

to be instrumental in keeping inpatient services here through cooperation with other stakeholders, and we are equally as proud to see this new facility come to fruition.

The new facility is a state-of-the-art hospital with emergency and surgical services, fifteen inpatient rooms, an infusion clinic, MRI services and other imaging services, a new cafeteria, gift shop and more. This eighty-seven thousand square-foot facility will be an asset and treasure in the Hornell community.

I cannot thank the doctors, medical professionals, board members, administration and other staff members enough for the work they do in the Hornell community. They have saved lives, provided excellent care for a plethora of years and we are all grateful in the Twenty-Third Congressional District of New York for the work they do each and every day. I congratulate St. James Hospital on the new facility and wish them many more years of extraordinary healthcare services.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body join me to recognize the dedication of the new St. James Hospital in Hornell, New York.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. KIM SCHRIER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2020

Ms. SCHRIER. Madam Speaker, I was traveling to Washington State to help officials and my constituents best prepare for and contain COVID-19 (coronavirus).

As a result, I missed Roll Call vote number 87 regarding the Cisneros Amendment to H.R. 1140. Had I been present, I would have voted YES.

I missed Roll Call vote number 88 regarding my amendment offered by Representative MUCARSEL-POWELL to H.R. 1140. This amendment would ensure that TSA officers have the proper guidance regarding prevention and protections against the coronavirus. I thank Representative MUCARSEL-POWELL for offering this amendment in my absence. Had I been present, I would have voted YES.

I missed Roll Call vote number 89 regarding the Republican Motion to Recommit on H.R. 1140. Had I been present, I would have voted YES.

I missed Roll Call vote number 90 regarding final passage of H.R. 1140. Had I been present, I would have voted YES.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JOHN W. ROSE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2020

Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, on the night of March 2nd into the early morning of March 3rd, several tornadoes struck Middle Tennessee, inflicting severe damage and taking numerous lives. Most of the devastation occurred in my congressional district, the Sixth District of Tennessee, including my hometown, Cookeville, TN.

After careful consideration, my family and I returned home to Cookeville, TN, on March

3rd so that we could meet with local officials and first responders to assess the damage for ourselves and lend a helping hand to our friends and neighbors wherever it might be needed. Because of our decision to return home, I was absent for votes today.

I missed Roll Call vote number 87. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

I missed Roll Call vote number 88. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

I missed Roll Call vote number 89. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

I missed Roll Call vote number 90. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

#### RIGHTS FOR TRANSPORTATION SECURITY OFFICERS ACT OF 2020

SPEECH OF

#### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise to speak in strong support of H.R. 1140, the Rights for Transportation Security Officers Act of 2020, which will create civil service protections for TSA employees that are long overdue.

H.R. 1140, mandates the conversion of all covered employees and positions within the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to the provisions of title 5, United States Code.

The bill represents a longstanding priority for Chairman THOMPSON, the bill's author, and my own as a former chair of the Homeland Security Committee's Subcommittee on Transportation Security to extend the rights and protections afford to all federal government employees to TSA personnel.

Several versions of the bill have been introduced over the past decade, but this Congress is the first time the bill has received overwhelming, bipartisan support, with 236 cosponsors including 10 Republicans.

The legislation curtails TSA's broad authorities to create and control its personnel systems, instead requiring TSA to abide by the provisions of title 5 which regulate personnel systems for most Federal agencies.

The bill would provide TSA employees with the workforce protections and benefits available to most other Federal workers.

The bill sets forth transition rules to protect the rate of pay and other rights of TSA employees during a transition to title 5.

The bill also requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to consult with the appropriate labor organizations to carry out the transition.

This bill does not affect prohibitions against disloyalty and asserting the right to strike against the federal government.

The bill also extends the timeline for the transition from 60 days to a more realistic 180 days, and it contains language to protect employees with grievances or disciplinary actions pending during the transition.

On the morning of September 11, 2001, nearly 3,000 people were killed in a series of coordinated terrorist attacks in New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

The attacks resulted in the creation of the Transportation Security Administration, which was designed to prevent similar attacks in the future by removing the responsibility for transportation security from private entities.

The Aviation and Transportation Security Act, passed by the 107th Congress and signed on November 19, 2001, established TSA just 2 months following the September 11, 2001 attacks.

The urgent need to provide a response to the available security threat was facing meant that much of the work to provide administrative structure and integration measures that would have woven in the civil service protections now be added did not occur at that time.

The TSA's mission is to protect the nation's transportation systems to ensure freedom of movement for people and commerce.

The work of the TSA is a frontline Department of Homeland Security and it is not easy—it can in fact be very dangerous.

Like many of my colleagues, I recall the shooting incident at LAX that killed Gerardo Hernandez, who became the first TSA officer killed in the line of duty; and the machete attack at the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport that resulted in injuries to Senior Transportation Security Officer Carol Richel.

These incidents only highlight the difficult work that the men and women of the TSA must perform each day to keep our nation's airports and flights safe.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) supports several key parts of the U.S. coronavirus response.

The TSA is responsible for: enforcing the travel restrictions for all flights that are carrying individuals who have recently traveled from China; notifying passengers and travelers of risks of contracting the virus; and coordinating with air carriers and airports to discuss government actions and seek input (TSA).

Allegations about mismanagement, wasteful procedures, retaliation against whistleblowers, low morale, and security gaps within the Agency are causes for concern.

TSA has consistently struggled with low morale across the workforce, ranking 303 out of 305 government agencies in 2016.

Low morale has a nexus to the high turnover rate within the ranks of Transportation Security Officers (TSOs).

TSOs represent 70 percent of the TSA workforce, yet have been denied full collective bargaining rights, whistleblower protections, and opportunities to effectively raise issues in dispute to an independent third party, such as the Merit Systems Protection Board.

Additionally, TSOs are subject to a pay and performance system that does not track with the General Services (GS) wage system, the primary wage system for Federal workers.

It is past time to make the changes provided by H.R. 1140, so the TSA workforce is treated equally to other federal employees with the power to advance and expand their opportunities as government employees.

I ask my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 1140.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. LLOYD DOGGETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2020

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, with yesterday's storms in Texas, my early morning post-election day flight to Washington was delayed, preventing my arrival before the

coronavirus bill vote. Had I been present, I would have voted for H.R. 6074, which I strongly support. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 86.

**HONORING THE BALLSTON SPA  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
POST 358 ON THEIR CENTENNIAL  
ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 5, 2020*

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Ballston Spa Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 358 on their 100th anniversary.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) is a nonprofit veterans service organization that traces its roots back to the Spanish-American War of 1898. Veterans returning home following the war in 1902 found themselves with little or no support from the government, even those with severe wounds and permanent disabilities. From this vacuum emerged the VFW, whose membership now stands at more than 1.6 million. The VFW made significant contributions to the establishment of the Veterans Administration and continues to advocate strongly for veterans to this day. At the local level, each post makes a positive impact on the broader community. Post 358 sponsors and contributes to many local charitable events and organizations including elementary school literacy programs, Memorial Day Parades, junior baseball leagues and the Brookside Museum. They maintain strong friendships with annual barbecues and outings for members, while supporting each other in times of need.

The VFW's vision is to ensure "veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country." I echo this sentiment and will continue to work with all veterans' groups to realize that vision. On behalf of New York's 21st District, I want to congratulate President Karen Shea and all the members of VFW Post 358 on this milestone and thank them for their century-long tradition of service to North Country veterans.

**TRIBUTE TO CONSTANCE  
SEYMOUR ULRICH**

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 5, 2020*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an outstanding individual, Constance Seymour Ulrich, who passed away at the age of 87 on February 29, 2020. Connie, as she was known, was a loving wife and mother and she will be deeply missed.

Connie was born in Eugene, Oregon on March 22, 1932, the first daughter of Darle and Vada Belle Seymour. Her parents owned the iconic Seymour's Cafe in downtown Eugene by the University of Oregon Campus. She grew up in Eugene, attending grade

school near the MacKenzie River in Vida, Oregon where her father owned Heavens Gate Cabins. After the war, she and her family moved back to Eugene and she attended Roosevelt Junior High and then Eugene High School, graduating with the Class of 1950. Connie attended the University of Oregon, majoring in Music and was a proud member of the Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority.

After college, she moved down to San Francisco where she ultimately joined American Airlines as a Stewardess. It was while working for the airlines that she met her future husband, Edward "Duke" Ulrich. They soon married and immediately transferred to Kansas City, Missouri and subsequently to Chicago, Illinois. She was then excited to return to California where they settled in Sunnysvale, the heart of Silicon Valley. They raised their two children, Gregory and Linda and resided there for 47 years.

Connie, blessed with a beautiful soprano voice, loved music and would frequently burst into an operatic solo. She enjoyed horseback riding as a young girl, and loved all animals, especially cats and dogs. I had the good fortune of getting to know Connie through Linda who was an integral part of my DC staff for many years. I can tell you that Connie had an infectious zest for life and a sparkle that drew people to her. I will long remember her sense of fun and humor which so clearly live on through her daughter.

Connie's husband, Duke, predeceased her in death, as did her son Gregory, and more recently her sister, Kathryn Seymour of Eugene. Connie is survived by Linda and son-in-law John "JY" Yeagley of Vienna, Virginia. A celebration of her life will be held in McLean, Virginia. She will make Alta Mesa Memorial Park in Palo Alto her final resting place and will join her husband and son. I extend my heartfelt condolences to my dear friend Linda and to all those who knew Connie. Although she may no longer be with us, she will continue to have a lasting impact on the lives of her family and community.

**RECOGNIZING THE PLEASANT  
PLAINS GIRLS BASKETBALL  
TEAM ON WINNING THE ILLINOIS  
2A STATE TITLE**

**HON. DARIN LAHOOD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 5, 2020*

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, today, I would like to recognize the Pleasant Plains High School girls' basketball team on winning the 2020 Class 2A state title.

Last Saturday, at Redbird Arena in Normal, Illinois, the Pleasant Plains Cardinals defeated the two-time defending champion Chicago Marshall Commandos in a performance dominated by Pleasant Plain's defensive efforts. The Cardinals held Chicago Marshall to 32 percent shooting and forced 12 turnovers in the game, winning by a final score of 43-37. The Cardinals victory was not without drama, as the Cardinal's allowed a 13-point fourth-quarter lead dwindle to just 1-point, but on the strength of strong senior leadership, the Cardinals were able to seal the game and bring a state championship home to Pleasant Plains.

For the first time in program history, Pleasant Plains girls' basketball won the IHSA state championship. Pleasant Plains' newfound success on the hardwood is a testament to the leadership of Coach TJ Fraase and the determination of the young women he coaches.

The Pleasant Plains girls' basketball team has made all of central Illinois proud with their accomplishments this season, finishing with a 28-3 record. Each girl's commitment to their team and their community is truly inspiring. Congratulations to Coach Fraase and the Pleasant Plain's Cardinals for their remarkable state championship win.

**NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY AS-  
SISTANCE ACT**

**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO  
SABLAN**

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 5, 2020*

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Northern Mariana Islands Coronavirus Emergency Assistance Act which would provide \$100 million to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to respond to the severe loss of revenues for government operations resulting from the coronavirus' impact to our tourism industry. The funds will help avert the disruption of essential health and other public services to the people of my isolated district.

The coronavirus outbreak has resulted in the loss of thousands of lives and disrupted commerce worldwide but its impact has hit tourism-dependent jurisdictions like the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands particularly hard. Major hotels have less than 30 percent occupancy. Airlines serving our islands have cut routes. As a result, less funds will be available to provide health and other public services for the people of my district. Our Commonwealth's governor, Ralph Torres, declared a state of significant emergency on January 29 and implemented across-the-board budget cuts and austerity measures including a 20 percent cut to teachers' salaries and a 4-day school week. Last week, Acting Governor Arnold Palacios extended the state of emergency for another 30 days. Today, Governor Torres declared a price freeze on food, water, clothing, emergency supplies as well as fuel. Due to forces beyond our control, the people of my district are facing an emergency that requires me as their sole representative in Congress to act now and provide emergency assistance measures to ensure their health and safety.

Yesterday, the House passed an \$8 billion emergency supplemental funding bill that will help every part of our country respond to the coronavirus. However, these funds cannot be used to support general government operations such as public education. This is why I am introducing the Northern Mariana Islands Coronavirus Emergency Assistance Act to provide \$100 million in fiscal support to ensure all members of my community, especially our seniors and children, can continue to access the care and education essential to their health, safety and families' well-being.