

revived to honor veterans of World War I, it has been awarded to nearly 2 million brave service men and women, yet there is no comprehensive list of Purple Heart recipients.

The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor located in my district in New Windsor, New York, was created to collect and preserve the names and stories of the men and women wounded or killed in service of our Nation. The proceeds of this coin, which will be produced nearby at the West Point Mint, will support the hall in its critical mission, along with other programs that help veterans and their families.

Today, I am thinking of two men who inspired our work on this bill. One was my dad, who was a Navy vet who was hurt on the USS *Manchester* and who taught me the reverence we must have for our service men and women. The other was Republican Senator Bill Larkin, a New York State Senator, a dear friend who passed away just days ago. He and I worked closely to advance the mission of the hall.

I also thank the Military Order of the Purple Heart and volunteers like Stephanie Keegan, who helped round up 300 of our colleagues in support of this important legislation and who will make tomorrow's vote a reality.

#### SUPPORTING WITHDRAWAL OF THE WOTUS RULE

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Andrew Wheeler, Administrator at EPA, and R.D. James, administrator at the Army Corps of Engineers, for withdrawing the very devastating WOTUS rule, the waters of the United States rule that was put in about 4 years ago under the Obama administration which went way beyond the bounds of what the Clean Water Act passed and was intended by this Congress in 1972.

It has been devastating to farmers, ranchers, and others outside that do things with the management of water seeming to be not just in what is called navigable waterways but every mud puddle across the United States.

This was a massive overreach by the previous administration on that, and we can put this back on a better path so that we have the type of management that actually does help keep our water clean in this country but also not onerous regulations that make it impossible to farm and ranch in this country.

We have seen farmers receive million-dollar fines because of merely re-engaging crops have been fallow for a while or changing a crop, which is way beyond the scope of what the Clean Water Act intended and had provisions for exemptions for agriculture.

It is a great step. Thank you, EPA and Army Corps, for the repeal of this measure.

#### IMPORTANCE OF TEACHING CLIMATE CHANGE IN SCHOOLS

(Ms. LEE of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of teaching climate change in schools.

This Friday, on September 20, students from around the world will be protesting the need to combat climate change. Led by Greta Thunberg, a climate activist from Sweden who boldly skipped school to protest the need for more climate action, her act of defiance has evolved into a movement and set precedent for a generation of climate activism. More than 25 percent of America's students are taking action to urge us to address climate change.

In order to meaningfully act upon our climate change and eliminate climate change, young people need education on its causes, consequences, and possible solutions. That is why I am introducing a resolution to support climate change education in American schools.

It is a fact that American students do not learn enough about climate change. We need to teach every young person the human impacts of climate change and how to address our warming planet before it is too late. I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution and to hear the voices of the students protesting in Friday's climate strikes.

□ 1415

#### HONORING THE MEMORY OF SERGEANT FIRST CLASS BARRETO-ORTIZ

(Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Sergeant First Class Elis Barreto Ortiz, fallen in Afghanistan on September 5.

When Sergeant Barreto enlisted 10 years ago, he followed the tradition of many Puerto Ricans, including his father, in answering the call to defend America.

He served with distinction, earning many awards and the praise of his comrades. Now he joins those who also made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom.

The people of Puerto Rico share the pain that fills this hero's family in his small hometown of Morovis and his unit's base at Fort Bragg.

Nothing can fill the void for his parents or his wife and children, but we must resolve that his sacrifice will be remembered and honored, and his memory will always endure.

May you rest in peace, Sergeant Barreto, a hero and a proud Puerto Rican.

#### STEPHANIE TIMOTEO'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, Stephanie Timoteo, a resident of Bridgeton in South Jersey, turned 100 years old on August 25.

Stephanie has always been an incredibly active person in her community. She values faith, family, and heritage as the most important aspects of her life.

She was born into a family of Polish immigrants, and in her midtwenties, she became a seamstress and she made uniforms for soldiers during World War II.

After the war, Stephanie spent most of her time with her children, but she continued to work at home as a seamstress and a dressmaker.

Over the years, Stephanie has given her time as a den mother, a Girl Scout leader, a Christ Child volunteer, a coordinator for the Polish American Club, and many, many, many other roles. They are actually countless.

Now she loves to crochet, read, and spend time with her seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Happy birthday to Stephanie. We are incredibly lucky to have her. May God bless her. South Jersey is proud of her; New Jersey is proud of her; and America is proud of her.

#### HONORING GENERAL ROBERT P. CARSON, THE CITADEL MASCOT

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

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of General Robert P. Carson, the beloved bulldog mascot of The Citadel, who passed away this Friday.

The General came from a distinguished lineage, and his relatives include former mascots of the University of Georgia, the United States Marine Corps, and Mississippi State University.

The General's caretaker, Dr. John Bradford, reported that on game days, he would often find the bulldog waiting in the corner of his backyard, facing the stadium. He just couldn't wait to fire those cannons, and his spirit helped his fellow Bulldogs pull off an incredible upset this past Saturday.

The General was with his fellow mascot, Boo X, when he passed away. The two were the pride of The Citadel campus and cherished members of the institution.

Anyone with a pet knows how deeply they impact our lives, and I offer my sincere condolences to the entire Citadel community.

Go 'Dogs.

REAUTHORIZING SECTION 215 OF  
THE PATRIOT ACT

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, today in our Judiciary Committee was quite interesting. For some people, it was quite a role reversal.

We had a hearing on the potential reauthorization of the FISA courts and discussion about powers of our DOJ, FBI, and NSA under what is often referred to as section 215.

It was interesting in the way of role reversals because, for years, we have been told that Democrats are the real civil libertarians. They are the ones who are trying to defend privacy rights, rights of Americans to think what they want, do what they want, and without being interrupted or spied upon by the Federal Government.

Yet, today, over and over, we heard apologies basically from our Democratic friends to the representative of the Department of Justice, the FBI, and National Security Administration for comments of some Republicans.

There really was no need to apologize. We weren't attacking these three individual witnesses, but there are issues that are still unresolved that many of my friends across the aisle used to be concerned about, privacy and Fourth Amendment rights that are supposed to protect us from improper search and seizure or spying, or surveillance being one of the more important. So we had these witnesses.

It was interesting, and if I were our friend Israel, I would be very concerned, because I asked these representatives, first of all, does the Department of Justice, the FBI, or the NSA consider Russia to be a known terrorist organization under section 215. Each of the representatives indicated, in turn, that they could not answer that question.

Well, the silence seemed to speak volumes to me. It should have been an easy question to answer.

I asked about Israel. Does the DOJ, FBI, or NSA consider the Ambassador from Israel to be a representative of a terrorist organization, and they couldn't answer that question.

That is quite interesting.

But my concern arose out of reading and hearing, in prior years, about how apparently Jeff Sessions was surveilled because he was speaking to a Russian Ambassador, and there were reports that the Ambassador from Israel had been surveilled.

So, under 215, they are supposed to be part of either a known terrorist or an ally, someone who identifies with a known terrorist organization.

So it is interesting that things have evolved the way they have so that our own intelligence can't tell us whether Russia or Israel is considered a terrorist organization. It is quite alarming.

But ever since I first got here, my first term, when we took up reauthorization of the PATRIOT Act—and I understood when the PATRIOT Act was passed, it was just days after, maybe a week or so after 9/11, and we didn't know who had hit us, were they about to hit us again, were 3,000 or more people going to be dying any day again and again.

So I wasn't here, but Congress passed this overarching bill that gave way too much power to the government, but I understand the atmosphere here at the time.

Then section 215 came up for reauthorization, as has the FISA courts in recent years. It is important that we continue to take a look at those. I think it is extremely important that we have sunsets; otherwise, if there is not the chance that these powers will go away, then we always have trouble, no matter whether it is a Democrat or a Republican administration, always have trouble getting people to come up and speak frankly or get records so we know what may have occurred, whether it was abused or not.

But I go to section 215, and I have been concerned about some of this language since I first got here.

As a former litigator, prosecutor, judge, chief justice, I know words mean things. This section says that, basically, the FBI can make an application for an order requiring production of tangible things for an investigation to obtain foreign intelligence information not concerning a U.S. person or to protect against international terrorism or clandestine intelligence activity.

Now, I asked this several years ago when this was being pushed for reauthorization: What does "clandestine intelligence activity" mean? What does that mean? Because, to me, if I am the judge, you come to me and you want a warrant and you say, "We have caught somebody engaged in clandestine intelligence activities," wow, that is so broad.

So the question I asked today I asked years ago: Could that mean that, if my neighbor is peering, watching my yard from behind his or her curtain—well, that is clandestine. They are hiding behind a curtain. They are trying to see what is going on. That is gathering intelligence. So would that justify a warrant from the FISA court?

Well, they couldn't answer that question, and they never have. They never have attempted to answer that question.

In fact, years ago, when it was reauthorized, the representatives of DOJ, CIA, NSA, they were all saying:

"Look, that really doesn't come into play, particularly."

"Oh, well, good. Then let's eliminate it."

"Well, no. We don't want to eliminate our ability to get a warrant based on clandestine intelligence activities."

"Well, what does that mean? How has it been used?"

"Couldn't get an answer, but they sure wanted to keep it in there."

What does that mean? It doesn't say "foreign clandestine intelligence." It doesn't say "terrorist clandestine intelligence."

So words mean things. Why do they keep wanting that language in there?

It used to be not as big of a concern until we find out that the FISA courts, basically—we might call them the RS courts instead of the FISA courts. The FISA courts are basically RS courts, rubberstamp courts because, basically, when the Federal Government comes in, they get what they want.

I was one, having, again, been a judge, I had law officers come before me many times. Sometimes they would come to my house at 2 or 3 in the morning. They would need a warrant quickly, and the requirements of the Constitution are very clear.

I just happen to have a copy of the Constitution. Amendment IV says: "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

That particular description, those words, are very important, as are the two words, "probable cause."

□ 1430

We were taught, and as a judge I applied it, that if a law officer wants a warrant—sometimes there were FBI who would come and sometimes they would come with other law officers—but they knew, under the Constitution—they normally did a very good job—you have to have an affidavit that establishes there is probable cause to believe a crime was committed and probable cause to believe the person whose records were sought to be seized had probably committed the crime. It is not enough to just allege we have probable cause to believe a crime was committed and this person committed it. That is not enough. The affidavit must describe facts—not conclusions, but facts—that establish that, yeah, probably a crime was committed and probably this person did it and that is why we need this record, that is why we need this search warrant, and that is why we need to be able to go look for those specific records, specific things.

Imagine my surprise when a FISA court order was leaked—and it was an order by the FISA court here in Washington—and it says, it orders, it was ordered:

The custodian of records shall produce to the NSA on service of this order and continue production on an ongoing daily basis thereafter for the duration of this order, unless otherwise ordered by the court, all call detail records or telephoning metadata created by Verizon for communications 1) between the United States and abroad, or 2) wholly within the United States, including local telephone calls. This order does not require Verizon to produce telephone and metadata for communications wholly originating and terminating in foreign countries.