

Quick to give God the glory and praise to his teammates, Trevor's humility speaks louder than his long list of athletic accomplishments. In a recent interview, Trevor said: "Football is important to me, obviously, but it is not . . . the biggest thing in my life. I would say my faith is."

From billboards along Joe Frank Harris Parkway, to the marquis outside the Cartersville Chick-fil-A, our community is expressing pride in their hometown football star, not only for what he has accomplished, but more so for who he is.

On behalf of the people of Georgia's 11th Congressional District, I congratulate Trevor Lawrence on his exceptional performance in the NCAA National Championship game, and I commend his parents for instilling in him a strong set of values and the encouragement and motivation to work hard to achieve success.

I applaud the Cartersville High School coach, Joey King, for recognizing Trevor's potential and helping to develop this champion of the gridiron.

I also congratulate the Clemson Tigers and head coach Dabo Swinney on an exceptional season and a well-earned national championship.

STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH AMERICA'S TEACHERS

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

Mr. GALLEGO. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of millions of our Nation's teachers who fight for our children's future every single day.

Last year, tens of thousands of educators from Arizona helped lead the Nation, walking out of their classrooms to protest cuts to schools and funding. They told me about outdated textbooks, overcrowded classrooms, and school supplies so limited that kids were taking tests with crayons.

They succeeded in securing much-needed pay raises for teachers. But the Arizona Legislature refused to provide sufficient money for support staff, classroom supplies, and other resources they need to effectively do their jobs. So, today, Arizona teachers and I are wearing red, because the fight to ensure that every child receives a quality education is not over.

Our students deserve better. They deserve fully funded schools with state-of-the-art classrooms to ensure our kids have the skills they need to succeed in a quickly changing world. They deserve the challenges and opportunities that come from taking advanced placement classes that promote academic achievement and extracurricular activities to stimulate creativity and a passion for lifelong learning. They deserve teachers, aides, administrative staff, and bus drivers who are paid a fair and living wage.

Instead, the State continues to short-change our children by asking educators to do more with less.

Madam Speaker, I know firsthand the importance of properly funding the public school system. I am a product of it. I would not have the honor to stand here today and advocate for teachers on the floor of the House of Representatives if it wasn't for the help and advice and mentorship of one of my own high school teachers, Mr. Gustafson—or Mr. G, as I called him—of Evergreen Park Community High School. He is just one example of the many passionate, selfless educators who inspire students every day.

That is why I stand today, tomorrow, and every day in solidarity with America's teachers demanding more resources for educators and the young people that they have dedicated their lives to.

Our Nation's future depends on it.

RECOGNIZING THE RUBIN FAMILY

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a family and a school community in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, that is working to keep the legacy alive for a young person taken too soon.

In 1998, Jason Rubin, then a 13-year-old student at Cecelia Snyder Middle School in Bensalem, tragically succumbed to a bacterial infection. Jason was a popular kid who loved sports and played on the school's basketball team.

Shortly after Jason's passing, his parents, Richard and Gail, set up a memorial fund in his honor. The fund assists our community in various capacities, including through scholarships for Bensalem High School students.

This year, the family wanted to do something different and special. Realizing Cecelia Snyder's scoreboard was outdated, the Rubin family dedicated a new scoreboard in memory of Jason D. Rubin, a fitting tribute for their basketball-loving son. A dedication ceremony with the Rubin family present was held last week.

Madam Speaker, we applaud the service of the Rubin family and members of the Cecelia Snyder school and their community, and we are all so proud to see Jason memorialized in such a meaningful way.

HONORING GRACE GODSHALK

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of a woman who lived a life defined by service, faith, and compassion.

Grace Godshalk passed away on December 15 at the age of 81. Born in Queens, New York, Grace moved to Bucks County in 1965, settling in Lower Makefield Township. Grace soon became a beloved member of our community and began devoting her time and her energy to local causes.

Later, in 1977, Grace became the first woman elected to the Lower Makefield Township Board of Supervisors. She served honorably for 30 years, retiring

in 2008, and, during her tenure, developed a reputation as a staunch supporter of open space initiatives, actively involved in the preservation of the Five Mile Woods Nature Preserve and the Patterson Farm.

Grace never lost her strength or her composure.

After her son, Bill, passed away in the terror attacks of 9/11, Grace played a pivotal role in the dedication of the Garden of Reflection to memorialize 9/11 victims.

Madam Speaker, our entire community sends our love to her daughter, Jane, and to her grandchildren. Grace is now reunited with her husband, James, and her legacy in our community will endure forever.

RECOGNIZING JAY SMITH

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a native of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and a community that has rallied around him in support.

Jay Smith graduated from Central Bucks West and was diagnosed with ALS in 2014. This month, a jazz concert, dubbed "Jazz for Jay," will be held to help Jay and his family pay for medical expenses.

Jay is a writer and an inventor, a husband to Melissa, and a father to Loghan and Peyton. Despite his declining health, he currently serves on the board of directors of a foundation, Every 90 Minutes, which serves to promote research for a cure for ALS.

While he currently lives in Texas, his ties to Bucks County run deep, and our community is proud to support him in this fight.

Madam Speaker, here in Congress, we must all do our part to ensure that our medical research community has the resources needed to fight and find a cure for ALS.

I would also like to thank those participating in the Jazz for Jay ceremony and activities, and the Smith family for their advocacy.

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SEAWALL CONSTRUCTION ON EAST SHORE OF STATEN ISLAND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ROSE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROSE of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce my introduction of a bill authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to grant an easement of Federal lands for the construction of a seawall on the east shore of Staten Island.

This is the first bill I am introducing, because, since Hurricane Sandy, which absolutely devastated my district, New York City, and the region as a whole, residents in my district have lived in fear of devastating flooding. They live in fear of another superstorm. They live in fear of heavy flooding. And they live in fear of the rising cost of flood insurance.

That fear is real for my constituents. But the question isn't whether the storm will hit again; it is when.

That is why the Army Corps of Engineers, along with Federal, State, and local agencies, have worked to develop a plan to protect the lives and livelihoods of Staten Islanders by building a seawall.

Federal, State, and local funding for this project already have been secured. All that remains is for Congress to pass my bill to allow for this critical construction to begin. I made a promise when I was sworn in that if something matters to the folks who live in my district—my constituents—well, then it matters to me. That is why I am here today, and that is why I will fight to pass this bill.

I commend my predecessor, Congressman Dan Donovan, who introduced similar legislation in the previous Congress, which passed the House on a bipartisan basis, demonstrating that, when we want to, we can unite in order to enact legislation that saves American lives.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues in Congress to act swiftly on this legislation so that we can allow construction to begin as soon as possible and bring some peace of mind to families worrying about that next storm, worrying that they are going to lose their homes.

In this time when government is shut down, it is damn time that we show the people of Staten Island, of South Brooklyn, of New York City, New York State, and the American people as a whole that government can do something positive.

DO WE HAVE A CRISIS ON THE SOUTHERN BORDER OR NOT?

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, first of all, we all are thinking about those loyal, hardworking Federal employees who are caught in the middle of the challenges that we face here in Washington. As with other battles, these employees will be paid for their time away from the workplace while they are on furlough.

So what is this all about? Do we have a crisis on the southern border or not? I would caution my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to use real numbers.

Are 400,000 illegal immigrants last year across the southern border too few or too many?

Are the 500 homicides by illegal immigrants in Texas over the past decade too few or too many?

Maybe the new Homeland Security Committee could hold a hearing and vet out all of these numbers. There is a problem with that: The committee is not organized yet, so they cannot meet. I would hope that they would, so we could put the facts on the table.

I look at the clips of large groups of illegals trying to rush the border. What has kept them from illegally entering? Well, the fence, the wall, the barrier. A wall system works. Sections of the bor-

der where fencing and walls have been built have seen a decrease in illegal immigration.

San Diego first built its wall in 1992. Illegal traffic dropped 92 percent over the past 23 years.

El Paso built their fence in 1993. Illegal traffic dropped 72 percent in 1 year and 95 percent over 22 years.

Tucson's wall was built in 2000. Illegal traffic dropped 90 percent over 15 years.

The wall in Yuma was built in 2005. Illegal traffic dropped 95 percent over 9 years.

Since walls work, they have historically held bipartisan support. In the fiscal year 2007, the DHS appropriations bill provided more than \$1 billion for fencing along the southwest border. It passed 412-6. Speaker PELOSI, Majority Leader HOYER, Majority Whip CLYBURN, and Homeland Security Chairman THOMPSON were among the "yes" votes.

Former President Barack Obama, in a Senate floor speech from the Secure Fence Act in 2006, said: "It will authorize some badly needed funding for better fences and better security along our borders, and that should help stem some of the tide of illegal immigration in this country."

The Secretary of Homeland Security under Obama, Janet Napolitano, reiterated: "You've got to have a system. You've got to have a system down there that includes boots on the ground, that has to include technology and fencing and infrastructure as part of the overall system."

It is time that we work together to compromise to reopen the government and secure our southern border. We can do this. I believe in this form of government, and I believe in this institution. Let's get to work.

America is an extraordinarily compassionate nation. We welcome immigrants seeking the opportunity to build a better life here, as well as refugees fleeing war, oppression, and poverty around the world. But even as we do this it is only appropriate that it is done legally.

AMERICAN OPTIMISM

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

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, during one of the most divisive times in American history, I rise today in a moment of American optimism.

In this freshly minted 116th Congress, the most diverse in our history, I welcome all new Members, young and old; Democrats and Republicans; from the North, South, East, or West; male or female; gay or straight; Jew or gentile. And I ask you to join me in this journey of optimism.

Today is the beginning of the rest of our history, the history of the opportunity we have before us to solve the Nation's critical issues that are happening today, the everyday problems that our people live with, in our diverse land.

Let us never forget who we are and the greatness we have shown the world. Let us never forget that this is the America that freed slaves, granted religious freedoms, fed the hungry, and welcomed the stranger; the America that spread democracy and freedom around the globe; the America that freed Europe and defended others from bullies and foes; the America that gave the world electricity and light. We put the first man on the Moon, flew the first woman across the pond, and created the internet and the iPhone and, yes, Facebook and Twitter, too.

We gave the world baseball and proudly root for our Olympians who lead the world in medals. We entertain the world with Hollywood, MTV, and American pop, hip-hop, Tejano, country, rock 'n' roll, and jazz music. We bring smiles and joy to children around the world through Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse.

We are also the country of the Mayo, Johns Hopkins, MD Anderson, and Cleveland clinics.

And all of this is while enjoying the largest economy in the world.

This is the America the world longs to be, and this is the America we have the responsibility to be, the America the world is still patiently and optimistically waiting and watching to see the next great thing we do. We are the America that came together in solidarity after 9/11. We are still that America.

To the young in this country, I promise you, you are going to be okay. There is a lot of reason to be optimistic, because I still believe that everyone serving in this body sincerely loves this country and, at the end of the day, rises to the occasion to do what is right for it.

There is nothing greater than staying united, conserving our creativity and work ethic while respecting our differences. The world is counting on us.

To you, America, I toast. I toast with a freshly brewed double espresso from Starbucks—yes, another American gem. That, my friends, is what makes America great. God bless the USA.

LONGWORTH-GARNER SPIRIT OF BIPARTISANSHIP

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

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, first, let me associate myself with the gentleman from Texas and his fine remarks about the strengths of this country and how this country has led the world in every way and is the envy of the world. I thank the gentleman from Texas for his inspirational remarks on this House floor.

Madam Speaker, I look forward, too, with optimism to the 116th Congress. I refuse to be pulled down by the vortex of negativism and profanity that is engulfing social media and cable television programming. Instead, I am