

CONGRATULATING A GREAT PUBLIC SERVANT

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

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Royce Nelligan for his 41 years of public service.

Earlier this month, Royce retired from his position as Minnesota's Small Business Administration district counsel after a 37-year career. Prior to Minnesota's SBA, he served in the U.S. Air Force and the National Park Service.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Royce for all of his years of service. I thank him for the work he did to help small businesses grow and prosper all across Minnesota. For all the opportunities he helped create and promote, he left our State and our communities better than when he started. I congratulate him on a job well done, and I wish him luck on his next chapter.

CONGRATULATING ANDOVER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Andover Fire Department for being awarded the 2019 Fire Department of the Year by the Minnesota State Fire Department Association.

This award recognizes the department's efforts to provide outreach to seniors in the community, to recruit women, and for maximizing the use of available resources.

The department's Remember When fire safety program brings firefighters into Andover's senior communities to replace smoke alarms and mitigate any tripping hazards that exist.

The department has made significant strides to recruit women firefighters. In fact, Andover is one of the few departments to have a waiting list.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the women and men of the Andover Fire Department for keeping our community safe. Special congratulations to Chief Jerry Streich, Deputy Chief Mark Winczewski, and Battalion Chief John Wallace on earning this important recognition.

CONGRATULATING ELK RIVER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Elk River Municipal Utilities for being a finalist for the 2019 Source Water Protection Award.

We often hear when government fails to protect our water, but today, I want to recognize a local utility for going above and beyond to protect our community's water quality.

Every year, the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Rural Water Association award community facilities for their work to protect community drinking water. This year, Elk River Municipal Utilities, also known as ERMU, of Sherburne County, Minnesota, was chosen as a finalist because of their diligence in prioritizing water quality.

ERMU sealed an abandoned well that could have posed a danger to the community's water supply. They consist-

ently examine stormwater ponds and their effects on the treatment of drinking water. They issue rebates for more efficient fixtures.

We are proud that this Sixth District utility is an example for our entire State.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Elk River Municipal Utilities for their selection, and I thank them for protecting the health and welfare of their residents and our drinking water.

□ 1030

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP, MICHAEL HEMESATH

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Michael Hemesath, President of St. John's University in St. Cloud, Minnesota, for his commitment to education and his service to the St. John's community.

Recently, President Hemesath announced he intends to retire at the end of the academic year. Including his time as a student, President Hemesath has belonged to the St. John's family for 42 years.

As President, Michael Hemesath continued and built upon the College of St. John's reputation for developing great talent and strong faith that is reflected in the alumni and Johnnie tradition.

In addition, President Hemesath leaves his alma mater with a balanced budget, a renovated Alcuin Library, and new buildings, like the Dietrich Reinhart Learning Commons and the St. John's Bible Gallery.

Mr. Speaker, I thank President Hemesath for all he has done for the College of St. John's. While he is moving on to the next chapter of his professional life, he will always be part of the Johnnie family.

HONORING VIRGINIA BEACH SHOOTING VICTIMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. LURIA) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LURIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today grieving for Virginia Beach, a great city in our district, where the year's most devastating mass shooting happened last Friday.

That morning, 12 innocent people left their homes for work, but they didn't return home to their families, and they never will. Eleven of them were devoted public servants with more than 150 years of combined experience, and one was a dedicated contractor. I am honored to remember them today.

Laquita C. Brown, a right-of-way agent who lived in Chesapeake, was an avid traveler who chronicled her trips to New York City, Europe, and West Africa. A friend of hers called her "Ms. Worldwide." Her 40th birthday was coming up in November.

Ryan Keith Cox, an account clerk who lived in Virginia Beach, had a golden voice and sang in his church choir. He had recently accepted his own calling to the ministry to follow in the footsteps of his father, a friend,

Pastor E. Ray Cox, and the pastor of New Hope Baptist Church.

During the shooting, Keith guided colleagues to safety, but did not join them so he could look out for others.

Tara Welch Gallagher, an engineer who lived in Virginia Beach, educated the public about clean water and served her city for 6 years. Tara's survivors include her husband and her 22-month-old son. Her husband told a reporter: "She was everything to me."

Mary Louise Gayle was a right-of-way agent who lived in Virginia Beach. A proud grandmother, she had just turned 65, and her children planned to take their mom to Portland later this month to celebrate her birthday.

Alexander Mikhail Gusev, a right-of-way agent who lived in Virginia Beach, moved from Belarus to seek a better life in America. He was a generous and thoughtful person, who was said to grab his lawnmower and cut his neighbor's lawn without even being asked.

Joshua O. Hardy was an engineering technician who lived in Virginia Beach. He was a loving uncle, a healthy eater and runner, he smiled on the job, and found time to write a beloved children's book that spoke to youth about strangers in their midst.

Michelle "Missy" Langer, an administrative assistant who lived in Virginia Beach, loved the Pittsburgh Steelers, Paul McCartney, and the ocean. A friend said, "I will miss her smile and her hugs. That is the hardest thing."

Richard H. Nettleton, an engineer who lived in Norfolk, helped design, install, and maintain Virginia Beach's water and sewer systems. An Army veteran, he enjoyed mentoring young engineers.

Katherine A. Nixon, an engineer who lived in Virginia Beach, was a devoted wife and mother to three daughters, one of whom is just 15 months old. According to her neighbor, her final call was to her husband just moments after she was shot.

Christopher Kelly Rapp, an engineer who lived in Powhatan, played the bagpipes and loved Scottish music. Compared by some to Mr. Rogers, he was known as encouraging and enthusiastic.

Herbert "Bert" Snelling, a contractor who lived in Virginia Beach and was visiting the Municipal Center for a permit; he led his church's security team, and in his work, he did everything from small handyman repairs to building homes.

Robert "Bobby" Williams, a special projects coordinator who lived in Chesapeake, worked for Virginia Beach for 41 years. He helped build the seawall in our city and planned on retiring this year to spend more time with his family.

The losses here will never be replaced, but so many heroes emerged to prevent further horror.

Over the weekend, I saw heroic first responders—police, fire, and EMS personnel—who ran into the line of fire to

save others before comforting our community in the immediate aftermath of this tragedy.

As the hours and days go by, we hear tens, if not hundreds, of stories of the heroism of individuals who helped save lives during this tragic event, including the officer among the first responders who, in the performance of his duties, took a bullet to protect our community, and was, by the grace of God, saved by his protective vest.

I saw believable bravery in Sentara Hospital where Sunday, I had the honor of visiting a survivor of the shooting. She clasped my hand as I stood at her bedside, and her strength and resolve were palpable as she had only narrowly come away alive.

I saw love and hope at heartfelt vigils across our community where people of all faiths joined in prayer to remember those who left us all too soon.

I saw strength among our city leaders and police chief as they addressed our grieving community, determined to remember the 12 we lost far too soon.

SHOWCASE FOR COMMERCE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last week I was honored to attend the Showcase for Commerce in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, Cambria County.

For nearly 30 years, the annual Showcase for Commerce has highlighted the exceptional work happening in Cambria County.

Established by the late Congressman Jack Murtha, the event brings together Federal, State and local leaders, as well as major defense corporations and subcontractors and regional, national, and international business leaders.

With more than 100 exhibitors and more than 2,000 attendees, the Showcase for Commerce has grown into a nationally recognized business and industry trade show and defense contracting exhibition.

Cambria County has a skilled workforce that makes considerable contributions to our national security. We saw more than \$180 million in new defense contracts announced at this year's showcase. Because America can't merely remain competitive in a global economy, but we must lead the way with the most sophisticated technology.

As a Member of the House of Representatives and the father of an Active-Duty soldier and a Purple Heart wounded warrior, I am not interested in a fair fight. Our United States military members deserve our best, that includes the resources to be optimally safe, effective, and lethal.

There is no better means to a peaceful world or a deterrent to would-be dictators and terrorists than a well-equipped, robustly trained, and properly funded United States military.

Generations of workers in Cambria County and southwestern Pennsylvania have been dedicated to our national security through service overseas and service here at home.

They ensure that we send our servicemen and women into combat with the most advanced state-of-the-art equipment available.

Here in Washington, the Army's modernization efforts include a request of \$12.2 billion in research, development, tests, and evaluation funding, and \$21.8 billion in procurement, which will begin to address the Army's identified top six modernization priorities: Long-Range Precision Fires Missile, next-generation combat vehicles, Future Vertical Lift, tactical network, air-and-missile defense, and soldier lethality.

Now, I support this request because we need to be ready to answer the threats that are before us, whether they come from Iran, North Korea, Russia, or elsewhere, we must be able to counter and mitigate such threats swiftly and deliberately.

Career and technical education play a role in our readiness. Right now, there are more than 7 million job openings in the United States, and it is one of the greatest challenges we face—the skills gap.

Thanks to the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, we were able to completely overhaul the Perkins Act and invest the resources necessary to have a dominant and prosperous workforce.

We can secure the future, and help more Americans climb the rungs on the ladder of opportunity through career and technical education programs.

Mr. Speaker, the Showcase for Commerce puts Cambria County workforce on display. Those of us in Pennsylvania already knew this, and the showcase lets us share it with the rest of the Nation.

CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION POLICY

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

Mr. GALLEGUO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. LURIA).

HONORING VIRGINIA BEACH SHOOTING VICTIMS

Mrs. LURIA. Mr. Speaker, I continue today in grieving for Virginia Beach and for those that we lost.

Those who knew the victims are making statements that we need to hear.

Bert Snelling's neighbor told a Virginian-Pilot reporter, "It's the world we live in now, and it's a shame."

A friend of Missy Langer's told The Washington Post, "This kind of stuff has got to stop." And another friend said, "She didn't deserve to die like that."

None of them did.

This is a moment where doing nothing is no longer an option. To prove

that point, all we have to do is look at the first responder who ran into the building and took a bullet to protect his fellow citizens. To him, it was never an option to not act.

If there is a lesson that we take out of this tragedy, all we have to do is look at him.

We must run into the building together.

We must act.

Mr. GALLEGUO. Mr. Speaker, while the Trump administration is setting fire to our legal immigration system, separating families, and all but closing down our border, I am proud that today, here in the House of Representatives, Democrats are standing up and taking action to provide legal status and an earned path to citizenship for young people and families that already call this country home.

Dreamers and TPS holders are our neighbors, coworkers, and our friends. They are productive and contributing members of our society, raising families, serving in our military, and uplifting our communities.

Even though they collectively represent some of the strongest parts of this country, the Trump administration has forced them to live in constant uncertainty and fear that they or their loved ones will be deported.

But even so, they have had the courage to step out of the shadows and tell their stories and fight for the lives they have built for themselves and their families and for the futures they aspire to.

They have spoken up many times, putting themselves at risk to do so in hopes that they would drive us to act to uphold our American values and allow them to become, on paper, what they already are in their hearts: Americans.

The hundreds of thousands of Dreamers who came forward to register with the government as part of the DACA program trusted the government to live up to its end of the bargain.

Although the Trump administration has tried to break that promise, today we are taking action to make sure we keep our word.

We will not allow these aspiring Americans to become the next victim of Trump's brutal deportation force. This wasn't an easy process, and the fight isn't over. It takes immense courage to stand up to power at any time, but even more so, when your life—as you know it—is at great risk.

I have the utmost admiration and respect for Dreamers who have taken a stand and fought for the right to continue to live and work in the country they call home. I know they will continue to fight until this bill that we pass becomes law.

In the meantime, I—and my fellow Democrats—will continue to be right by their side.

RED LION FIRE COMPANY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from