

HONORING DALTON SCOTT RIPLEY

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 28, 2020*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Dalton Scott Ripley. Dalton is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 120, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Dalton has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Dalton has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Dalton has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Dalton raised the funds and placed a granite bench in the Veterans Memorial Plaza at the Livingston County Courthouse.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Dalton Scott Ripley for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

**ADVANCING RESEARCH TO PREVENT SUICIDE ACT**

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 27, 2020*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4704, which advances the knowledge and understanding of issues that may be associated with several aspects of suicide, including intrinsic and extrinsic factors related to wellbeing, resilience, and vulnerability.

The bill directs the National Science Foundation (NSF) to provide for additional multidisciplinary research on the science of suicide.

The fundamental research done by the NSF includes but is not limited to basic understanding of human social behavior, the neutral basis of human cognition, the basic understanding of cognitive, linguistic, social, cultural and biological processes related to human development across the lifespan, the basic understanding of perceptual, motor, and cognitive process, and their interaction in typical human behavior; and the basic understanding of the relevance of drug and alcohol abuse.

The rate of Americans dying by suicide is on the rise, increasing from 10.7 to 14 deaths per 100,000 people from 2001 to 2017.

In the UK, the rate of death by suicide per 100,000 people is 11.2, in Canada, 11.3, and in Japan, 14.3.

In 2019, the number of deaths per 100,000 people by suicide in Texas was 13.8, which is relatively high compared to the national high of 14.

Suicide among seniors over the age of 85 in Texas is the highest, with a rate of 19.2 deaths per 100,000 people.

In 2017, there were an estimated 1.4 million suicide attempts and more than 47,000 deaths by suicide nationwide.

Currently, suicide is the tenth-leading cause of death among people in the United States and the second-leading cause of death for young people between the ages of 15 and 34.

Societal costs including lifetime medical care and lost work costs associated with suicide are estimated at \$70 billion.

Ninety percent of all people who died by suicide in Harris County were suffering from a mental illness at the time, most often depression.

The NSF funds will support research that can improve our basic understanding of factors with potential relevance to suicide, including prevention and treatment.

The rate of suicide is far too high in the United States and we must be more aware of the issue in order to take preventative action.

I ask my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to join me in voting in support of H.R. 4704.

**RECOGNIZING DR. THERESA FLOYD, PH.D.****HON. BILL POSEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 28, 2020*

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, in honor of Black History Month, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Theresa Floyd, an African American Pioneer and outstanding constituent, who has devoted her life to promoting the importance of faith, family and community in our district.

As an educator, mentor, dedicated volunteer, wife of 54 years, and a mom to seven kids, Dr. Floyd has worn many important hats in our community. Her strong faith-based foundation can be attributed to her time at Jacksonville Theological Seminary, where she earned her Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degrees. During her education, she served as a role model and counselor for many students who went on to graduate and give back to our community.

Dr. Floyd founded the New Hope Pentecostal Church in Orange Park Florida, where she served the church in many capacities such as Executive Administrator, Board Member, Evangelist, Deaconess and even Choir Director. Her leadership in Orange Park was well regarded by her peers, eventually serving as a town councilmember, school counselor, teacher, and canvassing board member. Ultimately, she and her family were recognized as the Most Outstanding Black Family in the Town of Orange Park.

Currently Dr. Floyd acts as Pastor and Chief Executive of Faith and Deliverance Ministry in Vero Beach. In her role, she provides mentorship and guidance to those suffering from addiction, and helps those who need food and shelter. A true humanitarian, she is always putting others before herself.

The contributions that Dr. Floyd has made to Indian River County are immeasurable and will be felt for generations to come. We are grateful to her for her spiritual works and unwavering altruism, that have made the Treasure Coast a better place for all families to enjoy.

On Tuesday, February 18th, 2020, the Indian River County Board of Commissioners will honor Dr. Floyd's service to our community in celebration of Black History Month. The

Board is dedicated to celebrating African American pioneers in the community such as Dr. Floyd, who have paved the way for future generations.

I ask my colleagues of the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Dr. Floyd's service to residents and families across our district, and her continued devotion to making our community a better place.

**HONORING CITY OF COACHELLA FIRE DEPARTMENT CAPTAIN MARCOS MACHUCA****HON. RAUL RUIZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 28, 2020*

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor my constituent, City of Coachella Fire Department Captain Marcos Machuca, for his years of service to California's 36th Congressional District. After 42 years of exceptional service to our communities, Captain Machuca retired on November 30, 2019.

Captain Machuca fulfilled his childhood dream to serve his community when he joined the City of Coachella Fire Department in 1977. Over his decades' long career, he accumulated a wealth of leadership experience and made a difference in the lives of our friends, families, and neighbors.

Every day, Captain Machuca answered the call to defend our community. For example, when a semi-tractor caught fire in Oasis, he rescued the driver from his truck before it engulfed in flames. This is just one instance of how Captain Machuca's bravery saved a life and prevented tragedy.

Captain Machuca is more than a courageous first responder—he is also a skilled educator. As Fire Captain, he has instilled valuable lessons in the young firefighters he mentored, and he played a key role in growing Coachella's volunteer force.

As a two-time recipient of the Firefighter of the Year award, Captain Machuca exemplifies the qualities of our community's firefighters who work tirelessly to keep us safe. His selflessness, courage, and dedication to public service are inspiring, and his legacy will be felt in Coachella for years to come.

On behalf of our entire community, I thank Captain Machuca for his exceptional service and congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement.

**HONORING ABRAM STUART****HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 28, 2020*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Abram Stuart. Abram is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 135, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Abram has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Abram has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous

merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Abram has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Abram Stuart for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 28, 2020*

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, on January 27, 2020, I was unable to vote because I attended the funeral of a close friend.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 23, and YEA on Roll Call No. 24.

HONORING HANEHAN FAMILY DAIRY FOR RECEIVING THE NEW YORK STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY'S NEXT GENERATION FARMER AWARD

### HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 28, 2020*

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Hanehan Family Dairy for receiving the New York State Agricultural Society's Next Generation Farmer Award. The NYS Agricultural Society honors established producers and industry newcomers who are farming in new and vibrant ways with the Next Generation Farmer Award. For NY agriculture to continue to be successful, the next generation of innovative farmers are needed to work the land, plant crops, raise livestock and feed our global population. The Hanehan family has diversified their business to remain competitive, while continuing their tradition and passing their successful business onto the next generation.

Hanehan Family Dairy maintains two farms in Mount Upton and Saratoga Springs. Upon returning from service in World War II, Edward Hanehan purchased the farm next door to the one that he grew up on. Today, his descendants include his three sons, 11 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren. Edward's sons, Charlie, Cliff, and Dave, currently run both farms and several of their children are working their way into the family business as partners, carrying on the agricultural tradition. In addition to their core business of dairy, they also breed livestock and grow pumpkins, raising around eight acres at each farm.

Agriculture is an essential component of the economy in Northern New York and Hanehan Family Dairy exemplifies the quality and diversity of North Country farms. On behalf of New York's 21st district, I would like to congratulate the entire Hanehan family for this well-deserved recognition. I look forward to their future success.

### SUPPORTING VETERANS IN STEM CAREERS ACT

SPEECH OF

### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 27, 2020*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the House Judiciary Committee and the Committee on Homeland Security, I rise in strong support of S. 153, the "Supporting Veterans in STEM Careers Act."

It is with the great sacrifice of the men and women, who have served in our armed forces and protected our freedom in mind that I urge members on both sides of the aisle to vote in favor this bill.

We often hear about the many difficulties veterans face while attempting to transition back to civilian life.

From physical and mental trauma to unemployment to the struggles associated with re-familiarizing themselves with civilian life, veterans face many obstacles in life after service.

With respect to employment, nearly one-third of veteran job seekers are underemployed, which is 15.6 percent higher than non-veteran job seekers.

In addition, the Texas Workforce Investment Council reported that in 2017, 35,734 veterans remained unemployed.

In 2019, LinkedIn published its Veteran's Opportunity Report, which stated that veterans who had degrees as well as four or more years of experience were less likely to land the job than less-experienced civilians who applied for the same role.

I am voting in favor of S. 153 because it seeks to address that barrier by encouraging veterans to study and pursue rewarding careers in science, technology, engineering, and math as well as by creating an interagency working group.

This group is tasked with coordinating federal programs for transitioning and training veterans for STEM careers.

By facilitating this process, veterans will be able to have a meaningful career that utilizes their skillsets and secures their livelihood.

In addition, S. 153 will result in filling thousands of open positions and contribute to growing our economy.

Today, STEM careers are growing at an unprecedented rate.

Texas is home to more than three-quarters of a million great STEM jobs.

In fact, Texas is expected to represent nearly 10 percent of future STEM opportunities in the nation.

According to a study by Syracuse University in 2018, Texas possesses the largest percentages of veterans working in the STEM workforce.

At the state-level, 9 percent of veterans work in STEM.

Yet, the report states that 18.66 percent of veterans in Houston are employed in STEM.

Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have strongly supported veterans.

With that in mind, I authored and introduced the "Helping to Encourage Real Opportunity for Veterans Transitioning from Battlespace to Workplace Act", or the HEROES Act, in previous congresses.

Through my advocacy work with veterans, I have come to understand that one of the

greatest barriers to entry for veterans seeking employment is that civilian employers do not adequately understand how the skills, experience, and training of veterans can contribute in the private sector.

In an effort to address this problem, the HEROES Act creates a Military Skills Translator Database to remove that obstacle and better incorporate veterans into the workforce, especially in fields like STEM.

I strongly believe that we must come together and address the barriers that prevent veterans from re-entering the workforce.

It is imperative that we, the American people, continuously recognize the sacrifices these men and women have made to ensure our freedom and safety.

We must take it upon ourselves to try and ease the burdensome transition that thousands of veterans' experience.

And so, I ask all members from both parties to join me in voting to pass S. 153.

#### HONORING BRADEN TONKS

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 28, 2020*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Braden Tonks. Braden is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 135, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Braden has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Braden has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Braden has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Braden Tonks for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 28, 2020*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on January 27, 2020 due to National Guard obligations. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 23, and YEA on Roll Call No. 24.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PETRA RUIZ OF COACHELLA VALLEY

### HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 28, 2020*

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to tell the Nation about the life and legacy of Petra Ruiz of the Coachella Valley.