

SUPPORT DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM FOR THE PEOPLE OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

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

Mr. WATKINS. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of democracy and freedom for the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the importance of protecting religious minorities in the region.

In August, the Indian Government rescinded article 370 of their Constitution, repealing autonomy of the region; and, since then, it has been cut off through widespread communications blackouts. There have been curfews, and some 4,000 people have been detained, which includes children as young as 9 years old. There have been reported human rights abuses and deaths resulting from inaccessibility to healthcare.

Madam Speaker, this situation cannot stand, and I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 745, which urges the Indian Government to uphold the democratic values upon which it was founded.

MASS SHOOTING AT THE NAVAL AIR STATION IN PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

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

Mr. CRIST. Madam Speaker, last week, the Sunshine State was devastated by the 393rd mass shooting of 2019.

On December 6, a gunman opened fire at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida, killing three and wounding eight. One of the victims is Pinellas County's very own Mohammed Haitham.

Nineteen-year-old Mo, as he was known to his family and friends, was a track star at Lakewood High School in St. Petersburg and a shining example of all the best our community has to offer.

He joined the Navy to serve his country shortly after finishing high school, with a dream of graduating from flight school.

Our Nation was robbed of a sailor, and a St. Pete family was robbed of a son.

My heart goes out to Mo's family and loved ones as they try to make sense of the senseless.

Madam Speaker, we stand with the Haitham family. The entire community is behind them.

I pray for all those affected in Pensacola, and I pray for Congress to take action on gun violence.

CONGRATULATING ST. TERESA'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM

(Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Coach Brad Dalton and the St. Teresa volleyball team on their first IHSA volleyball championship.

Last month, the Bulldogs played the Breese Mater Dei Knights for the Class 2A title and won the championship in two sets.

Although it was St. Teresa's fourth time competing in the State tournament, this was their best finish ever. The Bulldogs earned the school's first ever State championship title in volleyball—and first in Macon County history.

Offensively, the Bulldogs pulled off 21 kills and 3 aces in the first set, with an equally intimidating defense that racked up 32 digs, total.

In the second set, the teams tied 11 times, but an ace by senior Abby Robinson followed by a remarkable dig finished the match 26-24.

Coach Dalton said: "We fought and we fought. This is a big win for everybody in our program."

A historic win to cap off a whirlwind of a season. Congratulations to Coach Dalton and the entire Bulldog team.

RURAL GREEN PARTNERSHIP

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share with you a framework of principles to give rural America a seat at the table as we work to combat climate change. I call it the Rural Green Partnership.

For generations, farm families in Illinois have worked hard to provide food for our country and for the world, but this year has brought a challenging growing season. Farmers have seen shifting weather patterns and severe flooding delay and even prevent planting and harvesting.

Rural economies in Illinois and across the country depend on a stable climate to survive. Weather chaos means it is more difficult to grow our crops and put food on the table.

I am proud to put forward the Rural Green Partnership, and if we follow the principles in this plan, we can lower greenhouse gas emissions and spur economic growth.

Madam Speaker, I say to my colleagues: It is our moral and economic imperative to address this climate crisis and its impact on rural America.

I urge them to join me in enacting the policies outlined in the Rural Green Partnership so we can provide our farming communities with more than just a path forward but, also, an opportunity to prosper.

RECOGNIZING VETERAN OF THE MONTH JOHN THIES

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

Mr. SPANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring recognition to 30-year U.S. Army veteran Sergeant Major John Thies.

During his three decades of service to our Nation, mostly as a Special Forces Green Beret, he faced combat operations in Panama, Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

Among the many highlights of his illustrious career was his participation with the third Operational Detachment Alpha to infiltrate Afghanistan following the attacks on September 11, 2001.

As a servicemember in all of these conflicts, John and his fellow warriors helped to bring down dictators, defeat insurgencies, and create conditions for the establishment of democracy. More importantly, his sacrifices brought hope to the suffering and peace to those in need of relief.

I believe Sergeant Major Thies' former commanders and peers summarized his career and impact well in sharing that he was one of the finest noncommissioned officers they had ever served with. That is high praise from our Nation's finest.

Madam Speaker, I thank John. I thank him for putting us before himself. We and our families slept better knowing he was on alert.

LIFT THE CAP ON THE STATE AND LOCAL TAX DEDUCTION

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

Mr. CISNEROS. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the taxpayers in my district and urge my colleagues to quickly pass bipartisan legislation to lift the cap on the State and local tax deduction.

Capping the deduction hurts homeowners and undermines State and local efforts to invest in our roads, schools, teachers, and first responders.

Setting the cap at \$10,000 for both individuals and joint filers unfairly punishes married couples.

Richard from Walnut wrote that while he and his wife are trying to plan for their retirement, "the net result of the cap was less money in my pocket."

Kyle from Yorba Linda wrote to me: "This new marriage penalty is a slap in the face to those of us who are trying to grow our roots in your district."

I introduced bipartisan legislation with my colleagues, Representative SHERRILL from New Jersey along with Republican Representatives PETER KING and ELISE STEFANIK.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my constituents, I urge my colleagues to join us in support of this legislation before the year's end.

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25TH ANNIVERSARY OF PENN STATE CREW TEAM

(Mr. KELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, this month, Penn State celebrates its 25th anniversary. On behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District, I congratulate them on their rich history of success.

The crew team at Penn State started with humble beginnings in the winter of 1994. While they had no equipment, the team possessed a passion for the sport and a will to do whatever was necessary to make the team successful.

In an example we can all be proud of, Penn State crew's first Schoenbrod was borrowed from Bucknell University, another great institution of higher education in Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District.

Later, through hard work at fundraising by selling concessions at football games, cleaning Beaver Stadium, and selling crew apparel, the team was finally able to purchase its own equipment in the fall of 1995. From there, the program has never looked back.

Penn State crew men's and women's teams have had a proud record of achievement that should make them very proud: sweeping podiums and inspiring a new generation of crew participants from experienced rowers to novices.

Again, Madam Speaker, on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District, I congratulate Penn State crew on celebrating their 25th anniversary.

PUERTO RICAN ACTION COMMITTEE

(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. Madam Speaker, today, I would like to acknowledge the Puerto Rican Action Committee of southern New Jersey, an organization dedicated to supporting the Hispanic community in our area.

PRAC was originally created in 1971 to promote economic opportunities for agricultural workers and has since expanded its vision to encourage social, cultural, and economic actions that better the lives of Hispanic individuals. The organization has several programs in place to celebrate the vibrant culture of these people and to provide educational opportunity for the surrounding communities.

The PRAC of southern New Jersey has implemented Hispanic culture, arts, heritage, entertainment, and sporting initiatives to bring people together and to foster a sense of good community. Among all Hispanic individuals in south Jersey, community is so important.

The group also offers cultural diversity training programs to local companies in order to encourage a diverse workforce and to open job opportunities for minorities across the entire region.

PRAC has been fundamental in lifting up the Hispanic members of our community, and we thank them for the great work they do to make south Jersey an inclusive and prosperous place.

CONGRATULATING FRISCO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, I rise with my fellow Texan, Dr. BURGESS, to congratulate the Frisco Chamber of Commerce on earning a 5-star accreditation from the United States Chamber of Commerce.

Frisco is home to some of the most innovative and booming businesses in Texas and throughout the entire country. Partnering with approximately 1,300 member businesses who represent more than 75,000 employees, the Frisco Chamber of Commerce goes above and beyond to provide the business community with a powerful voice through its advocacy efforts and partnerships.

The Frisco Chamber of Commerce received the highest accreditation awarded by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce as a result of their effective organizational procedures and community involvement.

After earning this accreditation, the Frisco Chamber of Commerce is now among the top 2 percent of chambers in the Nation to receive this prestigious designation.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Frisco Chamber of Commerce on this tremendous achievement.

HONORING DAVID MIXNER

(Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, David Mixner, the legendary civil rights activist, best-selling author, and humanitarian known throughout the world for championing LGBT equality, healthcare, non-violence, and human rights for nearly 60 years.

I had the privilege of working and learning from David, an experience I will never forget, when I worked as White House staff secretary to President Bill Clinton. In the mode of our own JOHN LEWIS, David inspired a generation of us with his pioneering work for equality and documented those struggles in his seminal autobiography, "Stranger Among Friends."

David's leadership and wisdom shaped—indeed, made possible—my career and the careers of so many of us. He taught us to never tire of the fight and to always wage it with love.

From his early work with Harvey Milk defeating discriminatory laws

against LGBT teachers, to demanding real action in funding to combat the AIDS epidemic when our government was failing our community, David changed our Nation for the better. I know I speak for an entire LGBT community and our many allies in thanking David for his decades of activism.

At this very moment, he is giving what may be his final public performance in New York City before beginning his retirement. While I so wish I could be there tonight, my presence here, in this Chamber, in many ways is itself a tribute to David's lifetime of work.

And while the public phase of David's career may be drawing to a close, I know David's words and deeds will live on for many generations to come. He represents the best of America. He is a true patriot and a stranger no more.

U.S. NATIONAL GUARD BIRTHDAY

(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, this Friday is the 383rd birthday of the U.S. National Guard. Established in 1636, the National Guard is the oldest military organization in America. Its members served during times of war and emergency to keep American families safe and secure.

This anniversary allows us to come together to honor those who have risked their lives to protect our freedom. These sacrifices show that freedom is not free.

South Carolina is fortunate for the service of Adjutant General Van McCarty appointed by Governor Henry McMaster in the tradition of retiring Adjutant General Bob Livingston.

As a veteran of the Army National Guard and the father of three Army National Guardsmen who have served in Iraq, Egypt, and Afghanistan, I appreciate servicemembers, veterans, and military families. I am grateful for the resolve our servicemembers have to protect American families. I am thankful to celebrate this birthday of the militia filled with brave, self-sacrificing men and women.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

CHEMISTRY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

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

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, today, the House passed a bipartisan bill that Mr. MOOLENAAR joined me in introducing, H.R. 2051, the Sustainable Chemistry Research and Development Act.

Chemical products are part of our everyday lives, from toothpaste, to shampoo, cosmetics, dish soap, clothing, and