

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Red Raiders of Texas Tech and a new standard of excellence in west Texas.

Sports teaches us a lot about the game of life. It teaches us that anything worth doing is worth working hard for. It teaches us the virtue of competition, the value of setting ambitious goals, and the necessity of making sacrifices to achieve them.

Through sports, we learn how to work as a team, how to be resilient in the face of adversity, and how to display grace in victory as well as defeat.

No one embodies these traits better than Coach Beard and the Texas Tech men's basketball team who have earned their first trip to the Final Four.

Coach Beard says the tough times pass, but the tough people last. Let me tell you, these Red Raiders are as tough as west Texas.

To the team, listen to the coach: Four to one, four parts mental, one part physical.

To my fellow Americans, get your guns up because Texas Tech is in Minneapolis, and we are coming home with the national championship.

Go Tech.

CELEBRATING REAUTHORIZATION OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the bipartisan reauthorization today of the Violence Against Women Act.

In 2013, this legislation was one of the first votes I took as a new Member of Congress. This year, I was proud to be an original cosponsor of the bill to ensure survivors have access to essential services and justice.

It is a sad fact that VAWA remains critically important. Despite some progress, the rate of domestic violence remains far too high.

I recently acquired a painting created by a survivor of domestic violence. It is a beautiful scene of a woman standing in a field of sunflowers with a blue sky. But upon a closer look, you see the broken chains at her feet, chains representing her former prison of domestic abuse.

While the woman in the painting was fortunately able to break free, so many others cannot. Today's legislation helps both groups.

I am particularly glad that this year's bill makes improvements to help the victims of dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and increases resources available to vulnerable populations, including Native American women and the LGBTQ community.

In our communities, there are many local organizations doing amazing work to help women escape situations of domestic violence and rebuild their

lives, including A Safe Place in my district. I commend their work and the work of all groups like this across the Nation, and I hope this legislation will provide additional support and resources for their important mission.

□ 1315

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS AT SOUTHERN BORDER

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

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Madam Speaker, this week, as the humanitarian and security crisis at our southern border worsens, my colleagues across the aisle have failed to act. Instead, House Democrats chose to focus on issuing illegal subpoenas for the Mueller report, including its underlying evidence, investigative sources, and grand jury materials. House Democrats are effectively demanding that Attorney General Barr break the law.

For nearly 2 years, Democrats misled the American people about the special counsel's investigation. Now that it is clear that there was absolutely no collusion with Russia, my colleagues across the aisle are grasping at straws and completely ignoring the crisis at our southern border.

Daily border crossings at our southern border have hit levels that we have not seen in decades. Adding to the complexity and gravity of this crisis is the dramatic increase in the number of unaccompanied children and family units.

Customs and Border Protection apprehended more than 100,000 family unit aliens in 2018. That is up 600 percent since 2013. The overwhelming surge of migrants has stretched our facilities to a breaking point.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues across the aisle end the partisan showmanship and work with us to address this crisis.

HONORING REV. DR. ROBIN WEINSTEIN

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to honor an outstanding member of south Jersey. Rev. Dr. Robin Weinstein is a true believer in human potential and harnesses that power through extensive work and his community involvement.

In addition to being an associate professor at Wilmington University, he started the M25 Initiative to find ways to alleviate suffering, feed the hungry, end poverty, reduce crime, and revitalize the community.

Dr. Weinstein is also a cofounder of the Cumberland County Code Blue Coalition, which provides emergency winter shelter to those who are very much in need.

On top of all of these things, Dr. Weinstein serves as the founding pastor

of Bethany Grace Community Church in Bridgeton, New Jersey. Under his leadership, the church has started a weekly soup kitchen, monthly food pantry and clothing closet, showers for the homeless, and many other programs that provide for the people of south Jersey who so desperately need them.

His tireless efforts make an impact on the community that is felt far and wide.

The people of south Jersey appreciate all you do, Dr. Weinstein.

BORDER SECURITY

(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 pretty disturbing numbers released by Customs and Border Protection that help put our border crisis into perspective.

In 2018, Customs and Border Patrol agents and officers seized more than 1.7 million pounds of narcotics, including 1 million pounds of marijuana; 280,000 pounds of cocaine; 248,000 pounds of methamphetamine; 6,500 pounds of heroin; 2,400 pounds of fentanyl, which is enough doses to kill everyone in the United States; and 139,000 pounds of other illicit drugs.

It is also a humanitarian crisis. Border Patrol agents rescued from trafficking 4,300 men and women near the border last year. There is no telling how many more have been caught up in human trafficking that slipped through the cracks.

Border Patrol says nearly every sector across the Southwest border has exceeded their capacity. Each day, nearly half the agents on the Southwest border are diverted away from border security missions to instead care for, transport, and process family units and unaccompanied children.

Even former Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson of the Obama administration said that we have a crisis with these huge numbers.

Madam Speaker, we need to do our job and get this border crisis solved.

HONORING STEPHEN "POPS" CULVER

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

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life and legacy of Stephen "Pops" Culver.

Pops, as he was fondly known, lived his life to serve his country during the Vietnam war; his students as an elementary schoolteacher; and his community as an advocate for suicide prevention and awareness, something that was personal to him after the tragic loss of his son.

It was that sense of service that guided Pops on an epic 10,000-mile motorcycle ride across this great country to raise money for the brand-new Central Coast Veterans Cemetery on the former Fort Ord. During this trip, Pops and his fellow American Legion brothers of Post 31, Crash and Phin, the group known as the Black Sheep, carried an American flag, which you see here in this photo, from the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery to Arlington National Cemetery, where that flag was flown over the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Now on Memorial Day each year, that flag is flown over the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery to honor those who served and sacrificed.

Based on Pop's service, he was honored as the 2017 Veteran of the Year in Monterey County.

Today, we here in Congress honor Pops Culver not just as a veteran but as an American who not only served but understood and lived up to his obligation to serve those who served us.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, the bill that was entitled the Violence Against Women Act was passed in the House today, and I deeply regret it was not the kind of bipartisan bill that I feel like we should have had.

I don't know anybody in this Chamber who supports violence against women or who does not want to do what we can to stop it. We battled this out verbally in the Judiciary Committee.

It is so clear to me, having prosecuted sexual assaults of women who were battered and beat up badly by their husbands or partners, that it is such an egregious thing. I heard over and over as a felony judge in Texas about how traumatized the women were and potentially would be for the rest of their lives. I heard that, with counseling, they could work to avoid having the triggers that put them right back in the place where they were so badly abused.

More recent literature indicates that women who have been sexually assaulted seem to have a much higher percent—a number of times, apparently—more post-traumatic stress disorder after having been sexually abused than even soldiers have after combat. One suggestion in a study indicates that because soldiers are trained for what they go through, perhaps that reduces the amount of PTSD. There is no adequate training to prepare a woman for the kind of abuse that so many have suffered.

One of the triggers that I have heard about as a judge that could trigger this trauma, reliving the experience all

over again, is a woman being in a confined space and having a biological man come in to that confined space. We have heard of women assaulting men who have done that, some who may have been through sexual assault before.

I understand the idea of my colleagues across the aisle who want to help avoid hurting the feelings of biological men who think they are women, or according to the latest rendition of DSM-5, they are suffering from gender dysphoria, which is kind of the opposite of euphoria, but it basically is a confusion or a discomfort with one's biologically assigned gender.

So I get it. You don't want to make them feel bad. You don't want to hurt their feelings. So to avoid hurting their feelings, we would put so many women at risk.

A lot of folks I have heard say that one in four women will be sexually assaulted. If that is true, then that means that those who voted for this bill today would seek to punish again and again and again women who have suffered the outrageous and egregious assault sexually or being battered with no way out.

When my friend across the aisle, DEBBIE DINGELL, speaks of those fears and terrors as a child and abuse going on in the home, my heart goes out to her and anybody who has suffered like that.

But this is the United States Congress. Can't we have a bill that doesn't have a political aspect and that just tries to do the right thing by women who have suffered from sexual assault or being battered, and let them have a confined space without a biological man being forced into their traumatized world? Couldn't we agree on that? The answer is no.

DEBBIE LESKO, my friend and colleague also on the Judiciary Committee, has been such a victim. She had amendments. She spoke brilliantly about the suffering and what needed to be done to fix the bill. And yet, it was a political matter. It is too important that we not hurt the feelings of men who think they are women. Therefore, we are just going to let those women have to suffer. They just need to get over their trauma, their PTSD, their reliving the nightmare of a sexual assault over and over again. There is more regard for somebody's hurt feelings than someone else's. A woman's terror forces them over and over through such terror time and time again.

I read a story about a woman seeing a man and freaking out and started to assault him. If a woman has been through a sexual assault before, my heart goes to her, not for the guy who walks in and traumatized her so.

Yet if the majority here has their way, that bill would become law. Those traumatized women would be condemned to be traumatized repeatedly at the demand of the Democratic majority in Congress, in the House here.

□ 1330

I really would have hoped we could have had a bill that we could all, of one accord, say: This is right. This is the thing to do by women.

But we can't get a bill to the floor to try to protect unborn women, unborn girls.

In China, the abortion rate of girls is dramatically higher than that of boys, because they think—they haven't been like me and had three girls. They don't know how wonderful it is. So they think: Gee, if I am only going to be allowed to have one child, I prefer it be a boy.

And there is outrageous discrimination—a real, true war on women—going on in China. And China has yet to feel the destructive results of what they have required.

But that is a war, killing an unborn child because she happens to be biologically female. But we haven't heard condemnation about such practice in this Congress, and that is a legitimate war on women, children who were never given the chance to live simply because—not to live outside the womb simply because they are biologically women. It's very tragic.

I hope the Senate will use some common sense and have a heart for the women who have been victims of assault. And I know. I have seen it. I have heard it. As a prosecutor, I was frustrated by it, when a woman would come in, beat to a pulp, black and blue, all bruised up and scarred. You want to put her husband in prison forever, doing that to anybody, and especially a woman who could not defend herself.

And, time and again—too often, the experts will tell you, those who prosecute a lot—the woman will come back and say: You know what, now that everything has healed, it is really my fault.

And they have this idea that somehow they deserved that kind of beating when they didn't at all. As a judge, there were so many times that I told young children—you could tell they blamed themselves for a sexual assault—without the jury around, you need to understand this was not your fault. You didn't deserve this. You never did anything to deserve it. This was a crime committed against you. You were the victim, and don't ever think that you deserved it, or you are the guilty party.

Because it is amazing. Some men have the ability to make their victims think they are the ones at fault.

Yet, for those who suffer the trauma again, having a man confront them in a very confined space, they are going to be condemned to relive it over and over again. It is very unfortunate.

Hopefully, wisdom will win out and the Senate will help us have a bill that really considers the women and the damage done by the full complement, if you want to call it that, of this Violence Against Women Act, as it was labeled.