

what is before them, glory and danger alike, and yet notwithstanding, go out to meet it.”

These words embodied the life of Officer Jared William Franks of the Greensboro Police Department. Officer Franks was killed in the line of duty after bravely engaging in the pursuit of a suspect.

Only 24 years old, Officer Franks dedicated his life to public service and creating a safer community for us all. He is the first Greensboro officer to die in the line of duty in 17 years, reminding us of the bravery and strength members of law enforcement show our communities every single day.

We must never forget and always be thankful for their courage and dedication. Please keep his family; his dad, Officer Captain Franks; and fellow officers in your prayers as we remember Officer Franks' life and legacy.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF ALAINA HOUSLEY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember Alaina Housley, a wonderful young woman from my district who was murdered in the mass shooting in Thousand Oaks.

Alaina was a bright, dedicated, and inspiring student who was so excited to have voted for the first time this year. She was in her freshman year at Pepperdine and had so much of her life ahead of her. She was deeply loved by family and friends, and her death is a huge loss for our entire community.

Over the last week, vigils and marches have been held in her honor in her hometown of Napa. She will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I have committed to her parents that I will do everything I can to address violence in our communities. We will honor her senseless death with action.

May she rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING ORAN YEARGAN

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Oran Yeargan, a student at Glynn County Middle School in Brunswick, Georgia.

A student with a disability, Oran has been the water boy for the Hurricane's football team for the past 3 years. This October, the coach called him off the bench and Oran ran the ball for the last touchdown of the game against Needwood Middle School.

He stood by the team with utmost dedication all year, and this touchdown was not only really deserved, but an important lesson to us all about commitment and overcoming life's obstacles.

Oran, we are proud of you. Congratulations.

HONORING DISTRICT ATTORNEY DEAN FLIPPO

(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, I rise today to honor and thank Monterey County District Attorney Dean Flippo. At the end of this year, Dean will retire after 40 years of service to our home on the central coast of California. DA Flippo is the longest-serving DA in Monterey County history, and the longest current serving DA in California.

During his tenure, he presided over pivotal cases. He fought the rise and he led the fall of our gang problem in our community. He enforced environmental policy. He established the consumer fraud unit. He created an early intervention anti-truancy program to keep kids in school and off the streets by getting their families involved. And he was a master at keeping a balanced budget.

I will always be grateful to Dean for giving me a chance and a job as a prosecutor when I moved back home to Monterey County. During that time, I was able to learn from him as I served under him. Now I count myself lucky to have continued to work with him over these last 2 years on criminal justice issues.

I hope Dean enjoys his retirement watching PG High School football games, except when they are playing Carmel High, of course.

As we know, Dean leaves big shoes to fill, but he has left a long legacy of public service and safety in our community.

We honor him. We congratulate him. And I thank Dean Flippo for his service.

THANKING VETERANS

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express a heartfelt thank you to all the veterans across Kansas and throughout the United States.

This week we celebrate Veterans Day and we recognize and honor the service and sacrifice each and every veteran has made to ensure the preservation of the freedom and liberty we take for granted every day.

One of my greatest responsibilities in Congress has been to support the men and women of our military and fulfill the promise that we make to them in exchange for their service.

Over the last 2 years, Congress has worked with this administration to provide a record amount of funding for health programs at the VA, and we have increased accountability measures to make sure no one falls through the cracks. We have paid special attention to improving the mental health

services and opioid abuse prevention among our veterans.

We owe these veterans a debt of gratitude that we can never fully repay, but the best way to try to do that is to ensure they are cared for as promised when they come home.

Mr. Speaker, may we continue to honor our veterans this week and always.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

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

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend our country reflected on the bravery and sacrifice of veterans who answered the call to defend our Nation.

New York's 22nd District is home to more than 55,000 veterans, and it is a true honor to serve each and every one of them in Congress. Whether part of the Marine Corps, Navy, Army, Air Force, or Coast Guard, our men and women in uniform have served and sacrificed greatly to secure the freedoms we enjoy at home.

When our veterans come home from serving our Nation, it is our responsibility to ensure they receive quality healthcare, provide them with the tools to start their own business, and find educational opportunities for them following their great service.

They stood for us, and now we must stand for them. To all of our veterans: Thank you for everything you have sacrificed for our freedom. You truly represent the best in America.

Mr. Speaker, I also have a special thank you to every veteran who has continued to serve in this great body on both sides of the aisle, and with a special thank you to our presiding Speaker today, who has also served in our military honorably.

A final thank you to all of my friends in the Marine Corps for a happy 243rd birthday, and especially to my dear son, Captain Trey Cleary, who is also a U.S. Naval Academy graduate.

Thank you so much to all of you who serve. We are indebted to you and grateful to you for your service to keep our freedoms and to continue making this a great Nation.

OPIOID EPIDEMIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to highlight a couple of things. First of all, I will comment on a really important issue in my region. Upstate New York communities have suffered tremendously from the opioid crisis ravaging our Nation.

In 2016, opioid overdoses rose by 121 percent in New York State and opioid deaths doubled in Broome County,

which is part of New York's 22nd District, during the very same time.

During the most recent district work period, the President signed into law the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention Act that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment—SUPPORT—for Patients and Communities Act, which included the Expanding Oversight of Opioid Prescribing and Payment Act, which I coauthored.

This bipartisan legislation directs the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, or MedPAC, to issue a report regarding perverse incentives that lead to overprescription of opioid-addictive drugs.

This legislation is important in my district because studies have shown that 29 percent of patients prescribed an opioid for pain, go on to misuse the drug. The Federal Government should be doing all it can to prevent overprescribing. Enacting this important bill is a critical first step in this process.

RECOGNIZING SMALL BUSINESSES

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I also wanted to recognize a very important industry in my region, and it is a great honor for me to be able to represent a place called Revere Copper Company in Rome, New York. Yes, Revere was actually founded by none other than the great Paul Revere of our great history in this country.

This great company was North America's first copper rolling mill and it was founded, again, by our great patriot, Paul Revere, in Rome, New York.

It still resides in Rome, New York over 200 years later. Small businesses like this are the backbone of employment in New York's 22nd District, accounting for 98 percent of jobs created in our private sector. While everyone thinks all jobs are created by big companies, in fact, our small business community has 98 percent of those jobs created.

In Congress, we need to make sure that we keep empowering our small businesses, creating a fair tax and regulatory environment that allows them to grow, to hire more workers, and to reinvest in our communities. Too many of our local businesses are held back by skyrocketing healthcare costs which cut into their bottom line, and our regulatory code, which requires a team of lawyers to decode, just to comply with the endless amounts of bureaucracy—something that I have experienced personally as the owner of a small manufacturing business in upstate New York.

The time for debate and verbal platitudes need to end when it comes to our small business community, our employers need solutions. We must work to make the middle class and small business tax cuts permanent.

I am very proud to be a person who voted for the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which tremendously helped our community. We have seen an unprecedented amount of gains in our economy locally; a glimmer of hope in an area where we have seen very little progress

over the decades because of some of the policies that have been enacted that really have hurt our small business community and have caused New York to have the highest out-migration of people in the entire Nation. Over 1 million New Yorkers have left New York State because of these policies just since 2010.

We must fight to continue to contain healthcare costs, to provide for a public healthcare system, but also an affordable care system for people who are just simply not able to see their doctors.

We must stand for a country that represents everyone and not just the powerful. That is something I have done as a corruption fighter. As a person who stood up to the leaders in both parties, to the most powerful and wealthiest people in our community, I stood up to them and fought for the middle class, and fought for the average worker, people across our Nation.

To our small businesses, I just want to say thank you so much for all you do every day. As a small business owner, I know how difficult the fight is, how difficult the struggle is. You are the American Dream in our communities. You provide the hope for our future, and you provide the most jobs that we are going to see as we grow into the coming years, and hope that we can keep our economy moving.

To my small business community, I just want to say thank you so much for all that you have done in adding jobs, in providing responsible employment for our communities, for individuals, for giving hope, for giving people first starts, for everything you have done in our community.

It has been an amazing opportunity for me to represent a community that really cares. My community is well-known for its generosity. I find that in our small business community, much like the business I own, we do so much for our communities that doesn't get recognized. We don't have big profits. Many of us operate at less than profit.

But what we do is we give dearly to our communities. We provide for the Little League teams, and for the people who are struggling from diseases that cannot be cured.

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We provide in greater numbers. While, yes, big companies can provide a large check, our small-business community does what it can on a scale that is much greater by proportion.

So I am really grateful to all the people I have served in my community who do so much to help all of us. I want to make sure that our small-business community is recognized. Often in government, we hear an awful lot about the big businesses. But it is really the small businesses that are the backbone of our community. They are the heart of entrepreneurship.

I just want to say that, as a small-business owner, I am deeply grateful for all the work that you do, the late

nights, the hard work of your employees to put out a beautiful product. It is something that you are helping your local and fellow citizens, even across the country. I am just really grateful.

RECOGNIZING JASON GRAY

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, on another issue, I would like to make sure we recognize a man named Jason Gray. He is a paramedic from Norwich, New York.

Last month, when Hurricane Michael left Florida's homes, beaches, and businesses in ruins, Jason Gray uprooted his life in Norwich to assist in medical relief efforts.

What Jason Gray and his team at the National Disaster Medical System did to help the most vulnerable Florida residents is simply incredible. He provided on-the-ground medical help to hundreds of victims devastated by Hurricane Michael.

Our community is really lucky to have a selfless person like Jason Gray and so many others. I would like to give him special recognition for his willingness to go help others in need outside of our own State and to really use his skills and his talent to bring relief and some sense of sanity to people who are really suffering in the panhandle, in the tough parts of Florida.

I want to say thank you again to Jason for what he does for our communities and what he has done for Florida. It is a tremendous honor to represent him, and it is my distinct honor to represent him here on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

THE RULING CLASS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, we are living in interesting times. As Dickens said, it is the best of times and the worst of times.

There has never been a country in the history of the world with the amount of opportunity and freedom for individuals that has been found in the United States. Even in Solomon's Israel—great wealth there—there was not the opportunity and the individual assets that we have here in the United States of America.

It is incredible that even for the Nation's poor, obesity is a major health issue. That is just unheard of in world history.

It is deeply grieving to hear that so many of our Nation's college students and college graduates have been indoctrinated with the notion that socialism is so much better. Communism, really, is what we are talking about. They call it progressivism and socialism, what they are proposing, that that would be a superior form of government to what we have. What those students have not been taught—and it is an enormous gap