

will not stop fighting for them. A majority of Americans want legal protection for Dreamers. Congress must listen, and Congress must act. Hopefully, we will do that today.

So, Mr. Speaker, I stand here and say to my colleagues: Vote “yes” to pass the American Dream and Promise Act. It is the moral and right thing to do, and therefore we must do it now.

ARKANSAS FLOODING

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the flooding back in my home State of Arkansas and the need for prioritized spending and more Federal investment in waterway infrastructure.

While national media attention is largely focused elsewhere, the Arkansas River has swollen to historic levels, flooding homes and businesses, breaching levees, and devastating farmland.

President Trump issued an emergency declaration last week allowing FEMA to provide immediate relief to 16 counties most severely affected. This Federal aid is extremely valuable as communities work tirelessly to save businesses and homes.

Arkansas is not alone in experiencing flooding. Our neighbors in Oklahoma, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Missouri, as well as South Dakota, Iowa, and Kansas have all been affected by flooding this year.

These disasters beg the question: What can Congress do to prevent future flooding?

More specifically, how can we improve infrastructure within our States to reduce the risk of dam and levee breaches?

As ranking member on the Transportation and Infrastructure’s Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, I hope to add insight into that very question.

Waterways tend to be out of sight and out of mind, but widespread flooding has made navigable rivers impossible to ignore. In Arkansas alone we have seen an estimated \$23 million in daily economic loss along the Arkansas River. When barges and boats can no longer navigate inland waterways, the entire State and surrounding areas suffer.

Much of the infrastructure along these rivers was initially installed in the 1960s and 1970s and is now reaching the end of its shelf life. A backlog of maintenance projects compounds the issues, and we can’t just keep putting temporary patches on systemic problems.

For example, I recently cosponsored bipartisan legislation that would unlock billions of dollars in already collected fees to maintain our Nation’s Federal ports and harbors. In many cases, we have the money for infrastructure projects, however, red tape

and bureaucracy slow down the process and prevent necessary work from occurring.

The irony of delaying projects on our navigable waterways is that these projects often have tremendous economic returns—as high as 10 to 1 and 16 to 1. It makes economic sense and it is common sense to invest in waterways and infrastructure.

Unprecedented flooding such as we are observing should serve as a chance for us to reexamine infrastructure to ensure it is updated and capable of protecting life and property.

No doubt, as flood waters recede in the coming days, Congress’ attention will turn elsewhere. But I urge my colleagues in both the House and the Senate to come together, address long-term projects that have been on the back burner for years, and keep WRDA on its 2-year schedule.

We can’t control the weather, but we can and should do better than accepting as the norm to have outdated and failing infrastructure, flooded homes, and washed out farmlands. The American people deserve better than this.

Before I close, I would be remiss if I didn’t acknowledge and thank the countless first responders and volunteers who have worked around the clock to fill sandbags, move livestock to higher ground, transport possessions from homes at risk of flooding, and rescue people trapped in moving floodwaters.

Governor Hutchinson, the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management, the Arkansas National Guard, the Corps of Engineers, and many other State and local officials have led an efficient and organized response, and their swift action has certainly saved lives and property.

Arkansas doesn’t back down when challenged, and we persevere through the storms of life. I have heard so many stories of Arkansans rallying around one another in their time of need, and this gives me hope for the days ahead.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o’clock and 6 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. JAYAPAL) at noon.

PRAYER

Rabbi Lawrence R. Sernovitz, Nafshenu, Cherry Hill, New Jersey, offered the following prayer:

Dear God, benevolent, compassionate, and gracious; abundant in lov-

ing kindness and truth; forgiving iniquity, rebellion, and sin, be with us as we open this session of the United States House of Representatives. Guide these courageous individuals to create holy space where healthy debate is encouraged, and the dignity and autonomy of human beings is respected and loved.

Dear God, let us remember that the world is not complete. We are completing it. In our brokenness, give us hope. Let us build the world with love. May the angels around us open our hearts, lift our spirits, and give us the ability to see ourselves in the other. As our tradition teaches, love the stranger as yourself.

Dear God, bless these Representatives with enough foolishness to believe that they can make a difference in this world, that they can do what others claim cannot be done, bringing justice and kindness to our Earth, to our children, and to humanity. The whole world is a narrow bridge. The essence is not to be afraid.

And we say together, amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day’s proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. DELGADO. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker’s approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. DELGADO. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WOODALL led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING RABBI LAWRENCE R. SERNOVITZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. DEAN. Madam Speaker, I am delighted to welcome to this Chamber my

close friend, Rabbi Larry Sernovitz, whom we have just heard offer us a beautiful, wise prayer.

I first met Rabbi Sernovitz in Abington, in my home district, where he served Temple-Beth Am. When I was first elected to public office as a township commissioner, it was Larry, it was the rabbi, who offered a powerful benediction that evening on the importance of education, social justice, humility, and courage. Larry has been a close friend and counselor ever since.

Through Larry's rabbinical work, he has lifted his devotion to community, faith, and family. Larry lives the creed, "Love the stranger."

As a founder of Nafshenu in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, he seeks to create a community that places people and their hopes and their dreams first.

Most importantly, Larry is a dedicated husband to Rebecca and a loving, steady dad to Sam, Daniella, and Eden, who join him today.

It brings me great joy to welcome my good friend Rabbi Larry Sernovitz and thank him for his wise prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

RECOGNIZING PRIDE MONTH

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, June is Pride Month, marking 50 years since the uprising at the Stonewall in New York City to protest discrimination against LGBT Americans.

The month is marked by celebrations in communities all over the country. Last week, in western New York, we raised the pride flags in both Buffalo and Niagara Falls.

The House this year passed the historic Equality Act to extend the legal protections of Federal civil rights laws to LGBT Americans, prohibiting discrimination in housing, employment, and medical treatment.

Passing the Equality Act into law couldn't be more urgent. This administration has taken steps to roll back rules across Federal agencies, reversing years of progress and invoking fears in communities throughout this Nation.

As a member of the Equality Caucus, I am proud to recognize Pride Month. I am committed to fighting these discriminatory actions and will keep working toward full equality for each and every American.

HONORING JEREMY COLLIER

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, today, I have Jeremy Collier with me as part of the National Foster Youth Institute Shadow Day.

Jeremy and his wife, Ashley, live in Cincinnati with their 2-year-old son, Payton. Jeremy recently completed his MBA studies at Western Governors University.

Life wasn't always easy for Jeremy. Jeremy aged out of the foster care system at age 18 when he was still in high school. Jeremy was virtually homeless, yet he graduated and went on to complete a bachelor's degree from the University of Cincinnati. Jeremy majored in business with a concentration in finance.

Today, Jeremy works as a senior insurance auditor, focusing on risk-related audits. I thank Jeremy for being here today, sharing his story and helping so many children overcome similar obstacles.

Jeremy went through tough times and persevered. He came to Washington to share his experiences in the hope of strengthening the system for foster youth.

Madam Speaker, I wholeheartedly congratulate Jeremy on all that he has achieved in life. Madam Speaker, I am proud of Jeremy's success and wish him and his family the best moving forward.

CONGRESS MUST STAND FIRMLY BEHIND DREAMERS

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

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6, the American Dream and Promise Act of 2019.

This Nation was founded by immigrants who believed that if you work hard and play by the rules, you can achieve the American Dream.

When the Trump administration announced its heartless decision to rescind DACA protections, it turned its back on the core beliefs of our country and put over 800,000 young immigrants who know America as their only home in a state of fear.

Dreamers are hardworking and law-abiding Americans. They are our military servicemen and -women, our neighbors, and our children's classmates. They make our country a better place for all.

After years of tireless advocacy and living in distress, Dreamers and TPS recipients deserve clarity. I am proud to support H.R. 6, which will offer them an earned pathway to citizenship. Now more than ever, we must stand firmly behind our Dreamers and acknowledge their countless social, economic, and cultural contributions to the United States.

Please know that I will not stop fighting for all young immigrants and Dreamers. I urge my colleagues to support the passage of H.R. 6 this week.

HONORING BEDFORD, VIRGINIA, SOLDIERS

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

Mr. RIGGLEMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the sacrifice made by our brave men in uniform on the shores of France 75 years ago this week.

As the dawn hours rose on June 6, 1944, the choppy waters of the English Channel were filled with American and Allied soldiers. Thirty of those brave men were from the town of Bedford, Virginia, a small hamlet nestled in the southern part of my district. These boys, who competed for the honor of being the first to reach Omaha Beach, etched their hometown into history as one with the highest per capita loss of life.

By the end of that fateful day, when the sun had set on Omaha Beach, 19 Bedford soldiers were dead. Four more died in the Normandy campaign. Every one of them was a hero.

Seventy-five years have passed, and yet, their heroism stands the test of time.

ADDRESSING THE EPIDEMIC OF GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. DELGADO. Madam Speaker, I rise today because we must listen to our children. Our children are calling out for us to take action to address the epidemic of gun violence, which has spread to traditionally safe places like schools, concert halls, movie theaters, and places of worship.

Our children are growing up under the constant paranoia of gun violence. Try, if you can, to imagine the depth of their fear and anxiety. Nowhere is safe.

Last week, I visited seven schools in my district and spoke with students who fear for their safety and stress over our inability to take action on gun violence.

We are not even halfway through 2019, and there have already been 13 school shootings. Is there any mystery behind the student walkouts we experienced last year in response to gun violence?

I was proud to support H.R. 8, back in March, in order to achieve long-overdue universal background checks, a baseline measure to address gun violence.

Now the Senate must act. I implore my colleagues in the Senate to hear the young people of our country calling for change and to pass H.R. 8. The time is now.

TAKE ACTION ON GUN VIOLENCE NOW

(Mr. MORELLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1