

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1415

HONORING RAYNA LATIMER

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

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a trailblazing first responder from Roselle, New Jersey. On December 19 of last year, Rayna Latimer was sworn in as the first-ever woman firefighter in Roselle, New Jersey's history.

She has been called a hero, not just because she is a firefighter, but also because she is paving a path for young girls who might one day become firefighters in their own communities.

Rayna has lived most of her life in Roselle, and she has spent the past 5 years preparing to become a firefighter. That is because helping people has always been her passion. Rayna had told a local newspaper a while ago.

Before setting her sights on the fire department, Rayna was a corrections officer. That gave her a greater appreciation for first responders.

She didn't set out to become the first female firefighter in Roselle. Rayna just wanted to align her passions and her strengths.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Rayna Latimer for her service to Roselle, New Jersey, and for inspiring young people throughout her community.

RECOGNIZING ARMAND KUYKENDALL

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

Mr. YOHO. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this time to recognize one of my constituents, Armand Kuykendall, who was named Putnam County's 50th Annual Spelling Bee winner on January 18, 2019.

Armand is currently in the fifth grade at the Middleton-Burney Elementary School, where he is a straight-A student. During his young life, he has faced many obstacles. Armand has excelled at school with the support of his teachers and family.

In order to compete in Putnam County's spelling bee, Armand spent his free time studying and memorizing over 450 words. His winning word was "apricot."

His family, friends—as I am—are extremely proud of Armand for competing and winning the spelling bee. I would like to congratulate him for his outstanding accomplishment.

Armand now moves on to participate in the First Coast Spelling Bee at Jacksonville University on February 19, 2019. Best of L-U-C-K, Armand.

LIVES CUT SHORT BY GUN VIOLENCE

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

Ms. HOULAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise for Rodney and Michelle Roberson and their daughter Bianca, who was fatally shot in a road rage incident in June of 2017.

Bianca had recently graduated from Rustin High School in Chester County, in my district. She was coming back from a pre-college shopping trip when she found herself in an encounter with someone who tried passing her in a merge lane and then, in a horrific act, pulled out a loaded firearm and fired a single, fatal shot at Bianca.

Bianca was a beautiful and smart young lady who was, tragically, taken from us too soon because of senseless gun violence.

I rise for the 1,635 other Pennsylvanians whose lives were cut short in 2017 because of gun violence. I am a third-generation veteran, and I support responsible gun ownership. And, like many in my community, I support commonsense safety measures that Congress should act on to curtail gun violence in our communities.

We must act now.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF DAVID SOVCHEN

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Mr. David Sovchen, who passed away on January 25, his 72nd birthday.

Mr. Sovchen had an enormous impact in Savannah throughout his life.

In 1985, he joined the Wendy's senior management team, which led him to our community, where he owned nearly a dozen restaurants.

Outside of his exceptional management skills, he was dedicated to growing the arts in coastal Georgia. To that end, Mr. Sovchen worked with the Savannah Book Festival to provide office space and find critical funding opportunities. Now, the Savannah Book Festival is in its 10th year and has brought a total of over 400 authors to our area.

In addition to the book festival, Mr. Sovchen volunteered with the Boy Scouts, the Salvation Army, Savannah Technical College, and the Chamber of Commerce.

I am deeply thankful for all of this work, which has made Savannah a better place to live. Mr. Sovchen's family and friends will be in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

THE TRUE STATE OF OUR UNION

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

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, last night we heard from a President who is clearly out of touch with the true state of our union. His rhetoric of compromise failed to meet the reality of the highly divisive policies he offered.

The President failed to acknowledge that his tax scam has unfairly benefited big corporations, CEOs, and the wealthiest Americans at the expense of working people.

He failed to acknowledge the severe shortcomings of his own administration when it comes to middle class families.

He failed to acknowledge that his administration has ripped away protections for those with preexisting conditions.

The President continued to use harmful rhetoric toward immigrants and declined to acknowledge that his anti-immigrant agenda has torn families apart, put kids in cages, and turned away those seeking asylum and safety.

The President also failed to address one of the biggest crises we face, and that is the impact of climate change on our planet. We are witnessing more intense storms and stronger wildfires as a result of climate change, but instead of acknowledging those facts, the President denied climate science, nominated fossil fuel lobbyists to run the EPA and Department of Interior, and has undone critical environmental protection.

We need a comprehensive agenda to combat climate change and a monumental shift to renewable energy, electric vehicles, and more energy-efficient buildings.

While the President continues to deny science and common sense, I will continue to work with my colleagues on a Green New Deal to protect our planet for future generations.

While the President's State of the Union address was out of touch, I welcome him to join Democrats in working For The People to lower health care costs, end the culture of corruption in Washington, effectively combat climate change, and serve the middle class.

AMERICAN HEART MONTH

(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, for more than 50 years, we have observed February as American Heart Month.

Heart disease is the Nation's number-one killer, and during this month we reaffirm our commitment to combating heart disease and educating all people about the benefits of a healthy, active lifestyle.

Madam Speaker, before I came to Congress, I worked for nearly 30 years as a rehabilitation therapist and a licensed nursing home administrator. I understand the unique challenges facing individuals who have suffered a

stroke or other life-changing injuries. Often, it is a long road to recovery.

An active lifestyle can help lower blood pressure, boost levels of good cholesterol, improve blood flow, and more. Cardiovascular disease, including heart disease and stroke, remain the leading cause of death globally; but, by making healthy choices, including a balanced diet and regular exercise, individuals can lower their risk for cardiovascular disease by as much as 80 percent.

I hope that Heart Month 2019 inspires more Americans to take control of their cardiovascular health and to begin a healthy lifestyle journey.

CONGRATULATING THE PRESIDENT ON THE STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize President Trump's effort last night and to congratulate him on his State of the Union Address.

The President's message was indeed clear. America has unlimited potential; we just have to unlock it.

Under the 2 years of this administration, the economy has consistently added jobs at record rates while simultaneously growing wages.

According to a CBS poll last night, 76 percent of Americans approved of what they heard the President say. Even more telling, 72 percent said they approve of the President's ideas on immigration and our border. It shouldn't be a surprise, either, that most Americans agree we need increased border security and we need it now.

Since a physical barrier was constructed in San Diego, California, 23 years ago, illegal immigration has plummeted in that region by 92 percent. That is just one of many examples.

We have a limited window of time with our current 3-week agreement, and what with more caravan hordes amassing below our southern border, we need to take action.

NEED FOR COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I am glad to see yet another member of our Congressional Hispanic Caucus presiding over the House this afternoon, as I had the distinct honor of doing yesterday.

Madam Speaker, I have the privilege of serving as the whip of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus during this, the 116th congressional session, which is

the most diverse in the history of this august body.

This Congress, we celebrate the largest class of Latino Members of Congress in the history of the United States of America.

We are proud of the diversity and the talent in our caucus. We boast about Members representing communities across our Nation, from as far as Guam to the Northern Mariana Islands; leaders from all walks of life—doctors, lawyers, labor organizers, teachers, clean-energy experts—leaders of all different Hispanic heritage, some born right here in the United States and others who came here with their families to pursue the American Dream from Mexico; from Puerto Rico; from Guatemala; from Cuba; some Portuguese; some Ecuadorian, as yourself, Madam Speaker; and, of course, from the Dominican Republic, as myself.

As the CHC's whip, I want to showcase this incredible diversity of talent, expertise, and culture. That is why we are organizing these monthly CHC special order hours. Each month, Members of our caucus will join me to discuss a set of issues affecting Hispanic communities across America.

The issue we are discussing tonight will come as no surprise to anyone: the need for comprehensive immigration reform.

The Congressional Hispanic Caucus has been working over the past few weeks to lay out our border immigration reform principles, and we have been working closely with House leadership as policies are put forward on this critical issue.

Tonight, you will hear from a number of colleagues in the CHC about why we believe we must fix our broken immigration system, but first, let me start with a brief history.

Let me start with the history of a young Guatemalan mom named Yeni Gonzalez. Madam Speaker, last night in this very Chamber, we heard from the President of the United States, and, once again, he painted immigrants as violent criminals, claiming that the only way to keep America safe is a useless, medieval wall along our southern border.

By all accounts, President Trump has made immigrants demons. He has demonized immigrants, especially undocumented immigrants, as a central theme of his presidency, and last night was, by no means, any exception.

As a former undocumented immigrant myself, I see it as my mission to counter the many lies coming from the White House pertaining to immigrants. One of the ways we can do that is to introduce the American people to immigrants and to tell them our compelling stories.

That is why I brought, as my guest, to the State of the Union this young Guatemalan mom, Yeni Gonzalez, one of the many people impacted by the Trump administration's hateful and heartless zero tolerance policy.

Yeni and her family, as I said earlier, are refugees from Guatemala. Yeni is

from a small agricultural town and grew fearful for her children's safety as violence continued to surge in her community and throughout Central America.

In the face of break-ins at her home and worried that violent gangs would try to recruit her 11-year-old son, Yeni did what any mom would do, what any reasonable mom would do; She chose to seek safety.

Yeni got herself and her children all the way through Mexico and up to Yuma, Arizona, where she was apprehended by Border Patrol.

She was not charged with a single crime. No one pressed any charges against her. Still, she was taken into custody and placed in an immigration detention facility where our own American government treated her in ways in which we condemn other governments across the world for treating others.

□ 1430

The facility she was held in became known as the Icebox, and I want to tell the American people what that is, the Icebox. Because it is so brutal and so uncomfortably cold, many immigrants who were held there called it the Icebox.

According to Yeni, no one was given any food to eat for 2 straight days, not even her young children. A few days later, Yeni watched as her children were being released from detention, but she was forced to stay; and what is worse, no one would tell her where they were being sent to.

Imagine just for a moment, Madam Speaker, you fled your home, the only place you have ever known, because it is no longer safe to be there, with your children. You travel a long journey, nearly 1,000 miles, just to get your kids to a place that is safe. You arrive in this new place hoping to find some security, and what happens to you? You are locked up in a freezing cell called the Icebox, given no food to eat, and have your children sent off without you knowing where they really are. You left a violent place to give your children a better, safer life, and you have them taken away from you.

The horrors this woman was forced to suffer are beneath the values upon which this great Nation was founded. But despite the cruel policies of the current administration, the kindness and good will of the American people has not, for one moment, wavered.

Yeni was eventually released and able to touch base with a relative in North Carolina. She found out her children were sent to a facility in my own congressional district in Manhattan, in Harlem. And through the work and support of volunteers, complete strangers who never met her before, just trying to do the right things and right the wrongs of their government, Yeni was driven all the way across the country. It was a cross-country trip that she took to finally reunite with her children.

I was able to work with her attorneys and the foster care facility to finally