

Madam Speaker, in closing, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PHILLIPS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO), my good friend, for his remarks as well.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this very important and bipartisan bill which allows America to compete on the world stage.

As I said before, representation starts with listening and if we pass this bill, we will have shown the American people that Democrats and Republicans can put their differences aside, listen to their constituents, and get something done.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PHILLIPS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4842, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE TIMING OF SECRETARY RICK PERRY'S RESIGNATION

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise to express deep concern about the timing of Secretary Rick Perry's resignation, and his simultaneous refusal to provide key information on his many trips to Ukraine, more than any other Cabinet member. He has played a central role in U.S.-Ukraine relations throughout the Trump Presidency.

Thus far, Secretary Perry has refused to cooperate with lawful subpoenas issued to him by the Intelligence Committee and other committees of this Congress. As chair of the Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations, while I have had a productive relationship with Secretary Perry in the past, from strengthening our National Laboratories, to supporting the growing range of energy solutions, I feel his recent behavior raises serious questions.

Madam Speaker, American taxpayers have a right to know what Secretary Perry was doing on his frequent travel to Ukraine as a public servant beholden to the public trust. Americans have a right to know what he observed, who he was meeting with, and who was benefiting from the contacts and deals he was making.

The Constitution entrusts the House of Representatives with holding the executive branch accountable. That is what we must do.

As U.S. foreign policy in Ukraine has been sidelined in favor of President

Trump's personal and political agenda and abuse of power, Secretary Perry should do what is right, and immediately comply with the House's investigation. America deserves nothing less.

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

□ 1800

HONORING EDWARD POE BOSTIC

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Edward Poe Bostic, an American hero and Korean war combat veteran who passed away in August of this year at 87 years of age.

Mr. Bostic joined the Marine Corps at the age of 16 during the Korean war. He fought at the amphibious invasions and battles at Inchon and Seoul. He also participated in the Blockade of Wonsan, the longest naval blockade in modern history, and the Battle of Chosin Reservoir, known as the Frozen Chosin due to the harsh winter weather conditions.

Mr. Bostic was proud to serve his country and proud to be a marine.

Mr. Bostic retired from Y-12 Martin Marietta in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, after a 40-year career. He was an active member of the Campbell County Honor Guard; commander of the Disabled American, Veterans Appalachian Chapter 105; and commander of the Campbell County Young Marines.

There are real heroes in this world, Madam Speaker, and they aren't music stars, famous athletes, or Hollywood actors. Our country's heroes are the men and women of our Armed Forces like Mr. Bostic, who served and sacrificed for our freedom.

It is my honor to recognize Edward Poe Bostic as the Tennessee Second District's October 2019 Veteran of the Month.

CELEBRATING KINDNESS MONTH

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

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, last week, we celebrated the life of service of our colleague Elijah Cummings. He always said our children are the living messengers we send to a future we will never see. Nothing could be truer.

In addition, students and young advocates inspire me every single day, so I want to share with all of you an initiative that students in my district launched this month. Students at the Interboro School District are wrapping up their celebration of Kindness Month, a program inspired by Sandy Hook Promise in an effort to reduce bullying and reduce school violence.

Since the beginning of October, Interboro students have been encour-

aged to say a simple "hello" to students they might see every day but not usually speak to or to hold the door for someone they don't know.

In honor of Kindness Month, I, too, have committed to reaching across the aisle to say hello and strike up conversations with colleagues I may not know that well.

We all have something to learn from the Interboro students as we work together to create a world that is more respectful, fair, and kind for this generation and the next.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF MAJOR GENERAL JEFFERSON S. BURTON

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, on November 7, Utah will honor a soldier's soldier.

For the past 7 years, the men and women of the Utah National Guard have been inspired by Major General Jefferson S. Burton. General Burton was chosen for his battle-tested grit and resolve.

In 2003, this fourth-generation Utahn led the 14-57th Engineer Battalion into Iraq. Living under constant threat of IEDs and ambush, General Burton was even tasked with luring the hyenas, bears, and lions of the Baghdad Zoo back into their enclosures after the Iraqi Republican Guard released them into the streets.

His troops tell me that General Burton is a leader who takes the time to teach and mentor others, helping them recognize their own potential.

General Burton is highly educated. He is kind. He is deeply spiritual. But what he values most is his wife, Charn, whose support has allowed him to serve.

General Burton often tells his soldiers: "I am asking a lot, but we will accomplish the mission."

After 37 years of service, we say to General Burton: Mission accomplished.

PRAISING THE HONORABLE ELIJAH EUGENE CUMMINGS

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

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Congressman Elijah Eugene Cummings after his sudden passing on October 17.

Much has been said about his legacy and dedication to the people of Maryland's Seventh District, but I rise to honor his humility and incredible love for our country.

Not knowing that he was near the end of his life, I was honored to have several very personal conversations with Congressman Cummings. He was struggling with health issues and knew I could relate. But he was concerned with more than just his health at that

moment. He was concerned about our country.

America has come a long way during his lifetime, but he knew it would not take much to undo the progress that we have made, and he was worried about it. It was an honor to have such a conversation with an American icon, civil rights legend, and my father on the floor of Congress. It is a moment I will treasure forever.

HONORING HEAD START AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. COX of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Head Start Awareness Month.

Since 1965, Head Start has been one of our best tools in the war on poverty, helping over 35 million children from ages 0 to 5 reach their full potential through high-quality early education.

This month, as we paid tribute to the game-changing program, I rise to honor Head Start programs in California's 21st Congressional District and the vital work they do to support Central Valley communities.

This summer, I brought my esteemed colleague Congresswoman BARBARA LEE to the Rosa Parks Learning Center in Hanford, a top-tier Head Start center operated by the Kings Community Action Organization. It was truly an honor to see talented Central Valley educators at work and to join them in the classroom. We even got to read a couple of books to the classes, as well.

We all know that even part-time early childhood education has a lasting impact on young kids, helping them develop reading, writing, math, and even social skills on an accelerated timeline.

I am also proud to support legislation like the Community Services Block Grant Act so we can keep providing quality education to all of our kids regardless of ZIP Code.

SALUTING LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALEXANDER VINDMAN

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, the State of Texas has a large number of Active-Duty men and women and veterans. I rise today to salute Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Vindman, who appeared in uniform today to the United States Congress to tell the truth.

Unfortunately, there were those who wanted to analyze Lieutenant Colonel Vindman's early beginnings. As a 3-year-old, he came from another country. But I think it is important to say what he is: a patriot.

I read his testimony. It was straightforward, detailed. It certainly was without exaggeration. You could clearly see that this man cared about his Nation.

We should respect the men and women of the United States military, particularly a Purple Heart recipient, a wounded warrior who fought for his country and was wounded.

I thank him for coming forward as a patriot, as a man in the United States military, as one who has no issue with any person. He simply wants to tell the truth.

Since we need just a little bit of expression here today, I conclude my remarks by saying: Go Astros. I wish them well. That is what America is about.

STAND AGAINST INVIDIOUS DISCRIMINATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. SCANLON). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, and still I rise because I love my country.

And I rise tonight also because we had a hearing today in the Committee on Financial Services. We had the hearing today because of words that Dr. King called to our attention. He reminded us that, in a real sense, all of life is related. He said that life is an inescapable network of mutuality tied to a single garment of destiny. What impacts one directly impacts all indirectly.

He went on to say that I can never be all that I ought to be until you are all that you ought to be, and you can never be all that you ought to be until I am all that I ought to be.

This hearing was held because we wanted to highlight and recognize the fact that invidious discrimination exists for persons who are members of the LGBTQ community. Tonight, I want to talk about this invidious discrimination not only as it relates to the LGBTQ community, but also as it relates to other communities within our country. In fact, all of these communities are a part of humanity.

With reference to the LGBTQ community, we had empirical evidence that proved beyond reasonable doubt that members of this community are being discriminated against when they apply for loans. They are being charged higher interest rates and a greater percentage than persons who are not members of the LGBTQ-plus community. They are being discriminated against on their jobs. They are being discriminated against when they apply for jobs if it is known or suspected that they are members of the LGBTQ-plus community, discriminated against in being promoted, in pay raises.

The LGBTQ-plus community is being discriminated against, and it does not make good sense to do this. It is irrational. But it also does not make good dollars and cents to do this because we

are talking about millions of people. The estimates are as high as 16 million. Some say more, some say less. We are talking about a \$1 trillion economy within the community.

It just makes good sense for us not to discriminate against people who want to put their money into the economy, who want to put their work product into the economy, who want to help America succeed. It does not make good sense for this level of discrimination to exist, but it does.

One of the salient messages that we wanted to impart at this hearing today was the message that you are not alone. There are persons who are allies of the LGBTQ community who are going to stand with you, who are going to stand for you, and who are going to stand against the invidious discrimination being perpetrated upon you.

Life is an inescapable network of mutuality tied to a single garment of destiny.

The Muslim community is being, has been, and most likely will continue to be discriminated against until there is some change in this country. We have had from the highest office in the land an indication that Muslims should be banned from the country. An attempt was made to perfect such a ban of Muslim persons from the country.

Life is an inescapable network of mutuality. If you can ban one religion, you can ban another. Muslims today—only fate knows which it will be tomorrow. We must protect every religion if we want our religion to be protected.

This is the way life works, the mutuality. What impacts one directly impacts all indirectly.

□ 1815

People of color are being discriminated against in an invidious way. In the Latinx community, the family separation that took place at the border was unconscionable.

It is hard to believe that this country that holds out the welcome torch, the Statue of Liberty, this country that has brought in immigrants from across the globe would turn away children who are fleeing harm's way in the way that we did it; this country that has a history rooted in immigration would do such a thing, babies crying for their mothers as they are being torn out of their arms.

It is a sad thing when you contemplate it. It is a very sad thing when you see it perfected.

We cannot allow this to happen to children who are coming here trying to flee harm's way, because the truth be known, but for the grace of God, there go I and possibly you. We all can have dates with destiny that we cannot contemplate in the present.

So we ought to protect the rights of people who are fleeing harm's way, who are only asking for what the law provides in this country. And the law in this country does provide for people who are fleeing harm's way to come and say, "I am here. I am here because