

them have been best friends since they were 7 years old.

This friendship and teamwork have led them to reach an amazing goal. We could all learn a little bit about teamwork, especially in this great House of ours, and we could learn it from these amazing young ladies.

Congratulations to the Mainland Regional High School girls basketball team. Keep up the good work. We are really proud of you.

REMEMBERING THE EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SYRIAN CONFLICT

(Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today in remembrance of the eighth anniversary of the Syrian conflict, which resulted in the tragic loss of many human lives and the destabilization of the entire region.

This is all because of the dictator Bashar Assad, who is unwilling to step aside and heed the Syrian people's call for freedom. After destroying Syria, Assad is now attempting to attract economic investment. But in addition to killing over 400,000 Syrians of the Muslim faith, Assad has also failed to protect the religious minority of Christians in Syria.

Having personally met with the Syrian Christians for Peace, I have heard firsthand how Assad repeatedly targeted Syria's most vulnerable populations.

Few Christians continue to live in Assad's Syria, due to brutality by pro-Assad militias. That is why we must support the Trump administration's isolation of the regime and its allies in Tehran and Moscow. That is why the Senate must follow the House and pass the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act.

SUPPORTING THE EQUALITY ACT

(Ms. HAALAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAALAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Equality Act.

America must live up to its values, and that means treating everyone as equals and ending discrimination. The Equality Act is about making sure all Americans, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, can participate in our society without fear.

New Mexico is home to diverse religious and traditional communities and has stood up for its LGBTQ population for a long time. We stood up early to ban the cruel practice of conversion therapy.

The Equality Act allows us to adhere to our faiths while prohibiting harmful and isolating acts of discrimination experienced by too many LGBTQ Americans.

Consider this: 38 percent of transgender New Mexicans are unem-

ployed; 40 percent live in poverty; 26 percent have been discriminated against during the hiring or promotion processes; 41 percent have been homeless at some point; and 33 percent have been discriminated against at a place of public accommodation.

No one should have to worry about being discriminated against when planning their wedding or struggle to simply get a cake. The Equality Act will outlaw such discrimination, which is why we should pass it as soon as possible.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF MAYOR NANCY SHAVER

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

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Mayor Nancy Shaver and her tenure of dedicated service to the citizens of St. Augustine, Florida. A strong advocate for the Nation's oldest city, Mayor Shaver recently stepped down from her position with an admirable record of leadership in her community.

Mayor Shaver, who previously served as a teacher and businesswoman, was elected to office in 2014. During her time as mayor, she was a tireless advocate for important issues that are very unique to the city of St. Augustine. It was my honor to work with her in the effort to combat sea level rise to protect our coastal economies and safeguard the priceless historical and cultural features that make St. Augustine so special.

As mayor, she exemplified the virtues of local government by putting citizens, not politics, first and remaining devoted to the northeast Florida community.

I thank Nancy Shaver for her commitment to the city of St. Augustine and our fellow citizens, for whom she so dearly cared. I wish her and her family the best in their future endeavors.

OPPOSITION TO USING FEDERAL FUNDS TO ARM TEACHERS

(Mrs. HAYES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my opposition to the idea of using Federal funds to arm teachers. This issue has haunted me from the moment it was first discussed after the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School to more recently when it was revisited after the Parkland shooting.

Seventy-three percent of teachers do not want this. More than 60 percent of parents do not want this. And the majority of students do not want this.

Since 1999, in 225 incidents of school campus gun violence, armed personnel failed to disarm a shooter 223 times.

I came to Congress from the classroom. As a teacher, I would never want

the responsibility of securing a firearm in a school. I understand how this would drastically change the school culture and make it feel more like a prison.

As the wife of a police officer, I understand the training that is involved with the responsibility of owning a firearm, and I know that school districts cannot manage that. I could never imagine explaining to a parent that it was my firearm that accidentally injured their child.

I recognize that many local school communities are still trying to decide where they fall on this conversation, yet I cannot overemphasize the point that Federal funds should not be diverted from student learning outcomes to arm teachers.

This is why, today, I have introduced a resolution to prohibit the use of Federal funds to arm teachers.

□ 1100

GRAHAM CREEK BRIDGE

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure with a strong background in the industry, I understand the vital role freight rail plays in getting Hoosier-made and Hoosier-grown products to the market.

Short line freight rail makes up nearly 30 percent of all freight rail, allowing rural communities like those across Indiana's Sixth District to play an integral role in our economy. One such line is the Madison Railroad, which provides exclusive access to the national rail network for many Hoosiers in southeastern Indiana.

The city of Madison is working to obtain Federal grant funding to replace the 100-year-plus Graham Creek Bridge, critical infrastructure that keeps the Madison Railroad safely operating and serving our community.

Built in the 19th century, the current structure poses an immediate safety risk and cannot accommodate heavy commercial freight loads. Replacement of this bridge will benefit southeast Indiana by removing a potential safety risk and creating jobs and economic opportunity for Hoosiers.

Mr. Speaker, we are proud of the historic architecture throughout Indiana, and the Graham Creek Bridge has been an iconic landmark that extends over the beautiful Muscatatuck River. I hope my colleagues in this Chamber can join me in supporting this infrastructure project.

RECOGNIZING RAQUEL GUERRERO

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, during Women's History Month, I rise

to honor the life and legacy of Raquel Guerrero, a woman who immigrated as a child to Chicago's Pilsen community and who dedicated her life to make it a better place for her family and for all families.

She was instrumental in improving opportunities and demanding more resources and better education for the mostly Latino students in my district.

She understood the value of a good education for children, but it extended beyond books, and advocated for healthy hot meals for students at what is now known as the Pilsen Community Academy, where I had my first years of schooling.

She helped establish Pilsen's annual Fiesta del Sol, the largest community festival in the Midwest.

Raquel was instrumental in securing funds to build the new Benito Juarez Community Academy High School in Pilsen, which has since provided many generations of young people with good public education.

She helped found APO, the Association for Workers Rights, a workers' rights group that still operates in the community.

Raquel's organizing efforts also resulted in the funding of the Rudy Lozano Library in Pilsen.

She was the mother of 11, but treated every child in the community as a part of her family.

Mr. Speaker, we honor her during Women's History Month.

REMEMBERING THE HONORABLE LOUISE SLAUGHTER

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, it is hard to believe that it has been almost a year since we lost our beloved colleague, the Honorable Louise Slaughter.

Louise always believed personal relationships could transcend politics. She set an example for us all through her acts of kindness, particularly with those of us in the other party.

We bonded as members of an exclusive club, a club I wish upon no one: those of us who have lost our spouses. Somehow she made me feel like I was helping her through the loss of her husband when, in fact, she, being much smarter than I, knew that, through my attempts to help her, she was really helping me through the loss of my wife.

It was recently announced that Louise, the first female chair of the House Rules Committee, would be inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame. What a deserving honor.

I will always appreciate my friendship with the Honorable Louise Slaughter and will never forget the efforts she made to take me under her wing from across the political aisle.

FOR THE PEOPLE AGENDA

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remind this House of the Democratic For the People agenda, which starts with rebuilding American infrastructure and creating good paying jobs doing so.

It includes expanding healthcare so that it is available to more and more Americans, and bringing down the costs of healthcare and prescription drugs.

It includes cleaning up our American democracy and rooting out corruption in our electoral process.

We achieved the third one this month with H.R. 1, the For the People Act, but the other two took a serious blow this week when we saw the President's budget, which cuts Medicare to the tune of \$1.5 trillion over the next 10 years, breaking a core promise of the President's campaign, and also cuts infrastructure spending.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reject that shortsightedness in the President's budget, and let's go ahead and achieve the For the People agenda.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DAVID LEON LOYA

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to David Leon Loya. This is a young man who was full of life.

David loved life and enjoyed something that many of us have participated in and that we see more Americans doing across the Nation, and that is bicycling. He was an avid bicyclist and enjoyed the outdoors in Houston, Texas.

He was a young man with a future before him with a loving family.

He was a young man that we want to pay tribute to because we know that he exhibited values of love and generosity, because of the community who came out to express their remorse and their sadness that he lost his life while bicycling.

We understand, in tribute to him, recognizing that as the world changes, more Americans will be riding their bicycle. We want to make sure, in his name, that we have designed bicycle paths, that in the urban areas they cover streets in a lighted way so that vehicles can acknowledge those on bicycles and that they can be protected.

David Leon Loya, we honor him and love him. In his name, Mr. Speaker, we will make these bicycle paths the best and the most safe, and he will not have died in vain.

To his family, my deepest sympathy.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TRONE) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 14, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a letter from Mr. Josh Lawson, General Counsel, North Carolina State Board of Elections, indicating that a special election has been ordered for the Ninth Congressional District of North Carolina.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,
CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

ENCLOSURE.
NORTH CAROLINA,
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS,
March 13, 2019.

Re Notification of Order of new election in Ninth Congressional District of the State of North Carolina.

Hon. CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk of the House of Representatives, c/o Tom Wickham, Parliamentarian.

DEAR MADAM CLERK: The North Carolina State Board of Elections today entered a written Order directing a new election in our State's Ninth Congressional District. The Order, which was separately with your Office, established the following special election calendar, including a primary required by State law:

Primary election: May 14, 2019;
Second primary (if necessary): September 10, 2019;

General election (if no second primary): September 10, 2019; and

General election (if second primary): November 5, 2019.

Our State greatly appreciates all actions that may be authorized by your Office to enable ongoing provision of services to residents within the District.

Sincerely,
JOSH LAWSON,
General Counsel.

EQUALITY FOR THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, there are times in Washington that go beyond the mundane, times when you can feel the pull of public sentiment and the weight of history, times that aren't political but become personal. For some of us who serve here and for millions more around the country, this is one of those times.

Yesterday, I was proud to join so many Members of this House to introduce the Equality Act. This bill will ensure full equality under the law for the LGBTQ community, an essential step, given that Americans can still be