

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

gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Emily Carnes, a former resident of South Carolina's Fifth District who dedicated her life to the preservation of the historic Buford battlefield.

The Battle of Buford was significant and momentous in the southern campaign during our Revolutionary War. 113 Continental troops perished during this struggle and another 150 suffered terrible wounds.

Witnessing this carnage was Emily Carnes' great-great-grandfather, Jacob. Emily would go on to tell her ancestor's story in her book, "Jacob Was There".

The book describes Jacob Carnes, who was 16 years old at the time, and on the fateful day of May 29 of 1780, Jacob was employed plowing in a field close to the historic site when the Continental troops under Colonel Abraham Buford clashed with the British forces led by Lieutenant-Colonel Banastre Tarleton.

Jacob hid behind a tree during the struggle, but was eventually discovered by British troops, who took him into custody. While in their custody, British troops commanded Jacob to bury an American soldier alive. Jacob refused.

In reply, a British soldier fired his musket and shot off one of Jacob's fingers, therefore, adding Jacob's name to the long list of patriots who gave their blood for our freedom.

In remembrance of her great-great-grandfather's traumatic experience and the historic importance of the battle to the southern campaign, Emily Carnes singlehandedly cared for and preserved the 2 acres of leaf and debris-filled battlefield for years. She did this with no support and very few means. Indeed, she couldn't even afford to fly a flag in remembrance of those who gave their life for our independence.

Finally, in 2010, the Friends of Buford Massacre Battlefield was established, and Ms. Carnes was awarded an honorary member.

Thanks to Ms. Carnes' lifelong efforts, the former 2-acre site now encompasses over 47 acres of surrounding land on which the battle was fought, with the site now proudly flying the Stars and Stripes, the Buford Battle flag, and the State flags of Virginia and South Carolina.

The site now also includes modern comforts like a patio, walkways, informational kiosks, and a memorial bronze plaque inscribed with the names of 216 men recognized for defending their country in the Battle of Buford.

We thank Ms. Carnes for her lifelong passion and dedication to this sacred soil and for preserving this moment in a State and Nation's history for all of us to remember and enjoy.

WE CAN PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF LGBTQ INDIVIDUALS AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

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

Mr. CURTIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about the Equality Act.

First and foremost, I must begin by saying that I believe the LGBTQ community is a critical part of the fabric of our country. They are deserving of our unequivocal love and respect, and their contributions to my home State of Utah are utterly invaluable.

As the mayor of Provo, I prioritized inclusion and love, and sought to ensure my administration did everything possible to recognize the intrinsic value of all of our citizens, including our LGBTQ community.

I fought hard against discrimination and was grateful for my associations with organizations like Provo Pride, Equality Utah, Encircle, and others, who I was honored to stand with to ensure that our city motto of "Welcome Home" extended to everyone.

Perhaps even more important than that, I am grateful for the association and relationships of my life that have helped me better understand the experiences of the LGBTQ community, and who have been patient with me, a conservative Utah boy raised in the 1960s, who took longer than I am proud of to gain empathy for this important issue.

Again, I say I am incredibly grateful for the contribution of the LGBTQ community and will always stand with them in respect and support.

With the Equality Act, we face a unique challenge: balancing the needs and protections against discrimination with the importance of protecting religious liberty, which is one of the fundamental rights enshrined at the foundation of our Nation.

I believe this compromise is possible, because I have seen it before in my home State with historic legislation called the Utah Compromise that effectively balanced the absolute rights of both LGBTQ individuals as human beings and religious institutions protected by the First Amendment.

The Equality Act fails to strike that balance. Instead, these two interests are treated as zero sum games, with no good-faith effort put forth for both sides to win.

This bill would end longstanding religious liberties under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, a historic bipartisan legislative victory fought for by the current Democratic leader in the Senate, CHUCK SCHUMER; my own Utah mentor, Orrin Hatch, a Republican; and liberal icon, Ted Kennedy. It was also signed into law by Democrat Bill Clinton.

I have introduced commonsense amendments that would help achieve this critical balance of protection for both maintaining the standards against discrimination and religious freedom, but I am frustrated that House Democratic leaders have decided

there will not be any consideration or even debate of amendments to the Equality Act. Instead, they have established a model of legislative gas-lighting.

In this case, they are taking issues where broad bipartisan agreement is possible and taking the debate right off the table on issue after issue, whether it be climate change, violence against women, and now the Equality Act.

They disregard willing partners, such as myself, standing here hoping to work with them, and instead, prefer to pass party-line bills that won't go anywhere so they have issues to campaign on.

If my colleagues on the other side of the aisle truly want to achieve progress on this issue, I hope they will recognize that they have a willing partner in me, but they must be willing to work together to legislate and make room to protect both religious liberty and the LGBTQ community.

Exploiting yet another group in order to pass a campaign message bill along party lines is not in harmony with this body.

I hope they will hear me today and change course before we vote on this bill.

RECOGNIZING JUSTIN MASSIELO AND EMELIE CURTIS

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 two impressive student athletes from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who are making their school and our entire community very proud.

Justin Massielo and Emelie Curtis, students at Pennsbury High School in Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania, both recently hit impressive milestones in their respective sports.

Justin, a senior, recently recorded his 100th hit as a 4-year starter for the Falcons' varsity baseball team, and Emelie, a junior, just notched her 100th career goal as a 3-year starter for the Falcons' varsity girls lacrosse team.

What makes their achievements even more special, Madam Speaker, is that Justin and Emelie also are cousins.

On behalf of our entire community, I would like to congratulate Justin and Emelie on their notable athletic achievements. We wish them, and their families continued success.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT TERRY HUGHES

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, this week is National Police Week, and I rise today to recognize a dedicated law enforcement professional from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who recently retired after a very distinguished career in public service.

Lieutenant Terry Hughes of the Bristol Township Police Department retired after over 30 years in local law enforcement.

A resident of Bristol Township throughout his entire life, Lieutenant