

their dedication to our students that builds strong public schools and, therefore, strong communities.

As a senior member of the Education and Labor Committee and a product of public schools, I know the incredible role our schools play in communities across the Nation.

Public schools today have much good news to share, from increasing graduation rates and reduced dropout rates, to improved ratings given by communities on school performance.

Public schools welcome every child, regardless of ability, race, wealth, language, country of origin, or needs. By strengthening the public school system, we strengthen the democracy of our country.

Supporting public schools today will build a stronger workforce for tomorrow. The future of our Nation to produce in the manufacturing industry, the farm, and the information age will be based on the investment we make today in supporting public schools. Schools today are integrating the new ideas that are being explored by businesses and industry.

Strong public schools are vital to our national security. Our military's success is dependent on members who can apply their knowledge and skills to navigate the increasingly complex tools that keep our country safe.

In many communities, the school district is the largest employer. Teachers, bus drivers, administrators, cafeteria workers, coaches, and facilities management all depend on the school district, and all these jobs contribute to the fabric of a community. Communities are stronger and schools are better when we all work together to support public education.

Public schools also make sure kids receive at least one nutritious meal a day. More than 30 million school lunches are served each day, including 20 million free and 2 million reduced priced lunches. For some students, the only meal that they receive will be the one that they get at school.

Mr. Speaker, a child's opportunity for success should not be left to chance. Every child needs a quality, well-equipped school right in their neighborhood, where they can learn, be inspired, and thrive.

Public education has always been the great equalizer in the United States. I am grateful for the contribution of our public schools, and I know that, together, we will continue to work to strengthen them for our most precious resource: our children.

HONORING ANNE BEILER

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

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, March is Women's History Month. I would like to take this time to honor a notable woman from my district, Ms. Anne Beiler, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Anne is well known in our community but is also well known and beloved throughout the world, since she is the founder of Auntie Anne's pretzels. She was born into an Amish family, and her parents became members of the Amish Mennonite church when she was 3 years old. She was a baker and a bread maker and worked at a waitressing job, which taught her the values of hard work and customer service. She learned to make pretzels when she worked at a food stand in a farmer's market.

Eventually, she started her own pretzel business. In 1989, she opened the first franchises throughout central Pennsylvania. Auntie Anne's unmistakable pretzel aroma can frequently be smelled in malls around the country and the world, and I am very honored to recognize her hard work here today.

Anne has also been instrumental in supporting many organizations and causes in our community. Currently, she serves on the board of the Museum of the Bible here in Washington, D.C. I am honored to recognize Anne Beiler on Women's History Month.

HONORING MARILYN WARE

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, March is Women's History Month. I would like to honor a notable woman from my district, Ms. Marilyn Ware, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Ms. Ware was CEO of American Water Works. During that time, she grew that company to a market cap of \$8.3 billion.

Marilyn was also involved in the local community, serving as chair of the Lancaster County GOP from 1978 to 1980. She was a pioneer in fundraising and cared deeply about the direction of our State and our country. She was always doing all that she could to make sure our country was on the right path. In our local community, she was a lifetime advocate of farmland and open space preservation.

From 2006 to 2008, Marilyn served as Ambassador to Finland. She was passionate and hardworking, always looking to make a difference and to recruit young people into the world of politics.

Unfortunately, Marilyn passed away in 2017, but she left a lasting legacy for women and for people all across my district. It is an honor to recognize her on the House floor today.

HONORING JACKIE PFURSICH

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, March is Women's History Month. I would like to honor a notable woman from my district, Ms. Jackie Pfursich, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Jackie currently serves as the Lancaster County clerk of courts, where she has served since 2016. Since then, she has improved the court system by modernizing the criminal court with an electronic filing system. This allows attorneys and case participants to file documents electronically and helps speed up our court process and make it more efficient.

Jackie began her legal career as an assistant attorney for the Pennsyl-

vania Office of General Counsel, Department of Labor and Industry, where she prosecuted those who violated the Commonwealth's labor laws.

She resides in East Hempfield with her husband, Ed; and children, Ella, Nathan, and Tyler. Jackie is an example of a strong, innovative, and hardworking woman. I am honored to recognize her on the floor of the House today.

HONORING PEGGY STEINMAN

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, March is Women's History Month. I would like to honor a notable woman from my district, Ms. Beverly "Peggy" Steinman, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Peggy served as the chairwoman for Steinman Communications. Her family's business history in our area actually began not long after the founding of the country. They were responsible for publishing many of the local papers in our area, including our daily newspaper, the LNP, and Lancaster Farming. Peggy took helm of the companies in 2010 and did an extraordinary job of leading Steinman Communications.

More importantly, Peggy is a leader in our community in philanthropy, always working to make Lancaster County a better place. She served on the leadership boards of the United Way of Lancaster and, currently, works with the Steinman Foundation to improve the quality of life for people in our community. She loves our community and is always giving back. For that reason, I am honored to recognize her on the floor of the House today.

ILLEGAL ALIEN CRIME VICTIMS

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

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise, once again, to share stories of Americans who once were vibrant and alive but now are dead because Washington's open borders policies fail to protect our own people.

I yearn for the day when there are no more speeches like this to give because we have secured our borders and there are no more illegal alien killings to describe.

On average, roughly 2,000 illegal aliens are apprehended each year by Federal agents for homicides committed on American soil. Another, roughly, 120,000 illegal aliens are arrested each year for other criminal activity, including 50,000 assaults and 15,000 sexual assaults.

For emphasis, behind each statistic is a crime victim who would have been spared if America simply secured our porous southern border.

In Marshall County, Alabama, an illegal alien was recently arrested for first-degree rape of a 12-year-old girl. According to Marshall County Sheriff Phil Sims, the illegal alien had at least 10 different aliases, four different birth dates, and two prior deportations. In 2008, the illegal alien was charged with DUI in Louisiana and deported. In 2009,

the illegal alien was deported yet again for illegal reentry. This first-degree rape of a 12-year-old girl would have been prevented by proper border security.

In Mobile, Alabama, Sonya Jones was recently killed by an illegal alien charged with vehicular homicide and leaving the scene of a head-on collision. Sonya Jones was a teacher at Living Word Christian Center Kingdom Academy. One of Sonya's colleagues said that she had a smile that would light up the hallways.

The illegal alien who killed Sonya Jones is a prime example of how dangerous asylum laws and catch-and-release policies are to Americans. Sonya Jones' illegal alien killer entered America illegally and was captured by law enforcement but then released when he lied to claim asylum. As is so overwhelmingly often the case, Sonya Jones' illegal alien killer failed to show up in court on the asylum claim and, instead, disappeared, leaving at least one dead American in his wake.

Last week, in Washington State, Kittitas County Sheriff's Deputy Ryan Thompson was shot and killed by yet another illegal alien who legally entered America in Texas in 2014 on a temporary agricultural worker visa but illegally overstayed his visa after it expired. Deputy Ryan Thompson was married with three children and is the first law enforcement officer to be murdered in Kittitas County since 1927.

In 2005, in Milton, Pennsylvania, beautiful 20-year-old Carly Snyder loved animals and dreamed of being a veterinarian. Her dream ended when an illegal alien forcibly entered Carly's apartment, punched her in the face, knocked her to the floor, and stabbed her 37 times. Carly went into shock and died at the scene.

Mr. Speaker, Washington should have more sympathy and concern for the lives of Americans than illegal aliens. Unfortunately, Washington does not and, instead, puts illegal aliens on pedestals, above the interests of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, Americans have every right to expect Congress to defend American rights, and the most basic right is the right to life, the right to be protected from illegal alien killings that could so easily be avoided.

Tragically, Congress turns a blind eye to the lives and innocence of Americans stolen by illegal aliens. That is wrong.

President Trump is right to declare a national emergency to help save the lives of at least 30,000 Americans who are alive today but will be dead a year from now if we do not protect and secure America's southern border. As such, I will not hesitate to proudly vote to sustain President Trump's veto of socialist legislation that supports open-borders policies that aid and abet illegal aliens who kill Americans and aid and abet evil drug cartels that market their poisonous, deadly drugs that take American lives.

Mr. Speaker, Americans who die at the hands of illegal aliens had dreams, too.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 28 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Tony Lee, Community of Hope AME Church, Hillcrest Heights, Maryland, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we come today with a spirit of humility and gratitude. We come with the realization that this is the day that You have made, and we will rejoice and be glad in it. We thank You for the opportunity we are afforded to serve the least of these and the responsibility to remember the forgotten and lift the downtrodden. We ask this day for the courage to do the hard things and the vision to see beyond ourselves.

Empower the Members of this House to make a difference. Let their efforts be expressions of Your grace, reflections of Your justice, and manifestations of Your love.

It is our prayer, that when our time on this terrestrial sphere is over, that the works of this day will speak for us and we will hear You say, "Well done my good and faithful servants."

Lord, hear our prayer. In Jesus' name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. UNDERWOOD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. UNDERWOOD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND TONY LEE

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Madam Speaker, let me begin by wishing you a very happy birthday on behalf of the 435 Members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to introduce Reverend Tony Lee. He is the founder and senior pastor of the Community of Hope AME Church.

Reverend Lee is a pillar of our community in Prince George's County and the entire region, not just as a faith leader, but as an advocate for those in need.

I have had a longstanding relationship with him, partnering on a wide variety of issues, including domestic violence, building trust between the community and law enforcement, tackling poverty, and moving forward on social justice issues. And, during the month of January and February, we worked together during the government shutdown, serving working families who were struggling to make ends meet.

I have had the privilege of worshipping at Community of Hope many times over the years. The name of the church reflects its character: a community where we live and raise our families, where we pray and teach hope as a critical ingredient necessary for faith and our daily lives.

He is a preacher who speaks to people in a language they understand. He draws people into church who would not otherwise do so, going into every neighborhood and going down every street.

Reverend Tony Lee is the son of proud parents, Orlando Lee and Reverend Nancy T. Lee, who are joining us in the Capitol today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. ESCOBAR). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT IS NOT UNCONSTITUTIONAL

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I read with dismay this morning that the Justice Department and the current administration has decided to continue to treat the Affordable Care Act as an unconstitutional wrong committed by the House and the Senate and signed into law by the last administration. I can't believe that they are taking this position.

This has been a long national struggle that we have gone through. We have had this debate, we have had this discussion, and we have had this fight. And to say now that it continues to be unconstitutional, the way that they have said all along, we don't need to do this again. We have 10 to 20 million