

My condolences are with his family. Mike's civic-mindedness and his musical gift will be missed by our community, but his legacy and his love of music will be carried on by his family and friends through his everlasting songs played by his son, but most importantly, through the love in our hearts for Mike Marotta, Sr.

#### RECOGNIZING RITA BISHOP

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Roanoke Superintendent of Schools, Rita Bishop.

Superintendent Bishop has served the students of Roanoke City for more than 12 years and will retire at the school year's end. Her tenure is marked with significant accomplishments, and I applaud the passion she exudes for the students of her district.

During her time of service to the community, graduation rates improved from 60 percent in 2007 to now over 90 percent. Further, under her leadership, all schools have achieved full accreditation division wide, a feat that had never before been accomplished.

Additionally, Ms. Bishop was essential in launching Roanoke's summer enrichment program RCPS-Plus. This program seeks to address what is known as the "summer slide" by ensuring knowledge is not lost between school years. Last summer, a record 3,400 students enrolled in this program.

I want to thank Ms. Bishop for her dedication to improving the city's education system and wish her a happy, well-deserved retirement.

#### RECOGNIZING LOCAL PAGEANT TITLEHOLDERS

(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. Mr. Speaker, I want to highlight three exceptional young ladies who reside in my district in south Jersey. They are pageant titleholders who work for the greater good of our community.

Madison Stiles is a Salem County native, who uses her title to promote mental health awareness. She is an avid volunteer through her community and is a fantastic advocate for the important subject of mental health.

Miss Vineland 2019, Marissa Marchese, who resides in Vineland, New Jersey, created a platform called "Homeless Has a Face" that allows her to educate individuals on the harsh realities of being displaced and share the stories of those who are not fortunate enough to have a roof over their heads.

Lastly, but certainly not least, Jaslene Candelaria, at the young age of 11, created a platform that collects stuffed animals, blankets, and inspirational cards for cancer patients of all

ages. Her goal is to bring joy and smiles to patients, and she visits various hospitals throughout her community to make sure to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I thank them all for their selfless and benevolent work throughout their communities. Our future is in wonderful hands with them. They are our heroes, and may God bless them.

#### CONGRATULATING LAKELAND LINDER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

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

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lakeland Linder International Airport on receiving their second Department of Transportation grant, this time totaling \$8½ million.

Lakeland Linder has over 125,000 aircraft operations annually and is becoming a central hub for major companies like Amazon.

The airport is also home to the NOAA Hurricane Hunters, the Central Florida Aerospace Academy, and Polk State College's Aerospace programs.

This grant provides the funding to make needed improvements to the aging runway and infrastructure that will further attract new businesses and jobs.

Well done to Airport Director Eugene Conrad and his team for their vision and hard work. He contributes significantly to District 15 and our economic growth, and we thank him.

#### SOMETHING HAS GOT TO GIVE

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

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, in our conversation about gun violence, one side sees the need for background checks. The other side prefers to "enforce the laws we already have." Yet we do not have universal background checks, so we cannot enforce it. Meanwhile, our children are exposed.

This year there have been 45 school shootings in 46 weeks, 370 mass shootings by the end of October. That is more than one per day. Something has got to give.

Senator MCCONNELL said he will hold a vote on our background check bill only if President Trump says he will sign it.

So let me address the President directly from the heart: Sir, I have two granddaughters. Aubrey is eight; Ella is just one-month old. When Aubrey attends terrifying active shooter drills, what would you have me tell her? How about when she notices that we have laws barring certain people from owning guns, but that much of the time we don't bother to check who is who? Or when she realizes that her leaders could have put basic lifesaving safeguards in place, and they chose not to,

what shall I say to her? What would you tell her?

President Trump, my granddaughters, your grandchildren need your leadership, and so does America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

#### HONORING LOUIS BRINNER

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

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, on November 22, Louis Brinner, a World War II veteran from Mississippi, will celebrate his 100th birthday.

Mr. Brinner served in the United States Army as a private first-class with the 645th MP Company. After enlisting at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, on May 8, 1941, he fought alongside Allied troops in Italy, which were successful in liberating Italian cities such as Rome and Naples in the Rome-Arno campaign.

For his service, Mr. Brinner earned decorations, including the American Defense Service Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, and a Good Conduct Medal.

Mr. Brinner was discharged from the Army on October 16, 1945, after more than 4 years of honorable service to the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. Brinner for his dedicated service to our country and to wish Mr. Brinner the happiest of birthdays.

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#### HONORING FAHARI JEFFERS

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, my friend Fahari Jeffers' legacy as a civil rights and labor rights leader in American history had its beginning in the Black Power movement. She joined the San Diego chapter of the U.S. organization in 1967 and served as a teacher in the weekend School of Afro-American Culture for Children.

A dedicated civil rights advocate and cultural rights powerhouse, she became involved in labor union organizing, having convened the major African People's gatherings in the 1970s and worked with the NIA cultural organization in San Diego.

Fahari was proud of her roots in the Black Power movement. Her early work prepared her for the work that Cesar Chavez recruited and trained her and her husband, Ken Msemaji, to do in founding and building the United Domestic Workers of America. Today, over 200,000 California homecare workers and nearly 2 million nationally work under union contracts. Her model of collective bargaining rights law is now patterned across the Nation. On Sunday, March 18, 2018, Fahari Jeffers

was inducted into the San Diego Women's Hall of Fame for her work in co-founding the United Domestic Workers of America.

With her passing, the State of California and our Nation suffered a tremendous loss. She will be remembered for her “*si, se puede*” attitude and for exemplifying the meaning of her Swahili given name, Fahari, which means magnificent, and magnificent she was.

#### SUPPORT BIPARTISAN PATH FOR USMCA

(Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the continued effort by the U.S. Trade Representative and the Democratic working group to finalize the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, the USMCA.

Oklahoma workers, families, businesses, and our Nation benefit from free and fair international trade. Every day, Oklahomans create and export world-class products, and two of our largest trading partners are our neighbors to the north and the south.

In 2018 alone, Oklahoma exported a total of \$5.6 billion in manufactured goods. Nearly half of those went to Mexico and Canada. In the same year, Oklahoma agriculture exports to Mexico and Canada totaled \$154 million.

A stronger trading relationship with Mexico and Canada means a stronger economy for Oklahoma. It is imperative that Congress finish negotiating and pass a strong trade agreement to restore certainty in our trading relationship with Canada and Mexico and support millions of American jobs in the process.

Though finding common ground is not easy, it is critical, and I support the USTR and lawmakers' work to find a bipartisan path forward for this important trade agreement.

#### HONORING TRACY SINGLE ON TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

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

Mrs. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, today, on Transgender Remembrance Day, I rise to remember Tracy Single, who was killed in July of this year in my district, the 15th transgender woman of color murdered this year.

A music lover with an eye for fashion and an ear for music, 22-year-old Tracy moved to Houston to pursue her dream of becoming a rapper. Tension around her gender identity forced her out of her home, and she experienced a very hard time, but she was persistent and upbeat, always working to achieve her goals.

Her life reminds us that creative and vibrant people can thrive even in the

most difficult circumstances. And her death reminds us that transgender people are under attack and must have equal protection under the law.

#### HONORING TOM VASQUEZ

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the memory of my dear friend Tom Vasquez, who passed away on July 23. Tom was one of the founders of our progressive movement in Chicago, and we were partners in many battles.

He was born in Matamoros, Mexico, and eventually found his way to Chicago, settling in the working-class community of Little Village. In the early 1980s, Tom was part of a group of young people who saw the disparities and lack of political representation in our community and sought to address these inequalities.

He stepped up, led the change, and helped create the Independent Political Organization of the 22nd Ward. He was a precinct captain for many years. He organized block clubs and he was involved in schools in the local community. On election day, he was always getting people to the polling places. He attended many community meetings and mentored many young people in the community. He did this all while holding a full-time job with the Chicago Transit Authority and being a member of a local union.

Tom's passing has left a gap not only for his family but for the entire community that benefited from his service and commitment to justice.

Tom, may you rest in peace.

#### NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

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

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the topic of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to come to the House floor tonight to commemorate National Bible Week. This is an opportunity to celebrate the tremendous influence of the Bible on the freedoms we enjoy today in America.

We are truly blessed to live in a nation where we are free to worship and read the Holy Scriptures without fear of persecution. There are many places

throughout the world where such freedoms do not exist.

Americans have the right under our wonderful system of government to respect and study the Bible or any other system of belief that they so choose or even none at all. That is the beauty of the American way, and I believe it goes all the way back to the Bible.

In 1941, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt declared the week of Thanksgiving to be National Bible Week. The National Bible Association and the U.S. Conference of Bishops have designated the specific days of November 18 to 24 as National Bible Week this year. This is the week set aside to recognize the Bible as a foundational building block of Western civilization, the Judeo-Christian heritage, and the legacy that motivated and shaped the founding of the United States.

In this hour, we will hear from Members of Congress from all throughout the United States from various faith traditions and denominations speak about what the Bible means to them. We are here, in keeping with tradition, to recognize National Bible Week.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS), who is a good friend and colleague.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I want to say thank you to the gentleman from Colorado for bringing us all together tonight for National Bible Week.

Over the weekend, I finished reading through the Bible in a year, and I can testify that it has been the best year of my life in giving me perspective and quiet confidence for every day, reminding me to lead with love.

The Bible says to love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. The Word of God is the source of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, and self-control. Everything that we long for in life is found in the Word of God, the Bible.

So why haven't I been more faithful to read the Bible every day earlier in my life? Because, like a lot of people, I didn't always feel like I had enough time, or I struggled to relate to the language.

Why read the Bible? Why wake up 15 minutes early each day? Why go to all that trouble? That was my struggle for many, many years.

The Bible says in Psalm 90:12: “Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”

Psalm 103 says that “our days are few and brief, like grass, like flowers, blown by the wind and gone forever,” yet the Word of God endures forever.

It is the Bible that provides us answers to our questions about life more than any other book, seminar, or self-help program.

The Bible also offers words of encouragement and hope at a time when despair has come over our country. We have record suicides. A million people in America attempted suicide last