

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.

Capitol, representing the State of Nebraska. With these three monuments, thousands of Nebraskans and millions from around the world will come now to know the Poncas and their story.

Unfortunately, social disconnects of racial disparity and basic human rights still exist in our country. In recognizing the Ponca Tribe's abundant history, we highlight a story of oppression, despair, struggle, and perseverance.

Today, we honor and celebrate the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska and every Native American once considered a half person. American author and civil rights activist Audre Lorde once said: "It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences." Now more than ever, we must unite as Americans and celebrate our diversity to heal the wounds of social injustice.

BIODEFENSE MUST BE BIPARTISAN

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

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in recognition of the passage of H.R. 7574, the Strengthening America's Strategic National Stockpile Act, which builds on the bipartisan work done by the Energy and Commerce Committee on pandemic preparedness issues.

I am honored to have co-lead this bipartisan bill with my colleague Congresswoman SLOTKIN from Michigan. I also thank Ranking Member BURGESS and Chairwoman ESHOO, who has been a longtime champion on biodefense issues, and importantly, the Energy and Commerce Committee staff for their tireless bipartisan work on this legislation.

I think all of us can agree that biodefense must be a bipartisan issue. COVID-19 has clearly exposed weaknesses in our Nation's public health infrastructure.

I have spent a good part of my career in Congress focused on biodefense and pandemic response legislation.

I became a U.S. attorney back in 2001, just one month after the 9/11 attacks on our country. Shortly after that were the anthrax attacks here on our Nation's Capitol. In my U.S. Attorney's Office, we actually received a hoax anthrax attack, which served as a stark reminder of the importance of staying vigilant and the threat that even a single individual can pose.

As former chairwoman of the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, we worked on things like Project BioShield.

When we talk about biodefense, people often think about things more commonly known: chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear threats. Pandemic threats though are yet, as we are learning, some of the most dangerous threats to everyday Americans.

Every bit as complex as cyber threats, more of an imminent threat in the 21st century than even conventional conflicts, biotreatments can come from anywhere. Bad actors, malicious organizations or nation-states, random industrial accidents, or even an act of nature can be the original source. And once events like this begin to unfold, they can be extremely hard to predict and respond to.

That is why I am glad that we continue to focus on this and have been proud to have been part of co-leading the package, which we hope will dramatically improve our Nation's ability to respond to these threats. I am very proud that Congress came together to get this done.

The Strategic National Stockpile is a cornerstone of our Nation's biodefense infrastructure. It is responsible for keeping large quantities of pharmaceuticals, medical countermeasures, personal protective equipment, and other lifesaving products for rapid deployment in the event of an emergency.

This bill builds on the bipartisan work done by the Energy and Commerce Committee when last year, in June 2019, the Pandemic All-Hazards Preparedness Act was reauthorized and signed into law by President Trump. Our committee's work has continued to improve our Nation's response to pandemic events.

I commend Ranking Member WALDEN and Ranking Member GUTHRIE of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee for their incredible work on Energy and Commerce Committee's Second Wave Preparedness Project. This critical report will serve as the most detailed analysis thus far of our Nation's public health response to date, and some of their recommendations were in this legislative package.

The Strengthening America's Strategic National Stockpile Act addresses these shortcomings and will improve the ability of the SNS to manage and maintain its inventory, empower it to partner with industry to reshore some of our most critical manufacturing infrastructure, dramatically increase transparency of the stockpile, and create innovative new programs to help States create their own stockpiles.

I thank all the Members of the House for their unanimous support of this important legislation because biodefense must be bipartisan to keep this country safe.

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UNLEASHING THE SPIRIT OF THE AMERICAN DREAM

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

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the chairman of the Republican Study Committee's American Worker Task Force. This task force was established to provide policy recommenda-

tions to empower millions of American workers to reclaim their version of the American Dream.

This task force, really, Mr. Speaker, is all about the American Dream, which is the idea that the condition of your birth should not determine the outcome of your life and that, in America, because of the blessings of freedom that we are given, anyone, regardless of race, color, creed, gender, or any station in life, through hard work, persistence, and determination, can achieve upward mobility, can achieve his or her God-given potential, and can realize that American Dream.

This afternoon, the American Worker Task Force will unveil its report to change flawed policies from Washington, D.C., to unleash the spirit of the American Dream and to give workers their opportunity at upward mobility.

First, we are going to propose policy changes that will refocus labor policy to unleash American workers and allow them to realize their God-given potential. This includes increasing opportunities for apprenticeships, not just Department of Labor, Washington-directed, centrally planned registered apprenticeships, apprenticeships that may or may not yield fruitful careers in in-demand jobs in the labor market, in the real world, but, instead, also recognizing apprenticeships that are industry-recognized, industry-driven, and that meet the jobs that are actually available in the labor market.

We are going to be proposing ideas about eliminating overly restrictive occupational licensing requirements and giving workers greater flexibility in the way they are compensated, to choose comp time as opposed to just overtime.

Secondly, we want to reimagine our failed welfare policies to remove the trap of government dependency and, instead, create a system that propels American individuals and families to extraordinary success and prosperity.

This includes providing alternatives to the failed Housing First policies: to provide Americans access in housing assistance with wraparound services to actually meet those individuals where they are; to provide them with career counseling and perhaps, if needed, addiction recovery services and financial literacy.

We want second-chance employees to have access to the labor market. Whether they have been incarcerated before, whether they are struggling with an addiction, whether they have failed to get the skills that they need, we believe that second-chance and third-chance employees are desperately needed in America's economy today.

We also want work incentives for able-bodied, work-capable adults, especially those without dependents, because we know that work is a blessing; work is not a punishment.

And, third, we want to refine our education system to debunk the bachelors-