

the Second Congressional District of South Carolina visiting the Midlands, Aiken, North Augusta, Barnwell, and Orangeburg to present my 2020 legislative agenda.

At each stop, I was grateful to share my priorities and answer questions from the media. In this new legislative year, I will continue to advance legislation to create jobs for American families and reduce the harmful regulations that destroy jobs.

I will promote working with local chambers and agencies. In 2020, I will advocate for future and current missions at the Savannah River Site and Savannah River National Laboratory.

We also must protect the economic future for our children and grandchildren to address the debt by supporting the most conservative budget options. I am also focusing on promoting peace through strength to support our troops and keep American families safe by defeating terrorists overseas in the global war on terrorism.

This year, I will also serve as the ranking member of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, where I will work with my colleagues across the aisle to maintain our international partnerships.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may we never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism with the courageous leadership of President Donald Trump.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF RON VOEGELI

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

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Ron Voegeli. He passed away on January 1.

Ron was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and Christian. He touched countless lives during his 30 years as a member of the Disabled American Veterans, raising thousands of dollars to purchase vans to take vets to and from the VA, expanding the Beaufort National Cemetery, and spending hours each week helping veterans fill out disability paperwork.

If a Lowcountry vet passed away without family to attend the funeral, Ron became their family. He often rallied hundreds of others to attend the burial or perform the ceremony himself. He believed that no veteran who sacrificed for their country should be laid to rest alone.

When we die, we all hope to hear: "Well done, good and faithful servant . . . Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

That is how Ron lived his life, and that is what he deserves.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CAPTAIN DALE DOSS

(Mr. DUNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor U.S. Navy Captain Dale Doss of Tallahassee who proudly served his Nation and passed from this life on December 11.

Captain Doss was flying off the USS *Enterprise* when he was shot down during his 54th mission over North Vietnam in 1968. He was held as a prisoner of war for 1,824 days before being released in March of 1973.

While in the infamous Hanoi Hilton, he formed a close relationship with former Senator John McCain, communicating with him despite being tortured for doing so. During the 2 years he spent in solitary confinement, he never broke faith with his fellow POWs or his country.

Captain Doss retired from the Navy in 1983, but he never stopped serving. As the director of veteran services in Leon County for 19 years, he was an integral part of our community.

Dale Doss will be remembered for his sacrifices and for his courageous service to our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing a true American hero, Captain Dale Doss.

EPIDEMIC OF ANTI-JEWISH HATRED

(Mr. ROSE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROSE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the epidemic of anti-Jewish hatred taking place in New York City and across the country.

Since December 23, there have been over a dozen attacks on Jews across New York City; this, after a terror attack in Jersey City that claimed three innocent lives and a horrific terrorist attack in Monsey, New York.

In this city, where Jews have come for 366 years to freely practice their religion, enough is enough. Tweets and words of support are not enough at a time of crisis like this. We must have action.

It is for that reason that on January 15, the Homeland Security subcommittee that I chair will hold a hearing on the rise of anti-Semitism. We have got to explore increased funding for mosques, synagogues, and churches; increase focus on a domestic terrorism charge; and increase focus on the rise of the neo-Nazi movement, both nationally and globally.

Once again, tweets, thoughts, and prayers are not enough right now. We need action.

SUPPORTING BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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

Mr. RIGGLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to support our brave men

and women serving overseas, specifically, those in Iraq and the Middle East.

I support their mission, as I did during my time on Active Duty. I also rise to recognize all of those who have been working to support this mission, including constituents of mine working at the National Ground Intelligence Center in Charlottesville, Virginia.

I have personally worked, during my past, with NGIC on efforts to stop the Quds Force and Qasem Soleimani, specifically their support to IED technologies that killed American troops. Soleimani was a terrorist.

The President recently addressed the Nation proposing an allied effort with our partners in NATO to address Iran and ensure they stop their pursuit of hegemonic goals and their nuclear program.

I support this effort. Resolute strength is the only way to deal with state sponsors of terrorism.

RECOGNIZING THE EXEMPLARY CAREER OF TINA PANETTA

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

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary career of a very special constituent of mine named Tina Panetta who lives in Silver Spring and has been a public servant here on Capitol Hill for many decades. She is popularly known as "Mother on the Hill."

Born in the small town of Ovindoli, Italy, Ms. Panetta came to the U.S. in 1955 with her two sons and husband, Ettore, to seek a better life. Five years later, Tina became a citizen, and in January of 1961, she gave birth to her youngest child, Maria Teresa.

In 1968, despite being unable to read, write, or speak English, she began serving as a waitress in the U.S. Senate cafeteria. Over the course of her decades-long career on Capitol Hill, Tina touched the lives of Senators, Representatives, Vice Presidents, Presidents, and their families.

When Tina sprained her ankle, then-Vice President Hubert Humphrey accompanied her to the nursing bay. When Tina was bedridden, she received bouquets of flowers and get-well cards from many Senators and Representatives.

Former Senator Paul Simon once said that Tina's story is "the story of America." On her 90th birthday, Congressman MARK DESAULNIER said that she is "an inspiration to the Nation." On her 93rd birthday, Senator DURBIN wrote that the Senate has "deep respect and admiration for her."

I am here today to remind my colleagues and my constituents of Tina's wonderful legacy here on Capitol Hill. At a time of polarization, Tina's story reminds us of our common bonds, both in Congress and in the country.

I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincere thanks to Tina for

her many years of service to our country.

OPPOSING ACTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, along with the American people, I oppose any reckless action that would lead us into another endless war in the Middle East. And, yet, we now have thousands more troops in the Middle East than we had before the President unilaterally made the decision to kill Soleimani.

My prayers are with each and every American serving in harm's way to keep us safe.

While I do not mourn the death of Soleimani, a terrorist with American blood on his hands, the American people deserve to know how this will make us safer. How will it make us safer?

Unfortunately, the President provided little clarity in his statement, so we still don't know how this action will affect our Nation's security.

I am against war with Iran. Another endless war in the Middle East would be a grave mistake.

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PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 535, PFAS ACTION ACT OF 2019

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 779 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 779

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for 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. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and amendments specified in this resolution and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116-45, modified by the amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the

five-minute rule and shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such further amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. LESKO), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, the Rules Committee met and reported a structured rule for House Resolution 779, providing for consideration of H.R. 535, the PFAS Action Act of 2019.

The rule provides 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. The rule self-executes a manager's amendment by Chairman PALLONE, makes in order 22 amendments, and provides one motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to start the new year and the new congressional session with our first legislative action being a rule for a comprehensive, bipartisan bill to address a threat to our constituents, both across Pennsylvania and across the country.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly known as PFAS, have been manufactured and used in the United States for over 60 years. These chemicals are found in everyday products like food packaging materials, cleaning products, nonstick cookware, stain- and water-resistant materials, firefighting foams, and more.

There are thousands of PFAS chemicals, but two of the most common and

most notorious are PFOA and PFOS, substances used to make Teflon and Scotchgard, respectively.

PFAS are known as forever chemicals. They do not break down, and they remain in the environment and other living organisms for decades. PFAS chemicals are made of one of the strongest carbon bonds possible. As a result, these substances are extremely persistent in the environment and are able to be absorbed by humans and wildlife.

PFAS have long been linked with various forms of cancer, including kidney, liver, and pancreatic cancers; weakened immune systems; low birth weight; infertility; impaired childhood development; and other diseases.

Not only are these substances resilient and harmful, but they are now found in the blood of over 99 percent of Americans.

PFAS contaminate our environment in a variety of ways, particularly through landfills and wastewater runoff sites. Once these chemicals are introduced into an area, they leach into the soil and groundwater, becoming immediate threats to surrounding life.

Analysis by the Environmental Working Group found that more than 1,500 drinking water systems in the United States may be contaminated with PFAS, affecting up to 110 million Americans from drinking water alone.

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 17 sites have been identified as containing PFAS contamination. Some of these sites are water utilities and civilian airports, but additional sites like waste incinerators were included as well. People living in close proximity to waste incinerators already face a host of environmental risk factors from polluted air and water. Additional contaminants from PFAS adds insult to injury for these neglected and often economically distressed areas.

The Department of Defense has identified over 400 military sites across the U.S. that use or were suspected of having used PFAS in firefighting foam. Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, is home to two of these former bases where firefighting foam leached into the groundwater after years of use. These bases are no longer active, but the effects from PFAS will be felt by residents for generations to come.

My friend and colleague, Congresswoman MADELEINE DEAN, a founding member of the PFAS Task Force, helped secure a grant to study the health effects of PFAS contamination in this area. I commend the work that she is doing to protect her constituents and to ensure that they have a water supply that they can rely on for generations to come.

The fact of the matter is that the Federal Government has known about the dangers presented by PFAS for years. The chemical industry has known for even longer and, unsurprisingly, has fought tooth and nail against efforts to regulate their distribution and use.