

Rabbi Joel Simon of the Shir Ami Synagogue in Newtown, has been a transformative force in providing spiritual guidance to his congregants. During his tenure, Mr. Speaker, at the Reform congregation, Joel has made great strides to enhance the educational environment for the over 700 families who attend Shir Ami. A strong proponent of strengthening Jewish identity, Rabbi Simon oversees community building exercises such as yoga, youth groups, and theater trips.

Rabbi Simon will be departing Shir Ami on Saturday to return to his home in Florida. While he will be dearly missed by our community, we are sure that he will flourish in his next chapter. We wish him; his wife, Jacent; and their entire family all the best going forward.

#### BUCKS COUNTY HEROES

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize several individuals from our community in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who administered first aid that would ultimately save the life of a beloved school bus driver.

In January, Janet Lapsley suffered a life-threatening medical emergency. Discovered unconscious by fellow bus driver Bob Fay, Janet was found to be lacking a pulse. With the help of Bob and drivers Brent Briggs, Danny Shimp, and Jeff Randolph, Janet received CPR and oxygen. With the assistance of school nurse Dawn Fulton and athletic trainer Katie Holmes, Janet received the additional treatment she needed to survive while first responders were on the way.

I would like to commend the first responders, who worked collectively and professionally to save Janet's life. They are Ottsville Fire Company Chief William Shick, Deputy Chief James Keogh, Firefighter and EMT Jeff Lauble, and Junior Firefighter Evelyn Keogh.

The weekend following this health scare, Janet's brain activity hovered between 3 percent and 5 percent. However, with the help of a team of doctors and many prayers, Janet slowly recovered and is now working as a monitor on bus 97, continuing to assist the children she cares so deeply about.

I would like to thank Bob, Brent, Danny, Jeff, Dawn, Katie, William, James, Jeff, and Evelyn for their courageous actions. Their knowledge and quick thinking truly saved the life of a dedicated community servant. I encourage all of my constituents to follow their lead and, as an EMT, educate themselves on the power of first-aid techniques to save lives every single day.

#### HONORING THE WORK OF TEACHERS MARC CUTILLO AND JOAN SAVION

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a teacher in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who is working to break down barriers both in and out of the classroom.

Marc Cutillo, a biology teacher and special education teacher at William

Tennent High School in Warminster, was recently a recipient of the Teacher as Hero award from the National Liberty Museum and State Farm Insurance. He was honored for his work teaching a science class for students which doubles as an English language class. Additionally, Marc has teamed up with fellow William Tennent teacher Joan Savion to establish Aquí Para Ti, a community group that seeks to strengthen relationships with the Latino community in the Centennial School District.

I applaud Marc and Joan for their work in bridging the language and learning gap for students in our community. By giving them the tools to succeed, Marc and Joan are paving a brighter future for the next generation.

#### OPIOID EPIDEMIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK) for 5 minutes.

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, my district and communities across our Nation are being ravaged by the heroin and opioid epidemic. This crisis touches our homes, our friends, and our families in ways that have grave effects on everyday people and everyday lives.

Over the last 15 years, heroin-related deaths have quadrupled across our country. In 2016, over 3,600 New Yorkers died of an opioid overdose, with fatalities in some counties in my district doubling and tripling.

This is why, since arriving in Congress, I have worked with my colleagues on the Bipartisan Heroin Task Force to pass the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, the 21st Century Cures Act, and to provide over \$4 billion in funding to fight this epidemic. But we must continue to attack this epidemic head-on, which is why we are passing a package of bills this week to prevent addiction, encourage treatment and recovery, and improve law enforcement to keep our communities safe.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to continue this incredibly important bipartisan work so that the families we represent can get the relief they need.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 58 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We thank You, once again, that we, Your creatures, can come before You and ask guidance for the men and women of the people's House.

There are many issues facing this Congress in these and coming days. Some are quite contentious; all are of importance to so many of our citizens and residents.

Bless each Member with wisdom and insight into the many implications of their legislative actions so that all Americans rest assured that Your Spirit is at work in the business of the people's House.

Bless us this day and every day. May all that is done here be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. MATSUI led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### RECOGNIZING ALZHEIMER'S 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, I rise today in recognition of Alzheimer's Awareness Month.

Sadly, Alzheimer's is one of the fastest growing, costliest, and deadliest epidemics facing our Nation. I am all too familiar with the pain and heartbreak surrounding this dreadful disease because my mother passed away in 2011 due to complications from Alzheimer's.

It is important to note that my experience is not unique. Over 5.7 million Americans are living with this disease, including half a million Floridians. That is why I am a staunch advocate for Alzheimer's research funding.

I am also proud to have recently co-sponsored H.R. 4256, the BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act. This bill

would create a modern public health infrastructure across our Nation designed to increase early detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer's. It would also focus on supporting the needs of caregivers who often bear the lasting impact of this disease.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all my colleagues to stand with Alzheimer's patients, with their families, and with their caregivers and support this important bill.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE  
CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR  
OF H.R. 3828

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered to be the first sponsor of H.R. 3828, the Patsy T. Mink Gender Equity in Education Act of 2017, a bill originally introduced by Representative Louise Slaughter of New York, for the purposes of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

THE SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PALMER). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

THE "VACANT VA" IS AN INSULT  
TO OUR HEROES

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

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I am deeply concerned that the Department of Veterans Affairs is missing nearly a dozen key, very important leaders, which is a grave disservice to our Nation's veterans.

It has been 4 weeks since the President announced his latest VA Secretary nominee, but he has yet to formally submit the nomination to the Senate. The VA has been without a permanent Under Secretary for Health since February of 2017, and there are at least nine Deputy Under Secretaries and Assistant Deputy Secretary positions without a permanent appointee.

Without strong, steady leadership, how will the VA provide the best healthcare and timely benefits our Nation's veterans deserve?

The President must take responsibility for these failures of leadership and immediately prioritize identifying, properly vetting, and appointing the qualified leaders the VA needs because this "vacant VA" is an insult to our heroes.

WE NEED A FISCAL CONSERVATIVE  
IN CHARGE OF THE PEN-  
TAGON

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

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I know that one of the easiest

things in this world to do is to spend other people's money; and for at least 50 years or more, we have been reading and hearing about unbelievable waste by the Pentagon and excessive charges by defense contractors who hire so many retired admirals and generals.

But in today's American Conservative magazine, there is an article about Air Force spending that really takes the cake. The article is entitled: "Why Do Air Force Planes Need \$10,000 Toilet Seat Covers?" The story is by Dan Grazier, a former Marine captain. He wrote the following:

"... a Department of Defense contractor told the Air Force that each new toilet seat cover for the C-17 cargo plane will cost \$10,000. Will Roper, the Air Force's Chief Acquisition official, rather than pooh-poohing the cost, defended it by claiming the company would have to switch production from other products to make a limited number of toilet covers, thus driving up the expense."

It is unpatriotic, Mr. Speaker, for any Federal department, but especially the Defense Department, to spend taxpayers' money so recklessly. I wish someday—someday—we could get a fiscal conservative in charge at the Pentagon.

OFFSHORE DRILLING

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans have taken their appalling assault on New Jersey to new lows: The Natural Resources Committee is considering legislation that would penalize States like New Jersey, where Governor Murphy and our people have had the courage and foresight to block drilling in State waters.

What House Republicans don't realize is that New Jerseyans will never be blackmailed into accepting drilling miles away from our \$38 billion-a-year tourism industry. We know the damage that the BP oil spill did to communities on the Gulf Coast, and we will stop at nothing to prevent it off New Jersey's waters.

The Trump administration offered the largest offshore drilling plan we have ever seen last year, but even the President understands the true dangers of drilling. We know this because he excluded drilling off Florida waters at the request of his political allies there.

Republicans understand the risk of offshore drilling, yet they are all too happy to subject coastal communities throughout our country to the risk.

So much, Mr. Speaker, for State rights.

Mr. Speaker, New Jerseyans have a long memory, and we will never forget this assault on our economy and our way of life.

OUR NATION'S OPIOID EPIDEMIC

(Mrs. HARTZLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the work the House is doing to address the opioid epidemic sweeping our Nation.

Sadly, in 2016, our Nation lost more people to overdose deaths than were lost during the entire Vietnam war. One of those lives lost was Samantha Huntley, whose picture I have here.

Samantha was an outgoing cheerleader at Kickapoo High School in Springfield, Missouri. When she was 16, she was in a car wreck and broke her back. Her doctor prescribed opioids to deal with the pain, and when they ran out, Sam turned to heroin.

At age 18, she confessed to her mom she needed help, but she was never able to beat her addiction. Tragically, Sam succumbed to an overdose last year, at age 20.

This epidemic must not take any more of our young people. That is why we are passing over 70 bills this week to address this crisis. Now is the time to prevent other tragedies so beautiful, amazing youth like Samantha can live.

CRUELTY IN ITS PUREST FORM

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, tonight children—2, 3, 4 years old—will sleep alone in cages on American soil.

Yes, the brutality being perpetrated by the United States Government is about who we are as a country. It is about morality. It is about humanity. But first, it is about those kids:

The 5-year-old boy from Honduras who collapsed on a kitchen floor in Michigan, sobbing for his parents;

The mother who had to listen to her 7-year-old daughter frantically screaming in a detention room next door as she was hauled away;

The 3-year-old boy who was put, inconsolable, on a flight to the Midwest after his mother was left behind;

A 4-month-old baby ripped from his father's arms.

I don't care what you believe. I don't care who you vote for or what you think about the nuances of immigration reform. These children—babies—need to be with their parents, just like every other child in this country. Anything less is cruelty in its purest form.

CONGRATULATING LIEUTENANT  
ERIC SCHRAGE

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Eric Schrage of the Collinsville Fire Department and congratulate him on being awarded the Medal of Honor Award from the Firefighting Medal of Honor Awards Ceremony this past May.

Lieutenant Schrage was recognized for his actions in responding to a fire