

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE COUNCIL

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

Mr. STEWART. Madam Chair, I am honored today to recognize the 40th anniversary of the National Intelligence Council. This is an amazing organization that has provided invaluable contributions to the security of the United States.

On December 3, 1979, the NIC was created to serve as a source of extensive expertise on intelligence issues, facilitate collaboration, conduct outreach to other experts beyond government, and to connect intelligence and policy communities through a wide variety of intelligence products.

The work the NIC does is important. It really does matter. These products include the National Intelligence Estimate, the annual threat assessment in the form of Statements for the RECORD, the unclassified Global Trends report, and including oral remarks that the Director of National Intelligence gives to us as Members of Congress.

The NIC's 18 intelligence officers serve as the primary advisers to the intelligence leader, and their expertise and advice is greatly appreciated and greatly respected.

As a member of the House Intelligence Committee, I am grateful for them and for their 40 years of dedicated service and protecting the American people.

COMMEMORATING THE 120TH ANNIVERSARY OF "LIFT EV'RY VOICE AND SING."

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

Mr. LAWSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the 120th anniversary of "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing."

This hymn was first performed this week 120 years ago by 500 school children at the segregated Stanton School in Jacksonville, Florida.

Today this song is widely known as the Black national anthem and is performed at churches, schools, sporting events, and meetings around the Nation.

Brothers James Weldon Johnson and John Rosamond Johnson wrote this song at their home in the LaVilla community of Jacksonville in the Fifth Congressional District, the district I represent.

It was there that James Weldon penned the words that inspired hope, strength, and faith. It also reminded us to never forget the obstacles of the past.

I am honored to represent the birthplace of this great song that will live on for generations to come.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF ANNE COX CHAMBERS

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Mrs. Anne Cox Chambers, who passed away on January 31 at the age of 100.

Her friends and family remember Mrs. Chambers as a wonderful, kind, and elegant lady, whose influence spanned the globe.

An influential businesswoman, legendary philanthropist, and dedicated public servant, her many talents included co-owning the family media company, Cox Enterprises, for 33 years, and serving as the United States ambassador to Belgium.

Mrs. Chambers was Atlanta's first female bank director, as well as the first woman to serve as a director of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Chambers was also a director of The Coca-Cola Company.

Mrs. Chambers supported many causes anonymously, but was especially dedicated to the arts with her contributions to the High Museum of Art.

A force to be reckoned with who made Atlanta and the world a better place, Mrs. Chambers will be dearly missed. Her family and friends are in my thoughts and prayers during this most difficult time.

SUPPORTING THE SMITHSONIAN WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM

(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, there are always special moments in this House, particularly when something draws the support of Members from both sides of the aisle. I have been supporting this legislation for a long time, and that is H.R. 1980, the Smithsonian Women's History Museum Act carried by my colleague Representative CAROLYN MALONEY and so many cosponsors who evidenced the importance of the history of women in this Nation.

This is the 100th year of women's right to vote, and I am reminded of the suffragettes who decided to take a chance and be courageous and to fight against the denial of women's right to vote.

Early in the 1800s, we know that women of color stood up, like Sojourner Truth, and said, "Ain't I a woman?" to demand the right to vote; she was a suffragette and an abolitionist fighting for freedom and justice.

Now, this particular museum will open our eyes to the extensive history of women, starting from the Revolutionary War that fought for this coun-

try, stood for this country, and helped build this country.

I am excited about being part of the support and history of the Smithsonian Women's History Museum Act. I look forward to its doors opening for women to be acknowledged and recognized in the greatness of this country.

HONORING THE SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY CAREER & TECHNICAL CENTER

(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, I recently had the pleasure of touring the Susquehanna County Career & Technical Center.

Located in the heart of Pennsylvania's natural gas boom, Susquehanna County's CTC is helping to provide low-cost education opportunities for in-demand jobs.

During our tour, we heard stories of students graduating in a matter of weeks or months to enter the workforce with little to no student debt making significant six-figure annual salaries.

Careers in trucking, the natural gas industry, and other blue-collar positions are highly in demand in Pennsylvania's Twelfth Congressional District.

It was also great to see Cabot Oil & Gas, one of the largest natural gas producers in the country, investing in the school's commercial driver's license program to create a pathway from learning directly into a career.

This is another tremendous example of the natural gas industry being terrific community partners while paving the way for America's energy independence.

With February being Career and Technical Education Month, it is important to remember that we should not be forcing our students into a one-size-fits-all system, especially when programs like those at Susquehanna County Career & Technical Center are providing a low-cost option for in-demand opportunities.

COMMEMORATING AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE IN OUR NATION'S FIGHT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

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

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate an important milestone in our Nation's fight for environmental justice.

On February 11, 1994, President Clinton issued Executive Order 12898, making it the Federal Government's first major action on this issue.

Today, I have introduced a resolution to honor Chicago native Mrs. Hazel M. Johnson, whose contributions were the necessary keys to this order.

Madam Speaker, Mrs. Johnson worked as the “mother of the environmental justice movement” to address racial injustices and improve environmental protections fundamental to this action.

Therefore, I take pride in introducing legislation to celebrate the month of April as Hazel M. Johnson Environmental Justice Month.

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HONORING JAMES RING

(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 honor U.S. Army veteran James Ring.

After graduating high school, James enlisted in the Army and served in both Iraq and Afghanistan. He later joined the Reserve Forces and, at the same time, began a 13-year career as a City of Lakeland police officer.

Now, in addition to serving as CEO for his own small business, James is active with the Lakeland Chamber, promoting issues important to the small business community.

Very soon, James will be returning to Active Duty and deploying again. Now, that is commitment.

People like James make me proud not only to be an American, but proud of my district. The spirit and the drive that propel him to serve our community as a small business owner and our Nation as a uniformed servicemember are unique and invaluable.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you, James. And thank you Ring family for your service and your sacrifice. I know I speak on behalf of the entire district when I say that we are so very proud of you.

WE ARE GETTING THE WORK OF THE PEOPLE DONE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, I am here in the House of Representatives. I have had the honor to have been elected to this incredible body for, now, four terms. But I just want to report to you, Madam Speaker, that we have, in fact, passed 275 bipartisan bills in the last 12 months in these Chambers.

Madam Speaker, I thank my Republican colleagues, my Democratic colleagues, and, yes, the one Independent colleague who is part of every single one of those votes.

I just want to say, that is the business of the House of Representatives. I just want to remind you, Madam Speaker, that we are serious here, from all parties, to make sure that we adhere to the needs of the entire Amer-

ican people and, in some cases, to the world.

We have addressed issues such as reducing drug pricing to all Americans. We have addressed issues when it comes to making sure that children have a safe place to go to school.

We have many issues that we are faced with here in the House of Representatives, and I am proud to say that, although the media says that we just can't get along, and, yes, we disagree at times, but, at the same time, we are, in fact, getting the work of the people done in the House of Representatives.

I pray that we see the same go on in the Senate and, in addition to that, see many of those bills get signed by the President of the United States.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF CANNON LODGE 104

(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, I recognize Cannon Lodge 104, which, on February 26, will be celebrating 150 years as a chartered Masonic lodge.

Cannon Lodge had its first outreach on October 27, 1869, from Henry Cannon, whom the lodge is named after. On February 26, 1870, a Masonic charter was granted, and Cannon Lodge 104 came into existence.

In January 1960, through the generosity of Brother Elmer Smith, the present location of the lodge was donated and dedicated to his father, Captain Charles S. Smith.

In 1995, Sea Isle City Lodge No. 280 was merged with Cannon; and, in 1999, Arbutus Lodge No. 170 of Cape May Court House did the very same thing.

I am a proud member of Cannon Lodge 104, and we live by the motto: “Making Good Men Better.” These men around me there have made me a better man. We are dedicated to the betterment of ourselves, our community, and giving to charity.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to the continued work we will do in the community, and I thank them all for the work my fellow brothers do. They are truly heroes in south Jersey.

REPUBLICAN STUDY COMMITTEE'S GEAR TASK FORCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MCBATH). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to hold this Special Order on the Republican Study Committee's GEAR Task Force.

I thank MIKE JOHNSON, chairman of the Republican Study Committee, for his leadership to make this task force possible.

We started GEAR, which stands for Government Efficiency, Accountability, and Reform, to develop a play-book of commonsense, nonpartisan solutions for improving our government. We came up with more than 100 improvements. They are all recorded in our report, which is now available, and I am excited to yield to my colleagues to talk about them here today.

We will start with my good friend from North Dakota, Representative KELLY ARMSTRONG, who was a member of the task force and really led our efforts to find these areas where we could reform.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. ARMSTRONG).

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman JOHNSON and Congressman GIANFORTE for their efforts to make our Federal Government more efficient and accountable with these commonsense reforms.

The Republican Study Committee's GEAR Task Force report is a solutions-based plan to reduce the government's size and inefficiency.

Anyone who has dealt with the Federal Government knows the frustration that the bureaucratic process can bring. Unnecessary government delays to infrastructure projects have a particularly damaging effect on economic growth and job creation.

Madam Speaker, I thank the Republican Study Committee for including my bill, H.R. 3671, the Federal Permitting Reform and Jobs Act, in the report. This bipartisan bill will streamline and modernize the Federal infrastructure permitting process.

The Federal Permitting Reform and Jobs Act will build on the reforms that were included in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act of 2015, otherwise known as FAST-41.

My bill would make permanent the FAST-41 provisions and enact additional reforms, such as a 2-year deadline for the permitting process.

FAST-41 ensures coordination among several Federal agencies to streamline the permitting process for the largest infrastructure projects.

The Federal Permitting Reform and Jobs Act would expand these types of projects that would qualify for this streamlined process: simply put, more projects completed in a shorter period of time at a reduced cost.

This is a win for jobs; this is a win for infrastructure improvements; this is a win for reforming the Federal bureaucracy and providing Americans with a more efficient and effective government.

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. ARMSTRONG for his work. Permitting is an area where we can really make advances to make the process more deterministic so we can get projects on the ground going. I thank the gentleman for his leadership there.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan's Seventh District, Representative TIM WALBERG,