

challenges with opioids, but Congress laid the groundwork for this work to be done at the State and local level with the passage of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act.

#### A HISTORIC FIGHT FOR FREEDOM AND AUTONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I want to spend my 5 minutes to tell a story, a history story from the Virgin Islands.

This month and for the next 6 months in the Virgin Islands, we commemorate a historic fight for freedom and autonomy. On the small, 20-square-mile island of St. John, one of the earliest and longest lasting slave rebellions began on November 23, 1733. This rebellion was preceded by incomparable conditions that slaves were living in on the island of St. John in the Virgin Islands.

Conditions were devastating. The life expectancy of slaves in the Virgin Islands never went above the age of 30 years old, and this rebellion was caused by a drought and a plague of insects that placed 1,000 enslaved people of St. John at risk of starvation.

This caused an unprecedented amount of slaves to run away, what we call on the island "marooning," living in the bush. This led to the vicious and inhumane Slave Code of 1733. The new rules threatened amputation, breaking on the wheel, burning alive, and other brutal punishment for those who ran away.

This, then, led to 150 slaves, all of whom were part of the Akwamu tribe from Ghana, to begin an uprising. The Akwamu hoped to turn St. John into an Akwamu-controlled state.

On the evening of November 23, the slaves entered the fort on Coral Bay with cane knives concealed in bundles of wood. They proceeded to kill all of the soldiers at the fort. Others across the island, many who were able to escape, escaped to the island of St. Thomas, where they took word to the governor. The governor then, under pressure, sent troops, sent soldiers to St. John, who were then also destroyed.

The next 10 weeks saw guerilla-style warfare between the troops and the Akwamu rebels. Afraid that the rebellion would spread to the nearby island of Tortola, the British sent reinforcements. They were quickly dispatched and quickly rode back to Tortola.

Again, John Maddox, a privateer from the island of St. Kitts, made a deal with the Danish officials to aid the quelling of St. John. He, too, was not successful.

William Vessup, an owner of a plantation, who was in disrepute with the Danes, attempted to lure slaves onto a ship, the organizers of the rebellion, and told them that they would give them food and support if they would

come on the ship. They did not fall for the trickery, and he also was dispatched.

It wasn't until the Spanish Armada and the French came that this rebellion was able to be quelled in 1734, almost 6 months later; and with it, many were jailed. Some were sent to St. Croix to work to death, which was what they decided to give to them, and many also decided not to go back into slavery and jumped off of a cliff on the island to their death—but to freedom.

These 150 Akwamu on the island of St. John were some of the first African people in the Americas to have a sense of freedom, as volatile and short-lived as it might have been.

It is important to acknowledge, however, that, for the majority of enslaved people on the islands of St. John, St. Thomas, and St. Croix, neither outcome would lead to freedom. The enslaved people on the island of St. John and the rest of the Danish West Indies would ultimately wait another 114 years for the next rebellion for their freedom to come.

#### CELEBRATING THE CAREERS OF THREE CENTRE COUNTY PUBLIC SERVANTS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, recently, I had the pleasure of traveling back to Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District to celebrate the careers of three dedicated public servants in Centre County.

Last month, Centre County Treasurer Richard Fornicola and Centre County Controller Chuck Witmer served their last day at the Centre County Courthouse and began their much-deserved retirements.

Rich Fornicola began his term as Centre County treasurer in January 2000 and has worked diligently over the past two decades overseeing every penny that was received and disbursed by Centre County, including hunting permits and fishing licenses, as well as overseeing bids for county contracts.

Chuck Witmer has spent 15 years in public service in Centre County, having worked as the deputy controller for just under 4 years before being elected to serve as county controller. Over the years, Chuck has exhibited fantastic leadership that includes overseeing the county ledger, seeing the budget is adhered to, completing the county audit, and more.

This week, Prothonotary and Clerk of Courts Debra Immel will be serving her last day at the courthouse as well. Debra began her career in Centre County in 1976 as a department clerk and quickly rose through the ranks of deputy prothonotary and acting prothonotary. In 1999, Debra was elected to her current position and has served in county government ever since.

Mr. Speaker, together, these individuals have given more than 90 years of

service to Centre County, and they have worked hard to make Centre County a better place to live. I would like to congratulate Rich and Chuck and Debra on their retirements and wish them all the best in their new life chapter.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF COACH JOHN MCKISSICK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CUNNINGHAM) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of longtime Summerville High School football coach, Hall of Famer, John McKissick, who passed away on Thanksgiving Day.

Coach McKissick was the greatest high school football coach our country has ever seen. In fact, he held the record for the most wins of any football coach anywhere at any single level. Over the course of his 62-year career, he led the Green Wave to 10 State championships and 621 wins.

Coach McKissick was a mentor and a father figure to thousands of student athletes. In total, he coached over 5,000 young men throughout his career.

I had the honor of attending his funeral earlier this week, and I got to meet several of his former players, many in their fifties, sixties, seventies, and even eighties, who all told me about the incredible impact he had on their lives.

He famously told his players that it is not about the Xs and Os; it's about the Jims and the Joes. He called his players his boys. He treated them like family because they were, and that feeling was mutual.

It is impossible to imagine high school football or Summerville without him, but his amazing legacy will live on forever.

May God bless his family, his friends, former players, and the entire Summerville community.

Thank you for everything, Coach.

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#### RECOGNIZING THE NEWBERRY FIRE DEPARTMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroic actions by members of the Newberry Fire Department.

On March 1, 2019, the alpha shift, comprised of Captain Andrew Morris, Lieutenant Brian Beck, Senior Engineer Benjamin Dukes, firefighter Richard Doran, and volunteer firefighter Barry Brown, were working a wreck on Third Street when they received an urgent call of a hit-and-run incident on Louis Rich Road.

The firefighters responded to the call and found the victim of the hit and run

completely unresponsive. The firefighters immediately performed CPR on the victim and as a result of these actions, the person gained a pulse and began breathing. The brave actions of these dedicated public servants resulted in a life being saved, and in the words of the late Prime Minister of Great Britain Winston Churchill, who said the following: There are times when doing one's best is not good enough. One must do what is required.

The brave firefighters of Newberry Fire Department's alpha shift did what was required, and as a result, a life was saved.

#### CONGRATULATING SARI FELDMAN ON HER RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and congratulate Sari Feldman on her recent retirement as the executive director of the Cuyahoga County Public Library.

Ms. Feldman began her tenure at the Cleveland Public Library in 1997 as head of community services, later serving as deputy director. In 2003, Ms. Feldman was named the executive director of the Cuyahoga County Public Library where she oversaw one of the country's busiest public libraries for 16 years.

Ms. Feldman's leadership was instrumental to strengthening the libraries across Cuyahoga County and ensuring they were prepared to engage and serve the community in the 21st century.

Throughout her time as executive director, she directed an expansive \$110 million capital improvement program for the county's libraries and navigated the library system through significant cuts in State funding without reducing hours or service.

From 2015 to 2016, Ms. Feldman also served as the president of the American Library Association, a testament to her importance not only to northeast Ohio but to the entire Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. Feldman for her enduring leadership, service, and dedication to engaging and empowering the Cuyahoga County community.

I congratulate her successor, Tracy Strobel, the new executive director for the Cuyahoga County Public Library.

As a northeast Ohio native with decades of experience, I trust Tracy will continue to advance Cuyahoga County Public Library's mission of being at the center of community life where reading, lifelong learning, and civic engagement thrive.

#### AMERICANS SHOULD RENEW IN THEIR HEARTS OUR NATION'S MOTTO

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

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, our Nation's motto of "In God We Trust" is

inscribed on the wall above our heads. The word "trust" is typically defined as to have confidence, faith, or hope in someone or something. In this case, it is obviously trust in God.

To have confidence or faith or hope in God requires that we know something about God. This knowledge is gained by reading and studying the inspired word of God, which is, of course the Bible. God has revealed Himself to us in the pages of the Bible, and to trust in God means that we also trust His teachings as revealed in the Bible.

Among those teachings is a prescription for the way we should lead our lives, the way we should treat each other, and how we should rely on God and His teachings to, in fact, trust in Him.

John Adams wrote that only a moral and religious people can self-govern. In my opinion, the morals to which he is referring to are laid out in God's teachings in both the Old Testament and the New Testament of the Bible.

Almost every day we hear someone ask for God's blessings on our Nation. The next time you hear someone ask for God to bless our Nation, please ask yourself what is it about America and our Nation that we are asking God to bless? Just what is there about our Nation that is, in fact, blessable?

Are we asking God to bless the killing of more than 61 million babies in the last 46 years? Are we asking God to bless the rancor and incivility that permeates much of our public discourse? These and other issues cause me to fear that we are on the verge of being an unblessable Nation.

The Old Testament is replete with times when God's chosen people, the Nation of Israel, would stray so far from His teachings that He would subject them to awful events and terrible circumstances to cause them to turn their hearts back to Him. I believe that we are on that same destructive path.

We must ask ourselves what should we do to turn our Nation's heart back to God? There is no legislative fix for this problem. The path to a blessable Nation must start in the heart of each one of us. To return to the moral high ground that has allowed our Nation to prosper under God's blessings, we must each have a moral code to live by.

For me that moral code is the Judeo-Christian code found in God's Word. Jesus Christ is my personal savior, and I try to live his teachings every day. Some days I am better at it than others, but each of us must have a moral code that is based on truth, not on whims or feelings. This awakening must start now.

It can start by claiming God's promise to the Nation of Israel that applies to our Nation, as well. It is found in II Chronicles 7:14, which says: "If my people, who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways," emphasis on wicked ways, "then I will hear them from heaven, and I will forgive their sin, and heal

their land." Each of us individually and our Nation as a whole has never needed that promise more than we need it today.

Mr. Speaker, we should renew in our hearts every day our Nation's motto, "In God We Trust."

#### DEMOCRACY IS FACING A CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, more than 200 years ago, the delegates of the Constitutional Convention gathered in Philadelphia to help chart a path forward for the newly independent United States of America.

After deliberation, the Framers established a system of government with three equal branches, the legislative, executive, and judiciary, along with a system of checks and balances to ensure no single branch had too much power. After years of control by a foreign power, our Framers understood the importance of self-governance and ensuring no monarch could once again rule over our country.

Now, more than 200 years since the ratification of our Constitution, our democracy faces a constitutional crisis that the Framers never could have imagined. The office of the President of the United States, the most powerful position in the world, yields immense influence with the expectation to use that power in a principled manner.

However, that principled approach has since vanished as self-interest has consumed the Oval Office. In the pursuit of that self-interest, this President has compromised our national security by withholding critical military assistance to Ukraine, military assistance approved by the Congress, the legislative branch, to provide assistance to preserve their sovereignty and counter Russian aggression.

That same system of checks and balances described in the Constitution over 200 years ago is now under attack. The President, as well as the Members of Congress, take an oath of office when stepping into this amazing place of our Republic to be leaders in our country, to protect, to preserve, and defend the Constitution of the United States as long as we hold this office. As part of that oath, it is my constitutional duty to protect the Constitution from all threats, even within our own government.

This June, I announced my support for the House of Representatives to begin an impeachment inquiry. In the 6 months since then, with new details revealed weekly and daily, my support for the House impeachment inquiry has never been stronger. This President has jeopardized our national security to affect an election; no one is above the law, not even the President.

On Tuesday, The House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence