

to be. Eddie turned Tonya into a sex slave.

Eddie sold Tonya to men for money. She was the victim of sex trafficking. Night after night, Tonya was forced to be with potential suitors. With her body being used for profit and no escape in sight, Tonya had almost given up hope. But help arrived when Homeland Security Special Agent Keith Owens receive a tip and the outlaw was arrested. He was sentenced to 12 years in prison. Tonya was freed from her shackles of modern-day slavery.

This is Human Trafficking Awareness Month, Madam Speaker, and our fight for Tonya and others is not over. We must remain vigilant. Society has to rescue their victims, restore them, and put the slave masters in the jailhouse.

And that is just the way it is.

#### CHINA IS DESTROYING TIBETAN BUDDHISM

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, last week, Human Rights Watch reported that the Chinese Government has imposed draconian new controls on Larung Gar, the famous Tibetan Buddhist center of learning.

An official document says Communist Party cadres are taking over management, finances, security, admissions, and even the choice of textbooks. This follows last year's demolitions and expulsions.

China says it respects constitutionally protected religious beliefs. That is a lie. When the state puts officials who are required to be atheists in charge of your religious institutions, that is not religious freedom. When admission requires a firm political stand, when the state tells you what to teach and students must honor the Communist Party, that is not religious freedom.

Sadly, the White House has been silent as human rights abuses in China worsen. Enough is enough. Congress must pass the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act. If the President won't act, Congress must ensure there are consequences for China's egregious actions to control and destroy Tibetan Buddhism.

#### CUBA: COMMUNIST FAILURE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, The Epoch Times this month presented an extraordinary expose by economist Daniel Lacalle that Cuba "still serves as the best example of why communism doesn't work and will never work."

Cuba was once one of Latin America's wealthiest countries when Communists seized power. But now the Cas-

tro regime—like any socialist government—is a machine of squandering subsidies.

Between 1960 and 1990, Cuba received more than \$65 billion from the Soviet Union, also hundreds of millions of dollars from international organizations. Despite this, the NationMaster ranking ranks Cuba last, 176th in the world, with an average salary of \$25.05 per month in 2014. The only way Cuba can catch up with other developing countries is by ridding itself of communism.

Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has been proven right again: "The trouble with socialism is that eventually you run out of other people's money."

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Madam Speaker, our sympathy this week goes to the people of Afghanistan in the global war who have suffered mass murders in Kabul by the Taliban, reaffirming that we must defeat terrorism overseas.

#### RECOGNIZING THE EXTRAORDINARY YOUTH OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

(Ms. PLASKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize some extraordinary youth from the Virgin Islands.

I want to start off by congratulating two distinguished scholars from my district, Rose Kleeger from Country Day High School, and Mansi Totwani from Antilles High School.

Of the nearly 3.6 million high school seniors graduating this year, Rose and Mansi are among the 4,500 students named as candidates for the 2018 Presidential Scholars Program.

In the world of athletics, Alabama State sophomore and St. Croix native, Nia Jack, was fifth in the women's 60-meter dash at the Fred Wilt Invitational this week. In the same meet, fellow Crucian and Purdue sophomore, Myia Dorsey, ran fourth overall in the women's 400 meters and led the winning women's 1,600-meter relay team.

At the Arkansas State University Invitational, St. Croix' Malique Smith won his men's 400-meter heat in a season's best.

Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate these scholars and athletes coming from the Virgin Islands. Despite the profound devastation of hurricanes this year which demolished our territory and the delay in funding to rebuild our islands, they are examples of the strength and resilience of Virgin Islanders to excel no matter what.

I thank them for their excellence.

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#### TAX CUTS BENEFITING MONTANA'S SMALL BUSINESSES AND WORKERS

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

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, because of the tax cuts passed by congressional Republicans and signed by President Trump, small-business owners in Montana are expanding their businesses and giving raises and bonuses to their employees.

An insurance broker in Harlem is giving a pay raise to all of his employees and hiring another staff member. A small business in Stevensville is giving pay raises to all of their employees, and a local grocery store owner in St. Ignatius is giving employees a raise, increasing the starting wage, and providing his workers with a bonus.

The leader on the other side of the aisle may deride these bonuses, raises, and investments as crumbs, but they make a real difference to the folks I represent back in Montana. I look forward to sharing more good news about how the tax cuts congressional Republicans and President Trump enacted last year are benefiting Montana.

#### HONORING A GREAT AMERICAN ON HIS BIRTHDAY

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

Ms. CHENEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American on his birthday: my dad, Dick Cheney.

I can imagine no better role model than this good and great man. He loved his time serving in this Chamber as the gentleman from Wyoming. Throughout a career spanning decades, including during some of the most challenging times our Nation has faced, he was a steady and wise hand who always led with the courage of his convictions.

No matter the burden he carried, he has always been there for us as a listener and teacher. He taught my sister and me to love our country, to read history and learn from it, to listen more than you talk, that a man's word should be his bond, and that we owe all we have as Americans to the brave men and women in uniform who fought and died to keep us free.

Madam Speaker, the gratitude I have for my dad as an American is surpassed only by my love for him as his daughter.

Happy birthday, Dad.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO JUSTICE WILLIAM COUSINS

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

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute

to a dear friend, Justice William Cousins, who passed away a couple days ago at the age of 90.

Bill was a former member of the Chicago City Council, called an independent alderman; a circuit court judge; and an appellate court justice who always sought fairness. He was a gentleman, a scholar, and a Harvard graduate. I commend him for his public service.

#### HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, every year, over 14,000 people are trafficked into the United States. Human trafficking is modern-day slavery and is going on in our communities all across the country. That is why, last week, in my district, I hosted a roundtable with local law enforcement, healthcare officials, victim advocates, and elected officials as part of a Human Trafficking Awareness Month seminar to discuss how we can combat this problem.

What we found is a lack of awareness and communication on this issue. The area that I represent contains major highways that are beltways for traffickers, which only makes it easier for this crime to continue.

What we determined is that we need further training for law enforcement and healthcare providers so that this kind of abuse can be more easily identified and reported. We should also re-examine sentencing, as criminals currently face harsher sentences for drug trafficking than for human trafficking.

The bills we voted on yesterday are positive steps in this fight against human trafficking and, hopefully, just the first of many to come. We must do all we can to raise awareness and end this humanitarian problem.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF AYDEN O'MALLEY

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor Ayden O'Malley. Ayden is the daughter of Denny and Rosalind O'Malley of Nokomis, Illinois.

Along with many of her friends and hundreds of other young people from Illinois, Ayden traveled here to D.C. earlier this month to attend the March for Life. During their trip, Ayden was hospitalized after she experienced a serious medical episode.

After countless prayers and 5 days of fighting, Ayden gained her angel wings. As her mom said: "So often answered prayers may not be the answers we want."

Ayden was an eighth grader at St. Louis Catholic School, where she was on the honor roll, played volleyball and

softball, and volunteered in her community as often as she could. Everyone who knew Ayden said she had a bright, vibrant spirit that brought joy to everyone around her.

While they were here in D.C., I met with Ayden's group, but, unfortunately, I never had the honor of meeting her. I admire Ayden's convictions and willingness to be a voice for those who cannot speak for themselves.

I ask this House to join me in praying for strength and healing for Ayden's family, friends, and the Nokomis community during this difficult time.

#### REMEMBERING THE "CHALLENGER" ANNIVERSARY 32 YEARS LATER

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, Sunday marked 32 years since the space shuttle *Challenger* disaster.

On January 28, 1986, NASA launched the 10th flight of the space shuttle *Challenger*, and it broke apart 73 seconds into its flight, killing all seven crew members on board. It was devastating for those watching at Kennedy Space Center in Florida, for those viewing at home, and for our Nation as a whole.

I rise today to remember the *Challenger's* dedicated crew:

Michael Smith, Dick Scobee, Ronald McNair, Ellison Onizuka, Christa McAuliffe, Gregory Jarvis, and Judith Resnick.

As President Reagan said in a televised address 32 years ago: "We will never forget them, nor the last time we saw them, this morning, as they prepared for their journey and waved good-bye and 'slipped the surly bonds of Earth' to 'touch the face of God.'"

Madam Speaker, these crew members had a passion for exploration. They inspired children around the world who dreamed of going to space. Through encouraging STEM study—science, technology, engineering, and math—we can continue to preserve their legacy and inspire another generation of explorers.

#### ELECTING A MEMBER TO A CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. CHENEY. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 719

*Resolved*, That the following named Member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES: Mr. Curtis.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 695, CHILD PROTECTION IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2017

Ms. CHENEY. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 714 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 714

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 695) to amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to establish a national criminal history background check system and criminal history review program for certain individuals who, related to their employment, have access to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendments thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order, a single motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or his designee that the House: (1) concur in the Senate amendment to the title; and (2) concur in the Senate amendment to the text with an amendment consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 115-56. The Senate amendments and the motion shall be considered as read. The motion shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. WALORSKI). The gentlewoman from Wyoming is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. CHENEY. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CHENEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Wyoming?

There was no objection.

Ms. CHENEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 714, which provides for consideration of a single motion to concur in the Senate amendments to H.R. 695, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2018.

Madam Speaker, we meet here today, 122 days into the current fiscal year. FY 2018 is one-third over, and yet the United States Congress has been unable to appropriate funds for the defense of our Nation.

I ask my colleagues, Madam Speaker, to pause and let that sink in. The fiscal