

strengthening protections for pre-existing conditions to protect those individuals.

We passed the Equality Act to ensure that every American enjoys the same rights and is protected equally under the law. The Equality Act is so important.

I fought to improve our water infrastructure, to address the strain on this precious resource brought by drought and climate change to ensure that we have clean, safe drinking water for all of our communities.

In the San Joaquin Valley, sadly, we have many communities that don't enjoy clean, safe drinking water standards.

□ 1015

I have worked hard to implement the farm bill, to lead education and outreach programs for farm programs to help farmers improve not only their water sustainability, but their ability to market their crops.

In immigration, we have passed the funding bills to help alleviate the humanitarian crisis at our border and advanced legislation to secure a pathway to citizenship for millions of undocumented immigrants currently living in the United States; our Dreamers, over 800,000, who came here through no choice of their own, and for them America is the only country they have ever known. They need and deserve legal status.

I am proud that, in the last 6 months of work, this week we will consider H.R. 3239, the Humanitarian Standards for Individuals in Customs and Border Protection Custody Act.

Many of us have been to the borders, and we do have a humanitarian crisis there, and we need to do what is right. We need to ensure that those individuals receive good standards of water, beds, and access to healthcare, and that they are treated humanely. That is the American way. These are basic living standards.

Finally, the budget deal that was agreed to on a bipartisan basis over the weekend is important, not only as it relates to our discretionary and non-discretionary spending for the next 2 years lifting the budget cap, but in addition to that, to ensuring that we produce a budget on time; that we avoid a government shutdown; that we ensure that our men and women serving in American Armed Forces have the adequate funding that they need; that our veterans get the support and our VA hospitals that we have promised them.

These are the things that are part of an overall budget deal. It avoids the kind of circus that we had over the last year where we had a government shutdown, a government shutdown we should never have. We should never have that impact on our economy; our Federal workers to be expected—whether they be in air traffic control or food safety—to go to work and not to receive a check. That is irresponsible.

So the budget deal is good. It is a bipartisan effort. It, frankly, gives the sort of discretion that Congress needs to make budget decisions to prioritize our needs in America.

So, for that, I thank the Congress.

CONGRATULATING SAINT FRANCIS UNIVERSITY ON THEIR APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION GRANT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Saint Francis University on a well-deserved grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission, otherwise known as ARC.

ARC recently announced Saint Francis University as the recipient of a \$150,000 grant to support advanced patient simulation training equipment for the university's new Health Science Experiential Learning Commons that will open this October.

The Commons will include much-needed space for classroom, laboratory, and clinical education, including five state-of-the-art simulation suites where students can practice real life clinical scenarios on computer-controlled mannequins with the assistance of their instructors through two-way audio-video conferencing.

The grant will be used to invest in this cutting-edge technology to provide students with the technology needed to close the skills gap and better prepare them for situations they will likely encounter in their professional careers.

Saint Francis University has committed itself to career and technical education in the health science field, and this grant will help provide hundreds of students with the training necessary to prepare for rewarding careers and, quite frankly, service to their community.

Investments like these are playing a critical role in developing the 21st century American workforce, in developing a workforce full of talented individuals who can help meet today's ever-growing demand for healthcare professionals.

Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District, in particular, is in need of healthcare professionals, and Saint Francis students are rising to the occasion. The grant will not only support current Saint Francis students; ARC rightfully noted, "local employers will have access to a pipeline of highly-skilled healthcare professionals to meet labor demands, help create jobs and expand the local economy, and provide quality healthcare to citizens in Appalachian Pennsylvania."

Reverend Malachi Van Tassell, President of Saint Francis University, noted the value that this grant adds for the students who are seeking an education in health science. He said, "This equipment will allow our students to practice hands-on patient care procedures in a simulated environment and to learn how to work in an interprofessional, team-based setting. Beyond the benefit to our students, it will also enable us to provide advanced training opportunities to area emergency medical services personnel and first responders."

Mr. Speaker, this grant is not just an investment in Saint Francis, it is an investment in Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District. It is an investment in the lifeblood of our local communities.

When we empower learners and provide them with the necessary resources for a conducive, innovative learning environment, our students will thrive personally and professionally, and will provide the best possible care to Pennsylvanians in need.

COMMEMORATING ASSYRIAN GENOCIDE MEMORIAL DAY

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

Mr. HARDER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate August 7, Assyrian Genocide Memorial Day.

Many Americans are already familiar with the horrors of the Armenian genocide. But not nearly as many know about the genocide of innocent Assyrian civilians by the Ottoman Empire; which is why I am leading a resolution to finally recognize the genocide of Assyrians in the Middle East.

Many of my Assyrian friends and neighbors in California's Central Valley still carry the weight of this horrific event.

Beginning in 1914, the Ottoman Empire is estimated to have slaughtered 300,000 innocent Assyrians; but some experts believe the true death toll is much higher. On August 7, Shovah b'tabakh, we remember those who were lost, and we say never again.

My resolution would take simple steps to do both. It would assert that Turkey, the inheritor of the Ottoman tradition, must recognize the genocide; and it would condemn any efforts to associate the U.S. with genocide denial.

My resolution would recognize the resilience of the Assyrian people who endured the genocide, the Simele massacre, and are now threatened once again by holdouts in ISIS. And they have survived all of this without a homeland to call their own.

Today, we remember the Sadih, the martyrs. We think of their families. We recommit ourselves to upholding the rights of all people to live freely and in safety.

AMERICA IS AN AMAZING PLACE

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

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, America is an amazing place, and we too

often, as Americans, take that for granted. Opportunities exist in this country that simply aren't available in much of the world. And my life is an example of the extraordinary possibilities in the United States of America.

I ask you, where else can a kid, born in poverty, beginning life in a subsidized housing project, become a national legislator? Yet, here I stand as a Member of Congress.

In how many countries can the oldest of seven children with parents that are an hourly auto worker and an office worker for the Salvation Army, become the first in their extended family to graduate from college, build a career, become the CEO of a major workforce development company and, after retiring, be elected to Congress?

America is a truly unique and special place that we must love and respect with all our heart and soul.

My mother raised me to believe that those with talents and resources were expected by God to make a difference in the world. I tried to do that in my career throughout my life.

My mission for 35 years was to assist people in identifying and securing career opportunities. My professional career allowed me to support my family, while assisting adults of all ages and backgrounds to develop the skills to support their families and build careers.

I assisted individuals ranging from laid-off steel workers and auto workers, to long-term public assistant recipients, develop the skills they needed to build a career and support their families.

I worked with individuals requiring literacy education, English as a second language, and adults that had worked their same job their entire lives, and suddenly found their jobs and industries had evaporated, and their lives turned upside down.

I worked, in some way or another, with tens of thousands of people searching for assistance in securing a job and a career path. I believed then, and I continue to believe, that most Americans find value and opportunity in working. Sometimes they just need a hand and assistance to overcome adversity.

I brought that passion and commitment to Washington. My mission was to make a difference in the world. I literally approached being a Member of Congress like my career, full tilt, leaving no stone unturned to have a meaningful impact and to make a difference.

It is an honor to stand on this floor, debate issues, and represent the people of Michigan's 10th District. I am proud to be among the 12,500 or so that have had the privilege to serve in Congress.

But I have also begun to ask myself about making a difference in my family. My children of all ages, the youngest just 9, have accepted their dad traveling the country, working a demanding schedule, frequently interrupted by text messages, emails, and phone calls. My spouse, Sherry, has been so sup-

portive and more patient than probably warranted.

A career in Washington was never my objective. My mission has always been to simply address significant challenges this Nation faces: Trade, healthcare, immigration, and infrastructure, to name just a few.

However, it appears to me that rhetoric overwhelms policy, and politics consumes much of the oxygen in this city.

The time has come to make a difference for my family, to focus my time and energy upon them, their needs, their goals.

George Washington is quoted as saying: "I would rather be on my farm than emperor of the world."

As a result, I have decided I will not seek to represent Michigan's 10th Congressional District next term. After serving out the remainder of the 116th Congress, I will return to my family and to our small farm.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF LARRY N. OLINGER

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Larry N. Olinger, Vice Chairman of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, a dedicated, inspiring leader who passed away July 15, 2019, at the age of 80.

Vice Chairman Olinger grew up in Palm Springs and, later, in Orange County, where he spent many years breeding and racing horses.

From a young age, Vice Chairman Olinger was drawn to enacting positive change in his community through public service.

Vice Chairman Olinger was first elected to Tribal Council in 1961, where he began his 60-year career. He went on to serve in every position on Tribal Council, including secretary, treasurer, chairman, and eventually vice chairman in 2012.

As the first chairman of the Agua Caliente Development Authority, Olinger championed gaming as a Tribal business enterprise, stimulating economic growth and strengthening Tribal sovereignty.

His leadership also spanned from the Native American Rights Fund to the State of California and the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy, where he advocated for the protection of our communities' natural and cultural resources.

Our communities have lost a great man and generational leader in Vice Chairman Olinger's passing. His passion, class, and concern for the well-being of others, including his Tribe and our surrounding communities, was admirable.

I have always admired Chairman Olinger's strong character and lifelong commitment to learning; and I will deeply miss his caring nature and dry sense of humor.

Vice Chairman Olinger often called his "proudest achievement" his marriage to his wife, Susan.

Susan, my heart goes out to you and the entire Olinger family.

I also send my heartfelt condolences to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians.

We will miss Vice Chairman Olinger deeply; but we can honor his legacy by loving our neighbors, caring for the Earth, and protecting and respecting the rich culture and sovereignty of Tribal communities.

□ 1030

HONORING JESUS RIVERA OSUNA

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jesus Rivera Osuna, a soft-spoken, true family man, who passed away on June 28, 2019, at the age of 74.

Mr. Osuna is the father of my childhood best friend, Oscar Osuna. I spent so much time at the Osuna home that they became my second family, and Mr. Osuna always made me feel welcome and part of the family.

I remember his patience, humility, and loving and calming nature. He was also a kind, stable, and secure male role model in our rough-and-tumble impoverished community.

Mr. Osuna was a hardworking man and ran his own business for 50 years, toiling in the hot desert Sun to repair air-conditioning units in the Coachella Valley community.

He was also a great guitar player. I would listen in amazement to Mr. Osuna play classical guitar alone in his room after a long day at work. He was always so humble. He would stop playing if he noticed anybody nearby, so I would quietly listen from Oscar's room in awe of his talent.

Mr. Osuna married his high school sweetheart, Mary Lou, at 24 years old, and together they raised four children, my second family brothers and sisters—Elvia, Sergio, Oscar, and Lila—three nephews, and supported Mr. Osuna's mother. Mr. and Mrs. Osuna's family has grown to include four grandchildren.

Even in his final days, Mr. Osuna refused to be a burden to his family as he battled the illness that ultimately took his life.

To the Osuna family, I love you, and your dad's story is engraved in my heart and now recorded in our Nation's history.

HONORING SERGEANT MIKE STEPHEN

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of our Nation's fallen first responders, Sergeant Mike Stephen, who was killed in the line of duty on July 18.

Sergeant Stephen was a true public servant, having served Arkansas and our Nation as a law enforcement officer, firefighter, and soldier.