

Let's have the full truth. It is a great cleanser.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. PORTER). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

CONGRATULATING BAYLOR, SCOTT & WHITE THE HEART HOSPITAL

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

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Baylor, Scott & White The Heart Hospital for being named Physician Hospital of the Year by Physician Hospitals of America.

Located in my hometown of Plano, Texas, The Heart Hospital ranks as one of the top-performing cardiac surgical programs in the entire country and provides Collin County with the highest level of cardiac healthcare.

Since opening in 2007, The Heart Hospital has worked day in and day out to save lives and ensure compassion to everyone who enters there.

Our community is proud to be the home of this state-of-the-art facility and its many astounding healthcare providers and staff.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating The Heart Hospital of Plano on their recent success and thanking them for all their hard work.

VETERANS' ISSUES

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

Mr. COX of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on two significant issues that affect the brave individuals who have fought for our Nation.

First, almost a quarter of all veterans in the United States—approximately 4.7 million—reside in rural communities. While veterans may enjoy the benefits of rural living, they also experience unique challenges in accessing the healthcare they need and deserve.

Currently, through reauthorization, the Department of Veterans Affairs grant program for the transportation of highly rural veterans appropriates \$3 million for the Department to provide transportation in rural areas. This program should not need annual reauthorization; it should be made permanent.

Second, the Veterans Benefits Administration has moved to electronically process over 99 percent of compensation claims since the implementation of the Veterans Benefits Management System. This transition has been key in reducing the backlog of claims, modernizing the Federal Government, and improving efficiency.

I propose amending title 38 of the United States Code to assist the VA as they modernize and utilize today's

technological advancements in order to best serve our veterans.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in working on legislation that will fix these oversights and to further support every person who serves our Nation.

THANKING YORK COUNTY ECONOMIC ALLIANCE

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

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank the York County Economic Alliance for their work to promote opportunity zones in York County.

Madam Speaker, we know that the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 is working for the American people, allowing families to keep more of their hard-earned dollars in their paychecks.

Businesses are expanding and creating jobs across York and Lancaster Counties, creating an economy with more opportunity for everyone.

One of the strongest tools created by the TCJA is opportunity zones, a way to spur development and job creation in economically distressed communities.

In fact, I look forward to hosting the Small Business Administration for an opportunity zone roundtable in the near future to share with our community the potential advantages of investments in their neighborhoods.

The YCEA, led by President and CEO Kevin Schreiber and Silas Chamberlin, the Vice President of Economic and Community Development, has done an incredible job through its website, “opportunityyork.org,” sharing how opportunity zones can positively transform our communities. This is a great example of a local chamber helping businesses build and invest for the benefit of our shared community.

Madam Speaker, York County is open for business with the help of the YCEA. I thank them for being a reliable and hardworking partner for York County's economic growth and prosperity.

CONGRATULATING BARBARA KIM-HAGEMANN, NEW JERSEY VFW STATE COMMANDER

(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, on June 22, Barbara Kim-Hagemann became the first woman—the very first woman—to be installed as State commander for New Jersey's Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Barbara is a U.S. Army veteran who served in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait during Desert Shield and during Desert Storm.

When she returned to America, she joined a VFW, and the VFW post was in Jackson, New Jersey. There, she be-

came the first female post commander in Ocean County and then the first female district commander, where she served for two terms.

Now, as VFW State commander, Barbara's project for this year focuses on veteran suicide prevention and mental health awareness, a subject that is so important and needs so much work. She also works on strengthening networks of support, communication, and care for veterans across New Jersey's communities.

We are incredibly lucky to have Barbara. I thank her for her service abroad and the continued service she brings to our south Jersey community. Her State is proud of her, south Jersey is proud of her, and the United States of America is proud of her.

May God bless Barbara Kim-Hagemann.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2203, HOMELAND SECURITY IMPROVEMENT ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3525, U.S. BORDER PATROL MEDICAL SCREENING STANDARDS ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 576, EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE WITH RESPECT TO WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINT MADE TO INSPECTOR GENERAL OF INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Ms. SCANLON, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 116-217) on the resolution (H. Res. 577) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2203) to increase transparency, accountability, and community engagement within the Department of Homeland Security, provide independent oversight of border security activities, improve training for agents and officers of U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3525) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to establish uniform processes for medical screening of individuals interdicted between ports of entry, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 576) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the whistleblower complaint of August 12, 2019, made to the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community; and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

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

Mr. SPANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight that September is

National Suicide Prevention Month. This is not an easy subject to talk about, especially since each person's circumstances differ. Yet, as the number 10 cause of death in the U.S., it is vital that people understand the issues concerning suicide and mental health so that anyone can help a person in crisis.

That is the focus of the advocacy message surrounding National Suicide Prevention Month this year, which is "Be the one to." Be the one to, because we can all follow the five action steps to make an impact on someone's life:

Be the one to ask.
Be the one to keep them safe.
Be the one to be there.
Be the one to help them connect.
Be the one to follow up.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline website also provides tips to better identify potential warning signs before applying these five steps, as well as other resources.

For those in crisis, know that you are not alone and help is available. The lifeline is run 24/7 and can be reached at 1-800-273-8255.

SUICIDE TRENDS

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

Ms. DEAN. Madam Speaker, I, too, rise on the issue of suicide.

Every day in America, 129 people die by suicide. Over a single year, that is more than 47,000 souls, each an irreplaceable loss.

Even more troubling, suicide is on the rise among teens, vets, and law enforcement. Between 2001 and 2017, the suicide rate increased by 31 percent. That year, 2017, saw 1.4 million suicide attempts in this country.

These trends have many causes, and we must get to the bottom of them, but we can start saving lives today.

Congress recently passed the STOIC Act, and the President signed it into law. This bipartisan bill will fund suicide prevention programs for law enforcement, where deaths by suicide now outstrip line-of-duty deaths.

Gun safety legislation will also make a difference. Firearms kill 40,000 people each year, including 60 percent to suicide.

Background checks and red flag laws save lives, but the Senate and the President have refused to act. We must call out their absence of action. Our country needs them to stand up.

Our own colleague, Representative SUSAN WILD, recently lost her partner to suicide and has bravely described its devastating effects and now lifts her strong voice so that others will not suffer the same.

Madam Speaker, it is time for us to act.

CONTINUING PRAYERS FOR DEPUTY BRAD SULLIVAN

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, on September 5, 2019, the Madison County Sheriff's Department responded to a hostage situation near Canton, Mississippi.

Upon arrival, the suspect fled and led deputies on a high-speed chase throughout the northeastern part of the county before spike strips were deployed to stop the suspect's vehicle. Once immobilized, the suspect began to fire on deputies, striking two officers.

Deputy Brad Sullivan was shot multiple times as he arrived on the scene and was later transported to the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Deputy Sullivan remains in serious condition as our community unites with prayer, donations, and medical skill to save the life of this brave officer.

On behalf of Mississippi's Third Congressional District, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude and respect for Deputy Sullivan, the other deputies who responded, and the entire Madison County Sheriff's Department.

We ask all Mississippians to continue to pray for Brad's recovery and for God's hand of protection on all our law enforcement officers.

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FIRE DANGER MITIGATION

(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 tonight to commend Vicki Christiansen, the Forest Service Chief, for proposing a new rule to add to our fire danger mitigation that we need to do in California and across the West.

Building upon my bill from a year and a half ago, the Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act, this allows the streamlining of the process to clear trees and brush, et cetera, around power lines, that make it a fire hazard.

We have certainly suffered enough fire loss in California. I had the Camp fire right in my own district, the Carr fire last year as well and, this year, already 54,000 acres burned in Plumas County.

As it is right now, our utilities have a hard time being able to get out and do the work because the permit process can be difficult. So they resort to late-ly, right in the middle of my district, what is known as the public safety power shutoff as a precaution, with the wind conditions and heat perhaps being able to cause additional wildfire.

We shouldn't put the utilities in that position of being cursed if they do or cursed if they don't for a possible fire. We need to get the work done around the power lines. So I hope this rule put through by the U.S. Forest Service will help us accomplish that.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, I rise as a member of the Congressional Black Caucus to speak to this body about the issues that are important to Americans, everyday Americans.

The Congressional Black Caucus is the conscience of the Congress, and we feel that it is our responsibility in our Special Order Hours to address those issues and concerns that are of most importance to the people of America. We represent 70 million Americans in our caucus, 55 Members strong, and we are using this time to address this Congress on the issues of agriculture and the Black community.

Agriculture and the Black community, it is more than just SNAP for us.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT).

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I come before you as the chairman of the Agriculture Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit.

Madam Speaker, I rise at this moment to speak out against the United States Department of Agriculture's food and nutrition service proposed rule to change the eligibility requirements for SNAP; and let me tell you why, Madam Speaker.

It is because this proposed rule, number one, it would eliminate broad-based categorical eligibility for SNAP, and effectively end all SNAP benefits for more than 3 million seniors, veterans, working families with children, and individuals with disabilities.

Current eligibility simply allows low-income families and children to receive SNAP benefits if they have already qualified for other anti-poverty programs. That's it.

But, Madam Speaker, in fiscal year 2016 alone, over 10,000 Georgia households were helped to meet their basic needs as a direct result of current eligibility.

This proposed change is founded upon an unfortunately common, but incorrect assumption of "bad actors" wasting government funds. Nothing could be further from the truth. It is not about that.

In reality, these programs have proven to both encourage work and increase savings in order to transition out of the program.