

The garden serves as a collaborative effort between the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and Catholic Social Services.

For many immigrants who arrive in our community, the Fatima Community Garden Project gives newcomers the ability to use horticultural skills cultivated in their homelands while offering them the opportunity to converse with local residents. One neighbor referred to the Fatima Community Garden Project as a sanctuary.

Mr. Speaker, the Fatima Community Garden Project officially opens on Saturday, and I would like to thank several people who have worked over the past year to make this unique collaboration successful: J. Mizaal Chavez, a community leader who helped families establish their presence in Bensalem; Matt Rader, president of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society; and Estela Bugg of Catholic Social Services for all of their work.

HONORING PDC MACHINES

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a second-generation, family-owned business in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, that was recognized last month for the outstanding work that they do to support our local economy.

PDC Machines, Inc., an equipment manufacturer based in Warminster, Pennsylvania, was honored at the 2019 President's E Award ceremony. They were presented with an award by Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross for their work supporting the expansion of U.S. exports.

Founded in 1977, PDC has been exporting products since the early 1980s. Today, approximately 50 percent of PDC's revenues come from international business.

PDC Machines takes great pride in the quality of their products and the services they provide to their customers. I am proud to have such a dynamic and innovative company in our community in Bucks County.

We congratulate the Afzal family for this well-deserved recognition.

GIVE MICHAEL NGUYEN FAIR TREATMENT IN VIETNAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Mr. Michael Nguyen, an American citizen and resident of my home district, California's 45th Congressional District.

Mr. Nguyen left Vietnam in 1975, 44 years ago. The Vietnamese Government arrested Michael last summer, almost a year ago, while he was traveling and visiting elderly relatives. Michael has now been detained in Vietnam for over 11 months.

We still don't know what crime he is alleged to have committed or what, if any, evidence the Vietnamese Government has to justify his detention and his upcoming trial.

My office has asked repeatedly for this information, but we have been told that we won't know these basics until Michael is taken to court later this month. His family won't know these basics until then.

To make matters worse, for the vast majority of these past 11 months, Michael was being detained without formal charges at all. We now know that Michael is being charged for allegedly violating article 109 of the Vietnamese Criminal Code, activities against the government. This is a charge that Vietnamese officials have used in the past for arbitrary arrests.

By all accounts, Michael is a good man. He was an active member of his community and church in Orange County. I have met his family numerous times, and his wife, Helen, was my guest for the State of the Union.

He has four beautiful daughters, all school age, who miss their father very much. He is a dad who makes breakfast for his girls in the morning and was their primary caretaker.

He was a small business owner, and he is an American citizen with no criminal record here in the United States.

He hasn't been able to speak to his family during this entire time, nearly 1 year. Instead, the Vietnamese Government permits only monthly visits by the U.S. State Department. I thank our State Department officials for visiting him, enabling him to hear messages from his loved ones, and working to ensure his health during this long detention.

But that isn't enough. His family is suffering. Michael's wife, Helen, has taken on a second job while acting as a single mom to their four young girls. His daughters have trouble sleeping and focusing at school.

This entire situation is unjust. Michael was held without formal charges for over 9 months, and we still have been presented with no evidence. That is not how an American citizen should be treated abroad. We expect our partners to show respect for human rights and the rule of law.

I am grateful that so many of my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, continue to join me in calling on the Vietnamese Government to do what is right. This is not a partisan issue.

Respectfully, I demand that the Vietnamese Government provide Michael with a fair resolution to his case and return him safely to the U.S. and to his family as soon as possible.

I will continue to work to secure Michael's release until he is reunited with his family and brought home to his country, the United States of America.

STAND UP FOR SUDANESE PEOPLE

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, last year, I had the opportunity to visit Sudan

and hear from the Sudanese people. I saw firsthand the devastating toll that the Sudanese regime has taken on the country of Sudan and its citizens.

Sadly, today, the hardship and violence have escalated after months of peaceful protests by the brave Sudanese people.

Sudan's longtime leader, President Omar al-Bashir, was removed from power. Since then, the Transitional Military Council has attacked protesters who are peacefully calling for a transition to democratic governance.

The news we continue to see from Sudan over the past few weeks has been nothing short of heart-wrenching as peaceful protesters have been attacked, threatened, and killed.

Congress cannot sit idly by while this regime kills its own citizens, blocks communication to the outside world, and continues to commit serious human rights abuses.

Congress must do everything we can to help end this conflict. We are morally obligated to use this platform to call attention to what is happening there and to say with a unified voice that the Sudanese Government's treatment of its people is completely unacceptable.

For these reasons, I have introduced a bipartisan resolution this week calling attention to the situation in Sudan. I am honored that the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. ENGEL, joined two other leaders on this issue, Representative McGOVERN and Representative BILIRAKIS, in supporting this legislation as original co-sponsors.

I ask my colleagues to all join as co-sponsors for this important resolution, a resolution that affirms that it is Congress' position that the Transitional Military Council must immediately stop all violence against peaceful protesters and begin to immediately transition governance to a democratic and civilian-led body.

The Sudanese people have the right to freedom from oppression and violence and to live in a country where they can choose their own leaders without fear of persecution, without fear of violence, and without fear of being killed for simply asserting their right to self-determination, as all human beings ought to be allowed.

Simply, the ability to peacefully assemble and have one's voice heard is a basic human right. It should be afforded to all people, including all citizens of Sudan.

This resolution also makes it clear that Sudan must improve dramatically if it wants to continue a productive engagement with the United States of America, including political reform and respect for basic human rights.

This resolution affirms the right of Sudanese people to assemble peacefully and condemns the government's use of violence against protesters and journalists. We emphasize that absent political reforms and respect for human rights, it will be impossible for the U.S. to engage Sudan as a partner.

It is time that we step up. It is time that we have our voices heard, that we stand up for people whose voices are being silenced by violence. We have a chance to speak in a clear voice and send a message that the United States and its government will support the people of Sudan.

Sudan must do better because we and the world are watching. Sudan cannot be allowed to go down this dangerous path.

We have to stand with the people of Sudan, stand for their democratic rights, allow their voices to be heard, and allow them to live in freedom.

REMEMBERING THOSE LOST IN PULSE NIGHTCLUB MASS SHOOTING

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

Mrs. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, today marks 3 years since the terrible tragedy that took the lives of 49 people at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando.

That is 36 months, 156 weeks, 1,095 days that the victims' families and loved ones have had to live without their presence and without their light.

This single incident shook our community to its core and forever changed us. But our city showed that we are a vibrant community that prides itself on its love and inclusion.

Following the tragedy, hundreds came out to donate blood and help their fellow brothers and sisters in their time of need. The site was transformed into a makeshift memorial, one that was full of love, thoughtful notes, and flowers.

This was the largest attack against LGBTQ people in U.S. history. As we celebrate Pride Month, we must honor their memories, be inspired by their legacies, and recognize the positive contributions the LGBTQ community offers to the world.

While those memories may be raw and remembering those we lost may still hurt, we cannot forget that the love that the 49 victims brought into this world will always be stronger than the hate that stole their lives on that day.

Hate will never win. Love always will.

The memories of those who lost their lives will never ever been forgotten.

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 10 o'clock and 57 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 (Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York) at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend J. David Carter, Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul, Chattanooga, Tennessee, offered the following prayer:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, amen.

Almighty God and Father of all the nations, as we stand in this great Chamber of worldly power, we humbly acknowledge that the dome of this Capitol stands beneath the dome of the heavens, which You created and which You continue to rule in truth and justice.

We are grateful for the many gifts of Your providence that You shower down upon our people from on high. We also humbly acknowledge that all our actions take place in view of Your sovereign omniscience. "For there is nothing hidden that will not become visible and nothing secret that will not be known and come to light." Therefore, we invoke this day Your blessing upon those who labor beneath this dome and who have been entrusted with the sacred duty of governing our Nation.

Banish from our hearts all temptations to greed and envy. Move our hearts to the virtues that will bring lasting happiness. Keep us steadfast in the pursuit of the common good. Make us ever mindful of the shortness of our days and make us always desirous of standing before You with integrity. Invoking Your mercy upon our failings and Your grace upon the work of our hands, we ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. PHILLIPS 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 REVEREND J. DAVID CARTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome a very special guest to our Nation's Capitol, Father David Carter of the Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul in Chattanooga, and the Rist family.

Father David Carter is a man of strong faith and principled leadership. In our east Tennessee community, he serves as the vice chancellor for the Diocese of Knoxville and was the chaplain at Knoxville Catholic High School until his tenure as the rector of the basilica began in 2013.

Father Carter also enjoys the beauty that God has bestowed on the Volunteer State, leading treks in the Great Smoky Mountains. But even outside the House of God, he continues to show his faith, serving as chaplain to the parish's Trail Life troop.

In my service to east Tennessee in this Chamber, I often seek guidance from the Lord's word, and I am thankful to have Father Carter as my priest. I pray that our Nation knows more Father Carters, those who seek to serve and find Christ as the source of truth. I hope that Father Carter and his guests enjoy their time in this beautiful city.

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.

ACTION SAVES LIVES

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

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, 3 years ago today, a mother woke up at 2 a.m. She woke up to a flurry of text messages from her son. He was trapped in a nightclub bathroom at the mercy of a man with an MCX rifle and a death wish. His first text: "Mommy, I love you"; then at 2:39 a.m.: "He's coming. I'm gonna to die." Eddie Justice was murdered in the Pulse nightclub that morning, and he was 30 years old.

Today we stand with Eddie's family and loved ones. We stand with Orlando. We stand with the LGBTQ community. And we stand up here to say doing nothing to prevent mass shootings in our country is a dereliction of our duty.

The Senate must pass the gun violence prevention measures that the House put forward in February. Thoughts and tweets do not save lives. Action saves lives.

In honor of all the Pulse nightclub victims, we need action, and we need it now.

IN HONOR OF FLAG DAY

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