

stands for equality, equity, and diversity, then equal rights must apply to and be protected for all Americans.

No American should be discriminated against because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Yet, despite the historic accomplishments toward equality over the past decade, LGBTQ Americans still face systemic discrimination.

We know the fight for equality is always on the right side of history, and today's passage of the Equality Act is a much-needed step forward in that fight.

Today's vote allows us to see the moral arc of the universe, as Martin Luther King, Jr., said, bend toward justice.

TRIBUTE TO TOMMY TICE

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

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Arkansas' most successful football coaches, Tommy Tice of Huntsville, Arkansas, who retires this month after 42 years in coaching and athletic administration.

Coach Tice coached more football games as a head coach than anyone in Arkansas history: 454 games. He had a combined record of 288 wins, 160 losses, and 6 ties, an overall winning percentage of 63 percent.

He was selected head coach of the Arkansas All-Star football game six times. He had a State championship, 13 conference titles, and 19 playoff appearances.

An Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame inductee in 2016, Coach Tice has been a teacher and mentor to dozens of coaches throughout the State of Arkansas.

He is one of my best friends, and I can't think of anyone more impactful on student-athletes than Coach Tommy Tice. I congratulate him on a remarkable career, and I wish him well in his retirement.

HONORING NEVADA ASSEMBLYMAN TYRONE THOMPSON

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

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Nevada Assemblyman Tyrone Thompson, who recently passed.

Tyrone's passion for service and community was reinforced by action. He was constantly on the front lines advocating for children in family court as a CASA advocate. Through his life-coaching and mentoring efforts, he spearheaded the annual Clark County Summer Business Institute, providing summer college and career exploration for high school students.

When Tyrone had the opportunity to be appointed and then elected to the Nevada Assembly in District 17, he made it his mission to propose new ideas to move Nevada forward and

bring an experienced and pragmatic voice to the challenges our State faces. He became a leader and champion for increased funding, for more equitable education for all students, and for making our schools and communities safe from gun violence.

Tyrone was always present, leading the way to make the North Las Vegas community and the people in it stronger, whether it was working tirelessly to improve education, addressing racial equity and inclusion, volunteering with Camp Anytown, supporting Project Homeless Connect and Family Connect, or launching the My Brother's Keeper initiative.

At the age of 52, he still had so much more to offer to his community, in public service, and most importantly, to his family.

I am proud of the work my dear friend accomplished, and I am honored to ensure that his legacy is permanently enshrined in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

May he rest in peace.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

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

Mr. RESCENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, this week, communities across the country honored law enforcement officers in recognition of National Police Week.

Police officers put their lives on the line every day to protect our loved ones and neighbors. These brave men and women experience daily trauma and injury. In fact, the stress endured by our police officers contributes to a suicide rate that is 50 percent higher than the national average.

That is why I introduced the STOIC Act with my Democratic colleague from Pennsylvania, MADELEINE DEAN. This is a bipartisan bill to better address the mental health needs of our law enforcement officers.

I think that Republicans and Democrats should all be able to get together to fight against suicide and for the worthy cause of suicide prevention. Just yesterday, the Senate passed their version of STOIC with unanimous consent.

I want us to work together to unite our country, and I hope we can vote on this legislation that has strong bipartisan support. I hope that my colleagues from across the aisle will work with us to address the mental health needs of our Nation's law enforcement.

COMMIT TO REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

(Mrs. FLETCHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the women of this country, for their health and for their rights.

In this Congress, in this House, we have worked to ensure women's access to healthcare, to protect women and men with preexisting conditions, to lower the cost of prescription drugs, and to make healthcare more affordable and accessible. But in State houses across the country, women's access to their most basic healthcare is under attack. And it is not just their healthcare that is under attack; it is their equality.

The law passed in the Alabama State House this week is the most extreme and dangerous since *Roe v. Wade*, banning abortion at any point in pregnancy and threatening doctors with life in prison.

It is not just this Alabama law; it is laws in Georgia, Mississippi, and my home State of Texas, and the efforts of the current administration that result in a dramatic reduction in women's access to reproductive healthcare and basic family planning services and a denial of their reproductive rights.

Doctors and public health leaders agree that the cost of these laws will be women's lives. We cannot let that happen.

As we work to protect our care, we must support the women of this country and their right to safe, affordable, nonjudgmental reproductive healthcare. We must commit to reproductive justice.

HONORING MISSISSIPPI'S FALLEN OFFICERS

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

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, the 38th Annual National Peace Officers Memorial Service honored the men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice upholding the rule of law and protecting the people of our great Nation.

Last year, Mississippi lost five officers in the line of duty. I would like to honor them as we remember their service and sacrifice.

Please join me in honoring Police Officer Emmett Paul Morris, Corporal Walter Zachery Moak, Patrolman James Kevin White, Patrol Officer LeAnn Simpson, and Police Officer Robert McKeithen.

President Ronald Reagan once said there can be no more noble vocation than the protection of one's fellow citizens.

May we remember these brave officers, their sacrifice to protecting our communities, and the sacrifice they made for the people who call Mississippi home.

URGING THE SENATE TO PASS THE EQUALITY ACT

(Ms. DELBENE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to join my colleagues in passing the Equality Act, which ensures

that LGBTQ Americans are treated equally.

In more than half our Nation, LGBTQ Americans can still be fired, denied credit, and evicted from their home simply based on who they are and whom they love.

It happened to someone in my State. He was a volleyball coach at a college in Virginia. They had just finished their most successful season when he was fired without explanation.

Unfortunately, in Virginia, there are no employment protections for being LGBTQ, so he and his family moved to Washington State where there are protections for LGBTQ workers, and they are thriving.

Not everyone can just pack up and leave, and they shouldn't have to. That is why we need to guarantee that LGBTQ Americans have equal rights and protections in all 50 States, no exceptions.

I urge the Senate to take action and pass the Equality Act so all Americans are treated equally.

HONORING OMAHA POLICE OFFICER KERRIE OROZCO

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

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during National Police Week to ask my colleagues to support H.R. 2378, the Kerrie Orozco First Responders Family Act.

As we approach the 4-year anniversary of Omaha Police Officer Kerrie Orozco being killed in the line of duty, this legislation will show our first responders that we care about them and have their back.

The Kerrie Orozco First Responders Family Act will amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow for the surviving family members of a fallen U.S. citizen first responder to be naturalized upon compliance with all requirements, waiving any residency waiting period. This bill is simply extending the privileges to first responders that current law affords to spouses of U.S. military killed while serving our country.

In 2015, Officer Orozco was killed. Her husband, Hector, was going through the immigration process. His immigration status was put in jeopardy because his wife made the ultimate sacrifice protecting our community.

Every day, thousands of first responders leave loved ones to risk their lives for our safety. They need to have the peace of mind that if something should happen to them, their loved ones will be taken care of.

I look forward to working with Democrats and Republicans alike to protect our first responders and their families by passing the Kerrie Orozco First Responders Family Act.

It did pass unanimously last Congress. We need to pass it again, get it to the Senate, and get it done.

RECOGNIZING CAPE MAY COUNTY AS A COAST GUARD COMMUNITY

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate being allowed to speak to the Members of the House.

On May 8, 2015, Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Paul Zukunft proclaimed Cape May County a Coast Guard Community, an honor claimed by only 18 cities and only one other county in the entire Nation.

The designation, which is confirmed by the United States Coast Guard and the United States Congress, is in recognition of a strong and special relationship between the people of Cape May County and the local Coast Guard personnel, making Coast Guard men and women and their families feel a sense of community in their home away from home. It is an invaluable contribution to morale and service excellence.

South Jersey is honored to have Cape May and the Coast Guard as part of its community.

Most of all, we should remember all that they went through during the recent shutdown. Our Coast Guard should never have to suffer through that set of circumstances ever again. That is why we have sponsored legislation to protect our Coast Guard in the future.

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HONORING THE SERVICE OF JASON DOMBKOWSKI

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

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jason Dombkowski, who is retiring after 25 years of faithful public service with the West Lafayette Police Department. Jason has been the Chief of Police at the department for 11 years, serving his fellow officers and community with integrity and professionalism.

He received his master's degree in Technology, Leadership, and Innovation from Purdue University, and has completed the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy, the FBI National Academy at Quantico, and the U.S. Secret Service Dignitary Protection Programs, among others.

In addition to his remarkable career, Jason remains a steadfast pillar in the community, known for his commitment, leadership, and service. He serves on the YWCA board, and has been a board member for the Red Cross, Lafayette Crisis Center, the Lafayette Catholic Diocese Bishop's Review Board.

He also volunteers with the "Shop With a Cop" program and coaches a youth flag football team.

He and his wife, Cristie, have four children, and reside in West Lafayette.

Congratulations on your retirement, Jason. I know you will continue to serve our community well in your new capacity, and I wish you the very best.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CASE). 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. Mr. Speaker, we heard a great deal of applause today from all around the gallery when the so-called Equality Act passed.

Equality, what it really means is equality for some, but if you believe the teachings of Moses and Jesus, then you are not only not going to be treated equally, you are going to be persecuted, prosecuted, tied up in court.

You will have people try to destroy not only you, but any religious institution that tries to faithfully follow the teachings of Moses and Jesus.

So the Equality Act is a misnomer, as is the statement that this means the end of persecution.

Somehow, I hear Al Pacino in the background when it comes to persecution, saying, Oh, I'm just getting started.

So I come before the House with a broken heart, as someone who has studied, loved history, studied history, continues to read more history, constantly.

This Nation is in big trouble. We have gone from the days when—I guess the Bible is still probably the most-quoted book, year after year, in this body, but somehow it often is used for personal abuse or used without giving real context and real meaning.

But above every door in the gallery is the side profile of what were once considered the greatest lawgivers in all of history. Some of us learned about the code of Hammurabi. He is up there. The Justinian Code is next to Hammurabi.

I think there are two or three Popes that were considered great lawgivers.

Some wonder why Napoleon is up there, but the Napoleonic code is still the basis of law in Louisiana.

Jefferson wasn't there during the Constitution, but he helped with a great many laws and, of course, did most of the writing of the Declaration of Independence. But there was much in the Constitution, or a number of things were based on some things that Jefferson had already worked on.

But the only profile that is not a side profile is that of Moses.

When Prime Minister Netanyahu spoke last in here, from this podium behind me, the second level—some people wonder why the President, or people like Netanyahu speak at the second level and not the top level, and that is because this is the people's House. To speak in here you must either be a Member of Congress or have been invited by the Congress to speak here. That is why they are at the second level.