

We must act now for all survivors like Julie and we must act now for those who no longer have a voice.

#### CENTRAL VIRGINIAN OF THE WEEK: HANNAH HOWARD

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

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the perseverance, strength, and compassion of my constituent, Hannah Howard.

Hannah is a Gordonsville resident, Orange County High School senior, and Blue Ridge Virtual Governor's School student.

On May 8, 2019, Hannah lost her older brother, Devon, to a heroin overdose. In the 9 months since Devon's death, Hannah has shown tremendous courage by studying addiction and educating her peers.

As part of her senior project, Hannah interned at a rehabilitation facility where she learned about the recovery process and engaged with patients to understand substance use disorders.

Following her internship, Hannah not only became certified to administer Narcan herself, but she led her first Narcan certification course to members of the Orange County Youth Council and plans to hold additional trainings in the future.

I admire Hannah's empathy and determination. Through unimaginable loss, she has created a framework within the Orange community to prevent tragedies like the one she and her family have faced.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Hannah for her selflessness and her service to Virginia's Seventh Congressional District.

#### REMARKS OF SENATOR MITT ROMNEY

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I know that Senator ROMNEY does not need to have his words further edified, but there is something about courage and something about his words that struck my heart.

So if I might, in the remarks that Senator ROMNEY made yesterday in his decision to cast a vote for article I, he said, briefly: The Constitution is at the foundation of our Nation. We each take an oath to defend it. Paraphrasing, he said: We arrived at different judgments, and he hoped that we would respect each other's good faith. Senator jurors swore an oath before God.

He said: "I am profoundly religious. My faith is at the heart of who I am." And he knew his decision would be hard.

I thought we lived in a nation that respected the heartfelt decisions and deliberation that Members have to

make. But after his decision and vote there was an onslaught of ugly and nasty comments, individuals calling him weak, #ExpellMitt.

I want to live in a nation that is better than that, that when we have to make hard decisions, we will be respected by all of America.

We all love the Constitution. I want to thank Senator ROMNEY for his profile in courage. There needs to be more of that. He voted the right way. We all did who voted "aye" on article I and article II.

#### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CISNEROS). The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 4303, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Trustees of Gallaudet University:

Ms. SHALALA, Florida

#### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF VISITORS TO THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD ACADEMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 14 U.S.C. 1903(b), and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Coast Guard Academy:

Mr. THOMPSON, Mississippi

#### RECOGNIZING 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FLORES) is recognized until 10 p.m. as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 175th anniversary of Baylor University.

Baylor University, a private Christian university, was chartered by the Republic of Texas on February 1, 1845.

The charter, signed by Republic of Texas President, Anson Jones, was supported by the efforts of Baptist pioneers who sought to establish a Christian university "fully susceptible of enlargement and development to meet the needs of all ages to come."

Originally located in Independence, Texas, Baylor is the oldest, continually operating university in Texas, and was actually formed before Texas became a State.

In 1886, Baylor moved its main campus to Waco, Texas, where it remains today, and combined with Waco University. The new flagship campus of over 1,000 acres along the banks of the Brazos River enabled the university to flourish in its new central Texas home.

Today, Baylor continues to uphold their mission to educate men and women for worldwide leadership and service by integrating academic excellence and Christian commitment within a caring community.

Baylor's diverse student body is comprised of over 18,000 students from all 50 States and from over 90 countries. Both undergraduate and graduate students are propelled toward success by passionate and committed faculty and staff who recognize a calling to address society's greatest challenges.

A nationally ranked and distinctly Christian research university, Baylor is on an ambitious path to become the ninth Research 1, or R1, university in Texas, and the world's preeminent Christian research university.

As Baylor strives to attain the coveted R1 status, it is continually engaging in research at the highest levels as students work to fight disease, investigate environmental challenges, pioneer new technologies, and advance human flourishing.

This university-wide commitment to excellence is evident through classroom teaching and a communal drive toward success. Faculty provide impactful services to Baylor students and support them academically, spiritually, personally, and in their future careers.

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Baylor strives to enable each student to achieve at the highest levels of human performance in academics, arts, and athletics, preparing them for worldwide leadership and service.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of the recent 175th anniversary of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, I applaud the university's ongoing commitment to Christian values and academic excellence.

I have requested that a United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to honor the 175 years of legacy and impact of Baylor University.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country, for our military men and women who protect us, and for our first responders who keep us safe at home.

#### RECOGNIZING BEN DOWNS

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ben Downs of Bryan, Texas, as a 2019 inductee into the Texas Radio Hall of Fame.

Ben's radio career began as a childhood fascination. Growing up in Hope, Arkansas, Ben dreamed of hearing his own voice over the radio. As a child, he recalls sitting up in the Hope Field House, pretending to give play-by-plays into an empty soda can.

His dream came true on November 4, 1968, when, at the age of 14, Ben went on the air for the first time. Looking back, Ben says he "wouldn't let a 14-year-old run my station, but fortunately for me, the manager at that radio station did."

By the time he went away to college at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas, Ben was a seasoned pro. After 4 years at the station in

Hope, Ben decided to focus on his studies and enjoy the radio solely as a listener. This didn't last long, as he quickly found himself accepting a job offer from the local station in Bryan-College Station. That was in 1972, and he has been broadcasting ever since.

It was at Texas A&M University that Ben and I first met during the fall of 1972 as students in our management 105 class. We are both proud members of the centennial class of 1976, and he and I remain close friends today.

Since 1989, Ben has led Bryan Broadcasting. Under his leadership, the group has expanded significantly into a variety of genres and formats. He has worked hard to ensure that Bryan Broadcasting is always at the forefront of technology and constantly offering its listeners new and exciting content.

The rise of the internet and streaming service has provided WTAW and Bryan Broadcasting with a platform for a wide array of programs and on-demand podcasts while still promoting the traditional radio broadcast medium.

Ben remains involved in the broadcasting community through the Texas Association of Broadcasters and the National Association of Broadcasters. He also consults regularly with Members of Congress and the Federal Communications Commission to address important issues to the broadcasting community. One issue that he is particularly passionate about is revitalization of AM radio.

Outside of his work in the broadcasting industry, Ben has lived a life committed to service. During his time at Texas A&M University, Ben acquired a reputation for community service, which continues today. He has said that he is proud to be a part of a community that takes giving to heart. In 2018, Ben was named Citizen of the Year by the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce.

It was Ben's philanthropic spirit which led him to meet his wife, Lillian, 44 years ago as he was working on a tennis tournament to benefit the local Boys and Girls Club. Today, Ben and Lillie have two adult children and three beautiful grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am humbled to honor the many accomplishments of my friend, Ben Downs, for his induction to the Texas Radio Hall of Fame, as well as his nomination for the Marconi Radio Award and the legendary Manager of the Year Award, both from the National Association of Broadcasters.

For decades, Ben's career has been dedicated to the passion he found as a child, broadcasting, while continuing to push the industry to take advantage of ever-advancing technology. His accomplishments and his service-centric spirit are more than deserving of this amazing honor. He is a faithful community leader, selfless servant, husband, father, grandfather, and friend.

I have requested that a United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to honor Ben's meaningful accomplish-

ments and contributions to the broadcasting industry and to our Brazos Valley community.

As I close, I ask all our viewers to continue praying for our country, for our military men and women who protect us, and for our first responders who keep us safe at home.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF GEORGE AGUILAR

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of George Aguilar of Bryan, Texas, who passed away on January 13, 2020, after a battle with cancer.

George was born on January 12, 1958, in San Antonio to Policarpio and Delores Aguilar.

Growing up in a military family, George traveled a great deal across the United States and Germany. He graduated from Killeen High School in Killeen, Texas, and went on to attend Central Texas College, where he studied criminal justice.

From a young age, George lived a life of service and was dedicated to giving back to his community. Following graduation, he served as a jailer in Killeen and then as a corrections officer in Huntsville, which led him to find his dream job as a police officer. In 1980, George joined the Bryan Police Department as a patrol officer.

Over the next three decades, George served in many roles within the department. As part of his commitment to the Bryan community, he served on patrol, as a detective, as a school resource officer, and as a canine handler. He was instrumental in starting important programs, such as Camp PAL, which operated from 1994 to 2005. He was awarded six commendations throughout his career and eventually earned a master peace officer's license.

After 34½ years on the force, George retired from the Bryan Police Department in 2015. However, his dedication to a life of service did not end there. Following his retirement, George went on to work as a bailiff for the Brazos County Associate Courts.

George is remembered for his great sense of humor, his love of dance, and his bright, smiling face that brought joy to all of those around him.

As a lifelong Dallas Cowboys fan, he attended as many games as he could, always cherishing the Cowboys v. Packers games he would attend with his son.

Mr. Speaker, George's life was defined by his service to his community. He will forever be remembered as a father, a brother, a fiance, and a selfless servant.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our heartfelt condolence to the Aguilar family. We also lift up the family and friends of George Aguilar in our prayers.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country, for our first responders who protect us at home, and for our uniformed military service personnel who protect us around the world.

#### HONORING DR. STEPHEN A. HOLDITCH

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Stephen A. Holditch

of College Station, Texas, who passed away unexpectedly on August 9, 2019.

Before I continue our discussion about Steve, I want to give some context about the importance of his professional career. Let me state first that Steve considered his roles as a husband, father, and grandfather to be his most important. Because of the exceptional way he lived those roles, his legacy is readily apparent in the lives of those he left behind—his wife, Ann; his daughters, Katie and Abbie, and their five grandchildren.

The discussion of his professional accomplishments starts with a description of current energy metrics. Today, the United States of America is blessed to be the number one producer of oil and natural gas in the world, and as of this year, we are a net exporter of oil and gas. Reserves of American oil and gas rank us among the top 10 countries in the world. We also lead the industrialized world in the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions over the past few decades. Ten years ago, no one would have ever predicted we would be where we are today.

This new world of American energy dominance is having dramatic implications, both domestically and internationally. We have secure, stable, environmentally responsible, and attractively priced energy resources for American families and businesses. We have become a reliable source of energy for our allies, giving them the flexibility to move away from unstable Russian and Middle Eastern suppliers. The oil and gas sector of our economy has created millions of good jobs and great paychecks for hardworking Americans. Our balance of trade payments has improved, and our geopolitical position has strengthened.

This dramatic energy renaissance didn't happen by accident or by government. It is the result of American ingenuity, research, and bold leadership. While no one person is solely responsible for the seismic shift in American energy, there are a number of bold leaders who took challenges that looked impossible to solve and solved them, particularly in the area of stimulation of low permeability, or tight, reservoirs. Their developments, studies, research, and field experiments using horizontal drilling and very large hydraulic fracturing treatments revolutionized American oil and natural gas and transformed our economy and our security.

One of those bold leaders was the late George P. Mitchell, Texas A&M class of 1940. Another is the person we are honoring today, Dr. Stephen A. Holditch, Texas A&M class of 1969.

Stephen Holditch was born on October 20, 1946, in Corsicana, Texas, to Damon and Margie Holditch. Growing up, Steve and his family moved often while his father pursued a career in the oil and gas industry. He spent most of his childhood in San Antonio before moving to Richardson, Texas, for his final year of high school, where he graduated in 1965.

Following graduation, Steve attended Texas A&M University, where he joined the Corps of Cadets and began his journey as a Fightin' Texas Aggie. Steve quickly excelled both in academics and the corps. While at A&M, he was a member of Company F-1, a member of the prestigious Ross Volunteers Honor Guard, and a member of the Ross Volunteers Firing Squad. During his senior year, he served as second battalion commander. In 1969, Steve graduated from Texas A&M University with a bachelor of science degree in petroleum engineering. He continued at A&M to earn a master's degree in the same discipline.

Steve began his career with Shell Oil Company in Houston, Texas. Much of his work over his 5 years with Shell focused on designing and pumping large hydraulic fracture treatments to stimulate production from the deep, low permeability geopressured gas reservoirs in south Texas. It was his work with hydraulic fracturing that inspired him to return to Texas A&M and set him apart from his peers as a true legend of the oil and gas industry for the advancement of this critically important technology.

One day in 1970, Steve was riding the elevator at work and met Ann Friddle, who was also working at Shell. Steve and Ann were married 6 months later on January 9, 1971, and they had been married over 48 years when Steve passed away.

He and Ann returned to College Station, and he pursued a Ph.D. in petroleum engineering, which he completed in 1975. In 1976, Steve joined the Texas A&M petroleum engineering faculty, and as if he didn't have enough to do as a young father and new professor, he started his own consulting company, S.A. Holditch & Associates.

S.A. Holditch & Associates quickly became a worldwide powerhouse in the petroleum engineering space. Over the years, Steve earned a reputation for being able to solve the most difficult petroleum engineering problems, especially those dealing with low permeability reservoirs needing stimulation, typically through hydraulic fracturing. He was distinctly proud of the work that Holditch & Associates did alongside the Gas Research Institute to advance understanding of low permeability sandstones, shales, and coalbed methane.

After over 20 years of success, Steve chose to sell Holditch & Associates to Schlumberger, where he stayed on as a fellow, the highest technical designation in that organization. As a Schlumberger Fellow for 5 years, Steve traveled extensively to help solve some of the world's most difficult petroleum engineering problems.

In 1995, at the age of 49, Steve was elected to the National Academy of Engineering, the highest honor that can be given to an engineer. After many years of service to the Society of Petroleum Engineers, or SPE, Steve was elected to the board of directors, then

vice president of finance, and finally president of this global organization with over 70,000 members.

He was awarded almost every recognition that SPE has to give, including three of the society's top technical awards. He was elected an SPE honorary member in 2006, the highest award that SPE can bestow upon an individual, and was officially named a Legend of Hydraulic Fracturing by SPE in 2014.

While Steven enjoyed many professional successes in the commercial regime, many of his accomplishments were at Texas A&M University, where he served on the faculty for 37 years. During his tenure, he taught 97 classes and served on over 150 graduate committees. From 2004 to 2012, Steve worked as head of the Harold Vance Department of Petroleum Engineering.

During this time, he revitalized the Crisman Institute of Petroleum Research and saw the number of students in the petroleum engineering department more than double. Under his leadership, the department quickly earned a reputation as the number one ranked university petroleum engineering department in the world.

It was during his time at A&M that he created this second legacy for America's hydrocarbon industry, the thousands of Aggie petroleum engineers who work around the world every day utilizing Steve's teaching and mentoring to solve the world's greatest energy challenges. Collectively, these pacesetters—George P. Mitchell, Michel T. Halbouty, and Dr. Stephen A. Holditch, and ones they taught and guided—have contributed significantly to America's energy dominance that is changing the world today.

In 2013, Steve retired from the faculty after many years of dedicated service to the Texas A&M community. Throughout his life, Steve often credited Texas A&M University as the foundation from which his success grew. He praised the values instilled in all Aggies, and in 2014, he was named a Texas A&M Distinguished Alumnus, an honor he richly deserved for a life of service and devotion to his beloved university. In thanking the Aggie community, Steve said: "You will look back at your years at Texas A&M as one of the best periods of your life. Always remember the Aggie Code of Honor."

In 2016, Steve was inducted in the Corps of Cadets Hall of Honor, an award which made him prouder and happier than perhaps any other award he had ever received.

Following retirement, Steve enjoyed spending time in Bryan/College Station, with his wife Ann, their two daughters, and their five grandchildren. As a season ticket holder to a variety of Texas A&M sports, Steve continued to support the Aggies, but Fightin' Texas Aggie Football remained closest to his heart. Steve contributed a great deal to the Texas A&M community and can be described as a model Texas Aggie, who was true to its core values of Excellence, Integrity, Leadership, Loyalty, Respect, and Selfless Service. One of my fa-

vorite phrases that Steve often used was "I reserve the right to get smarter." That is what he did best, always pushing to find solutions to the world's toughest oil and gas challenges.

Mr. Speaker, Steve's life was defined by his dedication to his family and friends, his world-changing accomplishments in energy, and his true love of Texas A&M University. He will be forever remembered as a true pioneer in his field, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, teacher, mentor and friend. My father has a saying—"go make a hand." Mr. Speaker, Steve Holditch truly "made a hand" for his family, his university, his community, our country, and the world.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Holditch family. We also lift his family and friends in our prayers.

I have requested that a United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Stephen A. Holditch.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country, for our veterans, for our military men and women who protect us, and for our first responders who keep us safe at home.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. LEWIS (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, February 7, 2020, at 9 a.m.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3739. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Electricity, Department of Energy, transmitting a report titled, "Potential Benefits of High-Power, High-Capacity Batteries", pursuant to H.R. 5895; Public Law 115-244; to the Committee on Appropriations.

3740. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting notification that, as a result of confirmed cases of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), a determination that a public health emergency exists and has existed since January 27, 2020, nationwide, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 247d(a); July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title III, Sec. 319(a) (as amended by Public Law 107-188, Sec. 144(a)); (116 Stat. 630); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3741. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Libya that was declared in Executive Order 13566 of February 25, 2011, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3742. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-