

prestigious honor in the parks and recreation industry: the 2020 National Gold Medal Award for excellence in parks and recreation management and, with it, the recognition as the number one park system in the United States of America by the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association.

Like many Toledoans, I am immensely thankful for those who have fought tirelessly to create a genuine, world-class system of parks and trails right in the heart of our community. In fact, Toledo Metroparks was among 20 park and recreation agencies and four military installations across our country and in Germany considered just as finalists for the award.

Whether you enjoy bird watching, hiking, mountain biking, archery, or even just relaxing in a hammock, Toledo Metroparks has countless ways to get you outside and enjoying nature.

Congratulations to Toledo Metroparks for receiving this prestigious and well-deserved national recognition. With the recent \$23 million grant from the Department of Transportation to construct the Glass City Riverwalk, a transformative project in the heart of Toledo, our Metroparks will only continue to get better in this 21st century.

Madam Speaker, our office will gladly fly a flag over this U.S. Capitol in the honor of this gold medal award to Toledo Metroparks. Congratulations to all.

□ 1815

CONGRATULATING CINCINNATI ST. XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL'S FOOTBALL TEAM

(Mr. WENSTRUP asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WENSTRUP. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Cincinnati St. Xavier High School's football team on becoming the Division I Ohio State champions.

Led by inspirational Head Coach Steve Specht, the St. X Bombers clinched the title by winning the State championship by a score of 44-3, setting a record for the largest margin of victory ever in a Division I final.

This impressive showing followed dramatic come-from-behind fourth-quarter victories in both the quarterfinals and the semifinals.

I am always proud to be a St. Xavier alumnus, and I feel especially proud of the 2020 Bomber team as the school earned their fourth State championship.

I am especially proud because it is an understatement to say that the last several months have been difficult for our communities in Ohio and across the country. Yet, last Friday night, families, friends, students, and spectators, alike, were able to return to a

little bit of normalcy—exactly why sports and teamwork are so important to the Nation.

Congratulations, again, to the St. Xavier players, to Coach Steve Specht and his staff, and to the St. Xavier faithful.

Go Bombers.

WHY I WEAR A MASK

(Ms. DEAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEAN. Madam Speaker, I wear a mask so my granddaughter, Aubrey, can return to third grade in-person schooling as soon as possible.

I wear a mask so that one day I can go to church and be surrounded again by a community in prayer.

I wear a mask to look forward to the day when my entire family can get together.

I wear a mask so more people do not have to experience the feeling of loss my family felt when my mother-in-law, Joan Cunnane, passed away from the COVID virus.

Wearing a mask is not a political statement; it is a simple way of saying: "I value the lives around me."

Nearly 250,000 Americans are dead because of this brutal virus, and it is up to each of us to do our part.

Today, I put on my mask as an act of public health, of compassion, of care, and of respect, as a way of asking not what others can do for me, but what I am always saying behind my mask: "What can I do for you?"

RECOGNIZING OAKCREST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT GOVERNMENT

(Mr. VAN DREW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I want to thank Oakcrest High School in south Jersey for engaging all of us to be involved in what this Nation is built upon: representative government.

Voting is a right that we must all engage in to see the country that we want to live in. I am proud of them. I am proud of all of you and your belief in America. America is an exceptional Nation, and we can never forget that.

Our predecessors built this Nation with mechanisms in place to ensure that, even though there are problems at times, that we can self-correct and we can heal the wrongs.

I ran for reelection because I believe in a strong America, which makes a strong south Jersey. I believe that what made America great keeps America great. I believe in a strong economy, strong borders, and a strong military, anchored by strong energy, American-made and American-supplied goods and services, all while protecting our environment, our families, and core American values.

To me, this isn't about politics. A strong nation is built upon a strong

economy, built on American-made goods. We must bring American manufacturing jobs back home where they belong. A strong nation does not let foreign governments take advantage of us, and I will do everything in my power to ensure that doesn't happen.

I want to thank all of the professionals at Oakcrest High School, and I thank them for their work through this pandemic, and all of the students for the work that they have done. May God bless them all.

REMEMBERING CECIL CORBIN-MARK

(Mr. ESPAILLAT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today in remembrance and honor of Cecil Corbin-Mark, whose passing on the evening of October 15 sent shock waves of grief throughout New York's political and activist communities.

A Harlem native, a trailblazer in the fight for environmental justice, and an inspiration to more individuals than he would ever know, Cecil was a giant in his community and across the Nation, and his loss is immeasurable.

Cecil led a life dedicated to building sustainable communities and healthy communities. He worked tirelessly to ensure that people of color and low-income residents always had a seat at the table.

Cecil's impact on the sustainable future of Harlem, our surrounding communities, and our Nation cannot be overstated.

Our prayers remain with Cecil's family and the WE ACT community.

May he rest in peace.

REMEMBERING FORMER REDDING, CALIFORNIA, CHIEF OF POLICE BOB BLANKENSHIP

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of former Redding Police Department Chief of Police Bob Blankenship after his passing late last month at the age of 73.

Chief Blankenship started his career at the Redding Police Department in 1972. After being promoted through the Redding PD ranks, he became chief of police in 1988. He retired after 30 years of service in 2002.

Chief Blankenship served on the State of California Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission and was president of the California Police Chiefs Association.

He was instrumental in developing statewide policies for police response to domestic violence incidents, and he brought the first Neighborhood Policing Unit to the area.

Bob was a genuine public servant who cared about the well-being and safety of all his Redding residents.

I send my sincerest condolences to his family and all of his colleagues he served with so many years.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON ALCOHOL ABUSE AND ALCOHOLISM

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

For 50 years, NIAAA has been the leader in generating and disseminating fundamental information about the effects of alcohol on our health and well-being and applying that knowledge to improve the lives of those struggling with alcohol-related problems.

In the United States alone, nearly 15 million people have an alcohol-use disorder. An estimated 88,000 people die from alcohol-related causes annually, and alcohol misuse has immeasurable impacts on families and communities across our Nation.

While NIAAA has made significant achievements toward improving public health over the past 50 years, such as illuminating the negative effects of prenatal alcohol exposure and supporting the development of effective behavioral therapies and medications to treat alcohol use disorder, more work is needed.

With technological advances and an expanding knowledge base, NIAAA is poised to advance alcohol research to the next frontier toward the goal of helping more Americans live healthier, more productive lives.

STOP THE IMPORTATION OF SYNTHETIC FENTANYL FROM CHINA

(Mr. BURCHETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, our country is still battling the opioid epidemic, and every day we hear heart-breaking stories of those lost to overdoses during this crisis. Congress must remain vigilant in the fight against opioids, especially synthetic fentanyl from China.

China is the heart of the global fentanyl supply chain, and most fentanyl trafficked into the United States is produced in China. Sometimes Chinese fentanyl is shipped directly into our country, and other times it is brought across our northern and southern borders by smugglers working with Chinese drug dealers.

It only takes a small amount of fentanyl to overdose, and unsuspecting drug users often purchase drugs cut with fentanyl. More and more Ameri-

cans are dying from synthetic opioid overdoses. There were an estimated 31,000 deaths in 2018.

The Chinese Government needs to go after the massive fentanyl operation in their country and should execute the dirtbag fentanyl drug dealers, smugglers, and producers.

I was a cosponsor of the Fentanyl Sanctions Act, which was included in the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act, which gives the President the authority to impose sanctions against countries failing to do their part to stop illegal opioid traffic. If the Chinese Government wants to avoid sanctions, they must bring the lowlifes running this massive fentanyl operation to justice.

RIISING NUMBER OF COVID-19 CASES

(Mr. SOTO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, coronavirus cases are rising again in Florida. Today, Florida reported 7,925 new cases.

Coronavirus cases are rising nationally. Yesterday, there were over 155,000 Americans who contracted the coronavirus and another 1,707 Americans dead. That is the highest daily death toll since May 14.

American families need our help: testing, tracing, treatment, and a vaccine; keeping our first responders on the job; small business relief; jobless benefits; and food and housing assistance.

And what is Congress doing about it?

The House majority has voted twice for the Heroes Act, including a compromise. President-elect Joe Biden has said right now Congress should come together and pass COVID relief packages like the Heroes Act.

Where is President Trump? Where is the Senate Republican majority? Millions of Americans would like to know.

America is in crisis. We must come together as a Congress, and the time for action is now.

CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS DISCUSSES COVID-19 DISPARITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. LEE of Nevada). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, today we reconvene our monthly Spe-

cial Order hour of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus for the first time, really, since the COVID-19 pandemic reached America's shores.

As we speak here today, America's staring down the barrel of a third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, the worst one, perhaps, that we have so far faced.

We are adding a million cases a week—yes, a million cases every week. We are approaching a total of 11.5 million cases, more than any other nation in the world by far, despite many more populous countries with outbreaks.

Even more grim, we lead the world in the number of confirmed COVID-related deaths and quickly are approaching 1,000 deaths per day, more than any other nation facing this new wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

States and cities are careening towards lockdowns.

Just today, Madam Speaker, New York City ordered a shutdown of its schools. It had attempted to open, partially, the schools, but today the mayor of the city of New York ordered another shutdown of the school system. Over 1 million children will stay at home with their family members.

And so States and cities are locking down as we speak, right now, as we near the Thanksgiving holiday.

Many States across the country, Governors and mayors have spoken to their constituencies and asked them not to congregate in their homes with more than 10 people, family members, during Thanksgiving. It is a wise recommendation by mayors and Governors.

□ 1830

Show your loved ones that you love them by keeping them alive. Don't expose them to the COVID-19 virus. As we speak right here, as I said, New York City has announced that it has indefinitely closed schools.

Madam Speaker, we all know why America is facing such a terrible outbreak of this virus: The abject failure by this administration to act and numerous Republican leaders to take this pandemic seriously. It was minimized, underestimated, yet it was deadly to over 250,000 Americans. The failure of leadership—the failure of leadership to encourage something as simple as wearing a mask.

The phenomenon of the COVID-19's unbridled spread throughout the United States is a serious one. But there is even more serious phenomenon taking place, and that is the alarming disparate impact on communities of color.

So this pandemic zeroes in on communities of color with high rates of diabetes, high blood pressure, asthma, and other respiratory diseases, and cardiovascular problems. Deadly conditions for those that are infected by the COVID-19 virus.

When my home State and the city of New York became the Nation's first epicenter of the pandemic, the racial disparities were very clear. The hardest