

along the border where our Border Patrol agents are already overwhelmed with migrants from other caravans.

□ 1015

And in the first caravan of 8,000 people that forced their way into Mexico—they forced their way into Mexico—where they should have stopped as the first safe country when they were applying for asylum, we know that 600 of that first caravan of 8,000 were known criminals.

Additionally, because of our porous borders, drugs continue to flood into our country, poison our communities, and destroy our families.

Just last year 70,000 people died from drug overdoses in this country. Ninety percent of those drugs are coming from across the southern border. If that is not an emergency, I don't know what is.

No one is on the front lines of this fight more than the State of Texas. Since 2011, 186,000 illegal aliens have been charged with more than 290,000 crimes in Texas alone.

When you combine the total cost of illegal immigration from healthcare services, education, and incarceration, it is over \$12 billion for the State of Texas. It is over \$150 billion for the United States.

We are \$22 trillion in debt. We will have two of our biggest safety-net programs insolvent in less than 20 years, and we are spending \$150 billion on illegal immigration.

We know that constructing physical barriers, when combined with boots on the ground and technology, are effective at stemming the tide of illegal immigration.

We know walls work because we have seen it when we have deployed them in El Paso, San Diego, and Tucson, and we have stopped illegal immigration or stemmed the tide 90-plus percent.

So, instead of letting this crisis continue to worsen, this President took action, using authority not that he invented but that we in Congress explicitly gave him under the National Emergency Act.

It is not like the President is setting new precedent or breaking new ground. Other presidents have declared national emergencies 50-plus times, and I know President Clinton declared it a national emergency to fight drug traffickers—rightfully so—and President Obama against transnational criminal organizations.

This President loves this country. He wants to do his job. He doesn't want another one of our sons and daughters to die of drug addiction or overdose. He doesn't want crime to run rampant in the streets of the United States.

The President understands his first job as Commander in Chief is to keep our citizens—our people—safe, and I stand with him.

Madam Speaker, today I will be voting for our President, for his constitutional, legal authority to defend this country, to protect our borders and our

citizens. I will be voting for the safety of the American people today and the safety of our communities, not just in west Texas but throughout this country.

Again, President Trump is doing the right thing. He is doing the responsible thing. He is doing the constitutionally necessary thing. And I am behind him 100 percent.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LEGACY OF MATHEW HALL LUMBER

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

Mr. EMMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the legacy of Mathew Hall Lumber, which has been operating in downtown St. Cloud, Minnesota, for 130 years.

Mathew Hall Lumber has been a fixture in the community and a backbone of the local economy.

Maintaining a business is not an easy task. It involves blood, sweat, and tears to sustain the test of time. However, with that comes joy and fulfillment, something that generation after generation of the Hall family knows all about.

One of the reasons why St. Cloud and the great State of Minnesota are so incredible is because of hardworking people like the Hall family. By maintaining their business in St. Cloud, they brought commerce, jobs, and a great product to our community.

As Simonson Lumber purchases this historic company and the Hall family transitions into a new chapter, I speak for all of central Minnesota when I say thank you to the Hall family for your great contribution to our State and our community.

HONORING STEVE TAYLOR, A GREAT MINNESOTA  
PUBLIC SERVANT

Mr. EMMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sherburne County Administrator Steve Taylor.

As Steve prepares to retire from his 30-year career, he leaves with the reputation for providing the highest level of customer service.

During his time with Sherburne County and Carver County before that, Steve has served Minnesota's Sixth District with distinction.

As a fellow public servant, I commend Steve for committing his life's work to serving others. His dedication and leadership will be hard to replace.

The employees who had the pleasure of working with and learning from Steve will keep the good work going, but, certainly, his dependable presence will be missed.

His efforts toward expanding Sherburne County's government center by adding extra courtrooms, more security, and much-needed space will be enjoyed by generations to come.

Thank you, Steve, and congratulations on an amazing career in public service. I wish you a long and happy retirement.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF STEVE GILMER

Mr. EMMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Steve Gilmer, who

has retired after serving 45 years as the CEO of the State Bank of Delano, Minnesota.

Steve retired leaving an incredible legacy. He cultivated a family out of his employees and built an environment based on humor, trust, and excellence, inspiring all those around him to be the best they could possibly be.

As a resident of Delano, I can say from experience that Steve led by example and took the time to know and care for the customers who walked through the door of his bank.

Most in the community knew Steve through his role as a volunteer, the volunteer treasurer of the Fourth of July Celebration Committee for over 40 years.

Delano is home to Minnesota's largest Fourth of July parade, and Steve's service to that committee displayed his dedication to our community.

Thank you for all you have done for the Delano community, Steve. Enjoy your retirement with your family and friends. You deserve it.

CELEBRATING THE MINNESOTA CENTRAL REGION  
SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Mr. EMMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Minnesota Central Region Small Business Development Center for being named the Minnesota Small Business Development Center of Excellence.

Located at St. Cloud State University, the Central Small Business Development Center provides free consulting services and assistance to those starting a small business.

The center services the majority of my district, counties such as Benton, Sherburne, Stearns, and Wright. My constituents have benefited greatly from the services provided and the numerous business workshops focusing on educating local businesses and entrepreneurs on how to improve their new business.

Special recognition goes to the current director, Barry Kirchoff, who came to the center in 2006 with an extensive background in business and economic development.

Today, their success continues because of Barry's commitment to helping address the needs of the local small business community. His hard work is evident.

Congratulations and thank you to Barry and the staff of the Minnesota Central Region Small Business Development Center. Central Minnesota is lucky to have you.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE  
WACONIA HERO COALITION

Mr. EMMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of the Waconia HERO Coalition. "HERO" stands for their mission, which is to "Help, Empower, and Respect Others."

This community task force based in my district undertook the mission in 2010 to reduce and prevent the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs by youth through education, engagement, and policy change.

What started as a group of parents, educators, and community leaders joining forces to address bullying in

schools quickly became a task force tackling substance abuse.

In 2014, the Waconia HERO Coalition was awarded the Drug Free Community Support Grant, providing \$625,000 of funding over 5 years. Today I want to congratulate them for receiving a continuation to that grant, which reaffirms the incredible work this task force has already done and will be doing and serves as encouragement to keep working towards solutions to youth substance abuse.

#### SETTING STRAIGHT THE RECORD

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, and still I rise.

And I rise today with love of country in my heart and a belief that the record has to be set straight.

The record has to always reflect the truth, and there is a truth that is being obscured.

I want to set the record straight because there seems to be a belief that, if you have committed acts of bigotry, if you have been a racist, if you have been engaged in homophobia, xenophobia, Islamophobia, there seems to be a belief that, if you can do one thing, somehow that thing will eradicate and eliminate all of the bigotry that you have perpetrated.

I rise to correct the record because I want the record to show that at least one person came to the floor of this Congress and made it clear that, yes, unemployment may be low for African Americans—yes, it may be low—but it is still twice that of Anglo Americans, generally speaking.

Yes, you may have signed a bill to deal with some aspects of criminal justice in a just way, and that is appreciated. But there is still more work to be done. But notwithstanding the fact that there is more work to be done, it is still appreciated.

But the record has to be set straight, and here is what the record should show: that that does not eliminate the bigotry emanating from the Presidency.

Eliminating bigotry does not occur because you signed one bill. It does not occur because unemployment is low. It does not occur.

If you want to have the record reflect that you have done something to atone for your bigotry, then you have to do something a little bit more than to simply sign a bill.

And I am not saying to you that an apology is in order. I say to people: Tell the truth. Just tell the truth.

Say: I was wrong when I instituted a policy that separated babies from their mothers that emanates the type of bigotry that we don't condone in this country.

Say: I was wrong when I said there were some good people among those who were the racists, the bigots, the xenophobes and homophobes in Charlottesville.

Say: I was wrong when I said that you don't have to be so kind when you are taking persons into your care, custody, and control and you are part of the constabulary, you are part of the policing force in this country.

Just say you were wrong if you want to atone. Signing bills won't do it. Going to church won't do it.

Asking forgiveness will cause you to be forgiven. And I will forgive you, but that doesn't mean that you are no longer going to be sanctioned for your bigotry.

I want to thank those who have stood and made their points clear as it relates to bigotry.

I am listening to these morning programs now. They are all talking about bigotry emanating from the Presidency, not necessarily in those words. They are talking about the racism that the President perpetrates.

I appreciate what they are saying, but we have got to do more than talk about it. We cannot allow a President to remain in office who has engaged in this kind of bigoted conduct.

It is time for us to take a stand here on the floor of the House of Representatives.

There were no fine people in Charlottesville. You ought not separate babies from their mothers. You ought not have policies that would condone bigotry and encourage others to engage in it.

I believe that we have a duty to take a vote, and at some point in the near future we will take another vote, notwithstanding the Mueller report.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF WELCOMING THE STRANGER

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a nonprofit organization in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, that is celebrating its 20th year of service helping immigrants settle in the United States.

Welcoming the Stranger, based in Langhorne, was founded in 1999 by the late Reverend Sturgis Poorman.

Welcoming the Stranger has provided countless opportunities for immigrants in southeastern Pennsylvania from over 100 countries.

Welcoming the Stranger offers English language classes and courses in citizenship preparation and computer science. Their programs have been so popular that they often expand to 300 attendees, packing houses of worship and community centers across Bucks County.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the work of Welcoming the Stranger, and I wish the organization all the best as it en-

ters its 20th year of service to our community.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to Meg Eubank, the executive director of Welcoming the Stranger, for her work and her vision.

□ 1030

#### HONORING FRIENDS OF FIVE MILE WOODS

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a group of conscientious citizens in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who were recently recognized for their environmental stewardship.

Earlier this month, the Lower Makefield Board of Supervisors and the Lower Makefield Environmental Advisory Council awarded Friends of Five Mile Woods with its annual Environmental Stewardship Award. Friends of Five Mile Woods, which has been a presence in Bucks County since the 1980s, seeks to protect the landscape of Five Mile Woods Preserve.

One of the most successful programs the organization has implemented is its volunteer cleanup efforts on the second Saturday of the months of March through November. During these Saturdays, dedicated volunteers pick up trash, maintain trails, and repair infrastructure in the 285-acre preserve.

Madam Speaker, Friends of Five Mile Woods helps provide amazing nature experiences and educational opportunities for our community in Bucks County. I congratulate them on this award and applaud the work of John Lloyd, chairman of the organization, and the Lower Makefield Board of Supervisors.

#### RECOGNIZING MEGHAN SCHULZ FOR HER WIN ON "JEOPARDY"

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a resident of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who recently made us all proud from her successful appearance on "Jeopardy."

Meghan Schulz, a resident of Bristol and an environmental engineer for SEPTA, appeared on the hit television show last month. Going into the final round, Meghan was in second place with \$14,000. She was able to clinch her victory, however, when she successfully answered that Mariah Carey was the New York native who, in the 1990s, had eight of her first 10 Billboard Top 40 hits reach number one.

Her closest competitor, whom she trailed by \$400 going into Final Jeopardy, incorrectly guessed Whitney Houston, putting Meghan over the top.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Meghan on this major accomplishment. It is a major feat to be selected to participate on this famous show to begin with, but to win against other highly intelligent competitors is something truly noteworthy.

I wish Meghan and her family all the best, and we congratulate her on this achievement.

#### WILDERNESS CONSERVATION

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