

make it stronger. That is what I intend to do while believing that our brightest days are yet to come.

THE CHALLENGES FACING OUR BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TONY GONZALES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the Chamber for the first time in my service to the 23rd District of Texas.

My path to Congress has been marked by many obstacles. At age 18, I left high school to join the Navy and provide a path to success for my family. As I embarked on a 20-year career as a cryptologist, I deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan and gained a deep understanding of the security issues that currently affect our Nation.

Today, many of those issues are visible along our Southern border, especially within my district, which spans over 800 miles between the U.S. and Mexico border. The challenges facing our district are compounded by the minute, and it is imperative that Congress take action.

Mr. Speaker, as I have made my way around the district, I have seen firsthand the men and women who are doing the work. People like Sheriff Martinez in Val Verde County, like Sheriff Coe in Kinney County. We have other sheriffs throughout. We have Chief Guajardo in Eagle Pass and Chief Rodriguez in Uvalde. We have Sheriff Dodson. These are the men and women on the ground every day doing the work.

That is why I am proud to introduce the Security First Act, to ensure our borders are safe, resilient, and adaptive to 21st century challenges. One of the primary objectives to my bill is to authorize an increase in grant funding for Operation Stonegarden.

As a key pillar of our border security framework, Operation Stonegarden provides resources to local law enforcement agencies involved in Customs and Border Protection operations. By enabling our sheriffs and police departments to collaborate with CBP and United States Border Patrol, Operation Stonegarden helps create a layered approach to border security and encourages a joint collaboration across all levels of Government. Operation Stonegarden funds can be used to purchase field equipment to enhance operational efficiencies.

The United States has long been a leader in technology. So equipping our boots on the ground with sophisticated tools to do their job is exactly what is needed. After speaking to countless law enforcement agents in my district, it is clear that more funding for this program is needed. A surge at our Southern border is occurring.

The Security First Act proposes a 4-year increase to current Stonegarden funding levels and requires that all

moneys seized from drug trafficking activities at the Southern border be funneled to the Stonegarden account. By strengthening our ability to cope with evolving security challenges, the Security First Act helps protect the integrity of our Southern border.

HONORING DEBBIE MOSELEY ON HER RETIREMENT

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

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the services of Ms. Deborah "Debbie" Moseley, the executive director of The Bridge Over Troubled Waters in Pasadena, Texas. Commonly referred to as "The Bridge," this organization has assisted men, women, and children affected by domestic and sexual violence or homelessness in southeastern Harris County, Texas.

For 34 years, Debbie has served the organization as an advocate in the field of domestic and sexual violence. Debbie began working as a volunteer at The Bridge in 1986, alongside her mother and grandmother. A year later, she started working with The Bridge's children's programs on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. In 1988, Debbie began to work full time at The Bridge as a resident advocate.

Over the years, she has held many leadership positions in each of the different programs that The Bridge offers, including shelter coordinator, resale shop coordinator, nonresident director, and advocacy director. In 2003, Debbie was named the executive director and has served in that role ever since.

Under Debbie's leadership, The Bridge connected with community leaders and the community at large; built a new location; and started Destiny Village, a long-term housing program for survivors of violence with disabilities and children. In addition, she has significantly increased The Bridge's share of funding granted by the Victims of Crime Act to provide critical support services to victims of domestic violence.

Debbie is a licensed social worker and has dedicated her life to community and volunteer service. She serves on the boards of numerous community organizations, such as the Harris County Coordinating Council, the Texas Council on Family Violence, the Harris County Adult Fatality Review Team, the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce, the Pasadena Police Academy, and the Bridges to Life prison ministry. She is also active in the New Hope Church of Pearland, the Pasadena Kiwanis, the Bay Area Kiwanis, the Pasadena Rotary, the Salvation Army, and the Texas Invitational.

For her community and civic involvement, Debbie has received numerous recognitions, including the Governor's Victim Services Division Pathfinder Award in 2007; Debbie Moseley Day in Pasadena, Texas; the Rotary Club's Paul Harris Fellow Award in

2010; Rotary Director of the Year in 2016; and the Stella Trimble Community Service Award in 2017.

In 1985, Debbie married the love of her life, Tom Moseley. Debbie is the mother of four children: John Miles of Burleson, Texas; Aaron Miles, also of Burleson; Derek Miles of League City; and Staff Sergeant Josh Moseley, who is stationed as a United States Marine Corps recruiter in Arlington, Texas. Debbie and Tom are the proud grandparents of eight grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Debbie Moseley for her lifetime of dedicated service to the survivors of domestic and sexual violence, and I wish her the very absolute best during her well-deserved retirement.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, ILLINOIS, BICENTENNIAL

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the bicentennial celebration of the founding of Montgomery County, Illinois.

Montgomery County was formed February 12, 1821, and named in honor of Revolutionary War General Richard Montgomery. Montgomery County has a rich history, including being a friend to Illinois' favorite son, Abraham Lincoln, and providing a stretch of historic Route 66.

Montgomery County continues to be a vibrant community that supports family, sports, fine arts, churches, and numerous organizations for more than 30,000 residents that make up 20 municipalities. I am proud to represent Montgomery County and the many people who make it a wonderful place to live.

Congratulations to everyone in the county on celebrating their bicentennial.

THANK YOU TO DAVID A. NORTHERN, SR.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize David A. Northern, Sr., for his leadership and service to the people of Champaign County, Illinois.

I have had the privilege to work with David through his role as the chief executive officer of the Housing Authority of Champaign County, an organization which provides housing and related services to the most vulnerable populations in our community. He oversaw various programs that provided housing opportunities and assistance to over 13,000 citizens.

Under David's leadership, the agency launched numerous projects to develop affordable housing, update existing properties, and bolster support programs. David believes that the Housing Authority's mission is just as much about transforming futures and putting families on a path to economic self-sufficiency as it is to just providing homes. That vision and drive has served him well.

David's distinguished career and experience in Federal housing assistance has been a blessing to Champaign County. While we will certainly miss him in Illinois, we wish him the very best as he begins a new journey as the president and CEO of the Housing Authority of Birmingham District in Alabama, the largest in the State.

Mr. Speaker, I, again, wish to thank my friend David Northern for his service to Champaign County and congratulate him and wish him the best in his new home in Alabama.

REMEMBERING DAVID PICKETT

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of David Pickett, my friend from Taylorville, Illinois, who sadly passed away right before Christmas.

David graduated from Taylorville High School in 1977, and then graduated from Western Illinois University in 1981, with degrees in accounting and computer science.

He will be remembered in our community for his entrepreneurial spirit, his photography skills, and for his love of sharing with others in the community. His most memorable feat in Taylorville will be taking the hobby of photography and turning it into a business called Fun Photo. It was his own sports photography business. I saw David at sports events, and I still have pictures of my young kids in youth football and youth baseball that line my household because David was there. He was part of our community and he was part of our kids.

David was an avid fisherman, a die-hard Cardinals fan. He had a talent for cooking and loved to entertain his friends and family. His vibrant personality and remarkable smile will be missed.

I really wish the best for his family right now. It is a sorrowful loss for them, but also everybody in our hometown of Taylorville. Shannon and my kids send our thoughts and prayers to his wife, Debbie; his children, Mark and J.D.; his grandchildren, Libbey, Bennet, Jamison, Charlotte, and Connor; his parents, James and Mary; and his siblings, Linda and Tom.

David, may you rest in peace, my friend.

REMEMBERING ROSEMARIE LONG

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is a sad day today. Last night, not just my good friend, but a great friend to our community and Sangamon County, Illinois, passed away.

Rosemarie Long was somebody who I came to know as the head of our local Republican Party in Springfield, Illinois. I can tell you that Rose Long gave such good advice and great mentorship to many people like me and others who have walked this institution. Rose Long was somebody who cared about her community and cared about making her country better.

My heart goes out to her family at this trying time, and I certainly want them to know that I know without

Rose's guidance, without Rose's friendship, without Rose's support, I would not be blessed to serve as a Member of Congress.

One thing about Rose, she was not shy, at all, of letting me know her concerns about what we may or may not be doing right for her in this institution. I cannot believe that Rose is gone. I cannot believe that the world is going to be a better place without her. But I know one place that will be better with her, and that is Heaven.

Good luck, my friend. May you rest in peace, and may God continue to bless you and your family at this very sorrowful time.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 12 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. DEMINGS) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

O Holy God, we humble ourselves before You, coming to You in prayer as thousands across the globe and hundreds within this Congress have done on this day of the National Prayer Breakfast. We pause to lay before You ourselves, our hopes, our dreams, our frustrations, and our anger, keenly aware of Your sovereignty over our lives, and our failures in living them.

Even as we kneel before You, anoint us with Your mercy and lift up our eyes to Your grace. Shine Your redemptive light on us that we reflect the love that You have shown to us that our attitudes toward each other and to the tasks You set before us would be changed to demonstrate the benevolent plan You desire to share with each one and with this country.

As Your people, holy and dearly loved, we commit to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Forgiven by Your mercy, we devote ourselves to bear with one another and to forgive the grievances we have against another.

So transformed, may we live lives of reconciliation, not as a political position but in a posture of compassion. And with these virtues we will choose this day to love, that we would be bound together in perfect unity by the strength of Your most holy name in which we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 5(a)(1)(A) of House Resolution 8, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COSTA led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

MEDICAL EDUCATION IN RURAL DISTRICTS

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

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about the urgent need to address doctor shortages in rural and medically underserved communities throughout our country. The current pandemic and problems with vaccine distribution have highlighted the dangers behind a lack of access to the quality of healthcare in these areas. I am working to change that right now.

Unlike producing personal protective equipment, it takes years to train a physician. This week, I will introduce legislation to invest in medical education and to create new medical schools throughout this country and in underserved communities like mine in the San Joaquin Valley.

This bill will help curb the shortfall of physicians in rural areas by enabling medical students to stay close to home. Studies increasingly show that students who can study close to home are more likely to stay there and practice there upon graduation.

If we want to keep the promise that every American who wants a vaccine will get one, then we need to have more doctors, nurses, and medical providers throughout our country. This legislation would do just that.

Helping my constituents and keeping them safe is my number one priority. I will continue to do whatever it takes to make that happen. This is important legislation, and I ask my colleagues to support this legislation in a bipartisan basis.

REAL COVID RELIEF

(Mr. WALBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)