

camp just on the other side of the border fence in Texas.

Now, my heart, Mr. Speaker, goes out to these people, but we cannot let them be allowed to overwhelm our border and to enter our country illegally.

These individuals, Mr. Speaker, have been offered asylum and work permits by Mexico, but they have refused.

Homeland Security has confirmed that 600 known criminals are among those in the encampment, and beyond that, we simply do not know, Mr. Speaker, who these people are.

This dangerous situation is going to get only worse, unless it is addressed. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I have connected with almost every one of our 235 Republican Members in the House, asking them to join me to solve this national security and immigration problem.

There is overwhelming support, Mr. Speaker, to do so, and I will bring this up tomorrow at conference, along with lots of other Republicans.

The primary responsibility of Congress is to protect our families, Mr. Speaker. This is our last chance as Republicans in the majority to fix this mess. Otherwise, next year, the Democrat majority has signaled they will push for open borders and amnesty legislation.

This is our last chance as Republicans in the majority to get this right.

HONORING SHALYNNE VILELA

(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 share the story of Shalynne Vilela, the loving daughter of Amy and David Vilela.

At just 22 years old, Shalynne was a smart, ambitious, and dedicated young woman who loved her family. She was working hard to become a registered nurse.

In 2015, Shalynne was admitted to the ER with symptoms of deep vein thrombosis, a highly treatable condition, if treated in time.

Upon arrival to the ER, Shalynne told the hospital staff that she did not have insurance, and she was advised to leave the hospital without being given proper care.

Three weeks later, Shalynne died of a pulmonary embolism caused by a blood clot that originated in her leg.

It is unacceptable that, in one of the richest and most powerful countries in the world, a tragedy like this can still occur. Everyone in the United States of America should have access to quality and affordable health insurance. Access to healthcare is a basic human right, and no one should ever be denied medical care because of their inability to pay.

This is why, Mr. Speaker, I have recently pledged my support to the Medicare for All Act, which provides universal coverage to all those living in the United States of America.

My deepest condolences go out to the Vilela family. And, Shalynne, this one is for you.

LET'S HELP OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS SUCCEED

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, many of us will see this as the holiday season, but many of us know that our young college students will be finishing their first semester of whatever year they are in college.

As I was home this season greeting my constituents, one very dedicated constituent came to me and said: What are we doing about helping students get rid of this enormous burden of debt, trying to become a contributing citizen to this country?

I made a commitment to him that we would work together to reduce the interest rates on student government loans, to look forward to providing access to education to all Americans.

I believe, as students finish their first semester, looking to their second, some of them graduating, that we do have a responsibility to make sure that education is reasonable, accessible, and not the enormous burden that it is.

Let's help our college students. Let's help them succeed. I look forward to doing that.

HONORING PRESIDENT GEORGE HERBERT WALKER BUSH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this very Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, few Americans will ever rival the depth and the breadth of the service to our Nation exhibited by George Herbert Walker Bush.

Today, I join the Bush family, my colleagues, fellow Texans, and a grateful Nation in remembering and honoring the life of President George H.W. Bush.

He was a courageous war hero, a key member of the Committee on Ways and Means while he was here in Congress, Ambassador, Director of the CIA, Vice President, and the President of the United States.

That is a remarkable and historical level of service to America, but I still

think his favorite title was that of husband to his beloved Bar, and I believe his greatest accomplishment was in raising children and grandchildren who serve their Nation with dedication and patriotism.

I believe our country and our State can agree that we have lost a man of honor and character, who leaves a legacy of love and service to his Nation and family.

So, today, we all want to share with you a little bit about our relationship with the beloved President Bush.

I consider myself a proud part of the Bush legacy. On the Ways and Means Committee, I hold the seat that was previously held by President Bush, then a Member of Congress, and Bill Archer of Houston, later the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee from Texas. I am truly blessed to be part of a legacy on this committee that has achieved so much.

As a matter of fact, my interest in major issues from trade to tax reform to healthcare is due in large part to President Bush. After I became elected to Congress, I spent a lot of time visiting President Bush and Secretary James Baker, asking their advice on these issues. In fact, one of the reasons I have been involved in 12 of the 14 American free trade agreements and led the Central American Free Trade Agreement was directly because of my discussions with President Bush and Secretary Baker.

President Bush was incredibly supportive of me, both in my early campaigns for Congress and once I started serving. There was always an open door to talk about issues dealing in tax and trade, healthcare, welfare, Social Security, and Medicare. I always knew I had someone I could lean on for sage advice.

Because I used to represent College Station, I had the pleasure of being in office when President Bush's library was opened at A&M, and I worked closely with the foundation for the 8 years I represented it.

The library is remarkable, but it goes way beyond the bricks and mortar. It is a tangible reminder of the impact President Bush had on College Station and the State of Texas.

The library brought world leaders to College Station, allowed young men and women from the small towns in Texas to interact with President Bush as well as United States and world leaders on a one-on-one, close, personal level. That incredible legacy for those young people will last for ages to come.

I will finish with this. One of my favorite moments with President Bush came just after I was named Ways and Means chairman. President Bush's office reached out and said the President wanted me to come down to his office in Houston and visit about Ways and Means issues, so, you can imagine, I was thrilled about it.

So I went to his office, and my staff really urged me to take a pair of crazy socks to present to President Bush, because he loved them; he wore them; he

had a lot of fun with them. I decided, instead, to bring one of three specially made Ways and Means ties that we had just created.

I brought that to the President, and he seemed thrilled, but it was Barbara who was most excited. When I presented the tie, she exclaimed: Thank God. No more socks, please.

I will finish, too, with this. Finally, every Veterans Day and Memorial Day as I address our events in the Eighth Congressional District of Texas, I often conclude with my most memorable quote from President Bush. It is a quote that is emblazoned in the library in College Station in letters 10 feet tall, where that Brazos Valley sun can catch it every day and afternoon on the library. The quote is this: "Let future generations understand the burden and the blessings of freedom. Let them say we stood where duty required us to stand."

That quote embodies President George H.W. Bush, and it is a call to us as well to stand where duty requires us to stand today in all things and in the future.

Mr. Speaker, the next Member to speak will be the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS), a dear friend of President Bush for more than three decades, a partner and a colleague, and a huge admirer.

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

HONORING PRESIDENT GEORGE HERBERT WALKER BUSH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I am reminded of a time in Texas when we were at a breakfast, and we had two groups. We had a group that was very close to Jeb Bush, the Governor of Florida, and one that was close to George W. Bush.

Mrs. Bush was our guest speaker, and she spoke. When she opened up for questions, one of the questions was: Mrs. Bush, a lot of us in here know Jeb better than George; we know George better than Jeb. How are they alike? How do they differ?

Mrs. Bush said she had been blessed to have a great family, but she said these words: You could put all my boys together, and they would not equal their father.

I thought that was powerful.

On November 30, 2018, America lost a great servant, and I lost a great friend.

President Bush epitomized everything wonderful about America, and like his country, he was tough, strong, and kind.

Over the years, I was able to get to know the President and his family very well. My family and I had the opportunity to visit them in Kennebunkport many summers. Our days were spent

playing basketball and sailing on the water, sharing and listening to President Bush's stories until the sun went down.

I remember one basketball game. My daughters were playing, and they didn't have any tennis shoes. Mrs. Bush went and got her tennis shoes and gave them to my daughters. When they began to shoot, there were vines that had grown up on the basketball goal, and she made the President get hedge clippers and clip the vines down before the girls could shoot baskets.

What a man he was. I am grateful for these priceless moments with President Bush that exist now only as memories, and great memories.

In addition to traveling together as friends, we also shared a love for baseball. I was proud to be awarded with his award, the George H.W. Bush Distinguished Alumnus Award, by the National College Baseball Hall of Fame. To this day, I wear a ring that has his name on it.

It was during our baseball days that something very interesting happened. We were having lunch one day in his office at College Station, and it was myself; President Bush; Jean Becker, his chief of staff; and Drake McLane, who owned the Astros. President Bush, just out of nowhere, said: I need to bring something up that I have gotten no credit for.

Ms. Becker said: No, don't go there, Mr. President.

He said: No, I am going to go there.

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And Ms. Becker said: No, don't go there, Mr. President.

And he said: No, I am going to go there. There is plenty of time between that.

He said: I said a statement that I get no credit for, and that statement is, "You da man."

He explained that he was at an Astros game—it was actually the Colt .45s in 1961—and they had a player named Rusty Staub. Rusty Staub wanted to meet President Bush. After the game, Staub came toward President Bush, who then was not President, and President Bush said: I don't know why I said it and don't know what it meant, but when he came closer to me, I said, "You da man."

Drayton McLane said: Well, if you haven't got any credit for it, we are playing the Dodgers tomorrow night, we will put on the diamond vision your picture, and we will put, "You da man."

The next night, they did, and he got that credit for "You da man."

So I would just say to the President, and I think we would all agree: Mr. President, you da man.

We had a relationship that was very unique and very dear to my heart. This great man served as a mentor to me and had a huge impact on my life. In fact, he was the reason I am standing here before all of you today.

When I was contemplating running to represent Texas' 25th Congressional

District, I called President Bush for advice. He encouraged me to run and gave me the push that I needed. I will never forget it. Years ago, I announced my congressional campaign in his office with him by my side sitting next to me, and the rest in my world is history.

I am forever grateful to President Bush. He has been an inspiration throughout my life. He has been like a father. Whether it be in my faith or in my path to public service, he was very kind to me.

He was the first person to call me while I was in the hospital after the baseball shooting back in June of 2016. He said he was praying for me and praying for our team. Two days later, he called to check on me again.

He has always answered the phone to offer his sage wisdom when I called and given me his advice, and I truly miss him terribly.

Over a week has gone by now that our country has been without one of the greatest Americans to ever live. This is an immeasurable loss for America, but I am comforted knowing that he has been reunited with his beloved Barbara and their daughter Robin.

It has been a true honor to experience life with President Bush in it. Our country is better because of him, I am better because of him, and my family is better because of him.

He once said, and we have all heard it: Public service is the most noble calling of all. And he answered that call. Each and every day, I am praying for the entire Bush family, as we all are, and I hope they find peace during this difficult time.

One more story.

We were in Fort Worth one day and he spoke. He found out that one of our civic leaders was not doing well, from a health standpoint. We got in the car. He had his cell phone, and he dialed the number. A lady that worked in his house answered the phone, and he asked to speak to this gentleman. She held a minute, and the wife of this gentleman got on the phone.

He said: This is President Bush. I would like to speak to your husband.

She said: He cannot speak.

He said: Well, take this phone into his bedroom right now, and I want to tell him I love him.

That is the kind of man President Bush was.

So God bless President Bush, God bless this family, and God bless America.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas, (Mr. CULBERSON), who I think represents where President Bush lives.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

In 18 years, it has been my extraordinary privilege to represent the people of District 7. I have had the world's best role model as a Congressman.

My predecessor, George H.W. Bush, was the first Congressman to represent District 7. He, just as he was to ROGER WILLIAMS and as he was to KEVIN