

improvements, exceptional teamwork, and their partnership with the surrounding civilian community.

I am proud to have these installations in Georgia, and in turn, these installations make me even more proud of our military in the United States.

Thank you for your service. Congratulations on your award.

MARYLAND MOURNS THE PASSING OF SPEAKER MICHAEL BUSCH

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was the last day of the session of the General Assembly in Maryland.

Sadly, the day before, on Sunday, the longest serving speaker of the house of delegates—as we call our house of representatives—died on Sunday, and I rise to pay tribute to him.

He was a great American, a great public servant, and a very dear friend.

Maryland lost a champion. Michael Busch, Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates, passed away after a long and distinguished career serving the people of our State.

He was young; he was 72 years of age, and the longest serving speaker, as I said, in the history of the house of delegates.

He had served as speaker of the house since 2003, having first been elected to represent Anne Arundel County in the house of delegates in 1986.

His title was Mr. Speaker; many, however, knew him as “Coach,” a reminder of his days as a teacher and athletics coach at St. Mary’s High School in Annapolis.

It was at St. Mary’s High School that Michael Busch first made a name for himself as a very excellent football player. He later played at Temple University, and for 40 years, he worked with the Anne Arundel County, Department of Parks and Recreation with young people, teaching them, mentoring them, giving them values.

Many who served with him in the legislature called him “Coach,” not just because of his history, but because Speaker Busch was like a coach and a mentor to so many of those who served in the house of delegates.

He was a man of deep intellect, poise, steadiness under pressure, and a wellspring of compassion.

He led efforts to expand access to quality, affordable healthcare for Marylanders. He helped lead efforts to make Maryland one of the first States to adopt marriage equality by legislative action, an action that was later confirmed by the voters of our State.

He led the State in its effort to abolish the death penalty, and he oversaw the enactment of Maryland’s \$15 minimum wage. And he worked hard to ensure a cleaner Chesapeake Bay and its watershed for future generations while increasing investments in renewable energy.

Earlier this week, the General Assembly overrode the Governor’s veto to

enact Speaker Busch’s bill to protect five oyster sanctuaries in the Bay.

Michael Busch’s positive impact on Maryland will be felt for, literally, decades to come.

He was a good and decent person who sought to elevate our politics during an age when too many, unlike him, had brought our politics low.

I hope my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, would join me in expressing our condolences to his wife, Cindy, their daughters, Erin and Megan, and to the entire Busch family and to the people of Maryland he served so faithfully for so many years.

I hope all of us in this House will find inspiration in Speaker Busch’s life and legacy as we strive to do right by those we serve, as he did for so many years, and to do so together in a way that is bipartisan, as was his inclination and performance; and be reflective of the way he lived his life and approached the work of governing.

In an age where, as I said, politics has been brought low by divisiveness, and in some respects, hatefulness and attacks on one another, Michael Busch was somebody who treated others with respect, with consideration, and with fairness.

Michael Busch served Maryland well. He served our people well. He will be missed.

IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of National Library Week, which began on Sunday and runs through Saturday, April 13.

This year’s theme is “Libraries = Strong Communities,” and Melinda Gates is the honorary chair.

In the last 20 years, the Gates Foundation’s Global Libraries initiative has been dedicated to enhancing libraries and empowering local communities.

National Library Week is an annual celebration highlighting the valuable role libraries, librarians, and library workers play in transforming lives and strengthening our communities.

Mr. Speaker, libraries have always been great equalizers in our society. Nearly 1.3 billion people visit public libraries every year, according to the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

They are at the heart of our cities, towns, schools and campuses, providing critical resources, programs, and expertise. Libraries provide a public space where all community members—regardless of age, culture, or income level—can come together to connect and learn.

First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is an observance sponsored by the American Library Association and libraries across the country each April.

It is a time to celebrate the contributions of our Nation’s libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support. All types of libraries, including schools—public, academic, and special—participate.

There are several celebrations throughout the week, including today, which is National Library Workers Day. It is a time to show appreciation for the staff, administrators, and Friends groups, and recognize the valuable contributions made by all library employees.

Tomorrow is National Bookmobile Day, which is celebrated today to recognize contributions of our Nation’s bookmobiles and dedicated professionals who make outreach possible and books accessible in our rural communities.

Mr. Speaker, from the largest library in the world, the Library of Congress, to the smallest local libraries around, I hope Americans will support their local libraries this week with a visit.

A PLEA NOT TO REINSTATE THE FAMILY SEPARATION POLICY

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise. And I rise because I love my country. I rise today on a mission of mercy.

I am on a mission of mercy for people that I will likely never meet and greet. Perhaps by some fortuitous circumstance, I may encounter some of them, but I know not who they are currently in the sense that I know them personally.

I rise on behalf of the many people who are seeking asylum, and I do so, Mr. Speaker, because it has been reported on many news stations—outlets, if you will—that our President intends to reinstate the family separation policy.

I rise on a mission of mercy, and I make an appeal to the most powerful man on the planet Earth. My appeal is that you would not—N-O-T—you would not reinstate this policy.

I beseech you to please, Mr. President, treat these people the way you would want to be treated if you found yourself in similar circumstances. I beg that you would understand that separating babies from mothers is unacceptable by any standard that we know of.

No one supports the notion of taking babies from their mothers, children from their parents.

□ 1015

So I am begging and pleading with the President of the United States of America, the most powerful man on Earth: Please, Mr. President, do not reinstate this policy.

I also appeal to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to encourage the President to do the right thing, the just thing.

If we are not pleased with the laws in this country, we have a means by which we can address the law. If we believe that something is unacceptable, there is a way for us to address it. The way to address this problem is with immigration reform.

I beg the President and all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle: Please, let's try to resolve this with legislation. Let's not do what we have done and, quite frankly, have not atoned for.

Some of the children are still not back with their parents who were separated previously. This is the United States of America. This is not what we do. We don't take children from their parents and then place them in places where we cannot find them such that we can reunite them.

This is my appeal, Mr. President. I make the appeal because, as a Member of Congress, I believe that at some point we are going to have to account for the actions that we engage in while we are here. I don't want it on my record that while I was in the Congress of the United States of America and I had the opportunity to at least speak to power, to speak truth to power, and make an appeal on behalf of those who are among the least, the last, and the lost—I am making my appeal. I am doing what I can to help those who are fleeing harm's way.

Mr. President, you don't have to do this, and I beg that Members of both parties would please encourage him not to do so.

This is a moment for us to reflect and a moment for us to demonstrate to the world that what we preach, we will practice. We have, for years, encouraged other countries to take in refugees. We have gone so far as to pay countries to take in refugees. We have funded countries to take in refugees. We ought to practice what we preach.

Those who are not qualified should not come, should not be brought into our country. But I would also say this, that we should not say to the world: Go back, refugees, asylum seekers. You are not welcome in the United States of America.

This is not the country that would proclaim such a thing. Our laws we stand on, and I stand on those laws.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF MUCAAD HUSSEIN ABDALLA

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

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Mucaad Hussein Abdalla, known by his friends and family as Siraaj.

Last month, a tragic incident took the lives of 157 individuals when an airplane crashed in Ethiopia. This unfortunate event took the lives of eight Americans, and one of those individuals was Mucaad Hussein Abdalla.

Mucaad was a member of our community. Growing up in St. Cloud, Minnesota, he graduated from St. Cloud Apollo High School and began a career as a truck driver.

To his friends and family, Mucaad was simply known by his nickname, Siraaj, meaning a light or a lamp. He brought laughter, joy, and light to those around him.

We extend our most sincere condolences to his family and loved ones for their loss.

THANKING KORIANN CARTER AND THE UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL MINNESOTA

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize community resource navigator KoriAnn Carter and the United Way of Central Minnesota for working together on a pilot program to assist students and families at Lincoln Elementary School with food, housing assistance, mentoring, and after-school programs.

In addition, I want to recognize the work KoriAnn does through a program called Girls On Arise To Succeed in partnership with the Roosevelt Boys & Girls Club, McKinley Area Learning Center, and CentraCare Health, which brings young girls together to discuss important life topics and provide guidance.

For young women encountering family issues, experiencing homelessness, or struggling with mental health issues, this group gives them a space to talk to adults who care. Girls between 12 and 18 can participate in one of the girls groups where they learn lessons in healthy habits, the importance of education, how your current actions impact your future choices, leadership skills, goal setting, and gratitude.

These groups have transformed students throughout the St. Cloud area, giving them an avenue to succeed as well as find community and fellowship.

I thank KoriAnn and all the partners who make this possible. Their work to foster the next generation of leaders makes our corner of the world a better place.

CONGRATULATING ST. CLOUD VA

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the St. Cloud VA for being one of only 18 hospitals nationwide to be selected to participate in the Department of Veterans Affairs' efforts to establish the highest level of care for our military veterans.

Our veterans and our community rely on the St. Cloud VA to provide the highest level of care possible already. So to those of us in the community, it comes as no surprise that our VA will now help lead the Nation and the VA system to help establish these standards.

The selection is a great honor and testament to everyone who makes the St. Cloud VA the success it is today. The opportunity to lead our VA system to the highest standard of care for our Nation's heroes is indeed a high calling.

Congratulations to the St. Cloud VA, and good luck in your mission.

RECOGNIZING STEVENS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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

Mr. Sires. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a university in my district that has demonstrated leadership and innovation in STEM education.

Stevens Institute of Technology, located in Hoboken, New Jersey, has been leading the way with a rigorous technical curriculum that attracts the attention of some of the Nation's most sought-after companies and industries.

The university continues to develop new ways in which to augment the success of their students, and I was pleased to hear recently about inventive initiatives that support the success of underserved and underrepresented students.

It is telling that the applications have increased 191 percent, and undergraduate enrollment has seen a 41 percent growth. Moreover, the graduation rate has impressively risen to 87 percent with Pell grant recipients graduating at a rate of 91 percent. This is well above the national averages, which are 59 percent and 51 percent, respectively.

There is a reason. Forbes magazine recently called Stevens "one of the most desirable STEM colleges in the Nation."

Upon graduation, 96 percent of Stevens graduates either get a job in their field, with an average starting salary of over \$70,000, or enter graduate school within 6 months.

Not only is Stevens producing students who are highly skilled and prepared for the professional world, but Stevens is also at the forefront of cutting-edge research in areas of national importance, such as artificial intelligence and quantum computing. In a recent National Science Foundation competition for quantum engineering, Stevens won two out of eight grants awarded.

There are over 40,000 Stevens alumni who are essential to the economic progress of New Jersey and the Nation. I am proud to represent the university that acts as a trailblazer in scientific innovation.

I would like to recognize President Farvardin for his leadership, and I look forward to the continued success of Stevens and its students.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GERALD ALEXANDER KNIGHT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. Norman) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great American, Gerald Alexander Knight, who was born on April 11, 1944. He was the middle child of five children born to his parents, Woodrow and Virda Knight.