

# REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 51

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 51.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

# PUERTO RICO'S ONGOING CRISIS THAT DEMANDS AN IMMEDIATE AND ROBUST RESPONSE

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

Mr. CRIST. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of our ailing fellow Americans in Puerto Rico as they recover from the devastating earthquakes that hit the island this past month.

For weeks, we have heard horror stories from my constituents in the Puerto Rican communities about what they are seeing and hearing from their friends and families on the island: homes reduced to rubble; families living in flooded camps; children sleeping on the streets; and the earthquakes keep coming, one as recently as 2 days ago.

This is an ongoing crisis that demands an immediate and robust response. But right now, we are seeing critical aid delayed.

We in Florida know that, when we politicize disaster relief, we put people's lives at stake. The House passed a supplemental relief bill Friday. Now it is time for the Senate to act for our Puerto Rican brothers and sisters.

# RECOGNIZING UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH-JOHNSTOWN WRESTLING COACH PAT PECORA

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown wrestling coach, Pat Pecora, on his recent record-breaking meet.

On Friday, February 7, Coach Pecora led the Panthers to victory with a 22-12 win over Mercyhurst. This win was Pecora's 617th, and it snapped nearly a five-decade-long record for most wins in college wrestling at any level or division. Pat Pecora has led his team to two Division II national championships over the years, as well as 22 NCAA regional titles.

Coach Pecora's commitment to the sport has not gone unnoticed. He has been named Coach of the Year by the National Wrestling Coaches Association three times, most recently in 2019.

Pennsylvania is a national leader in wrestling. It is a passion that is woven throughout the Commonwealth's history. Coach Pecora's leadership and

coaching record at Pitt-Johnstown is one to be proud of.

Congratulations, Coach, on this fantastic achievement.

# RECOGNIZING NATIONAL CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, as co-chair of the Career and Technical Education Caucus, I rise to recognize National CTE Month.

CTE programs, like those at the Genesis Center in my home State of Rhode Island, show the promise of economic opportunities for CTE students of all ages.

Cindy's story is a great example. She was unemployed when she enrolled in the Genesis Center's Pharmacy Technician Pre-Apprenticeship Program at CVS, and before she completed her training, Cindy was offered a job. She then went on to get her Pharmacy 2 certificate, and she currently holds a full-time position in the Lifespan Health System.

Cindy's story is just one of many CTE successes, and I am so proud to honor her and the millions of other students and educators this month.

Madam Speaker, I am also pleased to recognize my good friend and CTE Caucus co-chair, GT THOMPSON, for his leadership in advancing CTE policy in Congress. GT's partnership has been absolutely invaluable, and I look forward to continuing our work together this month and beyond.

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# RECOGNIZING CLARENCE FORT

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

Mr. SPANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Black History Month. This month is designed to celebrate the achievements of African Americans and the significant role that they have played in our Nation's history.

The State of Florida is home to one such leader, Hillsborough County's Clarence Fort. Mr. Fort organized and participated in Tampa's first lunch counter sit-in in the downtown Woolworth's department store. After a week of nonviolent sit-ins, Tampa's mayor appointed a biracial committee to discuss segregation. By September 1960, the city's lunch counters were integrated.

Mr. Fort also led the initiative to integrate the workforce of Tampa Transit Lines and later went on to serve 20 years as a Hillsborough County sheriff's deputy.

Strong men and women like Clarence Fort persevered during some of Amer-

ica's most divided periods. His strength and courage are part of what makes our Nation great.

Madam Speaker, I thank all the brave African Americans whose positive influence and impact inspire us this month and every month of the year.

# HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOE VANDEVER, SR.

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

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and the legacy of Joe Vandever, Sr., who passed away recently at the age of 96.

Joe was a Navajo native code talker, a member of an elite group that used their native tongue to create unbreakable codes and transmit top-secret messages during World War II.

Joe bravely enlisted with the U.S. Marine Corps at the age of 20 and served in nine different locations until he was honorably discharged as a corporal in 1946.

Here is a great part of his story, besides all the work he did for our military. Joe is survived by his sister, his six children, 36 grandchildren, 55 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

We must never forget the immense bravery and sacrifices made by the Navajo code talkers. They saved countless lives and helped turn the tide of World War II.

Pat and I are keeping Joe's family and friends and the entire Navajo Nation community in our prayers as we mourn his passing.

There are very few code talkers left in our country today. I have gotten to know most of them, and it has been a great honor.

# RECOGNIZING CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize February as Career and Technical Education Month.

Our education system should always be tailored to prepare all students, not just those attending a 4-year college. CTE programs ensure graduates have the vocational and technical skills necessary to succeed in the future. In fact, there are 30 million jobs in the United States that pay an average of \$55,000 per year that don't require bachelor's degrees.

The U.S. Department of Education estimates there will be 68 percent more job openings for transportation occupational careers in the next 5 years than there are people training to fill those jobs. With opportunities like these, students shouldn't feel forced to attend one type of institution over another.

Not every student is bound for college, but every student should leave high school with the skills and knowledge necessary to join today's workforce.

#### CONGRESS MUST PROTECT COMMUNITIES ACROSS NATION

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, in the dark of night in January 2020, my constituents near the Watson Grinding and Manufacturing Company were awakened by a catastrophic explosion around 4 a.m. in the morning. Unbeknownst to these working families, this particular manufacturing building had propylene, and there was a leak, and there was a seismic explosion.

Four hundred homes have been damaged to the extent that people cannot return. Tragically, two employees were killed. Due to the fact that the shift had not started, there wasn't a catastrophic killing of employees, innocent employees. A truck was blown from one part of the street to the other.

We now cannot find the owner of this particular company. Homes are still destroyed. Businesses are destroyed. There is no one to call.

I will be introducing legislation that insists that companies have the responsibility to report to local jurisdictions the dangerous flammable and toxic materials that they are holding.

We are still fighting to get relief for these innocent victims, and we are asking Mr. Watson to stand up and do what he said he would, which is to take care of all of these persons. Well, he is doing it by filing bankruptcy.

We will not rest until all of these homes and homeowners find a way for relief. I ask Members to join me in the legislation that will protect communities across the Nation.

#### RECOGNIZING ARTHUR PARKER

(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, upon his well-deserved retirement this month, I rise today to recognize Plano police officer Art Parker on his 34 years of dedicated service to the city of Plano, Texas.

During his tenure as a school resource officer, Art made headlines for his incredible ability to memorize the names of over 20,000 students.

A true public servant and a man of many talents, Officer Parker was often seen playing extravagant harmonica solos, making balloon animals, and, most impressively, making people laugh from their cars while stuck in school traffic.

In 2015, Officer Parker was the first ever school resource officer to be

named Plano Officer of the Year. This came as no surprise to so many inspired by his power to make others feel valued.

Officer Parker has made a lasting impact on the Plano community. Although he will be missed, we know his future has wonderful things in store for him. I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Officer Art Parker on his successful career and wishing him luck as he begins his next chapter.

#### SUICIDE AMONG VETERANS IS PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

(Ms. TLAIB asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, this is Damon Clayton, the son of my dear friend, Dearborn Heights City Councilwoman Lisa Hicks-Clayton. Today, I rise in honor of his precious life.

Thirteenth District Strong lost Damon to suicide last week at the young age of 28.

One friend wrote: "This man was a friend and a brother to me. We may not have shared DNA, but we shared a common desire to protect." He was a U.S. Army paratrooper in Afghanistan and a firefighter/EMT for the city of Ecorse. "When we lost Damon, we lost a very special blessing from God. This special soul spent his life protecting us."

He said: "I finish my EMT school in 3 weeks. I would like to finish in honor of him. Damon was a factor in my choice to pursue public safety. I want him to always be remembered."

For me, Damon was dearly loved by so many people, including his parents and his siblings.

Death by suicide among veterans represents a public health crisis in our country. In 2005, over 5,700 veterans died by suicide, a number that rose to over 6,100 in 2017.

In Damon's memory, I promise to do everything in my power to get our veterans the healthcare and help that they deserve.

#### HONORING DR. JIM FARHA

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

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Dr. S. Jim Farha.

On January 17, 2020, Dr. Farha passed away, leaving behind family, friends, and a legacy of making Wichita and our State a better place.

After leaving his native Lebanon in search of an opportunity in America, Dr. Farha worked hard to become a cardiothoracic surgeon. In 1963, Dr. Farha and his brother George began a surgical practice in Wichita to meet a critical need of surgeons in the region. Over time, the practice would eventually become the largest of its kind in the State of Kansas.

In addition to leading the practice for nearly 40 years with his brother, Dr. Farha also worked tirelessly to improve our community. From landmarks like the Wichita Art Museum to the YMCA, the philanthropy and service of Dr. Farha and his late wife, Darla, can be seen throughout Wichita and our region.

His dedication to serving others, whether in the operating room or in the community, has left an inspiring imprint, which will be felt for generations. Dr. Farha's life is a true testament to the American Dream, and he will be missed.

#### CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SUFFRAGE

(Ms. SHERRILL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, 100 years ago, the great State of New Jersey became the 29th State to ratify the 19th Amendment guaranteeing women the right to vote.

New Jerseyans of all ages are honoring this anniversary. On Sunday, the Kinnelon Girl Scouts held a women's vote celebration, inviting residents to learn about the suffrage movement and what it means today.

In towns across my district, like Morris Township, the municipal building will be lit purple this week, a nod to the purple of the suffragette sashes that symbolized dignity and loyalty.

I thank all our residents for recognizing this milestone and what it means in 2020.

New Jersey's most influential suffragette, Alice Paul, started the National Woman's Party. She said something that still resonates today: "There's nothing complicated about ordinary equality."

In our complicated world, women have made significant strides since 1920. As we celebrate 100 years of suffrage, let us remember all the work that lies ahead.

#### HONORING CHASE TOWNSEND

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

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I love to listen to music, modern country like Kenny Chesney, classic country like Johnny Cash, '90s grunge like Pearl Jam, and '80s rock like The Who with Pete Townshend doing windmills.

But there is another Townsend that does more than Pete to keep music alive. This past Saturday, I dropped by to meet Chase Townsend and to thank him for creating jobs. He runs The Music Factory in Pearland, Texas.

That small business was started 50 years ago by his dad, Steve. I was overwhelmed by the guitars, ukuleles, cellos, keyboards, and drums.

I asked him: Why do you do this? What keeps you going?