

RECOGNIZING COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR CAROL WARREN-CLARK

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Command Sergeant Major Carol Warren-Clark on her retirement after serving over 30 years in our United States Armed Forces.

She has dedicated her time in the military to healthcare, administering it in nearly every capacity imaginable to keep our soldiers healthy.

In Afghanistan, she was responsible for medical evacuation plans. At Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, CMS Warren-Clark directed all inpatient services.

She also led a medical team for the 57th Presidential inauguration.

Her latest position has been as command sergeant major for the Winn Army Community Hospital located in the First Congressional District of Georgia, where her ability to increase efficiency and readiness has shined. By decreasing administrative costs 5 percent at the hospital and boosting soldier deployment readiness 5 percent, she has made significant contributions to every soldier and our military as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Command Sergeant Major Warren-Clark for her commitment and her service to our Nation.

Enjoy your retirement, and congratulations.

THE POWERS OF WAR ARE EN-TRUSTED TO THE UNITED STATE CONGRESS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as the Judiciary Committee sits at this time to uphold the rule of law, I want to make sure that the American people understand the role of the United States Congress, that is, to represent the people, to engage in oversight and truth.

As a student of the Mideast, a visitor of the Mideast on behalf of this country on any number of occasions, and, of course, throughout the Iraq war, and, of course, also visiting that area of the world during the Afghan war, I know what our soldiers go through. Boots on the ground.

I can never live their life, but I am very concerned about the presence of the U.S. military by way of a naval ship that is in the Mideast at this time. No explanation has been given to the American people.

The Secretary of State makes a surprise visit to Iraq.

I simply want to say that the powers of war are entrusted to the United States House of Representatives, the United States Congress.

It is inappropriate for there to be saber rattling by this administration with Iran with no explanation as to why we send young men and women into harm's way. We should not use one approach to start a war to overcome an approach dealing with the investigation of the rule of law. I oppose any such saber rattling.

We need to understand what is going on in the Mideast. We have to protect the men and women of the United States military, though, they fight for us.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT JOSHUA BRAICA

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, sadly, I rise today to honor a fallen U.S. marine from my district in northern California.

Staff Sergeant Joshua Braica from Auburn, California, tragically died on Sunday, April 14, when his vehicle rolled over during a training accident at Camp Pendleton in California.

We, like many in Placer County in northern California, are mourning the loss of one of our own, one of our best and brightest.

Joshua had been in the Marine Corps for more than 8 years, deploying twice and serving as a critical skills operator with the 1st Raider Battalion.

By all accounts, Joshua was an all-American guy who was greatly admired by his friends, neighbors, and his fellow Marines.

At such a young age, he is a decorated and highly trained soldier, with many awards and many medals to his name.

He is the oldest of five siblings and is survived by his wife and his son.

I am praying for all of them, and I hope that all Members will join me in doing so as well at this difficult time.

One thing is for sure: Joshua has certainly made his community and his country proud.

God bless Joshua and his family again at this time of need and tragedy.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY NORMA CÁRDENAS

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I want to start off by thanking two individuals who came to this country for a better life: Luis Sanchez and Elvira Sanchez.

They were married, and they had their first daughter, Norma, and some years later, I was fortunate to fall in love with her.

Now, some years later, we have been married, raised four beautiful children. They look like their mother. We now have two grandchildren.

Tomorrow is the day that I get to celebrate that the love of my life was born. No, I am not going to say how many years ago. Tomorrow is her birthday, and here I am in Washington.

I have been doing this job, this career, for 22 years, and I must say, sometimes I am lucky enough to be there to celebrate anniversaries and birthdays and sometimes I am not, but I just wanted to take this opportunity to say happy birthday to the love of my life and my number one constituent. And, yes, my grandchildren live in my district, so they are my constituents, too.

It is a tough call, but, Norma, you are my number one constituent. Happy birthday.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. 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 gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I bring to the floor a topic very near and dear to my heart, and I rise today to recognize the entire month of May as Mental Health Awareness Month.

I cochair the Congressional Mental Health Caucus along with my Republican colleague, Mr. JOHN KATKO from New York, and we work to educate Members of Congress and their staff on the work still needed to expand mental health access and protections, and also to reduce the ever-present stigma.

The topic of mental health in Congress has and is building momentum, and it is spurring action to increase delivery of mental health services, something I have worked to do for over 2 decades.

This year alone, our House Mental Health Caucus has grown from 47 Members of Congress to 92. However, mental health still affects millions of Americans of all ages, genders, races, and remains woefully underfunded and misunderstood.

Suicide currently plagues our veteran community. Roughly 20 veterans per day take their own lives, according to the VA.

A 2005 to 2016 Department of Veterans Affairs' Suicide Data Report found that the veteran suicide rate is 1.5 times greater than the nonveteran population, with over 6,000 veterans dying by suicide each year.

In the Hispanic community, my own community, approximately one in ten individuals with mental illness use

mental health services from a general health provider, while only one in 20 receive such services from a mental health specialist.

Machismo and other cultural tendencies are preventing our loved ones from being open and honest about what might be troubling them. The stigma ranks high.

We must continue to let our loved ones know that there is absolutely zero, I reiterate, zero shame in asking for help and that seeking support is a sign of strength.

We also have seen that one in four Latina adolescent children, I say children because they are still children, report contemplating suicide, a rate higher than any other demographic.

The increasing diversity of our country underlines both the need and the importance of assessing culturally and linguistically appropriate services.

The 2018 election focused on healthcare and the future of the Affordable Care Act, ACA.

One of ACA's most critical successes was increasing mental health service and delivery. Insurance companies for decades denied coverage for patients needing mental health services.

We inserted provisions to end this appalling practice and made mental health an essential part of basic coverage, including screenings and other preventive services.

Together, we made sure that no American is discriminated against when seeking mental health care, and that mental health and substance abuse, these disorders, are covered equal to physical illnesses like diabetes, asthma, high blood pressure, and other illnesses.

As we head into 2019, these reforms and the ACA must be strengthened so more Americans seek the lifesaving care they need.

We must also continue to look at what is being done locally to support access to mental health services.

In 2001, Pacific Clinics, a nonprofit, and I started a school-based mental health program with \$500,000 seed money from SAMHSA, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

The program began in three middle schools and one high school. The schools were very reluctant at first, because of the stigma connected to it and the fear of being labeled “crazy schools.”

□ 1430

We kept pushing forward, and the program has now grown to 35 schools, with a waiting list.

The program serves as a model for H.R. 1109, the Mental Health Services for Students Act, which would provide \$200 million for 100 school-based mental health programs nationwide.

Senator TINA SMITH of Minnesota has also introduced a Senate companion, S. 1122, and we are very grateful for her support.

We knew that if we started early with children, we could help them suc-

ceed and save lives. But stigma remains a big barrier preventing many parents from getting their children the care they need.

We all need to continue sharing the message that it is always okay to seek help. If we address issues early, we can help students and their families succeed in and out of the classroom.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the County Department of Mental Health have been instrumental in the success of this program. The Department of Mental Health for Los Angeles County took on funding the program when SAMHSA funding ended in 2009.

Seeing the success of this program, Supervisors Barger and Hahn, in January 2019, directed the Department of Mental Health to identify funding and to develop a countywide plan to provide school-based mental health services. Countywide means to 14 million people.

In April 2019, the board of supervisors formally adopted a plan to funding for pilot sites, to hire additional mental health professionals, and to develop a Mental Health First Aid pilot program that would educate students.

Beyond stigma reduction and educating loved ones of warning signs and symptoms, we need to ensure that we have a reliable workforce to be able to deliver lifesaving services to all in need, regardless of their ZIP Code. There is a national shortage of trained mental health professionals, and the California Future Health Workforce Commission has stated that, without dramatic policy changes, California will have 41 percent fewer psychiatrists and 11 percent fewer psychologists, marriage and family therapists, clinical counselors, and social workers than needed by 2030.

Recognizing this, I, along with my colleague, Mr. KATKO, reintroduced H.R. 2431, the Mental Health Professionals Workforce Shortage Loan Repayment Act of 2019.

My Mental Health Caucus co-chair is wonderful in this sense, and I thank him for that.

This bill would expand the mental health workforce by providing loan reimbursement to mental health professionals who commit to working in underserved areas.

Our work continues, but it can't be limited to this Congress or any other Congress. I encourage all to get involved, educate yourselves, and share resources with friends and family. If you see somebody who has fallen on hard times, reach out, help them out, and, if needed, refer them to a mental health services provider. Together, we can continue to build a movement and eventually live in a world where there is no stigma, or it is very much reduced.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO), my friend.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month.

At the outset, I want to thank my colleague, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, for being a partner in this and a leader in this issue for a long time. I am honored to speak with her on this issue. Many of my comments today are going to echo the sentiments that she just spoke here in Congress, but it bears repeating, in my own words.

Throughout May, my colleagues and I will bring attention to the impact of mental illness on American society, as well as Congress' role in addressing mental healthcare issues facing the country. It is an honor to collaborate with my colleagues in the Congressional Mental Health Caucus, including Mrs. NAPOLITANO, to raise awareness for mental illness, reduce the stigma surrounding mental illness, and create legislation that improves mental health outcomes for all Americans.

Mental illnesses have a devastating effect on those struggling to live with them. This includes changes in mood, social interactions, sleep patterns, and eating habits. Sadly, the most extreme consequences that occur all too often for mental illness are when individuals inflict self-injury or take their life.

Here are some statistics that should stun everybody.

Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death, and it is the 2nd leading cause of death among Americans aged 24 and younger. Let me repeat that. The 10th leading cause of death for all Americans is suicide, and for Americans aged 24 and younger, it is the 2nd leading cause of death. That is stunning.

Approximately 1.4 million Americans attempt suicide each year, and over 47,000 Americans lose their life to suicide each and every year.

The United States has 3,700 suicide attempts daily and 129 suicide deaths per day. This equates to one suicide every 12 minutes. By the time I finish this speech, statistics will have it that another person will have taken their life. That should wake people up in this country.

Not only does suicide have severe emotional costs on families and communities, it also has a huge cost to our economy. It is estimated that suicide and self-injury reduce the economic output of the United States by nearly \$70 billion a year.

The suicide epidemic is responsible for nearly the same amount of deaths in the United States as another major crisis, one that gets far more attention, and rightfully so, that being the opioid epidemic. It is estimated that opioids were the cause of 47,600 deaths in America last year, only a few hundred more than suicide.

While solving the opioid crisis has received ample funding and attention, and rightfully so, reducing suicide and improving mental health treatment deserves the same recognition. We fall far short of that now, far short of that.

To give you an example, the Zika virus came about in this country, and, of course, it was a terrible virus with terrible consequences. Congress

promptly enacted \$1.6 billion to address it. A total of one person died from the Zika virus. Of course, there were many other health problems that were attributed to it.

Again, the \$1.6 billion that was appropriated was rightfully so. Nowhere near that much is appropriated for mental health and suicide research on a yearly basis. The National Institutes of Health needs the money.

Congress has a responsibility to assist individuals experiencing mental health challenges through effective legislation and research subsidies. Congress should advance policies that increase America's access to mental healthcare treatment as a mechanism for preventing self-harm incidents and suicide attempts.

Just one-third of Americans with mental illness receive treatment—just one-third. Our country is in desperate need of additional trained therapists, psychologists, and counselors. This lack of access can be partly attributed to a shortage of mental healthcare professionals in certain communities.

In order to establish a more reliable supply of mental healthcare professionals, Congresswoman GRACE NAPOLITANO and I recently introduced the Mental Health Professionals Workforce Shortage Loan Repayment Act of 2019.

Our bill delivers professionals to areas that require mental healthcare experts the most by forgiving their secondary education student loans. It invests in bolstering our mental health workforce, while expanding treatment for Americans with mental illness.

I am proud to stand by my colleague across the aisle, GRACE NAPOLITANO, in pushing this most important bill.

Americans across the country, regardless of age, social status, or background, are affected by mental illness. Mental Health Awareness Month serves as an opportunity for any of my congressional colleagues, Republican or Democrat, to join the conversation.

I can't think of a more bipartisan action than what we are talking about today. Together—together—we can improve mental health outcomes for Americans across the country by engaging in thoughtful discussion and crafting efficient policies.

Finally, it is an honor, once again, to co-chair the Congressional Mental Health Caucus with Congresswoman NAPOLITANO. I am grateful for her continued leadership, her commitment to this issue, her stewardship, and her mentorship to me on it, as well.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, it is wonderful to hear all the work that Mr. KATKO has done on mental health. He has been exceptional in this field, and I thank him for all his support. Working together is a pleasure.

What is mental health? If somebody says you belong in a crazy house, not so. It could be a child in school, a middle school, suffering the effects of bullying, or somebody who has had trauma, a shooting or something that affects them, and it won't go away and it festers when they grow older.

Forty percent of the incarcerated need mental health services. Foster children, who are unaware of what their next step will be after they are emancipated, need mental health support.

That can just go on and on. It is something that is needed. Somehow, we are not doing our job.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

NO PERSON IS ABOVE THE LAW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise. I rise, Mr. Speaker, because I love my country. I love what it stands for.

Mr. Speaker, I am a person who sings the national anthem. I salute the flag. But I also respect those who, as a matter of principle, choose not to do as I. I love my country.

I believe that one of the hallmarks of our justice system is the concept that no person is above the law—no person. It doesn't matter where you were born; it doesn't matter where you happen to be in life; it doesn't matter what office you happen to hold. No person is above the law.

This is something that people revere us for the world over, the belief that in this country you will not be above the law. But they also understand that, in doing this, no person will be beneath the law. The law applies equally to all in the United States of America.

I believe in this concept to the extent that I will stand alone and say that the President of the United States is not to be above the law. And I will stand alone because, on some things, it is better to stand alone than not stand at all.

So I will stand alone and say to the world that, in this country, wherein we indicate in the Pledge of Allegiance liberty and justice for all, in this country, wherein we recognize that all persons are created equal and endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights, in this country, no person is above the law.

When it comes to the law as it relates to the President of the United States of America, the place where the President is brought before the bar of justice is this House of Representatives. This is the place where the law and the President will come together.

And in this place, because of the Constitution of the United States of America, Article II, Section 4, if a President commits impeachable acts, the President is brought before this bar of justice—not brought here in person, but those acts are called to the attention of the House of Representatives.

Each Member of the House can do so, and in so doing, each Member can have what is called a privileged resolution presented. When this resolution is pre-

sented, a President who is believed to have committed an impeachable act can be brought before this House, this bar of justice. Those acts can be voted upon.

□ 1445

This is the only place on the planet Earth where a President of the United States can be brought to justice while in office, in this House of Representatives.

This is why I have stood my ground. I have said that this President, who has committed impeachable acts, must be brought before the House of Representatives for his impeachable acts, his impeachable behavior.

I marvel at those who would say that the President has done things that merit his impeachment but would then go on to say, "But I don't think we should impeach him."

They will say they don't think so because if we do so, the President won't be convicted in the Senate.

The Constitution of the United States of America does not require a conviction in the Senate before there is impeachment in the House. The House acts first, and then the Senate is given the opportunity to give its response.

In this House of Representatives, it is imperative that we let the world know because the world is watching. The world is watching the United States of America, which means it is really watching this House of Representatives.

They want to see if we are going to allow a President who has committed impeachable acts—they want to see if we are going to allow him to escape the long arm of the law. They want to see whether or not we truly believe that no one is above the law, and that includes the President of the United States of America.

We must act.

Mr. Mueller has taken up the cause. We outsourced the investigation to the executive branch of the government, which was not the appropriate thing to do. The Framers of the Constitution never intended that the agents of the executive branch investigate the chief executive officer, which would be the President, for impeachment purposes. That was never contemplated.

They gave us Article II, Section 4, so that we, the Members of this august body, would take up our duty, our responsibility, and our obligation.

They gave us the way. The question is, do we have the will?

Mr. Mueller has done his job. He has submitted to us his report. That report alone is enough for us to bring Articles of Impeachment.

That report is based upon persons giving statements that were subject to the penalty of perjury if they should give untruthful statements.

It is clearly a roadmap to impeachment. Mr. Mueller has so much as said—not in these exact words, but when you understand the import of his language, he has so much as said that