

disability. It is something for all workers.

We talk about education and the need for equal funding in education. We talk about educating students of all abilities and jobs for people with all abilities. OPS Solutions was formed in the downtown in Ryznar's basement, a furloughed auto engineer creating this incredible new enterprise.

OPS Solutions just today joined the World Economic Forum, one of 50 companies in the advanced manufacturing and technology space.

The quiet humming that comes out of Michigan's 11th District is the determination for where the world is going to go with how we make things, how we sell things, and how we operate in a digital economy.

When we think about the plight of these last 20 years—I was talking to another small business owner in my district in the retail sector. "Oh, boy," he was saying, "these last 20 years have really been a whopper. We had 9/11. We had a recession. Now, we have a global pandemic. And every day, I am going into work, and I am working to sell, and I am working to connect with customers. And now, it is really different, connecting with customers."

You look at us as a Nation, and so many of these students today, these young adults, were just being born when our Twin Towers fell down and when our Pentagon was attacked.

I was a young freshman myself at American University, dropped off for school, a kid from the Midwest who got a chance to study political science at an incredible school just a few miles from the Pentagon. My mom and my brother dropped me off, and they left.

I had been talking to my mom about my new Government 101 political science course. I said, "Mom, I am so excited. This is such an amazing class. It is four credits, and that extra credit is experiential learning, and we get to go to the Pentagon." That was the last conversation I had with my mom before 9/11/2001.

She was calling my dorm room. She was calling my dorm room, and she was trying to get in touch with me. Everyone was trying to get in touch with their loved ones, before the smartphone. She couldn't get through.

I signed on to AOL Instant Messenger: "Hey, mom."

What happened next, as a Nation? It is a long story, but economically, we were the ones who proliferated the internet in Industry 4.0, as some people like to describe it, the industrial Internet of Things, making faster, better, closer together, re-localizing manufacturing, re-shoring the production of things.

I believe that device, those flat-screen devices, came from the great innovation of America.

That is what we celebrate. That is what we work toward. That is the tapestry that we are working to put together in this Chamber.

Come visit us at the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee

under EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON's fabulous leadership, Chair EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, an incredible leader.

Shortly before this pandemic was declared, we passed a bipartisan energy and R&D package through the committee. JIM BAIRD and I, my ranking member, as I have the privilege of serving as the chair for the Research and Technology Subcommittee, passed the Building Blocks of STEM Act, investing in our next generation through the National Science Foundation.

We can do these things with a return on the taxpayer dollar, by the way. We can have the conversation about effective and efficient spending. Just as this institution made money from the auto rescue, the taxpayer made money.

I am optimistic about what is ahead. I am committed to what is ahead because of the stories and the people whom I have the privilege of working alongside in Michigan's 11th District.

I thank you, Madam Speaker, for your time and your diligence this evening, and all the people who continue to make our House of Representatives hum.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### CENTENNIAL OF AMERICAN LEGION EARL GRAHAM POST 159

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

Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100-year anniversary of American Legion Earl Graham Post 159.

American Legion Post 159 was chartered 13 February 1920 and named after First Lieutenant Cyrus Earl Graham, Texas A&M University class of 1916.

Lieutenant Graham was a member of the United States Army Air Corps and was killed in action in France on 9 November 1918.

From the beginning, The American Legion created an egalitarian organization open to membership regardless of race, gender, or religion. Post 159 has embodied these goals and has been a community-minded organization since its inception 100 years ago.

During this period, Post 159 has been dedicated to serving the local Brazos Valley community through events such as the Brazos County Fair and the historical Juneteenth Celebration, both of which were hosted on The American Legion grounds. These events saw over 1,000 people come together to embrace our community.

Post 159 of The American Legion continues its commitment to the community to this day, with programs that provide activities for local youth and veterans, as well as support for Active Duty military members serving overseas.

The annual Resource Fair and Veterans Assistance program provides over

\$20,000 in financial assistance to veterans in need.

Madam Speaker, it is clear that The American Legion Earl Graham Post 159 has had a significant and positive impact on the Brazos Valley during its 100-year history.

I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to recognize this significant milestone and their contributions to our veterans and to our community.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country, for our veterans, and for our military men and women who protect us and for our first responders who keep us safe at home.

HONORING CLIFFORD SPIEGELMAN, PH.D.

Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Clifford Spiegelman of College Station, Texas, who passed away on 14 May 2020.

Dr. Spiegelman, known as Cliff to his family and friends, was born on 15 May 1948 in Long Island, New York, to Charlie and Doris Spiegelman.

In school, he was recognized as an accomplished athlete and won numerous awards for track and other sports. He also excelled in the classroom and pursued a career in academics, receiving his bachelor of science from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1970, his master's degree in managerial economics from Northwestern University in 1973, and his Ph.D. in statistics and applied mathematics from Northwestern University in 1976.

Cliff started his career with the agency now known as the National Institute of Standards and Technology, commonly called NIST. He later became a tenured professor at the Department of Statistics at Texas A&M University.

Serving on the faculty at Texas A&M for over 30 years, Cliff became renowned in his field and a highly sought-after expert in the application of statistical expertise to forensic science, chemistry, and medicine. In 2019, he was named a distinguished professor of statistics, the university's highest rank for faculty. His contributions to the field of statistics were further recognized in his appointment as a regents professor in 2019.

Cliff was particularly known for his helpful nature and deep commitment to justice and fairness in the criminal justice system. He was nationally recognized for his research on statistical interpretation of criminal evidence, such as bullet fragment analysis and firearm tool marks.

He was a fierce advocate of accuracy by investigators to prevent false convictions. He further expanded his advocacy through his work with the Innocence Project, testifying pro bono in evidentiary admissibility hearings and providing research that played critical roles in overturning false convictions of innocent individuals.

His commitment to justice extended outside of the courtroom as well. He

served on the Texas Forensic Science Commission as well as the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission, where he worked to ensure that the death statistics of the Holocaust and other genocides are reliably reported.

Dr. Spiegelman leaves a professional legacy that is unmatched in his field. However, his proudest accomplishments were outside of the workplace.

Cliff married Dr. Katherine Bretzlaff in 1990, a fellow professor at Texas A&M. Together, they raised two daughters, Lindsey and Abigail, who each carry their parents' commitments to academic excellence, strong work ethic, and kindness to those around them.

In the tributes written by the many individuals and organizations positively impacted by Cliff's work, nearly all spoke of Cliff's pride in his family and his frequent excitement to share the achievements of his daughters.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Clifford Spiegelman's life was defined by his outstanding accomplishments as a professor, mentor, and expert in statistics, as well as his commitment to his family and friends. He will be forever remembered for his strong principles and commitment to excellence and as a devoted husband, father, and friend.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Spiegelman family. I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to honor the life, legacy, and service of Dr. Clifford Spiegelman.

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#### HONORING THE LIFE OF LEWIS MERRIMAN BUTTERY

Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Lewis Merriman Buttery of Lampasas, Texas, who passed away on 20 December 2008. Lewis Buttery was born on 20 March 1924 in San Angelo, Texas, to Albert James and Dorothy Hoss Buttery.

On his 18th birthday, just 3 months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, he attempted to enlist in the United States Navy. He had hoped to join his older brothers in service—one, an Army artillery officer, and the other, a naval aviator. Unfortunately, Lewis was denied enlistment at that time due to health issues.

This denial only strengthened his resolve to serve his country. Each month he attempted to enlist until he was finally accepted and sworn in on 20 October 1942.

Lewis was called to Active Duty in June of 1943 and was sent to the University of Texas to continue pursuit of his engineering degree. He was later sent to Midshipmen School at Columbia University in New York. In March 1944, Lewis was commissioned as an ensign and ordered to San Francisco to complete gunnery school.

He was ultimately assigned to USS Patrol Craft Escort 880 in Adak, Alaska, as a gunnery officer.

In preparation for the invasion of Japan, his ship was converted into a weather ship, and he became the aerological, or weather, officer. The ship was transferred to the Marshall-Gilbert Islands area to transmit weather observations and to guide Army Air Corps bombers which were preparing the way for the invasion of Japan. The invasion did not occur due to the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, after which Japan quickly surrendered.

Prior to being released to Inactive Duty in the Ready Reserve in July 1946, he became the executive officer of the ship and was promoted to lieutenant junior grade.

Lewis was called back to Active Duty in June 1950 at the start of the Korean war, but his orders were ultimately canceled before he could reach his ship in San Diego. Ultimately, Lieutenant Buttery received an honorable discharge in 1954.

Following World War II, Mr. Buttery came home and finished his degree in chemical engineering at the University of Texas at Austin. He also married Virginia Kerzee in Limestone County, Texas, raised a family, and had a successful career.

Lewis was also a student of maps and cartography. Prior to the war in 1941, he completed courses in surveying and mapping at Texas A&M University and continued that avocation through the rest of his life. During his extensive work-related travels, Mr. Buttery collected numerous atlases and maps, which he and his wife later donated to the University of Texas at Arlington's Cartographic History Library.

He was a founding member of the Texas Map Society and author of numerous monograph and facsimile portfolios devoted to early Texas. One of his works, entitled, "Regional Maps of Texas: 1720–2001; Region 1 North Texas," contains many valuable insights about the mapping history of large portions of Texas. The maps that he and Virginia donated and the works that he published will continue to educate future generations interested in cartographic history.

He was very proud of his time in the Navy and believed that it molded and shaped him throughout the remainder of his life. In recognition of this, the "Navy Hymn" was solemnly played at his funeral.

I have requested that a United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to honor the life, legacy, and service of Lewis Merriman Buttery.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country in these difficult times, for our military men and women who protect us, and the first responders who protect us at home.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF MICHAEL TY SPRADLIN

Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Senior Airman Michael Ty Spradlin of Bryan, Texas, who passed away on 5 February 2020. Known as Ty to his family and friends, he was killed in a motorcycle accident at Yokota Air Force Base in Japan.

Ty was born 5 March 1991 in Wheelock, Texas, to Theresa Lynn Spradlin and Michael Todd Spradlin. He graduated from Bryan High School in 2009 and enlisted in the United States Air Force in 2012.

Over his 8 years of service in the United States Air Force, Ty worked as a crew chief on a variety of C-130 planes. He traveled to many countries and enjoyed the opportunity to see the world.

During his service, Ty traveled to the Philippines, Australia, Thailand, Kuwait, and Korea. He served at three different squadrons over those 8 years, including: the 353rd Special Operations Group, Kadena Air Force Base in Okinawa, Japan; the 755th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Arizona; and the 374th Maintenance Squadron, Yokota Air Force Base in Japan.

Senior Airman Spradlin bravely served his country, and his legacy will be forever woven into our American military history. Ty was not only a proud public servant; he was a friend to all, a loving son, a brother, and an uncle.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Spradlin family.

I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to honor the life, legacy, and service of Senior Airman Michael Ty Spradlin.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country, for our veterans, for our military men and women, and for our first responders who protect us at home.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF WAYNE PURSELLEY

Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Wayne Purselley of Waco, Texas, who passed away on 29 February 2020.

Wayne was born on 27 June 1932 in Loving, Texas, to Herman and Ida Purselley. He attended Texas A&M University and, upon graduation, was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Air Force, ultimately serving for 22 years. He flew 6,000 hours as navigator and served as a missile launch officer before retiring as a lieutenant colonel.

Following his retirement from the Air Force, Wayne became a teacher and planetarium director for Richfield High School in Waco, where he wrote and taught the "Christ Revealed in the Stars" lecture series for many years.

Wayne was a dedicated member of Highland Baptist Church for 45 years, where he served in both leadership and teaching roles. In addition to his many roles within the church community, Wayne served as the president of the local Military Officers Association of America chapter, as well as the chairman of the McLennan County Republican Club.

Wayne served our community and country for many years, and his legacy will be forever woven into our American history.

Wayne was a committed and faithful husband to his wife, Barbara; a loving

father; a committed teacher; a mentor; a community servant; and a friend to many.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Purselley family.

I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to honor the life, legacy, and service of Wayne Purselley.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country, for our veterans, for our military men and women who protect us, and for our first responders who keep us safe at home.

HONORING THE LIFE OF COLONEL GLENN STARNES

Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Colonel Glenn Starnes, who passed away on 30 March 2020.

Glenn was born 27 January 1959 as the second son of Charles and LaVerne Starnes. He graduated from Texas A&M University in 1981 and was commissioned as an officer in the United States Marine Corps.

Colonel Starnes led a life of service to both his country as a dedicated marine and to the Texas A&M community as a member of the Office of the Commandant's staff.

Glenn served in the Marines for 30 years and commanded at every level, from field artillery battery to field artillery regiment. While serving his country, he was stationed in seven States and two countries. He fought in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom through two tours of duty in 2003 and 2005. Glenn also served on joint duty with the U.S. Central Command and later served as an exchange officer with the United Kingdom's Joint Headquarters.

Colonel Starnes was awarded the Legion of Merit with two Gold Stars, the Bronze Star with Combat "V" Device, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with Gold Star, and the title of Officer of the Order of the British Empire from the Queen of England.

After 30 years of service Glenn retired from the Marine Corps in 2011.

In 2012, Colonel Starnes joined the Texas A&M University community as assistant commandant for operations and training for A&M's internationally recognized Corps of Cadets.

In his 8 years on this job, Glenn was a tireless worker who loved the Corps and the opportunity to serve as mentor for many of its members.

He was highly respected by his colleagues, and many Aggies feel fortunate enough to call him friend. Colonel Starnes' 30 years of dedicated service embody the core values of Texas Aggies: respect, excellence, leadership, loyalty, integrity, and selfless service. His loss will be deeply felt by the Texas A&M community and the Corps of Cadets.

Madam Speaker, Colonel Starnes served his country proudly for many years, and his legacy will be forever

woven into our American history. He was not only a dedicated public servant, he was a loving son, a husband, a father, an effective mentor, and a loyal friend to hundreds.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Starnes family.

I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to honor the life, legacy, and service of Colonel Glenn Starnes.

As I close today I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country, for our veterans, for our military men and women who keep us safe, and for our first responders who keep us safe at home.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LIEUTENANT COMMANDER DENNIS LEE HASSMAN

Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Lieutenant Commander Dennis Lee Hassman of College Station, who passed away on 12 April 2020.

Lieutenant Commander Hassman graduated from Texas A&M University in 1988 and subsequently enlisted in the United States Navy.

During his 20 years in the Navy, he served as a remote control mission commander and E-2C airborne mission commander. Dennis also served as a naval flight officer and antiterrorism/force protection officer. In 2005, Lieutenant Commander Hassman received an MBA from the Naval Postgraduate School.

In 2008, Dennis retired from the Navy and returned to Texas A&M University to serve as a member of the Office of the Commandant's staff and as a cadet training officer for A&M's internationally recognized Corps of Cadets.

During this time, he worked closely with cadets, providing guidance and direction to cadets at the unit, major unit, and Corps levels.

Madam Speaker, Dennis served his country proudly for many years, and his legacy will be forever woven into our American history. The passing of Lieutenant Commander Hassman will be deeply felt by all of those in the Texas A&M community and by his family and his friends.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Hassman family.

I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to honor the life, legacy, and service of Lieutenant Commander Dennis Hassman.

As I close today, I ask all Americans to continue praying for our country during these difficult times, for our veterans, for our military men and women who protect us, and for our first responders who keep us safe at home.

HONORING THE LIFE OF EDWIN H. COOPER

Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Edwin H. Cooper of San Marcos, Texas. Edwin passed away on 29 March 2020.

Edwin was born 3 September 1930 to Margaret and Leslie Cooper. He graduated from San Marcos High School in

1949 and enrolled in Texas A&M University, where he was a proud member of the fighting Texas Aggie band. While at Texas A&M, Cooper was also a member of the Alpha Zeta Fraternity and was a distinguished student.

During the summer of 1951, Edwin married his high school sweetheart, Peggy Jean Martin.

In 1953, Edwin received a bachelor of science in wildlife management degree and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army. He attended Armor Basic Camp in Fort Knox, Kentucky, before being assigned to the Second Armored Division in Baumholder, Germany.

After his honorable discharge, Edwin returned to Texas and his family to work as an assistant agriculture county agent in Travis County.

Edwin's professional career combined his two loves: wildlife and Texas A&M University. Beginning as a specialist in wildlife conservation, he worked his way up to director of office school relations and coordinator of special projects—Education Information Services, all at Texas A&M University.

Edwin's professional experience also included specialist in wildlife conservation at the Texas Agriculture Extension Service, assistant to President Earl Rudder, director of civilian student activities, assistant to President Jack K. Williams, director of admissions; dean of admissions and records, director—Office of School Relations, and coordinator of special projects—Education Information Services, all at Texas A&M University.

He is the author of four books, including one entitled: "Forty Years at Aggieland," published in 2013, which detailed his career at Texas A&M.

Upon his retirement, Edwin and his wife, Peggy, moved to Camp Creek Lake in Robertson County, where he continued to enjoy fishing, hunting, and spending time outdoors with his family and friends.

□ 1830

Edwin's civic involvement included vice president of the Bryan-College Station Jaycees, president of the Brazos County A&M Club, councilman of the Texas A&M Association of Former Students, and vice president of the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce, and Board of Directors of the Aggie Band Association.

Mr. Cooper has served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the A&M Consolidated Independent School District, chairman of the Board of the St. Joseph Hospital, class agent of the Texas A&M class of 1953, president of the Executive Committee of College Board-Southwest Region, and trustee to College Board. He also served 2 years as chairman of the National Membership Committee of College Board. Edwin was enthusiastically involved in Methodist church activities in Bryan-College Station and in Franklin, Texas.

Madam Speaker, Edwin served his country proudly for many years, and

his legacy will be forever woven into our American history. Edwin was not only a public servant; he was a proud Texas Aggie, a devout Methodist, and a committed family man. I will always remember Mr. Cooper because his signature is affixed to my Texas A&M diploma.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Cooper family. I have requested that a United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to honor the life, legacy, and service of Edwin H. Cooper.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue to pray for our country during these difficult times, for our veterans, for our military men and women who protect us, and for our first responders who keep us safe at home.

HONORING COLONEL DAVID MCINTYRE, PH.D.

Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. David McIntyre of College Station, Texas, who passed away on 8 June 2020.

Dr. McIntyre was born on 13 May 1949, in Houston, Texas, to David and Mary McIntyre. From a young age, Dave felt a sense of duty and a call to selfless service which guided him throughout his life. He followed this call to the United States Military Academy at West Point where he was commissioned as armor officer in 1971. Following graduation from Airborne School and U.S. Army Ranger School, Dave was assigned as a scout platoon leader and jumpmaster in the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg in North Carolina.

Over 30 years of dedicated service, Dave traveled all over the United States and to more than 45 foreign countries. He served with an armored cavalry reconnaissance unit at the Czechoslovakian border, flew to the base of Mt. Everest in a Russian Mi-17 Hip helicopter, participated in the changing of the guard with the Gurkha Rifles at the Khyber Pass, and led a delegation to Angkor Wat.

In addition to his many years of service in the field, Dave placed great focus on academics and serving our country through education. He graduated with honors from the Command and General Staff College and earned his first master's degree from Auburn University. He then went on to serve as a professor of English literature at West Point while earning a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland. After 30 years of service, Dave retired as a colonel from his post as Dean of Faculty and Academics at the National War College in Washington, D.C.

In June 2008 Dave was appointed to the National Security Education Board by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the Senate. He served on this board for 4 years until 2012. From 2010 to 2014 he was a Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Homeland Security Studies and Analysis Institute in Washington, D.C. His time in D.C. also included providing congressional testimony and national strategic documents for the Army Chief of Staff and

serving on the National Board of Directors of the InfraGard National Members Alliance. In addition to serving on many other boards and committees, he also served as a board member of the Homeland Security and Defense Education Consortium.

Following his retirement, David accepted a position as a professor at Texas A&M University through his role as founding director of the Texas A&M Bush School of Government and Public Service graduate Certificate in Homeland Security program, his legacy of expertise in homeland security will live long through the knowledge and expertise in homeland security that he shared with his students.

Also, while serving as a professor at Texas A&M, Dave continued to advise the U.S. Government on many projects and published a series of textbooks on homeland security. Dave also spoke at conferences and events as a premier subject matter expert of homeland security.

Dave's life was dedicated to his call to service, and through this journey he met his wife, Cathy. Together they raised two sons who share their father's spirit of service. He relished spending time with his family and seven grandchildren at home in College Station, Texas.

I first met Colonel McIntyre when he and I ran for this congressional seat in 2010. As I got to know him, I found him to be a fierce competitor, a policy expert, a committed public servant, a man of integrity, and an ultimate gentleman. I can tell you firsthand that we will miss his contributions to Brazos Valley and to our Nation.

Madam Speaker, Dr. David McIntyre's life was defined by his outstanding accomplishments as Army officer, professor, an expert in homeland security, as well as his commitment to his family and friends. He will be forever remembered as a true leader in his field, a devoted husband, father, and friend.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the McIntyre family. I have requested that the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to honor the life, legacy, and service of Dr. David McIntyre.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country during these difficult times, for our veterans, for our military men and women who protect us, and for our first responders who keep us safe at home.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### POLICE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about the very important topic of police reform and qualified immunity.

Last week, I joined my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in voting in favor of the Justice in Policing Act, a bill that the National Fraternal Order of Police said, "we believe, after good-faith discussions, will create a law that will have a positive impact on law enforcement and policing in our country."

My Republican colleagues who voted in favor of this bill did so because we must move the legislative process and negotiations forward so we can begin to repair the social contract again between our police officers around the nation and the communities that they serve.

That being said, we believe that the qualified immunity provision in the bill, as it is currently drafted, must be fixed so that we can ensure that we protect our hero police officers both from physical harm and potentially frivolous lawsuits.

Qualified immunity is a judicially created doctrine that grants government officials who are performing discretionary functions immunity from civil suits unless the plaintiff shows that the official violated clearly established statutory or constitutional rights that a reasonable person would have been aware of.

Madam Speaker, to put it simply, qualified immunity states that if an officer acts in good faith and is doing what he or she believes is in line with their responsibilities of being a police officer, then they are protected from personal liability.

While I believe that qualified immunity is a very important doctrine, it should be reformed but not abolished. There must be reforms that address personal responsibility, accountability, and transparency in law enforcement, no doubt. However, the Justice in Policing Act includes a provision on qualified immunity that must be amended in conference committee prior to final passage. I, for one, will be insisting on that prior to any bill being sent to the President's desk.

Madam Speaker, as it currently stands, this provision would specify that a defendant is not immune from lawsuits just because they were acting in a way that they thought was reasonable or lawful at the time or because they were not violating a clearly established law.

The overwhelming majority of our Nation's police officers conduct themselves responsibly, appropriately, and within the confines of the law. Madam Speaker, I know this because I was one myself. We must reform qualified immunity to allow our police officers to act in a way they need to to perform their jobs while also removing protections that would shield those who illegally deny citizens of the rights given to them by the United States Constitution.

Having served as a lifelong Federal law enforcement agent and a Federal prosecutor, I will be playing an active role in bridging this gap and bringing