or PALS, with the stated goal of "providing students with multiple disabilities differentiated assistive learning technologies and to promote increased independence and vocational sufficiency."

Additionally, PALS was created to overcome specific barriers to learning and to facilitate increased interaction between special needs students and their nondisabled peers. It is a wonderful program that teaches important lessons that last a lifetime, and I believe this program needs to be replicated in every high school in the country.

□ 1045

The Lunch Buddy app is one of several real-world, operational apps that are enhancing the learning and community environment at Point Pleasant. Other apps, for example, assist students with their class schedules, money management, and résumé building and are developed in close collaboration with special needs students in the life skills class.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the Congressional App Challenge itself was created to allow students in STEM fields who also work in computer programming an opportunity to showcase their software application achievements. These STEM fields are central to the global workforce of the future, and it is critical for our students to have opportunities like this challenge to further develop expertise in computer programming and work with teammates to enhance their collective creativity.

We all know that integrating into the academic and social environments at school can be difficult for many students, especially and including those with a disability. As the founder and co-chair of the Congressional Autism Caucus, I have heard stories from countless families with children with autism who struggle.

So I am especially grateful to our four designers of the Lunch Buddy app who showed both great technical skill and compassion. They put their expertise toward the service of others.

Mr. Speaker, the world awaits what they and other students in that class have to offer.

#### NORTH KOREAN NEGOTIATIONS

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

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, for 22 years, I have served on the Foreign Affairs Committee and focused on North Korea. For two decades I have urged the toughest possible pressure not only on North Korea, but on China, North Korea's lifeline.

Just last month I joined Chairman YOH of the Asia Subcommittee, where I serve as ranking member, in sending a letter insisting that we have tougher enforcement of our sanctions on large Chinese banks and other entities that supplied the necessary services to Kim Jong-un.

When the possibility of a summit was announced, the foreign policy community came forward with a unified message: No concessions until we get CVID, or the complete, verifiable, irreversible dismantlement of North Korea's nuclear program.

I found myself on the dovish edge of the foreign policy community. While I supported tougher sanctions, I believe that we should settle for a verifiable limit, a freeze and monitoring, a system where there is no cheating and where we can be sure that they are not selling their nuclear weapons to other even more dangerous parties.

So I eagerly awaited Singapore. What we saw was a President that put into practice what he wrote about when he wrote his famous book, newly reissued and retitled, *Trump: The Art of the Capitulation*.

What are the steps in capitulation?

First, give the other side just about everything.

Second, accept in return vague platitudes.

Third, go on TV and announce that you have got the best deal ever.

What did we get from North Korea?

A temporary suspension of their most extreme barbarism. They agreed to release and did release three hostages. They said they will allow us to look for the bodies of our fallen heroes from the Korean War. They did not release the Japanese hostages, but they did release three American hostages.

They implicitly agreed, though not explicitly, to an end of testing. But

testing is hardly necessary once you have already proven your capacity. Russia has the capacity to destroy American cities, but they haven't tested a nuclear weapon since 1990. Why? They proved it long ago.

Likewise, North Korea has proven the capacity of its nuclear weapons. They don't need further testing. They have missiles that can kill tens of thousands of Americans and millions of our allies in Tokyo, Seoul, and elsewhere in Asia. They have the capacity to smuggle their nuclear weapons near or into any of our West Coast cities. They have that capacity. They don't need further testing.

So they have given very little, but they gave one more thing. They pronounced the word denuclearization. This is the epitome of a vague platitude. For when North Korea says denuclearization, they say will give up their nuclear weapons when the whole world gives up its nuclear weapons; when, in the words of the Good Book, swords are beaten into plowshares.

So what have we given up?

First, we gave them what the Kim dynasty has always wanted: that face-to-face equality with an American President.

Second, we have relaxed our sanctions, in effect.

No, the statutes haven't changed. But those big banks that Chairman YOH and myself as ranking member once sanctioned, no way that is going to happen. Businesspeople in Moscow and Beijing know it is now time to move forward with business deals with North Korea.

Also, he declared our military exercises to be provocative. What does that mean worldwide when an American President says: We better not train our troops; that is warlike?

In the words, of Admiral Stavridis, who wrote in *Time Magazine* just a few days ago: "These are operational military exercises in which ships, aircraft, and ground forces . . . practice executing defined war plans." To have our forces forward deployed without the benefit of that kind of practice would be negligent in the extreme and would lead to major combat losses in a real fight.

Trump is saying these exercises are expensive. It is hardly expensive to train our troops.

We have got a long way to go. We need to enforce the sanctions and make them tougher. We have to do this until we get a complete declaration of their nuclear materials, a verification, and a freeze.

#### HONORING RABBI JOEL SIMON

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a faith leader in our community who has made a tremendous impact on individuals in our home in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.