

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Major General Mark Berry, commander of the Arkansas National Guard. After a long career of dedicated service, Major General Berry is retiring on August 10, 2019.

He first assumed duties as the adjutant general of the Arkansas National Guard on January 13, 2015. Prior to this post, Major General Berry was the A-4 assistant to the director of the Air National Guard in Arlington, Virginia.

In addition to his highly decorated career, Major General Berry is a man who goes out of his way to protect and to serve his fellow countrymen. Most recently, Major Berry provided critical immediate assistance when flooding devastated many parts of Arkansas.

I had the opportunity to work side by side with him during flood relief efforts and saw how he worked around the clock to save lives and to protect homes and businesses. He is a great leader, a great friend, and, above all, a great American.

I thank Major General Berry for his service and wish him all the best in retirement.

IN SOLEMN MEMORY OF THE LIVES LOST IN THE AURORA THEATER SHOOTING

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

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, I rise today in solemn memory of the 12 lives lost and the many lives changed forever 7 years ago in the Aurora theater shooting.

Since then, I have come to know many of the victims' families, and I stand in awe of their courage and strength. Many have become stewards in our community, and their example is an inspiration to us all, people like State Representative Tom Sullivan, who honors his son's life by serving in the Colorado State Legislature and fighting every day for commonsense gun violence prevention, or Sandy and Lonnie Phillips, who lost their daughter and have spent their days since advocating for survivors around the country.

Today, my only wish is to tell them that we haven't forgotten.

Looking at this Chamber, it may seem as if we have moved on. In the 7 years since, little has changed. Our country is no safer. We disagree about how to solve the problem, but we do agree that there is a problem. There is a public health crisis in our country, and it doesn't matter if you live in a red or blue district.

I stand here today, committed to making a change, committed to showing families in our community that just because time has passed, our urgency to addressing gun violence has not.

IN RECOGNITION OF STENNIS SPACE CENTER TEAM

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

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, 50 years ago, rockets tested at the Mississippi Test Facility, now known as the Stennis Space Center, carried Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins high above the Earth's atmosphere.

These brave Americans were aided by the technical and engineering expertise of Mississippi scientists and engineers. The men and women at the Stennis Space Center conducted 2,475 man-years of rocket engine testing to ensure that the astronauts successfully carried American ingenuity toward the stars and returned home safely to a proud nation.

Following the successful mission, the Stennis Space Center team continued to support the Apollo program by performing tests on the Saturn V rockets and continues today to support NASA in our exploration of space.

As a Mississippian, I join the rest of our States as we remember the crucial role we played in this historic accomplishment of our great Nation.

HONORING BETSY BOSSART FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

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

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, all of us who serve in this House are deeply indebted to our hardworking staff who enable us to serve our constituents and meet the rigorous demands of this job.

In particular, all of us are grateful for our district directors, as we are for all of our staff. But our district directors are "us" for so many instances, for so many constituents, and for so many different events.

They represent us when we cannot be there, when we are here in Washington. They are our eyes and ears on the ground when we are here. They are the angels on our shoulders who remind us that everything we do on a national level needs to benefit our constituents back home.

For the past 30 years, I have been blessed—the Fifth Congressional District has been blessed—to be a colleague of Betsy Bossart.

I love Betsy Bossart, and my constituents love Betsy Bossart.

Before she served as my district director, she was my administrative assistant, the jack of all trades who made sure my office ran smoothly, and served as one of my chief advisers.

Betsy joined my staff on March 3, 1989, 30 years ago, and until she retired—sadly, from my perspective—last month, she served me, the people of the Fifth District, and our country every day.

With her departure, my office—and, indeed, this House—is diminished by the end of her extraordinary service.

Betsy gave her time and energy selflessly for the people of the Fifth District, working many, many late nights, many weekends, and long days.

She has taken meetings with every organization and visited nearly every school and medical facility and government office in the counties I represent.

Betsy Bossart has been so successful as my district director because she is an excellent listener and has a deep wellspring of empathy for people.

She has been a role model, Madam Speaker, for others on my staff and a champion, an advocate for young people coming into public service and waiting to make differences in their communities and in their country.

She has been an unsung hero of my team for three decades.

It is largely because of Betsy's hard work behind the scenes that we are able to organize the Rebuilding Together program—formerly known as Christmas in April—in all five counties in our district. It is a day of service that brings people from all walks of life together to repair homes, revitalize communities, and help our neighbors.

Because of Betsy's efforts, we have the annual Fifth District Women's Luncheon, dedicated to advancing women's equality and raising awareness of women leaders in the Fifth District and our country.

Because of her, we have robust support for the network of early childhood centers in Maryland named in memory of my wife, Judy, who had a wonderful relationship with Betsy as well.

Maryland's Judy Centers will always be a major part of Betsy's legacy, and the thousands of children and families who benefited from their services may not know Betsy or what she did to make the Judy Centers possible, but they will always owe her and her colleagues who partnered with her on that effort a debt of gratitude.

Along with her friend and my friend, Betty Richardson—another longtime member of my team, who has since retired but remains very active in my district—as partners, Betty and Betsy were also instrumental in launching the annual Fifth District Black History Breakfast, now in its 38th year.

All the young people who participate in the annual Greater Washington Soap Box Derby have Betsy to thank for being able to use the Capitol Grounds.

Madam Speaker, I will look back with many, many, many fond memories of my time working with Betsy Bossart, my friend, my colleague, my coworker, whom I had the opportunity to work with to advance the interest of our district.

We traveled together to South Africa and met with Nelson Mandela, discussing the important issue of racial justice and unity through history and healing.

We have attended so many events together across Prince George's County and southern Maryland, making sure that every one of our constituent's voices is heard loudly and clearly in Congress.

As majority leader and Democratic whip over the past 16 years, I have had to balance service to our district with my responsibilities to our Caucus and to our country. Betsy has spent every single day of that time making sure that our district always comes first.

I will miss Betsy. I expect to remain her friend throughout my life, but I will miss her daily advice and expertise, though I am relieved that she will always be just a phone call away.

As she retires, Madam Speaker, to spend more time with her husband and their family in Pennsylvania, I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking Betsy Bossart for 30 dedicated years, yes, to me, but, more importantly, to our constituents, to our State, and to our country.

Madam Speaker, were I to speak another 2 hours—as some fear—I could not thank Betsy Bossart enough.

God bless Betsy Bossart, a wonderful friend, a wonderful American.

SUPPORT MILITARY SURVIVING SPOUSES

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, today is legislative day 5 since House Democrats subverted the Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act from being a standalone bill.

I am grateful that 86 percent of Congress, 371 Members, have cosponsored this legislation, who were recruited by determined widows in the veterans service organizations.

As Minority Whip STEVE SCALISE noted on the floor last week:

Here is a bill that can quickly get to the President's desk, and it gets included in other pieces of legislation that might come months away. But here is a bill where a Member worked in good faith under the rules that were created, and it was unfortunate that the rule to bring the NDAA bill to the floor turned off the Consensus Calendar specifically for that bill, that one bill, which happened to be the first bill that met that requirement.

We should work together, bipartisan, to bring the Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act up for a standalone to eliminate the widow's tax.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

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HELP LIMIT CORRUPTION IN WASHINGTON

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

Mr. McNERNEY. Madam Speaker, the way we finance campaigns in this country is a true threat to our democracy. This structure is a leading cause

of our Nation's political paralysis and voter apathy.

In the book "Dark Money," Jane Mayer wrote: "In 2006, only 2 percent of 'outside' political spending came from 'social welfare' groups that hid their donors. In 2010, this number rose to 40 percent, masking hundreds of millions of dollars."

Since the 2010 Citizens United decision and related decisions, this number is even greater today. The massive amount of money flowing into our political system corrupts the political process and stymies effectiveness.

That is why I introduced a proposed constitutional amendment to reform our broken campaign finance system. My amendment would eliminate political action committees and "dark money." Funding for a candidate or ballot measure would be limited to the use of a public financing system or donations given directly to the campaign by individual citizens. This would end much of the corruption in Washington.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to do everything possible to help limit corruption in Washington, including supporting this legislation.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER), a former district judge.

SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE RICHARD HUDSON INTO THE TEXAS NAVY

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend, Mr. GOHMERT, for yielding.

I rise today to honor my dear friend, Congressman RICHARD HUDSON of North Carolina.

Congressman HUDSON served as my chief of staff from 2006 to 2008 and is now forging his own path right here on Capitol Hill.

Some time ago, Congressman HUDSON gave me a hard time about other Members being recognized as "Honorary Texans" by Governor Abbott. Well, after speaking with the Governor, we have gone one step further with our recognition here today, and I am pleased to swear in Admiral Richard L. Hudson to the Texas Navy.

I will now read the certificate granting his commission:

"In the name and by the authority of The State of Texas to all to whom these presents shall come, Greetings. Know ye, that Richard Hudson is hereby commissioned an honorary Admiral in the Texas Navy with all rights and privileges appertaining thereto and with the duty of assisting in the preservation of the history, boundaries, water resources, and defense of the State.

"In testimony whereof, I have signed my name and caused the Seal of the

State of Texas to be affixed at the City of Austin, this the 10th day of May, 2019."

Signed: Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas.

I am now going to read the oath that Mr. Hudson will take as he takes this commission:

"I, Richard Hudson, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the State of Texas against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States, the Governor of Texas, and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. And I will remember the Alamo. So help me God."

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON).

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. GOHMERT for yielding, and I thank Judge Carter for this incredible honor. The gentleman is a dear friend and someone I admire very much. His love for the State of Texas is unmatched.

This truly is an honor. I am proud to be a North Carolinian, but I do love the State of Texas.

I would first suggest that we should all remember that seven North Carolinians, if my recollection is correct, died defending the Alamo.

I also have family ties to Texas. My great uncle Joseph Wesley Humphrey was a deputy sheriff, a member of the Texas legislature, and county judge in Rains County, Texas.

Another great uncle, Reverend Daniel A. McRae, was a Methodist minister in San Augustine County, Texas. I believe that might even be in Mr. GOHMERT's district. And the church and the cemetery there is still named "McRae" after my great uncle.

So I do have family ties. I do love the State. I am deeply honored to receive this commission, honorary as it may be, and I will be proud to recite the oath:

I, RICHARD HUDSON, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and of the State of Texas against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States, the Governor of Texas, and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. And I will remember the Alamo. So help me God.

Madam Speaker, I thank Judge Carter.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I congratulate Mr. HUDSON.

Mr. GOHMERT. It is wonderful to have a new admiral in the Texas Navy, and we welcome Congressman HUDSON to that role, that honorary role, in the Texas Navy.

And we are grateful to Judge Carter for his role in making that happen and to our great Governor Greg Abbott. I thank both the gentlemen.