

community, and I will keep his family and friends in my thoughts and prayers during this most difficult time.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF HARRIET KONTER

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Ms. Harriet Konter, who passed away on Sunday, October 13 at the age of 94.

Ms. Konter was truly a pioneering woman in Georgia real estate. Working in the industry for over 50 years, she became the first female president of the Georgia Association of Realtors in 1987, as well as the first female member of the Georgia Realtors Hall of Fame.

She founded scholarships for female realtors to attend the National Women's Leadership Conference and remained heavily involved in real estate well into her nineties. Her colleagues remember her as someone who blazed a trail for many women in real estate and beyond.

Yet, Ms. Konter's passion to better our community reached everyone. She served as the director of the Savannah Jewish Educational Alliance, trustee for the Armstrong Atlantic State University Foundation, owned two local supermarkets, and more.

Ms. Konter will be missed throughout Savannah. Her family and friends will be in my thoughts and prayers during this most difficult time.

IN RECOGNITION OF PIERCE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pierce County High School for being recognized by the Department of Education as a Blue Ribbon School for 2019.

This prestigious award recognized approximately 350 schools across the country for their commitment to academic excellence and closing the achievement gaps among diverse groups of students.

To commemorate the award, Pierce County High School will receive a flag that is a symbol of excellence in teaching and learning. The school has been providing a high-quality education to its students for a number of years, and this is not the first time the school has been recognized.

In 2018, Pierce County's principal, Ms. Dara Bennett, was named the Principal of the Year in the State of Georgia. Additionally, the National Federation of State High School Associations named their athletic department the third best in the Nation.

To teachers, students, and staff alike at Pierce County High School, congratulations on your awards and keep up the good work.

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 35 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 (Ms. JACKSON LEE) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Loving and gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Help us this day to draw closer to You, so that with Your spirit, and aware of Your presence among us, we may all face the tasks of this day.

Bless the Members of the people's House. Help them to think clearly, speak confidently, and act courageously in the belief that all noble service is based upon patience, truth, and love.

May these decisive days through which we are living make them genuine enough to maintain their integrity, great enough to be humble, and good enough to keep their faith, always regarding public office as a sacred trust. Give them the wisdom and the courage to fail not their fellow citizens, nor You.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Mrs. TRAHAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. TRAHAN 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

REMEMBERING ELIJAH CUMMINGS

(Ms. KELLY of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember our dear colleague, Congressman Elijah Cummings.

Throughout his life, he was a passionate and committed leader but also

someone who would stop to show compassion and kindness to constituents, staff, and Members alike.

His life was defined, in his words, by "pain, passion, and purpose." At just 11 years old, he and his friends began working to integrate a segregated swimming pool in South Baltimore.

He would go on to achieve many of the highest accolades in education, earning 12 honorary doctorate degrees.

Before serving in the Halls of Congress, he served the people of Maryland for 14 years in the general assembly, including breaking the color barrier with his election to speaker pro tempore, the second highest ranking office in the Maryland House of Delegates.

He would come to Congress in 1996. All of his contributions and service to this Nation could never be summed up in a few seconds, but it stands on its own. When the history books are written, I know his name and legacy will be proudly enshrined within its pages.

His passing is a great loss to his family and friends, the city of Baltimore, this institution, and our Nation.

I hope you are dancing with the angels. May you rest in peace, my friend.

CELEBRATING PARAMEDIC ROGER SWOR

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

Mr. STAUBER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Roger Swor, a paramedic from my district who has dedicated his life to providing exceptional emergency medical care.

Roger is now the longest-serving street paramedic in Minnesota and was recently honored by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians for achieving 40 years of National EMS Certification. This is a distinction held by very few EMS professionals.

Roger has answered tens of thousands of 911 calls in his career. He has done everything from holding dying crash victims in his arms to delivering babies. As described by his nephew, Adam, who served many shifts alongside his uncle, "Roger is universally regarded as the paramedic you want to see when you are in trouble."

On behalf of Minnesota's Eighth Congressional District, I congratulate Roger on his recent achievement and thank him for his professional service.

Paramedic Roger Swor, you are the best of the best.

IMPLEMENT ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS TO KEEP OUR ROADS SAFE

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

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the SAFE DRIVERS Act introduced by my colleague, Representative SETH MOULTON.

In June of this year, seven members of Jarheads Motorcycle Club were tragically killed in my district when they were hit by a truck that crossed over into the wrong lane on Route 2 in Randolph, New Hampshire.

The Massachusetts driver responsible for this accident should not have had an active driver's license and should not have been behind the wheel that day. Despite his criminal history, the driver still had a license because of a loophole where State DMVs often do not process out-of-State infractions.

The SAFE DRIVERS Act would help States implement electronic systems to ensure that dangerous drivers are kept off our roads. By incentivizing States to modernize their databases, we can keep our roads safe and prevent further tragedies.

CONGRATULATING STAFF SERGEANT DAKOTA BOWEN, NCO OF 2019

(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, congratulations to Staff Sergeant Dakota Bowen, who serves with Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment, at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. He is the Army's 2019 Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

The NCO of the Year is the Army's top soldier, with competition annually on a variety of tasks testing their knowledge, skills, and abilities. Staff Sergeant Bowen emerged as the top NCO of the competition to win soldier of the year as this year's top NCO.

General Joseph Martin, the Army Vice Chief of Staff, calls NCOs the heart and soul of the Army. "When the Army desperately needs leadership, we turn to you, and you have never failed us," he said in a keynote speech at the awards ceremony.

As a 30-year Army veteran myself with three sons who have served in the Army, I know firsthand that this analysis is correct.

South Carolina is grateful for Staff Sergeant Dakota Bowen and his commitment to American families, promoting the truth that freedom is not free.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th, or the anniversary today of the Beirut bombing, murdering 241 servicemembers, in the global war on terrorism.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FRANK "TOWKAR" APPICE

(Mr. ROSE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROSE of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Frank "TowKar" Appice, a veteran of the U.S. Navy, avid motorcyclist, and active member of our community.

He passed away in 2017, but he is not forgotten. I am so proud that we recently named a street after him on Staten Island.

Frank was the founder and chairman of the board of Rolling Thunder, Chapter 2 New York, as well as an integral part of creating two chapters in Brooklyn.

Frank always wanted to use motorcycling to give back to our community, particularly our veterans. Every year, he oversaw the Disabled American Veterans support run for Chapter 2 New York, raising over \$75,000 for disabled veterans.

It is a fitting honor that his wife and children have formed a scholarship fund in his honor. This fund will continue Frank's passion for supporting veterans, ensuring that children of veterans or students who volunteer with veterans organizations can afford an education.

This scholarship ensures that we will always remember and learn from Frank and his legacy of service.

Frank, we will continue to honor you and your work.

God Bless Frank, and God bless the United States of America.

CONDEMNING UNFAIR IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS

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

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to strongly condemn the unfair, closed-door, hyperpartisan, impeachment inquiry process being conducted by House Democrats.

Nothing, not even the cold, hard facts, will stop the partisan politics of my colleagues on the left from nullifying the 2016 election.

One of Speaker PELOSI's committee chairs who she chose to lead this process promised years ago that she would find a way to impeach the President. This has been the plan from the beginning.

Certain minority rights have been denied to Republicans during this process, like equal subpoena power, a right that Republicans provided Democrats during the Clinton impeachment.

Chairman SCHIFF started this trend of dishonesty by promoting false allegations related to the President and Russia. Now, he has publicly mischaracterized his committee's handling of the whistleblower inquiry and deceived the American people about his relationship with the whistleblower.

Democrats still refuse to hold a full House vote on their impeachment inquiry, yet they continue this baseless impeachment inquiry of President Trump instead of tackling the issues most important to our citizens.

I urge the American people to take a hard look at the lack of transparency and accountability surrounding this unfounded impeachment inquiry.

HONORING GEORGE RAMIREZ FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS

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

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. George Ramirez for his extraordinary contribution to the culture and arts in Brownsville, Texas.

Mr. Ramirez was the longtime president of the Brownsville Society for the Performing Arts and founder of the Brownsville Latin Jazz Festival. He has been invaluable in bringing quality cultural entertainment to my community. Under Mr. Ramirez' leadership, the Brownsville Society for the Performing Arts has produced hundreds of shows, concerts, and cultural programs.

He dedicated his life to making the arts accessible to the people of the Rio Grande Valley.

In June 2017, Mr. Ramirez established his own low-powered radio station, which enabled him to bring music to everyone.

Mr. Ramirez helped create a number of cultural events, including the Brownsville Guitar Ensemble Festival and Competition, the Brownsville International Flamenco Festival, and the Ancient Cultures Festival.

He also spearheaded the efforts to bring Handel's "Messiah" concerts to Brownsville, Mozart's "Requiem in D Minor," Bach's "Mass in B Minor," and the annual children's "Hansel and Gretel" opera production.

A group of students in the University of Texas opera program had never seen an opera, so he coordinated and funded a trip to take them to the Houston Grand Opera. He was very active in helping students gain exposure to the arts, offering several music scholarships.

Mr. Ramirez' latest accomplishment was playing a vital role in the opening of the Brownsville Performing Arts Academy, a place that will carry on the tradition of Mr. Ramirez' work.

STOP POLITICAL GAMES AND GET BACK TO WORK

(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, the impeachment of a President is a serious process that will have lasting effects on our Republic. It requires a transparent and trustworthy Congress to conduct a proper investigation because of the attempts to undo the will of the American people.

As a former prosecutor, I know that holding hearings behind closed doors is not transparent. Withholding information from the American people does not promote trust. Misconstruing the facts to the American public is not proper.

These actions alone point to an illegitimate process that will continue to