

talk about true justice. Specifically, justice for victims of dangerous sanctuary city policies.

We have all heard the stories. Kate Steinle brutally murdered in San Francisco by an illegal immigrant who was repeatedly released.

In Washington State, an illegal named Rosalio Ramos-Romas was deported four times before authorities arrested him in October of 2017. Once notified of his arrest, ICE issued a detainer request asking local authorities to imprison him for an additional 48 hours. But, instead, local authorities ignored the detainer request and allowed Rosalio back into the community, where he eventually murdered his cousin and hid the body in a dumpster.

In my State of North Carolina, the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office refused to notify ICE and comply with lawful detainer requests when it released dangerous illegal immigrants from the county jail. One was charged with multiple domestic violence offenses for strangling a woman and threatening to kill her.

These are not isolated incidents of violence, but, rather, the norm in sanctuary cities across America. The truth is that sanctuary city policies are unnecessary and they only threaten the safety of our families and our neighbors. This lawlessness leads to tragedies that are simply not acceptable and should not be allowed by our leaders.

That is why I introduced the Justice for Victims of Sanctuary Cities Act with Senator THOM TILLIS. Our bill would allow anyone harmed by an illegal immigrant in a sanctuary city to sue the sanctuary city or State for the damages that it caused. It also withholds certain grant funding from jurisdictions that refuse to comply with Federal law. This move will put lawless cities on notice and will, hopefully, persuade them to reverse course, enforce our laws, and keep our streets safe.

At a time when the current administration refuses to crack down on sanctuary cities, Congress has the responsibility to act. It is long past time that cities who refuse to enforce our immigration face legal consequences. This has to stop.

UNEVEN ALLOCATION OF THE COVID-19 VACCINE

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, last month, over 10,000 patients in and around my district had their COVID-19 vaccination appointments forcibly canceled, throwing seniors and frontline workers into uncertainty. This mistake was the result of an uneven allocation process and bureaucratic confusion. It is unacceptable and something has to be done.

I sent a letter to the Department of Health and Human Services demanding immediate answers for my constituents. I understand that an expedited national vaccine rollout is complex. It is a tough undertaking. But the faster vaccine doses are allocated to States like mine in North Carolina, the sooner we will be able to defeat this virus once and for all.

The people of my community deserve clarity and honesty when it comes to vaccines from the Federal Government, and I am going to continue to get answers for them.

ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V. WADE

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, the Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade was decided 48 years ago last month. Since abortion was made legal, more than 60 million unborn children have had their lives prematurely ended. This is a matter of conscience for me, and I believe that life begins at conception.

In recent years, advances in science and medicine have given us an increasingly vivid picture of what life in the womb is like. A child has a heartbeat at just 6 weeks. A child feels pain at 20 weeks.

Science makes clear that life exists in the womb and, therefore, an unborn child is entitled to the most fundamental of human rights, and that, Mr. Speaker, is the right to live.

This issue transcends what it means to be an American and goes to the core of what makes us human. I hope that one day soon, the Supreme Court corrects their constitutional error so that the American people can reassert their voice in determining the moral question of our time.

□ 1030

HONORING THE LIVES AND SERVICE OF FBI SPECIAL AGENTS DANIEL ALFIN AND LAURA SCHWARTZENBERGER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to honor the lives of two fallen FBI agents, Daniel Alfin and Laura Schwartzenberger.

On Tuesday morning, while executing a Federal warrant in a child exploitation investigation, Special Agent Daniel Alfin and Special Agent Laura Schwartzenberger were shot and killed in the line of duty in Sunrise, Florida. They died protecting our most vulnerable citizens and the community they loved.

This was, sadly, the FBI's deadliest day since the tragic events on 9/11. It has also been more than 30 years since two agents were gunned down together in the line of duty.

A 16-year veteran of the FBI, Special Agent Laura Schwartzenberger's specialty was pursuing crimes against children. Her work with the FBI Miami field office's Innocent Images national initiative led to the arrest of those involved in the exploitation of children and "sextortion." She leaves behind a husband and two children.

Special Agent Daniel Alfin was a 12-year veteran of the FBI. He was a veteran agent who led the investigation into a dark website called Playpen, one of the country's largest child pornog-

raphy operations. He also leaves behind a wife and one child.

While I did not have the good fortune of knowing these two special agents, I know this: These were two heroes taken from us, and we lost them way too soon. These were incredible parents torn from their families. They were extraordinary public servants trying to make our community a safer place to raise our families.

To their loved ones and colleagues, I struggle to find words that can offer solace and comfort in their time of distress. The great poet William Wordsworth once said: "Not without hope we suffer and we mourn."

Perhaps he meant that we find hope in the belief that our thoughts and prayers will, in time, heal their families and their colleagues, and in the hope and the belief that the children of these fallen heroes will grow up knowing that their parents made the sacrifice to make their world and our world a better place.

Agents Alfin and Schwartzenberger put their lives on the line every day to help us be safer. We lost them to a senseless act of violence by someone with a total disregard for the lives of others. We lost them to evil.

We grieve their loss, not only to the community they served, but to the families and loved ones that they leave behind. They made the ultimate sacrifice and, for that, Americans will be forever in their debt and forever grateful.

May their memories be a blessing.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BILL REYNOLDS

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

Mr. GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a fallen hero who graced our glorious Nation for 47 years. Mr. Bill Reynolds, one of my best friends and a loyal wingman, crossed into heaven to be alongside the Lord on January 11.

As a young man, Bill also crossed oceans to fight for this Nation in the jungles of Vietnam in 1967. In fact, he was one of the few surviving members of the well-known "The Boys of '67," the Army's Charlie Company, 9th Division, 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry Regiment.

He was wounded in combat on the Mekong Delta on June 19, 1967, in one of the fiercest days of the Vietnam war during the Battle of My Lai. Despite being wounded, Bill continued to fight alongside his fellow Americans as they took on heavy fire. His brave service earned him the Bronze Star as well as the Purple Heart.

From an early age, Bill was a scrapper. He was a real patriot. He loved his friends, he loved his family, but his deepest love was for the United States of America and those who served to protect her. The blood he shed and the sacrifices that he made overseas during

combat operations were matched only by his commitment and his passion to take care of veterans back home.

In fact, in my hometown of Santa Clarita, there is a veterans' memorial that stands today because of Bill's hard work and his advocacy. In the halls of a local veterans' support center, there are several dozen biographies of our city's local heroes, our veterans; and all of these biographies were written by Bill after he personally sat down, interviewed, and discussed their experiences with them each, individually.

Bill loved our veterans because he understood what it meant to truly serve, and he understood what it meant to truly sacrifice. In his own words he said: "America was founded on the courage to fight for freedom, and that is what the veteran community does. They take pride in that. There is no better family than the veteran community," he said.

Bill was a steward of those who protected our Nation. A warrior with a big heart and a sheepdog with a big bark and an even bigger fight, and he knew what that flag, Mr. Speaker, stood for, and he would do anything to protect it.

And underneath all the passion and fight was a kind and gentle man, one of the most soft-spoken and caring men I have ever known, a husband to Meg, a role model to his sons, and a friend to thousands.

Bill knew better than anyone that our Nation is a precious one and that its survival is not pre-ordained.

He knew that our Nation is sometimes vulnerable. It is an experiment of government still in its infancy, a developing Nation that is underpinned by goodwill and dependent on the labors of good Americans willing to serve her and to fight for her for the right reasons.

We are indeed a Nation that sometimes wobbles and, in doing so, we require the steady hands of patriots and leaders. We are a Nation that is kept stable by the exertions of great Americans. People like Bill Reynolds.

Bill was an American who cared until the very end and will continue to look over us and our precious Nation like the loyal wingman that he has always been.

May God bless Bill Reynolds and his family. And may God bless this great Nation that he gave so much and fought so hard for.

LIFE IS SACRED

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

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory and to honor the millions of babies killed since the Roe v. Wade decision almost 50 years ago.

There is nothing more precious than the gift of life, given to us by God, who knew us before He formed us in our mother's womb.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend. The gentleman will put on the mask, please.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, there is nothing more precious than the gift of life given to us by God, who knew us before He formed us in the womb.

Mr. Speaker, life is sacred, and it is heartbreaking that there are those across this country and in Congress who reject that truth and view abortion as nothing more than a medical procedure.

Sadly, a professed Catholic who knows better has already taken steps to increase the killing of babies across the world and make innocent taxpayers foot the bill.

He has revoked the Mexico City policy, which means American taxpayers will now be sending dollars overseas to support the killing of unborn babies in foreign countries. And he is actively working to eliminate the Hyde amendment, which is a longstanding, bipartisan doctrine that prevents taxpayer funds from paying for the killing of babies in the United States.

Let's be clear, abortion is murder, not healthcare.

Abortion is not the answer to a child's mental or physical challenges. I am reminded today of the words of Frank Stephens, a Special Olympian. Many of you heard him speak here at Congress. He is now living with Down syndrome. He said this: "About abortion, I don't want to make it illegal, I want to make it unthinkable. Politicians change laws. I want to change people's hearts."

Mr. Speaker, I agree with Frank Stephens, but I believe we can do both. We can change lives and we can change people's hearts.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize three "Legacy Leaders" from my district in Nebraska for Black History Month.

Every February, we celebrate the achievements of African Americans and recognize their pivotal roles in the history of our great country. This year, I recognize Ella Willis, Teela Mickles, and Bettie McDonald, who have worked diligently to leave a meaningful and lasting impact on the Omaha community.

Originally from North Carolina, our first Legacy Leader, Ella Willis, came to Omaha in 1967, right after the race riots. After seeing the damage and destruction from the riots not being repaired, she joined the Neighborhood Action and Fact Association, founded by Andy "Handy" Wright.

Around 2004, Mrs. Willis became the president of the association. She worked to secure grant funding for the beautification of 24th Street and the neighborhood garden and marketplace building. The association assisted with the painting of murals along the 24th Street corridor, including The Union for Contemporary Art.

In 2005, under Mrs. Willis' leadership, the association received the Environmental Improvement Award from the Urban Community Improvement Program. Her community advocacy started long before, when she joined the NAACP in the early sixties, while her husband served in Vietnam. She participated in the voting registration process, protesting for the right for Black women to vote and registering Black men.

Mrs. Willis thanks God for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and praises his belief in justice, hope, love, and non-violence, saying, "This is what we must learn together as brothers and sisters of God. Have love and faith in your heart."

Another Legacy Leader is Teela A. Mickles, the founder and CEO of Compassion in Action, a faith-based, non-profit organization that serves individuals confined in the State correctional facilities and families affected by incarceration.

Mrs. Mickles became a single parent to five young children after an unfortunate turn in life and later attended college, earning her associate degree in Chemical Dependency Counseling. At the same time, she developed Compassion in Action's Pre-Release Education/Reentry Preparation Program, with her motto of "Embracing the person, rebuilding the family, and breaking the cycle."

She has been recognized for her dedication and accomplishments through the years: The UNO Woman of Color Award, Heartland Family Services' Family Advocacy Award, and the City of Omaha Excellence Award, and many, many more.

Mrs. Mickles is also an ordained minister on staff at Mission Church and credits the success of her organization to her strong faith in God and belief that every person is viable. As she says: "If you're not dead, God's not done."

Our third Legacy Leader is Bettie McDonald, cofounder of Native Omaha Days, a week-long homecoming event that celebrates the community's historical and cultural legacies.

Born and raised in Omaha, Bettie belongs to the Bryant-Fisher family, hailed as one of the most prodigious Black families in Nebraska. After graduating from the Allhouse School of Beauty and Culture, she became owner of her own beauty shop of over 50 years, The Economy Beauty Salon.

The vision for a reunion of native Omahans was first arranged in 1976 and less than a year later the original founding planning members, Vera Johnson and Bettie McDonald, started a tradition of the week-long celebration. It is now known as Native Omaha Days and, every 2 years, has brought people to Omaha from across the country.

Approaching its 22nd biennial, Native Omaha Days has reached a peak, influencing cultural programming along 24th Street and adjacent North Omaha neighborhoods.