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Today, I am demanding that actions be taken upon receipt of this letter to facilitate the use of this simple and inexpensive technology which will easily turn our inventory of C-130's and C-17's into firefighting water and fire-retardant bombers.

I hope you will take this letter seriously enough in order to prevent even more damage in the state of California and elsewhere.

Yours sincerely,

DANA ROHRABACHER (CA 48),
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, August 30, 2018.

Hon. HEATHER WILSON,
Secretary of the Air Force,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY WILSON: I draw your attention to our military's bureaucratic inertia that has led to a needless loss of life and a tremendous loss of property. I am referring to the vast damage caused in the Western United States, specifically California, by out-of-control wildfires which have plagued the region for the last few months. This loss of life and property could have been dramatically curtailed had our military acted upon an option that was, and is, readily available.

Our inventory of C-130 and C-17 aircraft, with inexpensive and slight interior modifications, could be used as a major firefighting asset that could make a major difference. Instead, these potential incredible firefighting assets sat as California burned. Using these aircraft as valuable firefighting assets would not involve any alteration of the aircraft. This option however has been available and ignored.

I call your attention to the Precision Container Aerial Delivery System (PCADS). I helped win Congressional approval in the 2008 appropriations bill wherein \$2.3 million was provided for the research and testing of this system. It is ten years later, and I am frustrated that it has not been used to protect our citizens, our homes, our businesses, and our wildlands.

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Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I would hope that we would get some support from these leaders who have been appointed by President Trump to protect the American people in any way they can.

Having these airplanes sit on the tarmac in California and elsewhere throughout this country when they could drop fire retardant and massive amounts of fire retardant water saving homes—little cul de sacs that would catch on fire and be destroyed, one flight over those cul de sacs could have saved them.

Thousands of people have lost their lives needlessly because of bureaucratic intransigence in our military, so we are calling on the Air National Guard, the Air Force, and, of course, our Secretary of Defense to unblock this impediment to protecting the lives of our people with U.S. military equipment that can do the job.

RECOGNIZING OTHERWISE GIFTS

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a small business in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, that was recently recognized by the Lansdale Economic Development Committee as Business of the Month.

Otherwise Gifts, located on Green Street, has been a fixture in Lansdale since its opening in 1979. Owner John Otherwise describes his shop as containing unique gifts for everyone. Indeed, Otherwise Gifts sells everything from antiques, woodworking items, lamps, furniture, and nearly everything else John believes would help beautify Lansdale community homes.

A Philadelphia native, John previously worked in construction and in the nuclear industry before deciding to follow his passion and open his own store. At age 77, John continues to offer unique experiences and gifts to citizens of Montgomery County and throughout the region.

I wish John and his wife, Cynthia, all of the best, and I send my congratulations to Otherwise Gifts on being

named Lansdale's Business of the Month.

RECOGNIZING MARY, MOTHER OF THE REDEEMER SCHOOL

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a school in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, that plays a tremendous role in the development of our youngest citizens.

Mary, Mother of the Redeemer School in North Wales has provided educational growth and spiritual guidance since 2003. While the parish community has existed since the church was established in 1987, it is a testament to MMR's parishioners' devotion to their faith and community that a school was ultimately established. It also comes as no surprise that this school has some remarkable achievements.

MMR is a nationally ranked Blue Ribbon, School of Excellence, a recognition of exceptional academic achievement bestowed by the U.S. Department of Education. Earning this award despite its mere 15 years in existence demonstrates the future is tremendously bright for this amazing school.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Mary, Mother of the Redeemer School Principal Denise Judge and all faculty, staff, and parents for facilitating such a wonderful community school. We are grateful for your presence in our community, and we wish you all the best.

RECOGNIZING MONTGOMERYVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a school in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, that plays a pivotal role in the development of our community's youth.

Montgomeryville Elementary, located in North Wales, is known for instilling in its students the value of academic success and the virtues of acceptance and appreciation. These ideas are ultimately culminated into the school's motto: "Dream big. Achieve greatness."

Last year, Montgomery Elementary was ranked the 48th best elementary school in the State of Pennsylvania. This is no small feat, especially given that Pennsylvania contains over 4,000 elementary schools.

These noteworthy milestones would not be made possible without the assistance of a dedicated staff and school community. I am especially grateful for the leadership of principal TJ Seidenberger, who has given Montgomery Elementary the tools they need to thrive and succeed since he took the helm at the school.

We thank Montgomery Elementary for all they do for our community, and we wish them continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE SALVATION ARMY OF GREATER CHATTANOOGA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Salvation Army of Greater Chattanooga as they celebrate their 125th anniversary. This exceptional organization has been an integral part of the Hamilton County community, helping those in need with compassion and uplifting them during the most trying of times.

The Salvation Army of Chattanooga opened its doors on March 16, 1893. Never pausing in their service to the community, the Salvation Army continued operations through World War I, the Great Depression, and World War II. For 125 years, members of the Salvation Army have worked to feed, clothe, and empower the great people of Tennessee's Third District.

On a number of occasions, I can reflect on many fond memories with the Salvation Army. During the holiday season, I have had the honor of being kettle co-chairman with my wonderful wife of 32 years, Brenda—today we are celebrating our 32nd wedding anniversary—to serve this outstanding organization and its wonderful people. As a matter of fact, my wonderful wife, Brenda, serves on the board of directors with several outstanding Chattanoogaans.

Regardless of the time of year, whenever I spend time at the Salvation Army on McCallie Avenue, I witness Tennesseans coming together to provide help, hope, and healing to one another. That is the embodiment of the great Volunteer spirit.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Salvation Army of Greater Chattanooga on 125 years of service. I am sure they will continue to do the most good for residents of Hamilton and surrounding counties for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING GROVER C. FEWOX

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Grover C. Fewox, who died September 13, 2018.

Mr. Fewox went to war at the age of 17. He was one of 16 million Americans who served in World War II. His wartime service was concentrated in the bloody ocean battlegrounds of the Pacific aboard the Sperry, a submarine tender and the first United States Navy ship to be launched after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor.

His career began on April 29, 1942, as a seaman apprentice in the United States Navy. He was honorably discharged on December 13, 1963, as a senior chief torpedoman, after 21 years of dedicated service. While serving in the United States Navy, Mr. Fewox was awarded the National Defense Service Medal and seven Good Conduct Medals.

Like so many others answering America's anxious calls to service, he

found the experience of war to be rites of passage to manhood. He was never much for war stories, but he surely enjoyed a constancy of fellowship with his fellow travelers in organizations such as the Fleet Review Association and The American Legion.

Mr. Fewox served in the Navy for 16 years after the war ended, and when he retired in 1962, he moved to Charleston to work at the naval weapons station. He had begun a second career of public service, and he and his wife, Neta, would raise three daughters in Hanahan, South Carolina.

Mr. Fewox and Neta committed to their marriage in the early days of the war. He mailed her an engagement ring from a West Coast duty station. As the years passed, they had a date every day. It was a standing happy hour, of pause for undistractable table talk over refreshments of drinks and some snacks. It was a discipline that nurtures bonds; it was the practice of that love story that grew stronger after 72 years.

Upon his retirement, he received a letter of appreciation from the commanding officer of the naval weapons station in Charleston, South Carolina. Among other things, the letter said:

Your performance as an electronic mechanic was very professional, as evidenced by a Sustained Superior Performance Award and cash award for the period of June 5, 1967, through June 5, 1968, and again May 4, 1977, through May 4, 1978. In addition, you have received numerous letters of appreciation for superior performance and are a member of the 1,000 Hours Sick Leave Club.

Your attention to duty, cheerful cooperation, adaptability, knowledge, and general attitude toward your work within the Ordnance Department have been most praiseworthy. Your contributions to the team effort of "Service to the Fleet" and the resultant high quality of accomplishments are greatly appreciated. Your dedicated service reflects great credit not only to yourself but to the naval weapons station as well.

As you complete your civil service career, allow me to add my personal "Thank you and well done." You can reminisce with pride that you have given your best to the naval weapons station in Charleston. I know that your fellow workers and your many friends join me in wishing you and Mrs. Fewox the blessings of a long, healthy, and happy retirement.

It was signed D.M. Agnew, Commanding Officer of the naval weapons station.

There are 7,200 World War II veterans still with us in South Carolina. Because of Mr. Fewox and others who made up the Greatest Generation, America won that horrible war and then led the rebuilding and reknitting of the world, kindling global trade patterns and commercial alliances. It was a postwar world order anchored by America's strength and determination to nurture freedom and human dignity.

Undoubtedly, America is a better place because Mr. Fewox answered the call.

JUSTICE FOR BOTHAM JEAN

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to Botham Jean.

Botham Jean was from the island of St. Lucia. He moved to Dallas, went to college, and got a good job. As soon as he moved to Dallas, he joined a church because he was a Christian and very much into the Word of Jesus Christ.

On a Friday night a few weeks ago, he was in his apartment doing the right thing at 10 o'clock at night, probably trying to relax and unwind from the workday, and a Dallas police officer mistakenly came into his house and shot and killed him.

My prayers are with Botham's family and friends.

Officer Amber Guyger, who killed Botham, has been charged with manslaughter, even though she aimed, pulled, and fired the trigger. The last five people in Dallas County who have been charged with manslaughter have been charged with that charge because of drunk driving. She was charged with manslaughter even though she aimed, again, and pulled the trigger.

The Dallas Police Department fired Guyger on Monday amid overwhelming outrage in the community. I think it was the right decision, but it was long overdue.

I want to be clear. I respect law enforcement in this country and their sacrifices. But also, if we look at the facts of this case, the facts show us that Officer Guyger shot an unarmed Black man in his own apartment, and she was able to go back to her apartment that night. She had days before police finally arrested her, and she was given the benefit of the doubt, something that was not given to Botham Jean.

I firmly believe that if Officer Guyger had walked into that apartment and seen a White man or a White woman, she would not have pulled that trigger. I firmly believe that. That is the root of the problem. What I can say with certainty is that I am tired of waiting for a time when it is safe to be a Black man in America.

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I have a 12-year-old son. Other Congressional Black Caucus members have kids and grandkids, sons and grandsons. Other people around the country have sons, grandsons, and nephews whom they love and want to be safe every day.

America is at the brink of a prolonged watershed moment between the African-American community and police officers in this country. We need action. We need to collectively break the dam. As a Nation, we need to fix the culture of police brutality and gun violence against communities of color that have lined the fabric of this country for over a century.

Our criminal justice system is rooted in a systemic failure to prosecute the