

I have every confidence Mayor Baker will remain involved in the community, and I wish him and Alice the best in the days ahead.

CONGRATULATING TERRY DOWNEY

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Terry Downey upon his recent retirement. Since his election in 2016, Mayor Downey has guided Bayou la Batre through a series of significant challenges, including several severe hurricanes and the recent pandemic.

Bayou la Batre has a unique heritage as a diverse home with the fishing and seafood processing industries, and Mayor Downey's leadership helped Bayou la Batre weather the storms and protect the livelihoods and culture of its residents. The city is well-prepared to continue handling whatever else may come its way.

I thank Mayor Downey for his service, and I join the people of Bayou la Batre in wishing him all the best in the next stage of his life.

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CONGRATULATING JIMMY LYONS ON HIS RETIREMENT

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Jimmy Lyons upon his retirement as director and CEO of the Alabama State Port Authority.

Over more than two decades, Jimmy's creative, forward-thinking leadership led to transformative growth at one of Alabama's premier assets.

Jimmy's steady stewardship guided the port authority during economic highs and lows. Despite a range of challenges, the port has thrived under his leadership.

With him at the helm, the port is now one of the fastest growing container terminals in the country. It has added a steel terminal and has vastly expanded its ability to load and unload automobiles, and those are just a few examples.

Jimmy also played a critical part in securing upgrades at the port and in the channel that allow a higher number of increasingly large ships from around the globe to use the port with growing ease.

While he will be missed, the Alabama State Port Authority, and Alabama's economy, are better positioned for future success than they have ever been because of Jimmy Lyons. I wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE LIVES OF WILLIAM AND EUBER COLLINS

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the lives of two dear friends who recently passed away, William and Euber Collins.

William, known by most as Monty, passed away at 90 years old on November 2, only 1 day before his wife, Euber, who was 88. They were married a remarkable 68 years.

After meeting and falling in love at the University of Alabama, Monty and Euber married and found their way to Mobile. Their close partnership enabled

them to raise four wonderful children and Monty to have a long, successful career, culminating in his retirement from the First National Bank of Mobile.

After his retirement, Monty served as a field representative for my predecessor, Sonny Callahan, and served two terms as a member of the Alabama House of Representatives.

Throughout their marriage, Monty and Euber maintained a remarkable level of engagement and service to Mobile.

Monty and Euber leave behind a legacy of love for each other, their family, and their community that will be difficult to match in its intensity and longevity. They will be deeply missed and fondly remembered.

My heartfelt condolences go out to their family.

PROTECTING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DURING PANDEMIC

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

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to address a pressing problem that concerns Americans' constitutional rights. The liberties enshrined in the Constitution still apply to every American, even in the midst of a national emergency.

It is becoming clear to many Americans that our national life has slid toward a double standard. For weeks, officials have asked the public to put life on hold and help fight this virus. The American people did their part and are doing their part, have made sacrifices to help our Nation, and continue to do their part.

But throughout this pandemic, we have seen a troubling trend of State leaders leaning on religious institutions harder than any other group or organization.

In 2018, Pope Francis, while addressing "red martyrdom," those who face death and persecution on account of their religious beliefs, also warned our nations about "white martyrdom," which occurs in democratic countries when freedom of religion is restricted.

So far, lawsuits claiming that State restrictions on religious gatherings infringe on freedom of religion have been filed in Kentucky, California, Louisiana, Virginia, and elsewhere.

In Virginia, at Lighthouse Fellowship Church's Palm Sunday service, there were only 16 people present, all properly socially distanced. Yet, the pastor was subjected, Mr. Speaker, to a criminal citation.

In Kansas, two churches settled with Democratic Governor Laura Kelly after they sued over her 10-person limit for religious services. A Federal judge ruled that the State appeared to have singled out religious activities for stricter treatment. Now, Kansas churches can hold those services as long as they abide by the protocols for businesses and other establishments,

such as providing hand sanitizer, face masks, and social distancing.

In Kentucky, despite claiming that his order allowed congregants to attend drive-through services, Governor Andy Beshear had State police leave notices to self-isolate on churchgoers' windshields on Easter Sunday service at the Maryville Baptist Church outside of Louisville.

In defiance of the Governor's mandate, Pastor Jack Roberts, along with congregants, ripped up those notices and filed a lawsuit.

Mr. Speaker, a Federal appeals court sided with the pastor and blocked part of Beshear's order, allowing congregants to attend drive-in services. In the ruling, the three-judge panel of the Sixth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals expressed support for the church's argument that it wasn't being treated fairly, noting "hundreds" of cars parked in the lot of the nearby grocery store on the same day the police informed churchgoers that they were violating the law.

"The breadth of the ban on religious services, together with a haven for numerous secular exceptions, should give pause to anyone who prizes religious freedom." That is what the judges wrote.

They continued, "But it is not always easy to decide what is Caesar's and what is God's, and that is assuredly true in the context of a pandemic."

Mr. Speaker, I commend the judges for standing up for the fundamental right of religious freedom, including the freedom of worship.

Americans have shown that they can convene for religious services in a responsible way. The compassion and care for communities of faith throughout the pandemic are needed now more than ever.

Our first Chief Executive, President Washington, prized our First Amendment to the Constitution, saying, "No one would be more zealous than myself to establish effectual barriers against the horrors of spiritual tyranny and every species of religious persecution."

Let's urge our colleagues in Congress, our State legislatures, our Governors, and down at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue to honor Washington's passion for our enshrined right to religious liberty.

CALLING FOR TARGETED COVID RELIEF

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, during this lame duck session, this House needs bipartisan leadership to achieve critical, needed COVID relief for central Arkansas.

The majority of these issues are easy and have significant bipartisan support.

We need to extend and expand the Paycheck Protection Program and ease paycheck protection forgiveness.

Pandemic unemployment payments need to be addressed in a way to help families but also encourage work.

Finally, States need flexibility on spending money from the CARES Act,

and they need to change the deadline from the end of this year, 12/31, to a time in 2021.

We cannot let the perfect be the enemy of the good.

We call on Speaker PELOSI to call targeted, focused relief to the House floor today.

REMEMBERING MARINE CORPORAL RONALD R. PAYNE, JR.

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

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the legacy of Marine Corporal Ronald R. Payne, Jr., a local hero who proudly served our country in the U.S. Marine Corps and was killed in combat on May 7, 2004.

Payne graduated from Mulberry High School as a star football and basketball player.

As a marine, Payne had been part of the initial force that invaded Iraq and entered Baghdad. He then volunteered to return for a second overseas tour. He was initially sent to Afghanistan to help with elections but was then sent into combat.

Corporal Payne will be remembered as the first marine killed serving in Afghanistan.

He will also be remembered as a man of faith. A late journal entry reads, "The fear is starting to turn into excitement. Besides, what do I have to be afraid of really? I have God on my side, and He said He will never leave us nor forsake us. Having Him is better than any type of support or weapon that man can give."

To his family, our district still mourns Ron's loss. I salute you for raising such a hero who was also such a servant.

REMEMBERING STAFF SERGEANT JOHN ALLEN REINERS

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Staff Sergeant John Allen Reinners, a local hero from Florida's 15th District who served our country in the Armed Forces and who was sadly killed in combat in the Afghanistan theater.

After participating in Junior ROTC for 4 years and graduating from Haines City High School, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and then began with the Army Rangers.

He served at Fort Drum, New York, and Fort Carson, Colorado, and, during this time, also did two tours in Iraq, where he received his first Purple Heart.

In 2001, Staff Sergeant Reinners died of wounds sustained when enemy forces attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan's Zhari Province.

He was awarded his second Purple Heart and the Bronze Star Medal posthumously for his valiant service and dedication to his team.

At home, Reinners was also a devoted husband to Casey and father to Lex.

To the entire Reinners family, our district and community still mourn

John's loss. He was truly the epitome of a great American soldier, and his sacrifices will not be forgotten.

REMEMBERING SPECIALIST RYAN MICHAEL LUMLEY

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and legacy of Specialist Ryan Lumley, a devoted husband and son who served this country in the Armed Forces and was killed in combat in Wardak Province, Afghanistan, on December 3, 2011.

Ryan graduated from Cedar Key High School in 2008, joined the U.S. Army in 2009, and soon thereafter reported to Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas, where he excelled with the 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team.

Unfortunately, at the young age of 21, Ryan lost his life to an improvised explosive device.

Due to his outstanding service and dedication to our country, Ryan was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and several other badges and ribbons.

Ryan is survived by his wife, Kimber, a loving family, and many hometown friends who remember him fondly for his strong character and patriotism.

While some time has passed since his departure, may his legacy continue to uplift his loved ones and encourage a grateful Nation.

REMEMBERING SERGEANT DANIEL MCKINNON ANGUS

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Sergeant Daniel McKinnon Angus, a local hero of Florida'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 his country.

Daniel stood out among his peers and received a 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.

He 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.

You see, 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 makes our Nation the greatest on Earth.

Let us never take their sacrifice or that of their surviving families in vain.

DEFENDING MOTION TO RECOMMIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to sound the alarm that House Demo-

crats are considering a rule change that would severely limit the rights of the minority party in the House for years to come.

I am referring to the partisan push to water down or to eliminate the motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, the MTR, as it is called, is a critical procedural tool that gives the minority party one last opportunity to improve legislation before a final vote on this House floor. An MTR not only increases transparency between Members of Congress and their constituents, but it holds Members accountable and forces them to go on record for viewpoints that they hold.

Weakening the MTR would only serve to shield Members from criticism, suffocate debate on key policy issues, and overturn longstanding House precedent. It would be a blatant power grab by the majority Democrat Party.

That is why my colleagues and I will be appealing to the Rules Committee this week in writing, demanding that the MTR be preserved.

CONFRONTING VOTER FRAUD

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, for the past 2 weeks, I have heard from an overwhelming number of my constituents, and they do not have confidence in the integrity of November's election.

They are outraged that media pundits and establishment Democrat politicians are sneering at the very concept of taking the time to ensure that every legal vote is counted and that every illegal vote is thrown out.

Every citizen has a right to seek justice in a court of law, and that includes the President of the United States. His legal team needs to be given the time to collect and present evidence of voting and tabulation irregularities.

Until the courts have played their constitutional role, we should be wary of declaring winners and losers.

Look, if we could spend 2 years investigating conspiracy theories about Russian collusion, we should be able to take a few weeks to confirm the integrity of this election.

I am glad that Attorney General Bill Barr authorized the Department of Justice to investigate any and all allegations of illegal activity. He took this necessary step after 38 of my House colleagues and I requested that the Department leave no stone unturned in this effort.

We will also be introducing legislation this very week that will require the DOJ to create a national strategy to identify and combat voter intimidation, fraud, ballot system glitches, sabotage, and hacking.

Mr. Speaker, voting is the most sacred civic duty in our Nation. In an election for our Nation's highest office, involving unprecedented levels of mail-in voting, we must take the time to ensure that every legal vote is counted and every illegal vote is not counted.

Nothing is more important than the integrity of our ballots.