

was substantial. The flooding stranded many Tennesseans, who had to be rescued by boat.

It breaks the heart to see so many lose everything they own.

First responders and local leaders are out every day and have been since the flooding started. In many communities, mayors—in fact, in one community, Mayor Carroll was out in a boat delivering food and water to residents of Perry County.

We are working hard to help these Tennesseans return to normalcy, and I hope you will join me in keeping everyone affected by the floods in your prayers.

#### LIFTING OF SANCTIONS AGAINST OLEG DERIPASKA

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Trump administration's very curious lifting of sanctions against Russian energy magnate Oleg Deripaska.

The President and our allies must strengthen sanctions against Russia, not weaken them.

Russia illegally invaded the sovereign nation of Ukraine and has killed more than 10,000 people, including civilians. She has seized 24 Ukrainian sailors and not released them. Russia cyberhacks our firms and even our democratic election process.

That is why Congress passed significant sanctions in 2017 by an overwhelming majority to raise the costs on Putin's sinister aims. Yet the Trump administration caved to foreign influence and, astoundingly, announced it would lift sanctions on Deripaska.

Madam Speaker, America's first job is to protect liberty. It should not sell off our liberty to billionaires, especially mob bosses who enable cold-blooded murder in Ukraine. It does make you wonder what forces pull the strings of the Trump administration.

The free world must not be soft on the Russian command structure, and I look forward to hearing what additional sanctions our President proposes to replace his ill-advised removal on sanctions.

Stand fast, liberty lovers. Pay attention.

#### CONGRATULATING KAREN MILLER ON HER RETIREMENT

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Karen Miller from Richland, Washington, on her retirement and to honor her 20 years of service to the ratepayers of the Benton Public Utility District in Washington State's Fourth Congressional District.

Karen has been a tireless advocate for the Tri-Cities community and for

the reliable, affordable power generated by central Washington's hydroelectric dams. She has been at the forefront of the community's efforts to "Save Our Dams," spearheading rallies and events like RiverFest, to celebrate the countless benefits of the Columbia and the Snake River dams.

While I know the team at Benton PUD will sorely miss Karen's enthusiasm and friendship, I am confident her service to the community will continue.

I wish Karen and her husband, Ken, the best as they spend more time enjoying golfing, traveling Europe, and enjoying time with their beloved grandchildren.

Congratulations, Karen.

#### CELEBRATING GINNY WALKER'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

(Ms. FOXX of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to wish Mrs. Ginny Walker a happy 100th birthday. It has been a delight getting to know Mrs. Walker and her family since they began splitting their time between homes in Greensboro and Land Harbor in North Carolina's Fifth District.

Mrs. Walker is a mother of two, grandmother of three, great-grandmother of six, and beloved by all of them. Shortly after moving to North Carolina, her husband, Delmer, started Delta Electronic Plating Company, and she went back to school to learn how to keep books and even helped in the plant and driving trucks.

Mrs. Walker remains an engaged citizen to this day, especially in bridge circles and First Baptist Church, where everyone enjoys her pies.

At 100, I hope to be as full of life as Mrs. Walker, and I wish her a wonderful birthday and many, many more to come.

#### CALIFORNIA'S HIGH-SPEED RAIL SYSTEM

(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 highlight some new legislation I am introducing this week, H.R. 1515, the High-Speed Refund Act.

Simply put, California's proposed high-speed rail system has been a total disaster. It will not meet the legal requirements of true high-speed rail from San Francisco to Los Angeles. The total projected cost has now ballooned to \$100 billion, tripling what the voters were told back in 2008.

The Trump administration has already canceled a \$929 million grant, but I think they should take the entire \$3.5 billion in Federal dollars that California is wasting under the Stimulus Act of 2009, 10 years ago. That is why my bill, the High-Speed Refund Act,

would require California to refund all Federal funding for high-speed rail and repurpose it to highway and transportation projects that would actually benefit people and be economically viable.

Madam Speaker, \$5 billion has already been wasted. Let's not make it \$100 billion. Undertaking the project was a huge mistake. I think Californians and the other 49 States deserve a refund and to have this money channeled into something that would be more useful for all Americans.

#### HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CLASSIC CHEVROLET

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

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, 10 years ago, March 2, 2009, big changes happened back home in Sugar Land, Texas. Bill Heard Chevrolet went to the dustbin of history. It was replaced by Classic Chevrolet. It opened on the same lot at Southeast U.S. 59 and U.S. 90A. Don Kerstetter got it rolling. Jeff and Tiffany Sebastian kept it rolling stronger.

In 10 years, Classic has made Sugar Land and Fort Bend County better. In fact, they have been fully engaged in our community. A few examples:

They participate every year in an annual Classic Chevy Chili Cook-Off, raising tens of thousands of dollars for first responders;

They support local schools, the Fort Bend Education Foundation, last Saturday, with Ray Aguilar of Classic emceeing the event;

They support the Boy Scouts, Child Advocates of Fort Bend boys choir, Impact A Hero for combat-wounded veterans, and on and on and on.

For 10 years, Classic Chevrolet has had no need to find new roads. All roads lead to Classic Chevrolet.

□ 1930

#### HONORING REPRESENTATIVE WALTER B. JONES, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, we are here tonight to honor our colleague, Walter B. Jones.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Congressman PRICE for the effort he has put in to making this evening a time for us to honor Walter, our esteemed colleague.

Madam Speaker, Walter Jones will always be remembered for his dedication to North Carolina's Third District and his steadfast support for all of our Nation's men and women in uniform. I know that many of the speakers will

talk much more about that this evening, as will I.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE), for his comments.

Then, Madam Speaker, we will be recognizing our colleagues from both sides of the aisle, which is extremely appropriate, particularly in the case of Congressman Jones.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding and for calling this Special Order to pay tribute to our departed friend and colleague, Walter Jones, Jr.

Walter died on February 10, his 76th birthday. He lived a full life of service: four years in the National Guard, ten years in the North Carolina General Assembly, and nearly a quarter century in this U.S. House of Representatives.

Walter and I met long before either of us served in the House. We worked together on the Jimmy Carter Presidential campaign of 1976. I have a photo on my desk of a very youthful-looking group of campaign workers to prove that.

Walter, of course, went on to chart a different course politically, a course that was uniquely his own. In fact, he found himself frequently at odds with, if not one party, then the other, but by the same token, he sometimes found possibilities for alliances and cooperation in unexpected places, and he didn't hesitate to take those opportunities.

Madam Speaker, tonight we are going to hear from a wide range of colleagues, an amazingly diverse group of colleagues that reflects the friendships that Walter had in this Chamber. That was also reflected in the delegation that went to Greenville for Walter's funeral service on February 14. He was an independent man and he just had friends all over the place.

Now, that independence was rooted in Walter's strong convictions and his personal sincerity. He actually, I think we would all agree, stood out. In an age in which sincerity is sometimes in short supply in our Nation's politics, he earned respect and admiration on both sides of the aisle.

The outpouring of tributes and remembrances that we have seen and will see tonight is a testament to that fact.

Much has been said about the personal encounters Walter had with veterans of the Iraq war and the families of those who never returned and how those encounters led him to reassess his past and present policy circumstances.

Walter sent over 10,000 letters to families of fallen troops and he memorialized those who died from North Carolina's Camp Lejeune with photos outside his office.

Walter's determined and effective voice for the military and especially his beloved Marines and his deep love for his home State of North Carolina are going to be missed in these Halls and in the coastal farming and military communities in the Third Congressional District.

So we express heartfelt condolences to Walter's wife Joe Anne, daughter Ashley, his loyal staff who are joining us in the Chamber here tonight, his countless friends, neighbors and community members, the lives he touched along the way.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a tribute from one from his longtime staff members, Ray Celeste, Jr.

A TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN WALTER B. JONES

(By Colonel Ray Celeste Jr., U.S. Marine Corps (Retired))

I had the pleasure and good fortune to have served with Congressman Walter B. Jones for almost eight years in his D.C. office as his Military Legislative Assistant. He was an American icon of virtue and American values. He loved America and his constituents deeply. He worked tirelessly on their behalf for many decades. He stood up against injustices that many of them faced.

He had an iron-will to do what was best for his constituents. His will was strong and unflinching. We, as part of his staff, worked to ensure we represented the congressman as best as possible and to be as helpful as possible to him and our constituents of the 3rd District. His constituents' services were renowned.

Congressman Jones was the epitome of a public servant. He was always working for the betterment of his people. He was their divine servant. He greatly appreciated the sacrifices our military veterans have made for our great Nation.

He also appreciated the sacrifices their families make. The general public sometimes overlooks these sacrifices. He did a lot of work in promoting the proper education of military children who are autistic through the use of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA).

Congressman Jones worked tirelessly to help treat service members and Veterans who suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and those that suffer from Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). He promoted the use of Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT). He did not think this was a cure-all for PTSD or TBI, but as one of treatment methods that that should be available to service members and Veterans. He authored a legislative provision that was adopted in the Fiscal Year 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (FY 2017 NDAA). This provision allows for the use of HBOT to be used as a treatment method for PTSD/TBI by the Department of Defense (DoD).

He was shocked at the overuse of drugs to treat PTSD/TBI where there was no conclusive clinical trial done that proved a certain regime of drugs could cure or alleviate the horrible mental and physical impacts of PTSD/TBI. In some, if not many cases, it made matters worse. He was shocked at the over reliance on the use of drugs.

Congressman Jones looked for holistic methods to treat PTSD/TBI such as the use of service dogs. He also admired the positive influence influences of yoga and combat acupuncture.

Congressman Jones was the Republican lead on the legislation to honor Purple Heart recipients and other American heroes by giving them access to Department of Defense commissaries and recreation facilities. The Purple Heart and Disabled Veterans Equal Access Act of 2018 extends access to commissaries and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) facilities to Purple Heart recipients, all veterans with a service-connected disability, Medal of Honor recipients, former prisoners of war, and veteran care-

givers. Commissaries are grocery/department stores on military installations that sell food and some household items. MWR facilities offer a range of services on bases including libraries, outdoor recreation, dining, golf courses, and sports and fitness centers. It was adopted in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

Two words sum up Congressman Walter B. Jones. He was highly principled and he was a statesman. He thought we, as a Nation, must look at what is best in the U.S.'s interests first. He was not an isolationist, but he did think the U.S. was allowing itself to be taken advantage of by our allies.

Congressman Walter B. Jones was a once in a lifetime member of Congress. God bless him, his wife Joe Anne, and their daughter, Ashley. Semper Fidelis.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. PRICE for his comments.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. AMASH) for his tribute to our good friend, Walter Jones.

Mr. AMASH. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I can't begin to tell you how saddened I was at the passing last month of my dear friend and colleague, Walter Jones.

What a great man Walter was and what a great loss to this institution.

Walter was one of my closest friends in Congress. I wish I had been able to spend more time with him, but I will be forever grateful for the time that I did spend with him.

I am glad I was able to attend his funeral in North Carolina to say goodbye and celebrate his life with his family and friends. I am pleased to join with my colleagues here today to do the same.

Even though Walter was one of my best friends, he would always refer to me as "Chairman." I used to think that was because I was the chairman of the House Liberty Caucus. Then one day I realized that he would call all sorts of people "Chairman," so I asked him about it, and he told me, "Everyone is chairman of something."

Well, Walter, you were the chairman of kindness, humility, dignity, courage, integrity and honor.

Walter was one of the best men I knew, a kind, humble, dignified man dedicated to his faith, his family, and the people he represented.

Walter had a courage and integrity you rarely see in this chamber or anywhere. He never gave up fighting for what he believed in. He wasn't in Washington for money, power, or fame. He cared about honor and doing the right thing, and he was brave enough to admit when he was wrong.

You were a good man, Walter, no matter what you may have thought about your mistakes. You were a good man, chairman, and I will miss you.

May your memory be eternal.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative AMASH for his comments tonight.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. GABBARD).

Ms. GABBARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my friend, Congressman Walter Jones, Jr., a man who was known by all of us throughout his many years serving in this chamber for his kindness, his southern charm, and his big heart, his fierce independence, and his pursuit of peace.

Walter left us on February 10, his 76th birthday. He lived a long life of service: four years in the North Carolina National Guard, ten years in the North Carolina General Assembly, and nearly 25 years serving in these halls.

Walter stayed true to himself throughout this time, following his heart. He was never afraid to challenge the status quo, often to the chagrin of his party leaders.

We found a common bond and friendship around shared ideals, of putting people before politics, putting service above self. He knew that when we see each other as people, as public servants, not just as Republicans and Democrats that this is when we have the opportunity to find common ground and work toward our common goal of serving the people of this country.

Now, in 2002, Walter voted for the Iraq war, the war that I served in, the war that took the lives of my brothers and sisters in uniform, the war that took the lives of over 4,000 U.S. servicemembers and over 100,000 Iraqis.

Walter shared with me, as he shared with many others, that this vote that he took was the biggest regret of his time in public service.

He shared how when he attended a funeral at Camp Lejeune for a 31-year-old marine that was killed in Iraq in March of 2003 while evacuating wounded troops, everything changed for Walter, because he sat there and he heard this marine's widow, in front of their three children, read the final letter that this marine sergeant sent home, and he saw those three kids, knowing that they would never see their father again.

This impacted him so deeply, and maybe for the first time caused him to realize the cost of war and who pays the price. So Walter started writing. He wrote over 12,000 letters to families who lost their loved ones in both Iraq and Afghanistan and shared how he begged God to forgive him for his mistake.

He memorialized those who died from North Carolina's Camp Lejeune, as you see here, with photos that he displayed for all to see before they could come inside his office here in Washington.

He became a leading voice not just in his party, but in Congress, pushing for additional oversight over matters of war and peace. He called for ending illegal regime-change wars that put our troops' lives on the line, leaving their families behind. He pointed out that our taxpayer dollars should not be used to be the policeman of the world.

Walter and I didn't agree on many things, but we also found many opportunities to work together on things that we strongly believed in.

We cosponsored and co-led the No More Presidential Wars Act, which rightly put the responsibility back in Congress' hands to declare war, as the Constitution provides.

He cosponsored my bill, the Stop Arming Terrorists Act, to make sure that taxpayer dollars are not being used to directly and indirectly fund terrorist groups, as we have seen done in both Syria and Yemen.

We cosponsored the Weekend Voting Act to strengthen voting rights.

We worked together to strengthen civil liberties and privacy, upholding our Fourth Amendment rights.

Walter was courageous. He didn't care about party politics, and as a result, he suffered the consequences in tough primary elections, but he didn't care. He never hesitated to stand up for what he believed in.

So while Walter and I were two very different people coming from two very different places, Walter was my dear friend, fellow servicemember, and my brother. He will be deeply missed.

My heart and prayers go out to his family, his friends, and his loved ones.

We all know that Walter's legacy of service and his principles and values will continue to live on in Washington, in the Halls of Congress, and in the lives of the many people who he touched.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD), another one of our colleagues.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleagues, to remember and honor a great, great public servant, a great North Carolinian, devoted husband and father, a man of great faith, and my personal friend for over 40 years, Congressman Walter B. Jones, Jr.

And, Madam Speaker, I emphasize the word "junior," because I knew Walter's father and knew him very well, for he was the Congressman for eastern North Carolina for many years. And though Walter did not use "Junior" in his official name, he was indeed a junior.

Walter Jones passed away on Sunday, February 10, 2019, on his 76th birthday.

He was a lifelong public servant, serving in the North Carolina National Guard for four years, the General Assembly of our State for ten years, and the U.S. House of Representatives for 24 long years, where he served North Carolina's Third Congressional District.

□ 1945

Since coming to Congress, I watched Walter cast difficult votes with conviction, standing firm in what he believed was right for his constituents and for the American people. That is why the people of North Carolina's Third District sent him back to Congress again

and again and again, electing him 13 times since 1994.

Even as Walter gained seniority in the Congress, he maintained his strong conscience and principles. As a senior member of the House Committee on Armed Services, Walter was an outspoken and effective voice for our military.

Anyone in eastern North Carolina who knew Walter Jones, or knew of him, would know of his love for the military. He was committed to safeguarding the well-being of our Nation's veterans and active servicemembers. In fact, Congressman Jones sponsored and cosponsored more veterans legislation in the last three congressional terms than any other sitting Member of Congress.

Madam Speaker, it was one of the greatest honors of my life for my friend, Congressman Walter Jones, to ask me to administer his oath of office, which I performed at his Farmville home on January 4, 2019. And I might say that his home in Farmville is 20 minutes from my home in Wilson.

I am equally proud to say that a 30-Member delegation traveled to Greenville, North Carolina, for the homegoing service for Congressman Jones. That 30-Member delegation was led by the dean of our delegation, Congressman DAVID PRICE, and the ranking Republican among our delegation, Congresswoman VIRGINIA FOXX.

I will miss Walter Jones in these halls and in our beloved State. Walter would drive home each week. We would sit right here on the House floor each Friday and talk about our weekends. He would tell me how he was preparing to drive home and how he dreaded the traffic, but that he would offset the dread of the traffic by listening to audiotapes in his car while he would drive.

Madam Speaker, we may have stood on opposite sides of the aisle here in the House, but there was always a mutual respect and friendship between us. I would say to the gentlewoman from Hawaii who spoke a few moments ago that he, too, called me Mr. Chairman. I never understood exactly why he would do that, but that was his vocabulary, and I found it very honorable that he would do that.

Although our friend is no longer here, he has left an indelible mark on eastern North Carolina, on the House, and on the Nation. May our friend, Congressman Walter B. Jones, Jr., rest in peace and have eternal life with our Father in Heaven.

To Joe Anne, Ashley, and all the family and friends of Walter Jones, we wish you God's blessings in the years to come.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from eastern North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER), my colleague.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, many in North Carolina and around the country are mourning the passing of our friend and colleague, Congressman

Walter B. Jones, just as much as we are. Our dear friend humbly served the great people of eastern North Carolina in the State legislature and in Congress for more than 30 years. Having known Walter for more than 23 years, I can attest to his great faith in our creator and his servant's heart.

Congressman Jones was elected to Congress with the 1994 class, and it was in his first term that I met him. I was brand new to the Hill myself, working for U.S. Senator Jesse Helms at the time. Senator Helms and his wife, Dot, quickly became great fans of Walter, so much so—and many may not know this—that even after Senator Helms passed, Dot Helms would cut radio ads for him up until her passing just a few years ago.

What Dot and Jesse Helms admired about Walter was no different than what everyone else across the State of North Carolina and throughout the country who knew him admired: his character, his adherence to his convictions, and his commitment to serving others.

He was a staunch advocate, of course, for those who made the greatest sacrifice of all while serving our country. He constantly worked on behalf of our troops and veterans every single day, especially those who were based in his district at Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville and Cherry Point in Havelock.

Congressman Jones dedicated his life to serving others. He stood strong for his beliefs and even stronger for his faith, always choosing to do what he believed to be best for his constituency, our State, and our Nation.

The citizens of this State and country have lost a great friend whose life made a real difference for so many. His honesty, faith, and integrity will not be forgotten.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON).

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding, and I thank the dean of the North Carolina delegation for putting together this Special Order on behalf of someone who truly epitomized the word "gentleman," indeed, "Southern gentleman," though not what you may immediately conjure up if you are from the North when you think about that gentle Southern person and plantation owner.

His father, who served in this body, was a factory worker. Walter grew up with great admiration for his dad, who I was able to talk with him about on several occasions on this floor.

What a special and unique place this Chamber we serve in is, and throughout history, how many people have graced these hallowed halls and served with distinction. Walter served not only with distinction but with an acute humility for what that service meant and for the people he represented, most notably, those at Camp Lejeune and, has been alluded to already, the

thought process that Walter went through in coming to the conclusion that he must speak out and oppose a war he had voted for. The very troops that he nurtured, cared for, and felt so much a part of, he felt honor bound that he must speak on their behalf. He could not withstand and was tortured by the memory of looking at the little boy who lost his father, knowing that he would never know his daddy, as Walter would say.

I came in with Virginia in 1998. I served on the Armed Services Committee with Walter. I was introduced to him by a man from Mississippi named Gene Taylor, who said that there is more integrity in this man than any Member of the United States Congress. How right he was.

Walter would frequently come over to the corner, as we referred to it, and confer with Jack Murtha, my mentor and arguably one of the most knowledgeable people in this Chamber and in this body on matters of defense, on matters of the military, as he had served as a colonel with distinction in Vietnam. Walter would often probe Mr. Murtha about the war in Iraq and how bothered he was by that vote.

Jack would counsel him. When Walter would walk away, Jack Murtha would add to the chorus of people who would say: What honor, what integrity, what thoughtfulness, what a genuine human being Walter Jones is. He cares so deeply about the people he represents and the feeling that he had not done the right thing with his vote for Iraq.

There are a number of reasons why Jack Murtha came out to, ultimately, oppose the war in Iraq. But I will always believe that Walter's regular pilgrimages over there to talk about the rank-and-file soldier, about the person on the frontline and their families behind at home, and the fact that people felt they were lied to, played an enormous part in Mr. Murtha's decision, two profound figures that I had the honor to serve with in this body, both who have passed, both whose opposition to the war in Iraq changed the course of events here in this country.

Walter, ever the gentleman, always sincere, always humble, his friendship and his acts of kindness are legendary.

I thank the dean of the North Carolina delegation, who I hold in profound regard, because I know he, and everybody here tonight, cares deeply about this institution. What makes this institution what it is, it is not the splendid hall, but it is the humanity of people like Walter Jones who have graced us with his service and his presence, indeed, the people who bring honor and dignity and integrity to the United States Congress.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

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Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues, Ms. FOXX and Mr.

PRICE, both from North Carolina, who have made this opportunity fittingly available for all of us here tonight in order to honor our friend, Walter Jones.

I would always encounter him as a low key but kind, gentle, sweet soul that he is, around the building; and just in his own way, just thumbs up, keep going, encouraging in what we do around here.

There were a lot of very kind remarks made about him here tonight from people that got to serve with him a lot longer than I did, but indeed, we hear about how he was a very independent voice. I think marching to his own higher standard to what he felt his own integrity required, not only as a representative, as a person in this political business, but one who is answering to a higher power—the importance of God in his life made abundantly clear.

Indeed, at his service in North Carolina, it really, really hit home for me how much that was a part for him.

As we know, he was very, very unhappy with the Gulf war. And after that started, he really—I believe, and the results show—he spent the rest of his career trying to find and make and provide comfort for the members of the military—and even more so—the Gold Star families, who he knows—and we all realize—bear the loss the most when one of theirs has fallen.

I heard that he would write to every single Gold Star family when he would learn of one of their loved ones having fallen in conflict, that were killed in action.

He would take his time in that position as a Member of the United States House of Representatives, using his name, using that title and whatever that carried, to provide comfort and show those families that there are people in this place that really, really do recognize—we all do—but he went that extra mile for people all over the country, not just in his district, to take that care, to take that time. And I thought that was pretty amazing.

Another way that he tried to help was supporting the various programs that were out there, to provide those working dogs, a program I have encountered, to soldiers that have come home that suffer with PTSD or similar-type afflictions, that those comfort dogs could provide something unique to them that maybe no human contact can reach for some of them.

He spent a lot of time, a lot of effort in helping with that because he did want to make as much of a positive mark on those soldiers as possible.

Most importantly, though, his higher calling he felt, it wasn't here to put treasures in this place or in his title. It was the treasures he wanted to store in Heaven, as he wanted to do what he could to please God and walk with his Savior Jesus Christ. And that is the most important thing about Walter Jones and his life and his devotion.

God bless him and his family and the memory of him to this place.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA), and I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the gentlewoman's courtesy and my friend, Congressman PRICE, in bringing us together.

I am standing in front of the chair here on the floor that I routinely occupied, and Walter sat next to me hundreds of hours. It was fascinating watching the dynamic on the aisle. I think some people like to be on the aisle because it is a place where people come together.

I watched a parade of people in both parties who would stop, greet him, and talk about issues large and small, radiating a sort of humanity that at times is in short supply around here.

Walter epitomized what I think politics should be.

We talked often about how he was creating problems for himself at home. There is probably not a district in the United States that is more oriented towards the United States military, as we have heard already.

He comes from a district that is intensely patriotic and more than a little Republican. Yet, he charted a path—once he had determined that he had made a mistake—he charted a path to try and make it right, not just to the Gold Star families, but to having that interaction here on the House floor, not in an accusatory fashion for people who may have disagreed with him, but just humbly focused on the human consequences on the political foibles of Congress.

He willingly took that burden on; even though he knew that it could have cost him his position in Congress. And this is family tradition, as is mentioned, I mean his father before him. It mattered a great deal to Walter to carry that banner, to serve his constituents and his State, but he walked into that storm willingly because he thought it was the right thing to do.

We don't see a lot of that around here, people who can face up to mistakes—which we all make. How many of us have as graciously and publicly acknowledged our mistakes, attempted to make them right, and accept the consequences?

Walter was a singular human being, and I feel privileged to have sat next to him all those hours.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for his comments. And I now yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I thought it was appropriate, FOX News had this headline: "Farewell to Representative Walter Jones—a man who lived his life putting people above politics."

Another headline from W. James Antle: "Walter Jones and the Road Not Taken."

Another from CBN News, Crystal Woodall: "A Man of Faith, Honesty and Integrity."

He was all of those. He, I guess, manifested a bit of what Robert Frost talked about when he said:

I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.

That was Walter Jones.

He was not going to take the easy way. He was going to—and did—have great integrity, great conscience, and fulfilled his commitment to the people in his district in North Carolina.

Those attributes, he would say, go back to his Christian commitment. He said on one occasion, There are some documents you can't rewrite, and truthfully, one of them is the Bible.

He said, For over 15 years, I have led the charge to return freedom of speech to our churches and houses of worship. During that time, I have spoken with countless legal experts, and we believe the clearest avenue to rectifying those First Amendment rights is a full repeal of the Johnson amendment.

He also said, America was built on Judeo-Christian values, and these values should be protected. During my years in Congress, I have been a steadfast supporter of traditional marriage, the unborn, and the free exercise of religion.

Some people think that Christians must hate everybody that disagrees with them. And I think Walter Jones was a living example of what a Christian should be.

With that conscience, with love, even for those who hate, Walter had that love. And I saw that that last day that THOMAS MASSIE and I were with him.

God blessed America with Walter Jones.

God blessed this body with Walter Jones.

And God blessed me for having a friend like Walter.

We miss you, Walter.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for his extremely eloquent remarks.

Madam Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for helping to organize this evening, as well as the dean of the North Carolina delegation, DAVID PRICE.

Truly, so many of us miss Walter Jones among us already. And we thank them for this Special Order, this order to celebrate the honorable life and service of the late Congressman Walter B. Jones of North Carolina, a man of deep conscience and integrity. His word was his bond.

Madam Speaker, it is with a sense of true sadness, but abiding gratitude, that I rise tonight to join all of you as we pay tribute to our cherished friend

and colleague, Walter, and offer sincerest condolences to his beloved wife, Joe Anne and daughter Ashley, to their friends, to their family, to his constituents in North Carolina, and friends across the country.

I also rise this evening in memory of his father, Walter Jones, Sr., with whom I had the privilege to serve when I was first elected to the Congress.

We both shared a great interest in maritime commerce. And so when Walter arrived in Congress, it was my great privilege to serve with his son.

So I was able to serve with Walter during his entire quarter century of exemplary service here in the House. And, yes, he was a man of deep conscience in an era of utter distraction. He exemplified exceptional honor, kindness, and a steady conviction that always stayed true.

I brought with me today a book Walter gave me entitled, "Extortion" by Peter Schweizer. And in it Walter inscribed the following message:

Marcy, may those of us who serve in the U.S. House work together to return the House to the people and not let "special interests" continue to influence policy. Thank you for your friendship. God bless America.

Walter Jones.

At the time Walter wrote these words, he and I had been talking about a bipartisan effort to clean up Congress using our joint efforts, traveling to appropriate venues along the way to advance reform of our democracy, and get big money out of politics.

But as the months went by, it became clear that Walter would not be able to make this journey, and he bore his wounds with great dignity and in silence.

What a man of courage.

Walter, as others have said, had a deep passion for the people he represented—surely, the Marines of Camp Lejeune and their families and colleagues, as these photos attest.

He would always take to this House floor to compassionately recall their patriotic service. He never, ever forgot them.

The war in Iraq weighed so heavily on him, and his integrity required him to speak out. And he did, often.

His constituents knew the measure of this committed, modest man of sterling conviction.

□ 2015

Walter is held in highest esteem by his colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and he will be sorely missed.

A grateful nation thanks the people of the Third Congressional District of North Carolina, and I know all of his constituents join us in thanking Walter for his decades of public service and his family for all of their sacrifices because he so conscientiously and selflessly dedicated himself to our Nation.

He was true; he was reflective; he was faithful; and he was a patriot. His spirit lives right here. I can feel it myself as a beacon across this Congress and as a shining star for all to come with integrity and moral conviction.

May God bring comfort to his family, and may his strength shower them to move through this period of deep mourning and come into the sunlight again.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her comments.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO).

Mr. YOHO. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for yielding.

As I look at Walter here, it reminds me when I came to Congress in 2013, my first term here. Walter was one of the first people who befriended me.

We had, over the course of several Congresses, many, many good laughs. He was always quick to laugh. He was always gentle, strong in his conviction, and he wouldn't hesitate to hold you accountable.

Every time I went on a codel, he would scold me for spending the taxpayers' money. When the codel went to go to his funeral, I said, if I went on that codel, Walter would roll over in his grave and yell at me, and so I chose not to go just to honor him on that.

He would give you the shirt off of his back and help you in any way he could. There was a Christmas ball, and I had to have a date for my daughter because she came up here. I took my wife, and I called Walter. He said: "I don't want to do that, but for you, I will do that." That is the kind of friend he was. And he walked my daughter in there so that she got to go.

He cared about God, country, his family, the people who serve this great Nation, and the people in his district.

He was held in high esteem, as was evidenced the day when THOMAS MASSIE and LOUIE GOHMERT gave the eulogy here in the talk about Walter. That was the quietest this Chamber had ever been without the Speaker having to interrupt.

He was always fun to have a joke with or laugh, and we had many. His team is back here, faithfully to the end. Next time we are at a reception, we will have a red wine and a cigar in Walter's favor.

I thank the gentlewoman for doing this, and I thank you, buddy, Walter Jones, for the things you did for us.

God bless.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL), a long-serving Member and another respected Member of this body.

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, to VIRGINIA FOXX and to DAVID PRICE, I would expect you two to be here. I really would.

To the gentleman and the gentlewoman and to the staff, I sat quietly in the back, but I know what you felt about Walter Jones. I say thank you to you for serving him as he served you and all of us.

In a moment when our Nation cries out for principled leadership, the loss

of Walter Jones is especially difficult. The challenges we face right now really demand the wisdom of men and women like Walter Jones. The absence of his voice in our Chamber is devastating.

Walter Jones was a real patriot. He was gentle but persistent. He was fervent but not self-indulged. He was a real winner.

Our tenures in this place overlapped almost completely, so I had the pleasure of working closely with Walter many, many times.

There is no Member I have served with, man or woman, Democrat or Republican, old or young, who was more forthright or was more courteous or kind. He was revered for his generosity because that is exactly who he was.

Walter was my friend, and I was his friend. We had been leading an effort, both of us, to get Congress to reassert its prerogatives and apply oversight of the executive branch of government. Walter stood up by himself for this.

If operating in the minority was a lonely crusade for us, imagine how it was for Walter to cast those votes all by himself. He understood the song we sing many times on Sunday, "Be Not Afraid." He was not afraid, but for Walter Jones, it was just another day at the office.

Walter made a career standing up by himself, guided solely by what he thought was the right thing, and he was often punished for it. He was stripped of political clout and prestige for his independence.

He was a person of faith who respected all faiths. We were all equal in Walter's eyes and in Walter's heart. What a lesson. So it is important to understand what that really entails.

There may be nothing more difficult than standing alone. We see every day here how challenging it is for men and women to stand up when everyone else is lined up against them. So even when you know a position, a vote, an act is right, to do it alone takes immense confidence, courage, and unswaying principle.

Walter Jones embodied those qualities as much as anyone who has served in the people's House. There was only one Walter Jones, and we have lost him. We could use a lot more like Walter. He was not a photo op. He was the real thing.

Thank you. Thank you for your gracious friends who came tonight to speak about you, and it was from everyone's heart. I hope that Congress learns something.

Thank you, Walter.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for his eloquent comments.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) for his comments.

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I thank the dean, the gentleman from North Carolina, for bringing us together. The delegation

has done an awesome bit of tribute here to recognize Walter B. Jones, Jr., our colleague who has served so faithfully well. I will offer a few comments here. It has been a tremendous tribute.

I do, in my initial comments here, want to extend my condolences to his widow and his family and his many friends and colleagues and, in a particular way, to his staff.

To know Walter Jones is to love Walter Jones. I have to believe that the relationship that he had with so many and, in particular, his family and his extended family, his work family, had to be driven by that love, that compassion that was part of him. It was undeniable. It was so clearly presented by every step, every thought he shared.

He was a person of deeply rooted faith. His Christian faith, his Catholic faith guided him. He was a pious individual who was not self-righteous but spoke with such integrity and such deeply rooted beliefs that our goal in life is to connect inextricably with everyone and to serve everyone.

He understood the role of a legislator to be compassionate, to empathize, to be able to express to the many people who trusted in his leadership, to share what needed to be done here.

And so, tonight, we gather together to offer our thanks to this consummate gentleman who was every bit of the way, yes, an individual of greatness, but if we do not mention his heart, his kindness, we don't capture the individual.

His kindness worked in several ways. He wove that kindness into every bill that he addressed, every vote he undertook, every step that he made in his career of public service. He understood that these acts of kindness would accumulate to express an individual of greatness.

His integrity was impeccable. I cherish the many conversations we would have on the walk over to the House or in riding in the trolley about having a sense of guidance, a sense of how to conduct yourself, how to go forth and understand that the work you can address in this body affects individuals so greatly.

Obviously, he was a person who was humble and could acknowledge mistakes, as was indicated earlier, to do that publicly and graciously as he did when he suggested that the many thousands, the 12,000-plus letters that he had drafted to families of dead troops since 2003 was, in a sense, an act of penance, a sense of expression that he had erred and that he regretted that there were these consequences of war that were borne by these many families who lost their loved ones prematurely.

There was a sense of coming together that he would allow all of us to share in the efforts for peace. Walter carried himself in a peaceful way, a peaceful manner. He was a moral compass for this House, one who taught us, by his very actions, that it is essential for us to be bold, that our fight to be there for what is just and fair should guide us.

Tonight, I acknowledge his great work, his great friendship, his great lessons taught. He didn't use or need to use words to teach us. His actions spoke louder than any words he could utter. And tonight, we say thank you to an individual who is very much missed already in the weeks that have passed since his departure from this world.

Walter, we cherish your memory. It will live forever. You will be the measuring stick for Members who serve in this House, and you will be that constant reminder, as I look at that kind and loving smile that you have worn in this photograph that we have on display on the House floor. It has guided us. It will continue to speak to us.

Your actions are powerful. Your words were so carefully chosen and so heartfelt. Your drive to be a just and fair man has earned you an eternal reward. Good job, humble and faithful servant.

God bless you. May you rest in peace.

□ 2030

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. TONKO for those words.

Madam Speaker, as we sometimes say here to keep from using up time we shouldn't use, I want to associate myself with all the comments made by my colleagues.

Walter was all of the things that our colleagues have talked about. He had a fantastic Southern charm and a fantastic smile. He was humble; he exhibited acts of kindness; and he was pious, not self-righteous.

I regret, as others have said, that I didn't take more time to spend with him. But I think even in Walter's death, he has done something we talk about doing here and that is to bring the House together on an issue.

We are here to honor a very extraordinary man who did what his conscience told him to do, and he sometimes suffered the consequences. But I think tonight exhibits that doing the right things for the right reasons will be honored and has been honored tonight.

I thank, again, all the Members who came here tonight to speak on Walter's behalf. We all benefited from that.

I particularly thank the dean of our delegation, DAVID PRICE, who was a longtime friend of Walter B. Jones, Jr. I thank his assistant, Gloria Nlewedim, for her great assistance in this.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam 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 subject of my Special Order, because I know there are Members who wish to insert their comments because they could not be here.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I would ask Mr. PRICE if he has any closing comments he would like to make.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague for presiding over this remarkable series of tributes. It has been a memorable evening—more than I could have anticipated—in the array of colleagues who have paid tribute and in the kind of emotions stirred in all of us, I think, by the memory of a good friend and a good man, but also a sense of the values and the affection that binds us together here.

It is too bad, perhaps, that it took an occasion of this sort to bring this out. But I will never forget it, and we will never forget Walter Jones and what he meant to all of us, so I thank the gentlewoman so much.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I again thank Mr. PRICE for his contribution to this evening, and I agree with the gentleman. It is unfortunate sometimes that it takes a death to bring out these kinds of comments and this kind of camaraderie. We must remember tonight and practice it more often.

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

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to our colleague Walter Jones, who passed away last month. Walter was my friend. Ever collegial and kind, he saw this institution for the good it could do for his constituents and for our country.

I admired Walter for his candor and for his patriotism. Over the years, I watched him make very difficult decisions, take very difficult votes. He did so out of principle. He stood up for what he believed.

It's no surprise that Walter had so many friends on both sides of the aisle. And it's no surprise either why the people of North Carolina's coastal communities sent him back to Congress election after election. Those of us who served with him could also see the extraordinary love he had for his wife Joe Anne and for their daughter Ashley.

We will miss Walter Jones in this House. I will miss my friend. We all are better off for having served with him, and this House and this country are better off for his service.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my friend and colleague, Walter Beaman Jones, Jr., who passed away on February 10, 2019 at the age of 76. His passing is a deep loss to this institution, and we miss him dearly in the House of Representatives. Walter was proud to represent North Carolina's 3rd congressional district, a geographically diverse district, for over 24 years and always found a way to address the concerns of his coastal constituency as well as his rural inland residents.

Those who knew Walter remember a tenacious, earnest and passionate Member of Congress, who tirelessly fought for what was right. Throughout his 24 years in Congress, Walter represented his district and constituents with a passion and intensity that I think we each strive to emulate. He followed a moral compass that rarely took him off course. In the rare event that it did, he did not let himself off the hook and dedicated his life and ca-

reer to right any wrong. Walter was known for saying: "I would rather do what I think is right than to sell my political soul."

Walter spent much of his career in Congress serving on the Armed Services Committee. In this capacity, he stood up for military families, investigated corruption within the Department of Defense, and was relentless in his pursuit to bring our troops home from Iraq. Walter sent over 12,000 letters to families who had lost loved ones overseas and gave over 150 floor speeches to clear the names of two Marine Corps pilots who were unfairly blamed for a deadly military accident. He was also passionate about renaming the Department of the Navy to the Department of the Navy and the Marine Corps to better reflect the service and sacrifice of our Marines. Walter was one of the most independent voices in Congress. He was never afraid to vote against his party or President if it was what he thought was best for his constituents, his district, and the nation.

I had the opportunity to work closely with Walter on several legislative initiatives. He was the lead Republican cosponsor of the Youth Promise Act, a comprehensive juvenile justice bill that I first introduced in 2007. We were proud to have core provisions of the Youth Promise Act included in the Juvenile Justice Reform Act passed by Congress and signed by President Trump late last year. We also worked together on legislation to protect the mid-Atlantic coast from offshore drilling.

Madam Speaker, the House of Representatives lost one of its most dedicated public servants last month. We were all lucky and privileged to know and work with Walter Jones. I join my colleagues in expressing our sympathy to Walter's wife Joe Anne, his family, many friends, and constituents for their loss.

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my good friend and former colleague, Congressman Walter B. Jones.

For nearly a quarter century, Walter Jones served his country and the people of North Carolina with steadfast dedication, conviction, and integrity.

A man of deep faith, Walter Jones' kindness and servants heart earned him the affection of all who knew him.

In Washington, Walter Jones was a rare breed who truly broke the mold. He was an independent-minded public servant who rose above the trappings of partisan politics and political parties to vote his conscience, no matter the consequences.

Lucy and I send our heartfelt prayers and deepest condolences to his wife Joe Anne, his daughter Ashley, and the entire Jones family during this difficult time.

Our nation and the state of North Carolina are better off today because of Walter Jones' principled and steadfast public service. I will forever be honored to call Walter my friend and colleague.

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of my colleague, Representative Walter Jones, Jr.

For 24 years, Congressman Jones represented the people of North Carolina's 3rd Congressional District with pride and integrity.

In his quarter century in service to our great country, Congressman Jones was a steadfast voice and advocate for North Carolina.

He was unafraid to put people before politics. He was a dedicated public servant.

And he was a principled leader.

He stood firmly for what he believed—and wasn't afraid to admit when he made a mistake.

2 Corinthians 5:8 reminds us that 'to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.'

I pray that my friend has now found the peace he sought.

To his wife, Joe Anne, and his daughter, Ashley—please know that Walter left an indelible mark upon our state and nation.

Let all Members of the estimable body learn and profit from the example of Congressman Walter Jones, Jr.

He will be missed.

#### TWO WOMEN, TWO PLACES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) for 30 minutes.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, before I begin my remarks, let me thank my colleagues, Congresswoman VIRGINIA FOXX and Congressman DAVID PRICE, for their beautiful, moving tributes to our colleague, Walter Jones.

I wasn't an intimate friend of Walter's, but we did have a friendship. Each encounter that I had with him was special because he always had an eye toward that which was higher, noble, and good.

I heard some of the sentiments Members expressed, heartfelt sentiments of loss, but also a great tribute and honor to this extraordinary man who did try to rise above the difficulties and the tensions here. I think both his life and his death taught us invaluable lessons, and frankly, I think it is what the American people are longing for from this body as well. So I thank the gentlewoman very much for doing this.

Madam Speaker, tonight, I would like to talk about two women, two women from very different places, two women from very different cultures and different religions, two women with very different stories. Together, these two women, differently and separately, are reinterpreting in light of what was so that they can imagine what will be.

The first woman's name is Nadia Murad. Nadia won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2018. I know Nadia. She is a Yazidi from northern Iraq. The Yazidis are a people bound by an ancient faith tradition, and they have sought to live in peace in very harsh surroundings through the centuries. Along with the Christians of the area, they have endured many persecutions for a very long time. But nothing could have prepared Nadia for what happened on August 15, 2014.

Nadia lived in a little village called Kawju in an area called Sinjar, again, in northern Iraq. The town's residents were mostly farmers and shepherds. At 21 years old, Nadia dreamed of owning her own hair salon and becoming a history teacher. But then the unthinkable happened.

The Islamic State, ISIS, invaded her village. ISIS rounded up everyone and forced them into the schoolyard. The men were then separated from women. As Nadia told us, she said that she never realized how small her village was until she saw all of them in that schoolyard.

They stood huddled on the dry grass. Some whispered to one another, wondering what was going on. Others were silent, in shock. No one understood what was happening, as Nadia said to us.

Nadia was then forced to watch as six of her brothers were massacred. Her mother was executed along with 80 other older women. The bodies of the men and women were then thrown into mass graves.

The rest of the women, including Nadia, were taken to Mosul, the largest city held by ISIS at that time, and they were sold. They were sold as sex slaves.

The depravity of ISIS further unfolded as they sought to carry out a genocide, a complete extermination of Christians, Yazidis, and other religious minority traditions in that area. The Yazidis were singled out for persecution by ISIS because they were part of a Kurdish-speaking religion without a holy book.

Using that background as justification, what was called the ISIS Research and Fatwa Department targeted women for sexual slavery in an effort to lure young men into joining their cause. ISIS' twisted bureaucracy of barbarity even prepared a document on this, and it was called "Questions and Answers on Taking Captives and Slaves."

True to the dictates of the ISIS document, Nadia was bought and sold several times, with Facebook used as one of the prime ISIS marketing tools. She was repeatedly raped, burned with cigarettes, and beaten. At one point, she attempted to escape, but she was caught. The vicious gang rape that then ensued left her unconscious. She decided not to try to escape again.

After months of unspeakable agony, one day, Nadia discovered that a door had been left unlocked, and she fled. She found refuge with a Muslim family who willingly helped her. In fact, the eldest son, at great personal risk, took her in his car and got her to the Kurdish lines where she was safe.

I was first introduced to Nadia by some friends in Lincoln's Yazidi community. Through an interesting convergence of things, Lincoln, Nebraska, which is my home, has the largest Yazidi population in America. Many of the young men had served as our translators during the height of the Iraq war.

Interestingly, one of the first pieces of legislation that I worked on was to give special visas accommodating people to come to America who had risked their lives alongside our troops, some of whom died, and they were given special status to come here. Many have

made their home in Nebraska, and I am very proud of that.

When Nadia came to see me, I could sense the trauma in her face and the wounds in her soul, so I tried to gently ask Nadia if she would be willing to share her full story with those of us there in my office. I told her that I thought it was important that we hear, in order to try to understand, but only if she wanted to. She again gently answered back that, yes, she would share her story.

She walked us through her nightmare. At one point, I looked over at her Yazidi translator. Tears streamed down his face. My own chief of staff sobbed. It was just too much to bear.

But in a real moment of pride for me, Madam Speaker, 1 month ago today, Nadia Murad was my guest right here in the House Chamber for the State of the Union. I was happy to see her again, and she gave me a copy of her book called "The Last Girl." Her fiance was with her, Abid Shamdeen. What a gentle young man. He had served as well as a translator at the height of the Iraq war and had earned his citizenship to America.

Before the State of the Union event, Nadia and I spent about an hour with a reporter from The Washington Post. The beautiful gift of watching her interact with this reporter was this: She answered the questions clearly, with great grace and purposeful resolve, as Abid lovingly stood by her and translated her words and the full meaning of them.

She was in Washington to raise awareness of the Yazidi genocide and join us in the call for a new type of security settlement in northern Iraq that would protect the ancient mosaic, the ancient tapestry of religious pluralism that once existed there, including Christians and Yazidis, as well as certain Islamic minority traditions.

While that was her primary motive before that reporter and us, again, she gently and profoundly articulated the need to respect human dignity. She used that pain in her soul to project healing on our broken world.

Madam Speaker, when I first came to Congress, an older Member warned me about something. He called it the tyranny of the urgent. He said to be careful of the tyranny of the urgent, because what that will do is subsume you into emergency after emergency without leaving any time for reflection, for thought, for dialogue, for relationship.

We see that played out day after day, and, of course, the media begs this as issues switch and controversies arise, and we are all summoned to give various opinions on whatever negative thing just happened. The tyranny of the urgent, we have to be careful of that because it robs us of the chance to sit with a heroic woman like Nadia and listen carefully to what she has to say.

This hour-by-hour D.C. and 911 fire alarm is distracting us from this essential work of reflection and authentic governance. It is true now more than ever.