

one at 7 p.m., and then dinner at another location at 7:30 p.m.? The scheduler did.

Who scheduled the flight to get me home, and then had to sweat as to whether I could make the early flight or not? Who received my continuous calls asking them if I thought I could make it? The scheduler did. Who waited in the car for that final vote just to see me run down the stairs and tell them, let's go, just to get caught in traffic in the plaza, traffic on Independence Avenue, and traffic on Interstate 395? The scheduler did.

Who had to put up with the worst backseat driver in Washington, D.C.? The scheduler did. My schedulers took the brunt of my frustration as we tried to fit 36 hours of work into a 24-hour day. They took the barbs of criticism when I missed my family.

If there was ever a single group that I need to apologize to, it is them. Having said this, this group of workers professionally conducted their job with poise, confidence, efficiency, and compassion. I can say without hesitation that because of me, the toughest job in my office is that of the scheduler. Matt, Janet, Jake Carren, Virginia, Jordan, Joy, Perry, and Molly, I thank you.

WE MUST ADVANCE URGENTLY NEEDED CORONAVIRUS ASSISTANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, this body must advance urgently needed coronavirus assistance.

Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar said, "Every death we experience is a tragedy." When he said it, the United States had just hit the grim milestone of 100,000 souls lost from the COVID pandemic. That was mid-May, around the same time Democrats advanced the HEROES Act in the House. In the 4 months that followed, 100,000 more Americans have died as the epidemic has spiraled out of control, and chaos has continued to reign from the White House.

We have reached the breaking point. Plain and simple, it is time for the Senate to pass our comprehensive rescue package or offer a real alternative of their own. No more waiting. No more excuses.

Throughout this crisis, the Senate majority has abdicated responsibility to this President's insufficient leadership and papered over his deadly shortcomings. For the lives and livelihood of every one of my constituents, I beg my colleagues on the other side of the Capitol to seize this moment to follow a new guide.

Let that guide be science. Let it be truth, because politics, really, truly bad politics, has brought America low in the face of this crisis. But it is not too late.

On January 22, President Trump tweeted "China has been working very

hard to contain the coronavirus. The United States greatly appreciates their efforts and transparency." He made similar remarks again on January 30 and on February 7. The very same day President Trump was privately admitting to journalist Bob Woodward that the coronavirus is an airborne pathogen more deadly than the flu.

Despite his full awareness of the danger, he kept going, praising China and publicly downplaying the coronavirus threat. Politico has found at least 15 examples of President Trump publicly praising China's coronavirus response during this period, including on February 10, 13, 18, 23, 26, 27, and 29. He said it over and over.

In the following weeks and months, he would repeatedly downplay the danger and suggest, fully aware of his deception, that this virus was comparable to a seasonal flu.

President Trump's deception on these matters is not opinion, he was recorded. He is literally on the record saying that he intended to downplay this disease and deny the American people the information we would need to make vital decisions for ourselves, our families, our communities, and indeed, our Nation.

Every death that resulted from this was a tragedy. In February, President Trump said, "It is going to disappear one day. It is like a miracle, it will disappear." He knew better.

At this point the virus had been given nearly 2 months to circulate unchecked. Americans were still going about our daily lives, flocking to movie theaters, churches, synagogues, going to Mardi Gras, going on spring break, unaware of the true extent of the threats spreading all around us.

On March 11, President Trump took only his second major national step, another travel ban. It was around this time that Congress stepped up the scale of our response to this threat. We moved quickly to pass the CARES Act, including delivering emergency funds for America's hospital and staff, small business owners, laid off workers, and everyday Americans facing unprecedented fear and uncertainty.

The CARES Act was a rescue plan. It wasn't perfect, but it was America's first real effort to stem the tide. That rescue was powerful, but it was no substitute for executive leadership. Sadly, we are still waiting for executive leadership.

Between March and May, America saw its death toll skyrocket past 100,000. The Members of this Chamber again moved swiftly to advance another rescue package, the HEROES Act. Since the House passed the HEROES Act on May 15, more than 110,000 Americans have died of COVID-19.

For comparison, this is the equivalent of losing every soul living in Albany, New York, our State capital, that I represent. And that is just the recorded death toll since mid-May.

Senate Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL responded that States

should file for bankruptcy instead, and the Senate would wait and see. Wait for what? Haven't we seen? We have waited 4 months and paid dearly for it. Enough of this craven politics.

Senators, consider your oath to the people you serve. What will you say when they ask what you did to stop this disease from stealing their loved ones; from destroying their small business? What will you say to the teachers that are being laid off as States and cities drastically cut their budgets? From undermining America's standing in the world?

To my colleagues, I say this: We have a plan. Join us. Let's invest heavily in research and follow science and public health guidance. They are the fastest route to get us to the other side of this crisis. Our HEROES Act gets it done.

Let's deliver emergency funding to sustain local essential services, and the salaries of first responders, nurses, teachers, infrastructure maintenance workers, and many more. The HEROES Act gets that done, too. Let's save lives and turn the corner on this crisis with a coordinated national plan for testing and tracing. The HEROES Act gets it done.

Let's deliver the financial support our essential workers, unemployed workers, and financially strained Americans need to weather the storm. The HEROES Act gets it done. Let's rescue our schools, our healthcare providers, our first responders, our hungriest families. The Republican skinny bill just doesn't get it done. I say pass the HEROES Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

□ 0930

HONORING HAROLD LEE DICK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Harold Lee Dick, Gunner's Mate Second Class, who was one of 43 brave men who paid the ultimate sacrifice on July 24, 1944, aboard the USS *Colorado*.

While serving aboard the USS *Colorado*, Gunner's Mate Second Class Dick supported landings on Tarawa, the Marshall Islands, Saigon, Guam, and Tinian, where he ultimately lost his life.

Although he was initially listed as missing in action, his body and those of his deceased shipmates were recovered and preserved in the 4th Marine Division Cemetery on Saipan. Once the war had ended, Dick's remains were preserved for identification and transportation back to the United States.

Unfortunately, Gunner's Mate Second Class Dick's remains were unable to be identified, so he was buried as unknown at the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines. However,

thanks to modern forensic techniques, Gunner's Mate Second Class Harold Dick was identified on November 26, 2018.

Now, after 76 years, Harold Lee Dick will finally be returning to his hometown of Tipton, Missouri, on October 10 to be laid to rest next to his parents and his sister.

Please join me in honoring Gunner's Mate Second Class Harold Lee Dick's ultimate sacrifice as he finally returns home.

CONGRATULATING ERNIE CECIL

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my good friend Ernie Cecil on his retirement after serving nearly 28 years as senior pastor at Antioch Southern Baptist Church.

Ernie impacted the lives of so many through his weekly services and through the pivotal role he played in our community as a spiritual leader. During his time at Antioch, Ernie expanded the reach of the church by using modern technology during services, a revamped website, and social media pages.

During the pandemic, Ernie was instrumental in establishing a drive-in worship service even though it prolonged his retirement. These virtual services, complete with live music, united our community during these difficult times.

Through his love for his community, his leadership, and his dedication to his faith, Ernie touched the lives of many people during his time at Antioch Southern Baptist. His legacy of love and service will be felt into eternity. Missouri's Fourth Congressional District is blessed to have Cecil serving others and the Lord.

Mr. Speaker, let us wish Ernie the best and God's richest blessings in his well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING KEN AND SUE MOLZAHN

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give recognition to Ken and Sue Molzahn, the owners of the world's largest display of American Revolutionary War-era flags.

Recently, I visited their collection in Collins, Missouri, and was able to see over 315 replica flags used by American colonists and their allies from 1764 to 1781. I was very impressed by their extensive collection and their knowledge of the history behind each individual flag.

During his high school teaching career, Ken began researching Revolutionary War-era flags and re-creating them for his students. Eventually, Sue, a skilled seamstress, joined his efforts and has contributed hand-sewn, museum-quality replica flags to the collection.

Today, Ken and Sue's prominent collection of flags serves as an incredible learning tool and an interactive way of keeping history alive.

I greatly appreciate Ken and Sue for taking time to show me their flag collection. It is a unique educational experience that highlights the courage and sacrifice of our first patriots.

HONORING BLAKE HURST

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank Mr. Blake Hurst.

Blake has led the Missouri Farm Bureau as president since 2010 with compassion, family values, fierce support for his members' needs, and a dose of creative humor.

Blake understands agriculture is a family affair as he raises row crops with his father, brothers, nephews, and sons-in-law, while also operating a greenhouse business with his wife, daughter, and sons-in-law.

As Blake prepares to retire at the end of this year, his legacy will continue to serve as an inspiration for those of us who have worked alongside him as he aggressively advanced Farm Bureau's priorities for the past 25 years.

It has been an absolute honor to work with Blake and his team throughout the years, and Missouri's agriculture industry is better because of his leadership.

I sincerely hope Blake will be able to enjoy a well-deserved retirement amid the farm, the greenhouse, and the grandkids, and I wish him the best.

HONORING SCOTT PHILLIPS

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Scott Phillips as the recipient of the annual Chairman's Award during the 2020 Missouri Pork Expo.

I first met Scott when we were children and his dad wanted to talk to my dad about raising hogs. Scott's dad had served in the Air Force and wanted to try his hand at farming.

Scott followed in his dad's footsteps, serving his Nation flying A10 jets in the Air Force and then returning to his lifelong passion of farming, expanding the operation and now operating two hog farms with his brother and nephew.

Scott's dedication to producers and his positive influence on the pork industry can be seen throughout his leadership roles, from the local level to the national level.

I wish Scott the best and am proud to represent him.

COMMEMORATING NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH BY HONORING THE PONCA TRIBE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Native American Heritage Month by honoring the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska on their 30th anniversary of restoration as a federally recognized Tribe.

The Ponca Tribe was originally part of the Omaha Tribe and settled near the Niobrara River of Nebraska in 1793. In 1877, the Ponca Tribe was forcibly removed from their beloved Niobrara River homeland and sent to Indian territory in central Oklahoma.

During their first year in Oklahoma, 25 percent of the Ponca Tribe died from

malaria and starvation. Among the dead was Chief Standing Bear's eldest son Bear Shield, who had pleaded to be laid to rest in their sacred burial grounds. A few weeks later, in January of 1879, Chief Standing Bear began the 600-mile trek to their Niobrara homeland.

Just 2 days shy of their homeland, during a brief stop at the Omaha reservation, the group was stopped and arrested for leaving Oklahoma. The arrest led to the landmark case of Standing Bear v. Crook, which established the precedent of recognizing "Indian" as an equal person under the law, including the constitutional guarantee of fair treatment during trial.

At the end of the trial, Chief Standing Bear delivered a speech demanding equality, with the famous words: "That hand is not the color of yours, but if I prick it, the blood will flow, and I shall feel pain. The blood is the same color as yours. God made me, and I am a man." After the trial, Chief Standing Bear and his companions were allowed to return to their Niobrara homeland.

However, in 1962, Congress decided the Ponca Tribe would be among the Tribes no longer recognized. Two decades later, in 1986, the Northern Ponca Restoration Committee was created by Fred LeRoy, a veteran and a Ponca himself. Within 2 years, LeRoy drafted the petition for restoration, and the Ponca Tribe met the requirements of the Bureau of Indian Affairs for Federal recognition.

On October 31, 1990, the legislation was signed into law, and the Ponca were once again recognized by the Federal Government. Fred LeRoy was then named chairman of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska.

Although the Ponca Tribe will still be without a reservation, they have established service delivery areas throughout Nebraska, Iowa, and South Dakota. These areas have centers offering health, social, domestic violence, and education services. One such center was aptly named the Fred LeRoy Health and Wellness Center.

Through the tremendous efforts of Chairman LeRoy and subsequent leaders, the Ponca have not only preserved but further cultivated their heritage. Current Chairman Larry Wright, Jr., considers his proudest accomplishments to be the purchase of 1,800 acres of the original homeland, including Chief Standing Bear's burial site.

Chairman WRIGHT, Jr., illustrated the belief that because their ancestors are buried in the Niobrara River Valley, Ponca DNA is infused within the land, water, animals, and everything that grows there, completing the circle of life.

Today, three different statues pay tribute to the fearless leader Chief Standing Bear. One statue resides in Centennial Mall of Lincoln, Nebraska, and another overlooks the Niobrara homeland. Finally, a bronze statue of Chief Standing Bear stands in its rightful place in Statuary Hall in the U.S.