

and heard from more than 80 witnesses on how we can improve the program and work toward the ultimate goal of ending hunger in America.

Mr. Speaker, the House farm bill makes a historic investment in work programs so SNAP recipients have a chance to learn new skills and climb the rungs on the ladder of opportunity and escape poverty once and for all.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

#### HONORING WOODIE RUCKER-HUGHES

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, a passionate educator, a change-maker, and a powerhouse of a woman, that is how the community of Riverside would describe my dear friend, Waudieuer "Woodie" Rucker-Hughes.

As a history teacher at John W. North High School and an administrator for the Riverside Unified School District, Woodie worked to demolish educational barriers and address the needs of all students.

As an activist and leader for the Riverside branch of the NAACP, Woodie challenged injustice and moved our communities forward every single day. As a mother and a friend, she touched my life and the lives of many others with her kindness and her steadfast support and encouragement.

Today, we remember Woodie, her legacy, and everything she stood for. I am going to leave you with Woodie's motto: Good, better, best. Never let them rest until the good becomes better and the better becomes best.

In honor of Woodie, let's keep working to make this country, and the world, an even better place than she left it.

#### CONGRATULATING CHRISTOPHER EVANS

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

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise today to honor Christopher Evans, a teacher at Basha High School in my district.

Mr. Evans was one of 52 Americans who received the James Madison Fellowship, which is awarded to one distinguished educator from each State. This award recognizes exceptional teachers of American history and social studies seeking "to strengthen their knowledge of the origins and development of American constitutional government, and to expose our future leaders to the knowledge of the Nation's constitutional heritage."

I congratulate Mr. Evans on this achievement, and I know he has a bright future in my home State of Arizona.

#### DEFENDING U.S. INTERESTS

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Russia is not our friend; Russia is our adversary.

We witnessed our President side with an autocrat and adversary of our country over his own intelligence community and blame the USA for our relationship with Russia.

From separating families at the southern border to embracing Putin over the protection of U.S. interests, Mr. Trump has thrown out that values that our country is founded on.

Putin may be Mr. Trump's friend, but he is not America's. Our President forgets that the U.S. interests go beyond his own personal interests and relationships. If Putin wants to return to the days with no pushback from the U.S., that is one thing. If our President wants to return to those days, rather than defend America and our allies, that is another.

It shouldn't matter whether you are a Republican or a Democrat. If the President of the United States won't defend our interests before those of our adversaries, Congress must.

#### LOWYAL'S TRAFFICKING STORY

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Lowyal was just like any other teenager across America. When she was 13 years of age and in school, daily bullying started. Then her relationship with her mother became worse. So she dropped out of school, took drugs, and eventually joined a gang.

Eventually, her newfound "friends" introduced her to a "game" where she walked up and down the streets, under the constant watch of her owners. She was the victim of human trafficking, modern-day slavery. These older men manipulated her youth and stole her innocence on the marketplace of sex slavery.

My legislation, the Abolish Human Trafficking Act, will increase prosecutions for perpetrators like the slave traders who trafficked Lowyal and hold them accountable for their crimes of sex slavery.

America must support victims of human traffickers and put their predators where they belong: in the jailhouse. We as a community must rescue victims from this scourge of slavery that is taking place in our country.

And that is just the way it is.

#### KEEPING THE PRESIDENT IN CHECK

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

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, this week, we witnessed the weakening of the Presidency due to the actions of this President.

Now, I realize that President Trump is not constrained by customs, norms, or decorum, but his actions this week contravened his oath to preserve, protect, and defend the United States Constitution.

Yes, this President likes to act tough with tweets and trash talk, but he has proven that he is unwilling to get tough with adversaries when he stands face to face.

What is worse is that he is willing to sell out our intelligence agencies in order to suck up to the leader of a nation that has attacked us and continues to attack many democracies around the world.

Hopefully, his actions will motivate this body, our Congress, to act. Let's condemn these comments. Let's protect the special counsel. Let's protect the integrity of our elections. Let's fully implement the Russian sanctions passed last year and pass even harsher ones, if Russia does this again.

By doing anything, we can keep this President in check. When we do that, we restore the credibility of our Presidency. If we do that, we uphold the credibility of this Congress by fulfilling our oath to our democracy, so help us God.

#### INVASIVE ASIAN CARP

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

Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise awareness about the single greatest threat to Tennessee's lake and river systems. Invasive Asian carp are destroying Tennessee's native fisheries across the State.

If ignored, these fish will decimate recreation, sporting, and tourism industries that rely on more than 60,000 miles of streams and rivers in my State.

For years, the focal point for combating Asian carp has been in the North, particularly the Great Lakes. However, this continued threat has spread through the Southeast. It is time to recognize that this species is invading States like Tennessee, Kentucky, and Alabama.

Congress needs to take action, or we are going to lose some of the most biologically diverse rivers and bass fishing in the country.

Asian carp have the capacity to destroy the food systems of highly valued recreational and commercial fisheries, which generate \$2 billion in economic impact annually in Tennessee.

Mr. Speaker, this issue cannot be ignored, and I implore my colleagues to work with me to combat the invasion of Asian carp in Tennessee and throughout the Southeast.

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## GOP = GOVERNMENT OF PUTIN

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, Helsinki will be remembered as the place where GOP became shorthand for "Government of Putin."

Just as Trump surrenders to Vladimir Putin, these Helsinki congressional Republicans surrender to Trump.

Trump's own intelligence chief, former Senator, lifelong Republican Dan Coats, says "the warning lights are blinking red again" on Russian attacks. Yet Helsinki Republicans refuse to act, providing zero funding to the States to protect election integrity today. Their refusal to appropriate a dime for state defense against Russian interference really represents nothing less than unilateral disarmament.

Enough excuses. Enough weakness. Instead of a President with no scruples and a congressional Republican majority with no spine, we need strong leadership, unafraid to protect our borders and unafraid to protect American families from the ongoing Russian aggression against our democracy.

## ACKNOWLEDGING LAMAR SMITH FOR HIS WORK ON THE DYSLLEXIA CAUCUS

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the work of Chairman LAMAR SMITH of the Congressional Dyslexia Caucus. His work on this important issue has brought much-needed attention in Congress to a learning disability affecting as many as one in five Americans.

He championed the READ Act, which mandated that the National Institutes of Health direct specific funds towards dyslexia research. This law is deepening our understanding of dyslexia and providing additional tools for us to help those with this learning disability.

Last week, I began serving as co-chair of the Dyslexia Caucus, alongside Congresswoman JULIA BROWNLEY. It is my hope that we can work together to continue the impressive work of Chairman SMITH and effect positive change for those living with dyslexia.

Individuals can overcome dyslexia and achieve greatness in their education and careers when they have the right tools and instruction. We will work hard in Congress to give them what is necessary to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank Chairman SMITH for his leadership and lifetime of dedication.

## NO MORE PRESIDENTIAL WARS

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

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, Article I, section 8 of the Constitution gives Congress the exclusive authority to declare war, but the last time Congress officially declared war was December 8, 1941, the day the U.S. entered World War II. Ever since, Congress has failed to uphold their constitutional responsibility and has instead ceded power to the President.

So we remain in a state of perpetual war, led by Presidents in both parties, at great cost to the American people, with no declaration of war by Congress and no input from the American people.

The direct and indirect costs of these Presidential wars are astounding. They take a toll on our troops, our veterans, and on the American people.

Since 9/11 alone, we have spent trillions of dollars on regime-change wars and nation building, while people in our community suffer and struggle because of a lack of resources here at home—not to mention the cost borne by our troops, those who pay the ultimate price as well as those who come home with wounds that are both visible and invisible.

The American people deserve accountability. Mr. WALTER JONES and I have introduced bipartisan H. Res. 922 to make sure that Congress fulfills its constitutional role, ends Presidential wars, and has robust debate before making a decision to send our troops into battle.

## SYRIAN LAW 10

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the pressing issue that has the potential to exponentially worsen the humanitarian crisis in the war-torn country of Syria.

I know I don't need to remind this body or the American people of the dire circumstance that the Syrian people face as their country continues to be ripped apart by a known war criminal, their President, Bashar al-Assad.

While millions of Syrians have fled the country, seeking asylum and safety in neighboring countries, the majority of these refugees' only hope is to one day return back to their home. However, the Syrian regime recently passed a law that will make that nearly impossible.

Law 10, passed in April of this year, forces all Syrians, regardless of where they are currently residing, to register and provide proof of ownership of their private properties in Syria within 30 days, or else they will be forced to hand their properties over to the state of Syria. This amounts to a massive land grab by the corrupt Syrian regime that would essentially push out the nearly 13 million displaced Syrians and ensure that they never have a chance to return home.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that this body will understand this and we will speak loudly.

I urge my colleagues and this administration to take a serious and critical look at this law that would have far-reaching implications for the United States and our allies who have offered these refugees temporary asylum in our nations and the disastrous consequences for the Syrian people for generations to come.

## HONORING THE LIFE OF NEYSA TONKS

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

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember the life of Neysa Tonks. Neysa attended the Route 91 festival in Las Vegas on October 1.

Neysa was a single mother to her three kids: Kaden, Braxton, and Greysen. She worked at Technologist in Las Vegas and was known as being a fireball from the minute she woke up to the minute she went to bed.

Neysa was spontaneous, adventurous, and full of life. She loved waterskiing, ziplining, hiking, jumping off waterfalls, and traveling. She had even competed in a Tough Mudder with very little training.

Despite her many adventures, she would always save time in the winter to carry out her tradition of packing hundreds of backpacks with supplies and delivering them to the less fortunate with her sons.

Neysa was compassionate and had plans to retire early so she could spend more time with her boys.

Neysa enjoyed going to concerts, laughing, and trying new things. Neysa is remembered as always being the life of the party.

I would like to extend my condolences to Neysa Tonks' family and friends. Please know that the city of Las Vegas, the State of Nevada, and the whole country grieves with you.

## NATIONAL PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to speak about our national parks and our parks and recreational opportunities.

I grew up in California's San Joaquin Valley, where we are blessed with some of the Nation's most beautiful lands. Like many, I spent my youth exploring local Fresno recreational areas and the California State parks.

My family and I, many times, visited Kings Canyon National Park and one of the crown jewels of all national parks, Yosemite Valley, seen in this striking photograph.

Wallace Stegner, famous writer, historian, and environmentalist, once said: "Our national parks are the best idea we ever had. Absolutely American, absolutely democratic, they reflect us at our best rather than our worst."