

RECOGNIZING TEACHERS AND
STAFF OF STAGECOACH ELE-
MENTARY SCHOOL

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2020

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, today, I recognize the teachers and staff at Stagecoach Elementary School in Cabot, Arkansas for going above and beyond for their students during the current public health crisis due to COVID-19.

They have adapted their teaching process to ensure they are meeting the academic needs of their students, but they are also finding creative ways to maintain relationships with students, their families, and the community.

The teachers and staff have gone above and beyond by delivering groceries to families in need, continuing to offer breakfast and lunch for their students, providing supplies like laptops to families who may not have the necessary equipment for at-home learning, and conducting parades throughout the student's neighborhoods to lift spirits, and bring the community together.

This initiative has shined a light on how adapting to the situation at hand and responding with positivity can unite a community even amidst a public health crisis.

I congratulate the teachers and staff at Stagecoach Elementary School for their creative way of continuing education for Arkansas students and for ending the year on a strong note.

RECOGNIZING ALLAN HURSIG, THE
BEARDED BAKER OF TX-22

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2020

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, we often tell our children that, when life gives you lemons, you make lemonade. When life gave Allan Hursig lemons, he made cookies and created a thriving business.

After being "unfortunately, but fortunately laid off" from his job as an oil and gas landman, Mr. Hursig turned to baking as a hobby. His elaborately decorated cookies found fame on the Internet, and he launched The Bearded Baker in 2016 to take his hobby to the next level.

Mr. Hursig's sweet treats garnered so much popularity that he even competed on the Food Network's "Christmas Cookie Challenge."

Mr. Hursig is living proof of that creativity, artistry and perseverance are tools for success in our great nation. On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, he has made our community very proud.

WELCOME KITTRIDGE CHARLES &
ADLER ELNORA LOPATA-PAGAN

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2020

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I am happy to congratulate State Representative Kristy Pagan and Karl Lopata of Canton, Michigan, on the birth of their babies, Kittridge Charles and Adler Elnora Lopata-Pagan. Kittridge Charles was born on Martin Luther King Jr. Day on January 20, 2020, weighing six pounds and fourteen ounces and measuring in at 19.7 inches long. Adler Elnora was born on January 21, 2020, weighing five pounds and twelve ounces and measuring in at 18.9 inches long. Kittridge and Adler were born at Von Voigtlander Women's Hospital at the University of Michigan.

I would also like to congratulate Kittridge and Adler's grandparents, Nick and Kathy Pagan of Plymouth, Michigan, and Karl and Judy Lopata of Canton, Michigan, as well as aunts and uncles Jenna and Bill Pagan-DeYoung of Kalamazoo, Michigan (cousin Evelyn Pagan-DeYoung, cousin Elliot Pagan-DeYoung), Kimberly Pagan of Arlington, Virginia, and K.C. Lopata of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Congratulations to the entire family as they welcome the new loves and lights of their lives.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL
DEFENSE NET ZERO REVIEW
ACT OF 2020

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2020

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the National Defense Net Zero Review Act of 2020, legislation that will refocus the Defense Department's (DoD's) efforts on Net Zero initiatives and require the Secretary to establish the first integrated master plan for achieving Net Zero energy benchmarks.

The DoD consumes more energy than any other federal agency, spending nearly \$12 billion on energy in FY2017, approximately two percent of the Department's total budget. Since the early 2000s, the DoD has made commendable progress in implementing Net Zero projects. These initiatives have generally focused on efforts to produce more energy from renewable sources on installations, limit consumption of water in order to not deplete the local watershed, and reduce, reuse, and recover waste to prevent unnecessary additions to landfills.

Unfortunately, Madam Speaker, while progress has been made, it simply isn't enough. In fact, many of the energy benchmarks established by previous acts of Congress have never been achieved by the DoD, and many of the goals announced by senior DoD leaders over the past decade are no longer being pursued. To quote from the findings from a 2016 Government Accountability Office (GAO) study—the most systemic review of Net Zero with the DoD—the Department has "not established an integrated net zero

strategy or policy for achieving Net Zero," and "none of the military departments have established Net Zero as a funded program". Further, the DoD has not fully identified the potential costs of implementing net zero initiatives, due at least in part to insufficiently defined statutory goals.

On the operational side of energy usage, DoD emissions for all military operations between 2001 and 2017 are estimated to be 766 million metric tons of carbon dioxide. The FY2017 Operational Energy Annual Report found that the Department used roughly 87 million barrels of fuel per year, which comes out to some 240,000 barrels per day. These findings paint a clear picture, that absent Congressional interest and oversight, pursuing and achieving Net Zero will not be prioritized in the way that it should be.

The legislation that I am introducing today will get us back on track with a wholesale review of Net Zero initiatives under the DoD. First, my bill commissions two studies from the Comptroller General of the United States—a follow-up to the 2016 study and a second examining options for increasing efficiency and resilience on the operational side of the DoD's energy usage—that will analyze the extent to which these types of initiatives have been implemented, and the associated costs, benefits, challenges, and opportunities that exist for moving forward. These studies also solicit new information from the DoD, including anticipated funding and infrastructure needs to get serious about achieving Net Zero, and options for achieving specific benchmarks. Once this information is at hand, my legislation requires the Secretary of the DoD to present Congress with a master plan outlining an integrated strategy for achieving these initiatives in a manner that continues to prioritize military readiness.

Importantly, Madam Speaker, my bill does not impose any arbitrary deadlines or requirements of the DoD. Rather, this legislation focuses on gathering the data we need to know what is feasible, what we'll need to get it done, and how much time it will take, so that Congress can make informed decisions in the future. This is the right way to move forward, and I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COVID-19
MEMORIAL QUILT ACT OF 2020

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2020

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the COVID-19 Memorial Quilt Act of 2020 to honor all the victims of this pandemic with a national memorial quilt.

The horrors of the COVID-19 pandemic have touched every corner of our country, wreaking unprecedented devastation on Americans' lives. As I introduce this legislation today, COVID-19 has infected at least two million Americans. Tragically, this disease has quickly robbed our country of at least 112,000 of our fellow citizens. We need to remember that these numbers are not just statistics: they are people. They are our moms, dads, children, grandparents, neighbors, teachers, religious leaders and fellow Americans who have been taken from us due to this pandemic.

Moreover, these numbers do not capture the depth of this disease's devastation. While our television screens are often filled with images of empty streets and packed hospitals, we often don't see the private isolation and loneliness of the individual struggles against COVID-19. In order to slow the spread of this disease, our hospitals, nursing homes, funeral homes, and businesses have had to impose strict social distancing and protective measures. While necessary for our public health, these restrictions come at a great human cost and deepen the private pain caused by this disease.

For the thousands of brave patients fighting COVID-19, including the hospitalized patients, nursing home residents, and individuals at home in quarantine, the struggle against COVID-19 is a lonely, scary, and isolating fight. In hospitals and nursing homes, often a patient's only human contact is a health care worker in full personal protective equipment (PPE). Family, friends, and loved ones can't be there to provide comfort, to hold their hands, or to pray with them in this terrifying time. At best, loving words and support might be shared over the telephone or video call. At worst, there is only an isolating silence where a loved one should be. These scars need to be acknowledged and hopefully healed.

The death toll from COVID-19 is even more wrenching. At least 112,000 Americans—whether in the hospital, the nursing home, or at home—have met the end of their lives without the comfort of their family, friends, or loved ones. Yesterday, more than 1,100 Americans died from this disease, and many were forced to close their eyes without the support of their loved ones nearby.

We know that at least 40,600 deaths from COVID-19—close to 40 percent of all deaths—have occurred in a nursing home, where restrictions are especially tight, and visitations curtailed. In my home state of Indiana, we have lost at least 1,011 Hoosiers to COVID-19 at nursing homes.

We also know that African Americans are dying at disproportionate rates from COVID-19. African Americans in Indiana, despite representing 9.8 percent of the state's population, account for 15.1 percent of deaths from COVID-19. Institutional racism, compounded by environmental and economic injustices, have made COVID-19 particularly devastating for African Americans. My heart grieves for my

fellow Americans who took their last breath, because of this terrible disease, without the loving comfort and support they deserved.

For the family, friends, and loved ones of those who died from COVID-19, the isolation and loneliness brought by this disease only grows after their loved one's passing. Social distancing and the isolating fear of this disease prevent us from adequately honoring and memorializing the many victims of COVID-19. Large memorial services are not possible. Family gatherings to celebrate lost loved ones are curtailed, with supportive hugs replaced by six feet of distance and protective masks. Private funeral services—if not cancelled or postponed altogether—have often had to take place with only 10 people or less.

In addition to its sickness, death, and disruption, COVID-19 has robbed us of traditional ways of honoring our lost loved ones. Holding smaller funerals or forgoing them entirely because of social distancing measures has denied us the opportunity to fully celebrate the lives of the deceased. Our ability to publicly grieve together, and to adequately honor and celebrate the lost has been largely denied due to this isolating and frightening disease.

Many Americans will also remember another isolating and frightening disease: the AIDS epidemic. Ryan White, a brave and remarkable Hoosier, faced isolation and many frightening obstacles because of his AIDS diagnosis. However, Ryan's courage, bravery, and advocacy for AIDS research galvanized many in support of AIDS treatment, research and recognition of this disease's horrific impact. Since no official commemoration existed, concerned Americans decided to celebrate and honor the lives of those who died from AIDS—often isolated and alone—by creating a memorial quilt. As a result, in 1987, the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt was displayed and stretched the length of the National Mall. This remarkable quilt allowed us to honor and celebrate the lives of those tragically lost to a frightening disease, which at that time, had no cure, vaccine or effective treatment. More than 105,000 individual lives are commemorated through this quilt's 50,000 individual panels that contain photographs, correspondence, and news clippings to remember those who died from AIDS. In these panels, the memory of the victims were able to live on in public view.

Inspired by the brave advocacy and powerful legacy of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, I am proud to introduce the COVID-19 Memorial Quilt Act of 2020. This legislation honors and celebrates the lives of those we have lost to the COVID-19 pandemic through the creation of a memorial quilt. Like the AIDS quilt, creating a memorial quilt to remember the lives lost due to COVID-19 will allow Americans to publicly grieve our lost loved ones, but also commemorate their lives in permanent, visible, and dignified way.

The COVID-19 Memorial Quilt Act of 2020 authorizes the design, creation, and display of a memorial quilt and other commemorative programming and exhibits to honor the victims of the COVID-19 pandemic. My legislation does this by creating a Congressional Advisory Panel which will submit plans to the Smithsonian Institution and the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress for how the quilt should be developed and displayed. Once complete, this memorial quilt will be displayed on the United State Capitol Grounds with a subsequent display on the National Mall and other locations, continuing the legacy of the AIDS quilt. This legislation also supports the powerful creativity of artists around the country by providing them with grants from the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA) to help design and prepare panels for the memorial quilt.

All Americans have been affected by COVID-19. All have felt the disruption wrought by this pandemic to our families, our workplaces, our businesses, our places of worship, and our social lives. But that is nothing compared to the Americans who have not only faced disruptions, but also the wrenching loss of loved ones from this disease. Because of social distancing and protective restrictions, we have been denied the ability to adequately honor, commemorate, and publicly celebrate those we have lost. And unfortunately, as more Americans continue to die in isolation from this disease, this deficit in our collective grief will only grow. As a result, my legislation builds on the powerful legacy of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt and will help our country to collectively grieve and appropriately honor the victims of COVID-19.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join us in supporting the COVID-19 Memorial Quilt Act of 2020, and I urge the House to support this legislation.