

because I believe that, in this country, the words of the Pledge of Allegiance are important, that we should have liberty and justice for all.

□ 1015

RECOGNIZING MIKE CLARK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the well-earned retirement of Northampton Township Chief of Police Mike Clark. Chief Clark has served the people of Northampton Township for 47 years and as our chief of police since 2013.

For the first 26 years of his service, Chief Clark served on the patrol division, on SWAT, and the detective department, giving him a wide range of experiences within the police force.

Earlier this year, under the leadership of Chief Clark, the department earned an accreditation from the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission, an achievement realized by just 10 percent of the State's 1,200 police departments.

Chief Clark works to make the department more active in the community, to increase his office's interaction with the people they work to protect. His Coffee with the Cops initiative created personal connections between the police officers and the public. And under his leadership, the department created a Facebook page to keep the public informed.

Mr. Speaker, we want to thank Chief Clark for his hard work and dedication to the people of Northampton Township. Because of the actions of Chief Clark and his officers, Northampton is safer and happier for everybody who resides there.

Chief Clark, we thank you for your service, and we hope you enjoy your well-earned retirement.

HONORING THOMAS HECKER

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Thomas Hecker of Langhorne, Pennsylvania. Mr. Hecker passed away surrounded by his family at the age of 72.

Tom was born in Philadelphia and raised in Langhorne. He graduated from Bishop Egan High School and received his undergraduate degree from La Salle University, both my alma maters. After receiving his law degree from Villanova University, he joined the law firm of Begley, Carlin & Mandio, where he faithfully worked as a partner until his passing.

Tom was a man of devout faith. Tom volunteered at his church as a lector and a Eucharistic minister visiting the homebound.

Tom had a zest for life, which was often expressed through the twinkle in his eyes that we all saw every time we saw him. Tom cherished his family and friends, and he loved to socialize and connect with them over a meal and a good bottle of wine.

Tom was notorious for his Eagles Sunday football parties and even created bleachers in his house for game days. Tom was also a golf enthusiast.

You could often find Tom in the summer at his beach house. He lived by the motto, "Smile, you are in Sea Isle City."

Mr. Speaker, our deepest condolences go out to his entire family and friends. Tom is now enjoying his eternal reward for a life he spent serving others.

HONORING BOB GODSHALL

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of former Pennsylvania State Representative Bob Godshall who passed away before the Thanksgiving holiday. Bob represented the 53rd District honorably for 36 years and retired in 2018.

Bob Godshall was born in Franconia, Pennsylvania, on the family farm where he lived until his passing. He was a proud graduate of Souderton High School and Juniata College in Huntingdon. As an adult, he helped run the family farm's poultry operation, served on the Souderton area school board, and was a former Montgomery County controller.

In the State House, Bob served as the chairman of the Consumer Affairs Committee, following his tenure as chairman of the Tourism and Recreational Development Committee. He frequently worked across the aisle to push legislation that protected consumers, boosted tourism across the State, and benefited the people of Montgomery County.

Mr. Speaker, no matter the politics, Bob put his community first. Bob worked tirelessly to bring better jobs, safety, and improved infrastructure to our community. Bob was a great man and a dedicated public servant, and as long as good, honest individuals like him work to serve the people, we can look forward to the future.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF HARD-WORKING PORTUGUESE IMMIGRANTS ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR COUNTRY'S HISTORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the passage of legislation this week called the AMIGOS Act. It is a bill that will spur Portuguese investment in our economy and help create jobs here in America.

As a proud Portuguese American and a co-chair of the Congressional Portuguese Caucus and a member of the Hispanic Caucus, I joined with Congressmembers CICILLINE, NUNES, and others, in being the original co-sponsors of the AMIGOS Act. I want to thank my colleagues this week for their support in the passage on a bipartisan basis.

Our friendship with Portugal and the contributions of hardworking Portuguese American immigrants are an

important part of our country's history and our heritage, as well as our economy.

The United States is Portugal's largest trading partner outside the European Union. In 2018 alone, trading between our two countries reached in excess of \$5 billion. This will only increase that economic activity, because this bill will make it easier for Portuguese investors, business people, to increase their operations in the United States, growing both our economies, drawing our nations even closer together, and creating more jobs.

More than 100 Portuguese companies today already have operations in the United States. What do those operations do? They create jobs. They create opportunities. And they build additional prosperity on both sides of the Atlantic.

We have done our part. Now it is time, we hope, that the United States Senate will do their part so that we can send this bill to the President that has, again, strong bipartisan support. It will obviously be good to get this measure passed, hopefully, before the end of the year.

Senators WHITEHOUSE and TOOMEY, again bipartisan, have already introduced their version of the legislation, the AMIGOS Act, in the United States Senate. We thank them for their strong efforts and their partnership.

Sharing prosperity in this instance can only benefit both the United States and Portugal, and it is this kind of commonsense trade policy that we need to be advocating for, along with continuing to build on our partnerships both within the European Union as well as within South America and with Asia, and, of course, with our closest neighbors, Canada and Mexico.

Trade obviously done properly can create good-paying jobs in America and benefit our relationships and our economic activity with those countries who we value the most.

MAKING COMMUNITIES RESILIENT AGAINST SCAMMERS IS CRITICAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. STEIL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, in 2018 an estimated 47 billion spam robocalls were placed in the United States. Americans lost \$1.5 billion to fraud last year. Weekly, sometimes daily, our phones are flooded with spam calls. Not only are these calls annoying, but these criminals trick people into giving away personal information such as their Social Security number or bank information.

Robocalls affect everyone from Janesville to Kenosha to Racine and everywhere in between.

Last month I held an identity theft fraud prevention workshop in southeast Wisconsin. More than 200 residents attended and received useful tips from Federal and State agencies on how to protect themselves from fraud. Making

communities resilient from scammers is critical.

Robocalls are becoming more sophisticated every day. It is becoming easier for Americans to fall victim to scamming. That is why Congress must act.

Today the House is voting on a bill I cosponsored, the Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence Act, or the TRACED Act.

The TRACED Act strengthens penalties for criminals who conduct spam robocalls. This bill also requires telecommunications companies to develop new ways to certify all calls are from legitimate people. Working together with phone companies, consumer groups, and the Federal Government will protect our community—and go after the bad guys.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense, nonpartisan bill.

WE MUST RECOMMIT TO ENDING THE GLOBAL HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, this week we recommit ourselves to ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic. We have made progress to prevent infections and enhance treatment, but more work must be done.

Supporting the Global Fund and fully funding its programs is an important piece of the puzzle. The Global Fund is a partnership organization that works with governments and private sectors to end the AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria epidemics. By developing low-cost, high-impact treatments and technologies, we can save lives.

Since the creation of the Global Fund in 2002, deaths caused by these diseases have been reduced by one-third each year in countries where the Global Fund invests. I was proud to cosponsor the bill and see the House support the Global Fund.

This is an important issue to many across southeast Wisconsin. Earlier this year, I met with Pastor Bob Griffith and Pastor Lawrence Kirby to discuss the United States' commitment to battling these health epidemics, whether that be at home in southeast Wisconsin or throughout the world.

Pastor Griffith's and Pastor Kirby's work in the Racine and Kenosha communities is admirable. They advocate for those in poverty and for our global community dealing with these diseases.

We thank Pastor Griffith and Pastor Kirby for their dedication to this cause, for bringing awareness to the fight.

We must continue working together and ensure education, treatment, and assistance is available to those who need it.

CONGRATULATING THE ROCHESTER ROCKETS FOOTBALL TEAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, this is not the first time I have risen on this House floor to congratulate the Rochester Rockets football team on a State championship that they just won, just this past week, at Huskie Stadium in DeKalb, Illinois.

Rochester played the Chicago St. Rita Mustangs for the title, winning it by a score of 42 to 28. The Rockets came out strong with three touchdowns early, giving them a 21 to nothing lead at the end of the first quarter.

With four touchdown passes between quarterback Clay Bruno and receiver Hank Beatty, the Rockets proved that they meant business. The dynamic duo put on an offensive showcase with Bruno completing 18 of his 25 passes for 313 yards, and Beatty hauling in 12 catches for 212 yards. Rochester's offense was as dominant as ever, making it nearly impossible for St. Rita to create any sort of momentum.

In addition to a powerhouse offense, the Rockets' defensive line showed up to work. Senior, Logan Peters, had 11 tackles, and sophomore, Johnny Neal, had 7. Neal was playing JV halfway through the season and got a 14-yard sack on the quarterback and a fumble recovery.

This is the Rockets' eighth State championship in 10 years, and this is the first one that they achieved in the higher 5A classification. Leave it to Coach Derek Leonard and the entire Rochester Rockets team and the community to get bumped up, by maybe a student or two, into a higher class and just go ahead and win a State championship there, too.

Congratulations to Coach Leonard. Congratulations to all of Coach Leonard's assistant coaches and to the entire Rockets community on another well-deserved State championship.

CONGRATULATING COACH BRENT WEAKLY

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Coach Brent Weakly and the Central A&M High School football team on their Class 1A State runner-up title. Last week they played a great game with the Lena-Winslow Panthers, but lost in the 1A State championship.

This year was the team's first year since 2001 that the Raiders have made an appearance at the IHSA State championship game, and while they didn't bring home a win, they held their heads high following last Friday's game.

A&M's quarterback, Connor Heaton, threw for 192 yards and two touchdowns. Connor has come a long way since I used to drop my kids off with him at the same babysitter in Taylorville a few short years ago.

□ 1030

Receiver Jacob Paradee had 11 receptions, a tie for most all-time in a Class 1A championship game. His 157 receiving yards broke a 1A record that was set back in 2006.

All said and done, A&M had its best season in 18 years. Coach Weakly said

it best of his team: "Hats off to our kids. They kept competing. . . . I'm really happy and proud of them."

I am happy and proud of them, too. We are proud of the coach, his entire coaching staff, and the entire Central A&M community.

Congrats on a great season.

MARKING ONE YEAR OF RECOVERY FOR TAYLORVILLE, ILLINOIS

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it has been 1 year since an EF-3 tornado ripped through my hometown of Taylorville, Illinois.

More than 700 structures were damaged and 33 were destroyed that night, but not a single life was lost.

I thank God for looking over Taylorville that night, and I am thankful for the critical decisions made by our former fire chief, Mike Crews, and our current mayor, Bruce Barry. Their actions likely saved countless lives.

It is a night I will never forget, not only because of the destruction I saw when arriving back into my community minutes after the tornado ravaged it, but it is also the damage I saw the next day in daylight.

I am also amazed by the generosity that we saw from so many people outside our community. Hundreds of volunteers came out to assist with the cleanup, and donations poured in from across the State and the Nation to help those in need.

Mr. Speaker, I especially want to thank Ed Legg and those others who make up Missions for Taylorville for coordinating getting these donations out to those families in need.

We gathered this past weekend at the Taylorville VFW Post as a community to remember that night, to thank our first responders and volunteers for their work, and also to remind everybody that many families are still in need of help.

Mr. Speaker, 1 year after this devastating tornado, I again thank all those who continue to help my hometown recover and to pray for the families still in need.

We are all Taylorville Strong.

SUPPORT RED CROSS' HOLIDAY MAIL FOR HEROES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the American Red Cross' annual Holiday Mail for Heroes program.

Each year in early December, the Red Cross hosts this important event that strives to provide our men and women in uniform with the support and encouragement that is particularly important around the holiday season.

We all look forward to gathering with family, friends, and loved ones during this time of year. For our servicemembers, this is a luxury.

These men and women spend many months at a time away from their families. That is difficult no matter what