

MOURNING THE LOSS OF DUSTIN PARKER

(Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the tragic death of Dustin Parker.

At 25 years old, Dustin was a loving father, a hard worker, and a generous member of his community in McAlester, Oklahoma. As a man who happened to be transgender, Dustin helped found the McAlester chapter of Oklahomans for Equality.

Sadly, Dustin was shot and killed on New Year's Day. While we do not know who is responsible for Dustin's death, we do know that transgender Americans are disproportionately the victims of violent crimes. Last year, more than two dozen trans and gender nonconforming people were violently killed, that we know of. Every death underscores the Nation's need for urgent action to address this epidemic.

Mr. Speaker, our country lost a champion for equality. As we continue to search for answers following Dustin's death, we must continue to fight to ensure that all Americans are treated with dignity and respect.

My prayers are with Dustin's entire family for their loss, and my heart goes out to our communities bearing this pain.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

(Ms. FOXX of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, since 2002, January has been recognized as National Mentoring Month. We all should recognize the positive impacts that mentoring has on young people.

From our servicemembers stationed at Cherry Point to the volunteers of the Greensboro United Way, the students and staff of Wake Forest University to the Journeymen of Asheville, North Carolinians remain actively engaged in mentoring opportunities across my State.

According to mentoring.org, at-risk youth who were paired with a mentor are 55 percent more likely to enroll in college, 78 percent more likely to volunteer regularly in their communities, and 130 percent more likely to hold leadership positions in their careers.

Mr. Speaker, the numbers speak for themselves. Mentoring is a cornerstone of the growth and development of young people across our country. I commend the individuals involved in being mentors.

ADDRESSING THE URGENT PRIORITIES OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I just returned from overseas. I led a delegation of our colleagues, a bipartisan delegation, to visit our troops during the Christmas holiday; and, of course, we all were struck by the extraordinary service of these brave men and women who are serving our country.

One of the things they shared about was, of course, their concerns about things back at home with their families. It reminded me that the agenda that we develop to address the urgent priorities of the American people remains important: to drive down the cost of healthcare, to raise family incomes and rebuild the crumbling infrastructure of our country, to take on the corruption and self-dealing in Washington, and to get the government working for the people again.

That is what Democrats have been working on in a bipartisan way. We have passed over 400 pieces of legislation; 275 of those bills are bipartisan. Sadly, 80 percent of those bills are stuck on MITCH MCCONNELL's desk.

So, as we return from this trip, I am reminded that this is an opportunity to call on the Senate majority leader. We are working hard to prevent war with Iran. We are working hard to hold the President accountable for his misconduct. But our most important priority is to deliver on those promises we made to the American people: to drive down the cost of healthcare, to raise family incomes, to rebuild the infrastructure of our country, and to get government working for the people again.

It is time for the Senate majority leader to take those bills up and give them a vote. Our men and women deserve nothing less.

OUR MORAL OBLIGATION TO ERADICATE HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month, so I rise today to renew my resolve to eradicate the horrific injustice that is human trafficking.

Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery, as it strips individuals of their freedom and dignity. It has absolutely no place in our society.

In my part of Minnesota, many of the women and children preyed upon by human traffickers are Native American. In fact, Minnesota currently ranks ninth in the Nation for missing and murdered indigenous women.

As a Member of Congress, I believe we have a moral obligation and legislative duty to protect the most vulnerable. That is why I proudly support Savannah's Act, a bill that will empower Tribal law enforcement to address this devastating issue.

I will also ensure that the recently created Federal task force on missing and murdered Native American women

coordinates with State, local, and Tribal officials to more effectively solve unresolved cases and prevent similar violence.

While these are steps in the right direction, our work is far from done. As a father, a former law enforcement officer, and a Member of Congress, I will not stop until human trafficking is eliminated and the criminals who have chosen to exploit others have been brought to justice.

UNITED STATES' RELATIONSHIP WITH IRAN

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

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, over the last week, our relationship with Iran has fallen to its most difficult period since 1979. The United States killed Major General Qasem Soleimani, a bad man whom we do not mourn, and yet it was a provocative and disproportionate event.

Iran responded with missiles on two of our military bases. I am grateful, thankful that none of our soldiers were in that attack and that tensions between our countries appear to be easing.

I hope we can use this moment to assess where we are, how we got here, and find the better path that lies ahead.

First, I call on the administration to share the intelligence with Congress about the timing and rationale for the strike.

Second, I urge continued de-escalation. We stand less safe in heightened tensions with Iran. It is essential that we emphasize diplomacy once again.

Third, I ask that we treat this moment as an opportunity to redefine our relationships with foes and friends alike and how we act as a nation.

We will always defend America's security, but we should never create needless provocation. As Matthew tells us: "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called children of God."

HONORING VIC POWER

(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. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Vic Power, who retired as the owner of Kevin Barry's Irish Pub in Savannah on December 31, 2019.

Kevin Barry's Irish Pub was not only a stalwart of locally owned business in downtown Savannah, but also an excellent representation of Irish heritage in our city.

Although Irish individuals have been calling Savannah home since its founding, the Irish potato famine in the mid-1800s caused an influx of migration to Savannah. By 1860, one in three White households could claim Irish heritage.

Today, Savannah has one of the largest St. Patrick's Day parades in the

world. This is why it is fitting that, when Kevin Barry's Irish Pub opened in Savannah in 1980, it was the first Irish pub south of Washington, D.C., to offer live music 7 days a week.

With its live Irish music, cozy interior, topnotch customer service, and quality food, it quickly became a mainstay. In 2016, Kevin Barry's even won an award for being the most authentic Irish pub outside of Ireland.

With Mr. Power's retirement, Kevin Barry's will be sorely missed.

We congratulate Mr. Power on his retirement. We thank him for letting all Savannahians and visitors, alike, enjoy Kevin Barry's for the last 40 years.

UNJUST IRANIAN AMERICAN DETENTIONS

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, America is less safe when the words and actions of our leaders cast unnecessary suspicion on our fellow citizens. America is less safe when families, including children, are targeted by government officials based on their ethnicity or by their country of origin.

Reports of unjust, prolonged detentions of Iranian Americans and permanent residents at our borders should be alarming to everyone. It calls to mind the unjust internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

My own parents were toddlers in Japanese American internment camps, and they, along with 120,000 others, were unjustly incarcerated, having committed no crimes or acts of disloyalty.

What happened to my family was the result of a failure of political leadership. All of us in this body have a duty to remain vigilant and to defend the dignity of all citizens. To do nothing is to be complicit in violating the spirit of our Constitution and the individual liberties it guarantees.

□ 0915

RURAL AMERICA NEEDS TO BE ACCOUNTED FOR IN UPCOMING CENSUS

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the 2020 Census and to emphasize the importance of ensuring that rural America is accounted for.

Our once-a-decade counting of all Americans is important for numerous reasons. Most importantly, census data provides us with a roadmap for allocating hundreds of billions of dollars annually in government services. These include investments in things like education, roads, and bridges, and other areas of importance to rural districts like mine.

I appreciate the U.S. Census Bureau's efforts to streamline government duties by including an online response option this year. However, I am very concerned that rural areas like Kentucky's First Congressional District could get left behind.

Unfortunately, nearly 30 percent of my district lacks internet access or lacks access to reliable connection. This high number is unacceptable and could have dire consequences, including ensuring that people I serve are accounted for.

This startling lack of internet access in rural America is a call to action for Congress to step up to the plate. My office has worked tirelessly to address this issue, including funding critical programs in the 2018 farm bill. But we must do more to expand internet connectivity so that our voices will not be undercounted and left behind.

Without action, small towns across Kentucky and our entire Nation risk being left behind in the upcoming census, an outcome that should be unacceptable to every member of this body.

CONGRATULATING STATE FOOT- BALL CHAMPIONS NORTH SHORE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on December 21, 2019, the Galena Park ISD's North Shore Senior High School football team became back-to-back State football champions.

It was a hard-fought win, but they won because they worked together as a team displaying much heart and grit on the field. This win was the culmination of an entire year's worth of practice and hard work under the leadership of Coach Kay.

They took nothing for granted and showed the entire State that with hard work and determination, anything is possible. The North Shore Senior High School football team made all of the North Shore Mustangs and the Galena Park ISD community very, very proud.

As their Congresswoman, I was not there, but I was watching from afar cheering them on, and I am so happy to share their achievement with all of Congress on this floor of the House of Representatives.

Congratulations for an amazing win. I know we can do it again, and we will make it a three-peat.

RECOGNIZING OFFICERS OF UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, I rise today to recognize the officers of the United States Capitol Police force for their heroic ac-

tions to save lives as part of their highly trained and committed service to this congressional community throughout 2019.

When they heard the radio call about an unresponsive individual in a car, two officers responded and ultimately saved the life of a man who had suffered a heart attack.

Officers administered tactical combat casualty care to the victim of a shooting and helped get that person to a hospital.

Three officers saved the life of a man who, shockingly, had a heart attack during his visit to this Capitol Building.

These are only a few occasions in an impressive list of heroic actions. We owe our gratitude to all of the officers of the United States Capitol Police force for the hard work they do here.

I thank all of the police force for going the extra mile; not only protecting and defending us here in the congressional community, but for all they do in all of our communities.

PFAS ACTION ACT OF 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. GARCIA of Texas). Pursuant to House Resolution 779 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 535.

Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR) kindly take the chair.

□ 0919

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 535) to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to designate per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, with Mr. CUELLAR (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, January 9, 2020, amendment No. 18 printed in part B of House Report 116-366 offered by the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. AXNE) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 19 OFFERED BY MS. TLAIB

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 19 printed in part B of House Report 116-366.

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 36, line 18, after "a disadvantaged community" insert "or a disproportionately exposed community".

Page 37, after line 13, insert the following new paragraph:

"(3) DISPROPORTIONATELY EXPOSED COMMUNITY.—The term 'disproportionately exposed