

Breonna Taylor. And the people in this country seem to want to see change take place.

I am amazed at how one question by a moderator at an event has made a significant impact. The simple question was, and I am paraphrasing: Would you denounce white supremacy?

It was a simple question. It did not get the appropriate answer. As a result, people are starting to believe that we ought not allow an answer that is inappropriate to be acceptable.

I am just amazed at how persons across the aisle—and I am grateful to them—persons across the aisle have said that there should have been the appropriate answer given, which is: I condemn white supremacy; I condemn the supremacist.

That is the answer, simple, easy answer.

And persons across the aisle are sending a clear and perspicuous message to the Chief Executive Officer: He needs to change that response—walk it back; talk it back; crawl it back; just take it back.

I don't know that he will, but I do know this: When we have my friends across the aisle making it clear that this was wrong, something is happening here, and I am grateful to my friends. I thank you for taking the bold position that you are taking, not allowing this to be just another one of the many episodes wherein inappropriate statements have been made and not challenged. I thank you for what you have done, all of you, those who have said you need to condemn white supremacy.

Something strange is happening. There is a change taking place, and I am grateful to have lived long enough to see this change occur.

#### RECOGNIZING LAKE COUNTY MANAGER JEFF COLE

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

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Jeff Cole for his 30 years of distinguished service to the citizens of Florida, culminating this year with his retirement as the Lake County manager.

Mr. Cole began his public service career in 1990, supporting the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners. In 1994, he embarked on a 21-year journey with the St. Johns River Water Management District, overseeing intergovernmental affairs and public and media outreach.

His long record of accomplishments brought him to Lake County in 2016, where he took on heightened responsibilities and focused on enhancing government efficiencies and accountability, while improving the quality of life in Lake County.

Through challenges ranging from Hurricane Irma to COVID-19, Mr. Cole remained accessible and demonstrated unwavering leadership and dedication to our community.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Jeff and his wife, Audrey, the very best in the next chapter of their lives together. From the bottom of my heart, I thank Jeff for his commitment to our citizens and the legacy that he is leaving behind. He will be missed.

#### REMEMBERING SPECIALIST ALEXANDER J. MILLER

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Specialist Alexander J. Miller, a young soldier who served our Nation in the Armed Forces and was, sadly, killed in combat in Nuristan province, Afghanistan, on July 31, 2009.

Alex attended East Ridge High School in Clermont, Florida and, soon after graduation, enlisted in the U.S. Army, being assigned to the 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Light Infantry, based in Fort Drum, New York.

Alex hoped to attend the University of Central Florida after completing his tour of duty, but that dream vanished when insurgents attacked his unit.

Miller was awarded two medals posthumously: the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

May his memory and sacrifices be a reminder to all of us of his service and love of country.

Our thoughts and prayers remain with the entirety of the Miller family and his community these many years later.

#### REMEMBERING FIRST LIEUTENANT IVAN D. LECHOWICH

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the legacy of a local resident and hero of Florida's 15th District, First Lieutenant Ivan Lechowich.

Lieutenant Lechowich was a devoted husband and loving father who served his country in uniform and was, sadly, killed in Ghazni province, Afghanistan, on September 28, 2011.

Lieutenant Lechowich graduated from the International Baccalaureate Program at King High School, earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Florida in 2007, and, after joining the U.S. Army in 2009, deployed to Afghanistan 2 years later.

Ivan was serving as a Sapper Platoon leader for the 515th Sapper Company out of Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, when an improvised explosive device took his life.

Ivan was awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Army Commendation Medal, and NATO Medal.

To his beloved wife, Jenn; daughter, Natalie Marie; and the rest of the Lechowich family, our district and community still mourns the loss of Ivan these many years later. May his memory and many sacrifices be a reminder of his love for his family and his Nation.

#### REMEMBERING SERGEANT DANIEL MCKINNON ANGUS

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Sergeant Daniel McKinnon Angus, a local hero in Flor-

ida's 15th District, who was killed in action in Afghanistan on January 24, 2010.

Daniel graduated from Armwood High School in 2000 and, in 2003, joined the U.S. Marine Corps where he knew he belonged and hoped to make a career of serving his community and country.

Daniel stood out among his peers and received the Combat Action Ribbon, two Good Conduct Medals, the Afghanistan and Iraq Campaign Medals, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and a number of service decorations.

Daniel loved spending time with his wife, Bonnie, and his 1-year-old daughter. Now 11 years old, may she always know and treasure the knowledge of her father's heroism.

Men and women like Daniel who are willing to lay down their lives in defense of our country and in support of others many miles away are what make our Nation the greatest on Earth. Let us never take their sacrifice or that of their surviving families in vain.

#### HONORING DR. GOVINDAPPA VENKATASWAMY

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

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, today, on the 102nd anniversary of his birth, I rise to honor Dr. Govindappa Venkataswamy, an Indian ophthalmologist who devoted his life to preventing blindness in India and across the world.

Dr. Venkataswamy's work preserved the vision of millions of men, women, and children, allowing them the blessing of sight and the opportunity to enjoy independent, productive lives.

Though Dr. V suffered from a severe form of rheumatoid arthritis that left his hands permanently disfigured, he defied all odds to become an expert ophthalmologist and mastered the art of cataract surgery.

Having witnessed the terrible impact of blindness on those without the means to pay for their own care, Dr. V pursued an extraordinarily ambitious program to end preventable blindness in India.

In 1976, Dr. V and members of his family founded the first of what would later become a network of Aravind Eye Hospitals in Madurai, India.

The Aravind Eye Care System has been acclaimed by Harvard Business School and is the focus of an HBS case study. It has also been recognized for excellence in publications, including *Fast Company*, *Forbes*, and *The Wall Street Journal*, and it has inspired healthcare organizations throughout the developing world.

From its humble beginning in Madurai, the Aravind Eye Care System now provides care to over 4 million patients and performs over 500,000 surgeries each year in hospitals and clinics throughout south India.

Dr. V passed away in 2006, but his legacy continues to give eyesight to those who otherwise would be blind, and his story continues to inspire millions.

His life is best celebrated by his own words:

When we identify ourselves with all that is in the world, there is no exploitation. It is ourselves we are helping. It is ourselves we are healing.

#### RECOGNIZING FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a former State certified firefighter one from Pennsylvania. As we kick off the month of October, I mention that next week is Fire Prevention Week.

In 1925, President Calvin Coolidge established Fire Prevention Week, and today it is the longest running public health observance in the Nation. It is celebrated each year during the week of October 9 to commemorate the devastating Great Chicago Fire.

This is an opportunity to educate one another on simple measures we can all take to prevent fires at home. You can bolster your family's safety by testing your fire alarms monthly, giving home heaters appropriate space, and having an escape plan if, God forbid, your home does catch fire.

We must also do more to prevent wildfires. As former chairman of the Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry, I have been a part of many conversations, meetings, and hearings about how we can better prevent forest devastation as a result of wildfires.

We continue to see devastating wildfires on the West Coast. Homes, businesses, and forests are burning to the ground. The air quality is dangerous, and millions of Americans are at risk.

For decades, the health and resiliency of our national forests have been in decline due to a lack of management and, more recently, extreme environmental policies.

With nearly 90 million acres of forestland in need of urgent treatment, Congress needs to finally act and provide the tools and authorities to enable the Forest Service to proactively manage. Doing so will directly help prevent wildfire outbreaks, support our local communities, and restore the health of our Nation's forests. And a healthy forest is one of the largest carbon sinks in the world.

The 2018 House-passed farm bill contained bipartisan, commonsense forest management provisions to help prevent loss of life and property from these fires. These bipartisan authorities were created with input from the U.S. Forest Service under both the Obama and Trump administrations. These were ideas that were well vetted through hearings and markups and supported

by the House Agriculture Committee and on the floor.

However, Senate Democrats have refused to even discuss these needed reforms. Since these provisions were rejected, 3.5 million acres of Forest Service land have burned.

Wildfire response and recovery efforts should not be a partisan issue. We are blessed as a nation to have hundreds of millions of acres of beautiful forestlands, and the best way to prevent forest fires is through a well-managed forest.

Mr. Speaker, well-managed forests, again, are the largest carbon sinks in the world and the greatest filters for our watersheds that originate in those forests. Our forests provide great opportunities for outdoor recreation, but they are also unparalleled environmental tools. Our national forests serve as some of the Nation's largest carbon sinks.

This Fire Prevention Week, I would like to encourage everyone to brush up on their fire safety measures, and I reiterate just how crucial healthy forests are in preventing wildfires.

I thank the brave men and women who are on the front lines fighting those devastating fires out West.

#### MORE COVID RELIEF IS NEEDED

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, as we stand here on October 1, a few hours ago the leadership of airline industries all across America announced very sad news for their workforce. The fact of the matter is that, with CARES Act money expiring at midnight last night, massive layoffs are now going to be implemented over the next few days and weeks.

American Airlines and United Airlines, together, about 32,000 workers are going to be laid off today, this morning. Again, other airlines are doing exactly the same thing.

The impact, the ripple effect in terms of the collapse of consumer demand because international air travel is virtually nonexistent, domestic air travel is way down and it is going to stay down for months to come, has resulted, again, in a ripple effect in the aerospace industry.

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Raytheon Technologies up in New England, which is the parent company of Pratt & Whitney, announced 16,000 layoffs, again, because the commercial airline industry's demand is basically drying up.

Boeing industry announced 16,000 layoffs also because of the same reason. The commercial sector in terms of airline orders, again, has completely dried up.

They are not the only sector that are still struggling in this COVID recession. Talk to any restaurant owner in

any district all across America, talk to anyone who is involved in the tourism destination.

Disney announced 23,000 layoffs on Monday, again, because of the collapse in visits because of the COVID pandemic.

In Connecticut, we have two large, Native-American casinos, Foxwoods and Mohegan. They have started partial operations, but still, half their workforce, again, has not been recalled, again, because it is just not safe for people to have gatherings in large density.

Tuesday night, the President of the United States, before the American people, made the claim that: nothing to worry about; we are in a V-shaped recovery.

Well, tell that to the airline workers. Tell that to the people in the restaurant and hospitality sector. Tell that to the people in the tourism sector.

Again, all across America, 780,000 new unemployment claims yesterday across this country.

We are not in a V-shaped recovery. We have got a lot of businesses out there working their tails off to get back to work and to get normalcy back. But the fact of the matter is, as Jerome Powell, President Trump's own chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, has said repeatedly: Until we get control of COVID, we are not going to have a sustained economic recovery that is going to bring back the jobs that, again, we have lost in the millions.

So here we are. We are on the verge, again, of another wave of job losses in this country. And the question of the day is whether Congress is going to step up like it did four times previously on a bipartisan basis to pass COVID relief? The CARES Act being, obviously, the biggest one back in March, which, again, the American people are desperate for us to move out on.

A couple of days ago, the Speaker released a package, which for the first time included a COVID relief extension for airline workers, which, again, would avoid the bloodbath that is going to happen in terms of jobs in the next few hours in this country.

Finally, we have seen the Secretary of the Treasury show up here at the building 130 days after we passed the Heroes Act to have a serious conversation about getting some COVID relief out there to, again, stabilize this economy.

We can do this. And I say that because we have done it four times already acting on a bipartisan basis.

What we have to do, though, is just sort of drop the happy talk about the fact that this virus, we are on the other side of it, nothing to worry about, V-shaped recovery.

It is really just almost insulting to the American people to spin that kind of message out there when people are struggling, having their unemployment