

Army—17—and, boy, was his father mad. But from a young age, Sy didn't let anything get in the way of serving others.

During World War II, Sy served this country bravely in the 2nd Army 2nd Corps Division under General George S. Patton.

Sy fought for 3 years, advancing through Italy, France, and Germany. Sy was severely wounded while building a bridge to cross the Rhine River into Germany. For his heroism, Sy earned three Battle Stars and two Purple Hearts.

But Sy's service to our Nation did not end with his military service. Sy was a lifelong advocate for our local veterans. For 25 years, Sy served as the commander of the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 78 in the Coachella Valley. His leadership helped countless veterans find healing, community, and a sense of purpose. Over the years, Sy also helped many homeless veterans find homes and jobs. Sy would show up to every townhall, every event, and every community forum, always ready to make his voice heard.

Shortly after I became a Member of Congress, I remember Sy knocking on my door and asking: "Who is this young guy? What does he know about veterans?"

I sat down with Sy, and I immediately recognized his expertise and, more importantly, his heart. That is why I asked Sy to serve on my veterans advisory board and help my office connect veterans with the healthcare and benefits they have earned and deserve.

Sy said: "Hell, yeah. Let's do this."

When Sy came to our meetings, he would often bring along a veteran in need, and before we started the day's agenda, Sy would give that veteran the space to tell their story. That was Sy Kaplan: a devoted advocate who recognized that good leaders also have to be good listeners.

Sy became one of the visionaries behind Veterans University, my annual event to connect veterans with local and Federal resources. Among his many accomplishments, Sy was instrumental in bringing the Palm Desert VA Clinic to the Coachella Valley. Sy would often visit the clinic to, in his own words: "Make darn sure all of my vets from the Coachella Valley are getting good care."

Last year, it was my honor to present Sy with the Shirley Powell award in recognition of his service to local veterans in our communities. I looked to Sy as a trusted adviser and a dear, dear friend.

Sy was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Doris, and his daughter Ellen. He is survived by his daughter Ilona and a loving community grateful for his leadership and compassion.

I will always remember Sy's blue Disabled Veterans of America shirt, his baseball cap, his energy, and his infectious smile. In Sy's honor, let's make "darn sure," as he would say, that we carry his memory in our hearts.

REPORT ON H.R. 2779, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2020

Mr. RYAN, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 116-64) on the bill (H.R. 2779) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

COMMENDING PRESIDENT TRUMP FOR NOT WAIVING THE JONES ACT

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

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise here today commanding President Trump for not waiving the Jones Act.

This is a hypothetical picture, thank goodness, a Chinese-built vessel, subsidized by their communist regime, operated by the Chinese, and delivering Chinese goods, all in the very heartland of the United States of America. But this could easily become a reality if the Jones Act is waived.

For the past 100 years, the Jones Act has brought strength and certainty to maritime commerce here in the United States. It has protected the rights of American sailors, created and maintained American jobs, and been one of the single largest factors in facilitating the strong American economy that we are enjoying.

The Jones Act states that goods shipped between U.S. ports are to be built, owned, and operated by the citizens of the United States, and to support the Jones Act would be an easy decision to continue promoting the polity of America first.

To waive the Jones Act would be to directly jeopardize our national security, our economic growth, and our ability to provide American jobs all across this country. Worst of all, waiving the Jones Act would be allowing these foreign-operated ships into our waterways and could be opening the door to espionage. These foreign vessels would have the potential to literally threaten our national security by exposing our waterways to very real threats.

Not only has the Jones Act played a vital role in economic growth, but it has and continues to play a very large role in disaster recovery and the efforts of emergency response. Take a look at the photos of New York City after the attack on 9/11. You will see the Hudson River and the East River full of American vessels who quickly came to the rescue. Or how about all of the supplies delivered to the coastal communities after catastrophic hurricanes?

The list goes on to include the cleanups of oil spills, fires, and nautical ac-

cidents. Americans are always there, and the Jones Act makes that possible.

The Jones Act creates stability and certainty to the maritime and shipping industry. Taking away the Jones Act strips this industry of job and market availability and stability, handing it over to foreign countries to cheaply fill the role through questionable labor practices and lower standards of performance. It would singlehandedly jeopardize one of the Nation's most reliable and strongest of our economic drivers.

As a conservative Republican, I am well aware that many groups and thought leaders here in Washington and back in Texas, whom I respect and agree with on most of the other issues, do not share my view on the Jones Act, and they are actively working to try to weaken or even repeal it.

I respectfully, but firmly, disagree, and that is why I am calling on any and all of my colleagues who want to repeal the Jones Act to explain why the image that they see here would make for a better and stronger America.

If they need to borrow this poster, I will be glad to let them use it. Just let me know.

CONGRESS MUST BE INVOLVED AND ENGAGED

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RUIZ). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I have had the privilege of serving in this august body, and serving the American people and the people of the 18th Congressional District.

Just a few minutes ago, I was at Arlington Cemetery participating in the wreath-laying ceremony for the women of the United States military, those who have fallen in battle, and recognizing young and new women members of the United States military.

In fact, Sergeant Kelly, whom I honored, is in combat, having been given permission to be engaged in combat since 2015 by the Pentagon and the United States Defense Department. That means that I have the greatest respect for all of these men and women and take very seriously the issues of war and peace.

I was here in the United States Congress during the heinous and devastating attack on this Nation on 9/11. I was here for Afghanistan and Iraq, the Kosovo war, the Bosnian war. Every one of those war zones I visited. I saw the men and women sacrifice. I take very seriously this issue of war.

I am very concerned with the efforts now in the waters in the Mideast, with the intelligence that is alleged by the administration that is coming and this saber-rattling that is occurring, because the lives of our men and women will be put in harm's way.

Congress must be engaged, and I demand that, beyond the immediate

briefing today, the Members of the United States Congress, those who care about national security, homeland security, be briefed as to why our vessels are there, others are headed there, and the allegations or suggestion that 120,000 troops will be moving in that direction.

America is strong. We have no fear, but we have always been a defender, not an offender. Iran is not just any old country in the Mideast. Shamefully, we disengaged from the Iran nuclear deal—wrong decision, evidenced by what is happening today.

You cannot backdoor conversations. You have to show yourself willing to negotiate with leaders from the position of facts and knowledge.

I can't stomach the frivolous engagements and noninformation that is translating into our men and women put in harm's way. We must be involved and engaged.

So I ask the administration to do so posthaste. I ask that we move forward with knowledge of what is going on, and each and every Member of this body and the other body should be knowledgeable about this point.

I return to a local issue that has bothered me, and as a member of the Judiciary Committee, I want the family of Pamela Turner, who is now deceased, to know that I stand with them.

I do not give a blanket assessment of the great law enforcement we have in this Nation, but I am appalled at the shooting death of an African American woman, Black woman, shot down in cold blood in the streets.

Yes, this lady was walking her dogs in her apartment complex. There are suggestions that this individual was well-known to police and that there were some mental health issues, something that we have to fight against and give resources. Unfortunately, she was with warrants.

I have no quarrel with people doing their job; but you are in your home, your apartment, walking your dogs, any other means could have been utilized to pick you up on warrants. You are not going anywhere. We know your address. Through an unfortunate interaction, altercation, the gun was taken out by a law enforcement officer, and she was shot five times—not once to wound, but five times.

So this requires, for the comity of relationships and respect, a full Federal and State investigation—we cannot hide—just as I have indicated that shooting on Harding Street, recently, by officers requires a thorough and full investigation, which is going on right now.

So I would simply say that because we are the land of the free and the brave, we are adherents to the Constitution and democracy and dignity and justice for all, this is an untenable and unacceptable act, that I could be walking my dogs, unarmed, and I proceed into an unfortunate circumstance which included a Taser, but then it re-

sults in the absolute ending of my life, and I may be a person who needed mental health assistance.

I am deeply troubled to learn of the death of the Pamela Shantay Turner, who was shot and killed by a Baytown Police Officer. She was a mother of three children, and she died the day after Mother's Day.

In the investigation following Ms. Turner's death, the officer indicated that he was patrolling as part of his duty, and recognized Ms. Turner from "prior dealings" and proceeded to commence an arrest but she resisted. Nothing in the record suggests any wrongdoing by Ms. Turner prior to this chance encounter with Baytown Police. Reports suggest the officer attempted to arrest Ms. Turner. The officer alleges Ms. Turner reached for his Taser and a lieutenant with the Baytown police claims that Ms. Turner actually tased the officer. According to the Baytown Police Department, the officer fired his duty weapon and struck multiple rounds at Ms. Turner. The shooting was recorded by a civilian and caught on cell phone video. After her death, it was revealed that Ms. Turner suffers from serious mental ailment. Prior to her death, Ms. Turner, 44, was heard stating that she was pregnant. After her death, this was determined not to be the case.

I stand with the family of Pamela Turner. We must get to the truth; the facts and we will not relent until justice is served. The circumstances surrounding Ms. Turner's death are shocking and I demand a state and federal inquiry into her death. First, what predicate did the officer involved have in detaining Ms. Turner? Why were no efforts made to de-escalate the controversy so that it did not end in a loss of life? And, if Ms. Turner was known to law enforcement in prior dealings, did they not also know about her mental state? In recent months, we have seen too many instances of these types of killings. During National Police Week we honor our officers and I abhor attacks on our brave law enforcement personnel. As a member of the House Judiciary Committee, I look forward to working with law enforcement to protect justly our citizens and them. This disturbing act should not have happened and should never be repeated.

□ 1030

HONORING TROOPER MATTHEW GATTI

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

Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible life of Trooper Matthew Gatti of the Tennessee Highway Patrol.

On May 6, 2019, just a week or so ago, while responding to a call for help on Interstate 40 in Tennessee, Trooper Gatti was killed in the line of duty.

Matthew Gatti will be remembered in west Tennessee and in our entire Nation as a dedicated public servant, a husband, a son, a brother, and a friend to all.

Although just 24 years old, Trooper Gatti had an incredible, an impressive career in public service. He served with the Madison County Sheriff's Office in Jackson, Tennessee, and then began working for the Tennessee Highway Patrol.

In addition to serving others, Matthew was passionate about hunting, about baseball, about comedy, and he was an active member of his church, Gospel Light Baptist Church, in Jackson, Tennessee.

Trooper Gatti lived a life that very few people have the honor of living.

According to those who knew him the best, Trooper Gatti's willingness to serve and his constant sacrifice for others was of second nature to him.

He exemplified duty and service both on and off the clock, and for that, I am truly grateful.

Matthew had a deep love for his church, and his strong faith could be seen in everything that he did. His friends described him as a humble gentleman who would say or do anything to lift your spirits.

Matthew leaves behind his loving wife, Anna; his parents, Christopher and Christy; his sisters, Hannah and Esther; his brother, Joshua; his mother-in-law and father-in-law, Kimberly and Frankie Lax; and his grandparents.

Matthew was a blessing to our community, and his life was a service and an inspiration.

Trooper Gatti died doing what he loved doing: protecting people, protecting his community, and protecting the State of Tennessee. And although his life on Earth has ended, his legacy will live on.

My thoughts are with his family, with his friends, and with the men and women of the Tennessee Highway Patrol.

I also want to thank all the men and women in uniform who risk their lives each and every day to protect all of us for our safety and for our betterment.

Matthew Gatti will never be forgotten.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN), my colleague.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman KUSTOFF for yielding.

Madam Speaker, most of us run away from danger, but our law enforcement, they run toward it.

Last Monday, Tennessee State Trooper Matthew Gatti was killed in the line of duty responding to a car fire on I-40.

I had the privilege of knowing this young trooper. Our families were dear friends.

This young man was just 24 years old, but he lived a life of exemplary service to us all.

Matthew's father said that he died doing what he lived for: serving God and serving others.

We honor those who pay the ultimate sacrifice for freedom. We honor this young man for his commitment to our safety. We honor his family for raising a young man who would serve us all in such a way.

HONORING EMILY CARNES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON LEE). The Chair recognizes the